

Master in Current Affairs

For All Competitive Exams ...

2016
Australian Open



- Stand-up India, Start-up India
- Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

PADMA AWARDS 2016



सत्यमेव जयते



*Mahendra Publication
Pvt. Ltd.*

Top Notch Captivators Of The Month



Alice Vaidyan has been appointed as the first female CMD of the General Insurance Corporation of India.

1

Jai Shankar Menon has been appointed as the head of the UN's Disengagement Observer Force.



2



Indian author Anuradha Roy has won the prestigious DSC Prize for South Asian Literature.

3

Leonardo DiCaprio has won the best actor BAFTA award for his performance in The Revenant.



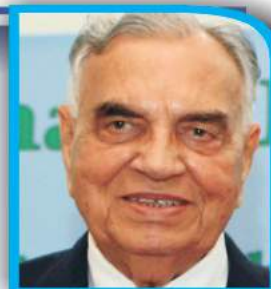
4



Legendary Indian classical dancer, Mrinalini Sarabhai, has passed away.

5

Veteran Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar passed away.



6



Former deputy governor of the RBI S.S. Tarapore has passed away.

7

Henri Tiphagne has won Amnesty Award For Human Rights in India.



8



Amina J. Mohammed has been appointed as chairperson of leading WASH organisation.

9

Google's Sundar Pichai has become the highest-paid CEO in the US.



10



Mahendra Publication
Pvt. Ltd.



Mahendra Publication
Pvt. Ltd.



VOL - 12
ISSUE - 04

Contents

Editor

N.K. Jain

Associate Editor

Neeraj Gaur

Advisors

Neeraj Chabra

K.C. Gupta

Registered Office

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.
103, Pragatideep Building, Plot No.
08, Laxminagar, District Centre, New
Delhi - 110092
TIN-07136921593
w.e.f. 10-04-2014

Branch Office

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.
E-42,43,44, Sector-7, Noida (U.P.)



For Queries regarding
Promotion, Distribution
& Advertisement contact:
mahendrapublication.org
Ph.: 0522-3247030



Owned Printed & Published by
N.K. Jain

103, Pragatideep Building, Plot No.
08, Laxminagar, District Centre, New
Delhi - 110092

Copyright Reserved

✂ No part of this issue can be printed
in whole or in part without the
written permission of the publishers.

✂ All Disputes are subject to Delhi
Jurisdiction only.

Please send your suggestions and
grievances to:-

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.

CP-9, Vijayant Khand, Gomti
Nagar, Lucknow - 226010
mahendrapublication.org

Interview	5	Pradhan Mantri Bima Fasal	
Competition Booster	6-11	Yojana	89
In Focus	12	Australian Open 2016	90-91
News Makers	13-18	Pandora Box (Part - A)	93-97
News Diary	20-82	Pandora Box (Part - B)	98-101
Padma Awards 2016	84	Pandora Box (Part - C)	102-113
Stand-up India, Start-Up India	85-86	National	102-105
12th South Asian Games	87-88	International	106
		Economy	107-111
		Miscellaneous	112-113

Padma Awards 2016



Stand-up India, Start-Up India



12th South Asian Games



PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA



Australian Open 2016





EDITORIAL

"WHEN AN IDEA EXCLUSIVELY OCCUPIES THE MIND, IT IS TRANSFORMED INTO ACTUAL PHYSICAL OR MENTAL STATE."

Swami Vivekananda

Diverse and colourful culture of Northeast were in full display as the curtains were brought down on the 12th South Asian Games amid magnificent fireworks that lit the night sky over Guwahati city. Union Sports Minister Sarbananda Sonowal declared the Games closed at the Indira Gandhi Athletics Stadium to mark the formal end to the 12-day biggest multi-sporting spectacle of the eight SAARC countries. The games were jointly co-hosted by Guwahati and Shillong. The Games, were inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 5 during a spectacular opening ceremony. This had been quite a success on the sporting front though there were organisational issues, including provision of media facilities.

The Games flame at the cauldron was extinguished as the Guwahati night sky was lit with fireworks. The flag of the South Asian Olympic Council was lowered and handed over to the officials of next host country -- Nepal. India, hosted the Games for the third time after Calcutta (1987) and Madras (1995), overwhelmingly dominated the 12th edition by grabbing an unprecedented 308 medals (188 gold, 90 silver, 30 bronze) and stamped their superiority as an unrivalled region sporting power. Sri Lanka were a distant second with 25 gold, 63 silver and 98 bronze while Pakistan ended at third with 12 gold, 37 silver and 57 bronze. India, in fact, bagged more than three-fourth of the total 239 on offer in 23 disciplines.

There has been enough of political diplomacy over the years between India and Pakistan. This has not only hampered the trade relations between the two countries but sports too. This was the one of the main reasons that the 12th South Asian Games were delayed by two years. When one witnesses the semblance of a war like scene be it along the border in the Kashmir Valley or even around the stadiums hosting India-Pakistan sporting events, which are fortified, the sportspersons from across the border feel it suffocating at times because they are here to share love and harmony among two nations who share the same culture and tradition.

The neighbouring countries particularly India and Pakistan should keep their other military and border disputes aside to boost up the team spirit as well as an amiable relationship among the South Asian countries. Only then we can achieve the true objective of the South Asian Games.

With Best Wishes

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.

INTERVIEW



THE SUCCESS STORY...

Personal Details

Name : Akshay Tandon
Father's Name : Mr. Rakesh Swarup Tandon
Mother's Name : Mrs. Alka Tandon
Education : B.A. (English Literature)
Hobbies : Playing Cricket
Final Selection : Grameen Bank of Aryavart (Clerk)
Roll No. of Qualified Exam : 3010729477
Roll No. of Mahendra Institute : PDH 0270663986



MICA : First of all congratulations for your selection as a clerk in Grameen Aryavart Bank.

Akshay: Thank you.

MICA : To whom do you want to give the credit of your selection?

Akshay: I want to give the credit of my selection to my family and friends who motivated me and helped me in all aspects.

MICA : After how many attempts did you succeed in examination?

Akshay: It was my second attempt.

MICA : Did you take help of any institute and if yes, what is the role of that institute in your selection?

Akshay: Yes I took guidance from Mahendra's Institute. The institute played an important role in providing the required atmosphere to prepare for the exam.

MICA : How did you prepare for the written examination?

Akshay: I prepared from Mahendra's study material, Speed tests, bankersguru website and by problem solving session facility.

Quantitative Aptitude:

Regularly taking online speed tests

Reasoning Ability:

Mahendra's study material, online speed tests and quizzes on bankersguru website helped me a lot.

English:

I read editorials from 'The Hindu' and Revised my class notes regularly. For Practice I gave Speed tests.

General Awareness:

Prepared from MICA, daily visited bankersguru website and class notes.

Computer & Marketing

I had a diploma in computer operations. So, it paved a way to success.

MICA : How do you take "Master in Current Affairs Magazine", and "Banker's Guru" Websites?

Akshay: MICA and "Banker's Guru" Website played a vital role in my selection. MICA covers all relevant topics of general awareness, whereas bankers guru website is a one stop site for all the subjects.

MICA : What is the best thing about your coaching institute, according to you?

Akshay: The best things about my institute are the intellectual faculties, online speed tests and live problem solving session facility.

MICA : What is the role of "Time Management" in one's success?

Akshay: "Time Management" is one of those key pillars that leads success. Without proper time management it will be a tough call to qualify the written examination.

MICA : How did you prepare for the Interview?

Akshay: I joined Mahendra's PDH classes and regularly gave mock interviews to enhance my knowledge, my presentation and my confidence level.

MICA : Tell us about the Interview Board and the questions asked?

Akshay: The board was the epitome of knowledge and all the board members were very amicable and encouraging.

The questions asked were:

- (I) You studied science in intermediate then why you went for arts?
- (II) Tell the famous line of Robert Browning.
- (III) What are the famous lines of Mr. J.L. Nehru.
- (IV) Some questions related to Banking
- (V) Some questions on current affairs.

MICA : By whom did you get information of your selection and what was your reaction?

Akshay: One of my friends called me up to tell me about the result. On hearing it, I became numb for a moment.

MICA : What message do you want to convey to other aspirants?

Akshay: Determination and perseverance is the key to success. Never lose hope and never give up.

MICA : Once again congratulations to you for your success and wish you a bright future ahead.

Akshay: Thank you.



Dr. D. J. Pandian has been appointed as the Vice-President, Chief Investment Officer of the AIIB.

COMPETITION BOOSTER

- ✎ Who has been named as European Tour's golfer of the year?
- ✎ Who bagged gold medal in the 10-metre Air Rifle at 59th National Shooting Championship?
- ✎ Which country is leading the "Islamic military alliance" of 34 countries?
- ✎ What is the name of New Zealand's new flag?
- ✎ Who has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Maldives?
- ✎ Who has been appointed as Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh?
- ✎ Supreme Court banned the commercial vehicles registered before _____ from entering Delhi.
- ✎ Who has become the title sponsor for the next three editions of the Hockey India League beginning 2016?
- ✎ The Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a MoU between India and _____ on cooperation in Port matters.
- ✎ Francois Hollande was the Chief Guest at 67th India's Republic Day celebrations. He is the President of which country?
- ✎ Recently the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to an MoU signed between India and its _____ counterparts on energy matters.
- ✎ Who has been selected for 3rd National Yash Chopra Memorial Award?
- ✎ Which state launched 'Dial 100' scheme for better handling of crimes in the state?
- ✎ Which company has been awarded CII-ITC Sustainability Awards for the year 2015?
- ✎ Who received Garwood Award for 'Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation' from UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business?
- ✎ _____ and Hollywood director Steven Spielberg's Dream Works Studios jointly formed Amblin Partners Company.
- ✎ What is the rank of India on Forbes' annual list of the best countries for business in 2015?
- ✎ Which Indian film director has been awarded in the Rafi Peer International Film Festival 2015 held in Pakistan?
- ✎ Yan Dhanda became the first footballer of Indian origin to sign a professional contract with Liverpool. He plays for which country?
- ✎ Which country is the 164th and the newest member of World Trade Organisation?
- ✎ Who has been appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)?
- ✎ What is the name of the physically disabled Indian who's name has been entered in URF Asian Records for making a record in Swimming?
- ✎ Which country successfully launched the Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) Satellite?

Rory McIlroy

Apurvi Chandela

Saudi Arab

Silver Fern

Akhilesh Mishra

Justice Sanjay Misra

2005

Coal India Ltd.

Spain

France

BRICS

Rekha

Uttar Pradesh

Cairn India

Pranab Mukherjee

**Reliance
Entertainment**

97th

Madhur Bhandarkar

England

Afghanistan

R.K. Mathur

E. D. Baburaj

China



Harinder Sidhu has been appointed as High Commissioner to India by Australia.

✎ Which state will host National Games in 2019?	Andhra Pradesh
✎ Which country has announced to adopt Chinese yuan as its legal tender?	Zimbabwe
✎ Who has been appointed as CEO of food regulator FSSAI?	Pawan Kumar Agarwal
✎ Recently _____, the first indigenously designed and built warship of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned in Mumbai.	INS Godavari
✎ Recently the United Nations has appointed _____ as new peacekeeping chief in Mali.	Mahamat Saleh Annadif
✎ Who has been awarded U.S. Soccer's Male Player of the Year?	Michael Bradley
✎ How many agreements were signed between India and Russia?	16
✎ Which company topped the Fortune 500 List of Indian companies for 2015?	Indian Oil Corporation
✎ Who became first to implement recommendations of Supreme Court appointed committee under K.S. Radhakrishnan to deal with traffic violations in the city?	Delhi
✎ Govt. appointed _____ as chief of Judicial Committee to look into implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme for Ex- Servicemen.	L Narasimha Reddy
✎ Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas appointed committee under _____ to look into dispute between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Krishna Godavari (KG) gas fields.	Ajit Prakash Shah
✎ Ministry of Finance released report of Committee on Revisiting and Revitalising Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model under whom?	Vijay Kelkar
✎ _____ edition of Joint Indian-Russian Navies Exercise INDRA NAVY was conducted in Bay of Bengal.	8th
✎ Indian Coast Guard inducted 19th of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Cochin Shipyard. what is the name of the vessel?	ICGS Atulya
✎ Combined Commanders Conference annual triservices event chaired by PM Narendra Modi held on board _____	INS Vikramaditya
✎ "On My Terms: From the Grassroots to the Corridors of Power", autobiography of former Union Minister _____ has been released.	Sharad Pawar
✎ American aerospace company _____ successfully launched and landed Falcon 9 rocket along with 11 satellites to lowEarth orbit.	SpaceX
✎ Which state's assembly passed Members of Legislative Assembly Salaries, Allowances, Pension Amendment Bill 2015, based on recommendations of PDT Achary panel?	Delhi
✎ Fifth edition of Heart of Asia conference started in which country?	Pakistan
✎ Defence Acquisition Council approved purchase of advance S400 Triumf Air Defence Missile Systems for approx 40000 crore rupees from _____	Russia
✎ Indian army and Air Force started Operation _____ for relief work in Heavy Floods in Chennai (Tamilnadu).	Madad
✎ Noted _____ Subir Sen passed away.	Singer
✎ ISRO Launched its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV C- 29 successfully with six satellites from _____	Singapore
✎ Scientists at Imperial College from _____ genetically modified malaria causing mosquito Anopheles gambiae species to fight disease of malaria.	UK



Acclaimed film director Aurobindo Mukherjee passed away.

<p>✎ Zoological Survey of India Scientists discovered new species of eel named Bengal moray eel (Gymnothorax mishrai) in which district of West Bengal?</p> <p>✎ Which team beat Haryana Hammers to win Pro Wrestling League title?</p> <p>✎ Senior National Weightlifting Championships Organized in which state?</p> <p>✎ Sixth Globe Soccer Awards 2015 Best Player Lionel Messi, Best Club _____ Best Coach Marc Wilmots.</p> <p>✎ _____ cricketer Kusal Perera banned for four years after being tested positive for a banned substance.</p> <p>✎ Government approved _____ Metro Rail Project Phase - 1 A. It will cover approx 23 km with 22 stations with cost of 6,928 crore rupees.</p> <p>✎ Government approved aid of Rs. 6,794 crore for Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and affected by deficit rainfall in 2015.</p> <p>✎ Which country's Bjorn Isberg has been appointed as Tournament Director of Coal India Hockey India League (HIL)?</p> <p>✎ 10th Ministerial Conference of WTO (World Trade Organization) held in Nairobi, _____</p> <p>✎ Noted _____ Cinematographer Haskell Wexler passed away.</p> <p>✎ Noted _____ Poet Mangesh Padgaonkar passed away.</p> <p>✎ 14th Meeting of Heads of Governments of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) Member States concluded in Zhengzhou of which country?</p> <p>✎ 2nd World Internet Conference held in Zhejiang province of _____</p> <p>✎ South Korea and _____ signed an Agreement on Issue of Comfort Women.</p> <p>✎ As per Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries 2015 OPEC World Oil Outlook Oil and gas are expected to supply _____ of global energy demand by 2040.</p> <p>✎ Which country became first Asian country to approve sale of the world's first ever dengue vaccine Dengvaxia manufactured by French pharmaceutical manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur?</p> <p>✎ India's Reliance Defence signed \$6 billion pact with Russian arms firm _____ during visit of PM Narendra Modi to Russia?</p> <p>✎ India's Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) signed an agreement with Russian oil firm _____</p> <p>✎ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated new Parliament built by India in Kabul of..... during his recent trip to Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.</p> <p>✎ Noted _____ science fiction writer George Clayton Johnson passed away. He was best known for dystopian novel Logan's Run.</p> <p>✎ Noted _____ Sadhna Shivdasani passed away.</p> <p>✎ _____'s Rostech Corporation signed 1 Billion USD deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture 200 Kamov 226T light helicopters.</p> <p>✎ With which country the centre has approved the signing of a MoU on cooperation in Port matters?</p> <p>✎ Who is the new CEO of Wipro Limited?</p> <p>✎ Justice RM Lodha Committee is associated with-</p> <p>✎ With which country India has signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of civil aviation</p>	<p>Purba Medinipur</p> <p>Mumbai Garuda</p> <p>Punjab</p> <p>F.C. Barcelona</p> <p>Sri Lanka</p> <p>Lucknow</p> <p>Madhya Pradesh</p> <p>Sweden</p> <p>Kenya</p> <p>American</p> <p>Marathi</p> <p>China</p> <p>China</p> <p>Japan</p> <p>53 %</p> <p>Philippines</p> <p>AlmazAntey</p> <p>Rosneft</p> <p>Afghanistan</p> <p>American</p> <p>Actress</p> <p>Russia</p> <p>Spain</p> <p>Abid Ali Z. Neemuchwala</p> <p>IPL spot fixing</p> <p>Singapore</p>
--	--



Devendra Singh named as vice-chairman of the Paris-based ICC Commission'.

✎ With which country, India has agreed to sign an MoU on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs?	Bahrain
✎ Which organization/council has unanimously adopted a resolution to cut off all sources of funding to ISIS and Al-Qaeda?	UN Security Council
✎ Which country has its first anti-terrorism law on the books, after the National People's Congress Standing Committee approved the new legislation?	China
✎ Who has been appointed as Chairman of General Motors?	Merry Barra
✎ Who is the brand ambassador for 'changing diabetes' campaign.	Sachin Tendulkar
✎ Which amputee mountaineer has conquered Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.	Arunima Sinha
✎ Online marketplace Snapdeal.com launched its mobile website in Hindi and Telugu language. With this platform, Snapdeal will now cater to 270 million users in India. This platform goes hand in hand with _____ platform, _____ is Snapdeal's website for mobile browser.	Snaplite
✎ Who has been crowned as Miss Universe 2015?	Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach
✎ Who has been named the first Poet Laureate by the US state of Ohio for showcasing a variety of styles in his poetry.	Amit Majmudar
✎ Harsoon Mukati Islamic Centre has set up a Bread Bank in:	Aurangabad Maharashtra
✎ Asia's largest underground railway station, covering a total area of 147,000 square meters, opened in _____.	China
✎ Mani Sankar Mukherji who has been conferred with honorary doctorate of letters by University of North Bengal is a _____.	A Writer
✎ Who has been appointed as Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India?	Sailesh
✎ Railways recent decision to act tough against passengers declaring wrong age from February 1 is associated with the prevention of the misuse of-	Senior Citizens Quota
✎ Which festival has been permitted by the central government with safeguards to use bulls as performing animals?	Jallikattu
✎ For which Indian tank the DRDO has successfully conducted test firing of new tank ammunition Penetration-Cum Blast (PCB) and Thermobaric (TB) Ammunition?	Arjun
✎ For which award the American documentary on the life of Pakistani female activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, has been nominated?	BAFTA Awards
✎ Stanislas Wawrinka who won his fourth Chennai Open Title recently belongs to:	Croatia
✎ Ravindra Kalia recently passed away, who was he?	Hindi writer and journalist
✎ For which film Leonardo DiCaprio has won the Golden Globe award for best dramatic actor?	The Revenant
✎ Who has been honoured with the 'Bulandh Bharath' Award for his exemplary contributions towards nation building?	G.M. Rao
✎ Maria Teresa de Filippis, who was best known as Formula 1's first ever female driver, passed away at the age of 89. She belonged to-	Italy
✎ With which company the ICC has announced an eight-year deal to declare it as an event partner for ICC events from 2016-2023?	MoneyGram
✎ David Bowie who died recently at the age of 69 due to cancer, he was a/an-	Singer



Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme expanded in additional 61 districts of 11 states.

COMPETITION BOOSTER

Banking and Financial Awareness

✎ Who has been appointed Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?	Arun Kumar Jain
✎ Recently how much loan has been approved by the World Bank for the ambitious clean India campaign?	\$1.5 billion
✎ Which document has been made mandatory for all transactions in excess of Rs. 2 lakh?	PAN
✎ Which company has launched its mobile wallet service 'MoboMoney'?	Tech Mahindra Ltd
✎ What is the union government's prediction of India's GDP for FY 2015-16?	7-7.5%
✎ ICRA downgraded which banks's long-term ratings to 'stable' from 'positive'?	United Bank of India
✎ Which campaign has recently been launched by Kotak Mahindra Bank?	'Phone Phone Mein Kotak' campaign
✎ Which has become the first bank to start online electronic signature service "e-sign"?	Axis Bank
✎ Which of the following mobile apps has recently been launched by State Bank of India?	State Bank Samadhaan
✎ Indian Railways has tied up with which Bank to sell rail tickets through its applications?	ICICI Bank
✎ What is the new deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes with the new ones?	30 June 2016
✎ Reserve Bank of India released Report of Committee on Mediumterm Path on Financial Inclusion headed by ____.	Deepak Mohanty
✎ Chief Economic Advisor _____ led Committee submitted recommendations for Tax Rates under GST Goods and Services Tax (GST).	Arvind Subramanian
✎ BRICS Emerging Economies Universities Summit 2015 Held in _____ sponsored by TIMES Group.	Delhi
✎ World Bank approved assistance of \$35 million to _____ to support development of water resources in Indus River Basin.	Pakistan
✎ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation is abbreviated as:	ONGC
✎ How much loan has been approved by the world bank for swachh Bharat Mission (SBM)?	US \$ 2.5 Billion
✎ The _____ approved a US\$ 2.5 billion loan for the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).	World Bank
✎ Today, of the 2.4 billion people who lack access to improved sanitation globally, more than 750 million live in India and in them, with _____ living in rural areas.	80%
✎ The IRCTC allowed passengers to order food on a train by using ____ mobile wallet.	Paytm's
✎ _____ has approved three foreign direct investment proposals worth Rs. 136 crore. Singapore-based GMS Pharma's proposal of acquisition of 25.1% in Stelis Biopharma, from Strides Arcolab, for Rs 135.71 crore was approved by the ____.	FIPB (Foreign Investment Promotion Board)
✎ Who is the President of USA?	Barak Obama



Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation of a manufacturing unit by ITC at Panchla in Howrah.

✎ An ASSOCHAM Mid Year Review has pointed out, India's GDP growth of over eight per cent and "very likely" acceleration of _____ in the current financial year.	7.8- 8 per cent
✎ The government has reduced the export duty on iron ore pellets to zero from _____.	5 per cent
✎ To promote its digital banking initiative, 'e - Sign' Axis Bank has partnered with _____	e-MUDRA Limited
✎ Which country has recently lifted its 40 years has from oil export?	USA
✎ Where is Highly India, the subsidiary of Shanghai Hitachi Electric Company (SHEC) is situated?	Changodar, Ahmedabad
✎ For kerosene. The scheme will be started from 1 April 2016. In the initial phase, the scheme will be implemented in selected 26 districts of _____ states.	8
✎ State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched host of digital banking solutions including green PIN. The bank launched mobile apps enabling the customer to locate PNB ATM with _____. Under this customer can obtain duplicate PIN for debit card instantly through SMS request.	PNB ATM Assist
✎ The stock exchanges would need to take steps for maintaining of _____ of shareholding of Public Category and ensuring that holding of trading members, associates or agents does not exceed _____	51 per cent, 49 per cent
✎ CCEA has approved an increase in the budget for implementation of grid connected solar rooftop systems. It is under _____.	National Solar Mission.
✎ The benefit of the LPG subsidy will not be available for LPG consumers if the consumer or his/her spouse had taxable income of more than _____.	A. Rs 10 lakh
✎ Tech Mahindra has launched an electronic wallet called _____	MoboMoney
✎ Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) of Bharat Petroleum's Mumbai Refinery is dedicated to the nation. It is dedicated by _____ Chief Minister of Maharashtra.	Devendra Fadnavis
✎ The premier _____ and RDSO have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to carry out collaborative research work.	IIT-Kanpur
✎ As per Reserve Bank, banks, mostly state-run ones, opened _____ accounts under the government's financial inclusion drive till the first week of December.	19.52 crore
✎ Defence Limited and Russia's leading developer and manufacturer of _____ defence missile system Almaz- Antey.	S-400 Triumf air
✎ _____ made debut on popular social networking platforms Facebook and Twitter.	EPFO
✎ Who has been appointed as a Deputy Governor of RBI for a second term?	Urjit R. Patel
✎ Which software company has appointed Bhanumurthy BM as its President and COO?	Wipro
✎ Which bank has has launched the facility of Funds Transfer through Missed Call system round the clock free of cost?	Federal Bank
✎ Which SAARC country has been elected as a member of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) executive board representing the Group of Asia-Pacific States for 2016-18?	Nepal
✎ Who is the new CEO of India's biggest e-commerce company Flipkart?	Binny Bansal



Mukesh Ambani has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering in USA.

INFOCUS

ABBREVIATIONS

BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance Initiative
BEPS	Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
SAMAR	System of Aerosol Monitoring And Research
NFME	National Framework for Malaria Elimination
UNIC	United Nations Information Centre
EDF	Electronics Development Fund

IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

2 February	World Wetlands Day
4 February	World Cancer Day
10 February	National Deworming Day
13 February	World Radio Day
20 February	World Day of Social Justice
21 February	International Mother Language Day
22 February	World Scout Day
23 February	World Peace and Understanding Day

ECONOMIC GLOSSARY

Clearing price

The price of a commodity or a security at which the market clears a commodity or a security is known as clearing price. Quantity supplied is equal to quantity demanded and buyers and sellers conduct the trade.

Generally, it happens because sellers expect to get the highest possible price for their product, while buyers want to get it at the lowest possible price.

In such a scenario, a price that settles the transaction so that both the parties are in agreement is called the clearing price. Where this price settles is influenced by various other factors. It can also be referred to as the equilibrium price.

Thus clearing price is equal to a value that is the same as the lowest price a seller is ready to take for his commodity and the highest price a buyer is ready to pay for it. Thus, it is the price at which the latest transaction was conducted.

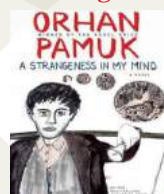


R. K. Verma has been appointed as a Secretary, Railway Board.

Mahendra's

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

A Strangeness in My Mind



- Orhan Pamuk



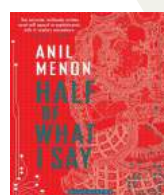
Global Game Change



- John Naisbitt and Doris Naisbitt



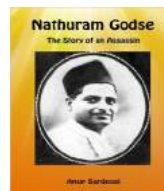
Half of What I Say



- Anil Menon



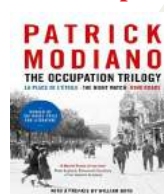
Nathuram Godse-The Story of an Assassin



- Anup Ashok Sardesai



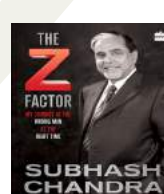
The Occupation Trilogy



- Patrick Modiano



The Z Factor



- Subhash Chandra



News Makers

APPOINTMENTS

Atulesh Jindal

Senior revenue service officer Atulesh Jindal appointed chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the apex policy-making body of the income tax department. He will succeed A K Jain, who completes his term at the end of this January. The appointments committee of the cabinet has approved the appointment of Jindal as chairman CBDT, an order issued by department of personnel and training. Jindal, a 1978 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, is currently working as member (revenue) in the CBDT. He will have a tenure of six-months till he retires in July, a senior finance ministry. Apart from its chairman, CBDT has six members and is the supreme body for framing policies related to direct taxes.



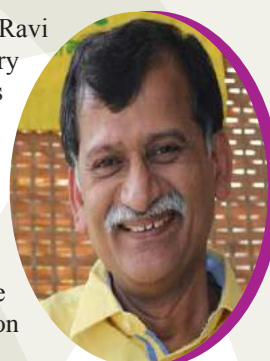
Alice Vaidyan

Alice Vaidyan has been appointed as the chairman and managing director of the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re). She would hold the office till July 31, 2019. She is the first woman to be appointed in such post not only in the GIC Re, but the first in the Indian insurance sector. The GIC Re is the 14th largest reinsurer globally and is the only reinsurance company in India. Vaidyan belongs to 1983 batch of the direct recruit officers of general insurance industry and has been the general manager and chief financial officer of the GIC Re from October 2012. Vaidyan began her career with New India Assurance Company in 1983. She moved to GIC Re in 2008 as deputy general manager (reinsurance). She is also a director on the Board of GIC Bhutan Re Ltd., a joint venture reinsurance firm established by GIC Re in Bhutan. Vaidyan would also be the chairman of GIC South Africa Re Ltd, Kenindia Insurance Company Limited, Kenya and GIC Housing Finance Company.



Ravi Chellam

Noted environmentalist Ravi Chellam on 20 January 2016 took charge as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India, a Non-Government Organisation (NGO).



About Ravi Chellam

- ✎ Chellam is a wildlife biologist and conservation scientist by training.
- ✎ He has undertaken governance roles in various conservation organisations.
- ✎ Prior to joining Greenpeace, he has worked with the Wildlife Institute of India and United Nations Development Programme.
- ✎ He has also worked with Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Wildlife Conservation Society (India Program) and Madras Crocodile Bank Trust.

Earlier in 2015, the government suspended Greenpeace's foreign funding licence and froze its domestic bank accounts for alleged rule violations.

Gurdeep Singh

Gurdeep Singh, managing director of Gujarat State Electricity Corporation Limited (GSEC), has been appointed as chairman and managing director of central PSU National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC).



Mr. Singh was instrumental in GSEC's turnaround, the power generation entity of the Gujarat government.

According to sources, there were more than 100 candidates in the fray for the top job in NTPC. "PM Modi himself picked up Gurdeep Singh because he wants to put the power sector on track as part of his ambitious plan to electrify all villages".



Justice Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela becomes the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court.

J. S. Deepak

J S. Deepak, has been appointed the new telecom secretary, while Rakesh Garg, the previous telecom secretary, has been shifted to minority affairs.

As part of the reshuffling exercise which saw a total of 10 appointments, Aruna Sharma, a 1982 batch IAS MP cadre, has been appointed the new IT secretary, replacing Deepak who was previously the top bureaucrat in the IT department.

Deepak, an IIM Ahmedabad alumnus, joined the Indian Administrative Services in 1982 and hails from the UP cadre. He was previously additional secretary in the department of commerce prior to which he served as the joint secretary at the department of telecom.

Deepak is credited with successfully conducting the first ever e-auction of spectrum in 2010, which helped the government raise close to Rs 1.067 lakh crore and set the roadmap for future auction of natural resources.

At the commerce ministry, Deepak was India's chief negotiator at the WTO and at the Regional Comprehensive Partnership which is a mega foreign trade agreement (FTA) including a total of 16 countries. He was also India chief negotiator for the India-EU FTA.

Kamlesh Kumar Pandey

Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey has been appointed as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) for a period of three years.

Dr. Pandey is a Science Graduate from University of Allahabad and Medical Graduate from Agra University in 1990. He has been associated with Sewa Bharti, an NGO working in rehabilitation of slum dwellers, Akhil Bhartiya Dristihin Kalyan Sangh, an NGO working for visually challenged persons. Before joining the post of CCPD, Dr. Pandey was associated with Saksham, an NGO working in the field of disability.

The Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities (CCPD) is appointed by the Central Government from persons having special knowledge or practical experience in matters relating to rehabilitation of Persons with Disabilities. The CCPD also coordinates the work of



the State Governments' Commissioners to monitor the utilization of funds disbursed by the Central Government; to take steps to safeguard the rights and facilities made available to persons with disabilities; and to submit reports to the Central Government on the implementation of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995.

Dr. Shyam S. Agarwal

Dr. Shyam S Agarwal (IAS 1980: Raj) has taken over as new Secretary of Ministry of Tribal Affairs. A science graduate from Ravenshaw College (Utkal University) Shri Agarwal did his MA in Political Science and Economics. He also did MBA from University of Ljubljana, Slovenia.

A Ph.D. in Economics from University of Southern California, Los Angeles, USA, Dr. Agarwal served in the Ministries of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises, Social Justice and Empowerment and Home Affairs in various capacities. Dr. Agarwal was Secretary, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes before taking over the present assignment. He succeeds Shri Arun Jha.

Jai Shankar Menon

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed Major General Jai Shankar Menon to head the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF), which monitors the Syria-Israel ceasefire in the Golan Heights. Menon succeeds Lieutenant General Purna Chandra Thapa of Nepal. Menon was Additional Director General for Equipment Management in the Indian Army. Menon earlier has served with the UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) from 2007 to 2009. UNDOF was set up in 1974 to supervise the ceasefire and disengagement agreement between Israel and Syria in the area seized by Israel during the 1967 War.

His appointment as UNDOF Head of Mission and Force Commander comes at a time of heightened tension with Syria engulfed in a multilateral civil war involving the government headed by President Hafez al-Assad backed by Iran and Russia; rebels supported by Saudi Arabia, Gulf countries and the West, and the Islamic State, the fundamentalist terrorist group.



900 km. road for the four Himalayan shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.

Mahendra's

Awards

National Medal Of Science

US President Barack Obama would present the prestigious National Medal of Science to an Indian-American scientist for his outstanding contribution to science.

Dr Rakesh K Jain is among 17 scientists, engineers, mathematicians and innovators who will be awarded by Obama at a White House ceremony. Awarded annually, the Medal of Science recognises individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science, engineering, and mathematics.

Jain, an IIT-Kanpur alumnus, is professor of tumor biology at Massachusetts General Hospital in the Harvard Medical School. He has received numerous awards for his work on tumor biology, particularly research on the link between tumor blood vessels and improving the effects of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. The National Medal of Science was created by statute in 1959 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation.

Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2015

Sensitive portrayal of life for young women facing the threat of the diktat of khap panchayats in Haryana has earned Ankita Anand, a journalist-writer, the European Commission's prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for 2015 (Asia-Pacific).

Travelling across the areas in Haryana where Khap bodies or caste councils had handed down fiats against women, she interviewed some of the Khap members and also talked to a cross-section of women, including prize-winning sports personalities, for their views on the pronouncements from kangaroo courts and the gender bias in society. Anand's experience and efforts were contained in a write-up 'No Country for the New Woman' was published in the summer number (April-June 2015) of the quarterly magazine 'The Equator Line', which centred on the theme of women's freedom in India.



Anuradha Roy

Indian author Anuradha Roy won the prestigious DSC Prize for South Asian Literature for her novel *Sleeping on Jupiter* at the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka. Roy was awarded the prize and a unique trophy by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

The six shortlisted authors in contention for the prestigious prize were:

- ✎ UK-based Indian-origin author Akhil Sharma for *Family Life*
- ✎ KR Meera's *Hangwoman* (Translated by J Devika)
- ✎ Mirza Waheed's *The Book of Gold Leaves*
- ✎ Neel Mukherjee's *The Lives of Others*
- ✎ Raj Kamal Jha for *She Will Build Him A City*
- ✎ Roy is an award-winning Indian novelist, journalist and editor.



About DSC Prize for South Asian Literature

- ✎ The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature is a literary prize awarded annually to writers of any ethnicity or nationality writing about South Asia with themes such as culture, politics, history or people.
- ✎ The prize was instituted by DSC Limited, an Indian infrastructure and construction company.
- ✎ It is for an original full-length novel written in English, or translated into English.
- ✎ The winner of the prize receives 2800000 rupees (about 50000 US dollars).
- ✎ In 2015, Jhumpa Lahiri won the prize for her novel *The Lowland*. Cyrus Mistry won it for *Chronicle of a Corpse Bearer* in 2014.

Nishagandhi Puraskaram

Music maestro Ilaiyaraaja was presented the prestigious 'Nishagandhi Puraskaram' by Kerala government in recognition of his valuable contribution to Indian film music.

The award comprises Rs 1,50,000, a citation and a statuette.



As per CRISIL Research Indian economy will grow at 7.9 percent during 2016-17.

Chief Minister Oommen Chandy presented the award to Ilayaraja at the inaugural ceremony of the Nishangandhi annual dance and music festival organized by the State Tourism Department.

National Yash Chopra Memorial Award

Veteran actress Rekha was honoured with the Yash Chopra Memorial Award for her contribution to the film industry.

The award has been instituted by the T.S.R. Foundation of T Subbarami Reddy in the memory of the producer-director, who died in 2012.

The Foundation annually honours a distinguished senior film personality for outstanding contribution to film industry with a Gold Medal and a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.

Rekha, 61, who worked with Chopra in 1981 romance "Silsila", will be given the honour on February 2 next year by the Governor of Maharashtra in a glittering ceremony in Mumbai. Previous recipients include Melody Queen Lata Mangeshkar and megastar Amitabh Bachchan.

Jananpith Navlekhan award

Two new Hindi writers Amlendu Tiwari and Om Nagar have been chosen for the 11th Navlekhan award of the Bharatiya Jnanpith.

The decision to confer the award on Tiwari for his novel 'Parityakt' and on Nagar for his non-fictional prose 'Nib Ke Cheere Se' was taken unanimously by a selection panel headed by senior writer and journalist Madhusudan Anand.

"The prize includes Rs 50,000 cash along with a certificate of merit and an idol of Vagdevi each," said a statement signed by Leeladhar Mandloi, Director Bharatiya Jananpith.

Vishnu Nagar, Govind Prasad and Om Nischal were among other members of the selection panel for the award, which is given to first time litterateurs.

BAFTA Awards 2016

Leonardo DiCaprio's performance as a revenge-seeking fur trapper in The Revenant won him best actor at BAFTA where the film dominated by bagging the best picture and director trophies. Indo-British director Asif Kapadia's critically acclaimed documentary

Amy on the late British songstress Amy Winehouse won the best documentary award at the British awards ceremony, hosted by Stephen Fry.

DiCaprio, who is the front-runner to win the best actor trophy at Oscars this year for his physically-gruelling performance in the Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu's film, was previously nominated for The Aviator, The Departed and most recently The Wolf of Wall Street.

The Revenant, based on the true-story of a 19th century fur trapper, who survived despite being mauled by a bear and abandoned for dead by his friends, won five major awards at the ceremony, while Carol had to return empty handed despite maximum nominations.

In his acceptance speech, DiCaprio paid tribute to British actors like Gary Oldman, Peter O'Toole and Daniel Day Lewis for influencing him as a performer. He also thanked his mother for helping him.

Inarritu, who swept the Oscars last year with "The Birdman" and a favourite this year as well, said the film's success at the BAFTA awards was overwhelming.

Brie Larson won the best actress Bafta for her poignant portrayal of a woman kidnapped and kept in a small room with her child in "Room". Her trophy was accepted by the film's director.

George Miller's apocalyptic action movie "Mad Max: Fury Road" won four Baftas for hair and make up, editing, costume design and production design.

Both supporting acting prizes went to British winners.

DiCaprio's Titanic co-star Kate Winslet won her third BAFTA trophy for her role as an Apple marketing executive Joanna Hoffman in Steve Jobs. Her previous wins were for Sense and Sensibility and The Reader.

Mark Rylance won in the best supporting actor category for his role of a Russian spy in Steven Spielberg's Bridge of Spies.

Journalism drama Spotlight won one in the best original screenplay category, and co-writer and director Tom McCarthy dedicated the award to the reporters of the Boston Globe, who broke the story of the Catholic Church paedophile priest cover-up. The Big Short won the best adapted screenplay award. Nick Hornby's Brooklyn was adjudged the outstanding British film.



Manpreeth Kaur senior won Gold in Women's Shot Put at 12th South Asian Games.

OBITUARIES

Yasutaro Koide

The world's oldest man has died at the age of 112 in the Japanese city of Nagoya. Yasutaro Koide, who was born on 13 March 1903, was officially named the oldest man by Guinness World Records in August this year. At the time he was quoted as saying his secret to long life was not smoking or drinking, not to overdo things and to "live with joy".



The title of world's oldest person is held by American woman Susannah Mushatt Jones, who is 116 years old. She took the title last year after the death of Misao Okawa in Japan at the age of 117.

The oldest person who has ever lived according to Guinness was Jeanne Calment of France, who lived 122 years and 164 days. She died in August 1997.

Mrinalini Sarabhai

Legendary Indian classical dancer, Mrinalini Sarabhai, has died from complications related to old age. She was 97. Sarabhai was admitted to a hospital in Ahmedabad with an infection. She died in the hospital after her condition deteriorated overnight.



Sarabhai was born in Kerala and was educated in Switzerland and Kolkata, where she began her training as a dancer.

She did a short stint at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York, before returning to India and learning two classical Indian dance forms from the leading dancers of the day.

She began her career as a dancer of the classical Indian dance form, Bharata Natyam, but also mastered Kathakali, a stylized form of Indian dance-drama from her home state of Kerala.

Besides choreographing more than 300 dance-dramas, she has written several novels, plays, poetry and stories for children.

Pandit Shankar Ghosh

Eminent tabla player Pandit Shankar Ghosh passed away. He was 80 years old. Ghosh. The legendary classical exponent, who is the father and mentor of new age percussionist Pt Bickram Ghosh, had been at the ICU of the super-speciality hospital on E M Bypass, since mid December and underwent angioplasty. Ghosh is survived by his son, daughter and grandson Tatan. The 80-year-old, amongst the most well-known tabla players in the country, was awarded the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in the year 2000.



Following the Farukhabad gharana of Hindustani classical music, Ghosh has also taught a large number of students in tabla not only in Kolkata but also in Europe.

K. V. Krishna Rao

Gen K. V. Krishna Rao (Retired), Ex Chief of Army Staff (COAS) passed away in Military Hospital in New Delhi on 30 Jan 2016.



Gen K. V. Krishna Rao was a visionary who led ably, inspired a generation of soldiers and initiated modernization of Indian Army in the early 1980's. His contribution in the 1971 War and maintaining the unity and integrity of the country shall always be remembered".

General KV Krishna Rao had an illustrious career spanning over four decades in the Indian Army. He served in Burma, North West Frontier and Baluchistan during the Second World War, participated in the 1947-48 war against Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir and was a founder Instructor of the National Defence Academy during 1949-51. He commanded an Infantry Division in the Jammu Region during 1969-70 and a Mountain Division engaged in Counter Insurgency Operations in Nagaland and Manipur during 1970-72. During this period his Division also participated in the 1971 India Pakistan War in Eastern Theatre and was instrumental in capture of the Sylhet Area and liberation of North East Bangladesh.



USA is at the top of the International IP Index "Infinite Possibilities" released by GIPC.

Balram Jakhar

Veteran Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar passed away. He was 92. Born on August 23, 1923 at Panjkosi village in Ferozepur district of Punjab, Jakhar graduated from a college in undivided Punjab's Lahore town and was well-versed in English, Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu apart from Punjabi. Jakhar served as Speaker of Lok Sabha from 1980 to 1989 during which he contributed to the establishment of Parliament Museum. He also served as Agriculture Minister in the Cabinet of former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao. Jakhar also served as Governor of Madhya Pradesh from June 30, 2004 to May 30, 2009. Jakhar also served as Deputy Minister Cooperation, Irrigation and Power in Punjab between 1973-77 and then Leader of Opposition in the Assembly between 1977 and 1979. Jakhar was a four-time MP in Lok Sabha starting from his election in the seventh Lok Sabha in 1980. He was again elected in 1984, 1991 and 1998.



In 1980, he became Lok Sabha Speaker and served till 1989 for two terms during which he was instrumental in automation and computerisation of the House works.

He worked extensively for promotion of Parliament Library, smartening the reference, research and documentation system of the House and streamlining information for the members.

S. S. Tarapore

S.S. Tarapore, former deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and a noted economist, passed away. He was 80.

A career central banker, Tarapore joined the RBI in 1961 and retired in 1996 as deputy governor, having been involved in almost all aspects of monetary policy.

He served as RBI deputy governor between 1992 and 1996 when C. Rangarajan was the governor.

This was a period of rapid change for the Indian economy, with the government having introduced economic reforms in 1991.

Tarapore is known among central bankers and economists



as an economist who had strong views on issues—ranging from inflation to capital account convertibility. Tarapore's work on capital account convertibility continues to be well remembered and cited even in today's context. In 1997, after his retirement from the RBI, Tarapore was appointed chairman for the committee on capital account convertibility.

Tarapore was also known as an inflation hawk, chiding policymakers through his public comments and writings for being too lax on inflation control. In fact, in 2000, a committee headed by M. Narasimham, which included Tarapore as a member, suggested that the government mandate an inflation rate for the RBI.

Nearly 15 years later, the RBI signed a monetary policy agreement with the government which mandates that the RBI bring down inflation to 4% (+/- 2%).

O N V Kurup

Malayalam's most celebrated contemporary poet and Jnanpith-winner Ottapalakkal Neelakandan Velu Kurup passed away on 13 February 2016 in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was 84.



Popularly known as ONV, Kurup began his career as a progressive writer and matured into a humanist though he never gave up his commitment to socialist ideology. He was a part of the progressive movement in Kerala and wrote some of the most remembered poems and film lyrics.

- ✎ Born on 27 May 1931 in Chavara, Kollam, Kurup attended the public Government School, Chavara.
- ✎ He received the Padma Shri in 1998 and Padma Vibhushan in 2011, the fourth and second highest civilian honours from the Government of India.
- ✎ He received the Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, for the year 2007. He is the fifth Jnanpith laureate from Kerala and the second Malayalam poet to win the prestigious award.
- ✎ His first published poem was Munnottu (Forward) which appeared in a local weekly in 1946.
- ✎ His first poetry collection, Porutunna Soundaryam, came out in 1949.
- ✎ He published a book named Dahikunna Panapatram (The Thirsty Chalice) which was a collection of his early poems during 1946–1956.



Nepal's former Prime Minister Sushil Koirala passed away.

Mahendra's



YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

Specialized in Banking, SSC, Railway & other Competitive Examinations

Features

We organize new batches for CWE PO/Clerk interviews every week.

We provide Interview facility for all kinds of Banking & other competitive examinations on all the centres

We provide real environment for Interview.

The Mock Interviews are conducted by highly professional, experienced & reputed personalities.

We create environment for Extempore, big fight, Group Discussion & Case study.

We provide complete Interview material for all competitive examinations.

We provide special classes for Personality Development.

We provide open sessions for all the candidates where they can discuss their problems with the Experts.

We provide minimum 3 Special classes, 5 Mock Interviews & Open Sessions.

Minimum of 4 board members will be present at all mock sessions.

Interview material kit is free for our candidates (who are going to appear in the interview).

We conduct felicitation programme for our successful candidates.

Facility of watching LIVE Interviews is provided so that our candidates can learn more.

Lowest fee charged all over India.

ACADEMY⁰⁷

EXCELLENCE & PERSONALITY

DEVELOPMENT



TOLL FREE NO.

1800-103-5225



WEBSITES

www.mahendras.org
www.interviewguru.mahendras.org
www.mahendrapublication.org
stportal.mahendras.org
enews.mahendras.org
myshop.mahendras.org
www.bankersguru.org
www.railwayguru.org
www.sscguru.org

News DIARY

NATIONAL



Commemorative Coin of Rs. 150 and Circulation Coin of Rs. 10 on Lala Lajpat Rai Released

STATE



Uttar Pradesh Budget 2016-17 tabled in the Legislative Assembly

INTERNATIONAL



John Nicholson named NATO commander in Afghanistan



System of aerosol monitoring and research dedicated to SAMAR

Jan 16

Union Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the new user-friendly website of IMD and dedicated to the nation the System of Aerosol Monitoring And Research (SAMAR) which is a network of 16 Aethalometers, 12 Sky radiometers and 12 Nephelometers to study black-carbon concentration, aerosol radiative properties, environmental visibility respectively & their climatological impacts. He was the Chief Guest on the 141st Foundation Day of the India Meteorological Department (IMD). Dr. Madhavan Nair Rajeevan, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences presided over the function. IMD is celebrating the Foundation Day with a view to promote awareness about advancements made in the field of Weather Monitoring & Forecasting during 2015 and the new initiatives taken by the Department for accelerating its capabilities & services, with focus on further improving the accuracy of prediction of extreme weather events at city, block and district level.



Sushma Swaraj Inaugurates Digital Learning Centre In Palestine

Jan 18



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the India-Palestine Digital Learning and Innovation Centre at the campus of the Al Quds University in Ramallah.

The centre is part of India's efforts at supplementing capacity-building in Palestine. Earlier Ms Swaraj, who was accompanied by Secretary (East) in the External Affairs Ministry Anil Wadhwa and other senior officials of the ministry, held delegation-level talks with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Maliki, to start her visit to Palestine and Israel.

ICC launches Cricket for Good & Team Swachh campaign

Jan 19

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reaffirmed its commitment to the Spirit of Cricket and bringing about positive social change through the sport, by launching Cricket for Good, its CSR Programme, in association with UNICEF.

Team Swachh is the first of a series of collaborations between the International Cricket Council (ICC) and UNICEF under the aegis of Cricket for Good with the aim of leveraging the vast reach and power of cricket. This visionary collaboration aims to build a social movement for sanitation and toilet use, thereby leading to an open defecation-free India. The five-year global partnership was announced in October 2015 in New York and will be used as the ICC's platform to advocate for children in India and other countries where cricket is a popular sport.



Indo-Nepal Combined Military Exercise Surya Kiran IX held at Pithoragarh.

Mahendra's

ECONOMY



India overtakes Thailand as world's largest rice exporter

SPORTS



Martina Hingis Joins Sania Mirza as World No.1

SCIENCE



India launches 5th navigation satellite IRNSS-1E powered by PSLV rocket

MISCELLANEOUS



UNWTO released World Tourism Barometer

Ministry of Shipping initiates Project Green Port

Jan 20



Weighing in the environmental perspective for sustained growth, the Ministry of Shipping(India) has started 'Project Green Ports' which will help in making the Major Ports across India cleaner and greener. 'Project Green Ports' will have two verticals - one is 'Green Ports Initiatives' related to environmental issues and second is 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan'.

The Green Port Initiatives include twelve initiatives which will be implemented under strict time bound fashion in order to achieve the targets. Some of these initiatives are preparation and monitoring plan, acquiring equipments required for monitoring environmental pollution, acquiring dust suppression system, setting up of sewage/waste water treatment plants/ garbage disposal plant, setting up projects for energy generation from renewable energy sources, completion of shortfalls of Oil Spill Response (OSR) facilities (Tier-1), prohibition of disposal of almost all kind of garbage at sea, improving the quality of harbour wastes etc.

Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, the Ministry has identified 20 activities with certain time-line to promote cleanliness at the port premises. Some of the activities include cleaning the wharf, cleaning and repairing of

sheds, cleaning and repairing of port roads, painting road signs, zebra crossing, pavement edges, modernizing and cleanliness of all the toilet complexes in the operational area, placement of dustbins at regular intervals, beautification and cleaning of parks, boards indicating cleanliness messages, cleaning and repairing of all drainages and storm water systems and tree plantation.

Harsh Vardhan inaugurates NE's first IIG in Shillong

Jan 20

Union Minister for Science and Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated the first Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) of the North East



christened as Shillong Geophysical Research Centre of the Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) for detailed research on earthquakes in the region.

"The research centre is not for prevention of earthquakes but for avoiding the damages caused by them."

Located at the Wilton Hall Estate, Upper Shillong, the Shillong Geophysical Research Centre which has been set up at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore is the third such centre in the country. Meanwhile, the Union Minister informed that the Centre is thoroughly committed to take science forward in a proactive and dynamic manner.

Meanwhile, Dr. D S Ramesh, Director of IIG said, "It is indeed a historic moment and we are proud to inaugurate our third regional centre."

He informed that the Union Minister has sanctioned special grants worth Rs. 5 crore during this financial year towards the establishment of the regional centre.



CSO has estimated 7.6 per cent GDP growth for the current fiscal 2015-16.

Union Cabinet approves National Tariff Policy for electricity

Jan 20

The Union Cabinet approved the 'National Tariff Policy for Electricity' aimed at tightening regulations for setting power rates and promotion of clean energy. The regulations tighten regulations for setting power tariffs by asking electricity regulators to "necessarily" be guided by the new policy while framing regulations under section 61 of the Act.

Now, the state regulators would have to remain in the perimeter of the policy. It would be binding on them to take regulatory decisions as per the amended policy and not as per need. "The Act also requires the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) and State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) shall necessarily be guided by the tariff policy in discharging their functions including framing the regulations under section 61 of the Act."

Section 61 of the Electricity Act empowers regulators to set terms and conditions for determination of tariffs and be guided by the tariff policy. A major addition to the objective of the policy are promotion of renewable generation sources and aim to create more competition, efficiency in operations and improvement in quality of power supply.



Eko launches Indo-Nepal remittance service with Prabhu Money

Jan 20



Eko, a mobile-based Financial technology company, announced the launch of Indo-Nepal remittance services in partnership with Nepal's Prabhu Money Group. "This is Eko's first international tie-up for remittance services. Through this product launch, Eko agents are able to initiate remittances to Nepal. The service will benefit 50 Lakh Nepali migrants living across India."

The service enables Indian and Nepali citizens living in India to send money to Nepal, and the recipient can avail the cash "instantly". Citizens of both the

countries can use the service in the form of cash-to-cash, cash-to-bank account, cash-to-co-operative bank account and through top-up remittance cards.

A remitter can do transactions of Rs 50,000 per day and is allowed up to 12 transactions in a year. A fee of Rs 150 is charged for remitting up to Rs 30,000 and Rs 200 for remitting up to Rs 50,000.

India, UK to cooperate in infra financing, check tax evasion

Jan 20

India and the UK have agreed to strengthen their economic cooperation in infrastructure and financial services as they vowed to address cross-border tax evasion and avoidance.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who held talks with his UK counterpart George Osborne as part of the 8th India-UK Economic and Financial Dialogue and had a series of meetings with UK-based investors and fund managers. After talks



between Jaitley and Osborne, a joint statement was issued that talked about advancement of cooperation in a range of sectors including infrastructure financing, addressing issues of cross-border tax evasion and avoidance besides opening up of the Indian legal sector to foreign lawyers. "From the Indian point of view, we were extremely interested in having the British investors look at infrastructure investments in India for which various possibilities were discussed.

Rajnath Singh inaugurates the International Conference on Cooperative Federalism

Jan 20

The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the International Conference on "Cooperative Federalism: National Perspectives and International Experience". He said that this International Conference aims to enrich our national pursuits for Cooperative federalism with successful case studies practiced in other parts of the world.

If any issue between Centre-State or Inter-State issues are resolved by various mechanisms put in place including Inter-Governmental agencies and fora like Inter State Council, Zonal Councils, National Development Council, NITI Aayog, Governors' Conference and Chief Ministers' Conference etc. All of them, as integral part of the machinery of government, are playing a vital role in the harmonious working of a federal structure.



The Lord's stadium will host the final of the Women's Cricket World Cup in 2017.

PM launches Essel Group Chairman Dr Subhash Chandra's autobiography Jan 20



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the autobiography of Essel Group Chairman Dr Subhash Chandra.

Modi unveiled the book at his official residence 7 RCR in Delhi.

Modi also praised Dr Chandra for his contribution to society and education.

The autobiography titled 'The Z Factor: My Journey as the Wrong Man at the Right Time' has been written along with Pranjal Sharma.

Dr Chandra, who is referred to as the Media Moghul of India, revolutionised the television industry by launching the country's first satellite Hindi channel Zee TV in 1992 and later the first private news channel, Zee News.

His bouquet of businesses includes television networks (ZEE), a newspaper chain (DNA), cable systems (Wire and Wireless Ltd), direct-to-home (Dish TV), satellite communications (Agrani and Procall), theme parks (EsselWorld and Water Kingdom), online gaming (Playwin), education (Zee Learn), flexible packaging (Essel Propack), infrastructure development (Essel Infraprojects Ltd) and family entertainment centres (Fun Cinemas).

He has made his mark as an influential philanthropist in the country by setting up TALEEM

(Transnational Alternate Learning for Emancipation and Empowerment through Multimedia), aimed at providing access to quality education through distance and open learning. Dr Chandra is also the Chairman of the Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of India – a movement to eradicate illiteracy from rural and tribal India. The Foundation provides free education to nearly eight lakh tribal children across 27,000 villages through one-teacher schools.

MoU between Department of Space /ISRO and Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research Jan 21



Cabinet Decision

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of Space /Indian Space Research Organization (DOS/ISRO) and Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

The MoU will enable pursuing potential interest areas in both cooperative and commercial mode, namely: (1) Use of data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites by KISR for initiating a few research and application projects; (2) Training; and (3) Building and launching of remote sensing and communication satellites on commercial terms.

The MoU will lead to setting up of a Joint Working Group, drawing

members from ISRO and KISR, which will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementing this MoU.

Cooperation with KISR through this MoU will lead to developing a joint activity in the field of application of space technology for the benefit of humanity. Thus all sections and regions of the country will get benefited,

The MoU will provide impetus to explore newer research activities and application possibilities in the field of remote sensing of the earth; satellite communication; satellite navigation; space science and exploration of outer space.

Journalist Vinod Agnihotri awarded with 'Shailikar Samman' Jan 21



Noted journalist Vinod Agnihotri was awarded with 'Shailikar Samman' by Vice President Hamid Ansari.

The award ceremony took place at Vice-President's residence in New Delhi.

The award was instituted in 2003 in the memory of noted litterateur and scribe Kanahaiya Lal Prabhakar by Shailikar Samman Samiti.

Previous award winners include former Uttarakhand Chief Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal and journalists Prabhash Joshi Kuldeep Nayar and Alok Mehta.



Indian Sundar Pichai has become the highest paid CEO in the US.

India signs Financing Agreement with World Bank for US\$ 250 million Jan 21

The Financing Agreement for World Bank (IDA) assistance of US\$ 250 million for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project was signed between Government of India and the World Bank. The Financing Agreement was signed by Mr. Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Onno Ruhl, Country Director in India, on behalf of the World Bank. The objective of the project is to enhance resilience to floods and increase agricultural production and productivity in the targeted districts in the Kosi River Basin, and to enhance Bihar's capacity to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency. Project Components: The project has five components: (i) Improving Flood Risk Management; (ii) Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Competitiveness; (iii) Augmenting Connectivity; (iv) Contingent Emergency Response; and (v) Implementation Support.



PM Modi flags off superfast train connecting Varanasi and Delhi Jan 22

Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off a train connecting Varanasi - his parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh and Delhi. Accompanied by senior ministers of his cabinet, Modi flagged off the superfast express train, Mahamana Express, which would ply between Varanasi-Lucknow-New Delhi. All the coaches of the model train have been manufactured in a Bhopal coach factory. IANS. Modi congratulated the ministry of railways for the new train, and said he hoped that it would make travel safe and easy for the passengers.



He also said this train would soon be replicated elsewhere in the country. Minister of State for Railway Maonj Sinha told the gathering at Dereka grounds that it was for the first time that central schemes were benefitting all districts of Uttar Pradesh rather than being restricted to Rae Bareilly and Amethi - represented in the Lok Sabha by Congress president Sonia Gandhi and her son Rahul Gandhi. The new train would also be the first to travel on the newly electrified section between Moradabad-Ghaziabad. The train would be formally operational from January 25, thrice a week on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays.



Sushila Panwar won gold medal at the 12th South Asian Games, in Weightlifting.

Mahendra's

Jodhpur's Umaid Bhawan Palace named the world's best hotel of 2016 Jan 22

A dazzling Indian palace fit for a maharaja has taken the top spot in TripAdvisor's 2016 Travelers' Choice Awards, receiving glowing reviews from guests who gave it top marks and were effusive with their praise. In the 14th edition of the travel site's Travelers' Choice Awards, the Umaid Bhawan Palace was named the best hotel of 2016, with a five out of five bubble rating among its 840 guests.

1. Umaid Bhawan Palace Jodhpur – Jodhpur, India
2. Shinta Mani Resort – Siem Reap, Cambodia
3. Bellevue Syrene – Sorrento, Italy
4. Hanoi La Siesta Hotel & Spa – Hanoi, Vietnam
5. Achitis Hotel – Afitos, Greece
6. Belmond Le Manoir aux Quat'Saisons – Great Milton, United Kingdom
7. Mirihi Island Resort – Mirihi, Maldives
8. Bucuti & Tara Beach Resorts Aruba – Palm-Eagle Beach, Aruba
9. Calabash Luxury Boutique Hotel & Spa – Lance aux Epines, Grenada
10. Hotel Ritta Höppner – Gramado, Brazil

New Species of Bird Discovered in India and China by International Team of Scientists Jan 22

A new species of bird has been discovered in northeastern India and adjacent parts of China by a team of scientists from Sweden, China, the U.S., India and Russia.



The bird, described in the current issue of the journal Avian Research, has been named Himalayan forest thrush *Zoothera salimalii*.

The scientific name honors the great Indian ornithologist Salim Ali, in recognition of his contributions to the development of Indian ornithology and nature conservation.

The discovery process for the Himalayan forest thrush began in 2009 when it was realized that what was considered a single species, the plain-backed thrush *Zoothera mollissima*, was in fact two different species in northeastern India, said Pamela Rasmussen, of Michigan State University's Department of Integrative Biology and the MSU Museum, and coordinator of MSU's global bird sounds website AVoCet.

OVL signs MoU with Equatorial Guinea

Jan 24

ONGC Videsh Ltd, the overseas arm of state-owned explorer Oil and Natural Gas Corporation(ONGC), has entered into an agreement with Republic of Equatorial Guinea for cooperation in upstream hydrocarbon sector in the African nation. The memorandum of understanding (MoU) is part of efforts of Indian flagship overseas oil and gas firm to expand its presence in hydrocarbon rich African continent.

The pact was signed by OVL Managing Director and CEO Narendra K Verma Equatorial Guinea's Minister for Mines Gabriel Mbaga Obiang Lima on sidelines of the 4th India-Africa Hydrocarbons Summit. "Under the MOU, the State of Equatorial Guinea will cooperate with ONGC Videsh to explore the potential investment opportunities within the upstream hydrocarbons sector in Equatorial Guinea, as may be of interest to.

OVL already has presence in Mozambique, Sudan and South Sudan in Africa. It is India's largest international oil and gas exploration and production company having 36 projects in 17 countries including Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Libya, Myanmar, Russia, Syria, Venezuela and Vietnam. OVL's oil and gas operations produced 8.87 million tonnes of oil and oil equivalent gas (mmtoe) in 2014-15. As on April 1, it had a total oil and gas reserves of 647.485 million metric tonne of oil equivalent (MMtoe).

Manohar Parrikar Hoists Country's Largest, Tallest Tricolour In Ranchi

Jan 25



Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar hoisted the largest Tricolour in the country atop the tallest pole at Pahari Mandir in Ranchi. "I feel elated to unfurl the country's tallest, biggest and most beautiful Tricolour on the occasion of 119th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose," Mr Parrikar said in Ranchi. The flag is 66 ft in height, 99 ft in width and it is hoisted on a 293 ft tall pole. The country's largest and tallest Tricolour, 96 ft X 64 ft in dimension, was flying on a 250ft high pole in Faridabad. It was hoisted last year.

Addressing a group of schoolchildren at the Birs Munda Stadium after unfurling the flag at Pahari Mandir, about a km away, Mr Parrikar thanked Jharkhand and its Chief Minister Raghubar Das for giving him the splendid opportunity. Jharkhand Governor Droupadi Murmu, the chief minister, his cabinet colleagues and other dignitaries were present on the occasion.

Three PIOs nominated to Democratic Convention Standing Committees

Jan 25

Three eminent Indian-Americans, including two women, have been nominated to the Democratic Party's 2016 Convention Standing Committees which would formally announce its candidate for the presidential polls.

Smita Shah

Topping the list of Person of Indian Origin (PIO) is Smita Shah, president and CEO of Chicago-based Spaan Tech, who has been nominated as vice chair of the Rules Committee. A Clinton White House staffer, Ms. Shah was a delegate at the 1996 and 2004 Democratic National Conventions and was on the DNC's Rules Committee in 2000 and 2004. In 2012, she became the first Indian-American to serve as a Democratic National Convention parliamentarian.



Shefali Razdan Duggal

One of the top fund raisers for President Barack Obama and now Hillary Clinton, California-based Shefali Razdan Duggal has been nominated a member of the Rules Committee. Ms. Duggal is a presidential appointee to the US Holocaust Memorial Council, which supervises the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, for a term expiring in January 2018. She is one of the top fund raiser for the Clinton campaign and also serves on the National Finance Committee for Hillary for America, Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign.

Dr. Sreedhar Potarazu

Renowned ophthalmologist and entrepreneur, Dr. Sreedhar Potarazu has been nominated to the Credentials Committee, according to the list released by the Democratic National Committee (DNC) Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz. Dr. Potarazu is the founder of VitalSpring Technologies Inc., a privately held enterprise software company focusing on providing employers with applications to empower them to become more sophisticated purchasers of health care.



Government has released the Hydrocarbon Vision Document 2030 for North East in Guwahati.

India's first High Speed Public Wi - Fi Service at Mumbai Central station

Jan 25

Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Minister of Railways, Govt of India, inaugurated the Wi - Fi service in a function at Mumbai Central Railway station, as a part of an ambitious project towards Digital India initiative by Indian Railways with the help of Rail Tel Corporation in collaboration with Google. After the inauguration of Wi - Fi service, Mumbai Central station has gained the distinguished status of being the first ever station in India to have high speed internet facility for its thousands of passengers who travel everyday by trains.

Its worth mentioning that the Indian Railways telecom arm, RailTel Corporation will provide Internet services as RailWire via its extensive fiber network, in partnership with Google. Designed to offer users the best Internet experience, Railwire Wi - Fi will be available to any user who has a working mobile connection on a smartphone. This is all a part of Western Railways continuing endeavors to provide more and better comforts to its esteemed passengers.

Supreme Court collegium recommends elevation of 4 judges as HC CJs

Jan 26



The Supreme Court collegium have recommended elevation of four judges as chief

justices of various high courts. The four high courts of Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Gauhati for which new chief justices have been recommended are currently being looked after by acting chief justices. While the chief justices of Rajasthan, Karnataka and Gauhati had retired last year, the chief justice of Meghalaya high court had retired on 16 January.

There is also speculation that Delhi high court Chief Justice G. Rohini has been recommended for a transfer to the Madras high court in the same capacity, while the incumbent in Chennai Justice S.K. Kaul has been recommended to be the next Chief Justice of the Allahabad high court in Uttar Pradesh.

The incumbent at Allahabad high court, Justice Dhananjaya Yashwant Chandrachud, has been recommended by the collegium to head the Delhi high court. While senior judges are set to become chief justices of Rajasthan, Meghalaya and Gauhati high courts, the acting Chief Justice of Karnataka high court Justice S.K. Mukherjee has been recommended to head that high court as Chief Justice.

Agreement between the India and Russia for basic and exploratory research

Jan 27



The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi was apprised about signing of an agreement between India and Russia in May 2015. The Agreement provides for competitive research grants to Indian and Russian

researchers for joint implementation of research projects in areas of Basic and Exploratory Sciences. The Agreement is valid for a period of six years and could be extended through mutual consent between Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Russian Science Federation (RSF). This competition would be conducted in the areas of Mathematics, Computer & System Science; Physics & Space Science; Chemistry & Material Science; Biology and Life Science; Basic research for Medicine, Agricultural Science, Earth Science and Engineering Science.

Decision to identify research projects for funding would be taken jointly by DST and RSF. The results of this cooperation will lead to generation of new knowledge, joint scientific publications, manpower training and IP generation through collaboration.

Sajeev Koshy, Kerala dentist honored with Order of Australia

Jan 27

Adentist hailing from Kerala was awarded the highest Civilian honour in Australia. Sajeev Koshy settled in Melbourne was given the Order of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day.



Sajeev Koshy was given the award for his service to dentistry in Victoria, Australia. Koshy, who has served as the president of the Kerala Dental Council, president of the Indian Dental Association, was honoured on the Australia Day Awards 2016, by the Governor-General of Australia. Koshy is currently the head of the endodontics at the Royal Melbourne Dental Hospital, which is the teaching hospital for the University of Melbourne.

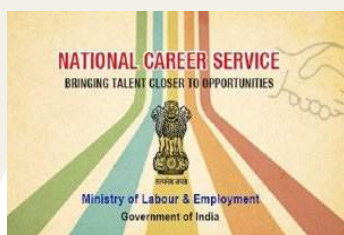


TRAI has ruled against differential pricing for data services giving a big boost to Net Neutrality.

Mahendra's

National Job Portal for persons with disabilities launched

Jan 28



Social Justice and Empowerment Minister, Thaawarchand Gehlot launched an exclusive job portal for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The PwDs can avail the different facilities such as self employment loan, education loan, skill training, link to scholarships and information about jobs in a single window platform through this National Job Portal.

Government has given very high priority to skill training programme for Persons with Disabilities and has a target for skilling five lakh persons in next 3 years. The skill training will be provided by a network of 200 clusters of "Training Partners" with financial assistance of government. A time bound action plan has been prepared for this purpose, the Government will also pursue private sector for providing them job after the training. Recently a scheme has been launched to plant an especial device for assistance to deaf and dumb children. So far within one and half month 305 children have been provided this device. Encouraging results have been seen and many of these children are now able to speak and hear like normal children. The Government is also working on universal ID programme for persons with disabilities so that they can get facilities across the country on the production of the ID. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Govt. of India has entrusted National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFDC) to develop a National level Job portal for the persons with disabilities (PwDs). A disabled-friendly National level Job portal, www.disabilityjobs.gov.in, will a long way for empowering persons with disabilities by providing them all desired information for employment opportunities at one platform. On the occasion, a book on success stories of 100 PwD entrepreneurs who have come up in their life to be the true role models will be launched. The book "YES WE CAN" has been published by penguin publishers with the support of NHFDC.

Henri Tiphagne won Amnesty Award For Human Rights in India

Jan 28

Activist and lawyer Henri Tiphagne has been named the winner of the eighth Human Rights Award by Amnesty International Germany for "tirelessly and bravely standing up" for human rights in India. Through the award, Amnesty aims to honour and support the awardees' exceptional human rights commitment and raise awareness of their work amongst the German public. The award comes with 10,000 Euros (USD 10,876) provided by Amnesty Germany. Tiphagne has been named for the award for "tirelessly and bravely standing up for human rights. Tiphagne, the People's Watch founder who campaigns against discrimination and the use of torture, will be presented the award on April 25 at the Maxim Gorki Theatre in Berlin. Henri Tiphagne and his organisation People's Watch, while fighting to ensure the rights of others, are themselves being harassed and hampered in their work by the authorities. People's Watch has been researching and documenting human rights violations, as well as providing legal representation to those affected for over 20 years, the group said. The organisation also actively supports human rights education.



Commemorative Coin of Rs. 150 and Circulation Coin of Rs. 10 on Lala Lajpat Rai Released

Jan 29

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Culture and Tourism released a Commemorative Coin of Rs 150 and a Circulation Coin of Rs 10 on Late Lala Lajpat Rai. The Commemorative Coin of Rs 150 is made of Quaternary alloy with diameter of 44 mm and weight of 35 grams and the Circulation coin of Rs 10 is made of bi-metallic material with diameter of 27 mm and weight of 7.71 grams. Ministry of Culture has been celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai from 28th January 2015 to 28th January 2016.

The Ministry of Culture organized a function and an exhibition in Lala Lajpat Rai's memory in Nehru Memorial Museum & Library (NMML), New Delhi on 13th January, 2016. State Government of Punjab has been sanctioned an amount of Rs 5.00 crore for construction of an Auditorium and Rs 3 cr for installation of Astroturf Flooring in Hockey Stadium at Lalaji's Birth Place. A stalwart of the freedom struggle, Lala Lajpat Rai ranks among India's most outstanding leaders. He was popularly known as 'Punjab Kesari' or 'The Lion of Punjab'. Born on 28th January 1865 at a small village of Dhudike in district Ferozepur, Punjab, he was a contemporary of great stalwarts including Mahatma Gandhi.



New Zealand cricketer Brendon Barrie McCullum retired from One-Day Internationals (ODIs).

India successfully test fires Akash missile

Jan 29

India test fired its indigenously-developed surface-to-air Akash (missile) as part of a user trial from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.



“Three rounds of test were carried out by IAF personnel aiming at para-barrel targets”. The missiles, with a strike range of 25 km and capability to carry warhead of 60 kg, were test fired from 11 AM to 2 PM from the launch complex-3 of the ITR.

Akash, which aimed at a para-barrel target during the trial, is a medium range surface-to-air anti-aircraft defence system developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) as part of the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme.

Akash is powered by Ramjet-rocket propulsion system which renders thrust for the missile to intercept the target at supersonic speed without any retardation. It can fly at supersonic speed ranging from Mach 2.8 to 3.5 and can engage aerial targets upto a range of approximately 25 km.

The missile was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force in July 2015. Compared with the American MIM-104 Patriot, the surface-to-air missile system, Akash has the capability to neutralise aerial targets like fighter jets, cruise missiles and air-to-surface missiles.

Vice Admiral Girish Luthra takes charge of Southern Naval Command

Jan 30



Vice Admiral Girish Luthra, AVSM, VSM, took charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command (FOC-in-C, South) Vice Admiral Luthra, who was serving as Deputy Chief of the Integrated Defence Staff (DCIDS - Operations) at the Naval

headquarters in Delhi, took over the charge from Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba, who will take charge as Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command. In his farewell address Vice Admiral Lanba, PVSM, AVSM, reminded everyone particularly the personnel under training that it was incumbent upon them to utilize the top class training being accorded to them towards becoming excellent professionals in the service of the country.

Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba Takes Over Western Naval Command

Jan 31

Vice Admiral Sunil Lanba took over the reins of Western Naval Command (WNC) as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) from Vice Admiral SPS Cheema at a ceremonial parade held at INS Shikra. Vice Admiral S.P.S. Cheema retired, after completing nearly four decades of service to the nation and the Navy.



Vice Admiral Lanba, a specialist in Navigation and Direction and an alumnus of Defence Services Staff College, has very rich operational and staff experience over a career spanning more than three decades. He has served as Navigating Officer of INS Sindhudurg (Corvette) and INS Dunagiri (Frigate). During his illustrious service he commanded four frontline warships namely, INS Kakinada (Minesweeper), INS Himgiri (Frigate), INS Ranvijay and INS Mumbai (Destroyers).

Vice Admiral Lanba is a recipient of the Param Vishist Seva Medal and the Athi Vishist Seva Medal for distinguished service of an exceptionally high order. Mrs Reena Lanba who will now preside over the Navy Wives Welfare Association (Western Region) is a qualified teacher and a home maker.

NASA, India join hands for astrobiology mission

Feb 01

Even as India prepares for a second mission to Mars, a team of scientists from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the Mars Society Australia and the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow, will mount an expedition to Ladakh this August to study the similarities of certain parts of the region's topography and microbial life to Martian surroundings.

India's second mission to Mars — scheduled to be in 2020 — will involve collaboration with France and may include a lander or rover — remote controlled vehicles — which can ostensibly better analyse a planet's surface.

“This is the first time that India is part of the Spaceward Bound programme,” said Siddharth Pandey, who is among the coordinators of the expedition “and we hope to have the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) closely involved.” The Spaceward Bound is a NASA project that educates future space explorers and funds expeditions to places with extreme climate conditions. Before Ladakh, there have been expeditions to the deserts such in Atacama, Chile; Mojave, California; Arkaroola, Australia as well as the Arctic and Antarctica, organised since 2006.



Paradeep refinery is country's top refiner of the country.

Mahendra's

BGRL is being set up at Karad to understand Earthquakes Mechanism Feb 02

The Union Minister for Science, Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan led the Bhoomi-Pujan ceremony for construction of the Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory. The government wants to find solutions to possible problems of the people due to natural calamities through such scientific researches.

IMPORTANT FACTS:

- ✎ This Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) is being established to address challenging seismological problems of societal relevance through drilling investigations.
- ✎ BGRL was conceptualized as part of the Ministry's programme of Scientific Deep Drilling in the Koyna Intra-plate Seismic Zone, Maharashtra for geological investigations and modeling dedicated to earthquake research in the area.
- ✎ Reservoir triggered earthquakes have been occurring persistently in the Koyna region since the impoundment of the Shivaji Sagar Lake in 1962. The 6.3 magnitude Koyna earthquake in 1967 is the largest triggered earthquake in the world.
- ✎ Till date, 22 earthquakes of magnitude 5 and above, 200 earthquakes of magnitude 4 and above, and several thousand smaller earthquakes have occurred in the region.
- ✎ A strong correlation between continued earthquake activity and the annual loading and unloading cycles of the Koyna and nearby Warna reservoirs has been established. However, a model to comprehend the genesis of reservoir triggered earthquakes is elusive, due to lack of observations from near-field.
- ✎ Under this programme a unique approach to understand the mechanism of earthquakes in the Koyna region is planned. It is proposed to drill deep boreholes to reach the depths of earthquakes in this region and set-up a deep borehole observatory.
- ✎ Direct observations in the source zone of the earthquakes will provide new and critical information to model these earthquake mechanisms.



Permanent infrastructure including office buildings, advanced laboratories and a state-of-art core repository are under development at this campus in Hazarmachi, Karad. The Govt. of Maharashtra has provided the necessary land for the purpose. The goal of BGRL is to emerge as an Institution of international repute housing highly specialized geophysical, geological and geotechnical facilities related to earthquake research.

India, Brunei signed 3 MoUs to deepen bilateral cooperation Feb 03



India and Brunei signed 3 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to deepen bilateral cooperation. The MoUs were signed in Brunei capital Bandar Seri Begawan during the Vice President Hamid Ansari's 3-day visit to the country.

Details related to 3 MoUs

- ✎ MoU in health cooperation: The objective of this MOU is to establish cooperation in the field of health care, medical education, research between the two countries.
- ✎ MoU on Defence cooperation: The purpose of this MOU is to enhance Defence cooperation between India and Brunei in various fields. Cooperation in defence already exists in the form of naval ship visits, training of senior military officers in Staff colleges and exchange of experience.
- ✎ MOU on cooperation in youth and sports affairs: It seeks to provide a framework for exchanges of sports persons and sports teams; to facilitate the exchange of expertise in coaching, sports talent identification, sports management and administration and exchange of information in the field of youth affairs.



India and China conducted their first joint tactical exercise at Laddakh.

"MAGIC" process lab at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory

Feb 03



The Union Minister for Science & Technology & Earth Sciences, Dr Harsh Vardhan, inaugurated a unique MAGIC [Modular, Agile, Intensified & Continuous] Process Lab at CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory (CSIR-NCL). While inaugurating the facility he announced that "The MAGIC processes and plants will bring about a paradigm shift in the way in which India's Fine and Specialty Chemicals industry will operate in the future.

Over the past three decades, the global fine and specialty chemicals industry has shifted manufacturing base from the western world to countries like India and China. The MAGIC processes developed in CSIR-NCL can radically change currently practiced process technologies into modern processes that are cleaner, greener, safer, compact, scalable and economical. As a result, the MAGIC processes have the potential to transform the country into a global powerhouse in this important sector, thus enabling the country to increase its contribution to global production of chemicals from the current levels of 3 to 5% over the next few years." He consequently called upon the Indian chemical industry to work closely with this National facility to realize this goal.

While addressing the staff at CSIR-NCL, Dr Harsh Vardhan commended CSIR-NCL's efforts in providing effective

solutions to key problems of national relevance. He extolled the laboratory for its enormous contributions to the growth of Indian chemical and allied industries in the areas of dyestuff, agrochemicals, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, fine and specialty chemicals, catalyst and tissue culture.

Russia delivers major consignment of Mi-17V-5 helicopters to India

Feb 03

Russia has handed over to India the final batch of three Mi-17V-5 military transport helicopters under a previously signed contract even as it gets ready to ink yet another deal for another 48 such choppers.

The contract with Rosoboronexport, a company of Rostec State Corporation, entailed a total of 151 units of the Mi-17V-5 helicopter, produced by the Kazan Helicopter Plant, part of Russian Helicopters company. Mi-17V-5, supplied to India, are among the most technically advanced helicopters of the Mi-8/17 type. Each Indian Mi-17V-5 has a complex navigation and electronic display KNEI-8.

In this complex the numerous indicators of various information systems of the helicopter are replaced with four multi-function displays, the presence of which unloads dashboards and greatly facilitates the work of the crew. It also significantly simplifies pre-flight check of the helicopter with information from all sensors of conjugate systems on a single monitor screen, a statement by Rostec State Corporation said. In 2008, Rosoboronexport signed a contract for the delivery of 80 Mi-17V-5 to India, which was completed in 2011-2013. In 2012-2013, three additional supplies had been signed to supply a total of 71 Mi-17V-5 for the needs of the air force, Home Ministry and the Prime Minister's Office.

President confers the Honorary Rank of General on General Rajendra Chhetri

Feb 03



The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army on Prakhryata Trisahkati-Patta General Rajendra Chhetri, Chief of the Army Staff, Nepalese Army, for his commendable military prowess and immeasurable contribution to fostering Nepal's long and friendly association with India, at a special Investiture Ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The citation read out on the occasion says "General Rajendra Chhetri's selfless service, sincere devotion and commitment to excellence are in keeping with the finest traditions of Military service and reflect distinct credit upon himself and the Nepalese Army. Throughout his exemplary career, General Chhetri has demonstrated dynamic leadership and outstanding professionalism.

General Rajendra Chhetri has contributed to promote the existing bond of friendship, based on goodwill and mutual understanding, between Indian and Nepalese Army as well as other armies of the world. In recognition of his commendable Military prowess and immeasurable contribution to further fostering the long and friendly association with India, President of India is pleased to confer the honorary rank of General of the Indian Army on General Rajendra Chhetri".



A 24x7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline in 12 languages has been launched by the government.

Creation of a super-numerary post in the rank of Air Marshal in Indian Air Force

Feb 03



The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for creation of a supernumerary post in the rank of Air Marshal in Indian Air Force for a period of seventeen months from 01 December, 2014 to 30 April, 2016 for abiding by the Orders of Hon'ble Armed Forces Tribunal (Principal Bench), New Delhi. The creation of the supernumerary post is over and above its sanctioned strength of Air Marshals in the Aeronautical Engineering branch, to enable the Ministry to consider seeking approval of the Appointment Committee of the Cabinet on promotion of AVM Sanjay Sharma in compliance with the directions of the Hon'ble Armed Forces Tribunal (Principal Bench), New Delhi.

After the sanction AVM Sanjay Sharma will be considered for promotion to the rank of Air Marshal retrospectively from 01 December, 2014.

Joint Declaration on the extension of IGSTC from 2017 till 2022

Feb 03



The Union Cabinet was apprised about signing of a Joint Declaration between the Ministry of Science & Technology and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany on the extension of the tenure of the Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC). The Declaration is for the extension of tenure of the bilateral IGSTC for a period of five years beyond 2017 till 2022. It provides for enhancement of funding allocation from 2 million Euros per year to a maximum of 4 million Euros per year by each side. The committed funding will be based

on the principles of activity matching funding for supporting collaborative research partnerships of industrial relevance.

The joint research projects involving academia and industry from both countries will aim towards creation of new scientific knowledge base and the application of research results for technology development and application. This new declaration will enable IGSTC to further enhance, strengthen and improve research and technology cooperation of industrial relevance through cooperation between laboratories, academia and industry of both the countries. IGSTC will support and fund selected R&D projects linking research laboratories and industry (2+2 scheme) from India and Germany and assist in mobilizing resources to carry out collaborative industrial R&D projects.

The IGSTC was established under an agreement between the two Governments in October 2007 and started operation in 2011. Presently IGSTC is supporting joint industrial R&D projects in areas such as (a) advanced manufacturing (b) biomedical devices & healthcare (c) nanotechnology (d) automobile engineering (e) water sensors (f) clean energy technology and (g) information and computing technology.

India Becomes an Associate Member of EMBO

Feb 04

India through the Department of Biotechnology, Ministry of Science and Technology signed a Cooperation Agreement to acquire the status of the Associate Member State European Molecular Biology Organisation (EMBO). This would strengthen scientific interaction and collaborative research between India and Europe in this field. After the signing of an agreement with Singapore by EMBC in July 2015, India will now become second such country outside the European region.

EMBO is an organization of more than 1700 leading researchers that promotes excellence in the life sciences. The major goals of the organization are to support talented researchers at all stages of their careers, stimulate the exchange of scientific information. The movement was started in 1964 as European Molecular Biology Conference (EMBC) and subsequently it got intergovernmental funding.

With this India as an EMBC Associate Member State, researchers working in India are now eligible to participate in all EMBO programmes and activities. Indian scientists can apply to EMBO's programmes, such as long-term fellowships for postdoctoral researchers, short-term fellowships, courses and workshops, as well as the EMBO Young Investigator Programme. At the same time, Europe will benefit from networking with the top-level scientists in India's research community.



The Central Government has approved to set up a Sanskrit University in Jharkhand.

India to participate in Cobra Gold 2016

Feb 05

The term Cobra Gold was in news as India confirmed its participation in the annual amphibious military exercise in 2016. The decision in this regard was conveyed to Thailand, the host country, during Vice President Hamid Ansari's visit to the country.

It is the largest Asia-Pacific military exercise and held in Thailand every year. It was first held in 1982 to improve coordination between the armed forces of the USA and Thailand in both hostile military and humanitarian efforts. As of 2015, the exercise expanded to include 26 nations - Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, South Korea, and other South Asian and Pacific Ocean countries among others. China was admitted to the exercise for the first time in 2015.



National Organic Farming Research Institute to be set in Sikkim

Feb 06



The Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare decided to set up the National Organic Farming Research Institute in Sikkim.

The decision to this effect was taken by the Union Agriculture Minister Radhamohan Singh and Sikkim Agriculture Minister Som Nath Paudyal in New Delhi.

The institute will be established by upgrading the existing Regional Centre of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in Gangtok.

The setting up of the institute is of primary importance for Sikkim as it was declared as the first organic farming State in the country in January 2016 by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

National Institute of Science Education and Research in Bhubaneswar dedicated to the nation

Feb 08

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, dedicated to the nation, the National Institute of Science Education and Research at Bhubaneswar.

The Prime Minister hoped that an environment of innovation would be fostered among scientific institutions. In the context of NISER, situated in Odisha, he mentioned the possibilities for innovation in areas such as coal gasification and clean energy, the blue economy, and housing for all by 2022.

The Prime Minister urged the students of NISER to work towards making NISER India's greenest campus, and a zero-emission, zero-discharge campus which uses only renewable energy.



Indian, Chinese Armies Hold Joint Tactical Exercises In Ladakh

Feb 08



Indian and Chinese border troops conducted the first 'joint tactical exercise' in Chushul-Moldo area of Ladakh in Jammu and Kashmir, where they focused on aspects related to disaster relief and humanitarian operations.

The Indian Army team of 30 personnel was led by Colonel Ritesh Chandra Singh while the Chinese side of the same strength was headed by Colonel Qu Yi.

Codenamed 'Sino-India Cooperation 2016', compliments the 'Hand-in-Hand' series of India-China joint exercises and the recently conducted border troops joint exercise in Sikkim.

The increased interaction amongst Indian and Chinese border troops is a "very positive step" in enhancing confidence and building relations between the two armies.



Congo has won the 2016 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) beating Mali with 3-0.

Noted lyricist Nida Fazli passed away Feb 08



Noted poet and lyricist Nida Fazli, 78, passed away in Mumbai following a heart attack. Nida Fazli was born in Delhi to a Kashmiri family and he had attended school in Gwalior.

His father was also an Urdu poet. During the partition, his parents migrated to Pakistan, but Fazli decided to stay in India.

He was known among fans and singers for his elegant presentation of ghazals, dohaas and nazms.

Nida Fazli wrote the title song of TV serials like 'Sailaab', 'Neem ka Ped', 'Jaane Kya Baat Hui' and 'Jyoti'. The composition "Koi Akelaa Kahaan" is another popular composition sung by Kavita Krishnamurthy.

He also worked with late ghazal singer Jagjit Singh in 1994 and together they brought out an album 'Insight', which got appreciation for its soulful poetry and music.

He has also written famous ghazals 'kabhie kisi ko mukamil jahan na milta' (ahista ahista), 'Aa bhi jaa, aa bhi jaa' (Sur), 'Tu Is Tarah Se Meri Zindagi Mein' (Aap To Aise Na The), 'Hosh Waalon Ko Khabar Kya' (Sarfaroosh).

24x7 toll free Tourist Infoline Launched Feb 08

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, the Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism & Culture and Minister of State for Civil Aviation

launched the "24x7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline in 12 International Languages including Hindi and English" available on the existing Toll Free Number 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 at a function.

This project is being implemented by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India through M/s. TATA BSS who have been associated with the work after open bidding process.

The languages handled by the contact centers include ten International languages besides English and Hindi, namely, Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. A "Live Demo" of this Multilingual Infoline Service in Japanese, Chinese, Russian and Italian languages was also presented on the occasion.

The Minister also announced that very soon his Ministry will launch an "Incredible India Mobile App." to facilitate tourists in a better way.

INDO-Nepal Combined Military Exercise Surya Kiran IX Feb 09



The 14 day Indo-Nepal Combined Military Exercise Surya Kiran IX was conducted at general area, Pithoragarh. A combined Ceremonial Parade was held by both the participating contingents. The Nepal Army is being represented by officers and troops of

the elite Rudra Dhoj Battalion while an Infantry Battalion is participating on behalf of Indian Army.

The Combined Battalion Level Exercise is being conducted under the aegis of Panchshul Brigade of Central Command.

This is the Ninth Indo-Nepal Combined exercise and during the next 14 days of combined training, emphasis would be laid on upgradation of tactical and practical skills by sharing each others experiences and also on enhancing interoperability in Jungle Warfare and Counter Terrorism operations in mountain terrain.

The role and importance of Armed Forces in disaster management in both the countries has assumed increasing significance in recent years.

Focus will also be laid on Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief Operations which also includes medical and aviation aspects.

Brig Sanjay Sharma of Headquarter Central Command was present during the opening ceremony and interacted with the soldiers of both the contingents.

In the opening address, he emphasised that both the armies have a lot to learn from each other especially in our approach towards handling the modern day challenges of addressing terrorism and also in disaster management as it has been one of the most important challenges for both countries after the recent calamities.

Senior Nepalese Army officials are also likely to attend the combined exercise alongwith their Indian Counterparts during the validation phase of the exercise.



India won Gold in Compound women's archery at the 12th South Asian Games (SAG).

R. K. Verma takes over as New Secretary, Railway Board

Feb 10

R. K. Verma a 1980 batch of Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE), has assumed the charge of the post of Secretary, Railway Board. Before assuming the post of Secretary, Railway Board he was serving as adviser (Public Grievance) to the Minister of State for Railways.



R. K. Verma, after completion of his B.Tech (Civil Engineering) from IIT(BHU), Varanasi and M.Tech (Structural Engineering) from IIT Delhi joined, Indian Railways on 10.02.1982. He has worked on various railways viz. Southern, North-East Frontier Eastern and Western including Indian Railways Institute of Civil Engineering, Pune in various capacities. His technical papers have been published in various national/international, conferences of institution of permanent way Engineers (India), International Union of Railways, International Rail Safety, International Heavy Haul Association, World Congress on Railway Research etc. He has undergone training in Heavy Haul Operations in South Africa. He also has Life Fellowship of: Institution of Engineers (India), Institution of Permanent Way Engineers(India) and Indian Institute of Bridge Engineers.

Archives released by LSE reveal BR Ambedkar's time as a scholar

Feb 10

UK's prestigious London School of Economics has released archival documents on Dr B R Ambedkar, one of its famous students and architect of the Indian Constitution, to mark his 125th birth anniversary. Ambedkar was studying at the Columbia University in 1920 when economist Edwin R Seligman wrote to Professor Herbert Foxwell, teaching at London School of Economics (LSE), asking him to help Ambedkar with his research.

The Dalit leader's student days in London were marked by Prime Minister Narendra Modi last November when he opened a museum at his former home in north London. Ambedkar went on to register for a master's degree and completed a PhD thesis at LSE. The year 2016 also marks the centenary of his first visit to LSE in 1916, the LSE said in its release.

"In 1916, he registered at LSE for a master's degree and took courses in Geography with Halford Mackinder, and Political Ideas with G Lowes Dickinson, alongside

Social Evolution and Social Theory with Professor L T Hobhouse. The fees for the course were 10 pounds 10 shillings. At the same time, Ambedkar enrolled for the bar course at Gray's Inn," the LSE documents show.

Ambedkar finally submitted his doctoral thesis, 'The Problem of the Rupee', in March 1923 but it was not recommended for acceptance and reports claim that the thesis was too revolutionary and anti-British for the examiners. However, there is no indication of this in Ambedkar's student file. The thesis was resubmitted in August 1923 and accepted in November 1923. After his success in academics, Ambedkar returned to India where he was prominent in the campaign for Indian independence and opposing discrimination against Dalit communities. On August 29, 1947, the iconic leader was appointed Chairman of the Constitution's 'Drafting Committee'. He was awarded 'Bharat Ratna', India's highest civilian award, in 1990. He died in 1956 at the age of 65.

Harinder Sidhu to be new Australian High Commissioner to India

Feb 11

Australia announced the appointment of Indian-origin Harinder Sidhu as the country's next High Commissioner to India.



Sidhu, a senior career officer with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, has been also serving as First Assistant Secretary of the Multilateral Policy Division. She has previously served overseas in Moscow and Damascus. "India is one of Australia's closest and most significant partners in the Indo-Pacific region. It is our 10th largest trading partner and our two-way investment is worth over USD 20 billion," Australian foreign affairs minister Julie Bishop said while announcing the new High Commissioner.

Julie stressed that Australia would continue to push for the conclusion of a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with India, designed to take "our economic relationship to a new level." "Sidhu will also have non-resident accreditation to Bhutan. Australia and Bhutan enjoy a warm relationship, built on strong people-to-people links and growing cooperation on international education," Julie said. Australia also has strong strategic and defence ties with India, conducting its first bilateral maritime exercises in 2015. There are also over 450,000 people of Indian descent currently residing in Australia driving our strong education, cultural and tourism links, Julie said.

Sidhu's previous roles included First Assistant Secretary in the Department of Climate Change, Assistant Director-General in the Office of National Assessments and Senior Adviser in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. She holds a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Economics degrees from the University of Sydney.



North Korea launched a long-range rocket from the Tongchangri launch station.

Mahendra's

J. P. Nadda launches the National Framework for Elimination of Malaria

Feb 11

“India stands committed to eliminating Malaria and is committed to allocating infrastructure and financial resources to this task”, said J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare. The Health Minister launched the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030, which outlines India’s strategy for elimination of the disease by 2030.



“This framework has been developed with a vision to eliminate malaria from the country and contribute to improved health and quality of life and alleviation of poverty”. The Minister stated that the NFME document clearly defines goals, objectives, strategies, targets and timelines and will serve as a roadmap for advocating and planning malaria elimination in the country in a phased manner.

Terming the launch of the national framework for elimination of Malaria by 2030 as historic in view of the public health challenge posed by mosquito-borne illnesses, B P Sharma, Secretary (HFW) highlighted the importance of the segmented approach in tackling the issue. Eliminating Malaria will result in cutting down on expenditure on diseases control programme, and will help in reducing out-of-pocket expenditure too, he noted. He also added that the India has sturdy health systems with trained manpower, and the learning from the Polio and Elimination of Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus will help in eliminating Malaria too. He said that while diagnostic kits and medicines are available everywhere, the delivery mechanism has to be streamlined for better outcomes.

The NFME 2016-2030 also defines key strategic approaches such as programme phasing considering the varying malaria endemicity in the country; classification of States/UTs based on API as primary criterion (Category 0: Prevention of re- introduction phase; Category 1: Elimination phase; Category 2: Pre-elimination phase; Category 3: Intensified control phase); district as the unit of planning and implementation; focus on high endemic areas; and special strategy for *P. vivax* elimination. An enabled environment and necessary resources would remain critical to realize the objectives in the pathway to malaria elimination.

‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’ extended to 61 more districts

Feb 11



The government extended its flagship programme ‘Beti Bachao Beti Padhao’ (girl child welfare), initially launched in 100 districts, to 61 more districts across 11 states. “The Women and Child Development Ministry (WCD) has expanded Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme in additional 61 districts (covering 11 states)”.

The 11 states are: Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttarakhand.

“In the last one year, the scheme was implemented under the overall guidance and supervision of district magistrates/ deputy commissioners concerned.

“Seeing the overwhelming response from stakeholders, the Standing Finance Committee in its meeting held on January 5 under the chairmanship of Secretary, WCD, approved the expansion of the scheme in 61 additional districts,” the statement said.

The programme, launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Haryana last year, seeks to improve the declining trend of child sex ratio in selected districts.

Festival ‘Destination North-East-2016’ inaugurated

Feb 12

The Union Minister of State Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh and Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the festival ‘Destination North-East-2016’. The festival is being organised by the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region (DoNER) and Ministry of Culture. The festival will showcase the inherent economic, social and cultural strength of the North East Region (NER) at the national level. While inaugurating the festival, Dr Jitendra Singh said that



Wipro has won a five-year IT infrastructure deal from Assa Abloy group.

the North-East will be developed into a key destination for young entrepreneurs and Startups. He also said that North East festivals will be organised in Mumbai and Bangalore in the coming months.

He said that direct flight from Delhi to Dimapur is a major step in making North East more accessible. The rest of India needs to be connected with North East in a meaningful way, he added. He said that the Prime Minister Narendra Modi is taking keen interest in the development of North East. He also emphasised upon the need to upgrade academic institutions in the North East to provide quality education and develop the human resource.

The Secretary, Ministry of Tourism Vinod Zuthsi said that Government of India has been giving special focus on North East tourism promotion and facilitation. He said that the North East is an unexplored paradise within Incredible India.

The three-day mega event will include theme specific Business Summit consisting of sectors like Tourism, Agriculture, Food Processing, Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, IT, Handloom & Handicrafts, Livelihood, Micro-Finance and Start ups.

Destination North East will enable various Central Ministries to showcase their initiatives in North East India. The event will also have cultural programmes to showcase the rich culture and folk dances of North East India.

Sebi notifies stricter Mutual Fund norms

Feb 15



To safeguard investor interest, capital markets regulator Sebi has notified a stricter set of norms for mutual funds, wherein it has capped the investment limit in bonds of a single company at 10 per cent.

The move comes after JP Morgan Mutual Fund got into troubles due to its exposure to debt securities of Amtek Auto, while a few other fund houses have also faced similar problems with regard to corporate bonds of other distressed firms.

Under the norms, mutual fund (MF) houses will not be able to invest more than 10 per cent of a scheme's corpus in debt securities of a single company. However, it can be extendable to 12 per cent of net assets value (NAV) after trustee's approval. Currently, the limit is 15 per cent.

The new norms — Securities and Exchange Board of India (Mutual Funds) Regulations, 2016 — has come into force from February 12, when the regulator notified it.

Infosys Prize conferred to distinguished researchers

Feb 15



The Infosys Science Foundation honoured winners of the Infosys Prize 2015 for their outstanding achievements and contributions to research in the fields of science and humanities. Pranab Mukherjee, President, India, the chief guest for the event, felicitated the winners at a grand ceremony in Delhi. The Infosys prize was given in six categories — engineering and computer science, humanities, life sciences, mathematical sciences, physical sciences, and social sciences.

Amit Sharma received the award in the Life Sciences category, Mahan Mj for Mathematical Sciences, Umesh Waghmare for Engineering and Computer Science, Jonardon Ganeri for Humanities, G Ravindra Kumar for Physical Sciences and Srinath Raghavan, Social Sciences.

The winners were chosen by six renowned jury chairs. They were Chancellor Pradeep K Khosla, University of California, San Diego for Engineering and Computer Science; Prof Amartya Sen Harvard University for Humanities.

Dr Inder Verma, Salk Institute of Biological Sciences for Life Sciences; Prof Srinivasa SR Varadhan, New York University for Mathematical Sciences; Prof Shrinivas Kulkarni California Institute of Technology for Physical Sciences; and Prof Kaushik Basu, The World Bank for Social Sciences.



Renowned Urdu and Hindi poet Nida Fazli died recently.

Mahendra's



Former Sikkim governor Rama Rao passes away

Jan 18



Veteran BJP leader and former Sikkim governor V. Rama Rao died at a city hospital in Hyderabad after prolonged illness. He was 81. Rao was suffering from severe lung infection and was hospitalised about a month ago.

Rao was a lawyer and practised at the Andhra Pradesh High Court. He was elected as MLC on four occasions in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Legislature. While he served for three full terms in 1966, 1972 and 1978, the Legislative Council was abolished during his fourth term after his election from Graduates Constituency in 1984. During his last term, he served as party floor leader in the Council.

He served as Sikkim Governor from October 25, 2002 to October 25, 2007.

Uttar Pradesh won 2014-2015 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

Jan 26

Uttar Pradesh on 20 January 2016 won its maiden Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy with a 38-run win over two-time champions Baroda in the final played at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai. It was Uttar Pradesh's ninth straight win in the tournament, including five in the preliminary league phase and three more in the super league stage.

About Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

- ✎ The Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a Twenty20 cricket domestic championship, named after a famous Indian cricketer, Syed Mushtaq Ali.
- ✎ It is organized by Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI), among the teams from Ranji Trophy.
- ✎ The 2008-09 season was the inaugural season for this trophy.
- ✎ BCCI had launched its own state structure in 2006-07 season with 27 Ranji teams divided in 5 Zones with the name of Inter-State T20 Championship, which was renamed and re-launched as the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy.
- ✎ Gujarat was the winner of 2014-15 season of the tournament.

Rajasthan joins "UDAY" scheme, 3rd State to sign MOU

Jan 27

The Government of India, the State of Rajasthan and the DISCOMs of Rajasthan (Jaipur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited, Jodhpur Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited and Ajmer Vidyut Vitran Nigam Limited) signed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the Scheme UDAY – "Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana" for operational and financial turnaround of the DISCOMs. The signing ceremony was held in the august presence of the Piyush Goyal Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy. Rajasthan is the third State to sign the MOU under UDAY, the other two States being Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh.



The Scheme UDAY was launched by the Government of India on 20th November, 2015 to ensure a permanent and sustainable solution to the debt-ridden Distribution utilities to achieve financial stability and growth. The Distribution Utilities across the country have a long standing debt of almost Rs.4.3 Lakh crore. UDAY is an effort to make these DISCOMs financially and operationally healthy, to be able to supply adequate power at affordable rates, and enable the Governments to make efforts towards 100% Village electrification and 24X7 Power For All.



7.5 per cent is the growth forecast for India for the fiscal 2016-17.

Agreement for JV Company for Development of Railway Infrastructure in Kerala and Andhra Pradesh

Jan 28



Minister of Railways, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu signed two separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between Ministry of Railways and State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala for “Formation of Joint Venture Companies for Development of Railway Infrastructure in the States of Kerala and Andhra Pradesh” were signed. The MoUs were signed in the background of Railway Minister’s Budget announcement regarding setting up of Joint Ventures with States for focused project development, resource mobilization, land acquisition, project implementation and monitoring of critical rail projects.

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu said that the Indian Railways is happy to have a dream come true, i.e. of Cooperative Federalism. Emphasizing the need of working together, Railway Minister said that the relationship with the State Governments is beyond a project and not a transactional relationship. Railways has introduced decentralized decision making formula which is completely remarkable change. The current moves will improve the initiative of the State Governments which will help implementation of rail projects in a speedy manner.

However, Railways have a large shelf of ongoing New Line, Gauge Conversion and Doubling projects needing about Rs 3.5 lakh crores to complete. We have been trying to meet the aspirations of public within limited availability of funds.

Justice Sanjay Mishra is New Lokayukta of U.P.

Jan 28

The Supreme Court appointing Justice Virendra Singh, a former judge of Allahabad High Court as Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh. While taking back its decision, the apex court appointed Justice Sanjay Mishra, a retired judge of the Allahabad High Court as new Lokayukta of UP.



Justice Sanjay Mishra

The bench comprising justices Rajan Gogoi and P C Pantia termed as “unfortunate” the inability of constitutional functionaries like the Chief Minister and Chief Justice of HC to arrive at a consensual name for the post of the Lokayukta.

The bench, while recalling its order, referred to an earlier apex court judgment holding that the views of the HC Chief Justice should be accorded primacy in such appointments.

Earlier on December 16 last year, in an unusual order, the apex court had exercised its constitutional authority and appointed Justice Singh as Uttar Pradesh Lokayukta. However, the appointment was later stayed by the apex court itself after it was told by a UP resident Sachidanand Gupta that the state government has played a “fraud upon the apex court” by hiding the fact that the Allahabad High Court Chief Justice had expressed his reservations to the name of Justice Virendra Singh.

MITRA app by Puducherry for women safety

Jul 30



Last Governor of Puducherry AK Singh launched the MITRA mobile application to ensure safety and security of women in the Union Territory. The app was launched in the presence of the Chief Minister N Rangasamy in Puducherry.

MITRA is an Android based application can send emergency SOS messages when in danger or emergency.

To launch the application, the person in danger need only press the power button of his/her mobile three times. At present, it is available only in smart phones.



As per Professional forecasters' survey of RBI GVA Growth in 2015-16 will be 7.4 per cent.

Nitish Kumar conferred with Social Justice award

Feb 01



Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has been chosen by US-based Periyar International for the 'K. Veeramani Social Justice Award', instituted by non-resident followers of Dalit icon Periyar EV Ramasami.

JD(U) general secretary KC Tyagi said that this is a "great honour" to their party leader noting that the previous awardees include big names for the cause of social justice including late Prime Minister VP Singh, M Karunanidhi, Sitaram Kesri and Mayawati.

Congress lawmaker V Hanumantha Rao and a former minister in Maharashtra government Chhagan Bhujbal were also given this award. The award carries a plaque and cash of Rs. 1 lakh.

The award is in the name of K. Veeramani, the President of Dravidar Kazhagam.

Pandit Ram Narayan gets Bhimsen Joshi Award

Feb 04

Sarangi maestro Pandit Ram Narayan has been chosen for the prestigious Bharat Ratna Pandit Bhimsen Joshi classical music award for 2015-2016, Maharashtra's Cultural Affairs Minister Vinod Tawde announced. The annual award, instituted by the Maharashtra government, is given to individuals who have excelled in classical vocal

or instrumental music. The award, finalised by a committee of top music artistes and exponents, comprises Rs.5 lakh in cash, a trophy and a citation. Pandit Ram Narayan, 88, has been playing the sarangi since his childhood, and over the years acquired global acclaim for his music for which he was conferred India's second highest civilian honour, Padma Vibhushan, in 2005. He popularised the bowed instrument as a solo concert instrument in Indian classical music and is considered the first sarangi player who became successful in the international arena.

Justice Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela appointed as Chief Justice of Bombay High Court

Feb 10



Justice Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court, which has been functioning with an officiating head since October last.

The Supreme Court Collegium led by Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur had recommended Mr. Waghela's transfer last month and the President had approved it.

Bihar approves Rs16,960-crore metro rail project for Patna

Feb 10

The Bihar government approved a Rs.16,960 crore metro rail project for capital Patna, joining a list of states looking to fix commuting woes with rapid mass transit solutions. The metro will initially run from Saguna More to Patna Junction, covering 27 stations

in the first phase. Planned as a public-private partnership, (PPP) the project will have three phases. In the first phase, it will complete North-South and East-West corridors. The project was conceived in 2011 and the state government had asked the Rail India Technical and Economic Service (RITES) to prepare a feasibility report. The government will now send the report to the urban development ministry for Union Cabinet's approval.

Since May 2014 when the Narendra Modi government took over at the Centre, the Union cabinet has approved three metro rail projects—the Nagpur Metro Rail Project with a length of 38.21 km along two corridors at a cost of Rs.8,680 crore; the Ahmedabad Metro Rail Project Phase-1 covering 35.96 km at a cost of Rs.10,773 crore; and the Lucknow Metro Rail Project over 22.878 km with 22 stations at a cost of Rs.6,928 crore. Among other metro rail projects awaiting clearance from the Cabinet are a metro network for the tri-city of Chandigarh, Mohali and Panchkula, Ludhiana Metro Rail project and Dehradun-Rishikesh-Haridwar Metro Rail project.

Metro rail is currently coming up in several cities, including Hyderabad (Telangana), Kochi (Kerala), Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), Ahmedabad-Gandhinagar (Gujarat) and Nagpur (Maharashtra). As per the 2006 National Urban Transport Policy, the central government funds up to 20% of the cost of metro rail projects either through equity and subordinate debt (for 50% central taxes/duties) if the project is taken up through a 50:50 jointly owned special purpose vehicle of the Government of India and the state government, or through viability gap funding if the project is taken up under the PPP mode. The central government also provides up to 50% funding for preparation of the detailed project report (DPR) of Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS) projects.



An inter-ministerial Committee has approved development of a heritage park in Amaravati.

UP Land Revenue Act, 2015 came into effect

Feb 11

The Uttar Pradesh (UP) Land Revenue Act, 2015 became effective on 11 February 2016. The new code that unifies many Acts replaced at least 39 old land revenue acts. The new revenue act also replaced the pre and post British era British era Land Revenue Act of 1901 and Zamindari Abolition and Land Reform Act 1950.

The Act will enable Dalits of the state to sell their land to non-Dalits without approval of the administration. It empowers rural women, as the new provisions ensure that wife gets equal rights on the gram samaj land given out on a lease. Earlier, women didn't have their name on such lease. Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on 6 February 2016 launched this new revenue code booklet at a programme in Lucknow.

Uttar Pradesh Budget 2016-17 tabled in the Legislative Assembly

Feb 12

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav on 12 February 2016 as a Finance Minister introduced the Budget 2016-17 in the Assembly. It was fifth budget by Akhilesh Yadav as a Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and is the largest budget so far.

Related Key Facts:

- ✎ Uttar Pradesh budget for 2016-17 made a provision of total Rs. 3.46 lakh crore in the state.
- ✎ 14.6 per cent higher allocation than the previous budget (2015-16),.
- ✎ increasing the scope of samajwadi pension, 55 million people have been targetted under the scheme.
- ✎ 10 per cent increase in each excise duty and VAT.
- ✎ projected revenue Rs. 3.40 lakh crore .
- ✎ old age pension to reach to 39 million people.
- ✎ Purvanchal Samajwadi Express has been included in budget provisions.
- ✎ Rs. 1336 crore for repayment of sugarcane price.
- ✎ Government medical colleges to be increased to 16 and MBBS seats in them to be increased to 1700.
- ✎ 1 million farmers will benefit from DBT.
- ✎ Rs. 2057 crores for drought-hit districts.
- ✎ 1200 skills development instructor centres announced to open.
- ✎ cattle feed program in drought-hit districts.
- ✎ Government announced concessional loans at 3 per cent to farmers .
- ✎ Provision of Rs 3162 for the IAY.
- ✎ Rs 814 crore allocated for Lucknow Metro.
- ✎ cities announced a 22-hour electricity daily.
- ✎ allocation of Rs 102 crores for the special potato market in Kannauj.

Madhya Pradesh Gets its First Mega Food Park

Feb 13

In order to give an impetus to the growth of the Food Processing Sector in Madhya Pradesh, the first Mega Food Park in the state promoted by M/s Indus mega Food Part Pvt. Ltd was inaugurated by Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries at Village Panwa, Tehsil Kasarwad, District Khargone. A 2nd Mega Food Park has been sanctioned by the Ministry in Dewas district of Madhya Pradesh, which will be ready in the next 24 to 30 months.



Speaking on the occasion, Badal informed that this Mega Food Park has been set up with the project cost of Rs.127.70 crore in an area of 53.78 acres. The park will have facilities of 3000 MT Cold Storage, 9000 MT Dry Warehouse, Instant Quick Freeze (IQF) 5 MT per hour, modern Quality Control lab and other processing facilities for fruits and vegetables. The Minister expressed confidence that this Mega Food Park project will create a modern infrastructure for arresting post-harvest losses of horticultural and non-horticultural produce and provide impetus to the growth of food processing sector in Madhya Pradesh. This Mega Food Park project will help in providing better prices to farmers, reduce wastage of perishables, add value to agricultural produce and create huge opportunities for entrepreneurship and employment for the youth of the State.



NASA Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the Moon in 1971.



Taiwan elects its first female president

Jan 18



Taiwan has elected its first female president in a landmark election that could unsettle relations with Beijing. Tsai Ing-wen, leader of the

opposition Democratic Progressive Party (DPP), won the presidency with 56.1% of the vote, after eight years under the government of the pro-China Kuomintang (KMT) or Nationalist Party. Eric Chu, the Nationalist Party candidate in Taiwan's presidential election conceded defeat and congratulated rival Tsai Ing-wen on her victory. At a post-election news conference, Tsai underscored Taiwan's commitment to democracy, calling it a value "deeply engrained in the Taiwanese people." "Our democratic way of life is forever the resolve of Taiwan's 23 million people," she said. But later in her speech, she also acknowledged the tenuous relationship with Beijing, saying both sides "have a responsibility to do their utmost to find mutually acceptable ways to interact and ensure no provocation and no surprises."

Michael Keaton gets French Order of Arts and Letters Honour

Jan 19

Actor Michael Keaton received one of France's highest honours, becoming Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters. The 64-year-old actor was presented with a medal by culture minister Fleur Pellerin, in presence of US Ambassador Jane Hartley. The honour, which has previously been given to Jim Jarmusch, Robert Paxton, Robert Redford and Meryl Streep, highlighted Keaton's career achievements. "Yours is a culture that has such respect for beauty and art that if I even in the smallest way made a tiny contribution to beauty or art in this culture, or in any culture of the world for that matter, I'm honoured and grateful and proud. This is one of the biggest days of my life," Keaton said. While speaking about his Oscar-nominated role in "Spotlight," the actor said, "I'm blessed with this is unbelievable good fortune to do something that can change people's lives and make a difference."



Pakistan successfully tests cruise missile Ra'ad

Jan 20

Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed nuclear capable cruise missile Ra'ad with a range of 350 kms. The flight test of the Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM), Ra'ad, which is also known as Hatf-VIII, was the seventh since its first launching in 2007. The missile is equipped with highly advanced guidance and navigation system that ensures engagement of targets with pin-point accuracy. Ra'ad is a flying bomb, generally designed to carry a large conventional or nuclear warhead hundreds of miles away with high accuracy. These guided missiles are self-navigating and fly on a non-ballistic very low altitude trajectory in order to avoid radar detection.

Amina J. Mohammed to serve as chair of leading WASH organisation

Jan 20



The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) announced that Amina J. Mohammed, environment minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, will serve as its new chair, effective as of 5 April 2016. The former assistant-secretary general and special advisor to the secretary general on Post-2015 Development Planning, Mohammed will chair the steering committee and guide the work of WSSCC's Geneva-based secretariat, its operations in 20 countries in Africa and Asia, and its 5,000 members in 150 countries. Hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services, WSSCC is the part of the United Nations devoted solely to the sanitation and hygiene needs of the most vulnerable people around the world. Mohammed replaces the interim chair, Andrew Cotton, emeritus director of the Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC, Loughborough University), and previous chair, professor Anna Tibaijuka MP, Tanzania, and former under-secretary general and executive director of UN-Habitat.



Indian cyclist T. Vijyalakshmi won gold in 30 km event in 12th South Asian Games.

President of Moldova approved a new Prime Minister

Jan 23



Moldovan President Nicolae Timofti has signed a decree on approval of a member of the Democratic Party Paul Philip Prime Minister of the country. It is also reported that members of the new cabinet were sworn in. Earlier parliament approved the new government headed by Paul Philip. "For" vote 57 deputies out of 101. The Prime Minister had to disclose the composition and program of the new cabinet from the courtroom as a tribune for speeches was blocked by the opposition faction of the Socialist Party of Moldova (PSM). Deputies from the PSM is considered illegal and the government insists on holding early elections.

The political crisis in Moldova lasted from September 2015 when Chisinau protests started. They served as a reason for the so-called "theft of the century" – erupted in the spring of scandal associated with the conclusion of the three largest banks in offshore than \$ 1 billion. October 29 current cabinet headed by Prime Minister Valery Archer was forced to resign by a vote in parliament. The resolution on the vote of no confidence to the current government voted 65 out of 101 deputies.

Rebello de Sousa wins presidential election in Portugal

Jan 25

Law professor and TV pundit Marcelo Rebello de Sousa has won the Portuguese presidency with 52 percent of the vote. The ballot has been closely watched by Brussels over concerns about Lisbon's handling of bailout rules. The overwhelming favourite, Rebello de Sousa was far ahead of his closest rival, independent leftist Antonio Sampaio da Novoa, who won 22.89 percent, according to a nearly complete count. Fifty percent was required to avoid a runoff. Although largely ceremonial, Portugal's presidency has make-or-break power over the nation's fragile ruling alliance and the right to dissolve parliament in the event of a crisis.



Indian-origin imam conferred honorary doctorate by UK university

Jan 26

A senior Indian-origin imam has been conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Leicester in recognition of his work for his local community. Muhammad Shahid Raza, who serves as Head Imam at Leicester Central Mosque and is a leading Muslim cleric and teacher in the UK, was born in Bihar and studied in Moradabad, Agra and Meerut before moving to the UK. He was awarded his honorary Doctorate of Laws by University Chancellor Lord Grocott at the university's degree ceremony at De Montfort Hall before an international audience of graduating students and their families. Raza leads the Friday prayers at Leicester Central Mosque and is credited with designing and conducting the first in-service training course for imams in the UK. As executive secretary and registrar of the Muslim Law (Sharia) Council UK, he is engaged in a number of initiatives directed towards the wider community in Britain, Europe and North America through his association with organisations such as the InterFaith Network UK and the InterFaith Youth Trust in London.

In the 2008 New Year's Honours list, he was awarded an OBE for services to the Muslim community in Leicester.

Italy and Iran Sign Business Deals

Jan 27

Italy and Iran have signed 17 billion euros worth of business deals during President Hassan Rouhani's visit to Rome. Rouhani talked up his country as a regional trade hub and pillar of stability saying that generating economic growth and jobs in the Middle East are crucial to defeating extremism. Speaking at a business forum he said: "We are ready to welcome investment, welcome technology and create a new export market."



"Under the new conditions, we want to export 30 percent of what we produce in Iran," he said, calling for rapid investment in "the safest and most stable country in the entire region". The Italian deals cover areas including energy, infrastructure, steel, shipbuilding and aviation. There was a 3.7 billion euro contract for oil services group Saipem, up to 5.7 billion euros in contracts for steel firm Danieli, up to 4 billion euros of business for infrastructure firm Condotte d'Acqua, 4 billion euros for rail and road company Gavio and 400 million euros for planes from Finmeccanica. Europe was Iran's largest trading partner before the sanctions and Italy was second only the Germany, with seven billion euros in trade, falling to 1.5 billion after the sanctions.



Australian player Shane Watson received highest bid of Rs 9.5 crore in IPL auction 2016.

Bill Gates Is Once Again the Richest Person in the World

Jan 27



Bill Gates has been announced as the richest man in the world once again after fresh data has valued his net worth at a staggering \$87.4 billion - \$20 billion higher than the second person on the same list.

Wealth-X, a company which conducts research on the super-wealthy, ranked the philanthropist and Microsoft founder as first in its list of 50 richest people. Gates is followed by Amancio Ortega, a Spanish businessman and founding chairman of the Inditex fashion group with a net worth of \$66.8 billion. His company is responsible for popular fashion brands such as Zara.

The top ten are as follows:

1. Bill Gates - \$87.4 bn
2. Amancio Ortega - \$66.8 bn
3. Warren Buffet - \$60.7 bn
4. Jeff Bezos - \$56.6 bn
5. David Koch - \$47.4 bn
6. Charles Koch - \$48.8 bn
7. Larry Ellison - \$45.3 bn
8. Mark Zuckerberg - \$42.8 bn
9. Michael Bloomberg - \$42.1 bn
10. Ingvar Kamrad - \$39.3 bn

Cuba, North Korea sign barter-based trade deal

Jul 30



Cuba and North Korea signed two protocols on trade and scientific and technical development. These documents were signed by Cuba's Minister of Foreign Trade and Foreign Investment Rodrigo Malmierca, and North Korean Ambassador to Cuba Pak Chang Yul.

The trade protocol established the exchange of goods between both parties through a barter agreement in favour of supplies for Cuba's railway union and the sugar industry. The agreements will also support other sectors such as healthcare, higher education, culture, sports and agriculture, among others.

Both Malmierca and Pak agreed that there exists a strong political will between Havana and Pyongyang to develop their economic and science links.

Cuba and North Korea established diplomatic relations on August 28, 1960, and have maintained relations in trade and commerce while supporting each other in international political forums.

At present, the Caribbean island and the Asian country have ties in education, oil, agriculture and trade.

Prince Mahidol Award 2015 conferred in Bangkok

Jul 30



Prince Mahidol Award 2015 was conferred upon Professor Morton Mower and Michael Marmot for outstanding achievements in medicine and public health worldwide.

The award was presented at the Grand Palace in Bangkok by the Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn on behalf of the King of Thailand Bhumibol Adulyadej, who couldn't attend the ceremony due to ill health.

Mower, a citizen of the USA, received the award in the category of medicine for invention of the Automatic Implantable Cardioverter Defibrillator. The device helps in monitoring heart rate and rhythm and delivers electrical current when abnormality is detected.

Marmot, a citizen of the UK, won the award in public health category for his evidence-based evaluation of the role of Social Determinants of Health, a concept that was adopted by the government of the UK and the World Health Organisation (WHO) to eliminate health inequalities.

It is conferred upon by the King of Thailand with prizes worth a total of 100,000 US dollars.



Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister.

'Mad Max: Fury Road' Named Best Film at Australian Academy International Awards

Jul 30

“Mad Max: Fury Road” and “Carol” led the AACTA International Awards, both nabbing two awards from the Australian Academy. The fifth Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts International awards event, which was held at Avalon Hollywood, honored George Miller’s “Mad Max: Fury Road” with the awards for best film and best direction. The post-apocalyptic epic also had an outstanding run at the AACTA’s domestic awards show in December, where the film received a total of eight awards.

Below is the complete list of 2016 AACTA International Award winners:

Best Film	: MAD MAX: FURY ROAD
Best Direction	: MAD MAX: FURY ROAD – George Miller
Best Screenplay	: SPOTLIGHT – Tom McCarthy & Josh Singer
Best Lead Actor	: Leonardo DiCaprio – THE REVENANT
Best Lead Actress	: Cate Blanchett – CAROL
Best Supporting Actor	: Mark Rylance – BRIDGE OF SPIES
Best Supporting Actress	: Rooney Mara – CAROL



U Win Myint elected as speaker in Myanmar

Feb 01



Myanmar’s new parliament elected U Win Myint of the National League for Democracy (NLD) as Speaker of the House of Representatives (Lower House) and U Ti Khun Myat of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP) as Deputy Speaker of the House.

The election took place at the first session of the parliament that began a new five-year term from 2016. U Win Myint, an NLD MP to the House of Representatives from Patheingyi constituency in the last term of the parliament, was re-elected to the same House from Tammwe constituency in the 2015 general election.

U Ti Khun Myat is a Kachin ethnic parliament representative elected from Kutkai constituency representing the USDP. U Win Myint said the day was an honorable day for democratic transition in the political history of Myanmar, vowing to strive for gaining basic human rights for the people of the country. He urged all stakeholders to cooperate in thriving democracy system, promoting people’s right, and building a genuine democratic federal union.

New Parliament starts functioning Taiwan

Feb 01

Taiwan has inaugurated its new parliament, in which the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) holds an absolute majority, putting an end to over 60 years of legislative control by the nationalist Kuomintang party (KMT).

The lawmakers elected in the country’s January 16 elections were sworn-in and elected the DPP’s Su Jia-chyuan as the new speaker, to replace the KMT’s Wang Jin-pyng, who was president of the Legislative Yuan, or the Taiwanese unicameral legislature, for more than 17 years.

The KMT’s strength is just 35 in the 113-seat legislature, was dealt a harsh blow by voters in the latest elections in which the DPP won 68 seats, while the New Power Party got five, the People First Party three, and two seats were won by Independent candidates. The new Taiwanese parliament has 43 women and 70 men. Among those 113 members, 27 are Ph.D. holders and 58 have Master’s degrees, and the average age of the lawmakers is 50 years.



South Asian Games 2016 were held at Guwahati and Shillong.

Mahendra's

WHO declares global health emergency on Zika virus Feb 02

The World Health Organization declared a global emergency over a surge in birth defects suspected to be caused by Zika, a mosquito-borne virus spreading quickly across Latin America. However, the global health body stopped short of giving recommendations against travel or trade with countries affected by the outbreak. A designation of the Zika virus as “a public health emergency of international concern” had been widely expected after the global health body came under fire two years ago for its slow response to the Ebola virus crisis in West Africa, which ended up killing more than 11,000 people.

But the WHO’s was less direct, labeling the “recent clusters of microcephaly and other neurological complications” in Latin America as the public health emergency, rather than the Zika virus itself, which in most cases does not cause any symptoms. That’s because the WHO’s experts found that a causal relationship between the two, while “strongly suspected,” had not been scientifically proven.

It said it would work with countries to improve surveillance of Zika cases as well as congenital malformations, and to better control mosquito populations to prevent the spread of the virus.

Cabinet clears proposal for new law to expand scope for dual citizenship Feb 02

The government has given its clearance for a new law that will expand the scope for dual citizenship for Bangladeshis.



The government has given its clearance for a new law that will expand the scope for dual citizenship for Bangladeshis. The new law also includes a provision for five years of imprisonment should one give false information to acquire citizenship. Cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina cleared the draft for the ‘Bangladesh Citizenship Act 2016’.

The new law says Bangladeshis cannot go for dual citizenship with SAARC countries and Myanmar. It also bars dual citizenship with countries the government has imposed a bar on by issuing gazettes and with those countries which have no diplomatic relations with Bangladesh. Supreme Court judges, MPs, members of the armed forces, public services and anyone holding a constitutional post will not be permitted to possess dual citizenship. The draft says that any Bangladeshi who pledges allegiance to a foreign state ‘directly or

indirectly’ will lose their citizenship. Foreign nationals, married to Bangladeshis, will have to reside in Bangladesh for at least five years to qualify for citizenship. So far, the period of residence has been four years. The government may also confer honorary citizenship on individuals for their contributions to Bangladesh.

John Nicholson named NATO commander in Afghanistan Feb 05

Army Lieutenant General John Nicholson was appointed as the commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan. He succeeded US General John Campbell who has been leading the Afghan operations for nearly 18 months.



The powerful Senate Armed Services Committee confirmed Nicholson’s nomination during a Congressional hearing on Afghanistan where the outgoing commander US General John Campbell testified before the Senators. At present, Nicholas was US Army commander of NATO land forces. Earlier, he had served in multiple capacities like chief of staff of operations for the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and US Forces - Afghanistan, director of Pakistan/Afghanistan Coordination Cell for the Joint Staff, and deputy commander - Stability of ISAF Regional Command - South.

Morgan Freeman to Receive Chaplin Award Feb 06



Morgan Freeman has been named the recipient of the 43rd annual Chaplin Award, the honour given out by the Film Society of Lincoln Centre, the organization that

presents the New York Film Festival.

The Chaplin award honours actors and filmmakers who have reached the highest level of prominence and artistic achievement. Freeman takes home the trophy for a career that includes roles in “Lean on Me,” “Driving Miss Daisy,” “The Shawshank Redemption,” “Seven” and “Million Dollar Baby,” the 2004 film that earned him an Academy Award. He’s also executive producer of CBS series “Madam Secretary,” and hosts and exec produces “Through the Wormhole With Morgan Freeman.” Freeman has been honoured at the Golden Globes with an acting awards and the Cecil B. DeMille Award and also received the Kennedy Centre Honour, among other accolades.



John Nicholson is the new commander of the NATO in Afghanistan.

Singer-Songwriter Dan Hicks Dies at 74 Feb 08



Singer-songwriter Dan Hicks, known for his rootsy blend of folk, jazz and country music, died in Mill Valley, Calif., after a two-year battle with throat and liver cancer. He was 74.

Hicks was known as the leader of the acoustic band Dan Hicks and His Hot Licks, which was a contemporary of the Grateful Dead and Jefferson Airplane in the late 1960s San Francisco psychedelic scene. He never achieved as much mainstream success as others from that era but he was highly regarded by fellow musicians.

At his commercial peak, Hicks recorded several successful albums for Blue Thumb Records, including "Where's The Money?," "Striking It Rich" and "Last Train To Hicksville."

But the Hot Licks disbanded in 1973. Hicks then worked in a range of arenas after that, from movie soundtracks to other ensembles including the Acoustic Warriors.

Born Dec. 9, 19419 in Little Rock, Ark., to a military family, Hicks moved with his family to the northern California city of Santa Rosa at the age of five.

He began his musical expression as a drummer before learning to sing and play guitar. He will be remembered for such songs as "I Scare Myself," "Canned Music" and "How Can I Miss You When You Won't Go Away?"



ICC has constituted Anti-Corruption Unit Oversight Group with Rahul Dravid as a member.

Mahendra's

Former Nepal PM Sushil Koirala passed away Feb 09



Nepal's former prime minister and president of the Nepali Congress Sushil Koirala passed away after losing the battle against a chronic respiratory problem. Koirala, 78, has also been receiving treatment for "tongue cancer".

He had returned from the US after undergoing a successful treatment for the lung cancer and is credited with promulgating the new constitution of Nepal in September last year. Koirala was suffering from Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and he succumbed to the disease.

Google's Sundar Pichai becomes highest-paid CEO in US Feb 09



Sundar Pichai, who is Google's chief executive officer, received 273,328 Class C shares on February 3 that will vest in quarterly increments through 2019 if he remains on the job, according to the Mountain View, California-based company.

Pichai, the former deputy of Google co-founder Larry Page, was named to run the search engine unit following

the reorganisation into holding company Alphabet last year. The award is the biggest ever given to a Google executive officer whose equity grants have to be reported in filings, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It is Pichai's first award since taking over the company's highest grossing unit.

Alphabet also awarded \$42.8 million in restricted stock to Diane Greene, a co-founder and former CEO of software maker VMware, who's led Google's cloud business since November. Greene received equity worth \$148 million last year after Google acquired tech company Bebo Technologies, which she founded.

China to further explore Antarctic, deep sea Feb 09



China is set to explore the Antarctic and the deep sea this year with newly developed equipment. The State Oceanic Administration (SOA) will establish an air service team for Antarctic exploration.

Technology and equipment adapted to the polar environment as well as monitoring and application service systems will be developed.

The SOA will also carry out a pilot deep-sea mining project as well as exploration and deep-sea biological diversity research. In addition, the SOA will conduct the seventh Arctic research expedition in 2016 and try to arrange a joint Arctic Ocean expedition with Russia for the first time.

Tamar Hahn of Israel becomes Director of UNIC

Feb 12

Tamar Hahn of Israel took the charge as the director of the United Nations Information Centre(UNIC) in Buenos Aires that serves Argentina and Uruguay. She was appointed by United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Prior to this appointment, Hahn was the Regional Adviser for Resource Mobilization and Partnerships at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean in Panama City, Panama, since 2013.

United Nations Information Centres (UNIC)

- ✎ The network of 63 United Nations Information Centres are key to the UN Organization's ability to reach the peoples of the world and to share its story with them in their own languages.
- ✎ These centres which work in coordination with the UN system reach out to the media and educational institutions, engage in partnerships with governments, local civil society organizations and the private sector, and maintain libraries and electronic information resources.
- ✎ These are the principal sources of information about the United Nations system in the countries where they are located.
- ✎ These are also responsible for promoting greater public understanding of and support for the aims and activities of the United Nations by disseminating information on the work of the Organization to people everywhere, especially in developing countries.



UAE appointed women ministers for happiness, tolerance

Feb 13

The United Arab Emirates appointed women to the newly created posts of state ministers for happiness and tolerance, and a 22-year-old female for youth affairs. Prime Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum named eight women as he revealed his latest cabinet line-up of 29 ministers. Ohoud al-Roumi, who serves as director of the council of ministers' office, was appointed "minister of state for happiness".



Canada, Japan seek closer ties

Feb 13



Canadian Foreign Minister Stéphane Dion and his Japanese counterpart Fumio Kishida agreed to work to boost ties between their two countries. Kishida arrived for an official visit, the first by a Japanese foreign minister since 1996. His visit is seen to make preparations for the upcoming G7 summit, which is to be held in Japan in May.

They underlined their common interest in cooperation at multilateral and regional forums, including the UN, the G7, the G20 and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

The leaders strongly condemned the nuclear test conducted by North Korea on January 6 and its February 7 launch of a rocket.

They urged Pyongyang to refrain from any further provocation and to comply with all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and the 2005 Six-Party Talks joint statement.

Pakistan launched \$500 million projects for Afghanistan

Feb 13

Minister for Planning, Development and Reforms Ahsan Iqbal announced that Pakistan has launched \$500 million worth of projects for Afghanistan's education, health and infrastructure sectors. Iqbal said that 3,000 scholarships had been offered to Afghan students in different universities of Pakistan and 100 Afghan students would study in the Lahore University of Management Sciences. Talking to an Afghan delegation comprising academicians, lawmakers, students and civil society members here, the minister said that Pakistan had desired to forge friendly relations with all its neighbours, including Afghanistan.

He underlined the need for greater exchanges of scholars, artists, businessmen and others to boost cooperation and friendly and brotherly relations between the two countries.



The Centre has approved the MoU between India and Maldives in the field of Health.



RBI hikes its share in National Housing Bank with Rs.1,000 crore

Jan 16



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased shareholding in its wholly-owned subsidiary, the National Housing Bank (NHB), by contributing

Rs.1,000 crore towards its paid-up capital. "The Reserve Bank has contributed Rs.1,000 crore towards the paid up capital of the National Housing Bank, thereby increasing its shareholding in the NHB from Rs.450 crore to Rs.1,450 crore," the RBI said in a release

"This would help NHB to expand its financial operations as envisaged under the NHB Act, 1987," it added. The RBI had made a provision for the amount of Rs.1,000 crore towards capital contribution to the NHB during the accounting year 2014-15.

Cochin Port Trust and CONCOR sign MOU for Weekly container train service

Jan 16

Cochin Port Trust and CONCOR (Container Corporation of India) have entered into a MoU for the running of weekly container train service from Irugur ICD, Coimbatore to ICTT Vallarpadam Cochin Port.



**COCF
SHIPYARI**

The inaugural trip of weekly container train service from Irugur ICD, Coimbatore to ICTT Vallarpadam, Cochin Port will be flagged off on 16.1.2016 at 4 pm at Irugur ICD by Sri.G.Senthilvel, Deputy Chairman, Cochin Port Trust. The train from Irugur will start on all Saturdays and the return from Cochin on all Thursdays. The trains are scheduled to connect the direct shipping services to Far East, China, Europe and Middle East.

CONCOR will provide storage space at very attractive terms and conditions to shipping lines who desire to stack the empty containers at Coimbatore. This MOU between CONCOR and Cochin Port will result in great advantage for the EXIM community in-and-around Coimbatore.

DGFT and Commercial tax department of Bihar Signed MoU on Foreign Exchange Data Sharing

Jan 16

The Commercial tax department of Bihar has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT) for sharing of foreign exchange realization data.

The foreign exchange realization data is an important economic indicator as it quantifies transaction level export earnings. This is also known as eBRC (Electronic Bank Realization Certificate) data.

BRC can be used by state government departments for ensuring refund of VAT to eligible exporters. e-BRC project enables banks to upload Foreign Exchange realisation information relating to merchandise goods exports on to the DGFT server under a secured protocol. So far 100 banks operating in India, including foreign banks and cooperative banks have uploaded more than 1.5 Crore e-BRCs on to the DGFT server.

The eBRC project created an integrated platform for receipt, processing and subsequent use of all Bank Realization related information by exporters, banks, central and state government departments. Earlier, the banks issued physical copy of BRC to exporters and no data mining or analysis was possible.

The process for BRC issuance and subsequent utilization were largely manual and department centric. The exporters suffered most as they had to run to banks and government departments for claiming benefits.

So far, Commercial Tax Departments of 13 states have signed MoU with DGFT for receiving e-BRC data for VAT refund purposes.

These are: (i) Maharashtra, (ii) Delhi, (iii) Andhra Pradesh, (iv) Odisha, (v) Chhattisgarh, (vi) Haryana, (vii) Tamil Nadu, (viii) Karnataka, (ix) Gujarat, (x) Uttar Pradesh, (xi) Madhya Pradesh, (xii) Kerala, (xiii) Goa.

In addition, Ministry of Finance, Enforcement Directorate and Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) have also signed MoU with DGFT for receiving e-BRC data.



The Finance Minister inaugurated India Investment Summit 2016 at New Delhi.

Mahendra's

India elected to Board of Directors of AIIB

Jan 18

India, one of the founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), has been elected to the board of directors of the China-sponsored AIIB, which is expected to begin loan approvals before the end of this year. Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary of Ministry of Finance has been elected to the 12-member board for which a secret ballot. This will be the first board of directors for the new bank in which 57 members joined as founding members. Earlier former Chinese Finance Minister Jin Liqun was elected to head the bank based in Beijing after Russia withdrew its candidate.

The AIIB was formally launched by President Xi Jinping at a special function. The inaugural meeting of the board of the governors of the bank has approved by-laws, rules and codes of conduct for the bank. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is the designated governor of the AIIB from India.

With authorised capital of \$ 100 billion and subscribed capital of \$ 50 billion, AIIB will invest in sectors including energy, transportation, urban construction and logistics as well as education and healthcare. China is the largest shareholder with 26.06% voting shares. India is the second-largest shareholder with 7.5% followed by Russia 5.93% and Germany with 4.5%. India whose total capital subscription amounts to \$8.37 billion has paid first instalment of \$334.70 million to the paid-in capital stock of the bank. 20% of the subscription is to be paid in five equal instalments. The election of India to board of directors of the AIIB is expected to provide significant role for it as it is the forum that approves the loans for projects.



IBM bags \$40mn deal from Bank Tech India Payments

Jan 18



Technology giant IBM has bagged a 7-year deal worth USD 40 million (about Rs. 270.3 crore) from BTI Payments, a white Label ATM (WLA) operator to transform its IT Infrastructure.

BTI Payments, which runs over 3,000 "India1" branded white label ATMs, will leverage IBM's managed services solution to deploy and manage an incremental 4,000 automated teller machines across the country. IBM will manage, monitor and maintain the ATM infrastructure providing BTI better visibility and control of its operations and enabling its maximum efficiency. It will take up the maintenance and service of ATM assets, including feasibility, supply and installation, performance monitoring, availability management, reporting and

analysis. According to industry estimates, 60 per cent of India's rural population does not have access to formal banking and financial services, resulting in financial inclusion serving as a key government policy imperative for the country.

Guenter Butschek appointed as CEO and MD of Tata Motors

Jan 19

Guenter Butschek was appointed as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of India's biggest auto maker Tata Motors' Group. He was appointed after post of Managing Director of Tata Motors was vacant for two years since the death of Karl Slym on 26 January 2014 after falling from a hotel building in Bangkok.

Butschek will lead all operations of Tata Motors in India and in international markets including South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and South Africa. However, Jaguar Land Rover would continue to be managed by its Chief Executive Officer and Director, Ralf Speth, who is also on the Board of Tata Motors. He joins Tata Motors after his stint as the Chief Operating Officer at Airbus and Member of the Group Executive Committee.



Mahindra AMC received approval of SEBI for mutual fund business.

World Bank to extend \$20 million for reconstructing Visakhapatnam's Indira Gandhi Zoological Park

Jan 19



The World Bank usually tames wild economies and helps countries stabilise their fluctuating finances, but in a global first, the banker for the world has gone to a zoo that too in India! This is a new addition in the portfolio of the bank as part of its ever-expanding work on urban regeneration. A zoo is nothing but a bank of captive animals. In a novel initiative, the World Bank has embraced a zoo for its eco-development!

In Visakhapatnam, the global bank is extending an assistance of USD 20 million to help reconstruct the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP), which got devastated during cyclone Hudhud. This is part of the USD 370 million Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project for which the bank is extending assistance of USD 250 million from 2015-2020.

It will also help re-build the eco-tourism park at the Kambalakonda Wildlife Sanctuary. At the zoo, the effort will be to build in disaster resilience into the civil structures; re-establish lost nurseries to establish green shelter beds that act as windbreaks. The World Bank has a portfolio of about USD 26 billion for India where it partners in about 89 projects. Disaster management and recovery are becoming a big part of the World Bank's activities in India where it is providing assistance of about USD 2.2 billion for 10 projects.



Mahendra's

IMF cuts global growth forecast as China, falling oil prices weigh

Jan 20

The International Monetary Fund cut its global growth forecasts for the third time in less than a year, citing a sharp slowdown in China trade and weak commodity prices that are hammering Brazil and other emerging markets.

The Fund forecast that the world economy would grow at 3.4 percent in 2016 and 3.6 percent in 2017, both years down 0.2 percentage point from the previous estimates made last October. It said that policymakers should be considering ways to bolster short-term demand. The updated World Economic Outlook forecasts came as global financial markets have been roiled by worries over China's slowdown and plummeting oil prices. The IMF maintained its previous China growth forecasts of 6.3 percent in 2016 and 6.0 percent in 2017, which nonetheless represent sharp slowdowns from 6.9 percent in 2015 and 7.3 percent in 2014. But the Fund said a steeper slowing of demand in China remained a risk to global growth and that weaker-than-expected Chinese imports and exports were weighing heavily on other emerging markets and commodity exporters.

NSCCL rated "CCR AAA" for eighth consecutive year

Jan 21



National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL), has got the

highest corporate credit rating of 'CCR AAA' from Crisil. 'CCR AAA' rating indicates the highest degree of strength with regard to honouring debt obligations. NSCCL is a wholly owned subsidiary of NSE. As per CRISIL, the rating reflects NSCCL's status as Clearing Corporation for NSE. The rating also factors in NSCCL's rigorous risk management controls and adequate settlement guarantee cover. CRISIL has further stated that NSCCL's risk management system is comprehensive and is regularly upgraded to pre-empt market failures. The company addresses risks in clearing and settlement with its stringent norms for selection of members, robust margining system, and risk-based position limits and surveillance mechanism.

The quantum of core SGF of NSCCL across various segment created as per SEBI regulations is around Rs.1029 crores. During the month the exchange has done Rs 26681 cr of funds settlement in cash segment and Rs 103415 cr worth of securities settlement.

"NSCCL has been recognized as a Qualified Central Counterparty (QCCP) and systemically important market infrastructure institution in securities market regulated by SEBI", said Mr T Venkat Rao, Managing Director, NSCCL. The organization is committed to the adoption and implementation of the principles "Principles for Financial Market Infrastructure" (PFMIs) issued by the CPMI and IOSCO in April 2012. NSCCL has provided a comprehensive disclosure on its governance arrangements, operational procedures and practices, and risk management frameworks that are applied for providing clearing and settlement services. This disclosure is based on the guidelines provided by CPMI-IOSCO and the report titled "Principles for financial market infrastructures: Disclosure framework and assessment methodology", published in December, 2012.

India Ratings has projected 7.6% growth for the third quarter of the current fiscal.

Mauritius to exclusively offer Biofarming Technology to India

Jan 21

First Joint Committee Meeting between India and Mauritius for the cooperation in MSME sector was held successfully. The possible areas of cooperation were identified. These areas are inline with the MoU signed between the two countries.

The issues discussed for cooperation were in the areas of capacity building through training of trainers, surveys on potential areas, managerial and technical skills, marketing, exhibitions & trade fairs exchange of business missions, setting up of business incubators, easy access to finance, clusters initiative, etc. It was also agreed to formulate an action plan in the area of coir, khadi and handicraft sectors in addition to the above areas. Government of Mauritius has exclusively offered to India for transfer of biofarming technology and also exchange of cooperation in the health sector.

The Mauritius delegation for this meeting was led by H.E. Soomilduth Sunil Bholah, Minister of Business, Enterprises and Cooperatives. Kalraj Mishra, Union Minister for MSME and Giriraj Singh, MoS for MSME co-chaired the meeting from Indian side.

World Economic Forum 2016: India ranked 22nd among world's best countries

Jan 22

India ranked 22nd on an inaugural list of the world's best countries, which was released on the sidelines of World Economic Forum Annual Meeting and is topped by Germany. China is ranked 17th on the list, which ranked 60 countries on the basis of sustainability, adventure, cultural influence, entrepreneurship and economic influence. The survey was conducted among 16,200 business leaders and other high-fliers.

Apart from Germany being in the first position, other countries in the top five are Canada (2), the UK (3), the US (4) and Sweden (5).



Cobra Gold annual amphibious military exercise held in Thailand.

RBI allows banks to sell India Gold Coins

Jan 22

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed banks to sell gold coins manufactured by MMTC Ltd, through bank branches as the gold procured for making the coins are from the domestic market. MMTC was authorised by the central government to manufacture these gold coins with Ashoka Chakra embossed on it for the domestic market. The India Gold Coin sale scheme was announced on November 5 last year along with gold monetisation and sovereign gold bonds schemes. Allowing banks to sell gold coin will be significant because so far India gold coins were allowed to be sold only through MMTC centers which were hardly 25 in the country. Banks cannot sell gold coins other than India Gold Coins manufactured by MMTC, because the restrictions put by the RBI on banks not sell gold coins continues. Only relaxation given to them is for selling India gold coins. Till first half of 2013, banks were very aggressively selling gold coins.

RBI allows pre-mature withdrawal in gold monetisation scheme

Jan 16



Reserve Bank of India said depositors will be able to withdraw medium-term (5-7 year) and long-term government deposits (12-15 years) pre-maturely after the minimum lock-in period, though with a penalty. The Reserve Bank made a few amendments to its Master Direction on the Scheme. The modifications, it said, have been made in consultation with the government to make the Scheme "more customer-friendly". The rate of interest on the deposits will be decided by government and notified by the RBI from time to time. The current rate of interest as notified by the government on medium term deposit is 2.25 per cent per annum and on long term deposit is 2.50 per cent per annum.

India to be fastest growing economy at 7.3% in 2016: UN report

Jan 23

India will be the world's fastest growing large economy at 7.3 per cent in 2016, improving further to 7.5 per cent in the following year, a United Nations world economy report said. "India's economy, which accounts for over 70 per cent of South Asia's GDP, is projected to grow by 7.3 per cent in 2016 and 7.5 per cent in 2017, slightly up from an estimated 7.2 per cent in 2015." India will be the fastest-growing large economy in the world, said World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016, which was released by the UN. The report said South Asia is expected to be the world's fastest-growing region in 2016 and 2017. "As in other countries of the region, the macroeconomic environment in India has improved, helped by the sharp decline in the prices of oil, metals and food.

Dharmendra Pradhan launched online payment facility of cylinder at the time of booking

Jan 25

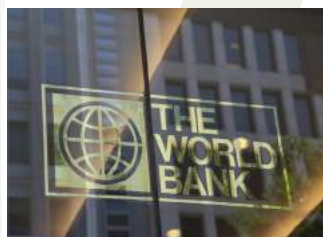
Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas in Mumbai launched online payment facility of cylinder at the time of booking. Earlier this month, the Minister had dedicated the year 2016 as the "Year of the Consumers" and in keeping with this objective, the initiative will go a long way to provide comfort and convenience to the LPG consumers.



The PSU Oil Marketing Companies under the guidance of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), have been constantly striving to bring convenience to the LPG consumers. As there has been increase in the number of people using the Internet and Mobile gadgets, the PSU Oil Marketing companies (OMCs), namely Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd. and Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd., have taken up a series of technology based consumer centric initiatives keeping pace with the changing time and preferences of consumers in line with Digital India Program of Government of India.

India signs Financing Agreement with World Bank for US\$ 250 million for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project

Jan 26



The Financing Agreement for World Bank (IDA) assistance of US\$ 250 million for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project was signed between Government of India and the World Bank on January 20, 2016 at New Delhi. The primary beneficiaries will be rural producers and households in the Kosi River Basin who are regularly exposed to floods. This includes farmers who lost their agricultural lands due to the silt deposits brought by the 2008 Kosi River Flood as well as farmers in the project area that are currently without access to irrigation and other technologies, improved agricultural practices and an adequate transport network. Project Components: The project has five components: (i) Improving Flood Risk Management; (ii) Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Competitiveness; (iii) Augmenting Connectivity; (iv) Contingent Emergency Response; and (v) Implementation Support. It is a loan for an implementation period of 5 years. Government of Bihar is the implementing agency.

India and Armenia Sign Protocol amending the India-Armenia Double Taxation Avoidance Convention

Jan 27

Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention was signed by the Government of India and the Government of Armenia. The Protocol amends the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention between India and Armenia that has been in existence since 9th September, 2004. The Protocol amends the Article on Exchange of Information for tax purposes to bring it in line with the updated provisions in the OECD Model.

The Protocol will enable the two countries to exchange information related to financial and banking transactions under the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention, and thereby facilitate them in addressing tax evasion. It is also expected to further strengthen the efforts of Government of India in curbing generation of black money. The Amending Protocol was signed by Arun Kumar Jain, Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), on behalf of Government of India and by H.E. Mr Armen Martirosyan, the Ambassador of Armenia to India, on behalf of the Government of Armenia.



Aruna Sethi is the first female head of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS).

India overtakes Thailand as world's largest rice exporter

Jan 28



India has overtaken Thailand as the world's largest rice exporter in 2015, shipping 10.23 million tonnes, a top Thai rice exporters body. Thai Rice Exporters Association Chairman Charoen Laodhammatas said that Thailand exported 9.8 million tonnes of rice in 2015, down 10.8 per cent year-on-year. He attributed the downturn to the global economy's contraction, especially among countries with high rice demand, noting that the falling price of oil also impacted the buying power of such countries, National News Bureau Of Thailand reported. Thailand ended 2015 behind India for rice exports. India sold 10.23 million tonnes of rice. Vietnam was third globally while China remained the number one importer of rice.

India among 10 largest IMF members with historic reforms

Jan 29

The International Monetary Fund's historic quota and governance reforms that for the first time place four emerging market countries - Brazil, China, India, and Russia - among its 10 largest members have become effective.

The reforms that also increase the financial strength of the IMF, by doubling its permanent capital resources to SDR 477 billion (about USD 659 billion) from about SDR 238.5 billion (about USD 329 billion).

Other top 10 members 188-nation agency include the US, Japan, and the four largest European countries - France, Germany, Italy, and Britain. The reforms represent a major step toward better reflecting in the institution's governance structure the increasing role of dynamic emerging market and developing countries, according to an IMF announcement.

The conditions for implementing IMF's 14th General Quota Review, which delivers historic and far-reaching changes to the governance and permanent capital of the Fund, have now been satisfied, IMF said.

New checks on booking of e-ticket / i-ticket through IRCTC website

Jan 29



Under the new provisions a maximum of 6 tickets can be booked online by an individual user in a month on IRCTC website. This new provision will come into effect w.e.f. 15th February, 2015. The move aims to deter touts and to facilitate genuine users.

In order to facilitate genuine users and prevent touting activities, various checks have already been put in place for the booking of e-ticket/i-ticket on IRCTC website including the following existing provision: -

1. Individuals are allowed only 2 tickets per user-ID in a day (for ARP booking) from 08:00 hours to 10:00 hours.
2. Individuals are allowed only 2 tickets per user-ID in a day (for Tatkal booking) from 10:00 hours to 12:00 hours.
3. Quick Book Option is disabled from 08:00 to 12:00 hours
4. Booking is not allowed through e-wallet and cash cards from 08:00 to 12:00 hours.
5. There is only one booking in one user login session except for return/onward journey between 08:00 to 12:00 hours.

To further prevent any possible misuse, Ministry of Railways has now decided that effective from 15th February, 2016, a maximum of 6 tickets can be booked online by an individual user in a month on IRCTC website. This will replace the existing system under which a maximum of 10 tickets can be booked online through IRCTC website in a month by an individual. However, the existing condition will continue wherein these booking will be subject to a limit of booking 2 opening Tatkal tickets in 10:00- 12:00 hours period in a day and 2 opening Advance Reservation Period (ARP) tickets in 08:00-10:00 hours period in a day.

This has been done keeping in view the analysis of usage of quota of 10 tickets which indicated that 90% of users are booking upto 6 tickets in a given month and only 10% are making more than 6 tickets. It is suspected that the 10% users might be involved in touting activities. Therefore to deter such touts and to facilitate genuine users, it has been decided that a maximum of 6 tickets can be booked by an individual user in a month



Former Deputy Governor of the RBI, S. S. Tarapore passed away recently.

GDP growth revised down to 7.2% for FY15

Jul 30



India's economy grew 7.2 per cent in 2014-15, a shade lower than an earlier estimate of 7.3 per cent. Among various segments, agriculture and manufacturing growth was revised down for FY15.

The official data also showed that in 2013-14, GDP grew at 6.6 per cent, significantly lower than the earlier calculation of 6.9 per cent. This means that growth in the first year of the Narendra Modi government was much higher than what was seen during the United Progressive Alliance government in 2013-14.

One can argue that lower growth rate in 2014-15 may give a slight push to economic growth for 2015-16 as the base effect was now lower than previous calculations.

Now, the practice of estimating GDP at factor cost has been done away with. Instead, aggregate of agriculture, industry and services comes at gross value added at basic prices, including some product taxes such as property tax.

Gross value added (GVA) has also been revised on almost similar lines. According to new data, GVA for 2014-15 now grew by 7.1 per cent against previous estimates of 7.2 per cent. Similarly, GVA for 2013-14 rose by 6.3 per cent, lower than earlier calculation of 6.9 per cent.

Mauritius to Begin Automatic Exchange of Tax Info From September 2018

Feb 01



Mauritius will start automatic exchange of tax information with other nations only from September 2018, as it has postponed by a year implementation of global common reporting standard on tax matters. The delay could impact Indian authorities' efforts to gather more tax-related information from Mauritius, which is allegedly being used by some entities to route illegal funds into India. Once the standard is in force, there would be stringent measures to curb illicit fund flows, including the requirement to carry out due-diligence procedures to record tax residence of clients opening new accounts. Joining global efforts to curb flow of black money and tax avoidance activities, Mauritius, back in 2014, agreed to bring into force the common reporting standard for automatic exchange of tax information with other countries.

Initially, Mauritius was to implement the standard from January 1, 2016. "The first exchange of information under CRS (Common Reporting Standard) will take place as from September 2018. The requirement

to apply due-diligence procedures to record tax residence of clients opening new accounts, takes effect as from January 1, 2017," Mauritius Revenue Authority has said.

China-Iran Silk route launched

Feb 01



China has demonstrated the integration of West Asia in its New Silk Road connectivity project by flagging a train from its trading hub of Yiwu to Tehran.

The container train will cover a journey of 10,399 km in its maiden journey to West Asia in 14 days. It will exit China through Alataw Pass in western China's Xinjiang province, and then pass through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan before heading for the Iranian capital. Yiwu is already connected by trains that head for Duisburg in Germany and Madrid.

In a recent visit to Iran — a country that has just broken out of a sanctions regime — Chinese President Xi Jinping has imparted a new geopolitical dimension to Beijing-Tehran ties by signing a pact that would be valid for 25 years. A strategic partnership agreement that was also inked covers military and security cooperation, including intelligence sharing.



Pandit Ram Narayan is selected for the Bhimsen Joshi Classical Music Award for 2015-2016.

Mahendra's

Works Module of IREPS and e-Tendering in Works Contracts launched

Feb 02

In order to bring transparency and efficiency in tender process for carrying out Works Contracts of Indian Railways, Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu Inaugurated and Launched Works Module of Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS) and Implementation of 'e-Tendering in Works Contracts' developed by the Railways in association with Centre for Railway Information Systems (CRIS), an IT arm of Ministry of Railways. This is an extremely important step towards IT enablement of Indian Railways. He said that this commendable work just not only confined to the Engineering Department alone but it is comprehensive efforts of all. He said that except Indian Railway no other organization possesses such transparent process for finalizing tender process. This major step does not only result into saving of time but also brings transparency at global benchmark.



E-Connectivity will bring huge benefit as transparent process will bring people closer to the Railways.

CBDT Signs Two Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) With United Kingdom

Feb 02

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has entered into two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with United Kingdom. With this signing, CBDT has concluded three bilateral APAs the first one being a bilateral APA signed with Japan in December, 2014.



The two bilateral APAs were signed with two Indian group entities of a UK based Multi-National Company (MNC). The APAs have been entered into soon after the Competent Authorities of India and United Kingdom finalised the terms of the bilateral arrangement under the Mutual Agreement Procedure (MAP) process contained in the India-UK DTAA. The APAs cover the period 2013-14 to 2017-18 and also have a "Rollback" provision for 2 years (2011-12 and 2012-13). Transfer pricing disputes on the same transaction were recently resolved under MAP for each of these two companies for the years 2006-07 to 2010-11. With the signing of the bilateral APAs, the two Indian companies have been provided with tax certainty for 12 years each (5 years under MAP and 7 years under APA). This is a significant step towards providing a stable and predictable tax regime. The two APAs are also significant because they address the issues of payment of management & service charges and payment of royalty. These transactions generally face prolonged and multi-layered transfer pricing disputes. With this signing, CBDT has so far signed 41 APAs out of which 38 are unilateral and 3 are bilateral.

Saroj Kumar Jha Appointed as Senior Director in the World Bank

Feb 02



An Indian has been appointed to a key position in the World Bank with President Jim Young Kim assigning him a role to provide strategic leadership to address the challenge of fragility, conflict and violence.

Saroj Kumar Jha is an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur. Jha till last week was World Bank's Regional Director for Central Asia based in Almaty since February 2012. An Indian national, Jha joined the World Bank in 2005 as a Senior Infrastructure Specialist in the Sustainable Development Network. Earlier, Jha worked as the World Bank's Global Manager for Disaster Risk Management Practice.

He also served as head of the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, now the world's largest global fund for disaster prevention and post-disaster recovery operations. In addition, he has led international response efforts to many global catastrophic disasters, the bank said.



Film Titli bagged the Best First Foreign Film Award conferred by FSCC Critics 2016.

World Bank loans finance Hebei clean heating system

Feb 02

The World Bank has approved loans of 100 million U.S. dollars to north China's Hebei Province to help build a clean energy heating system, the provincial finance department announced. Hebei will use natural gas and excess heat from local power plants and other facilities to supplement and replace less environmentally-friendly heating in the cities of Chengde, Zhangjiakou and Xingtai, and Pingshan County. Almost 130 km of heating pipes will be built or reconstructed, 253 heating-transfer stations will be rebuilt, and heat meters will be installed in 1,340 residential buildings.

With an investment of 232.6 million U.S. dollars, including the World Bank loans, the better heating system will help Hebei save energy and cut emissions. If the project is successful, similar systems may be installed elsewhere in the province, said the finance department.



between the Parties and work on the development of the definitive agreements based on the principles outlined in the Memorandum. Earlier, the Government of India has established the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) as a Category II Alternate Investment Fund (AIF) under the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) Regulations. NIIF is financed from Government's own contribution and is expected to have equity participation from both foreign and domestic strategic anchor partners, with the Government's share being 49%. The initial authorized corpus of NIIF is Rs. 40,000 crore, which may be raised from time to time. RUSNANO is a Russian development institute with interest to invest in projects in the field of high technologies and defense including the projects aimed at establishment of manufacturing industrial enterprises in India.

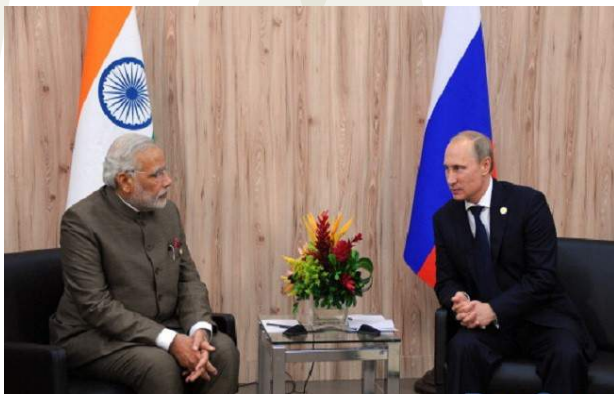
Cabinet nod for joint venture cop-anies between states, railways

Feb 03



MoU Between NIIF Ltd and Rusnano OJSC

Feb 03



National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RUSNANO OJSC of Russia. The signing of the MoU is a follow-up of the Prime Minister's visit to Russia on 23-24 December, 2015 and discussions between NIIF and RUSNANO over the past several months. Both sides agreed to cooperate in diverse sectors and facilitate high-technology investments in India. Both NIIF and RUSNANO have agreed to set up the RUSSIA-INDIA HIGH TECHNOLOGY PRIVATE EQUITY FUND for joint implementation of investments into projects in India: Both the Parties will establish a joint working group with a view to further develop cooperation

The Union Cabinet has given its approval for allowing the Ministry of Railways to form Joint Venture Companies with the State Governments to mobilize resources for undertaking various rail infrastructure projects in States. Each Joint Venture (JV) would have an initial paid up capital of Rs. 100 crores based on the quantum of projects to be undertaken.

The Ministry of Railways' initial paid-up capital will be limited to Rs. 50 crore for each State. Further infusion of fund/equity for the purpose of the projects shall be done after approval of the project and its funding at the level of appropriate competent authority. The JV can also form project-specific SPVs with equity holding by other shareholders like Banks, ports, public sector undertakings, mining companies etc. This will also facilitate in faster statutory approvals and land acquisition. Besides travelling people, various cement, steel, power plants etc. would get the necessary rail link for transportation of their raw material and finished products.



Bandar Seri Begawan is the capital of Brunei.

Mahendra's

Agra	Plot 817/1 Kaveri House Adjacent Khandari Crossing Bypass,nh-02, Agra. Ph.: 9235253430/9236455136	Bangalore	178/5, Lakshmi Chambers, 8th "f" Main, 3rd Block, Jaynagar, Bengaluru. Ph.: 9538712808
Ahmedabad	304/305 3rd Floor Swapnil Fifth Building Opp-jain Upashray, Bus Stand Commerce 6 Road Navrangpura, Ahmedabad. Ph.: 9228202732, 9227575027	Bareilly	JJ Mall, Above Vishal MegaMart, Civil Lines, Near Ayub Khan Chauraha, Bareilly, 243001. Ph.: 9235253431/32
Ajmer	Asha Grand, Above Yes Bank, 2nd Floor, Near Bank of Baroda, Vaishali Nagar, Ajmer-305 001 Rajasthan. Ph.: 9261503888	Basti	In Front Of Gandhi Kala Bhawan, fuwara Chowk, basti. Ph.: 7706008031
Aligarh	2nd Floor- Manglam Complex, In Front Of Allahabad Bank Samad Road- Aligarh. Ph.: 9235253428	Bhagalpur	2nd Floor Above Uco Bank, Central Jail Road, Tilkananjhi, Bhagalpur. Ph.: 9204465247, 9204363221
Allahabad	124/c Ashirwad Bhawan Tej Bahadur Sapru Marg Marg, Near Lok Seva Ayog Gate No - 2 Civil Lines, Allahabad. Ph.: 9208205947, 9235253403	Bhilai	35,36.37, Triveni Commercial complex above ICICI bank Nehru Nagar (East), Bhilai-Durg-490020. Ph.: 8878783345, 8878790089.
Alwar	15 & 16, Ganpati Complex, Scheme II, Lajpat Nagar, (Near Ambedkar Circle) Alwar 301 001, Ph.: 9521177944, 9521177937	Bhopal-lalghati	IInd Floor, Prime Tower, 51/2, 52/2 Vijay Nagar, Lalghati, Bairagarh Road, Bhopal. Ph.: 7581800959, 9229174902
Ambala	169/2 Rai Market Above Idbi Bank Ambala Cant, Ambala. Ph.: 7206424816, 9253058711	Bhopal-mp Nagar	Narula Complex Plot No-131 Zone-2 MP Nagar Bhopal. Ph.: 7581800958, 9229174901/02
Ambikapur	2nd Floor, M. G Road, In Front of Government P.G College, Above Axis Bank, Ambikapur- 497 001, Chhattisgarh, Ph.: 7566221693	Bhubaneswar	1st & 2nd Floor, City Mart Complex, Plot No. 10 (P) & 12(P), Opposite- Fire station Square, Barmunda, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. Ph.: 9237026745/ 9237081352
Amritsar	I & III floor, 62, City Center, JT Road, JK Orchid, Amritsar, Punjab. Ph.: 9646606160, 9646523964	Bijnor	Kothi Anta Ghar Compound, 2nd Floor, Above Kotak Mahindra Bank & Union Bank Of India, Shakti Judgi Road, Bijnor. Ph.: 7706008027
Asansol	Shaw Bhawan, Holding No. 8(118), G.T Road (East) Murgasol, Above Distt- Bardhaman, Ph.: 7076880723	Bilaspur	2nd Floor, Office No. A-231, 232, 233, Narayan Plaza, Link Road, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Ph.: 8878817515
Azamgarh	Goyal Bhawan, Infront Of Kali Ji Mandir, Pandey Bazar, Azamgarh. Ph.: 9208242842	Bulandshahr	1st Floor, Above "easy Day",opposite D.a.v. College, Shivpuri,bulandshahr. Ph.: 7706008030
Badaun	66 Civil Lines Badaun Tower Opposite Pandit Ji Petrol Pump, Badaun-243 601 U.P., Ph.: 9627671787	Chandigarh	SCO 26-27, 2nd Floor, near Passport Office, sector 34-A, Chandigarh, Pin Code- 160022. Ph.: 9256002024
Bahraich	RP Tower 120/3 Digiha Tiraha Gonda Road Above Vmart Bahraich. Ph.: 9208249852	Chennai	Sun Plaza, 3rd Floor, Room No. C,D,E, New No. 39, Old No. 19 G.N. Chetty Road, Chennai. Ph.: 9962995808, 9962995809, 8939777224
Bahrampur	Saraswati Plaza, 1st Floor, Shergodo Bangla Street, Pani Tank Road, Near Dena Bank ,Baharampur- 760 001, Ph.: 9078907945	Coimbatore	Aishwaria Commercial Centre, Flat No. 14 1st Floor, Door No. 196/4, Thiruvankataswamy Road, West, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore. Ph.: 8110967668
Balasore	388/2012, 3rd Floor, Police Line Square, O.T Road, Balasore- 756001, Ph.: 9583185223, 9583185233	Cuttack	Rashmi Plaza, IInd Floor,near Aruno Daya Market, Above Karnataka Bank, Link Road, Cuttack. Ph.: 7894013095
Ballia	Mahendra Educatiobal Prvite Limited,1st Floor, above Vidya Kendra (book Stall),opposit Kutchery, Civil Line Ballia. Ph.: 9208243152	Darbhanga	Vikram Chambers Top Floor Mirzapur, Main Road Near Malechh Mardani Temple, above Andhara Bank Darbhanga. Ph.: 9204303818
Banda	1st and 2nd Floor, Tulsi Swaroop Corporate Park, Bangalipura, Near Head Post Office Civil Lines, Banda 210 001, Uttar Pradesh, Ph.: 9554334847	Dehradun	14B 1st Floor Opp Velocity Gym, East Cannal Road, Near Sarve Chowk, Dehradun. Ph.: 9208175710, 9236510116

Delhi (Janakpuri)	A-1/32 Near Vikaspuri Road Red Light Opp Metro Pillar No-625 Janakpuri. Ph.: 9213353334, 9212069515	Ghaziipur	Second Floor, Shubhra Complex, Adjacent To SBI Life Office, Mahuabagh, Ghaziipur. Ph.: 9208244539
Delhi (Kingsway)	Near Gtb Metro Station Gate No.3, Shop No. 92/94, 2nd Floor Mall Road, Kingsway Camp Delhi. Ph.: 9268108497, 9268561517	Gonda	461/529 Malviya Nagar, Above Narain Suzuki Showroom, Lbs Chauraha, Gonda. Ph.: 9208051488, 9208250778
Delhi (Laxmi Nagar)	209-212, Roots Tower, 2nd Floor District Centre Near Nirmar Vihar Metro Station, Laxminagar, Delhi. Ph.: 9268693952, 9268209355	Gorakhpur	Narayan Tower, 2nd Floor Gandhi Gali Gole Ghar, Gorakhpur. Ph.: 9208205892, 9235253400
Delhi (Mukherjee Nagar-SSC)	42-44 A, Manu Shri Building, 3rd Floor Commercial Complex, Near Batra Cinema, Mukherjee Nagar Ph: 9250057753	Gurgaon	56/9, Saket Commercial Complex, 2nd floor, New Railway Road Near Bhatnagar Hospital, Bhim Nagar Chawk, Gurgaon-122001 Ph: 9643396139
Delhi (Munirka)	D-211, Laxman Plaza Building, Munirika, New Delhi-67. Ph.: 9210092245	Guwahati	1st Floor Adams Plaza Christian Basti GS Road Guwahati -781005 Contact:8134935078
Delhi (Rohini)	C 9/63, Sector 8, Opp. Fire Station, Rohini, Delhi. Ph.: 9250239674	Gwalior	03 Opposite G.D.A Office, Above Patrika Building, 2nd floor, Khedapati Road, Gwalior. Ph.: 9200377275, 9229174910
Deoria	MEPL (Raghaw Nagar) near Renuka Hotel, Above IDBI Bank, Opposite SBI Main Branch, Deoria. Ph.: 9208248122	Haldwani	Second Floor- Shiv Niwas, Infront Of Bhoatia Padao Police Chowki, Near Shriram Hospital, Nainital Road, Haldwani. Ph.: 9208256021
Dhanbad	2nd Floor, Sam Tower, Infront BOI, (Bank More) Chauhara, Dhanbad. Ph.: 9204979723	Hardoi	Opposite Income Tax Office, Nagheta Road, Hardoi. Ph.: 9208248208
Durgapur	2nd Floor, Pinnacle Building, Beside The Citi Residency, Near Junction mall, Durgapur 713216, Burdwan, West Bengal. Mob No: 7076856390	Haridwar	2nd Floor, Above Aptech Computer, Goel Motor Building, Ranipur Modh, haridwar. Ph.: 7706008034
Ernakulam	Vetteel Chambers, Above Corporation Bank, Near Petrol Pump, M.G. Road, Ravipuram, Ernakulam. Ph.: 9645415987	Hisar	Red Square Market Scf-2, ground Floor Near Canara Bank, Hisar. Ph.: 9253860062, 9253678050
Etah	Ashu Guest House, Near Indrapuri Gate-1, railway Road, Etah. Ph.: 9208237386	Hoshangabad	1st Floor, House No. 01, Above Indian Overseas Bank, Anandnagar, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, Ph.: 8358831338
Faizabad	G.S. Tower, Diagonally In Front Of Jagat Hospital, Near Agrasen Chowk, naka, Raebareli Road, faizabad. Ph.: 9208175803, 9235253421	Hyderabad (Ameerpet)	Sai Surya Tata Tower 2nd Floor Above South Indian Bank Opposite Maitrivanam Building Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Ph.: 9247332729/9247749865
Faridabad	5 R/5, N.i.t., Above Aastha Eye & Lasik Laser Centre, Opposite Punjab National Bank Zonal Office, Near Neelam Petrol Pump, Faridabad. Ph.: 9643396140	Hyderabad (Dilsukh Nagar)	16-11-741/1/a/a/2-3, above Raymond Showroom, Besides Vasan Eye Hospital, moosaram Bagh, Dilsukh Nagar, Hyderabad. Ph.: 7032410704
Farrukhabad	SB Complex, 1st Floor, Above Bajaj Allianz Office, Near Anand Petrol Pump, Lalbagh, Farrukhabad. Ph.: 7706008029	Indore (Bhawar Kuan)	1st Floor, Above I.C.I.C.I. Bank, opposite Yamaha Showroom, Anjani Plaza, Bhawarkuan Road, Indore. Ph.: 7581800953, 7581800954
Fatehpur	1st Floor Rama Shyama, Civil Lines, Fatehpur 212601 Uttar Pradesh, Ph.: 8960148140	Indore-(Sapna Sangeeta RD)	91/47 2nd Floor Oasis Point, Sapna Sangeeta Road, Sneh Nagar Indore. Ph.: 7581800951, 7581800952
Firozabad	1st Floor, Ratan Bihar Building, Suhag Nagar Chauraha, above Pnb Bank, Firozabad. Ph.: 9219071844, 9208235736	Jabalpur	1230 Bhawani Plaza, 3rd Floor Near 4 Th Brige Napier Town, Jabalpur. Ph.: 9200343764, 9229174904/05
Gaya	2 Floor Zion Complex Opposite Fire Station Swaraj Puri Road, Near Mahavir School Gaya. Ph.: 9234211469, 9204311416	Jaipur	2nd Floor, 202 Ganga Height Tonk Road, Lal Kothi Opp. Apex Mall, Jaipur. Ph.: 9261601713/9261518894
Ghaziabad	1st, 2nd And 3rd Floor, Arundeeep Tower, D-45, Rdc (raj Nagar Disstt. Centre), Near New Ghaziabad Railway Station Ghaziabad. Ph.: 9250055517, 9212229752/24	Jammu	Canal Road, Near Irrigation Department Jammu. Ph.: 9419305561, 9796610845

Jamshedpur	3rd Floor, P M Mall, Tank Road, Saachi, Jamshedpur-831001, Jharkhand. Ph.: 9570693932	Lucknow (Purania)	B-62,63 Sector H 1st Floor Twins Tower Infront Of United Bank, Purania. Ph.: 9235253517, 9235253538
Jaunpur	25-husainabad, Near Td College Road, Above Tejas Colour Lab, Jaunpur. Ph.: 9208244355	Lucknow (Rajajipuram)	S-268 E-block, Awasthi Complex Above Syndicate Bank, Rajajipuram, Lucknow Ph.: 9235253425
Jhalandhar	179, Mota Singh Nagar, Opp. Bus Stand, Main Road Jalandhar 144001, Punjab, Ph.: 8557088163, 8557088164	Ludhiana	2 K Tower, 2nd Floor, Link Road, Near Preet Palace, Ludhiana. Ph.: 9217298163, 9256002028, 9217298163
Jhansi	B.K.D Road Near Kunj Bihari Mandir, First Floor, Above State Bank Of India, Jhansi. Ph.: 9208175778, 9235253424	Mainpuri	Opposite Punjabi Colony Gate, Station Road, Mainpuri. Ph.: 9258405374, 9208241450
Jodhpur	1st Nap Plot 206-207, Manjika Hatha Paota, Jodhpur, Ph.: 9636512855	Mathura	2054 Chowki Bagh Bahadur, State Bank Circle Mathura. Ph.: 9219039272, 9208235067
Kanpur (Kakadev)	117/n1, Bhadouria Building Raniganj, Kakadev, Kanpur. Ph.: 9208206019, 9235253484	Meerut	3 Floor , Star Plaza, Near Bachcha Park, Meerut. Ph.: 9219684062, 9235253448
Kanpur (Kidwainagar)	128/566 K-block Kidwai Nagar, Old Veeta Building, near Delhi Public School Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur. Ph.: 9208175776, 9235253482	Mirzapur	Infront Of Kb College, Musaffarganj, Mirzapur. Ph.: 9208243884
Kanpur (Mall Road)	419/1 Agrawal Building, D Mall , Near Obc Bank Mall Road, Kanpur. (only For Females Candidate). Ph.: 9236757143, 9236720133	Moradabad	Opposite Cross Road Mall, Near Lasa Mart,civil Lines, Moradabad. Ph.: 9208205948, 9235253442
Karnal	Shakti Colony, H.No 111, in front of Mahila Ashram, DAV College Road, Karnal-132 001, Haryana, Ph.: 8930175568	Mumbai	1st & 3rd Floor, Pp Manglas Chambers, Opp. Ashok Cinema, Station Road,thane (west) Mumbai. Ph.: 9221944071
Kolkata	120 Lenin Sarani, Sunidhi Building ,fifth Floor, above Punjab National Bank, near Moulali Crossing Kolkata. Ph.: 9230141497, 9230482308	Muzaffar- nagar	lind Floor, Prakash Chowk, Civil Lines House, Muzaffarnagar. Ph.: 7706008032
Kurukshetra	Scf 38 Mainmarket,sector- 13 Near Bank Of Baroda, Kurukshetra. Ph.: 9253678053	Muzaffarpur	Opposite City Life Mall ,near Jubba Sahini Park, club Road Mithanpura Muzaffarpur (bihar). Ph.: 9204873141, 9204303515, 9204355614
Lakhimpur	Hotel K Continental, Ground Floor, Near Bus Stand Lakhimpur. Ph.: 9208251562	Nagpur	Plot No-15 Hill Road Opposite Nit Complex, Near Maruti Suzuki Service Center, Gandhinagar, Near Ramnagar, Nagpur. Ph.: 9209863375, 9272273686
Lucknow (Alambagh Po)	Plot No-KBC-3, Sector-B, Kanpur Road Scheme, Opp Phinix Mall, Alambagh, Lucknow. Ph.: 9235253521	Nagpur-2	1st FLOOR, Kheara No. 83/2, More Bhawan, Vidarabha Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Jhansi Rani Square, Buldi, Nagpur-140012. Ph.: 9168558073
Lucknow (Alambagh SSC)	Ilird Floor, Above Bata Showroom, Near Allahabad Bank, Opp. Vishal Mega Mart, Ramnagar, Alambagh. Ph.: 9235253534, 9235253466	Nasik	Basement and Ground Floor, Office No. 4, R Square Building, Thatte Nagar Road, Opp. BYK College, Off College Road, Nasik 422005, Ph.: 9168512624, 9168511626
Lucknow (Bhootnath)	Krishna Bazar 3rd Floor, Bhootnath Market, Indra Nagar. Ph.: 9208175813, 9235253528	Noida	101-102, K 4, Ocean Heights, Sector 18, Noida. Ph.: 9953948834
Lucknow (Gomti Nagar)	Laxmi Vardhan Complex, 3rd Floor,patrakarpuram Chauraha Gomtinagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9208175804, 9235253548	Orai	Danik Aaj Karyalaya Building, Infront Of Jdc Bank, Rani Laxmi Bai Chauraha, Kermer Road, Orai. Ph.: 9208158768, 9208237457
Lucknow (Mahanagar PO)	B- 54 Above Central Bank Of India, Bhatia Complex, Kapoorthala, Mahanagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9208175746, 9235253443	Patiala	SCO 136, Chotti Baradan, Patiala 147001, Ph.: 9780859720, 9780859721
Lucknow (Mahanagar SSC)	B- 54 Above Central Bank Of India, Bhatia Complex, Kapoorthala, Mahanagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9235253468, 9235253469	Patna (Boaring Road)	Krishna Shiv Enclave, Roop Bhawan Campus, East Boring Canal Road, Near Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir, Patna, Ph.: 9204855316, 9204855301

Patna (Frazer Road)	1 to 5 & 19 to 23 3rd Floor Pandey Mall Above Vishal Mega Mart Near Times Of India Building Frazer Road Patna Ph.: 9204855305	Sambalpur	2nd Floor Samson Mansion Building, In front of Odia Baptist Church, Above Bank Of Baroda (Regional Office) Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001, Ph.: 8594958962
Pilibhit	1st & 3rd Floor Shukla Complex, Gandhi Stadium Road, Near Sugandhi Thana, Above Syndicate Bank, Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, Ph.: 9837186684	Shahjahanpur	Opposite Durga Hotel, Near Bus Stand, Civil Lines, Shahjahanpur. Ph.: 9208256201
Pratapgarh	2nd Floor Above Sbi Adb Bhagwa Chungi Pratapgarh. Ph.: 9208245660	Shimla	Ground Floor, Moon International Hotel, Circular Road, Near H.P. Secretariat, Chotta Shimla, Shimla Ph.: 8894100342
Pune	Plot No. 92/1, First Floor, Indrayani, Above Barista Coffee Shop, Law College Road, Erandawana, Pune. Ph.: 9209832722, 9225231629	Siliguri	3rd Floor, 157 - Kelsons Complex, Sevoke Road, Beside City Garden, Siliguri. Ph.: 09775822139
Rae Bareilly	Above State Bank Of India, Canal Road (Near Degree College Chauraha), Raibareilly. Ph.: 9208175788, 9235253412	Sitapur	Above ICICI Bank, Near Sbi Main Branch, eye Hospital Road, Civil Lines Sitapur. Ph.: 9235253514, 7706008028
Raipur	Syam Squar IInd Floor Oppsite Lic Building Near Pandri Cloth Market Raipur Ph.: 9200321420, 9229174912	Sultanpur	1st Floor, Usha Commercial Complex, Raj Hotel Compound, Above Bank Of Baroda, Besides Roadways, Civil Lines, Sultanpur. Ph.: 9208252915
Rajkot	Centre One Comp, SF 204, Feeder CD 31 Near Wocard Hospital, Village, Taluka & District - Rajkot. Ph.: 9979316870	Surat	104, B-block-ICC, International Commerce Center, Opp Civil Hospital, Majura Gate, Ring Road, Surat- 395002 Ph.: 9979321268, 9537360459
Rampur	Royal Complex, 1st & 2nd Floor, Near Allahabad Bank, Shaikat Ali Road, Civil Lines Rampur. Ph.: 9208255388	Thirupati	H.No:23-8-160, New Balaji Colony, MR Palli, Tirupati, Ph.: 9581933099
Ranchi	1st Floor Shriram Neotia Arcade H.b Road Lalpur Chowk, Ranchi. Ph.: 9204631321, 9204855313	Thiruvananthapuram	Deepa Arcade, 3rd Floor, Convent Road, Near General Hospital Junction, Locality - Vanchiyoor, Thiruvananthapuram (Trivendrum). Ph.: 9645415029
Rewa	2nd Floor , Yadvendra Tower, Subash Chowk, Sirmor Road Opposite - Angoori Building Rewa (MP) Mobile No. 7415690846	Unnao	C- 919, Awas Vikas Colony, Unnao (u.p.). Ph.: 9208242493
Rohtak	Ashoka Plaza Delhi Road Rohtak-1240 01 Haryana, Ph.: 8930403836	Vadodara	3rd Floor, The Plaza Complex, Near Ginger Hotel, Fatehganj Main Road, Vadodara. Ph.: 9537589477
Roorkee	225, Nehru Nagar, 1st Floor Of The Building, Near Azad Nagar Chowk, Roorkee (haridwar). Ph.: 7706008033	Varanasi	2nd Floor, b-27/70 Above Levis Show Room, adjacent Petrol Pump, barhar Kothi Durga Kund, Varanasi. Ph.: 9208205985, 9235253419
Sagar	2nd Floor, Infront Of Central Bank Of India, Adjacent to SBI, Gopalganj, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, Ph.: 7509219781	Vijaywada	40-1-21/3, Surya Towers M.G. Road Labbipet , Vijaywada-10 Andhra Pradesh, Ph.: 8886398072
Saharanpur	2nd Floor, Above Dr.chawala Ultra Sound & United Bank , Ved Raj Complex, Ghanta Ghar, Saharanpur. Ph.: 9208205970, 9235253445	Vishakhapatnam	Door No: 47-14-3, 2nd Floor, Potluri Classic, Dwarkanagar, Visakhapatnam, Ph.: 9966593419/8121688138
		Warangal	T-01, T-02, T-03 & T-04 in Third floor of Block C in Kandakatla Gateway, KUC X Road, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, Ph.: 7207492789



TOLL FREE NO.

1800-103-5225



www.mahendras.org
www.interviewguru.mahendras.org
www.mahendrapublication.org

stportal.mahendras.org
enews.mahendras.org
myshop.mahendras.org

www.bankersguru.org
www.railwayguru.org
www.sscguru.org

Aruna Sethi appointed as head of Indian Cost Accounting Service

Feb 04

Mrs. Aruna Sethi (ICoAS 1985), Principal Adviser (Cost), took over the charge of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS). She is the first lady ICoAS officer who has achieved this laurel.

She has earlier held important portfolios in Government of India including Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Corporate Affairs, Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Ministry of Defence etc.

ICoAS is one of the six Organized Accounting Services of the Government of India. ICoAS is comparatively young Accounting Service constituted in 1978. The sanctioned strength of ICoAS is 178 officers whereas present filled in strength is 116 officers. Office of Chief Adviser Cost is one of the divisions functioning in the Department of Expenditure. It is a professional body staffed by qualified Cost/ Chartered Accountants. This Office is responsible for advising the Ministries and Government Undertakings on cost accounts matters and to undertake cost investigation work on their behalf.

PNB won Best Bank Award for Jan Dhan Yojana

Feb 04



Punjab National Bank (PNB) has won best bank award for Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana. The award ceremony for this was organised by the Indian Chamber of micro, small and medium enterprises (CIMSME).

Bank Executive Director Dr. Ram S. Sngapure received the award from central power, coal and renewable energy minister Piyush Goyal and CIMSME Chairman Mukesh Mohan Gupta. PNB was also declared as the Best CSR bank and Best Bank for business obligation and was declared runner-up for Best Bank for MSMEs.

Pacific Rim nations signed Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement

Feb 04



The biggest trade deal in history was signed, yoking 12 Pacific rim countries in a US-led initiative aimed at wresting influence from booming China.

The ambitious Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) aims to slash tariffs and trade barriers for an enormous 40 percent of the global economy but pointedly does not include Beijing.

Along with a rebalancing of the US military machine towards the western Pacific, the TPP is recognition of the growing might of China, which has come to dominate the region, threatening American influence.

Supporters of the deal say harnessing the power of free trade in such a dynamic part of the world is vital if the US is to fend off China's challenge to its supremacy. Trade

ministers from 12 participating countries Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam signed the pact in Auckland.

YouTube channel for Finance Ministry

Feb 05



In keeping with the Narendra Modi-led NDA government's plan to reach out to people directly, the government has launched a YouTube channel for Finance Ministry. Though most of the activities are in public domain, yet to make it easier for the world outside to know about the same, this YouTube official channel will be a useful platform.

The YouTube channel will disseminate information of the ministry through videos. The channel will feature videos on major schemes, events, meetings and press conferences related to the ministry.

India Investment Summit 2016 inaugurated in National Capital

Feb 05



A unique MAGIC Process Lab has been inaugurated at National Chemical Laboratory, Pune.

The Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated India Investment Summit 2016 in New Delhi. The Finance Minister also launched the Logo of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) on the occasion.

He said that in the last 19 months, the present Government has taken various initiatives and has opened India's economy for investment in different sectors. He said that not only Central Government but State Governments and local bodies are working towards ease of doing business and make process transparent. The Finance Minister said that we are working on fast dispute resolution so that no project is held-up. He said that India has one of the fastest growing highway sector in the world. As regards tax reforms, the Finance Minister said that the Government is working towards rationalisation of Indirect tax regime and soon the Goods and Services Tax (GST) law will become a reality.

BCPL, and wax plant of Numaligarh Refineries dedicated to the Nation

Feb 05



The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, dedicated to the nation, Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, a petrochemical complex, at Lepetkata, near Dibrugarh. He also dedicated to the nation, the wax plant of Numaligarh Refineries Limited.

The two projects dedicated to the nation, are important for two

reasons – (a) for the value addition they would achieve for natural raw materials; (b) for the employment opportunities they would create for the youth of Assam.

He said rapid industrial development of the country is necessary to create employment for India's youth. In this context, the Prime Minister mentioned his PRAGATI initiative, which he said is giving impetus to stalled projects worth lakhs of crore rupees.

RBI survey projects FY17

GVA at 7.8%

Feb 06



Professional forecasters expect real Gross Value Added at basic price (GVA) to increase to 7.8 percent in the next fiscal from 7.4 percent expected in 2015-16, says RBI.

Output growth, measured using GVA, is likely to improve marginally in 2015-16 and further in 2016-17 and quarterly growth projections for the next five quarters indicate that growth is likely to peak in July-September period of 2016-17.

"Forecasters expect real GVA at basic price to increase by 7.4 percent in 2015-16 (and) in 2016-17, GVA is expected to increase by 7.8 percent, led by growth in 'services' by 9.3 percent," posted by the RBI said.

GVA is an internationally accepted measure to gauge economic activity in a country. CPI or retail inflation is likely to remain below 6 per cent till third quarter of 2016-17.

PM dedicates Paradip Refinery to the nation

Feb 08



The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, dedicated the state of the art Paradip Refinery in Odisha, to the nation.

Addressing the large gathering on the occasion, the Prime Minister said he appreciated the participation of a such a large number of people in an official programme related to development.

Remembering former Chief Minister of Odisha Biju Patnaik, the Prime Minister said Paradip will now become "Vikas Dweep" – the island of development for the people of Odisha. He said youth would benefit from employment opportunities, and poor women across the country who depended on firewood for fuel, would get access to LPG.

Narendra Modi said Government initiatives such as Mudra and Start Up India are benefitting the youth of India.

The Prime Minister, who visited the Main Control Room and the Indmax Unit built with indigenous technology, before arriving at the inauguration venue, said the Indmax production capabilities at the plant are an illustration of the Make in India initiative.

The Counter-Terrorism Conference- 2016 was organized at Jaipur.



Mahendra's

RBI cancels registration of 4 NBFCs

Feb 08

The Reserve Bank of India said that it has cancelled the certificate of registration of four non-banking financial companies.

“The Reserve Bank has cancelled the certificate of registration of four non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in exercise of the powers under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934”, it said in a notification.

Goyal Commercial Pvt Ltd and First Debt Management Co. of India Ltd are the NBFCs belonging to Kolkata, while Nostalgia Finvest Private Limited and Narad Realtors Private Limited belong to Mumbai.

“Following the cancellation of registration certificate, the above companies cannot transact the business of a non-banking financial institution”, RBI added.

India-Australia Collaboration in Mining Skill Development

Feb 09

S hri Piyush Goyal Union Minister of State (IC) for Coal, Power and New and Renewable Energy held an industry and academia roundtable on Skill development and initiated collaboration Queensland government's centre for virtual mining SIMTARS (Safety in Mines Testing and Research Station). Goyal is co-chairing 3rd India-Australia energy security dialogue in Brisbane, Australia. Piyush Goyal highlighted the significant opportunities for skill development in India. He also talked about Prime Minister's vision of affordable energy access for all and consequent doubling of output of Coal India itself by 2020 on the occasion. Goyal said that current, skill development engagement with Australia was at a scale of 20 people per year which will be scaled up to thousands through combination of setup of Indian centres, e-learning as well as on-site training. This will include leadership training as well as training on mine operations and safety.



Virtual mining training was showcased at SIMTARS which included labour safety, mine planning and refinery operations. Such training centres can significantly improve productivity while minimizing mine and plant accidents. While the original plan was to setup one Indian centre in collaboration with SIMTARS and ISM Dhanbad, Goyal suggested a larger collaboration with more than six centres in each of the large mining states

esp. in East India. This will help the workers in these states to ramp up their skills and fully benefit from the fruits of development. SIMTARS, Coal India Limited and ISM Dhanbad will jointly prepare a roadmap for setup of these centres with a target to setup the first centre within the next year.

Prime Minister Shram Awards for the Year 2014 announced

Feb 09

The Government of India announced the Prime Minister's Shram Awards for the year 2014 to be awarded to 54 workers employed in the Departmental Undertakings



& Public Sector Undertakings of the Central and State Governments and Private Sector Units employing 500 or more workers in recognition of their distinguished performances, innovative abilities, outstanding contribution in the field of productivity and exhibition of exceptional courage and presence of mind.

This year, nine nominations for the Shram Bhushan Award, Nineteen nominations for Shram Vir/Shram Veerangana and twenty six nominations for Shram Shree/Shram Devi Awards have been selected. Even though, the total number of Shram Awards is 32, the number of workers receiving the Awards is 54 (Including 3 women), as some of the Awards have been shared by workers and/or teams of workers consisting of more than one worker. These include 36 workers from the public sector and 18 workers from the private sector.

Telecom regulator prohibits discriminatory tariffs for data

Feb 09

Telecom regulator TRAI prohibited discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content. The move is a big blow to Facebook's highly-controversial 'Free Basics' platform and Airtel's zero-rated platform 'Airtel Zero'.

In an order, 'Prohibition of Discriminatory Tariffs for Data Services Regulation', TRAI said, "no service provider shall offer or charge discriminatory tariffs for data services on the basis of content."

The regulator further said that "no service provider shall enter into any arrangement, agreement or contract, by whatever name called, with any person... that has the effect of discriminatory tariffs for data services being offered or charged to the consumer on the basis of content."



Veteran Urdu short story writer, poet and journalist Intizar Husain passed away.

Mukesh Ambani elected to prestigious US National Academy of Engineering Feb 10



Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and tech evangelist Sam Pitroda are to be inducted as members of the prestigious National Academy of Engineering of the US, taking the Indians in it to 10, among 2,275 eminent people. Founded in 1964, the US-based National Academy of Engineering (NAE) is a private, independent, non-profit institution, providing global engineering leadership.

The other Indian members include P C Kapur of IIT-Delhi, scientist R A Mashelkar, Narayana Murthy of Infosys, scientist Roddam Narasimha, Pradip P of TCS, scientist P Ramarao, chemical engineer M M Sharma and industrialist Ratan Tata. Founded in 1964, the academy is a private, independent, non-profit that provides engineering leadership with a mission to promote a vibrant engineering profession and giving insights to the US government on related matters. As per an announcement of the non-profit, Pitroda is a member for developing rural telecom infrastructure for India, while Ambani has made the cut for engineering a business leadership in oil refineries, petrochem and related industries.

Indian economy likely to grow at 7.9% in FY17: Crisil

Feb 08

Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.9 percent in the fiscal starting April, lower than earlier forecast of 8.1 percent, due to intensifying global headwinds, Crisil Research. According to the report, growth in the next fiscal will also find mild support from improved transmission of the RBI's policy rate cuts and the implementation of the salary and pension revisions recommended by the One Rank One Pension Scheme and the Seventh Pay Commission.

Both the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank have already lowered their global growth forecasts for 2016. As per the Central Statistics Office, Indian economy will grow at a 5-year high of 7.6 percent in the fiscal ending March, overtaking a slowing China, on the back of improvement in manufacturing and farm sectors. "We also expect the government to improve the ease of doing business even more, and pass important reforms such as the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which can improve investor appetite. We expect the rupee to settle around 65 per USD by March 31, 2017," the report said. 2016 has begun on an ominous note. Both the IMF and the World Bank have pared their global growth outlook for the year amid increasing signs of debility in the emerging markets. And once again, China has emerged as the epicenter of global risk and volatility, it noted. For India, such a predicament cuts both ways. While a slowing world implies prices of crude oil and the commodity complex will remain battered, which will bolster the fiscal math, sluggishness in global demand will prolong the agony for exporters.

Dr.D.J. Pandian becomes the Vice-President, Chief Investment Officer of AIIB Feb 11

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) announced the appointment of India's nominee, Dr. D.J. Pandian, as the Vice-President, Chief Investment Officer of the newly formed USD 100 billion multilateral development bank. The primary responsibility of the Chief Investment Officer is leading the planning and supervision of the Bank's infrastructure investment. Dr. Pandian has had an extensive career spanning 30 years with the Indian Administrative Service(IAS), holding key positions at the State, National, and International levels in the energy (oil and gas, power, renewable), infrastructure, finance, and industry sectors. Dr. Pandian was instrumental in liberalizing the policy regime to attract international investment to crucial infrastructure sectors including power, airlines, ports and telecoms.

Davinder Singh Named Vice-Chairman Of ICC Commission

Feb 11

A top Indian-origin lawyer has been named as vice-chairman of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce Commission, a private sector world business organisation with a central role in global trade and commerce. Davinder Singh, 58, has been named vice-chairman of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) Commission on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption.



Mr Singh, a member of parliament from 1988-2006 and chief executive of the local law firm Drew & Napier, is appointed to the leadership of one of 13 policy commissions under the ICC, which forges international rules, mechanisms and standards used across the globe. The Commission on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption develops rules of conduct, best practices and advocacy for fighting corruption, among other things. It brings together more than 300 members from 40 countries, representing multi-national companies, law firms, trade associations, and small and medium-sized enterprises.



Former Congress Leader Balram Jakhar passed away recently.

Mahendra's

India, UAE sign 9 agreements, to boost ties further

Feb 12



Nine agreements were exchanged between India and the UAE, including on cyber security and infrastructure investment, as the two sides agreed to further boost bilateral ties, the second day of the three-day visit of Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

Apart from cyber security and infrastructure investment, the other agreements are for cooperation in the areas of renewable energy, space exploration, insurance, culture, skill development, trade and business, and currency swap arrangement, according to the ministry of external affairs.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Sheikh Mohamed held bilateral talks at Hyderabad House here during which the two leaders discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation.

The two leaders agreed that promoting bilateral cooperation would drive forward the strategic partnership between the United Arab Emirates and India. The two leaders also discussed a number of regional and international issues of mutual interest.

Modi expressed his happiness on the occasion of this important visit which would serve the interest of the two nations. He also praised the special relationship the UAE and India enjoy.

Sheikh Mohamed was accompanied in the visit by Sheikh Hamdan bin Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, crown prince of Dubai, Sheikh Saif Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UAE deputy prime minister and minister of interior, and Sheikh Hamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, chairman of the Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince Court among others.

Retail inflation at 17-month high of 5.69% in January

Feb 13

Retail inflation in January inched up to a 17-month high of 5.69 per cent, led mainly by a sharp acceleration in food prices, suggesting any interest rate cut by the Reserve Bank of India might be considered only after April

Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation, the central bank's primary gauge for price increase, had stood at 5.61 per cent in December. January was a fifth straight month of rise, with pressure from pulses, meat and fish, and spices, data released by the Central Statistics Office.



The inflation rate in January, however, was more favourable than RBI's comfort-zone target of 5.8 per cent for the month. RBI had cut the repo rate for a fourth time this year in September, to 6.75 per cent. With the inflation trajectory on an upside, the September was probably the last interest rate cut by the central bank for the financial year.

The rate of retail food inflation shot up to 6.85 per cent in January, versus 6.4 per cent in December, mainly on account of shortage in pulses supply.

The CPI combined core inflation stood at 4.7 per cent during the month. Food & beverage inflation in the month was up at 6.67 per cent, whereas vegetables saw increase in the inflation rate for a fourth straight month, to 6.39 per cent.

Centre unveiled Electronics Development Fund

Feb 15



Union Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad launched the Electronics Development Fund to support early-stage, angel, venture and private equity funds focusing on electronics, nano-

electronics and information technology. The Electronics Development Fund policy was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the launch of Digital India week in July last year.

The government has appointed Canbank Venture Capital Fund to house the Electronic Development Fund in 2015. The fund has an initial corpus of Rs 2,200 crore.

The Electronics Development Fund is set up as a 'Fund of Funds' to participate in 'Daughter Funds', which in turn will provide risk capital to companies developing new technologies in the area of electronics, nano-electronics and IT.



Russian trader Rosoboronexport has provided the final consignment of Mi-17V-5 helicopters.



Sania Mirza-Martina Hingis lift Sydney International title

Jan 16

Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis clinched the Sydney International women's doubles title at the Ken Rosewall Arena. Indo-Romanian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Florin Mergea also earned a contrasting win to enter the men's doubles final on the hard courts of the NSW Tennis Centre.



Mirza and Hingis beat French third seeds Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic to clinch the women's doubles title of the Sydney International. Seeded No.1, Sania and Martina were down and almost out when they were trailing 1-6, 2-5 against French third seeds Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic. But the Indo-Swiss combine staged a remarkable comeback to eventually win the second set 7-5 and the super tie-break 10-5 in an hour and 14 minutes. This is the Indo-Swiss pair's 30th win in a row, second title of 2016 and 11th overall. They have now won seven titles on the trot with the Brisbane International crown coming last week and five of them in 2015. The Indo-Swiss partnership is also an impeccable 11-1 in finals.

Martina Hingis Joins Sania Mirza as World No.1

Jan 18

More than 15 years after she reigned supreme at the top of the women's doubles rankings, Swiss tennis great Martina Hingis has reclaimed the world no.1 rank.



The 35-year-old has joined doubles partner Sania Mirza as co-World No.1 in the latest Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings released. The Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis duo is on a 30-match winning streak that has brought them seven straight titles at the US Open, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Beijing and WTA Finals in 2015, and Brisbane and Sydney this year.

Stuart Broad replaces Ashwin as No. 1 Test bowler

Jan 18



A supernumerary post of air marshal rank has been created for 17 months in the IAF.

Mahendra's

England fast bowler Stuart Broad has achieved the status of the number-one ranked Test bowler in the world after producing a Man of the Match performance in the Johannesburg Test, which has also confirmed that India will replace South Africa as the top-ranked Test side when the ICC Test Championship table is updated at the end of the Centurion Test.

Broad is the first England bowler since Steve Harmison to top the ICC Player Rankings for Test Bowlers. Harmison had reached the top in 2004 and stayed there for 120 days. Before Harmison, Ian Botham had achieved the number-one ranking in 1980. Broad has gained four places after earning 40 points since arriving in South Africa as he has picked up 15 wickets in three Tests to date.

Virat Kohli becomes fastest to 24th ODI ton, 7000 ODI runs

Jan 18

Virat Kohli became the fastest to 7000 ODI runs during the third ODI against Australia at the MCG. Kohli, in 161 innings, broke AB de Villiers record of reaching there in 166 innings.



Before AB and Kohli, Sourav Ganguly was the fastest with 174 innings. Others on the list are Brian Lara (183), Desmond Haynes (187) and Jacques Kallis (188).

MS Dhoni 52.01, AB 51.23 and now Virat Kohli 51.10* are the only batsmen with 50+ batting average when they crossed 7000 ODI runs. Later in the day, Kohli also completed his 24th ODI ton, becoming the fastest to the milestone.

Ajit Chandila gets life ban, Hiken Shah banned for 5 years

Jan 18

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) met at its headquarters, Cricket Centre, in Mumbai and pronounced the orders in the case of match-fixing involving cricketers Ajit Chandila and Hiken Shah.

BCCI banned former Rajasthan Royals player Chandila for life from playing or representing cricket in any form or to be associated in any way with the activities of the Board or its Affiliates. Chandila was held guilty of misconduct and corruption within the Articles 2.1.1; Article 2.1.2; Article 2.1.3; Article 2.1.4; Article 2.2.2; Article 2.2.3; Article 2.4.1 of the BCCI Anti Corruption Code.

ICC names Channel 2 Group as Audio Rights Partner

Jan 19



The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced Channel 2 Group as its global audio rights partner after it acquired exclusive audio rights for all ICC events from 2016 to 2023.

Under the agreement, Channel 2 Group will provide live audio commentary at the ICC World Twenty20, ICC Champions Trophy and ICC Cricket World Cup via its sub-licensees in key cricket territories. For all other events, the coverage will be a mix of live commentary for select matches and regular live updates.

“Channel 2 Group has been involved in cricket for a long time during which it has provided excellent live coverage. Its proven record means fans following the ICC events over ICC’s digital platforms or radio channels can continue to enjoy and remain an active part of the spectacle even if they are not at the ground or in front of their television screens,” Jamieson added.

Thisara Perera announces retirement from Test cricket

Jan 19



Sri Lankan all-rounder Thisara Perera had decided to retire from Tests with immediate effect and will continue to play the limited overs matches for Sri Lanka. Perera made his Test debut for Sri Lanka in May 2011 against England in Cardiff and went on to play six matches in the next 14 months.

However, after scoring just 203 runs at an average of 20.30 and taking 11 wickets at 59.36 runs per scalp, Perera was not picked since his last match in July 2012 against Pakistan. Nevertheless, Perera has been a regular member of the Sri Lankan One-Day International and the Twenty20 International sides in the recent years.

Former Australia Test spinner Nathan Hauritz announces retirement

Jan 20

Australia off-spinner Nathan Hauritz announced his retirement from competitive cricket, bringing the curtain down on a 15-year career during which he represented the national side in all three formats.

Hauritz, one of the many spinners Australia turned to after the



retirement of bowling great Shane Warne, did not have a state contract for the last two seasons and was used by his Big Bash League side Melbourne Renegades.

He took 63 wickets in 17 Tests, the last of which he played against India in 2010. He has the same number of dismissals in 58 ODIs and also played three Twenty20 internationals for Australia

ICC announces MRF Tyres as Global Partner

Jan 21



The International Cricket Council (ICC) and MRF Tyres announced a four-year deal which confirms the tyre maker as a Global Partner for ICC events from 2016.

The announcement was made at the MRF Tyres headquarters in Chennai at a function attended by ICC Chief Executive, David Richardson, MRF Tyres’s Chairman and Managing Director, K M Mammen, former India captain and MRF brand ambassador, Sachin Tendulkar, and other officials. The ICC and MRF Tyres recently completed a partnership at the 2015 World Cup.



Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) has been extended for 2017-2022.

Vaishnavi to be face of PNB MetLife Jr badminton

Jan 22

The country's No.1 badminton player in both singles and doubles in the girls' under-15 section, Vaishnavi Reddy of Hyderabad, has been appointed as the brand ambassador for the PNB Metlife junior badminton championship, which is being played across many cities in the country.



Even as she competes in the junior championship that features events in the under-9, 11, 13, 15 and 17 age groups for boys and girls, Vaishnavi would also be the face of the event, inspiring thousands of players. "Vaishnavi will draw the attention of many young badminton lovers and encourage them to take up the challenge. We are delighted to have her on board as the brand ambassador for our badminton initiatives," said PNB Metlife director Niraj Shah.

Indian Olympic Association signs IOS Sports & Entertainment as its marketing partner

Jan 22



The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced that sports management firm IOS Sports & Entertainment will be its exclusive commercial and marketing rights partner for the next two years.

This is the first time in the history of IOA that any professional sports marketing agency has been appointed to generate sponsorship revenues for the Indian contingent that will participate in the Olympics to be held in Rio de Janeiro from August 5 to 21

The deal involves getting sponsorships, handling operations and all media & PR-related work. With this mandate, IOS will strategise IOA's commercial plans. IOS is also planning to develop some intellectual properties in partnership with IOA.

IOS is targeting a minimum revenue of Rs.10-Rs.12 crore through principle and associate sponsors as well as partners for the upcoming Rio Olympics.

Lleyton Hewitt retires from tennis after Australian Open loss

Jan 23

Farewelling with no regrets, Lleyton Hewitt says he "left nothing in the locker room" after his storied 20-year, 878-match professional tennis career came to a close with a sapping second-round loss at the Australian Open.

Spaniard David Ferrer ended an era in Australian sport with a 6-2 6-4 6-4 victory over the wounded warrior in a gripping encounter that ended in controversial fashion.

Rod Laver Arena was again packed, with Pat Rafter and wife Lara, along with countless other tennis luminaries, celebrities and sports stars including triple world surfing champion Mick Fanning.



Australian Open: Maria Sharapova wins 600th match

Jan 24



Maria Sharapova picked up her 600th career match victory as she battled past American Lauren Davis in the third round of the Australian Open, 6-1, 6-7, 6-0. Sharapova is the 17th women's player to reach that number of career wins.

Sharapova dominated the first and third sets, but had a bit of a letdown in the middle as she allowed Davis to hang around and take the set in a tiebreak.

Despite dropping the second set, Sharapova regrouped and came out firing on all cylinders in the third set to wrap up the match without any stress.



Nepal Army Chief has been conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army.

Mahendra's

Pro Kabaddi signs actor Rana Daggubati as brand ambassador

Jan 25



Star Sports Pro Kabaddi League signed actor Rana Daggubati as their brand ambassador for the third season. The new face of Star Sports Pro Kabaddi will promote the sport and league across mediums to kabaddi enthusiasts, especially in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Shivnarine Chanderpaul retires from international cricket

Jan 25

West Indies batsman Shivnarine Chanderpaul has officially retired from international cricket, seven months after selectors opted to discard the veteran and push for a youth-oriented policy.

Chanderpaul, who was dumped before the home series against Australia last June, said at the time he felt he deserved the opportunity to play one final series despite a poor return in domestic cricket before the squad was selected. The West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) thanked him for his contribution to their game.

“The WICB acknowledges the invaluable contribution Shiv has made to the game globally and we wish him all the best,” WICB President Dave Cameron said in a statement. The 41-year-old made his Test debut against England in 1994 and went on to amass 11,867 runs at an average of 51.37 in his 164 Tests for the Caribbean side.

PV Sindhu wins Malaysia Masters Grand Prix title

Jan 25

Two-time World Championship bronze-medallist, India's P V Sindhu made a rousing start to the new season as she clinched the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold title after defeating Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in straight games in the final.



The Third seeded Indian had lost to Gilmour in 2013 French Open in their only meeting but she showed

why she is considered to be one of India's most revered women's singles shuttler as she avenged her loss with a dominating 21-15 21-9 win in a 32-minute clash to clinch her fifth Grand Prix Gold title. This is her second Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold title, having won it in 2013 as well. She also completed a hat-trick at the Macau Open Grand Prix Gold in November last year.

India won Blind T20 Asia Cup

Jan 25

India won the first T20 Asia cup cricket for Blind. In the final clash played at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium of Kochi, India defeated Pakistan by 44 runs.

Batting first, India scored 208 runs in 20 over whereas Pakistan was restricted to 164 runs in 18.2 over.

So far, Pakistan was unbeaten in this tournament and had defeated India by 19 runs in the group stages.

Ning Zetao, Liu Hong named China's athletes of the year

Jan 25

Swimmer Ning Zetao and race walker Liu Hong won the Award for Best Male and Female Athlete of the Year respectively at China's Central Television (CCTV) Sports Awards.

The 23-year-old Ning, also the 2014 award winner, won the world 100-meter freestyle title in 47.84 seconds in Kazan, Russia, on August 6, 2015, becoming the first man from Asia to win a medal of any color in the blue-ribbon event at the world championships since 1973.

Jeff Thomson, Wally Grout join Australian Hall of Fame

Jan 26



Fast bowler Jeff Thomson and wicketkeeper Wally Grout have been inducted into Australian cricket's Hall of Fame. Thomson was likely the fastest bowler in the world at his peak in the 1970s, when he formed a feared partnership with Denis Lillee. He took 200 wickets in 51 tests.

Thomson said: “I got a ring from a mate of my brother's who I hadn't spoken to for 30 years.

He was rapt and said how weird it was, for a bunch of kids who used to play cricket for hours against a telephone pole, that one of us was now in the Hall of Fame.” Grout was Australia's test wicketkeeper from 1957 to 1966, claiming 187 dismissals in 51 tests.



Jai Shanker Menon is the head of UNDOF in Golan to observe Israeli and Syrian forces.

Federer made history, by winning 300th Grand Slam match

Jan 26



Roger Federer climbed into rarefied territory at the Australian Open. With a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4 third-round win over 27th seed Grigor Dimitrov in Rod Laver Arena, the No. 3 seed clinched the 300th Grand Slam match win of his storied career, becoming the first man to reach the milestone.

Only Martina Navratilova (306) stands in front of him.

It was Dimitrov's seventh straight loss to a Top-10 player.

Federer, at 34 a decade Dimitrov's senior, is the oldest man to reach the round of 16 at the Australian Open since Andre Agassi played his way into the quarter-finals in 2005. He is looking to become only the third man to win five Australian Open singles titles after Roy Emerson (six) and Novak Djokovic (five), having won the title in 2004, 2006, 2007 and 2010.

Dimitrov was bidding to reach the fourth round for the third consecutive year. His best Australian Open result is a quarter-finals showing in 2014 (l. to Rafael Nadal).

Japan and Hong Kong won junior table tennis world title

Jan 26



Japan's Izumo Takuto and Hong Kong's Zhu Chengzhu on 24 January 2016 became champions in the boys' and girls' categories, respectively, in the 11Even Sports 2015 ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals at the Abhay Prashal Stadium, Indore, Madhya Pradesh.

The three-day event came to its conclusion when Takuto hardly dropped a sweat beating Carlos Vedriel from Spain 4-0 in a one-sided final while Zhu overcame stiff resistance to beat Park Seri of Korea 4-2. Each winner took home 3800 US dollars while the runners-up received 2100 US dollars each.

Dutch Robert Van der Horst, Lidewij Welten named World's best hockey players

Jan 27



The International Hockey Federation (FIH) named the Netherlands pair of Robert Van der Horst and Lidewij Welten as the 2015 Players of the Year in the men's and women's categories respectively, while India's Akashdeep Singh missed out on the junior player award. The Netherlands made it a hat-trick of award wins as Joyce Sombroek picked up the women's Goalkeeper of the Year

for the second year in a row, while Ireland's David Harte won the men's Goalkeeper of the Year.

The Rising Star of the Year awards went to Germany's Christopher Ruhr, who picked up this award for the second time in his career, and Great Britain's Lily Owsley. Netherlands captain Robert van der Horst, who picked up the FIH Rising Star of the Year award 10 years ago, has played exceptionally well throughout 2015.

Warner won Allan Border Medal

Jan 28

Australian batsman David Warner took out the 2016 Allan Border Medal, and says that his transformation into a leader could help younger teammates from avoiding the same mistakes he made earlier in his career. David Warner has learned from mistakes in the past and now the Allan Border medallist wants to stop young teammates from making them in the first place.

Warner's transformation from problem child to consistent performer was recognized when he took home the top prize at Cricket Australia's awards night. Australia's vice-captain was elated with the gong but highlighted the challenges ahead – starting with the upcoming tour of New Zealand. David Andrew Warner (born 27 October 1986) is an Australian cricketer.

An explosive left-handed opening batsman, Warner is the first Australian cricketer in 132 years to be selected for a national team in any format without experience in first-class cricket.

He currently plays for New South Wales, the Sunrisers Hyderabad and the Sydney Thunder. He became vice-captain of Australia across Test & ODI formats of the game, in August 2015.



Archana Ramasundaram is the first female Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).

Mahendra's

Fulton, Karen named best hockey coaches of the year

Jan 28



The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced Ireland's South African coach Craig Fulton and England and Britain's assistant coach Karen Brown

as 2015's Coach of the Year in the men's and women's categories respectively.

Gibraltar's Nathan Stagno was named men's Umpire of the Year while South Africa's Michelle Joubert was awarded the women's Umpire of the Year. Fulton gained widespread praise for leading Ireland to the Olympic Games for the first time in over 100 years. They qualified for Rio following their success at the FINTRO Hockey World League (HWL) Semi-Final in Antwerp in Belgium last summer under the guidance of Fulton, who played 191 times for South Africa.

Karen, Britain's most capped female hockey player with 355 caps, was part of the coaching team that has led England women to the European title in 2015. Fulton's compatriot, Joubert, voted women's Umpire of the Year 2015, first picked up a whistle aged 22. Since then she has gone on to become only the second South African woman in history to achieve 100 senior international caps, recently receiving her FIH Golden Whistle at the Argentina HWL Finals in Rosario last December.

Fellow umpire, Stagno, received the men's Umpire of the Year award having also recently received an FIH Golden Whistle. He became the first Gibraltarian to make 100 senior umpire appearances during the HWL Finals in Raipur, India last year. Stagno has officiated at some of the sport's biggest competitions, including the London 2012 Olympic Games, the Rabobank Hockey World Cup 2014 in the Hague, as well as two Champions Trophy events and a Commonwealth Games.

Abhinav Bindra honoured by ISSF Jan 29

Olympic champion Abhinav Bindra awarded the Diploma of Honour and President's Button by the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) as an acknowledgment to his "contribution as an athlete" to the sport. The 33-year-old Beijing Olympic gold medallist was bestowed the honour by ISSF

President Olegario Vazquez Rana on the sidelines of the Asia Olympic Qualifying Competition at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in Delhi.

Rifle ace Bindra is gunning for glory at the Rio Olympics, having already secured a quota for the country at the quadrennial extravaganza. He said his Olympic preparation is headed in the right direction. He was hopeful of India sending a bigger team to the 2016 Olympics than the one that travelled to London nearly four years ago. Bindra, who shot to fame after clinching the gold medal in 10m air rifle in the summer of 2008 in Beijing, is also the chairman of ISSF's Athletes Committee.

Indian women win maiden T20 series against Australia Jan 29

The Indian women's cricket team scripted history by clinching its maiden Twenty20 series win over three-time world champion Australia with a comprehensive 10-wicket triumph in the rain-truncated second game. Opting to bowl after winning the toss, the Indians had their more fancied rivals on the mat in overcast conditions.



India restricted Australia to 125 in the match which was reduced to 18-overs-a-side following rain interruption. In reply, the Indian eves came out all guns blazing and were cruising along nicely before another round of showers forced a revision of target to 66 in 10 overs. Skipper Mithali Raj (37 not out) struck the winning runs as India overhauled the target in 9.1 overs.

In a thoroughly dominating performance from start to finish, India cornered Australia early on by reducing them to 33 for three in just the fifth overs of the match. It took a 70-run fourth-wicket stand between Aussie skipper Meg Lanning (49) and Jess Jonassen (27) to steady the rocking boat. Lanning's innings was crucial in propelling Australia to 103 for three in the 14th over before disaster struck yet again.

Once Lanning was run out by Harmanpreet Kaur, the wickets also tumbled in a heap. To their credit, Indian bowlers, especially, senior pacer and player of the match Jhulan Goswami (2/16) and leg-spinner Rajeshwari Gayakwad (2/27) ensured that the hosts' remained shackled in their scoring rate. In reply, the Indian batters seemed in a hurry to wrap up the proceedings and raced to 52 for now loss in 7.5 overs before the heavens opened yet again.



IREPS stand for Indian Railways E-Procurement System

Dhoni sets world record in Melbourne

Jan 30

India's limited overs captain and wicketkeeper Mahendra Singh Dhoni claimed another record in his glittering international cricket career at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) during the 2nd Twenty20 International against Australia.

Dhoni set a world record when he stumped James Faulkner off Ravindra Jadeja. With this dismissal, Dhoni now has the most stumpings in international cricket across all formats combined. He has 140 stumpings, beating Sri Lankan Kumar Sangakkara's mark of 139.

It was a lucky stumping to reach the record for Dhoni. The ball, after an inside edge from the bat off Faulkner, rebounded off his pads and hit the stumps and the batsman was out of the ground. He had 2 stumpings earlier brilliantly getting Glenn Maxwell off Yuvraj Singh.

It was a double delight for Dhoni as India beat Australia by 27 runs to seal the series 2-0 with one game remaining.

The 34-year-old Dhoni has so far played 90 Tests, 275 ODIs and 54 T20. He has 89 stumpings in ODIs, 38 in Tests and 13 in T20. He made his international debut in a ODI against Bangladesh in December 2004. Dhoni retired from Tests in December 2014 but continues to play both 50-over and T20 cricket.



Kidambi Srikanth won maiden Syed Modi International title

Feb 01



Indian shuttler Kidambi Srikanth clinched his maiden Syed Modi International title and his fourth major trophy, defeating China's Huang Yuxiang in the final.

Top seed Srikanth had finished runner-up on two previous occasions. He looked set to win against Yuxiang, running home with the first set 21-14. The unseeded Yuxiang, however, fought back to take the second set 14-21.

The third set was a see-saw affair as Srikanth went down 4-8, but then clawed back to win five consecutive points.

Yuxiang then got some points on his own to lead 13-12 again, but the Indian world No 9 finally sealed the match with a streak of points to win the last set 21-14.

Srikanth's medal would unfortunately be the only gold for India in the tournament. In the men's doubles final earlier, the Indian duo of Pranav Chopra and Akshay Dewalkar went down 14-21, 24-22, 21-8 to the Malaysian pair of Goh V Shem and Wee Kiong Tan in the final.

India makes history by clinching Aussie T20 series

Feb 01

India's top batting order put Shane Watson's unbeaten 86-ball 124 in the shade as they clinched the third and final match of their Twenty20 International (T20I) series by seven wickets to blank Australia 3-0 at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Kohli completed his 12th T20I fifty -- third in the series -- but soon lost his wicket being bowled by Boyce with India needing 51 runs in 5.1 overs.

It was also the first time that India gave away a hundred to an opposition batsman in the shortest format.

Trailing 0-2 in the series, Australia came up with the scratch opening pair of Watson and Usman Khawaja as regular batsmen David Warner, Aaron Finch and Steve Smith did not play either due to injury or because they were being rested for the forthcoming series against New Zealand.

Watson made India pay as he hit two sixes off left-arm spinner Jadeja and one off Ashwin before completing his maiden hundred in 58 balls.

After the hundred, he again hit Jadeja for a six and one off Nehra as his team mustered a total of 197 for five.

Kohli got the Man-of-the-Series award for scoring 199 runs in three matches.



The RBI has kept the policy rates unchanged in its -sixth bi-monthly monetary policy.

Mahendra's

U-19 World Cup: Rishabh Pant hits fastest 50

Feb 01



Wicket-keeper-batsman Rishabh Pant smashed his way into the record books with a 24-ball 78 as India U-19 gave Nepal a rude reality check by handing them a seven-wicket hammering to finish their league engagements unbeaten in the ICC U-19 World Cup.

India will either meet Bangladesh or Namibia in the quarter-final of the tournament.

Left-hander Pant, who is in the IPL wishlist of many franchises in the upcoming auction on 6 February, hit nine fours and five sixes, reaching his 50 off 18 balls, the fastest in the U-19 World Cup history as India cruised to the victory target of 170 in only 18.1 overs.

Nepal, who have been the surprise package of the tournament, were blown away as Rishabh and skipper Ishan Kishan (52)-- both Ranji Trophy players -- added 124 runs in 9 overs giving the 1500 odd people some breathtaking shots to savour.

Earlier, Indian bowlers, led by Avesh Khan (3/34), restricted the Himalayan nation to 169 for 8 in a match that was reduced to 48 overs. Washington Sundar and Mayank Dagar also got a couple of wickets each.

He could have walked away with a hundred had he not tried an expansive inside out shot of Prem Tamang only to be bowled.

Song beats Spieth to win Singapore Open title

Feb 02



South Korean Song Young-han held his nerve to edge world number one Jordan Spieth by a shot to win the Singapore Open. It was a first tournament win for Song after a number of second-place finishes on the Japan, Korean and OneAsia Tours.

Song rolled in the effort to retain his lead and then negotiated the par three 17th as Spieth headed to the practice range in the hope of a playoff after sinking his birdie, which he was seen studying 20 minutes before play resumed.

But the 24-year-old South Korean ensured there would be no sudden death shootout as he safely plotted his way down the hazard-laden par five 18th, finding the green in regulation and two-putting to land the US\$1 million title.

Pakistan's oldest Test cricketer dies aged 88

Feb 03

Former Pakistan all rounder Israr Ali died at the age of 88. He was Pakistan's oldest living Test cricketer and had played four Tests for the country between 1952 and 1959. He died of a pneumonia attack.

Ali played 40 first-class games, taking 114 wickets at 22.63 and scoring 1130 runs at 20.54. He had begun his career playing for Punjab in 1946-47 before Pakistan and India were partitioned, and then toured India as part of the Pakistan Test side in 1952-



53. He played only two Tests on that tour, and was then recalled to the side for two Tests against Australia in 1959-60. Ali had dismissed Australia opener Les Favell in all four innings without the assistance of fielders.

He had said that one of his biggest regrets was a fallout with Pakistan captain Abdul Hafeez Kardar, which Ali believes shortened his international career. After his playing career, Ali stayed involved in cricket administration and was president of the Multan region from 1981 to 1982, and a member of Pakistan's selection committee in 1983 and 1984, before he decided to move away from the game.

Dravid in ICC's Anti-Corruption Oversight Group

Feb 05

Rahul Dravid has been named in ICC's newly appointed Anti-Corruption Oversight Group as part of the recommendation from its Integrity Working Party of the parent body.

The oversight group will include the Chairman of the Executive Committee and will also include former India captain Rahul Dravid, legal expert Louis Weston and independent anti-corruption advisor John Abbott, who was the Chairman of the Integrity Working Party. The Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Unit, Sir Ronnie Flanagan, and ICC Chief Executive, David Richardson, will also be ex-officio members.

Dravid is currently coaching the Indian team in the ongoing U-19 World Cup, which is being held in Bangladesh.



Saroj Kumar Jha has been appointed on a Senior Director post at the World Bank.

Watson, Yuvraj, Negi in million-dollar club in IPL Players Auction Feb 06



Shane Watson raked in the big bucks in the Indian Premier League 2016 Auction by going to Royal Challengers Bangalore for Rs 9.5 Crore. Yuvraj Singh, Pawan Negi and Mohit Sharma, with Rs 7 Crore, 8.5 Crore and Rs 6.5 Crore respectively, dominated the Indian players.

List of Top Players Sold-

Shane Watson sold to Royal Challengers Bangalore for Rs.9.5 crores

Ashish Nehra sold to Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs.5.5 crores

Yuvraj Singh sold to Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs. 7 crores

Sanju Samson sold to Delhi Daredevils for Rs.4.2 crores

Chris Morris sold to Delhi Daredevils for Rs. 7 crores

Mitchell Marsh sold to Rising Pune Supergiants for Rs.4.8 crores

Mohit Sharma sold to Kings XI Punjab for Rs.6.50 crores

Marcus Stoinis sold to Kings XI Punjab for Rs. 5.50 crores

Carlos Brathwaite sold to Delhi Daredevils for Rs. 4.20 crores

Karun Nair sold to Delhi Daredevils for Rs. 4 crores

Pawan Negi sold to Delhi Daredevils for Rs. 8.50 crores

Deepak Hooda sold to Sunrisers Hyderabad for Rs. 4.2 crore

M Ashwin sold to Rising Pune Supergiants for 4.50 crores



Shyam S. Agarwal has been appointed as the Secretary of Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Mahendra's

Kenya to host 2018 Africa Nations Championship Feb 08

Kenya will host the 2018 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN), a top official of the continent's football governing body said.

Almamy Kabele Camara, Confederation of African Football's second vice-president said that the east African country should start preparations to host the event, reports Xinhua.

"We have seen Rwanda host the event so well this year and they have scored so highly and get grade A for their level of organisation. We call upon Kenya to also start working hard to improve infrastructure which will contribute to a successful competition in 2018," he said.

It will be the third time CHAN returns to the Council of East and Central African Associations region after Sudan also hosted in 2011.

Congo lift 2016 Africa Nations Championship title Feb 08



The Democratic Republic of Congo won the 2016 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) after beating Mali football team 3-0.

After 28 minutes, Mechak Elia gave Congo the lead on the wet ground, as it was raining, with a long shot that beat Mali goalkeeper Djigui Diarra. Mali could have levelled after 34 minutes when Aboulaye Diarra with a one-on-one situation failed to beat the Congo goalkeeper. After taking a 1-0 lead at half time, Mali came back more determined to push forward in the second half. After 60 minutes, Mali's Lassana Samake had his well taken shot saved by Congo goalkeeper Ley Matampi. Congo, who also won the trophy in 2009, kept pushing forward and Elia picked his second of the day after 62 minutes. The midfielder made no mistake, finishing off a Yannick Bangala cross.

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh elected as President of South Asian Wrestling Federation Feb 09

Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh has been elected the President of South Asian Wrestling Federation at its General Body Meeting. Sharan, who is the President of Wrestling Federation of India (WFI), was unanimously elected for the top position in South Asian Wrestling Federation, on the sidelines of the 12th SA Games. Tabiur Rehman from Bangladesh was elected as the Secretary General. The House unanimously authorised Singh to appoint one joint secretary from India, a treasurer from Afghanistan and one executive member from each SAF countries. Eight countries- Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, besides hosts India are currently taking part in the ongoing South Asian Games in Guwahati and Shillong.



Lahiri wins Asian Tour Golfer of the month award

Feb 12

Anirban Lahiri added another feather to his already crowded cap by winning the inaugural Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month award.

As part of Hilton Worldwide's newest partnership with the region's Tour, the Asian Tour Hilton Golfer of the Month award aims to recognise outstanding efforts of Asian Tour members both at home and abroad.

Lahiri was voted as the winner based on his stellar performance from June to September, with subsequent awards based on monthly achievements as the Asian Tour is now back in full swing.

Ranked 39th in the world, the Indian star enjoyed a spell-binding opening nine months which saw him win two events sanctioned by the Asian Tour and European Tour.



BCCI bans Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf for 5 years

Feb 12



Tainted Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf banned for five years by the BCCI after its disciplinary committee found him guilty of corrupt practices and bringing the game into disrepute.

The 59-year-old Rauf, who was part of the ICC's elite panel and officiated in Test matches, was accused of accepting expensive gifts from bookies besides placing bets on IPL matches in the 2013 edition. After a decision on his fate was deferred for several weeks, the committee, headed by BCCI president Shashank Manohar and comprising Jyotiraditya Scindia and Niranjan Shah, finally announced the ban on him. Rauf had been withdrawn by Pakistan from the ICC's elite panel after the allegations against him broke out. "Asad Rauf has been banned for a period of five years from umpiring or playing or representing cricket in any form or anyway being associated with the activities of the Board and its Affiliates," the BCCI said in a statement after the meeting.

Chinese soccer legend Zeng Xuelin dies at 87

Feb 12

Chinese soccer legend Zeng Xuelin, who had directed the national team to finish runners-up in the 1984 Asian Cup, died at 87. Zeng, who was born in Thailand, moved back to China with his family at the age of seven and settled in the Guangdong Province. As a goalkeeper in his playing career, Zeng helped Tianjin FC to finish second in the first Chinese National Games in 1959.

Zeng was also one of the Chinese soccer elites sent to Hungary to study football in the 1950s. Zeng became the coach of Tianjin FC in 1960 and achieved success in the same year with the titles of the first-tier league and the Chinese FA Cup. In 1973, Zeng took the rein of Beijing FC and achieved quick success again with that year's league title. After guiding Beijing FC to the league top podium in 1982, Zeng was appointed as the coach of the national team. Zeng's managerial career reached its peak in 1984 when China got a runners-up finish in the Asian Cup in Singapore. This has been the best result for the Chinese national team coached by a Chinese.



Spectacular Gemini Arabians win maiden MCL title

Feb 15

Riding on a superb all-round show, Gemini Arabians registered a massive 78-run win over Libra Legends in the opening match of the Masters Champions League Twenty20 tournament at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium (DICS). Put into bat, Gemini Arabians posted a massive 234 for three in their allotted 20 overs and in response Libra Legends could manage only 156/8. The hero of the Gemini win was the pair of Kumar Sangakkara (86 runs 43 balls, 6x4, 7x6) and opener Richard Levi (62 runs, 43 balls, 4x4, 3x6). Together, they stitched together an 84-run partnership for the second wicket after skipper Virender Sehwag (21) got the tournament off to a rollicking start with a six off the first ball. Once Levi left and Sangakkara got out, it was the turn of the Australian Brad Hodge to strike big as he smashed an unbeaten 46 off 19 deliveries with two boundaries and four sixes.

In reply, Libra Legends failed to get going and were reduced to 43 for four with New Zealand pacer Kyle Mills doing the initial damage to notch up figures of 2/27 in his four overs. After this, Sri Lankan spin legend Muttiah Muralitharan, also worked his magic to grab a couple of wickets. Dutch all-rounder Ryan ten Doeschate was the lone batsman to show some defiance with a 53-runs knock that came off 37 deliveries.



Song Young-han defeated American star Jordan Spieth to win SMBC Singapore Open title.



India launches 5th navigation satellite IRNSS-1E powered by PSLV rocket Jan 20

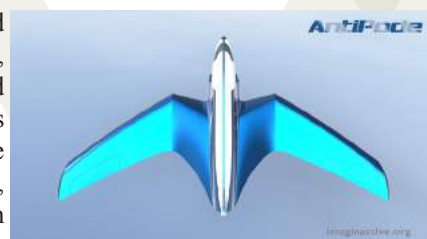
India successfully launched its fifth navigation satellite IRNSS-1E on-board the workhorse PSLV-C31 in Sriharikota, taking another step to be on par with US based Global Positioning System (GPS). In a precise textbook launch, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) C31 blasted off from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, about 110 km from Chennai. As the rocket soared into the clear blue sky at the end of the 48 hour countdown, all the four stages of PSLV executed their functions as programmed, to the joy of ISRO scientists at the mission control centre.



After the satellite's injection into geo synchronous transfer orbit (GTO), the two solar panels of IRNSS-1E will be automatically deployed in quick succession. The Master Control Facility in Hassan (Karnataka) would then take control of the satellite to perform orbit raising operations. IRNSS-1E is the fifth navigation satellite in the IRNSS space system, comprising seven satellites, which would be on par with US-based GPS once the full complement of spacecraft is launched. While four satellites would be sufficient to start operations of the IRNSS system, the remaining three would make it more "accurate and efficient".

Hypersonic jet by Indian Scientist Unveiled Jul 30

Charles Bombardier, the engineer behind the Skreemr jet has unveiled another radical, much faster design for future air travel. The 'Antipode', the latest concept jet is capable of reaching Mach 24, twice the speed of the Skreemr and 12 times faster than Concorde. Bombardier, who is affiliated with the Canadian aircraft company Bombardier Inc. claims that the hypersonic jet will take a mere 11 minutes to fly from New York to London, 24 minutes to travel from New York to Shanghai and 32 minutes to get from New York to Sydney.



Bombardier says the Antipode would be powered by liquid oxygen or kerosene rockets and in theory that the jet can carry 10 people for a distance of up to 20,000 km in less than an hour.

The plane's wings would have enough lift to glide and land on a 6,000 foot runway. Last year, the Canadian engineer designed the Skreemr, a four-winged scramjet that he claimed could carry 75 passengers at speeds of up to Mach 10. One Mach averages 1195km/hour, a speed equal to that of sound. An aircraft flying at Mach 2 is flying at twice the speed of sound, in the air.

Chinese Scientists Develops Liver Tissue For Transplants, Drug Screening Feb 01



Chinese researchers have engineered a liver tissue in the lab which closely mimics the organ's complicated functions more effectively - a finding that can lead to the development of functional liver tissue for clinical applications and drug screening.

Engineered liver tissue could have a range of important uses, from transplants in patients suffering from the organ's failure to pharmaceutical testing, the study said.

"A new microfluidics-based tissue was built that copied the liver's complex lobules and the organ's tiny structures that resemble wheels with spokes," reported lead author Jinyi Wang, professor at Northwest A&F University.

The team developed the tissue with human cells from a liver and an aorta, the body's main artery. In the lab, the engineered tissue had a metabolic rate that was closer to real-life levels than other liver models.



CBDT has entered into two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with United Kingdom.

It successfully simulated how a real liver would react to various drug combinations, the findings, published in the journal *Analytical Chemistry*, revealed. The liver serves a critical role in digesting food and detoxifying the body. But due to a variety of factors, including viral infections, alcoholism and drug reactions, the organ can develop chronic or acute problems.

When it doesn't work well, a person can suffer abdominal pain, swelling, nausea and other symptoms. Complete liver failure can be life threatening and can require a transplant, a procedure that currently depends on human donors.

To curtail this reliance and provide an improved model for predicting drugs' side effects, scientists have been engineering liver tissue in the lab. But so far, they haven't achieved the complex architecture of the real thing.

China named asteroid after Nobel laureate

Feb 02

Chinese authorities have named an asteroid after scientist Tu Youyou who won the 2015 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine for her work with artemisinin, which is now widely used to fight malaria. Li Bin, head of the national health and family planning commission presented the certificate of the named asteroid to 85-year old pharmacologist, China Radio International reported. The code of the asteroid is 21230.

The last four digits represent her birthday. Tu Youyou was born on December 30, 1930.



observe its position in space, 'BioSentinel' CubeSat will use yeast to detect, measure and compare the impact of deep space radiation on living organisms over long durations in deep space.

'Lunar Flashlight' will look for ice deposits and identify locations where resources may be extracted from the lunar surface while 'LunaH-Map' will map hydrogen within craters and other permanently shadowed regions throughout the moon's south pole.

Reliance Defence to set up R&D centre for aerospace tech

Feb 04

Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group chairman Anil Ambani announced setting up of a centre for research, development and innovation in aerospace technology.



Speaking at the "Invest Karnataka 2016" meet, Ambani said the proposed centre, to be set up under Reliance Defence, will generate more than 1,500 highly-skilled jobs and support government's plan for indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence equipments.

Reliance Group, has so far invested nearly Rs 5,000 crore in Karnataka across a wide array of sectors, from telecom to energy to entertainment to financial services and now defence, and created nearly 5,000 jobs. Reliance has proposed to set up Dhirubhai Ambani Centre for Innovation and Research in Aerospace, in Whitefield, Bengaluru.

NASA's most powerful rocket to send 13 tiny satellites into space

Feb 03



The Space Launch System (SLS) — NASA's most powerful rocket ever that will launch an uncrewed Orion spacecraft to a stable orbit beyond the Moon in 2018 — will

also carry 13 tiny satellites to test innovative ideas.

These small satellite secondary payloads or 'CubeSats' will carry science and technology investigations to help pave the way for future human exploration in deep space, including the journey to Mars. SLS' first flight, referred to as Exploration Mission-1 (EM-1), provides the rare opportunity for these small experiments to reach deep space destinations, as most launch opportunities for CubeSats are limited to low-Earth orbit.

While Near-Earth Asteroid Scout or NEA Scout will perform reconnaissance of an asteroid, take pictures and

Apollo Astronaut Edgar Mitchell Died

Feb 06



Nitish Kumar has been chosen for the 'K Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2015'.

Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, lunar module pilot on Apollo 14, passed away in West Palm Beach, Fla., on the eve of the 45th anniversary of his lunar landing.

Mitchell joined Apollo 14 commander Alan Shephard, Jr., the first American in space, in the lunar module Antares, which touched down Feb. 5, 1971, in the Fra Mauro highlands. Shepard and Mitchell were assigned to traverse the lunar surface to deploy scientific instruments and perform a communications test on the surface, as well as photograph the lunar surface and any deep space phenomena. It was Mitchell's only spaceflight.

Mitchell and Shephard set mission records for the time of the longest distance traversed on the lunar surface; the largest payload returned from lunar surface; and the longest lunar stay time (33 hours). They were also the first to transmit color TV from the lunar surface. Mitchell helped collect 94 pounds of lunar rock and soil samples that were distributed across 187 scientific teams in the United States and 14 other countries for analysis.

Mitchell was drawn to the spaceflight by President Kennedy's call to send astronauts to the moon.

In his book "The Way of the Explorer", Mitchell wrote, "There was a sense that our presence as space travelers, and the existence of the universe itself, was not accidental but that there was an intelligent process at work."

Detecting Alzheimer's through routine blood test: A possibility in the future

Feb 10

Researchers have found that a protein — the levels of which can be easily monitored in routine blood tests — could serve as a new biomarker for Alzheimer's disease, that slowly destroys memory and

thinking skills. For the study, an international team of researchers assessed the levels of activity-dependent neuroprotective protein (ADNP) in elderly individuals at risk for Alzheimer's disease. "We have found a clear connection between ADNP levels in the blood and amyloid plaques — a hallmark Alzheimer's — in the brain," said lead researcher Illana Gozes from Tel Aviv University in Israel.

The study also found that ADNP levels tested in the blood correlate with higher IQ in healthy older adults. The findings — published in the Journal of Alzheimer's Disease — suggest that a routine blood test can reveal Alzheimer's risk and IQ measurements. Currently, the medical professionals have to conduct a long series of tests to assess a patient's memory impairment and cognitive skills, functional abilities and behavioural changes to accurately diagnose Alzheimer's disease.

For the purpose of the study, the investigators analysed blood samples taken from 42 healthy adults, patients with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) and Alzheimer's disease patients at Rambam Medical Center in Israel. Significant increases in ADNP RNA levels were observed in patients ranging from mild cognitive impairment to Alzheimer's dementia.

"This study has provided the basis to detect this biomarker in routine, non-invasive blood tests, and it is known that early intervention is invaluable to Alzheimer's patients," Gozes pointed out. "We are now planning to take these preliminary findings forward into clinical trials to create a pre-Alzheimer's test that will help to tailor potential preventative treatments," Gozes noted.



Hundreds of Galaxies Found Hiding Behind the Milky Way

Feb 11

Astronomer in Australia have confirmed the discovery of hundreds of galaxies hidden by the Milky Way and a gravitational anomaly known as the Great Attractor. Until now, the galaxy-rich region of space some 250 million light-years away has been obscured by the stars and dust of the Milky Way. A new receiver installed on the Parkes radio telescope has allowed astronomers for the first time to see through the foreground fuzz of the Milky Way's starry dust and into the hidden portions of the Great Attractor region.

Previous measurements suggest the Milky Way and several hundred other galaxies are being pulled toward the Great Attractor region by a gravitational force as powerful as a million billion suns.

But the new findings detailed in the Astrophysical Journal have revealed several structures that might offer clues to the nature of the Great Attractor region's magnetism. The significance of these structures won't be certain for some time. But in the meantime, astronomers can be proud to have opened up a large swath of outer space to further observation. "An average galaxy contains 100 billion stars, so finding hundreds of new galaxies hidden behind the Milky Way points to a lot of mass we didn't know about until now," said University of Cape Town astronomer Professor Renee Kraan-Korteweg.



Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Mexico.

Mahendra's

ISRO to launch Cryogenic mark- III based GSLV satellite vehicle

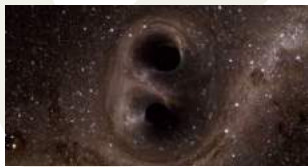
Feb 11

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will launch the Cryogenic mark- III based GSLV satellite launch vehicle during December. ISRO senior official and VSSC Director Dr K Sivan told on the sidelines of the 10th High Energy Materials Conference and Exhibition held in Hyderabad. He said the GSLV will be Stage-tested in two months and go for launching in December. He also said the electric propulsion will be used in the satellites for the first time in India. He further said ISRO will also undertake tests to bring back humans safe to earth in case if sent to space and the moon. Defence laboratory - HEMRL Director K P S Murthy said extensive research is underway to develop the table-top Explosives Detector Kits to identify initially over 20 types of explosive materials. He said it will take about three years to bring them into use. These single kits can be used anywhere such as Airports and fields for Defence and civil purpose. The three day International Conference on High Energy Material has witnessed about 600 researchers and academicians working in high energy materials.



Scientists claim detection of Einstein's gravitational waves

Feb 12



Gravitational ripples in the fabric of space-time, first predicted by Albert Einstein 100 years ago, have now been detected by scientists who believe the discovery opens new vistas into the “dark” side of the Universe. Physicists around the world have confirmed that they had detected unambiguous signals of gravitational waves emanating from the collision of two massive black holes 1.5 billion light years away in deep space. As the two black holes spiralled into one another in a violent collision that was over in a second, immense amounts of matter were instantly converted into energy, which sent shock waves travelling through space for 1.5 billion years until they were picked up by gravitational-wave instruments on Earth.

The detection of gravitational waves not only confirms Einstein's general Theory of relativity, it amounts to the first direct detection of a pair of colliding black holes, the mysterious structures in space that are so dense they exert a gravitational force from which nothing not even light can escape. One senior British physicist described the breakthrough as the greatest scientific discovery so far this century. It is, he said, bigger than the discovery of the Higgs boson because of its ramifications for our basic understanding of the Universe and the possibility it creates for new ways of observing the hidden regions of space. The direct detection of gravitational waves will now enable astronomers to see the Universe in a different light, giving them an unprecedented opportunity to observe the “dark” side of the cosmos, almost back to the beginning of time itself. Gravitational waves were first predicted in 1916 as a result of Einstein's general theory of relativity, the most commonly accepted description of gravity, published a year earlier. However, despite decades of searching, gravitational waves remained theoretical as they were too elusive for the most sensitive of gravity-detecting instruments — until now. The observation of the gravitational waves produced by the collision of the two black holes is officially known as GW150914. Scientists said it marks a new era in the scientific exploration of the Universe and the laws of physics that control it.

ISRO plans to privatise some space operations

Feb 15

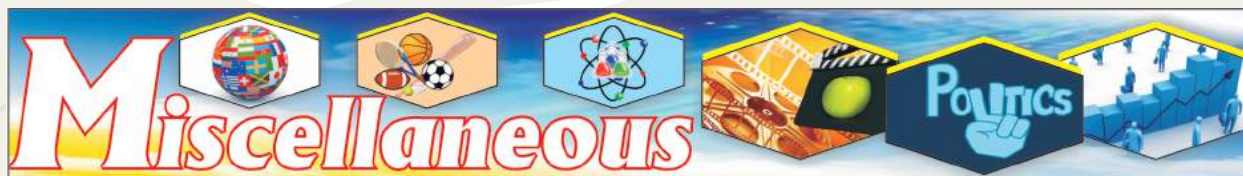
In a welcome move, India's space agency Isro plans to privatise the operation of its four-stage Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) by 2020. Accordingly, the integration and launch of the rocket will be managed by an industrial consortium through Isro's commercial arm Antrix Corporation. Till date PSLV has 33 missions under its belt of which only one was a failure. This has earned it the reputation of one of the most successful satellite launch vehicles. Privatising the operation of the rocket would not just free up Isro to focus on more cutting-edge missions, but also create a vibrant Indian space market. In fact, the ultimate aim ought to be to involve more private players to build and operate launch vehicles and satellites.



This is precisely what has happened in the US. Nasa subsidised the development and testing of commercial replacements for its space shuttles. The result was two new American private firms capable of launching Nasa's earth orbit payloads at a fraction of the previous cost. There's no reason why India can't replicate this model. Greater private participation in a strategic sector like space will widen the talent pool, increase Isro's operational capabilities and boost revenues from commercial launches. In the same vein, another strategic sector in desperate need of privatisation is defence.



Myanmar has elected U. Win Myint as Speaker of the House of Representatives.



Bollywood filmmaker Anil Ganguly passes away at 82

Jan 16



Noted filmmaker Anil Ganguly passed away at his residence here after a brief illness. Anil is best known for Jaya Bhaduri starrer, 'Kora Kagaz' (1974) and 'Tapasya' (1975), both of which won the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment. Later in his career, he shifted to making action and thriller films with Mithun Chakraborty and a few Bengali films. His last directorial venture was 'Kiye Para Kiye Najara' (1998) with Tapas Pal, and Debashree Roy.

China launches Belarusian telecom satellite

Jan 17

CHINA sent a Belarusian telecom satellite into intended orbit from southwest China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center at Beijing. The satellite, carried by a Long March-3B rocket, is Belarus' first communication satellite, and this was also the first time that China had launched a satellite for a European country. The Belintersat-1 was built by China Aerospace Science and Technology Corp. with a designed life of 15 years. It will be put into a geostationary orbit 51.5 degrees east longitude to provide a wide range of telecommunication services, including satellite TV, radio broadcasting and broadband Internet access. This was China's first orbital mission of 2016 and the 223rd launch of the Long march carrier rocket.



Gideon Kipketer Wins Mumbai Marathon, Sets New Course Record Time

Jan 17



Kenyan pacemaker Gideon Kipketer won the men's race in an expected all-East African clean sweep of the podium by setting a new course record in the 13th Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon. Kipketer, who started the race as a pace setter, decided to continue till the end after taking over the sole lead midway through the return leg of the race and stopped the clock at 2:08:35, shaving almost a full second off the 2013 record of 2:09:32 set by Ugandan Jackson Kiprop.

Astronomers discover second largest black hole in Milky Way

Jan 18

Astronomers have detected signs of an invisible black hole with a mass 100 thousand times that of the Sun around the centre of the Milky Way. The team assumes that this possible "intermediate mass" black hole is a key to understanding the birth of the supermassive black holes located in the centres of galaxies. A team of astronomers led by Tomoharu Oka, a professor at Keio University in Japan, found an enigmatic gas cloud, called CO-0.40-0.22, only 200 light years away from the centre of the Milky Way. The CO-0.40-0.22 unusual has a surprisingly wide velocity dispersion - the cloud contains gas with a very wide range of speeds. The team found this mysterious feature with two radio telescopes, the Nobeyama 45m Radio Telescope in Japan and the ASTE Telescope in Chile, both operated by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.



PM inaugurates Sikkim Organic Festival 2016

Jan 19

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Sikkim Organic Festival 2016, and addressed the Plenary Session of the National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, at Gangtok in Sikkim. Five presentations on reports of different groups of State Agriculture Ministers, Agriculture Production Commissioners and Agriculture Secretaries were made to the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister digitally launched the logo of "Sikkim Organic." He launched three new Orchid species developed in Sikkim.

He praised Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling for his vision of welfare for farmers and tribes. He credited this vision for the development that the State is witnessing. He said the welfare and development issues raised by the Chief Minister would be looked into by the Union Government.



Laddakh been selected for the first 'Spaceward Bound Program 2016' of NASA.

Mahendra's

UNWTO released World Tourism Barometer

Jan 19

The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) released the World Tourism Barometer, which reviewed trends in tourism at the regional and global level for 2015 and enumerated prospects for 2016



Highlights of World Tourism Barometer

- 2015 marks the 6th consecutive year of above-average growth, with international arrivals increasing by 4 percent or more every year since the post-crisis year of 2010.
- The tourist arrivals, in 2015, were largely influenced by exchange rates, oil prices and natural and manmade crises in many parts of the world.
- Growth in advanced economy destinations (5 percent growth) exceeded that of emerging economies (4 percent), boosted by the solid results of Europe (5 percent).

Abe Vigoda, of 'Godfather' and 'Barney Miller,' Dies at 94

Jan 27



Abe Vigoda, the sad-faced actor who emerged from a workmanlike stage career to find belated fame in the 1970s as the earnest mobster Tessio in "The Godfather" and the dyspeptic Detective Phil Fish on the hit sitcom "Barney Miller," died. He was 94, having outlived by about 34 years an erroneous report of his death that made him a cult figure.

Vigoda, tall and graying with a long face, sturdy jaw and deep-set eyes, was a 50-year-old stage actor who had earned his stripes on and off Broadway performing Shakespeare, Strindberg and Shaw when he got his big Hollywood break, winning the role of Salvatore Tessio in Francis Ford Coppola's epic 1972 adaptation of the Mario Puzo novel "The Godfather." To prepare himself for the role — a high-ranking mobster, or capo, who runs a crew of his own — Vigoda frequented the Lower East Side and other New York neighborhoods that are backdrops in the story. He told Vanity Fair that he "practically lived in Little Italy during the shoot."

Book on India's partition wins William E. Colby Award

Jan 25

A book on the partition of India in 1947 and its fatal consequences has won a \$5,000 prize. Nisid Hajari's "Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition" is the 17th annual recipient of the William E. Colby Award, given to first-time writers for a work of fiction or non-fiction about "military history, intelligence operations, or international affairs." The Colby award, announced Wednesday, is administered by Norwich University and the Colby Symposium and is named for the late ambassador and CIA director William E. Colby. Previous winners include Dexter Filkins and Karl Marlantes.



Naresh Bedi honoured with V. Shantaram Award

Jan 29



The 14th edition of Mumbai International Festival for Documentary, Short and Animation Films – MIFF 2016 was inaugurated by the Maharashtra Chief

Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore in the presence of veteran film maker Shyam Benegal, MIFF brand ambassador Jackie Shroff, IDPA President Mike Pandey and Festival Director Mukesh Sharma. Naresh Bedi, eldest of the Bedi Brothers, is counted amongst the foremost wildlife documentary makers, being the first Asian to receive the Wildscreen Red Panda award. A graduate of the Film & Television Institute of India, FTII, Pune, Bedi has made films which have been shown on National Geographic, Discovery Channel, BBC, Channel 4 etc. He is credited with filming several rare wildlife movements. His film 'Cherub of the Mist' about the life of two cute red pandas had the honour of being the opening film of MIFF 2016.

MIFF 2016 - a biennial event, organized by the Films Division of the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and supported by the Government of Maharashtra will feature 30 films in International Competition, including 12 from India and 27 films in National Competition vying for the Golden Conch Award.



Novak Djokovic has won his sixth Australian Open Mens Singles title recently.

Veteran Pakistani writer Intizar Hussain dies at 93 Feb 03



Intizar Hussain, veteran Urdu short story writer, poet and journalist who was the first Pakistani author ever to be nominated for the Man Booker International Prize for fiction, passed away. He was 93.

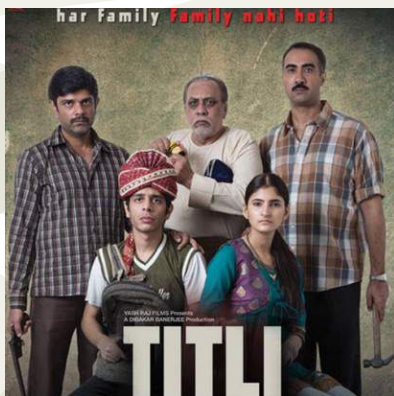
Born on December 7, 1923 at Dibai in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh in India, he migrated to Lahore in 1947. He did his MA (Urdu) in 1946 from the Meerut College. He worked in various newspapers and retired from 'Daily Mashriq' in 1988.

Hussain was conferred the 'Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters' by France in 2014. He was among the 10 finalists for the Man Booker International Prize for fiction in 2013. He was the first Pakistani and the first Urdu writer ever to be nominated for the international award.

Hussain's books include 'Gali Koochay', 'Kankari', 'Din Aur Dastan', 'Shehr-i-afsoos', 'Kachhuay', 'Khaimay Say Door', 'Khali Pinjra', 'Morenama' and 'Sheharzad Kay Naam'. Despite being read and loved by many, Hussain kept a low-key profile.

Titli is first Indian film to win Best First Foreign Film award by FSCC Feb 04

'Titli' directed by debutant Kanu Behl and co-produced by YRF and DBP has won the best first foreign film prize by the French Syndicate



of Cinema Critics. This is the first time an Indian film has won this award. Titli is a 2015 Bollywood drama film written and directed by Kanu Behl, co-produced by Dibakar Banerjee Productions Pvt. Ltd and Aditya Chopra under the banner of Yash Raj Films. The FSCC awards 4 prestigious prizes each year including Best French Film, Best International Film, Best First Film and Best Short Film. It also organises the International Critics Week, which is the oldest parallel competitive section of the Cannes Film Festival.

It showcases first and second feature films by directors from all over the world and has showcased directors like Bernardo Bertolucci, Leos Carax, Wong Kar Wai, Jacques Audiard, Gaspar Noe and Alejandro Gonzalex Innaritu.

Dramatist Yan Su dies Feb 12



Yan Su, a prominent dramatist and songwriter of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), died of illness at the age of 86. Yan received more than 100 awards including lifetime achievement

awards for his contribution to opera, drama and music. He was praised by the public for his devotion to art and his moral integrity. Yan wrote lyrics for famous songs, including "Dare to ask where is the road", the theme song of TV series "Journey to the West" that was adapted from the classic novel of the same title and broadcast in China in 1986. He came into coma in September, 2015 after finishing his job in the grand cultural gala "Victory and Peace" held in Beijing to commemorate the 70th anniversary of victory in the World's Anti-Fascist War—Xinhua

Indian Ambassador to Tajikistan Biraja Prasad passes away Feb 13



Biraja Prasad, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tajikistan, passed away. Ministry of External Affairs official spokesperson, Vikas Swarup, confirmed the news. "Our deepest condolences to family of Ambassador Biraja Prasad, our Ambassador to Tajikistan who tragically passed away. The thoughts and prayers of the Ministry and the diplomatic community are with you at this difficult time," Swarup said in a series of tweets.

Biraja Prasad, a 1998 batch Indian Foreign Service officer of Odisha, was the youngest IFS officer to be appointed as India's Ambassador to any country. He had also worked as Deputy Chief of Mission in Embassy of India at Madrid. In the ministry, Prasad handled works related to India's bilateral relations with Russian Federation, France, Germany and Spain.



Frank Finlay, Oscar nominated British Actor known for 'Othello' passed away recently.

Mahendra's



 **Mahendra's**TM

Helping
and

Website

www.mahendras.org
www.interviewguru.mahendras.org
www.mahendrapublication.org
stportal.mahendras.org
enews.mahendras.org

myshop.mahendras.org
www.bankersguru.org
www.railwayguru.org
www.sscguru.org



Padma Awards 2016

Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz. - art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc. 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field. The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year.

These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year. This year the President of India has approved conferment of Padma Awards to 112 persons.

The list below comprises of 10 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan Awardees. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs (include one posthumous) and 4 Posthumous awardees. There are 83 Padma Shri awardees this year (list not given).

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

Sl. No	Name	Field	State
1.	Yamini Krishnamurthi	Art- Classical dance	Delhi
2.	Rajinikanth	Art-Cinema	Tamil Nadu
3.	Girija Devi	Art-Classical Vocal	West Bengal
4.	Ramoji Rao	Literature & Education-Journalism	Andhra Pradesh
5.	Dr. Viswanathan Shanta	Medicine- Oncology	Tamil Nadu
6.	Shri Ravi Shankar	Others-Spiritualism	Karnataka
7.	Jagmohan	Public Affairs	Delhi
8.	Dr. Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
9.	Avinash Dixit (Foreigner)	Literature & Education	USA
10.	Late Dhuru Bhai Ambani (Posthumous)	Trade & Industry	Maharashtra

PADMA BHUSHAN

Sl. No.	Name	Field	State
11.	Anupam Kher	Art-Cinema	Maharashtra
12.	Udit Narayan Jha	Art-Playback Singing	Maharashtra
13.	Ram V. Sutar	Art-Sculpture	Uttar Pradesh
14.	Heisnam Kanhailal	Art-Theatre	Manipur
15.	Vinod Rai	Civil Service	Kerala
16.	Dr. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad	Literature & Education	Andhra Pradesh
17.	Prof. N. S. Ramanuja Tatacharya	Literature & Education	Maharashtra
18.	Dr. Barjinder Singh Hamdard	Literature & Education - Journalism	Punjab
19.	Prof. D. Nageshwar Reddy	Medicine-Gastroenterology	Telangana
20.	Swami Tejomayananda	Other-Spiritualism	Maharashtra
21.	Hafeez Contractor	Others-Architecture	Maharashtra
22.	Ravindra Chandra Bhargava	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh
23.	Dr. Venkata Rama Rao Alla	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
24.	Saina Nehwal	Sports-Badminton	Telangana

Continued on pg. 86...



Virat Kohli has claimed the top spot in ICC's latest T20 batting rankings.

STAND-UP INDIA

START-UP INDIA

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the Start-up India initiative in New Delhi in January. The launch by the Prime Minister this evening, was preceded by a day-long workshop on various aspects of entrepreneurship.

The Prime Minister visited a virtual exhibition and interacted with Start-up entrepreneurs. 10 outstanding Start-up innovators shared their thoughts and experiences before the Prime Minister delivered his address. He said that when he had launched the Start-up India Initiative on 15th August, the announcement had virtually gone unnoticed, but it had registered with people.

He said successful start-ups are usually created by those who are driven by an idea, or an urge to solve a problem that people face. He said making money is not the primary objective, but is often a by-product. He said Start-up innovators are often driven by a sense of compassion for others.

The Prime Minister said he wishes to turn the youth of India from job-seekers to job-creators. He said if a Start-up can offer employment to even five people, it would be doing a great service to the nation. He mentioned some areas where youth innovators should focus, including crop wastage, and cyber security.

The Prime Minister unveiled the highlights of the Start-up Action Plan. He said a dedicated Start-up fund worth Rs. 10,000 crore will be created for funding of Start-ups. He said Start-ups will be exempted from paying income tax on their profit for the first three years. He said the Government is working on a simple exit policy for Start-ups. He also said the Government is working towards fast-tracking of Start-up patent applications.

He announced an eighty percent exemption in patent fee for Start-up businesses, and said a self-certification based compliance system for Start-ups would be introduced for 9 labour and environment laws. He said the Atal Innovation Mission will be launched to give a boost to innovation.

Start-up India Action Plan highlights

The government will set up a fund with an initial corpus of Rs. 2,500 crore and a total corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore over a period of four years, which will be managed by a board with private professionals drawn from industry bodies, academia, and successful start-ups. The fund will participate in the capital of SEBI registered venture funds, and invest in sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, health, and education.

The government will launch a mobile app and a portal on April 1, which will enable start-ups to register

their company in a day. The portal will also serve as a single point of contact for clearances, approvals and registrations, and for companies to apply for schemes under the Start-up India Action Plan.

To reduce the regulatory burden for start-ups, the government will allow start-ups to self-certify compliance on nine labour and environment laws through the start-up mobile app. No inspections will be conducted in case of the labour laws for a period of three years.

Fast track patent registration at lower cost

Launched on a pilot basis for a year, the Central Government shall bear the cost of patents, trademarks and designs for a start-up, with an 80 percent rebate to encourage the creation and protection of its intellectual property. Panel of legal experts to assist patent filing.

A credit guarantee mechanism will help start-ups raise debt funding through the formal banking system through National Credit Guarantee Trust Company (NCGTC)/ SIDBI, which has an annual corpus of Rs. 500 crore for the next four years.

Aimed at facilitating growth and help retain capital, start-ups will be exempted from income-tax for a period of three years. However, the exemption shall be available subject to non-distribution of dividend by the start-up. To augment the funds available to various VCs and alternative investment funds, capital gains invested in SEBI registered venture funds will be exempt from tax as well.

The Start-up India Hub will serve as a single point of contact for start-up ecosystem players, and will function in a hub and spoke model with central and state governments, Indian and foreign VCs, angel networks, banks, incubators, legal partners, consultants, universities and R&D institutions. The hub will assist start-ups in obtaining financing, and organise mentorship programs to encourage knowledge exchange.

The Central Government, State Government and PSUs will exempt start-ups in the manufacturing sector from the criteria of "prior experience/turnover" as long as they have their own manufacturing facility in India, and have the requisite capabilities and are able to fulfil the project requirements.

Start-ups may be wound up within a period of 90 days from making of an application for winding up on a fast track basis, as per the recently tabled Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill 2015, which has provisions for voluntary closure of businesses. This process will respect the concept of limited liability.



U-19 batsman Rishabh Pant has scored fastest Under-19 World Cup fifty against Nepal.

The Atal Innovation Mission will establish sector specific incubators and 500 'Tinkering Labs' to promote entrepreneurship, provide pre-incubation training and a seed fund for high-growth start-ups. Three innovation awards will be given per state and union territory, along with three national awards, as well as a Grand Innovation Challenge Award for finding ultra-low cost solutions for India.

An innovation core program targeted at school kids aims to source 10 lakh innovations from five lakh schools, out of which the best 100 would be shortlisted and showcased at an Annual Festival of Innovations, to be held in Rashtrapati Bhavan.

A Grand Challenge program called NIDHI (National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations) shall be instituted through Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centres (IEDCs) to support and award INR 10 lakhs to 20 student innovations.

The government will identify and select ten incubators, evaluated on pre-defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) as having the potential to become world class, and give them Rs.10 crore each as financial assistance to ramp up their infrastructure.

Seven Research Parks, modelled on the IIT Madras Research Park will be set up for joint research & development effort between industry and academia.

Start-up fests shall be organized at national and international venues to provide visibility and encouragement to start-ups.

"Stand-up India Scheme" aims to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch, on an average one for each category of entrepreneur. It is expected to benefit at least 2.5 lakh borrowers. The expected date of reaching the target of at least 2.5 lakh approvals is 36 months from the launch of the Scheme.

Continued from pg. 84...

25.	Sania Mirza	Sports-Tennis	Telangana
26.	Indu Jain	Trade & Industry	Delhi
27.	Late Swami Dayanand Sarawasati (Posthumous)	Others-Spiritualism	Uttarakhand
28.	Robert Blackwill (Foreigner)	Public Affairs	USA
29.	Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry (NRI/PIO)	Trade & Industry	Ireland

PADMA AWARDS

- Padma Awards were instituted in the year 1954. Except for brief interruption(s) during the years 1978 and 1979 and 1993 to 1997, these awards have been announced every year on Republic Day.
- The award is given in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- Padma Vibhushan for 'exceptional and distinguished service'; Padma Bhushan for 'distinguished service of a high order'; and Padma Shri is awarded for

The Stand Up India Scheme provides for:

- Refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Creation of a credit guarantee mechanism through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company.
- Handholding support for borrowers both at the pre loan stage and during operations. This would include increasing their familiarity with factoring services, registration with online platforms and e-market places as well as sessions on best practices and problem solving.

The details of the scheme are as follows:

- Focus is on handholding support for both SC/ST and Women borrowers.
- The overall intent of the approval is to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to these under-served sectors of the population by facilitating bank loans repayable up to 7 years and between Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 100 lakh for greenfield enterprises in the non farm sector set up by such SC, ST and Women borrowers.
- The loan under the scheme would be appropriately secured and backed by a credit guarantee through a credit guarantee scheme for which Department of Financial Services would be the settler and National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC) would be the operating agency.
- Margin money of the composite loan would be up to 25%. Convergence with state schemes is expected to reduce the actual requirement of margin money for a number of borrowers.
- Over a period of time, it is proposed that a credit history of the borrower be built up through Credit Bureaus.

'distinguished service'.

- The award seeks to recognize work of any distinction and is given for distinguished and exceptional achievements/service in all fields of activities/disciplines, such as Art, Literature and Education, Sports, Medicine, Social Work, Science and Engineering, Public Affairs, Civil Service, Trade and Industry etc.
- The total number of awards to be given in a year (excluding posthumous awards and to foreigners) should not be more than 120.



Urjit R. Patel has been reappointed as a Deputy Governor of RBI.



12th South Asian Games

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 12th South Asian Games on 5th February 2016 at Guwahati in a glittering ceremony. On the next day the 12th South Asian Games 2016 witnessed a grand opening in Shillong at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium and at the Sarusajai Sports Complex in Guwahati. 12th South Asian Games were held in Guwahati & Shillong from 5th Feb, 2016 to 16-Feb-2016 and will be the biggest sporting extravaganza ever held in the North East India and the 1st ever gender equal South Asian Games with men & women participation in all the sports. For conduct of the games an organizing committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports (I/C) Government of India and Shri N. Ramachandran President Indian Olympic Association as co - chairman.

SAARC nations namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka participated in the games. SAARC nations comprise 21% of the world's total population and around 9.12% of Global economy. SAARC is a platform for the people of South Asia to work together in a spirit of friendship, trust and understanding so as to achieve lasting peace and prosperity of its member nations. South Asian Games play a vital role in achieving this objective.

228 events in 23 Sports disciplines were played during the games. Total No. of medals for medal tally – 228 Gold, 228 Silver and 308 Bronze medals. 16 Sports Disciplines were played at Guwahati – Athletics, Basketball, Volleyball, Swimming, Triathlon, Hockey, Weightlifting, Wrestling, Squash, Shooting, Kho Kho, Kabaddi, Handball, Cycling and Tennis. 7 Sports Disciplines were played at Shillong – Archery, Badminton, Boxing, Judo, Table Tennis, Taekwondo, Wushu. Men Football were played at Guwahati and Women football at Shillong.

LOGO AND MASCOT

Games logo symbolizes peace, progress & prosperity in the region. It consists of 8 petals representing the 8 countries participating in the Games. Colors of petals are from the flags of the 8 countries. Mascot “TIKHOR” a Baby rhino is Sharp, Naughty, Sporty & Modern. He is a Motivator, friend and messenger of peace, progress & prosperity. The theme song is ‘Ei Prithibi Ekhon Krirangon, Krira Hol Shantir Prangon’ sung by the world

famous musician late Dr. Bhupen Hazarika. It means that the whole world is a playground and sports is a symbol of peace. The song is being translated in official languages of all SAARC nations and will be sung in each of these languages.

MEDAL TALLY

Rank	Nation	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1	India (IND)	188	90	30	308
2	Sri Lanka (SRI)	25	63	98	186
3	Pakistan (PAK)	12	37	57	106
4	Afghanistan (AFG)	7	9	19	35
5	Bangladesh (BAN)	4	15	56	75
6	Nepal (NEP)	3	23	34	60
7	Maldives (MDV)	0	2	1	3
8	Bhutan (BHU)	0	1	15	16

ABOUT THE SOUTH ASIAN GAMES

The South Asian Games (SAF Games, SAG, or SA games, & formerly known as South Asian Federation Games) are a biennial multi-sport event held among the athletes from South Asia. The governing body of these games is South Asian Sports Council (SASC), formed in 1983. At present, SAG are joined by eight members namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka.

The first South Asian Games were hosted by Kathmandu, Nepal in 1984 and have since been held every two years except for some occasions. In 2004, it was decided in the 32nd meeting of South Asian Sports Council to rename the games from South Asian Federation Games to South Asian Games as the officials believed the word Federation was diminishing the emphasis on event and acting as a barrier in attracting crowd.

IOA ban and Delay

Initially, the Games were expected to be held in October, 2012. However, during the General Body meeting of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on December 16, 2011, it was decided to postpone the Games to February, 2013. The International Olympic Committee banned the Indian Committee in March for political interference. This delayed the event further as the ban was only lifted in May and poor relations with neighboring Pakistan



The Centre has approved the MoU between India and Maldives in the field of Health.

due to the 2013 India–Pakistan border incidents. 2 years later, on the 11 February 2014, the International Olympic Committee decided to lift the ban. The Indian side competed in Olympic events such as the Winter Olympic Games as independent participants.

A year later, on 5 June 2015, the uncertainty over the venue to host the 12th South Asian Games ended with the Sports Ministry and Indian Olympic Association deciding to hold the regional multi-sporting event in Guwahati and Shillong in November–December 2015. However, this was postponed even further to a tentative date of February 2016.

ULFA anti-talks faction also pledged support to South Asian Games, which is opposite to its stand on 2007 National Games of India held in Guwahati.

On 3 February 2016, International Basketball Federation (FIBA) stated that it will not recognise the competition because of “unacceptable interference by Indian Olympic Association in affairs of the Basketball Federation of India”.

Pakistani women’s volleyball team is returning to South Asian Games after two decades - for the first time after their participation in 1995 South Asian Games, Madras where they had finished with a bronze medal. Afghanistan and Pakistan basketball teams didn’t participate.

India granted special concession to Pakistani athletes taking part in the 12th South Asian Games by declaring Guwahati and Kolkata as designated entry points for them.

Game Highlights:

- ✎ Mirabai Chanu Saikho (India) won the gold medal in the women’s weightlifting.
- ✎ Guru Raja (India) won the gold medal in 56 kg Men’s weightlifting.
- ✎ Matthew Aboosinghe (Sri Lanka) won the gold medal in 200 meter Men’s Swimming.
- ✎ Shivani Kataria (India) won the gold medal in 200 meter women Swimming.
- ✎ Priyanka singh (India) won the gold medal in 48kg female wrestling.
- ✎ Archana (India) won the gold medal in 55kg female Wrestling.
- ✎ Ravinder (India) won the gold medal in 57Kg Men’s wrestling.
- ✎ Manisha (India) won the gold medal in 60kg female wrestling.
- ✎ Ranjeesh (India) won the gold medal in 65kg male wrestling.
- ✎ Chaoba Devi Elangbam, (INDIA) Silver, Arvind Panwar (INDIA) Gold, Manjeet Singh (INDIA)

- ✎ Silver and Bidyaluxmi Tourngbam (INDIA) in men and women cycling competition.
- ✎ Saraswati Rout (INDIA) Gold, Fullapati Chakama (BANGLADESH) receiving 2nd position and Mohideen Umeira (SRI LANKA) receiving 3rd positing in 58 kg women weight lifting category.
- ✎ Sambo Lapung (INDIA) Gold, 1st position, I C D D Mudiamselage (SRI LANKA) receiving 2nd position and Abu Sufyan (PAKISTAN) receiving 3rd positing in 69 kg Men’s weight lifting category.
- ✎ Pradeep (India) won Gold medal in 61Kg Men’s wrestling.
- ✎ Amit Dhankar (India) won Gold medal in 70Kg Men’s wrestling.
- ✎ Mabi Aktar (Bangladesh) won Gold, Ayesha Vinodani Dharmasena Lanka Geeganage (Sri Lanka) won Silver and Jun Maya Chhantyal (Nepal) won Bronze in 63kg women Weight Lifting.
- ✎ Kavita Devi (India) won Gold, Wickeramasinghe Ashini Surangi Wickeramasingh A Mudiyan Selage (Sri Lanka) won Silver and Firoga Parvin (Bangladesh) won Bronze medal in 75 kg Women’s Weight Lifting.
- ✎ Joshana Chinappa (India) won Gold Medal in the Women’s Squash.
- ✎ Rajani (India) winner of Gold Medal in 69kg Women’s wrestling.
- ✎ Team India won Gold Medal in the Women’s Kabaddi.
- ✎ Team India won Gold Medal in the Men’s Kabaddi.
- ✎ Team Nepal won Gold Medal in the Men’s football event.
- ✎ Chain Singh of India won Gold Medal, Gagan Narang of India won Silver Medal and SMM Samarkoon of Sri Lanka won Bronze Medal in the 50m Air Rifle Men’s Individual event in Shooting.
- ✎ Anjum Moudgil of India won Gold Medal in Women’s 50m Rifle Shooting.
- ✎ Omkar Singh of India won Gold Medal in Men’s 10m Air Pistol Shooting.
- ✎ Team Pakistan won Gold Medal in the Men’s Hockey.
- ✎ Team India won Silver Medal in the Men’s Hockey.
- ✎ Nitender Singh Rawat of India won Gold Medal, Cooray Anuradha Indrajith of Sri Lanka won Silver Medal and Khetha Ram of India won Bronze Medal in Men’s Marathon 42 km Run in Athletics.



Rs.2142 crore is the total budget outlay of the Neeranchal project.



PRADHAN MANTRI FASAL BIMA YOJANA (PMFBY)

Agriculture being the mainstay of Indian people traditionally and culturally, the Narendra Modi government has been focusing on the agriculture front quite seriously. Therefore the announcement of the New Crop Insurance scheme on 13th January, 2016 by the Government of India has received kudos from all quarters.

The government and the policy makers have always faced a few challenges vis-à-vis the task of ensuring food security, higher agri growth and adequate jobs in agri sector. There has been always a long felt need to bring together at one place all conceptual issues, detailed institutional framework and operational details related to farmers' welfare, risk management of farming community and the crops during drought and floods and other localized risk factors.

The broad policy on drought and natural disasters management prepared by the government has prescribed multifold actions vis-à-vis the disaster mitigation plans, relief measures required for providing succor to the affected population and the need to integrate these with long term objectives.

In other words, steps were required to be taken on a war footing with a well thought of and far-sighted vision and action plans, both in short term and long terms.

The New Crop Insurance scheme must be understood from that perspective. This is all the more relevant at a time when the country is facing drought for the second straight year due to poor monsoon rains.

Under the new scheme that would cost government Rs 8,000-9,000 crore annually, the farmers' premium has been kept at a maximum of 2 per cent for foodgrains and oilseeds, and up to 5 per cent for horticulture and cotton crops.

To be rolled out from the Kharif season this year, the much awaited scheme - Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana - was cleared at the Cabinet meeting, headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The new scheme, to be executed also by private insurance companies, is seen as a significant step by policy makers, farming community and experts. The government's move will enhance insurance coverage to more crop area to

protect farmers from vagaries of monsoon. Hence the scheme is considered very timely and also quite in tune with similar initiatives in some countries.

For Rabi crops, the farmer's share has been rightly fixed at 1.5 per cent — against actual premiums of 8-10 per cent. For year-long cash crops and horticulture crops, this has been capped at 5 per cent.

PMFBY is a replacement scheme of NAIS / MNAIS, there will be exemption from Service Tax liability of all the services involved in the implementation of the scheme. It is estimated that the new scheme will ensure about 75-80 per cent of subsidy for the farmers in insurance premium.

It is worth mentioning that the government is already shelling out around Rs 5000 crore annually average for the last five years for various disaster relief measures even as the government's new move will now mean a tentative expenditure of about Rs 9000 crore. This will be more helpful especially for farmers as the risk factor would be looked into. According to many, the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna' will also rid farmers of the web of complex rules of the earlier insurance schemes.

The government would have to cough out Rs 8,800 crore annually whereas the coverage would be for a crop area of 194.40 million hectare. It is significant to note that after coming to power in May 2014, the Modi government had announced that it would bring a new crop insurance scheme.

Among others, expressing confidence that farmers will adopt this new scheme, the union Home Minister Rajnath Singh said it will help them tide over financial uncertainties.

Experts also say that the mechanism of higher subsidy for crop premiums is not out of line with international standards. The United States, for instance, covers over 120 million hectares and gives subsidy to the tune of around 70 per cent.

China insures its farmers for a sown area of around 75 million hectares with a subsidy on premiums of about 80 per cent. In Indian context, during the next five years, the plan would probably cover over 50 per cent of the cropped area.

Continued on pg. 91...



K2 mission is NASA's Kepler spacecraft has discovered 100 planets orbiting other stars.



Australian Open 2016

The 104th edition of Australian Open (AO), the first grand slam of the year, was held between January 18 and 31 at Melbourne. The prestigious event witnessed wonderful matches between top players competing from across the world. The tournament consisted of events for professional players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles play.

Novak Djokovic successfully defended the men's singles title and thus won a record-equaling sixth Australian Open title. Serena Williams was the defending champion in the women's singles but failed to defend her title, losing to Angelique Kerber in the final; by winning, Kerber became the first German player of any gender to win a Grand Slam title since Steffi Graf won her last such title at the 1999 French Open. As in previous years, this year's tournament's title sponsor was Kia. This edition set a new attendance record for the tournament of 720,363.

Tournament

The tournament was run by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) and was part of the 2016 ATP World Tour and the 2016 WTA Tour calendars under the Grand Slam category. The tournament consisted of both men's and women's singles and doubles draws as well as a mixed doubles event. There were singles and doubles events for both boys and girls (players under 18), which was part of the Grade A category of tournaments, and also singles, doubles and quad events for men's and women's wheelchair tennis players as part of the NEC tour under the Grand Slam category.

The tournament was played on hard courts and take place over a series of 25 courts, including the three main show courts: Rod Laver Arena, Hisense Arena and Margaret Court Arena.

Men's Singles

Novak Djokovic was the defending champion. He successfully defended his title, defeating Andy Murray 6-1, 7-5, 7-6(7-3) in a rematch of the previous year's final. Djokovic also equaled Roy Emerson's all-time men's record of six Australian



Open singles titles. As a result of this victory, Djokovic now holds 11 grand slam titles and equalled Rod Laver and Bjorn Borg's tally.

Australian Lleyton Hewitt, a 2005 finalist, two-time Grand Slam champion and former world No. 1, played his last professional matches in both singles and doubles. In singles, he lost to David Ferrer in the second round. In doubles, he lost in the third round.

Women's Singles

Serena Williams was the defending champion, but she lost in the final to Angelique Kerber 4-6, 6-3, 4-6. Kerber became the first major champion to save a match point in the first round, which she did against Misaki Doi. She is also the first German of any gender to win a major since Steffi Graf at the 1999 French Open.



The twelve seeds that lost in the opening round was the most in the opening round of any major tournament since the 32-seed draw was adapted at the 2001 Wimbledon Championships.

Johanna Konta became the first British woman to reach the semi-final of a major since Jo Durie in 1983. Zhang Shuai became the first qualifier to reach the Australian Open quarter-finals since Angelica Gavaldon in 1990.

Men's Doubles

Simone Bolelli and Fabio Fognini were the defending champions, but lost in the second round to Adrian Mannarino and Lucas Pouille. Jamie Murray and Bruno Soares won the title, defeating Daniel Nestor and Radek Stepanek in the final, 2-6, 6-4, 7-5. Australian Lleyton Hewitt played his final ever professional match in either singles or doubles; partnering Sam Groth, the pair lost to Jack Sock and Vasek Pospisil in the third round.



It was the first grand slam doubles win for both men but for Jamie, in particular, it was a sweet moment that



The DRDO has successfully test-fired the Nag anti-tank missile at the Mahajan Field Firing Range.

at many stages in his career he thought he might never experience. It was the first grand slam doubles win for both men but for Jamie, in particular, it was a sweet moment that at many stages in his career he thought he might never experience.

Women's Doubles

Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova were the defending champions, but Safarova withdrew before the tournament due to a bacterial infection. Mattek-Sands played alongside Sabine Lisicki, but lost in the second round to Anastasia and Arina Rodionova.



Top seeds Martina Hingis and Sania Mirza defeated Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka in the final, 7-6(7-1), 6-3.

It was their third consecutive Grand Slam title for Sania and Martina, having won the Wimbledon and US Open in the 2015 season. In an incredible feat, Sania and Martina

have now extended their unbeaten run to 36 matches, winning eight titles in a row.

They won five straight titles in 2015, starting from the US Open and before the Australian Open now. It was Sania's second title at the Australian Open, having won the mixed doubles in 2009 with Mahesh Bhupathi.

Mixed Doubles

Martina Hingis and Leander Paes were the defending champions, but lost in the quarterfinals to Sania Mirza and Ivan Dodig. Elena Vesnina and Bruno Soares won the title, defeating Coco Vandeweghe and Horia Tecau in the final, 6-4, 4-6, [10-5]. Brazil's Bruno Soares, and Russian partner Elena Vesnina won the Australian Open mixed doubles title on Rod Laver Arena. Soares, who won the men's doubles title with Britain's Jamie Murray, clinched his second title in a little over 16 hours when he and Vesnina beat American Coco Vandeweghe and her Romanian partner Horia Tecau 6-4, 4-6, 10-5.

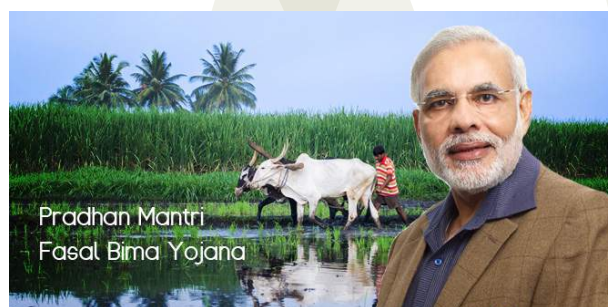


Continued from pg. 89

A Game-changer: There are a few significant features about the new scheme and this will make it both – farmers' friendly and a game-changer in the long run. The new Crop Insurance Scheme is in line with 'One Nation – One Scheme' theme. "It incorporates the best features of all previous schemes and at the same time, all previous shortcomings/weaknesses have been removed," an official announcement said and thus highlighting the end of the cob of complexities the farmers had to face earlier.

Importantly for the beneficiaries, risks leading to crop loss are to be covered under the scheme include: Yield Losses (standing crops, on notified area basis). Thus a Comprehensive risk insurance is provided to cover yield losses due to non-preventable risks, such as Natural Fire and Lightning, Storm, Hailstorm, Cyclone, Typhoon, Tempest, Hurricane, Tornado. Risks due to Flood, Inundation and Landslide, Drought, Dry spells, Pests/ Diseases also will be covered.

Similarly in cases where majority of the insured farmers of a notified area, having intent to sow/plant and incurred expenditure for the purpose, are prevented from sowing/ planting the insured crop due to adverse weather conditions, shall be eligible for indemnity claims upto a maximum of 25 per cent of the sum-insured.



In post-harvest losses, coverage will be available up to a maximum period of 14 days from harvesting for those crops which are kept in "cut & spread" condition to dry in the field. For certain localized problems, Loss / damage resulting from occurrence of identified localized risks like hailstorm, landslide, and Inundation affecting isolated farms in the notified area would also be covered.

Moreover, it has been made clear that there will be "no upper limit" on the Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90 per cent, it will be borne by the Government.

Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers. This capping was done to limit Government outgo on the premium subsidy. This ceiling has now been removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.





Mahendra'sTM

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

Specialized in Banking, SSC, Railway & other Competitive Examinations



FOR ANY QUERIES

1800-103-5225



CONNECT TO US
THROUGH



www.mahendras.org
www.interviewguru.mahendras.org
www.mahendrapublication.org
stportal.mahendras.org
enews.mahendras.org
myshop.mahendras.org
www.bankersguru.org
www.railwayguru.org
www.sscguru.org



- Q.1.** Who has been appointed as the Vice-President, Chief Investment Officer of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?
 (1) Shubhalakshmi Panse
 (2) Dr. D. J. Pandian
 (3) Narendra Jadhav
 (4) Sukhamoy Chakraborty
 (5) Girish Mishra
- Q.2.** Who has been appointed as High Commissioner to India by Australia?
 (1) Navdeep Suri
 (2) Sujatha Singh
 (3) Biren Nanda
 (4) Harinder Sidhu
 (5) Sunil Kumar Arora
- Q.3.** In suburban section of which of the following Railway Zones Union Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhu launched paperless unreserved ticketing system?
 (1) North Central Railway
 (2) East Central Railway
 (3) South Central Railway
 (4) North Eastern Railway
 (5) South Eastern Railway
- Q.4.** Acclaimed----- Aurobindo Mukherjee passed away.
 (1) cricket commentator
 (2) song writer
 (3) news editor
 (4) cartoonist
 (5) film director
- Q.5.** Who has been named as vice-chairman of the Paris-based 'International Chamber of Commerce Commission'?
 (1) Kurma Venu Gopalswamy
 (2) Devendra Singh
 (3) Ehsan Jafri
 (4) Sachindra Chaudhuri
 (5) Pavan Duggal
- Q.6.** The Ministry of Women and Child Development has expanded Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme in additional 61 district (covering 11 states). This Scheme was launched from:-
 (1) Sonipat (2) Karnal
 (3) Panipat (4) Faridabad
 (5) Hisar
- Q.7.** West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee laid the foundation stone of an integrated consumer goods manufacturing unit by ----at Panchla in Howrah.
 (1) ITC
 (2) Haldiram's
 (3) Britannia
 (4) Godrej Consumer Products Limited
 (5) Dabur India Ltd.
- Q.8.** With which of the following institutes the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) to promote entrepreneurship?
 (1) Central Food Technological Research Institute
 (2) Central Drug Research Institute
 (3) Central Institute for Cotton Research
 (4) Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
 (5) Central Leather Research Institute
- Q.9.** Which Latin American country has signed two agreements with North Korea on cooperation in foreign trade and scientific and technological development?
 (1) Venezuela (2) Peru
 (3) Cuba (4) Bolivia
 (5) Brazil
- Q.10.** Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey has been appointed as the Chief ----- for Persons with Disabilities.
 (1) Secretary (2) Executive
 (3) Manager (4) Director
 (5) Commissioner
- Q.11.** Which Union Territory has launched MITRA mobile application to ensure safety and security of women by sending emergency SOS messages when in danger or emergency?
 (1) Puducherry
 (2) Daman and Diu
 (3) Chandigarh
 (4) Andmann and Nicobar
 (5) Lakshdweep
- Q.12.** Which Indian cricketer has broken the most stumping record of 139 by Kumar Sangakkara in international cricket?
 (1) Dinesh Karthik
 (2) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
 (3) Wriddhiman Saha
 (4) Naman Ojha
 (5) Parthiv Patel



Federal Bank has launched the facility of Funds Transfer through Missed Call system.

Q.13. Senior journalist T. N. GopaKumar passed away recently. He belongs to:-

- (1) Kerala
- (2) Karnataka
- (3) Tamil Nadu
- (4) Madhya Pradesh
- (5) Andhra Pradesh

Q.14. By how much per cent the Government has marginally revised downward the economic growth for 2014-15?

- (1) 0.1
- (2) 0.2
- (3) 0.3
- (4) 0.4
- (5) 0.5

Q.15. Professor Morton Mower (US) and Sir Michael Marmot (UK) has recently been conferred with the Prince Mahidol Award 2015. This award is given in the field of:-

- (1) International Politics
- (2) Astronomy
- (3) International Peace
- (4) Medicine and public health
- (5) Nuclear Physics

Q.16. Angelique Kerber, has been ranked sixth in the world claimed her first Australian Open Women's singles title by defeating World No.1 Serena Williams. Kerber is a -----origin player

- (1) Spanish
- (2) French
- (3) German
- (4) Russian
- (5) British

Q.17. Vice Admiral Girish Luthra has taken over charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the ----- Naval Command.

- (1) Northern
- (2) Southern
- (3) Eastern
- (4) Western
- (5) Central

Q.18. Which other film along with "Mad Max: Fury Road" has bagged two awards at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts' International Awards?

- (1) Carol
- (2) Spotlight
- (3) The Revenant
- (4) Room
- (5) The Big Short

Q.19. Who has been chosen for the 'K Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2015' for his contribution towards social justice as Chief Minister?

- (1) Anandi Ben
- (2) Devendra Fadanavis
- (3) Nitish Kumar
- (4) Shivraj Singh Chauhan
- (5) Vasundhara Raje

Q.20. Who has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Mexico?

- (1) Vijay Gokhale
- (2) Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi
- (3) Rengaraj Viswanathan
- (4) Amarendra Khatua
- (5) Ravi Bangar

Q.21. Which country's new parliament has elected U. Win Myint as Speaker of the House of Representatives?

- (1) Afghanistan
- (2) Thailand
- (3) Cambodia
- (4) Myanmar
- (5) Singapore

Q.22. This country has inaugurated its new parliament, in which the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) holds an absolute majority, putting an end to over 60 years of legislative control by the nationalist Kuomintang party (KMT). Name this country?

- (1) Afghanistan
- (2) Myanmar
- (3) Taiwan
- (4) Thailand
- (5) South Korea

Q.23. Which place in India has been selected for the first 'Spaceward Bound Program 2016' of NASA?

- (1) Siachin
- (2) Ooty
- (3) Jodhpur
- (4) Allahabad
- (5) Laddakh

Q.24. Who has won his sixth Australian Open Men's Singles title recently?

- (1) Novak Djokovic
- (2) Andy Murray
- (3) Roger Federer
- (4) Rafael Nadal
- (5) Jimmy Connors

Q.25. Indian badminton Star Kidambi Srikanth has won Syed Modi International Badminton Championship by defeating Huang Yuxian of ----- in the final.

- (1) Thailand
- (2) S. Korea
- (3) Japan
- (4) China
- (5) Malaysia

Q.26. Frank Finlay, Oscar nominated ----- Actor known for 'Othello' passed away recently.

- (1) French
- (2) Japanese
- (3) British
- (4) German
- (5) Italian

Q.27. Which Indian batsman has claimed the top spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) latest T20 batting rankings?

- (1) Rohit Sharma
- (2) Virat Kohli
- (3) Shikhar Dhawan
- (4) Ravichandran Ashwin
- (5) Ravindra Jadeja

Q.28. India has approved how many small development projects in Afghanistan in third phase?

- (1) 62
- (2) 72
- (3) 82
- (4) 92
- (5) 102

Q.29. Which U-19 Indian batsman has scored fastest Under-19 World Cup fifty recently in the last group match against Nepal?

- (1) Ishan Kishan
- (2) Amandeep Khare
- (3) Rishabh Pant
- (4) Mayank Dagar
- (5) Anmolpreet Singh

Q.30. Who among the following has been appointed as Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), becoming the first woman to head a paramilitary force?

- (1) Omita Paul
- (2) Kavery Banerjee
- (3) Archana Ramasundaram
- (4) Vijayalakshmy K. Gupta
- (5) Sujata Mehta



Q.31. Recently Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu Inaugurated the IREPS. What does IREPS stand for?

- (1) Indian Rural E-Procurement System
- (2) Indian Railways E-Procurement System
- (3) Indian Railways E-Purchase System
- (4) Indian Railways E-Procurement Solution
- (5) Info Rail E-Procurement System

Q.32. What is the name of the Google's parent company, which left behind the Apple as the most valuable company in the world in terms of market capitalisation?

- (1) Accenture (2) Alienware
- (3) Sprint (4) Alphabet
- (5) Razer

Q.33. The Reserve Bank of India has kept the policy rates unchanged in its ----- bi-monthly monetary policy.

- (1) second (2) third
- (3) fourth (4) fifth
- (5) sixth

Q.34. Who among the following has been appointed as a Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank?

- (1) Dhanendra Kumar
- (2) Saroj Kumar Jha
- (3) Subhash Chandra Garg
- (4) S. Jaishankar
- (5) Deepak Mohanty

Q.35. Who has been appointed as the Secretary of Ministry of Tribal Affairs?

- (1) Shyam S. Agarwal
- (2) Anil Swaroop
- (3) R. Vijay Kumar
- (4) Shailesh Nayak
- (5) Ranglal Jamuda

Q.36. Song Young-han defeated American star Jordan Spieth to win SMBC Singapore Open title. He belongs to:-

- (1) Japan (2) China
- (3) S. Korea (4) Thailand
- (5) Taiwan

Q.37. Which agency of the government of India has entered into two bilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with United Kingdom, recently?

- (1) Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)
- (2) Enforcement Directorate (ED)
- (3) Department Of Economic Affairs (DEA)
- (4) Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)
- (5) Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

Q.38. Chinese authorities have named an asteroid after 2015 Nobel winning scientist Tu Youyou. She has been awarded the Nobel Prize in the field of-

- (1) Physiology or Medicine
- (2) Chemistry
- (3) Peace
- (4) Literature
- (5) Economics

Q.39. In which among the following states the foundation stone of Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) was laid down at Karad to understand Earthquakes Mechanism in the Koyna Region?

- (1) Karnataka (2) Kerala
- (3) Maharashtra (4) Rajasthan
- (5) Gujarat

Q.40. Which of the following neighbours of India has approved the draft of a proposed Citizenship Law, 2016 expanding scopes for dual citizenship for its expatriate citizens?

- (1) Bhutan (2) Nepal
- (3) Myanmar (4) Pakistan
- (5) Bangladesh

Q.41. To which among the following province of China the World Bank has approved a loan of 100 million US dollars to help build a clean energy heating system?

- (1) Tianjin (2) Shanxi
- (3) Hebei (4) Liaoning
- (5) Jilin

Q.42. NIIF with which Russian company has agreed to set-up the Russia-India High Technology Private Equity Fund for Joint Implementation of Investments into Projects in India?

- (1) Alrosa (2) Rusnano
- (3) Daaz (4) Regnum
- (5) Rusal

Q.43. India and Brunei has recently signed 3 Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to deepen bilateral cooperation in health, defence and on cooperation in youth and sports affairs in the Brunei capital. What is the capital of Brunei?

- (1) Phnom Penh
- (2) Vientiane
- (3) Port Moresby
- (4) Bandar Seri Begawan
- (5) Naypyidaw

Q.44. At which of the following places a unique MAGIC (Modular, Agile, Intensified & Continuous) Process Lab has been inaugurated?

- (1) Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow,
- (2) Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi
- (3) National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune
- (4) National Aerospace Laboratory (NAL), Bangalore,
- (5) Indian Institute of Toxicological Research (IITR), Lucknow,



Shailesh has been appointed as Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.

Q.45. At which of the following places the Counter-Terrorism Conference- 2016 was organised?

- (1) Jaipur (2) Jodhpur
- (3) Jaisalmer (4) Patiala
- (5) Amritsar

Q.46. Veteran Urdu short story writer, poet and journalist Intizar Husain passed away. He belonged to-

- (1) Bangladesh (2) Pakistan
- (3) Afghanistan (4) Indonesia
- (5) Malaysia

Q.47. Former Congress Leader Balram Jakhar passed away recently. He held the post of:-

- (1) Finance Minister
- (2) Union Health Minister
- (3) Lok Sabha speaker
- (4) Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission
- (5) Chairman of Finance Commission

Q.48. Russia's state arms trader Rosoboronexport has provided India with the final consignment of -----helicopters.

- (1) Mi-26(T)
- (2) Ka-32A11BC
- (3) RACHEL
- (4) ANSAT
- (5) Mi-17V-5

Q.49. To which ministry the cabinet has given its approval to allow it to form joint venture (JV) companies with the state governments to mobilize resources for undertaking projects in states?

- (1) Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises
- (2) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
- (3) Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
- (4) Ministry of Railways
- (5) Ministry of Food Processing Industries

Q.50. For what duration a supernumerary post in the rank of air marshal has been created in the Indian Air Force?

- (1) 10 months (2) 13 months
- (3) 17 months (4) 19 months
- (5) 22 months

Q.51. What is the extended tenure of Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC) as per the Joint Declaration signed between India and Germany?

- (1) 2015-2020
- (2) 2017-2022
- (3) 2016-2021
- (4) 2018-2023
- (5) 2019-2024

Q.52. Chief of the Army Staff, of which neighbouring country has been conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army by the President of India recently?

- (1) Bangladesh
- (2) Bhutan
- (3) Nepal
- (4) Sri Lanka
- (5) Myanmar

Q.53. Who has been appointed as the head of Mission and Force Commander of the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) stationed in Golan to maintain the ceasefire between Israeli and Syrian forces?

- (1) Om Prakash Malhotra
- (2) Amit Sharma
- (3) Manoj M. Naravane
- (4) Jai Shanker Menon
- (5) Praveen Bakshi

Q.54. India with which of the following countries has signed an agreement for cooperation on a coordinated grant competition for conducting basic and exploratory scientific research?

- (1) France
- (2) Germany
- (3) United Kingdom
- (4) Russia
- (5) Japan

Q.55. With which of the following countries India has signed a Protocol recently amending the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with that country?

- (1) Albania (2) Romania
- (3) Armenia (4) Estonia
- (5) Lithuania

Q.56. Veteran actress Rekha has been honored with the Yash Chopra Memorial Award recently. Which among the following states has conferred this award on her?

- (1) Punjab
- (2) Gujarat
- (3) Madhya Pradesh
- (4) Tamil Nadu
- (5) Maharashtra

Q.57. Rajasthan has become the third State to sign the MoU under UDAY scheme, which of the following are the other two States?

- (1) Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh
- (2) Jharkhand and Karnataka
- (3) Odisha and Chhattisgarh
- (4) Odisha and Gujarat
- (5) Jharkhand and Maharashtra

Q.58. Which Indian origin dentist in Melbourne has been honoured with the highest civilian honour, the Order of Australia?

- (1) Raman Bedi
- (2) Sajeew Koshy
- (3) Jayant Patel
- (4) Chennupati Jagadish
- (5) Jay Chandra

Q.59. After how many years India has regained its No. 1 ICC Test ranking recently?

- (1) Two (2) Three
- (3) Four (4) Five
- (5) Six



American documentary on Malala Yousafzai, has been nominated for BAFTA award.

Q.60. Which organisation has named the Netherlands pair of Robert Van Der Horst and Lidewij Welten as the 2015 Players of the Year in the men's and women's categories respectively?

- (1) The International Olympic Committee.
- (2) The International Golf Federation.
- (3) The International Table Tennis Federation.
- (4) World Squash Federation
- (5) The International Hockey Federation.

Q.61. Famous ----- Actor Abe Vigoda passed away recently.

- (1) British (2) American
- (3) French (4) Italian
- (5) Australian

Q.62. Which state government has launched special weekly free clinics for women to provide free check up, treatment, tests and medicines?

- (1) Madhya Pradesh
- (2) Karnataka
- (3) Jharkhand
- (4) Tamil Nadu
- (5) Maharashtra

Q.63. Which country has been ranked number one in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index?

- (1) Norway (2) Finland
- (3) Denmark (4) Sweden
- (5) Netherland

Q.64. Union Minister Thaawarchand Gehlot launched an exclusive job portal for Persons with

Disabilities (PwDs). What portfolio he holds?

- (1) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (2) Ministry of Rural Development
- (3) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (4) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
- (5) Ministry Human Resource Development

Q.65. Ministry of Railways has signed two Separate Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with which of the following two state governments for "Formation of Joint Venture Companies for Development of Railway Infrastructure in these States?"

- (1) Kerala and Andhra Pradesh
- (2) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
- (3) Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh
- (4) Telangana and Andhra Pradesh
- (5) Kerala and Karnataka

Q.66. Who has been appointed as Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh by the Supreme Court of India recently?

- (1) Swatantra Singh
- (2) N.K. Mehrotra
- (3) Sanjay Mishra
- (4) Rajeshwar Singh
- (5) Murtza Hussain

Q.67. David Warner of Australia has won the Allan Border Medal for the first time and also the 'Test Player of the Year'

award. What role he has in the Australian cricket team?

- (1) Captain
- (2) Vice-captain
- (3) Vicket Keeper
- (4) Fast Bowler
- (5) Test Captain

Q.68. Indian activist Henri Tiphagne is the first Indian to receive the Amnesty International Human Rights Award 2016. Which arm of Amnesty International confers Human Rights Award?

- (1) United Kingdom
- (2) France
- (3) Switzerland
- (4) Germany
- (5) Italy

Q.69. The International Hockey Federation (FIH) announced Ireland's South African coach ----- as 2015's Coach of the Year in men's category.

- (1) Claude Julien
- (2) Craig Fulton
- (3) Dave Cameron
- (4) Barry Trotz
- (5) Paul Maurice

Q.70. A book "Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition" on the partition of India in 1947 and its fatal consequences has won a 'William E. Colby Award 2016' in US. Who is the author of this book?

- (1) Dinesh D'souza
- (2) Vikram Amar
- (3) Aasif Mandvi
- (4) Suketu Mehta
- (5) Nisid Hajari

ANSWER PART - A

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Q.1.(2) | Q.2.(4) | Q.3.(3) | Q.4.(5) | Q.5.(2) | Q.6.(3) | Q.7.(1) | Q.8.(4) | Q.9.(3) | Q.10.(5) |
| Q.11.(1) | Q.12.(2) | Q.13.(1) | Q.14.(1) | Q.15.(4) | Q.16.(3) | Q.17.(2) | Q.18.(1) | Q.19.(3) | Q.20.(2) |
| Q.21.(4) | Q.22.(3) | Q.23.(5) | Q.24.(1) | Q.25.(4) | Q.26.(3) | Q.27.(2) | Q.28.(4) | Q.29.(3) | Q.30.(3) |
| Q.31.(2) | Q.32.(4) | Q.33.(5) | Q.34.(2) | Q.35.(1) | Q.36.(3) | Q.37.(4) | Q.38.(1) | Q.39.(3) | Q.40.(5) |
| Q.41.(3) | Q.42.(2) | Q.43.(4) | Q.44.(3) | Q.45.(1) | Q.46.(2) | Q.47.(3) | Q.48.(5) | Q.49.(4) | Q.50.(3) |
| Q.51.(2) | Q.52.(3) | Q.53.(4) | Q.54.(4) | Q.55.(3) | Q.56.(5) | Q.57.(1) | Q.58.(2) | Q.59.(4) | Q.60.(5) |
| Q.61.(2) | Q.62.(1) | Q.63.(3) | Q.64.(4) | Q.65.(1) | Q.66.(3) | Q.67.(2) | Q.68.(4) | Q.69.(2) | Q.70.(5) |



Salihu Zaway Uba is the new force commander for the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL).



Q.71. India has overtaken which country to become the world's largest rice exporter in 2015?

- (1) China (2) Malaysia
(3) Thailand (4) Vietnam
(5) Brazil

Q.72. The list of 20 smart cities out of the 98 shortlisted for the 'Smart Cities Mission' has been released to receive funds. What is the total number of capital cities under this mission?

- (1) 24 (2) 18
(3) 16 (4) 22
(5) 12

Q.73. For the capital cities of which of the following two states Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$80-million loan agreement with the Centre to help continue improving infrastructure?

- (1) Nagaland and Manipur
(2) Manipur and Mizoram
(3) Mizoram and Tripura
(4) Tripura and Manipur
(5) Meghalaya and Mizoram

Q.74. Who among the following headed the Expenditure Management Commission which submitted its final report to the government recently?

- (1) Vijay L. Kelkar
(2) Bimal Jalan
(3) Urjit Patel
(4) Usha Thorat
(5) Deepak Mohanty

Q.75. Who among the following has become the first women

to be appointed as CMD in Insurance Sector in India after being appointed as the CMD of GIC Re?

- (1) Kalpana Morparia
(2) Bala Deshpande
(3) Alice Vaidyan
(4) Renuka Ramnath
(5) Kaku Nakhate

Q.76. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas ----- has launched online payment facility of cylinder at the time of booking.

- (1) Dharmendra Pradhan
(2) Kalraj Mishra
(3) Jagat Prakash Nadda
(4) Prakash Javadekar
(5) Jitendra Singh

Q.77. Which among the following represents correct names of Indian cities for which their respective state governments has signed MoUs under the 'Smart city' theme during India-France Business Summit at Chandigarh?

- (1) Chandigarh, Bangluru and Pondicherry
(2) Chandigarh, Nagpur and Pondicherry
(3) Varanasi, Nagpur and Pondicherry
(4) Chandigarh, Nagpur and Lucknow
(5) Chandigarh, Hyderabad and Pondicherry

Q.78. Who among the following has been included in the winners list of 118

personalities of the Padma awards for the year 2016?

- (1) Anupam Kher
(2) Rajinikanth
(3) Sania Mirza
(4) Priyanka Chopra
(5) All of the above

Q.79. Popular ----- film actress Kalpana passed away recently.

- (1) Telugu (2) Tamil
(3) Kannada (4) Malayalam
(5) Bengali

Q.80. Which of the following cities hosted the first T20 Asia cup cricket for Blind, in which India defeated Pakistan by 44 runs?

- (1) Chennai (2) Bengluru
(3) Kochi (4) Coimbtore
(5) Nagpur

Q.81. P. V. Sindhu has clinched her second Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold title after defeating Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in the final. P. V. Sindhu is associated with which among the following sports?

- (1) Tennis
(2) Badminton
(3) Table Tennis
(4) Swimming
(5) Squash

Q.82. Who among the following has been elected as the next President of Portugal?

- (1) Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
(2) Nouri Abusahmain
(3) Atifete Jahjaga
(4) Raul Khajimba
(5) Petro Poroshenko



Reserve Bank of India has set up a Depositor Education and Awareness Fund.

Q.83. Ning Zetao and Liu Hong has won the Award for Best Male and Female Athlete of the Year at China's Central Television (CCTV) Sports Awards. They respectively are:-

- (1) Footballer, Swimmer
- (2) Swimmer, Footballer
- (3) Shuttler, Boxer
- (4) Swimmer, Race Walker
- (5) Shuttler, Swimmer

Q.84. Indian- origin imam Muhammad Shahid Raza has been conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Leicester in ---- in recognition of his work for his local community.

- (1) London (2) Paris
- (3) Berlin (4) Lisbon
- (5) California

Q.85. Which british author has been announced as winner of the PEN/Allen Foundation Literary Service Award 2016?

- (1) Robert Macfarlane
- (2) Jon McGregor
- (3) J. K. Rowling
- (4) Ivan Morris
- (5) Vanessa Walters

Q.86. In which country India will set up a satellite tracking and imaging centre that will give its capital access to pictures from Indian earth observation satellites covering China and the South China Sea?

- (1) Thailand (2) Vietnam
- (3) Malaysia (4) Cambodia
- (5) Myanmar

Q.87. Which ministry has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Department of Telecommunication (DoT) to develop and implement National Action Plan for Skill Development in Telecom Sector?

- (1) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- (2) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- (3) Ministry of Small Medium Enterprises
- (4) Ministry of Rural Development
- (5) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Q.88. FIPB recently cleared Thirteen FDI proposals totaling Rs 6,500 crore. FIPB stands for-

- (1) Foreign Investment Promotion Board
- (2) Foreign Industries Promotion Board
- (3) Forex Investment Protection Board
- (4) Foreign Institutional Promotion Board
- (5) Fertilizer Industry Promotion Board

Q.89. Eminent ----- player Pandit Shankar Ghosh passed away.

- (1) Flute (2) Harmonium
- (3) Sarod (4) Tabla
- (5) Guitar

Q.90. To which Telugu star the Star Sports Pro Kabaddi has signed as brand ambassador for the third season?

- (1) Allu Arjun
- (2) Ravi Teja
- (3) Rana Daggubati
- (4) Nandamuri Ballkrishna
- (5) Arjun Sarja

Q.91. Who among the following has been appointed as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India?

- (1) Ravi Chellam
- (2) Anupam Mishra
- (3) Chandi Prasad Bhatt
- (4) Mohan Dharia
- (5) Anil Prakash Joshi

Q.92. From which among the following places the Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar hoisted the largest flag of the country atop the tallest pole?

- (1) India Gate, New Delhi
- (2) Sabarmati Ashram, Ahmedabad
- (3) Mehrangarh, Jodhpur
- (4) Pahari Mandir, Ranchi
- (5) Visa God temple, Hyderabad

Q.93. Who among the following flagged off the first test run of Rs.5,180 crore Kochi Metro rail project?

- (1) J. Jayalitha
- (2) Oommen Chandy
- (3) Siddaramaiah
- (4) E. Sreedharan
- (5) Suresh Prabhu

Q.94. Which Indian origin person has bagged the Oscar Award with Richard Chuang in the category of 'groundbreaking design'?

- (1) Vashtie Kola
- (2) Bibhu Mohapatra
- (3) Rachel Roy
- (4) Omi Vaidya
- (5) Rahul Thakkar

Q.95. Which Railway station in India has become the first ever station to have high – speed wi-fi internet facility?

- (1) Bangaluru City Station
- (2) Chennai Central Station
- (3) Mumbai Central Station
- (4) Kanpur Central Station
- (5) Varanasi Central Station

Q.96. Shivnarine Chanderpaul has announced his retirement from international cricket. He belongs to-

- (1) New Zealand
- (2) South Africa
- (3) England
- (4) West Indies
- (5) Australia



Veteran gospel performer and songwriter Andrae Crouch passed away in Los Angeles.

Q.97. What is the rank of India in the inaugural list of the world's best countries, released on the sidelines of WEF Annual Meeting?

- (1) 22nd (2) 24th
(3) 26th (4) 28th
(5) 30th

Q.98. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) allowed banks to sell India Gold Coins (IGC) with ----- manufactured by public sector MMTC Ltd.

- (1) Mahatma Gandhi
(2) Lions Capitol
(3) Ashok Chakra
(4) Red Fort
(5) RBI logo

Q.99. Who has been appointed as Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

- (1) A. K. Jain
(2) Atulesh Jindal
(3) C.R. Viswanath
(4) P.K. Pujari
(5) P.K. Sinha

Q.100. 'Mahamana Express' was recently flagged off by the Prime Minister from-

- (1) Allahabad
(2) Meerut
(3) Kanpur
(4) Lucknow
(5) Varanasi

Q.101. What is the medium term and long term duration of Gold Monetisation Schemes for which the RBI has allowed depositors to withdraw prematurely after the minimum lock-in period?

- (1) 1-3 year and 4-7 years
(2) 2-4 year and 5-8 years
(3) 3-5 year and 6-9 years
(4) 5-7 year and 12-15 years
(5) 6-8 year and 9-15 years

Q.102. Umaid Bhawan Palace in ----- has been declared world's best hotel in the Travellers' choice awards by the world's biggest travel site TripAdvisor.

- (1) Jaipur (2) Jodhpur
(3) Nagpur (4) Hyderabad
(5) Lucknow

Q.103. To which of the following sports firm the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has signed as its marketing rights partner for the next two years?

- (1) IOS Sports & Entertainment
(2) SPT Sports Management
(3) Percept Sport
(4) Rhiti Sports
(5) Procam

Q.104. Which U-15 badminton player has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Life Insurance Company PNB Metlife India?

- (1) Neha Pandit
(2) Rituparna Das
(3) Ruthvika Shiva
(4) Vaishnavi Reddy
(5) Dhanya Nair

Q.105. Lleyton Hewitt who announced his retirement from tennis recently belongs to which country?

- (1) Australia
(2) Austria
(3) Switzerland
(4) France
(5) Spain

Q.106. Who among the following has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Moldova?

- (1) Pierre Nkurunziza
(2) Augustin Matata Ponyo
(3) Pavel Filip
(4) Ibrahim Mahlab
(5) Sherif Ismail

Q.107. ONGC Videsh Ltd, has entered into an agreement with which African Nation for cooperation in upstream hydrocarbon sector?

- (1) Nigeria (2) Egypt
(3) Libya (4) Algeria
(5) Equatorial Guinea

Q.108. With which among the following institutions India has signed a Financing Agreement of US\$ 250

million for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project?

- (1) IMF (2) ADB
(3) World Bank (4) WTO
(5) UNDP

Q.109. With which among the following institutions Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes?

- (1) Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research
(2) Israel Institute of Scientific Research
(3) Iran Institute of Scientific Research
(4) Kenya Institute of Scientific Research
(5) Korean Institute of Scientific Research

Q.110. Padma Bhushan awardee Mrinalini Sarabhai recently passed away at Ahmedabad. She was a-

- (1) Classical dancer
(2) Classical Singer
(3) Choreographer
(4) Both (1) and (2)
(5) Both (1) and (3)

Q.111. Which among the following states has honored Music maestro Ilaiyaraaja with the prestigious 'Nishagandhi Puraskaram' in recognition of his valuable contribution to Indian film music?

- (1) Karnataka
(2) Tamil Nadu
(3) Maharashtra
(4) Kerala
(5) Gujarat

Q.112. Uttar Pradesh recently won Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for the first time. To which of the following teams did Uttar Pradesh defeated?

- (1) Hyderabad
(2) Baroda
(3) Maharashtra
(4) Bengal
(5) Gujarat



Maria Sharapova won Brisbane International tennis tournament.

Q.113. MRF Tyres will be the Global Partner of ICC for all world cricket events during-

- (1) 2016-17 (2) 2016-18
(3) 2016-19 (4) 2016-20
(5) 2016-21

Q.114. National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL), has got the highest corporate credit rating of 'CCR AAA' from Crisil. NSCCL is a wholly owned subsidiary of-

- (1) BSE (2) NSE
(3) NCDEX (4) MCX
(5) OTCEI

Q.115. Government of which country has exclusively offered to India for transfer of biofarming technology and also exchange of cooperation in the health sector?

- (1) Mauritius (2) Israel
(3) Germany (4) Iran
(5) Korea

Q.116. The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and NASA has announced that 2015 was by far the hottest year in 136 years of record keeping. That was -----above the 20-century average.

- (1) 0.62°F (2) 0.92°F
(3) 1.12°F (4) 1.32°F
(5) 1.62°F

Q.117. According to an annual report of the UNCTAD, Global FDI flows during 2015 has increased by-

- (1) 26 per cent
(2) 36 per cent
(3) 22 per cent
(4) 32 per cent
(5) 28 per cent

Q.118. According to an ILO study, what was unemployment rate of India during 2014-2015?

- (1) 1.5 per cent
(2) 2.5 per cent
(3) 3.5 per cent
(4) 4.5 per cent
(5) 5.5 per cent

Q.119. Which organisation has decreased its global economic growth forecast for 2016 to 3.4 percent?

- (1) World Bank
(2) World Trade Organisation
(3) International Monetary Fund
(4) World Economic Forum
(5) Asian Development Bank

Q.120. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched India's ---- navigation satellite IRNSS-1E powered by PSLV - C31 rocket.

- (1) first (2) second
(3) third (4) fourth
(5) fifth

Q.121. The first Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) has been inaugurated at which of the following places?

- (1) Imphal (2) Shilong
(3) Darjeeling (4) Guwahati
(5) Aizwal

Q.122. Which Indian neighbour has conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed nuclear capable cruise missile Ra'ad with a range of 350 kms?

- (1) Pakistan (2) Sri Lanka
(3) Myanmar (4) China
(5) Malaysia

Q.123. Amina J. Mohammed, who will serve the next chair of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) is the environment minister of which of the following country?

- (1) Nigeria
(2) Argentina
(3) Liberia
(4) Kenya
(5) Turkey

Q.124. India with which country has agreed to strengthen economic cooperation in infrastructure and financial services to address cross-border tax evasion and avoidance?

- (1) Netherland
(2) France
(3) UK
(4) Germany
(5) Italy

Q.125. How much expenditure has been approved by the Cabinet for Solar projects?

- (1) Rs. 3,050 crore
(2) Rs. 3,030 crore
(3) Rs. 4,050 crore
(4) Rs. 5,050 crore
(5) Rs. 4,090 crore

ANSWER PART - B

- Q.71.(3) Q.72.(1) Q.73.(3) Q.74.(2) Q.75.(3) Q.76.(1) Q.77.(2) Q.78.(5) Q.79.(4) Q.80.(3)
Q.81.(2) Q.82.(1) Q.83.(4) Q.84.(1) Q.85.(3) Q.86.(2) Q.87.(2) Q.88.(1) Q.89.(4) Q.90.(3)
Q.91.(1) Q.92.(4) Q.93.(2) Q.94.(5) Q.95.(3) Q.96.(4) Q.97.(1) Q.98.(3) Q.99.(2) Q.100.(5)
Q.101.(4) Q.102.(2) Q.103.(1) Q.104.(4) Q.105.(1) Q.106.(3) Q.107.(5) Q.108.(3) Q.109.(1) Q.110.(5)
Q.111.(4) Q.112.(2) Q.113.(4) Q.114.(2) Q.115.(1) Q.116.(5) Q.117.(2) Q.118.(3) Q.119.(3) Q.120.(5)
Q.121.(2) Q.122.(1) Q.123.(1) Q.124.(3) Q.125.(4)



Vistara airline, a joint venture of Tata-SIA, started its flight operation in India.



Q.126. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Dr. Harsh Vardhan is Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare.
- (B) He dedicated to the nation the System of Aerosol Monitoring And Research.
- (C) SAMAR is user-friendly website of India Meteorological Department.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.127. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India-Palestine Digital Learning and Innovation Centre has been inaugurated at Al Quds University.
- (B) Al Quds University is situated in Ramallah.
- (C) Ramallah is a city of Israel.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.128. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The International Cricket Council (ICC) has launched 'Cricket for Good' programme.
- (B) Cricket for Good, is a CSR Programme, launched in association with Government of India.
- (C) The five-year global partnership was announced in October 2015 in New York.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.129. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Ministry of Environment has started 'Project Green Ports'.

- (B) 'Project Green Ports' has two verticals - 'Green Ports Initiatives' and 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan'.

- (C) Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, 20 activities has been identified to promote cleanliness at the port premises.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.130. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Shillong Geophysical Research Centre is the first centre of Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) in the North-East.
- (B) The Shillong Geophysical Research Centre has been set up at an estimated cost of Rs 5 crore.
- (C) It is third such centre in the country.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.131. Consider the following statements:

- (A) 'National Tariff Policy for Electricity' aims to prevent power theft.
- (B) It is binding on the regulators to take regulatory decisions as per the amended policy not on the basis of need.
- (C) A major addition to the objective of the policy are promotion of renewable generation sources.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.132. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Eko, has launched Indo-Nepal remittance services in partnership with Prabhu Money Group of Nepal.



SBI Quick facility has been started to get balance or a mini statement on mobile phones.

(B) This is Eko's first international tie-up for remittance services.

(C) A remitter can do transactions of Rs 50,000 per day and is allowed up to 12 transactions in a year.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.133. Consider the following statements:

(A) India and the UK have agreed to strengthen their economic cooperation.

(B) Both the countries has promised to address cross-border tax evasion and avoidance.

(C) India has promised to open up the Indian legal sector to foreign lawyers.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.134. Consider the following statements:

(A) Pandit Ram Narayan has been chosen for the Pandit Bhimsen Joshi classical music award for 2015-2016.

(B) Pandit Ram Narayan is a sarangi player.

(C) Pandit Bhimsen Joshi classical music award is given by the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only A and B
(4) Only C (5) All A, B and C

Q.135. Consider the following statements:

(A) Prime Minister launched a book 'The Z Factor: My Journey as the Wrong Man at the Right Time' recently.

(B) This book is an autobiography of Essel Group Chairman Dr Subhash Chandra.

(C) Dr Chandra, revolutionised the television industry by launching the country's first satellite Hindi channel STAR in 1992.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only A and B
(4) Only C (5) All A, B and C

Q.136. Who has won Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Year Award?

- (1) Arjun Atwal (2) Jyoti Randhawa
(3) Anirban Lahiri (4) Jeev Milkha Singh
(5) Gaganjeet Bhullar

Q.137. Who has been appointed as High Commissioner to India by Australia?

- (1) Mr. Navdeep Suri (2) Smt. Sujatha Singh
(3) Shri Biren Nanda (4) Sunil Kumar Arora
(5) Harinder Sidhu

Q.138. How many agreements have been signed by India and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)?

- (1) Six (2) Seven
(3) Eight (4) Nine
(5) Ten

Q.139. Consider the following statements:

(A) Prime Minister flagged off a train connecting Varanasi and Delhi.

(B) The superfast express train is named as, Mahamana Express.

(C) All the coaches of the model train have been manufactured in a Bhopal coach factory.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B
(3) Only C (4) All A, B and C
(5) None of these

Q.140. Dr. Jitendra Singh recently inaugurated the "Hall of Nuclear Power" exhibition. Which among the following ministry he holds?

- (1) MoS (I/C) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER)
(2) MoS PMO
(3) MoS Personnel, Public grievances & Pensions
(4) MoS Atomic Energy & Space
(5) He holds all the above Ministries

Q.141. In which China sponsored bank, India has been elected to the Board of Directors?

- (1) Asiatic Infrastructure Investment Bank
(2) China Infrastructure Investment Bank
(3) Asian Institutional Investment Bank
(4) Chinese Institutional Investment Bank
(5) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

Q.142. Consider the following statements:

(A) ONGC Videsh Ltd has entered into an agreement with Republic of Equatorial Guinea for cooperation in upstream hydrocarbon sector.

(B) The pact was signed on the sidelines of the 4th India-Africa Hydrocarbons Summit.

(C) OVL is India's largest international oil and gas exploration and production company.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and (5) None of these

Q.143. Consider the following statements:

(A) Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar hoisted the largest Tricolour in the country.



Stanislas Wawrinka has won his third Chennai Open title beating Aljaz Bedene in the final.

(B) He hoisted the flag atop the tallest pole at Pahari Mandir in Ranchi.

(C) Flag was hoisted on the occasion of 119th birth anniversary of Jawahar Lal Nehru.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.144. ----- has qualified for the Rio Olympics women's marathon after winning the event in the 12th South Asian Games.

- (1) Priyadarshini (2) Anuradha Biswal
(3) Asha Agarwal (4) Kavita Raut
(5) Geeta Zutshi

Q.145. Consider the following statements:

(A) Minister of Railways, has inaugurated the Wi-Fi service at Mumbai Central Railway station.

(B) It is as a part of Digital India initiative with the help of Rail Tel Corporation in collaboration with Microsoft.

(C) Mumbai Central station has become the second station in India to have high speed internet facility.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B
(3) Only C (4) All A, B and C
(5) None of these

Q.146. The Union Minister of State (I/C) DoNER Dr. Jitendra Singh and Minister of State for Home Affairs, ----- inaugurated the festival 'Destination North-East-2016'.

- (1) Rajiv Pratap Rudy (2) Kiren Rijiju
(3) Prakash Javadekar (4) Piyush Goyal
(5) Sarbananda Sonowal

Q.147. Which country for the first time, has launched an online system to check the "authenticity" of top Tibetan Buddhist monks, amid growing incidents of fraud involving religious leaders?

- (1) Bhutan (2) China
(3) Myanmar (4) Nepal
(5) Thailand

Q.148. On which among the following personalities London School of Economics has released archival documents to mark his 125th birth anniversary?

- (1) Dr. K. R. Narayanan (2) Krishna Menon
(3) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar (4) Meghnad Desai
(5) C. R. Pattabhiraman

Q.149. Which country is at the top of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce International IP Index "Infinite Possibilities" released by GIPC?

- (1) USA (2) India
(3) Switzerland (4) Sweden
(5) Venezuela

Q.150. Consider the following statements:

(A) Henri Tiphagne has been named the winner of the eighth Human Rights Award.

(B) Human Rights Award is given by Amnesty International Paris.

(C) Henri Tiphagne has set up a organisation named People's Watch.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.151. Consider the following statements:

(A) Commemorative Coins of Rs 100 and a Circulation Coins of Rs 10 has been released on Late Lala Lajpat Rai.

(B) The coins were released by the Ministry of Tourism.

(C) This was the 150th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.152. Consider the following statements:

(A) India test fired surface-to-air Akash from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur.

(B) Akash, has a strike range of 299 km.

(C) Akash is can fly at supersonic speed ranging from Mach 2.8 to 3.5.

(D) The missile was formally inducted into the Indian Air Force in January 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only A and C
(3) Only A and D (4) Only C and D
(5) All A, B, C and D

Q.153. Which Indian businessman has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering based in USA?

- (1) Anil Ambani (2) Azim Premji
(3) Mukesh Ambani (4) Anil Agarwal
(5) Sunil Mittal

Q.154. Justice Dharendra Hiralal Waghela has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the -----High Court.



According to World Bank Indian economy is likely to grow at 6.4 per cent in 2015.

- (1) Madras
(3) Calcutta
(5) Jabalpur
- (2) Bombay
(4) Chhattisgarh

Q.155. Consider the following statements:

- (A) A team of scientists from NASA, Australia and India, will mount an expedition in Ladakh.
- (B) This will study the similarities of the region's topography and microbial life to Martian surroundings.
- (C) India's second mission to Mars is scheduled to be launched in 2020.
- (D) India's second mission to Mars will involve collaboration with France.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B
(3) Only A and D
(5) All A, B, C and D
- (2) Only A and C
(4) Only C and D

Q.156. Consider the following statements:

- (A) This Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) is being established at Karad in Maharashtra.
- (B) This will study reservoir triggered earthquakes in the Koyna region.
- (C) Earthquakes in the Koyna region were triggered since the impoundment of the Shivaji Sagar Lake in 1962.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A
(3) Only C
(5) None of these
- (2) Only B
(4) All A, B and C

Q.157. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India and Brunei has signed 3 MoUs to deepen bilateral cooperation.
- (B) Vice President Hamid Ansari was on a 3-day visit to Brunei.
- (C) The capital of Brunei is Hanoi.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A
(3) Only C
(5) None of these
- (2) Only B
(4) All A, B and C

Q.158. Consider the following statements:

- (A) A unique MAGIC [Modular, Agile, Intensified & Continuous] Process Lab has been inaugurated recently.
- (B) This facility is situated at National Chemical Laboratory Hyderabad.

(C) MAGIC Process lab is associated with Fine and Specialty Chemicals industry.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B
(3) Only B and C
(5) None of these
- (2) Only A and C
(4) All A, B and C

Q.159. Which stadium will host the final of the Women's Cricket World Cup in 2017?

- (1) Eden Park
(2) Feroz Shah Kotla Ground
(3) The Lord's
(4) Wanderers Stadium
(5) Gaddafi Stadium

Q.160. What is the name of Indo-Nepal Combined Military Exercise held at Pithoragarh?

- (1) Yuddha Kiran IX
(3) Surya Kiran IX
(5) Mitra Kiran IX
- (2) Chandra Kiran IX
(4) Sagar Kiran IX

Q.161. At which place India and China conducted their first joint tactical exercise?

- (1) Barmer
(3) Bhuj
(5) Jaisalmer
- (2) Laddakh
(4) Rann of Kachch

Q.162. In how many languages a 24x7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline has been launched by the Ministry of Tourism & Culture and Ministry of Civil Aviation?

- (1) 10
(2) 12
(3) 13
(4) 15
(5) 18

Q.163. Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda has recently launched Project Sunrise at Imphal. This project is associated with prevention of which of the following disease in the eight North-Eastern states?

- (1) Cancer
(3) Polio
(5) Malaria
- (2) Tuberculosis
(4) AIDS

Q.164. Inter-ministerial HRIDAY National Empowered Committee has approved development of a heritage park in:

- (1) Amaravati
(3) Kazipeth
(5) Krishna
- (2) Warangal
(4) Godavri

Q.165. Which Indian actor has been selected for a video campaign by the World Health Organisation to raise awareness about diabetes in India?

- (1) John Abraham
(2) Abhishek Bachchan
(3) Akshay Kumar
(4) Aamir Khan
(5) Farhan Akhtar



Full form of TMS is Track Management System.



Q.166. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Tsai Ing-wen is the first female president of Taiwan.
- (B) She belonged to ruling party and won the presidency with 56.1% of the votes.
- (C) Runner-up Eric Chu, was the opposition party candidate.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.167. Tamar Hahn is the new director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Buenos Aires. She belongs to:-

- (1) Argentina
- (2) France
- (3) Israel
- (4) Spain
- (5) Turkey

Q.168. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Pakistan has conducted a successful flight test of Ra'ad missile.
- (B) Ra'ad is a nuclear capable cruise missile with a range of 500 kms.
- (C) Ra'ad, is also known as Hatf-VIII.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.169. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) announced that Amina J. Mohammed, will serve as its new chair.
- (B) She is the environment minister of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.
- (C) Mohammed will chair the steering committee and guide the work of WSSCC's Geneva-based secretariat.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.170. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Paul Philip is the new President of Moldova.
- (B) Nicolae Timofti is the Prime Minister of Moldova.
- (C) Capital of Moldova is Chisinau.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.171. What is the name of the world's oldest man who died recently at the age of 112 years in the Japanese city of Nagoya?

- (1) Yasutaro Koide
- (2) Mushatt Jones
- (3) Misao Okawa
- (4) Gertrude Weaver
- (5) Walter Breuning

Q.172. Which country has won the 2016 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) after beating Mali football team 3-0?

- (1) Ghana
- (2) Kenya
- (3) Mozambique
- (4) Congo
- (5) Egypt

Q.173. North Korea launched a long-range rocket from the ----- launch station of North Korea.

- (1) Pyongyang
- (2) Tongchangri
- (3) Kaesong
- (4) Sinuiju
- (5) Nampo

Q.174. NASA Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, was the ----man to walk on the Moon as a lunar module pilot on Apollo 14 Mission in 1971.

- (1) Third
- (2) Fourth
- (3) Fifth
- (4) Sixth
- (5) Seventh

Q.175. Who has been appointed as the commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan?

- (1) John Campbell
- (2) John Nicholson
- (3) Philip Sheridan
- (4) Tasker H. Bliss
- (5) Henry H. Arnold

Q.176. Jimmy Morales has been sworn in as the new president of which country?

- (1) Paraguay
- (2) Uruguay
- (3) Peru
- (4) Guatemala
- (5) Cambodia

Q.177. Who has won the International Woolmark Prize 2015-2016?

- (1) Suket Dhir
- (2) Anita Dongre
- (3) Anju Modi
- (4) Rohit Bal
- (5) Tarun Tahiliani

Q.178. Who has won the European Commission's prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for 2015 in Asia and the Pacific amateur category?

- (1) Ashis Nandy
- (2) Mark Tully
- (3) Ankita Anand
- (4) Arun Shourie
- (5) Gurcharan Das

Q.179. What is the name of the Indian-American Scientist who has won the prestigious National Medal of Science?

- (1) Jagadeesh Moodera
- (2) C. K. Prahalad
- (3) Amit Seth
- (4) Rakesh K. Jain
- (5) Shwetak Patel

Q.180. For which European country China has sent its first communication satellite, Belintersat-1?

- (1) Belarus
- (2) Ukraine
- (3) Poland
- (4) Turkey
- (5) Slovakia



Hamid Ansari inaugurated KR Narayanan National Institute of Visual Sciences & Arts at Kottayam.



Q.181. Consider the following statements:

- (A) National Housing Bank (NHB) is wholly-owned subsidiary of RBI.
- (B) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased shareholding in NHB, by contributing Rs.1,000 crores.
- (C) Shareholding of RBI in the NHB is now Rs.2,450 crore.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.182. NHAI has signed an MoU with which of the following institutions for the use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways?

- (1) NRSC, BRO and NECTAR
- (2) DRDO, ISRO and NECTAR
- (3) IRCON, ISRO and NECTAR
- (4) NRSC, ISRO and NECTAR
- (5) NRSC, RDSO and NECTAR

Q.183. Union Shipping Minister recently inaugurated Mumbai Port Trust's second liquid chemical berth at Pir Pau, Mumbai thereby increasing its capacity by 2.5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum. Who is the present Union Shipping Minister of India?

- (1) Manohar Parrikar
- (2) Suresh Prabhu
- (3) Nitin Gadkari
- (4) DV Sadananda Gowda
- (5) Ravi Shankar Prasad

Q.184. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India, one of the founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).
- (B) AIIB is sponsored by Brazil
- (C) AIIB has 57 countries as founding members.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.185. Which bank has become the first public sector lender to launch wealth management service, to cater to fast-growing affluent segment of the country?

- (1) Punjab National Bank
- (2) Bank of Baroda
- (3) State Bank of India
- (4) Allahabad Bank
- (5) Union Bank of India

Q.186. With which country's Export-Import Bank the State Bank of India has concluded a deal of \$500 million line of credit?

- (1) Japan (2) Korea (3) China
- (4) Brazil (5) Russia

Q.187. What is the total budget outlay of the Neeranchal project which is being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development over a six-year period (2016-21) with World Bank Assistance?

- (1) Rs.1242 crore (2) Rs.1224 crore
- (3) Rs.2421 crore (4) Rs.2142 crore
- (5) Rs.1422 crore

Q.188. Minister of health and family welfare launched four mobile health services- Kilkari, Mobile Academy, M-Cessation and TB Missed Call in New Delhi. Who is the present Minister of health and family welfare?

- (1) J. P. Nadda
- (2) D. V. Sadananda Gowda
- (3) Dr. Najma A. Heptulla
- (4) Dr. Harsh Vardhan
- (5) Dr. Jitendra Singh

Q.189. Consider the following statements:

- (A) National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL), has got the highest corporate credit rating of 'CCR AAA' from Crisil.



China has announced to began the First Tibet language search engine Cloud Tibet.

(B) 'CCR AAA' rating indicates the highest degree of strength with regard to honouring debt obligations.

(C) NSCCL is a wholly owned subsidiary of BSE.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.190. Which among the following organisations has released Global Risks report 2016?

- (1) World Trade Organisation
(2) World Economic Forum
(3) Food and Agricultural Organisation
(4) World Food Programme
(5) UNFCCC

Q.191. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India was ranked 22nd on an inaugural list of the world's best countries.
(B) The list was released by the WTO.
(C) China has been ranked 17th on the list.
(D) Sweden has been placed at the top in this list.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only C and D
(3) Only A and C (4) A, B and C
(5) All A, B, C and D

Q.192. Consider the following statements:

- (A) RBI has allowed banks to sell gold coins manufactured by MMTC Ltd.
(B) MMTC was authorised by the central government to manufacture gold coins with Ashoka Chakra embossed on them.
(C) The India Gold Coin sale scheme was announced in November last year along with gold monetisation and sovereign gold bondschemes.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.193. Which state's commercial tax department has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Directorate General of Foreign

Trade (DGFT) for sharing of foreign exchange realization data?

- (1) Haryana (2) Punjab
(3) Jharkhand (4) Bihar
(5) Odisha

Q.194. Consider the following statements regarding United Nations world economy report:

- (A) China will be the world's fastest growing large economy 2016.
(B) India will grow at 7.3 per cent during 2016.
(C) India's economy, accounts for over 70 per cent of Asia's GDP.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.195. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched online payment facility of cylinder at the time of booking.
(B) Year 2016 has been designated as the "Year of the Consumers" by the ministry.
(C) Dharmendra Pradhan is the Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.196. With which of the following the Cochin Port Trust has entered into an MoU for the running of weekly container train service from Irugur ICD, Coimbatore to ICTT Vallarpadam, Cochin Port.

- (1) IRCON (2) CRIS
(3) RITES Ltd. (4) CONCOR
(5) RVNL

Q.197. In which sector does BTI Payments operate from which the technology giant IBM has bagged a 7-year deal worth USD 40 million?

- (1) a white Label ATM (WLA) operator
(2) a Payment Bankign Solution Provider
(3) an Investment Solution Operator
(4) a Money Transfer Service Provider
(5) a Foreign Exchange operator



Bharathi S. Sihag has been given the additional charge of CMD of NMDC.

Q.198. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India has overtaken Thailand as the world's largest rice exporter in 2015.
- (B) India has shipped 10.23 million tonnes in 2015.
- (C) Vietnam is the third largest producer globally while China is number one importer of rice.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.199. Which company has taken over the management and control of Pipavav Defence and Offshore Engineering Co Ltd (PDOE)?

- (1) Jaiprakash Associates
- (2) Lanco Infratech
- (3) GMR Infrastructure
- (4) Reliance Infrastructure Ltd.
- (5) Hindustan Construction Company

Q.200. How much amount has been extended by the World Bank for reconstruction of Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh?

- (1) \$ 10 million (2) \$ 20 million
- (3) \$ 30 million (4) \$ 40 million
- (5) \$ 50 million

Q.201. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India's economy grew 7.5 per cent in 2014-15.
- (B) The official data showed that in 2013-14, GDP grew at 6.9 per cent.
- (C) Now, the practice of estimating GDP at factor cost has been done away with.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.202. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Mauritius will start automatic exchange of tax information with other nations only from September 2018.
- (B) Once the standard is in force, there would be stringent measures to curb illicit fund flows.
- (C) Initially, Mauritius was to implement the standard from January 1, 2015.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.203. Consider the following statements:

- (A) China has flagged off a train from its trading hub of Yiwu to Tehran.
- (B) The container train will cover a journey of 10,399 km.
- (C) Yiwu is already connected by trains that head for Duisburg in Germany and Madrid.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.204. According to World Tourism Barometer released by World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), what is the recorded growth in international tourist arrivals during 2015?

- (1) 4.4 percent (2) 5.4 percent
- (3) 6.4 percent (4) 7.4 percent
- (5) 8.4 percent

Q.205. Which project has been launched by the Ministry of Shipping to make the Major Ports across India cleaner and greener?

- (1) 'Project Smart Ports'
- (2) 'Project Green Ports'
- (3) 'Project Swachh Ports'
- (4) 'Project Clean Ports'
- (5) 'Project True Ports'

Q.206. What is the maximum percentage of premium for foodgrains and oilseeds crops and for horticulture/cotton crops respectively under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana?

- (1) 3 per cent, 5 per cent
- (2) 2 per cent, 3 per cent
- (3) 5 per cent, 2 per cent
- (4) 2 per cent, 5 per cent
- (5) 3 per cent, 2 per cent

Q.207. At which of the following places petrochemical complex of Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited was dedicated to the nation by the Prime Minister?

- (1) Mankata, Dibrugarh
- (2) Panbari, Dibrugarh



The EPFO has won the National Award on e-Governance 2015-16 for launching the UAN.

- (3) Rajabgheta, Dibrugarh
- (4) Lepetkata, Dibrugarh
- (5) Lahowal, Dibrugarh

Q.208. Which ministry has launched an official YouTube channel to disseminate information on major schemes, events, meetings and press conferences of the ministry on a real-time basis?

- (1) Ministry of Rural Development
- (2) Ministry of Agriculture
- (3) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- (4) Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- (5) Ministry of Finance

Q.209. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Centre has given its approval for allowing the Ministry of Railways to form Joint Venture Companies with the State Governments.
- (B) This has been done to mobilize the resources for undertaking various rail infrastructure projects in States.
- (C) Each Joint Venture (JV) would have an initial paid up capital of Rs. 50 crores.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.210. At which of the following places the Finance Minister inaugurated India Investment Summit 2016?

- (1) Bangluru
- (2) Mumbai
- (3) New Delhi
- (4) Ahmedabad
- (5) Pune

Q.211. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Punjab National Bank (PNB) has won best bank award for Prime Minister's Jan Dhan Yojana.
- (B) The award ceremony was organised by the Indian Chamber of micro, small and medium enterprises (CIMSME).
- (C) PNB was declared as the Best CSR bank and Best Bank for business obligation.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.212. What is the growth forecast for India for the fiscal 2016-17?

- (1) 6.5 per cent
- (2) 7.0 per cent
- (3) 7.5 per cent
- (4) 6.8 per cent
- (5) 7.2 per cent

Q.213. As per Professional forecasters' survey of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) what would be the gross value added (GVA) economic growth of India in 2015-16?

- (1) 7.1 per cent
- (2) 7.4 per cent
- (3) 7.2 per cent
- (4) 7.6 per cent
- (5) 7.8 per cent

Q.214. Which refinery has again become country's top refiner after its state of the art refinery dedicated to the nation in Odisha?

- (1) Haldia
- (2) Digboi
- (3) Bombay-High
- (4) Paradeep
- (5) Jamnagar

Q.215. Which company has won a five-year IT infrastructure management deal from Assa Abloy group, a Swedish major in door opening solutions.

- (1) Infosys
- (2) Wipro
- (3) Mahendra Satyam
- (4) TCS
- (5) Digicomp

Q.216. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) of India has signed the Grant Agreement for India Aviation Safety Technical Assistance Phase II in New Delhi, with which of the following countries?

- (1) Germany
- (2) USA
- (3) France
- (4) Britain
- (5) Spain

Q.217. Union Petroleum and Natural Gas minister ----- has released the Hydrocarbon Vision Document 2030 for North East in Guwahati.

- (1) Sushma Swaraj
- (2) Nitin Jairam Gadkari
- (3) Harsh Vardhan
- (4) Dharmendra Pradhan
- (5) Ramvilas Paswan

Q.218. Which institution has ruled against differential pricing for data services giving a big boost to Net Neutrality?

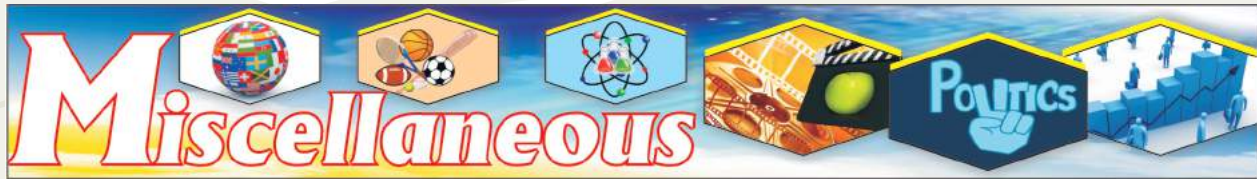
- (1) DOT
- (2) CDAC
- (3) TRAI
- (4) NASSCOM
- (5) DOEACC



Captain Carli Lloyd has won the FIFA women's world player of the year award for 2015.

- Q.219.** What route length has been proposed to be constructed for the four Himalayan shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri?
- (1) 500 km. (2) 600 km. (3) 700 km.
(4) 800 km. (5) 900 km.
- Q.220.** What is the expected growth rate of Indian Economy according to CRISIL research, for 2016-17?
- (1) 8.5 percent (2) 8.1 percent
(3) 7.9 percent (4) 7.6 percent
(5) 7.4 percent
- Q.221.** Who has been appointed as the Vice-President, Chief Investment Officer of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?
- (1) Shubhalakshmi Panse
(2) Dr. D. J. Pandian
(3) Narendra Jadhav
(4) Sukhamoy Chakraborty
(5) Girish Mishra
- Q.222.** Which among the following is the wholly-owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in which it has increased its shareholding by contributing Rs.1,000 crore towards its paid-up capital?
- (1) NABARD
(2) National Housing Bank
(3) Bhartiya Reserve Bank Note Mudran Private Limited
(4) National Payments Corporation of India Limited
(5) Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation
- Q.223.** Dr. Harsh Vardhan who inaugurated the new user-friendly website of IMD and dedicated to the nation the System of Aerosol Monitoring And Research (SAMAR) is Union Minister of-
- (1) Science & Technology and Earth Sciences
(2) Health and Family Welfare
(3) Environment
(4) Agriculture
(5) Rural Development
- Q.224.** Every year, India observes National Immunisation Day in January to mark the launch of-
- (1) pulse polio programme
(2) small pox programme
(3) measles programme
(4) TB programme
(5) BCG Programme
- Q.225.** With which of the following institutes the National Research Development Corporation (NRDC) has entered into a Memorandum of Understand (MOU) to promote entrepreneurship?
- (1) Central Food Technological Research Institute
(2) Central Drug Research Institute
(3) Central Institute for Cotton Research
(4) Indian Institute of Chemical Biology
(5) Central Leather Research Institute
- Q.226.** Department of Electronics & Information Technology and M/s. Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd Launched Electronics Development Fund (EDF) in-----
- (1) Kolkata (2) New Delhi
(3) Mumbai (4) Hyderabad
(5) Chandigarh
- Q.227.** What is the rank of India among the top markets considered as most important for overall growth according to the annual global CEO survey of PwC released at the WEF Annual Meeting?
- (1) Second (2) Third (3) Fourth
(4) Fifth (5) Sixth
- Q.228.** Which company has announced to launch Indo-Nepal remittance services in partnership with Nepal's Prabhu Money Group?
- (1) Plaid (2) Clinkle (3) LendUp
(4) Gifly (5) Eko
- Q.229.** How much expenditure has been approved by the Cabinet for Solar projects?
- (1) Rs. 3,050 crore
(2) Rs. 3,030 crore
(3) Rs. 4,050 crore
(4) Rs. 5,050 crore
(5) Rs. 4,090 crore
- Q.230.** What freedom did the Reserve Bank of India has given to banks?
- (1) To provide loan applications through ATMs
(2) To provide draft making services through ATMs
(3) To provide railway ticketing through ATMs
(4) To provide water and electricity bill payment through ATMs
(5) All of the above





- Q.231.** What is the name of the NASA's mission to Jupiter which has broken the record to become humanity's most distant solar-powered emissary, by reaching about 793 million kilometres from the Sun?
- (1) Explorer (2) Juno (3) Galex
(4) Insight (5) Kepler
- Q.232.** Architect Alejandro Aravena has won the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize for work that "epitomises the revival of a more socially engaged architect". To which country does he belong?
- (1) Colombia (2) Brazil (3) Argentina
(4) Chile (5) Mexico
- Q.233.** Who has won the European Commission's prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for 2015 in Asia and the Pacific amateur category?
- (1) Ashis Nandy (2) Mark Tully
(3) Ankita Anand (4) Arun Shourie
(5) Gurcharan Das
- Q.234.** Veteran BJP leader and former ----- governor V. Rama Rao died in Hyderabad after prolonged illness.
- (1) Sikkim (2) Manipur
(3) Meghalaya (4) Tripura
(5) Goa
- Q.235.** For which book the Indian author Anuradha Roy has won the prestigious DSC Prize for South Asian Literature at the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka?
- (1) The Folded Earth
(2) Family Life
(3) Sleeping on Jupiter
- (4) The Lives of Others
(5) An Atlas of Impossible Longing
- Q.236.** India's Gopi T and Kheta Ram has qualified for the Rio Olympics. With which of the following games they are associated?
- (1) Swimming (2) Athletics
(3) Badminton (4) Marathon
(5) Squash
- Q.237.** Mahendra Singh Dhoni has been named as captain of Rising Pune Supergiants. Who is the owner of this team?
- (1) Shahrukh Khan
(2) Vijay Mallya
(3) Sanjiv Goenka
(4) Kalanidhi Maran
(5) Karan Paul
- Q.238.** In which of the following states the Prime Minister, has inaugurated the Organic Festival 2016?
- (1) Kerala (2) Manipur (3) Sikkim
(4) Meghalaya (5) Assam
- Q.239.** The Central Government of India has approved to set up a Sanskrit University in-
- (1) Chhattisgarh
(2) Andhra Pradesh
(3) Karnataka
(4) Maharashtra
(5) Jharkhand
- Q.240.** To which country does Michael Keaton belong who has received one of France's highest honours, becoming Officer of the Order of Arts and Letters?
- (1) UK (2) Italy (3) USA
(4) Australia (5) Newzealand



Kerala is the first Indian state to achieve 100 percent education rate in Primary Education.

ANSWER PART - C

Q.126.(2) Q.127.(3) Q.128.(3) Q.129.(2) Q.130.(4) Q.131.(1) Q.132.(4) Q.133.(5) Q.134.(3) Q.135.(4)
 Q.136.(3) Q.137.(5) Q.138.(4) Q.139.(4) Q.140.(5) Q.141.(5) Q.142.(4) Q.143.(3) Q.144.(4) Q.145.(1)
 Q.146.(2) Q.147.(2) Q.148.(3) Q.149.(1) Q.150.(2) Q.151.(3) Q.152.(2) Q.153.(3) Q.154.(2) Q.155.(5)
 Q.156.(4) Q.157.(3) Q.158.(2) Q.159.(3) Q.160.(3) Q.161.(2) Q.162.(2) Q.163.(4) Q.164.(1) Q.165.(3)
 Q.166.(2) Q.167.(3) Q.168.(2) Q.169.(4) Q.170.(3) Q.171.(1) Q.172.(4) Q.173.(2) Q.174.(4) Q.175.(2)
 Q.176.(4) Q.177.(1) Q.178.(3) Q.179.(4) Q.180.(1) Q.181.(3) Q.182.(4) Q.183.(3) Q.184.(3) Q.185.(3)
 Q.186.(2) Q.187.(4) Q.188.(1) Q.189.(3) Q.190.(2) Q.191.(3) Q.192.(4) Q.193.(4) Q.194.(2) Q.195.(4)
 Q.196.(4) Q.197.(1) Q.198.(4) Q.199.(4) Q.200.(2) Q.201.(3) Q.202.(3) Q.203.(4) Q.204.(1) Q.205.(2)
 Q.206.(4) Q.207.(4) Q.208.(5) Q.209.(3) Q.210.(3) Q.211.(4) Q.212.(3) Q.213.(2) Q.214.(4) Q.215.(2)
 Q.216.(2) Q.217.(4) Q.218.(3) Q.219.(5) Q.220.(3) Q.221.(2) Q.222.(2) Q.223.(1) Q.224.(1) Q.225.(4)
 Q.226.(3) Q.227.(4) Q.228.(5) Q.229.(4) Q.230.(5) Q.231.(2) Q.232.(4) Q.233.(3) Q.234.(1) Q.235.(3)
 Q.236.(4) Q.237.(3) Q.238.(3) Q.239.(5) Q.240.(3)



YOUR **SUCCESS** IS OUR **SUCCESS**

Specialized in **Banking, SSC, Railway & other Competitive Examinations**

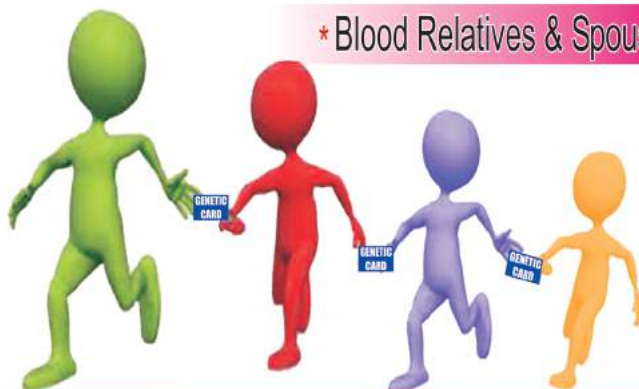
Mahendra's **Presents**

a **"Genetic Card":**

**A Next Generation Card for
Banking & SSC Aspirants &**

Their Family* with

* Blood Relatives & Spouse



- ★ Infinite Validity Period
- ★ Never Ending Facilities
- ★ Transfer Facility PAN INDIA
- ★ Add On Card Facility for Your Family*

**TOLL
FREE NO.**

1800-103-5225

Website : www.mahendras.org



P. J. Alexander is the author of 'Jawaharlal Nehru and The Indian Polity in Perspective'.



YOUR **SUCCESS** IS OUR **SUCCESS**

Specialized in **Banking, SSC, Railway** & other Competitive Examinations

Come grow With Us!

Minimum Fee-Maximum Facilities

Our Trump of Success



Nurture
Your
**S
K
I
L
S**



Soul of
Your
**S
U
C
C
E
S
S**



Providing the
In-house
Online S.T. to
**P
E
R
F
E
C
T**
Competitor



Providing
Supplement
to Your
Success



Makes
you aware
the latest
update
from
your
field

Toll Free No.

1800-103-5225

Website

www.mahendras.org
www.interviewguru.mahendras.org
www.mahendrapublication.org
stportal.mahendras.org
enews.mahendras.org

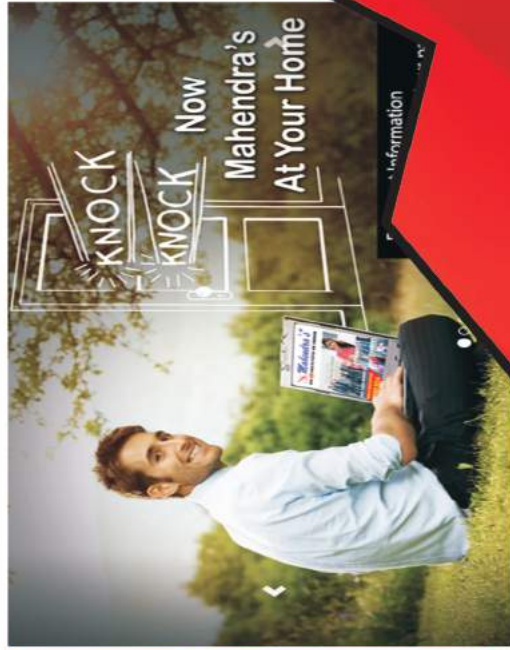
myshop.mahendras.org
www.bankersguru.org
www.railwayguru.org
www.sscguru.org



<https://myshop.mahendras.org>



Test Top Page all Pages



Admission

Books

MICA Subscription



20% Discount

TOLL FREE NO.
1800-103-5225

SUCCESS IS THE JOURNEY
MAHENDRA'S IS THE WAY ...



Now get online Admission/
Speed Test/e-books/
Study Material & MICA...

Nirala Nagar, Lucknow-20
Dispatch Date - Every Month - 6,7 or 10,11

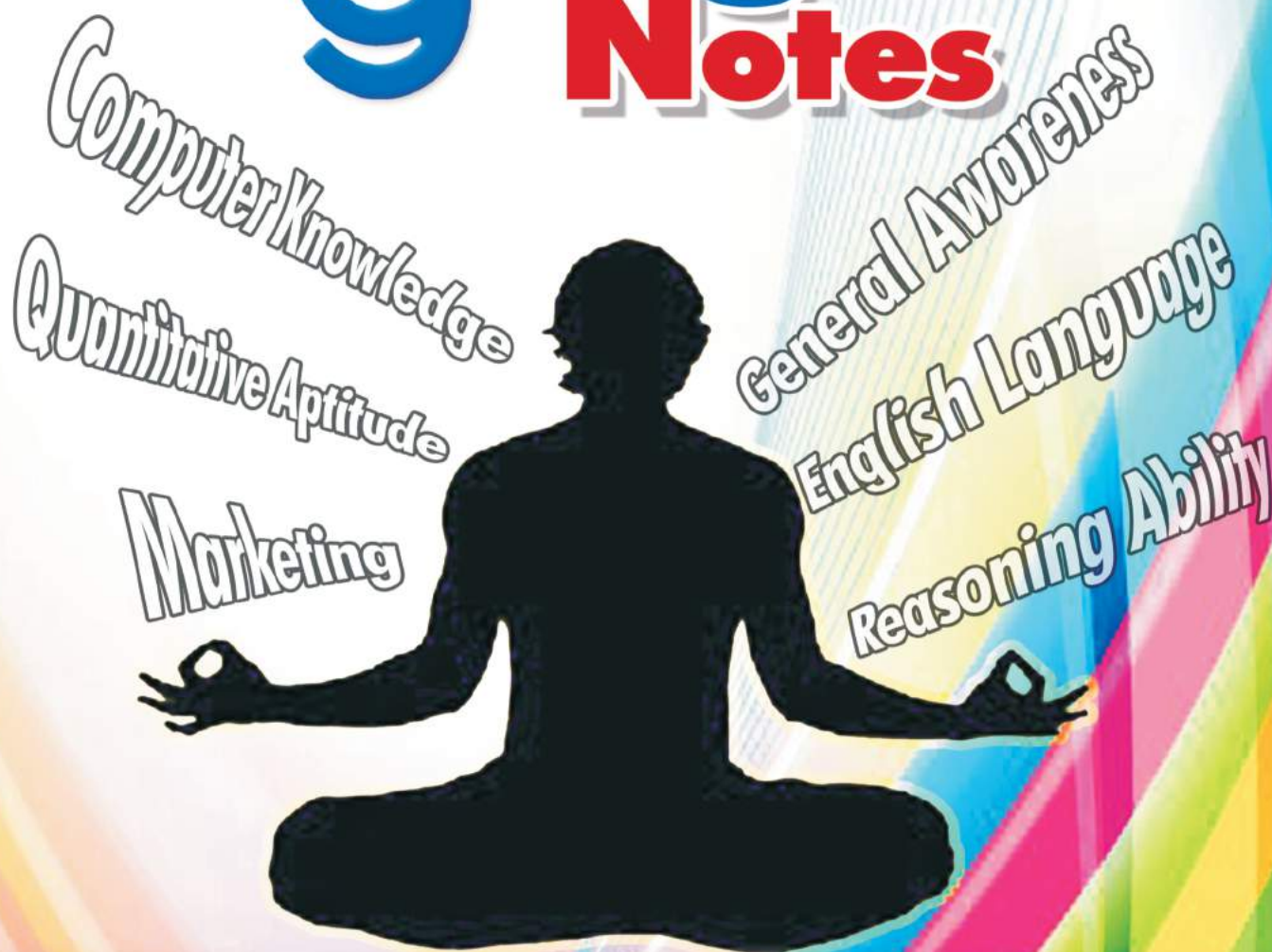
R.N.I NO. UPENG/2006/16270
POSTAL REG.NO.- S.S.P./LW/NP-98-14-16
POSTAL ADDRESS :LUCKNOW RMS NON-TD

Tired of theory?

Digi Notes, smart shortcuts for smart students.

www.bankersguru.org

**b Digi
Notes**



Mahendra's™

YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS

Specialized in Banking, SSC, Railway & other Competitive Examinations

