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# MAHENDRA GURU

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## COMPETITION

# BOOSTER





## Eco/Banking/RBI

### ECONOMY

- DEC 2** : India's economy is projected to grow at 7.6 per cent in 2017 as investment regains momentum and manufacturing base strengthens on the back of structural reforms in the country, a UN study said, crediting India and China for steady growth of the Asia-Pacific region.
- DEC 2** : Cab aggregator Ola's mobile wallet 'Ola Money' is now accepted at over 20,000 Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Ltd and Indian Oil Corporation Ltd fuel vends across the country.
- DEC 3** : India Ratings lowered its GDP forecast for 2016-17 to 6.8 per cent from 7.8 per cent earlier, stating that the demonetisation drive will lead to an erosion of Rs 1.5 trillion this fiscal.
- DEC 5** : Cash crunch post demonetisation is expected to slow down India's GDP growth to 6.5 per cent for the fourth quarter of 2016 and is likely to spill over into the first quarter of 2017.
- According to global financial services firm Nomura, the cash shortage is likely to last till January.
- DEC 7** : Paytm has announced a toll-free number 1800-1800-1234 to enable consumers and merchants without an internet connection to pay and receive money instantly and also recharge their mobile phones. This will empower millions of non-smartphone users to go cashless even without a smartphone.
- DEC 8** : Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corp signed a pact to build India's biggest oil refinery at a cost of \$30 billion on the west coast.
- The three firms signed the pact for the 60-million tonne a year refinery in Maharashtra with IOC as leader of the consortium.
- DEC 9** : The country's largest car maker Maruti Suzuki India joined hands with taxi aggregator Ola to train aspiring drivers-partners.

According to the Maruti Suzuki India (MSI) statement under a Memorandum of

Understanding signed between the two, the exercise aims to benefit 40,000 individuals/Ola drivers-partners in safe driving over a period of three years,.

- DEC 14** : Vodafone announced the launch of Vodafone M-Pesa PAY, a digital payment solution for merchants and retailers to receive cashless payments from customers.
- DEC 20** : Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has lowered the interest rate Employee Provident Fund (EPF) deposits to 8.65 per cent in 2016-17 from 8.8 per cent. This is the lowest rate of interest in four years.
- DEC 20** : Mobile phone brand Micromax Informatics, and taxi-hailing service Uber announced a partnership that will help Micromax customers book an Uber ride on their phones without having to download application.
- Through the partnership, Micromax aims to push nearly 100 million devices that offer an integrated experience with Uber over the next three years.
- DEC 22** : Japanese funding agency JICA has inked a tripartite consultancy pact with Railway Ministry and National High Speed Rail Corporation for the high-speed railway project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.
- DEC 27** : Coca-Cola India has signed Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as brand ambassador for its Thums Up brand.
- DEC 27** : Tata Motors announced the appointment of Bollywood film star Akshay Kumar, as the brand ambassador for its Commercial Vehicle Business Unit.
- DEC 29** : Fortune Magazine's latest issue on India's largest 500 corporations has ranked Ruchi Soya as the number one company in the Food and Agri product sector in India.
- Ruchi Soya which recorded revenue of over Rs. 27,000 crore in FY 2015-16 was ranked 83rd overall among 'India's 500 Largest Corporations' by Fortune India.

### BANK

- DEC 1** : Competition Commission has approved the merger of Bharatiya Mahila Bank with the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI).

While SBI has global presence, including offices in 37 countries, BMBL is a nascent bank set up in November 2013.

- DEC 5** : According to the Chairman and Managing Director of MMTC, Ved Prakash, the Public sector company MMTC will tie-up with the State Bank of India (SBI) to sell government-minted "Indian Gold Coin".
- DEC 6** : Punjab National Bank (PNB) announced a partnership with cab aggregator Ola to aid cash withdrawals for the citizens of Delhi and the National Capital Region (NCR).
- DEC 7** : The Women and Child Development Ministry has tied up with India Post and State Bank of India to offer more payment options to buyers and simplify shipping of products bought from "Mahila E-haat", an online marketing platform for women entrepreneurs.
- DEC 13** : The ADB trimmed its 2016 growth estimate for India to 7.0 per cent from 7.4 per cent due to weak investment, agricultural slowdown and the government's recent demonetisation in its Asian Development Outlook 2016.
- But India's growth forecast for 2017 was kept at 7.8 per cent.
- DEC 26** : IDFC Bank announced the nation-wide launch of Aadhaar-linked cashless merchant

solution that uses a retailer's smartphone to enable digital payments.

- DEC 29** : Twitter and ICICI Bank announced a partnership that integrates a slew of digital customer care support features for the bank, benefiting millions of its customers with direct online response to their queries and feedback in real-time.

ICICI Bank is the first bank in India to implement the new features to its Twitter account @ICICIBank\_Care for customer care.

### RBI

- DEC 7** : The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) lowered the country's growth forecast for 2016-17 to 7.1 per cent from 7.6 per cent during its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review.
- DEC 27** : AU Financiers (India) Ltd said it has received the final licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to start a small finance bank, becoming the seventh entity to do so.
- AU Financiers was the only non-banking finance company (NBFC) among the 10 entities to receive in-principle approvals to start small finance banks in September 2015.



The advertisement banner for Mahendra's features a blue background with a large white outline of the number '1' on the right side. The number '1' is filled with various social media icons, including Facebook 'f' logos, Twitter birds, and RSS symbols. At the top left, the Mahendra's logo is displayed with the tagline 'YOUR SUCCESS IS OUR SUCCESS' and 'Specialized in Banking, SSC, Railway & other Competitive Examinations'. Below this, the text 'For Free Government Job Alerts' is written in large, bold, red and white letters. To the right of the number '1', the words 'Like Now' are written in large, bold, blue and red letters. At the bottom, the website address 'www.facebook.com/Emahendras' is displayed in white text on a dark blue background.



## National & State News of the Month

- DEC 1** : The Government approved the inclusion of 15 new castes and modification in 13 other castes in the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- DEC 1** : Promoting Uttar Pradesh as a “market” for investment and entrepreneurial activities, Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav laid the foundation for a 455-acre food park to be run by yoga guru Baba Ramdev’s Patanjali group. The Patanjali Food and Herbal Park will come up near Greater Noida under the Yamuna Expressway Industrial Development Authority.
- DEC 5** : Hailakandi district of Assam has become the first district to pay wages to tea garden workers through individual bank accounts.
- DEC 6** : Amidst a pall of gloom following Chief Minister Jayalalithaa’s death, senior AIADMK leader O. Panneerselvam was elected the leader of the Legislature Party shortly and sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.
- DEC 7** : India will establish a center of excellence in information technology at Egypt’s oldest and most prestigious Al-Azhar University as part of an effort to enhance cooperation in education between the two countries.
- DEC 8** : The long awaited 57 km long Hazaribagh-Barkakana section of Koderma-Ranchi new line project in Jharkhand was inaugurated by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu in the presence of Chief Minister Raghubar Das. The 203 km long Koderma- Ranchi new line project.
- DEC 12** : Haryana government would celebrate 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Divas' on January 22, next year, by laying the foundation stone for 22 girls’ colleges in the state, infamous for its skewed sex ratio.
- DEC 15** : Haryana has become the first state to adopt the Centre's Mahila Police Volunteer scheme in two of its districts and has inducted 1,000 women as part of the programme.
- DEC 15** : With the aim to improve effectiveness of rural development programmes, the government approved the memorandum of understanding (MoU) between Rural Development Ministry and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO). The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the MoU.
- DEC 16** : Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal envisioned that farmers' advisory body Punjab Kisan Vikas Chamber (PKVC) would be instrumental in transforming agriculture and allied activities as a profitable venture.
- DEC 16** : Chhattisgarh Government has signed a MoU with Guizhou Martime Silk Road International Investment Corporation of China for setting up integrated infrastructure projects in the state. As per the agreement, the Chinese company will invest for setting up the integrated infrastructure projects in Chhattisgarh, he added.
- DEC 17** : Chief Minister Harish Rawat and IPL chairman Rajeev Shukla inaugurated Rajiv Gandhi multi-purpose stadium, Uttarakhand’s first international one, at Raipur in Dehradun. As part of the inauguration, a day-and-night cricket match between Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh was held at the venue.
- DEC 17** : NTPC Ltd and National Aluminium Company (Nalco) have jointly agreed to set up a coal-based power project, having a production capacity of 2,400 Mw, in Odisha’s Dhenkanal district.
- DEC 17** : The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee addressed the inaugural session of the ninth World Confluence of Humanity, Power and Spirituality, organized by ASSOCHAM, Srei Foundation and the Times Group (December 16, 2016) in New Delhi.
- DEC 19** : A village in central Kashmir's Budgam district has become the first village in the state to go 'cashless'. Lanura village, about 30 kms from the summer capital here, has become the first village in Jammu and Kashmir to go cashless.
- DEC 19** : In line with the vision of making India the Skill Capital of the World by empowering its youth to be more employable and self-sustainable, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the first ever “Indian Institute of Skills” in the country at Kanpur.
- DEC 20** : After being turned down by cricket maestro Sachin Tendulkar, Assam government said Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra would be the brand ambassador of the state’s tourism for two years.
- DEC 21** : The tiny Union Territory along the Arabian Sea coast, Daman and Diu, has become the first cashless region of the country.
- DEC 22** : Private lender HDFC Bank signed a MoU with Bihar State Power Holding Company to enable residents pay electricity bill online.
- DEC 22** : India conducted the flight test of indigenously-designed and developed long range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur in Odisha. The sophisticated missile with a strike range



of 1,000 km was test launched from a specially-designed launcher around noon from the launch complex-3 of the ITR near here.

- DEC 23 :** The Minister of State for AYUSH Shripad Yesso Naik formally inaugurated the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homoeopathy (NEIAH), an autonomous Institute under Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India, in Shillong, Meghalaya. With this, it became the second Ayurvedic College in the North East Region with a Homeopathy college and the only Central Academic Institute of Ayush.
- DEC 23 :** The Union Ministry of Coal has launched Coal Mitra, a web portal for allowing flexibility in utilization of domestic Coal. It was launched by Union Minister of State (IC) for Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines Piyush Goyal in New Delhi.
- DEC 26 :** Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan was conferred honorary doctorate by the Maulana Azad National Urdu University for contribution towards promotion of Urdu culture.
- DEC 26 :** Niti Aayog's health index will rank states on the basis of their performance on 'measurable' indicators like infant mortality rate, sex ratio at birth and functional 24x7 public health centres. States/UTs will be ranked in categories to ensure comparison among similar entities.
- DEC 26 :** In order to incentivize Digital Payments, the Government of India, kick-started the Lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana awards at the Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi. To make Digital payments and a less cash society a mass movement in India, the Digi Dhan Mela will take place in 100 different cities across the country over the next 100 days until March. Digi Dhan Mela witnessed the participation of nearly 5000 people.
- DEC 27 :** Department of Posts has brought out a special stamp on freedom fighter Gaya Prasad Katiyar. Besides, it has unveiled a set of eight commemorative postage stamps on Personalities Series: Bihar and a stamp on Hardayal Municipal Heritage Public Library in the City. The stamps were released by Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare.
- DEC 27 :** Assam Government rolled out 'Atal-Amrit Abhiyan', a health insurance scheme to provide coverage against several critical illnesses.
- DEC 27 :** India is expected to host in July next year the negotiations for mega trade deal RCEP which aims at liberalising norms for trade in goods and services and boost investment among

16-member countries. This will be a crucial meeting of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP).

- DEC 27 :** With Kollam in south India becoming Wi-Fi-enabled, railways have completed the task of equipping 100 stations with free Wi-Fi service across the country by the end of 2016. The next move is to cover 400 major stations with free Wi-Fi by next year.
- DEC 28 :** The government approved ordinance on demonetisation bringing much needed clarity over note ban. The ordinance is to extinguish liability of government and RBI on the demonetised high-denomination notes. Under the ordinance, hoarding, receiving or transferring banned Rs. 500, 1000 notes after March 31, 2017 will invite punishment. One can only have a maximum of 10 old notes.
- DEC 28 :** In order to obtain direct feedback from subscribers and use that feedback to solve the problem of call drops, DoT has launched an Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) system in Delhi, Mumbai, Punjab, UP, Uttarakhand, Maharashtra and Goa on 23rd December 2016. The IVRS system will be extended to the entire country very soon.
- DEC 29 :** Jharkhand government signed an MoU with IIM, Ahmedabad for setting up an international standard 'Jharkhand Innovation Lab' with Chief Minister Raghubar Das saying this will give a new direction to the youth and entrepreneurs.
- DEC 30 :** Madhya Pradesh has embarked on an ambitious plan to develop 1,100 climate-smart villages with an aim to prepare farmers to manage the climate change risks timely and ensure good productivity.
- DEC 30 :** Union Government launched Swachh Swasth Sarvatra initiative to strengthen health centres in open defecation-free (ODF) blocks. The objective of this initiative is to strengthen community health centres in 708 ODF blocks across the country to enable them to achieve higher levels of cleanliness and hygiene.
- DEC 30 :** President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 77th Session of Indian History Congress at Thiruvananthapuram. (December 29, 2016).
- DEC 31 :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched an Aadhaar based mobile payment application called BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) which is a rebranded version of UPI (Unified Payment Interface) and USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data), at the Digi Dhan Mela event in Talkatora stadium in New Delhi.



## International News of the Month

- DEC 2** : Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn was proclaimed the new Thai King, heralding a new chapter in the country's monarchy after the passing away of his revered father who was the world's longest reigning monarch.
- DEC 5** : John Key, the New Zealand prime minister and leader of the National party, has resigned in a decision that has taken the country by surprise.
- DEC 6** : French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve was appointed as the new prime minister after Manuel Valls resigned to seek the Socialist nomination in the presidential election, the presidency said.
- DEC 8** : The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the MoU between India and United Kingdom (UK) for cooperation in the field of Intellectual Property (IP).
- DEC 8** : The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Afghanistan on cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.
- DEC 9** : Aiming to reduce Nepal's dependence on India for its internet connectivity, a leading Chinese company and Nepal's state-owned Nepal Telecom have signed an agreement on providing cross-border internet protocol service between the two countries.
- DEC 10** : In a significant development, India and influential East Asian nation Vietnam signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement, with Prime Minister Narendra Modi asserting that it will further strengthen the comprehensive strategic partnership between the two countries.  
The two countries also signed three other agreements -- to enhance aviation links, to jointly work in the area of energy efficiency and promotion of parliamentary cooperation.
- Dec 12** : New Zealand's ruling National Party appointed the experienced Bill English as the country's new prime minister following resignation of John Key from his post.
- DEC 13** : India and Indonesia have signed three agreements in various areas to enhance strategic partnership. These agreements were signed after delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting President of Indonesia Joko Widodo in New Delhi.
- DEC 15** : Pakistan Army successfully test-fired an enhanced version of an indigenously-designed cruise missile that can hit targets at 700 kms with all kinds of warheads, bringing many Indian cities within its range.
- DEC 15** : Cabinet cleared the proposal to ink a revised air services agreement between India and Nigeria, with an objective to improve air connectivity between the two countries.
- DEC 16** : Japan and Russia struck economic deals to build confidence towards a peace treaty to formally end World War II that has been prevented by a spat over Russian-occupied islands claimed by Tokyo.
- DEC 19** : Ukraine has nationalised the country's biggest bank in a bid to avert a financial meltdown in the war-scarred former Soviet state.
- DEC 19** : India and Tajikistan signed four agreements, including one on exchange of financial intelligence, following delegation-level talks headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on cooperation in the exchange of financial intelligence related to money laundering, related crimes and financing of terrorism.
- DEC 20** : Australia signed a 50 billion dollars deal with France for 12 sophisticated submarines to be built by French defence major DCNS, that was at the centre of a controversy this year surrounding the leak of documents relating to India's Scorpene submarines.
- DEC 21** : India and Kyrgyzstan signed six agreements, including on tourism, agriculture and youth affairs, following delegation-level talks led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Kyrgyz President Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed on cooperation in youth exchange.
- DEC 22** : The New Development Bank, jointly founded by the BRICS countries including India, approved USD 75 million loan for a solar project in China.
- DEC 22** : The University of Chicago signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Telecom Sector Skill Council of India (TSSC) for devising training programmes focused on advanced telecom and digital skills.
- DEC 23** : Nepal SBI Bank, the largest overseas subsidiary of SBI, has started point-of-sale (POS) services to push digital transactions.
- DEC 27** : China has tested the latest version of its fifth-generation stealth fighter plane FC-31, as it tries to end the West's monopoly on the world's most advanced warplanes. The test comes as the nation flexes its military muscles, sending its sole aircraft carrier the Liaoning into the western Pacific in recent days to lead drills there for the first time.
- DEC 31** : Romania's president named social-democrat Sorin Grindeanu as the nation's new prime minister, bringing to a close weeks of uncertainty since the left won a parliamentary vote on December 11.



## Sports News of the Month

**DEC 1** : Norwegian Magnus Carlsen extended his dominance over the chess world by winning the World Chess Championship for the third consecutive time, beating his Russian challenger Sergei Karyakin in a tie breaker.

**DEC 2** : Omar Abdulrahman, arguably Asia's biggest star, was crowned AFC player of the year in a glittering ceremony in his home country of United Arab Emirates.

**DEC 3** : Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu jumped two places to achieve her career-best ranking of seven in the world while Saina Nehwal was also back in the top 10 in the latest BWF World Ranking.

**DEC 3** : Nico Rosberg quit Formula One, just five days after winning the world title for Mercedes in a move that stunned motor racing.

Rosberg made the bombshell revelation in Vienna ahead of the International Automobile Federation (FIA) annual awards ceremony.

**DEC 3** : Usain Bolt is track and field's male athlete of the year, winning the award from the sport's governing body for a sixth time.

Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia won the women's award, after her world-record run to win Olympic gold in the 10,000 meters.

**DEC 5** : Japanese Hideki Matsuyuma won the 2016 Hero World Challenge Golf title.

For Matsuyuma, it was his fourth win in his last five outings, including the WGC-HSBC Champions in China.

**DEC 5** : Indian racer Armaan Ebrahim and his Sri Lankan teammate Dilantha Malagamuwa concluded their 2016 racing season on a high by winning the Pro Am Championship in the Lamborghini Super Trofeo Series.

**DEC 5** : India's Mukesh Kumar became the oldest golfer to win an Asian Tour title when he lifted the weather-hit Panasonic Open here after it was curtailed to 54 holes.

The 51-year-old Mukesh, who has 123 PGTI titles under his belt, turned in a two-under

70 in the final round to total 10-under 206 to claim the trophy — his first on the Asian Tour.

**DEC 6** : Faisal Qamar and Jennifer emerged Under-19 boys and girls singles champions respectively at the CBSE national tennis championship.

**DEC 10** : Shiv Kapur remained as the best-placed Indian at the midway stage of the USD 2 million UBS Hong Kong Open as only three Indians survived the 36-hole cut at the Hong Kong Golf Club.

**DEC 10** : India's Virat Kohli retained his second spot in the latest ICC Player Rankings for ODI Batsmen but Australian opener David Warner was breathing down his neck with just two points behind in the chart issued.

**DEC 10** : Vice President Hamid Ansari inaugurated the Biju Patnaik Rural Hockey Tournament which will see over 1500 teams from Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh competing for the title from December 16 to March 17.

The tournament is organized by the foundation of former hockey India captain and BJD MP Dilip Tirkey.

**Dec 12** : Virat Kohli, India's captain for Test Cricket, on 11 December 2016 became the fifth batsman in the world to score three double-hundreds in a calendar year. He scored his third double-century in the first innings of the third test match against England.

**DEC 13** : Cristiano Ronaldo was named winner of the Ballon d'Or for the fourth time, capping a terrific year for the Real Madrid star.

**DEC 13** : Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won his 11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships title by beating Peter Gilchrist of Singapore in the summit clash.

**DEC 14** : In a first for Indian boxing, former Commonwealth Games gold medallist Manoj Kumar was elected the players representative for male boxers in the recently-formed Boxing Federation of Indias Executive Committee.

**DEC 15** : Manjit, who represents Army Marksmanship Unit (AMU), pipped teammate and star



Olympian Jitu Rai in the final of Men's 50m Pistol event to claim the national champion crown at the ongoing 60th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC) in Pune.

**DEC 16 :** As Alastair Cook ran a couple off the first ball of the fifth Test against India after getting a leading edge, he took his run tally in Test cricket to 11, 000. Those two runs made his the first England player ever to cross the 11, 000-run mark in Test cricket.

**DEC 19 :** India created history by winning the FIH Junior Hockey World Cup after a gap of 15 long years with a clinical 2-1 victory against Belgium in the final.

The hosts scored two beautifully crafted field goals in the first half through Gurjant Singh (8th minute) and Simranjeet Singh (22nd) while controlling the proceedings for better part of the game to emerge as deserving winners.

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**DEC 20 :** Veteran women's rifle shooter and Commonwealth Games gold medallist, Kuheli Gangulee, won the Women's 50m Rifle Prone event at the 60th National Shooting Championship Competitions (NSCC).

Kuheli, representing CISE, shot a total of 626.5 points to clinch the national champion title.

**DEC 20 :** Karnataka batsman Karun Nair entered an exclusive club, joining Virender Sehwag as the second Indian to score a triple-century in Tests. Nair, in his third Test, finished not out on 303 as India declared with their highest score in Tests, a massive 759/7, at the iconic MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai.

**DEC 20 :** India's return to the international boxing fold was complete with the AIBA unanimously granting full membership to the recently-formed Boxing Federation of India (BFI) at a meeting on the sidelines of its 70th anniversary gala in Montreux, Switzerland.

The BFI was voted to office in September earlier this year, ending four years of administrative logjam in the sport.

**DEC 22 :** India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin, who was named ICC Test Cricketer of the Year and bagged the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for Cricketer of the Year, was the lone Indian player to be included in the Test Team of the year for 2016.

**DEC 23 :** India defeated South Korea 3-0 to secure the bronze medal at the 4th Women's U18 Asia Cup 2016 hockey tournament in Bangkok.

After the win, Hockey India announced cash rewards of Rs.1 lakh for each player. It also announced Rs.50000 for each member of the support staff.

**DEC 27 :** Army Marksmanship Unit's (AMU) Satyendra Singh got the better of teammate and Olympian Chain Singh to clinch the gold medal in men's 50m rifle 3 positions event on the concluding day of 60th National Shooting Championship.

**DEC 30 :** Former French Open champion Ana Ivanovic announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 29 because she no longer feels fit enough to compete at the highest level.

Ivanovic became the first Serbian woman to win a grand slam tournament when she beat Russian Dinara Safina in the 2008 French Open final, following in the footsteps of compatriot Novak Djokovic who clinched the Australian Open title the same year.

**DEC 30 :** Vishal Solanki of RSPB won the gold in men's 105kg category on day four of the Senior National Weightlifting Championships.

Solanki lifted 150kg in snatch and 180kg in clean and jerk for a total of 330kg to bag the gold.

## Science & Miscellaneous News of the Month

**DEC 7 :** Remote sensing satellite Resourcesat-2A was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh at 10:24 a.m. The spacecraft was flown aboard a PSLV-C36 rocket.

It was the 37th consecutive successful flight of the indigenous light-lifting rocket.

**DEC 13 :** Alpha Design, a Bengaluru based defence equipment maker announced the signing of a contract with Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for assembly, integration and testing of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System Satellites (IRNSS).

**DEC 13 :** NASA's OSIRIS-REx spacecraft is set to search for elusive "Trojan" asteroids which are constant companions to Earth as it orbits the Sun.

NASA's first mission to return a sample of an asteroid to Earth will be multitasking during its two-year outbound cruise to the asteroid Bennu.

**DEC 17 :** China has launched its first fully-owned overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole which could enable Beijing to collect satellite data anywhere on the Earth at a speed it said was the fastest in the world.

**DEC 22 :** China launched a global carbon dioxide monitoring satellite 'TanSat' to understand climate change, hours after it lifted nearly a week-long red alert for the worst smog that engulfed about 40 cities in the country.

The 620-kg satellite TanSat was put into orbit by Long March-2D rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in northwest China's Gobi Desert.

**DEC 26 :** India successfully tested the smart anti-airfield weapon system, capable of engaging ground targets in a range of 100 kms from a fighter aircraft, at the integrated test range here in Chandipur.

A DRDO statement said that SAAW, an indigenously designed and developed 120 kg class smart weapon, developed by DRDO, is a light-weight high-precision-guided bomb and one of the world class weapons systems.

**DEC 27 :** China said it will launch a lunar probe in 2018 to achieve the world's first soft landing on the far side of the moon to showcase its ambitious space programme.

**DEC 28 :** China successfully launched a pair of high-resolution remote sensing satellites to get commercial images. The satellites were launched from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi Province. The satellites, SuperView-1 01/02, blasted off at 11:23 am Beijing time on the back of a Long March 2D rocket.

**DEC 29 :** A team of international astronomers has discovered Vela super cluster, one of the biggest super galaxy clusters near the Milky Way. It was spotted by a research team of astronomers from South Africa, Australia and Europe with help slew of telescopes including the Anglo-Australian Telescope (Sydney) and South African Large Telescope (Cape Town).

**DEC 1 :** According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), India has improved its ranking by four places to 102nd position among 136 economies in terms of enabling cross border trade, with Singapore leading the list. Among the BRICS nations, India, China and South Africa have improved their ranking from the previous edition.

**DEC 2 :** India was ranked second in a list of 300 top universities in emerging economies, "making great strides" in the compilation topped by China.

**DEC 2 :** In a diplomatic triumph for India, an intergovernmental committee of the United Nations has inscribed yoga in UNESCO's Representative List as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

The eleventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee is being held

in Addis Abeba, Ethiopia, from November 28 to December 2.

**DEC 6 :** Srinidhi Shetty, a girl from Mangalore, was crowned Miss Supranational 2016 in the first week of December 2016. She was crowned at a ceremony held in Krynica Zdroj, Poland. With this, India became the first country to win Miss Supranational twice in three years.

**DEC 8 :** US President-elect Donald Trump was named by Time magazine as its Person of the Year 2016 for his stunning victory in the presidential polls, describing him as "President of the Divided States of America".

**DEC 8 :** India has achieved a pre-eminent position in the field of Science & Technology, Space, Atomic Energy, Information Technology and newly emerging technologies such as Nano Technology and Bio Technology.

**Dec 12 :** Visakhapatnam city will host the world's first ever Wind Music festival on December 17 to entertain enthusiasts.

**DEC 12 :** India and Vietnam will have the highest salary increases next year with a projected rise of 10.8 per cent and 9.2 per cent respectively among Asia Pacific's emerging economies, according to a report by a global consulting firm.

**DEC 13 :** India has been ranked as the fourth most vacation deprived country globally, as 63 per cent take fewer days of the vacations that they get.

**DEC 13 :** Actress Priyanka Chopra, appointed as UNICEF's newest global Goodwill Ambassador, urged people from across nations to become the 'collective voice' of oppressed children in the world and join forces to leave a better future for the coming generations.

**DEC 13 :** Two Indian-origin men have figured in Forbes magazine's second annual list of wealthiest entrepreneurs under the age of 40 which is topped by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

Vivek Ramaswamy, a successful biotech entrepreneur has been ranked 24th on

Americas Richest Entrepreneurs Under 40 2016 list with a networth of 600 million dollars and Apoorva Mehta stands at 31st spot with a 360 million dollars network.

**DEC 14 :** Rio de Janeiro, nicknamed the Marvelous City, officially entered the UN's list of world heritage sites in recognition of its soaring granite cliffs, urban rainforest and beaches.

**DEC 14 :** The ninth edition of 'Indra- Navy exercise, an annual bilateral maritime conducted between the Indian Navy and the Russian Navy will be conducted in the Bay of Bengal from December 14 to 21.

**DEC 15 :** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes in a list that has been topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin for a fourth straight year and had US President-elect Donald Trump in the second place.

Modi ranks 9th on the Forbes list of 74 of the World's Most Powerful People. Forbes said India's populist prime minister remains hugely popular in his country of 1.3 billion people.

**DEC 16 :** India remains one of the fastest-growing countries in the world, the White House said even as it underlined that inefficiencies remain in the public sector of the country with the poor population still lacking healthcare coverage and access to financial services.

**DEC 16 :** India is the top country of origin of international migrants, with 15.6 million Indians living abroad, according to a Pew research which said international migrants make up 3.3 per cent of the world's population.

**DEC 17 :** A 14 days joint training exercise of the Indian Army and the Maldives National Defence Force commenced with the Opening Ceremony at Kadhdhoo, Lammu Atoll in Maldives.

Exercise EKUVERIN – 2016 will be the seventh edition of Joint Exercise and is in continuation of a series of joint



Exercises between the Indian Army and Maldivian National Defence Force. The previous edition of the Exercise was held at Trivandrum, India in 2015.

**DEC 19 :** Stephanie del Valle of Puerto Rico has been crowned Miss World 2016, edging out runners-up from the Dominican Republic and Indonesia, and beauties from around the globe.

**DEC 19 :** Pakistan third most prolific executioner According to the a rights group Amnesty International, for the second year in a row, Pakistan has retained its "notorious status" of being the "third most prolific executioner" in the world, executing 419 people in two years.

**DEC 21 :** India remained at the third position in the USGBC's annual ranking of the top 10 countries for LEED, which is a green building rating system.

**DEC 21 :** With its fast economic growth in over two decades and a half, India has now taken over the United Kingdom as the fifth largest economy in the world. A report published in Forbes magazine said that this dramatic shift

has been driven by India's rapid economic growth over the past 25 years as well as Britain's recent woes with the Brexit.

**DEC 26 :** Andhra Pradesh's own classical dance 'Kuchipudi' found a place in the Guinness World Records yet again when a record 6,117 dancers came together to present a show at the IGMC Stadium.

**DEC 28 :** According to a latest Congressional as India embarks on a massive modernisation plan for its defence forces, it has emerged as the second largest purchaser of arms among developing nations after Saudi Arabia said the report 'Conventional Arms Transfers to Developing Nations 2008-2015' released by Congressional Research Service (CRS).

**DEC 30 :** China inaugurated the world's highest bridge that rises 565 metres above the Nizhu river canyon and connects the southern provinces of Yunnan and Guizhou.

**DEC 31 :** Veteran actor Rishi Kapoor, who is known for his brazen honesty in the real as well as virtual world, is looking forward to the release of his autobiography titled "Khullam Khulla" in January next year 2017.



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## Appointments of the Month

### **R K Dutta :**

Senior IPS officer Rupak Kumar Dutta, Special Director in CBI, was appointed as Special Secretary (Internal Security) in Home Ministry against a newly-created post.

### **Devraj Anbu :**

Lieutenant General Devraj Anbu took over as chief of Army's northern command overlooking the operational command of Jammu and Kashmir.

Lt Gen Devraj was commissioned into the Sikh Light Infantry in 1980 and has extensive staff and command exposures.

### **Rakesh Asthana :**

CBI Director Anil Sinha retired from the post handing over the baton to his second-in-command, Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana, as the government did not name any full-time chief.

### **Gopal Jiwarajka :**

PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the Chairman and Managing Director of Salora International Gopal Jiwarajka has taken over as its President.

### **J Ravichandran :**

Senior executive J Ravichandran has been given the interim charge till the NSE board, headed by former Finance Secretary Ashok Chawla, finds a full-time replacement for Ramkrishna, who rose through the ranks to head the exchange and was part of the team that set up NSE in 1992.

Currently, Narain is the Vice Chairman of NSE.

### **Sunil Taldar :**

Telecom operator Bharti Airtel announced top level changes by appointing Sunil Taldar as CEO & Director of its DTH arm -- Airtel Digital TV -- and moving incumbent Shashi Arora as MD & CEO, Airtel Payments Bank.

### **Yaduvendra Mathur :**

Yaduvendra Mathur, Chairman and Managing Director of Export-Import Bank of India (Exim), has been appointed as Additional Secretary in Niti Aayog.

### **BS Bhullar :**

Senior bureaucrat B S Bhullar was appointed chief of aviation regulator Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).

He is presently working as Additional Secretary in Civil Aviation Ministry.

### **J.S. Khehar :**

Justice Khehar, who will be sworn in on January 4, will hold the tenure for over seven months till August 27, 2017.

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar, who led the five-judge constitution bench in the Supreme Court which had struck down the controversial NJAC Act for appointment of judges, was on Tuesday recommended as the 44th Chief Justice of India.

### **Vinod Pande :**

The ombudsman appointed by pension fund regulator PERDA, Vinod Pande, assumed the office in New Delhi on December 1.

The subscribers will have direct access to the Ombudsman where they can lodge complaints against any intermediary for resolution through adjudication and amicable settlement.

### **David Shearer :**

A New Zealand lawmaker David Shearer who has led UN aid efforts worldwide is to be named UN mission chief in South Sudan, one of the world's toughest peacekeeping jobs.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has sent a letter informing the Security Council of his intention to appoint David Shearer as the UN envoy to South Sudan and head of UNMISS, succeeding Ellen Margrethe Loj of Denmark.

### **Saqib Nisar :**

President Mamnoon Hussain appointed Justice Saqib Nisar as the new chief justice of Pakistan.

Nisar, the most senior judge of the Supreme Court, will replace chief justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali who retires on December 31.

### **Tenzin Dorjee :**

Tenzin Dorjee, a well-known Tibetan writer, has been appointed as Commissioner to the US Commission on International Religious

Freedom (USCIRF), an independent, bipartisan federal body that monitors religious freedom internationally.

**C B Bhavé :**

Vistaar Financial Services, an MSME-focused financing firm, has appointed former Sebi chief C B Bhavé as non-executive Chairman and Independent Director.

Vistaar Finance has a loan portfolio size of Rs 1,000 crore and currently has 198 branches primarily in rural and semi-urban areas spread across 135 districts and 12 states.

**Pulkit Trivedi :**

Facebook announced the appointment of Pulkit Trivedi as Industry Director for e-commerce, retail, travel and financial services verticals.

In his new role, Trivedi will lead in building and maintaining strategic relationships with clients in the country.

**Akbar Ebrahim :**

Veteran Akbar Ebrahim has been elected as the FMSCI president, replacing Zayn Khan to lead the Indian motorsport governing body.

Ebrahim was elected president at the FMSCI Annual General Meeting, which was held in Chennai. J Prithiviraj was elected as the vice-president.

**Savita Vaidhyanathan :**

For the first time, an Indian-American woman, Savita Vaidhyanathan has been elected as the new Mayor of the key Californian city of Cupertino, globally known for its Apple headquarters.

Savita Vaidhyanathan, an MBA who worked as a high school Math teacher and an officer in a commercial bank as well as in non-profit management.

**Amina Mohammed :**

Incoming United Nations (UN) Chief Antonio Guterres appointed Nigeria's Environment Minister Amina Mohammed as his Deputy Secretary-General.

Guterres was recently sworn in as the ninth male UN Chief. Previously, she served as Founder and CEO of the Center for Development Policy Solutions.

She also served as an Adjunct Professor for the Master's in Development Practice program at Columbia University.

**David Friedman :**

US President Donald Trump announced that he selected attorney David Friedman to be ambassador to Israel.

Friedman was one of Trump's key advisers during the election campaign regarding US-Israeli relations.

**Vijay Sazawal :**

A noted Indian-American expert, Vijay Sazawal has been re-appointed to the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee of the US Department of Commerce.

Vijay Sazawal's appointment to Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee (CINTAC) was announced by US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker along with 38 other members.

**Vijay Sharma :**

Vijay Kumar Sharma assumed charge as Chairman of the nation's largest financial powerhouse Life Insurance Corporation.

The Government had appointed Sharma, who was named Acting Chairman on September 16, as the head of the state-run life insurer, where he will have a five-year term.

**Sunil Arora :** Former Information and Broadcasting Secretary Sunil Arora was appointed as the Director General and Chief Executive Officer of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).

He is an Indian Administrative Officer (IAS) of 1980-batch of Rajasthan cadre.

**Bipin Rawat and B.S Dhanoa :**

Lieutenant general Bipin Rawat will be the new chief of Army Staff while Air Marshal B.S. Dhanoa will be the new chief of Air Staff, Ministry of Defence confirmed. Government has decided to appoint Lt Gen Bipin Rawat, vice chief of army staff, as the next chief of army staff with effect from afternoon of December 31.

Rawat will succeed General Dalbir Singh, who will retire at the end of this month while Dhanoa will replace Arup Raha at the helm of Air Staff on December 31.



**Rajiv Jain and Anil Kumar Dhasmana :**

In new appointment series, Anil Dhasmana and Rajiv Jain were appointed as the next chiefs of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) and Intelligence Bureau (IB), respectively. Dhasmana and Jain will succeed Rajinder Khanna and Dineshwar Sharma. Both the officers will have a tenure of two years.

**Praful Patel :**

Praful Patel was re-elected unopposed as the president of All India Football Federation for a four-year term - his third successive - and he promised to run AIFF in a "transparent" manner.

He took over as full time president in October 2009 before being re-elected for the top job in December 2012.

**Pradeep Gupta :**

An Indian-American engineer Pradeep Gupta has been elected as Mayor of South San Francisco city in the US state of California.

Pradeep Gupta, an IIT Chennai alumni, was sworn in as the Mayor of the city early this month.

**Vinod Vashisht :**

Lt Gen Vinod Vashisht took over the reins of National Cadet Corps (NCC) as its Director General on 23 December 2016.

An alumnus of National Defence Academy, the General was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery on 09 June 1979.

**Viral V Acharya :**

Viral V Acharya was appointed as the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He is a professor of economics at New York University.

He will be joining the ranks of Vishwanathan, S S Mundra, R Gandhi as one of four Deputy Governors of RBI. He will be serving under RBI Governor Urjit Patel.

**Dr. K K Aggarwal**

Padma Shri and Dr. B C Roy National Awardee Dr. K K Aggarwal was sworn in as the 88th President of Indian Medical Association (IMA).

Dr. RN Tandon will support him as the association's Secretary General.

**Admiral Sunil Lanba :**

Navy chief Admiral Sunil Lanba took over the baton of the chairman of the chief of staff committee (CoSC) from outgoing IAF chief Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha even as the government plans to create a new post to focus exclusively on inter-services issues and acquisitions.

**Archana Nigam :**

Archana Nigam will take over as the next Controller General of Accounts in the Department of Expenditure under the Ministry of Finance on January 1, 2017.

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## Awards of the Month

### Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award :

Hillary Clinton honoured singer Katy Perry with an Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award at UNICEF Gala.

### Best Cities Award :

Kolkata, along with 10 other cities from across the globe, has been honoured with the best cities of 2016 award in recognition of its inspiring and innovative programme with regard to solid waste management.

Other cities that won the award are Addis Adaba, Copenhagen, Curitiba, Sydney and Malborne, Paris, Portland, Seoul Shenzhen, and Yokohama.

### Children's Peace Prize :

A 16-year-old Indian environmental activist, Kehkashan Basu based in the UAE has won this year's prestigious International Children's Peace Prize for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation.

### Best Emerging Destination Award :

Jammu and Kashmir Tourism has been adjudged as one of the best emerging destination for adventure by a leading US-based travel magazine Conde Nast.

### British Independent Film Award :

Andrea Arnold's film "American Honey" and "I, Daniel Blake" were the big winners at the British Independent Film Awards (BIFAs).

"American Honey", which is about a gang of teenagers in the US Mid-West earned Andrea the Best Director award and the movie also took home the Best British Independent Film prize, while its star, Sasha Lane, won the Best Actress honour, reported Variety.

### Grammy nominations :

Sitarist Anoushka Shankar and Amy director Asif Kapadia are among the Indian origin names featuring in the nominees list at the 58th Grammy awards.

Shankar, 34, has been nominated in the Best World Music Album category for her solo album Home, which is a pure Indian classical album showcasing the meditative and virtuosic qualities of the Indian raga.

### SJAM's Lifetime Achievement Award :

Sunil Gavaskar was conferred with the Golden Jubilee Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai (SJAM).

### Golden Globe Award Nominations :

"La La Land", a musical about two aspiring artistes finding romance in Hollywood, is leading the 74th Golden Globe Awards nominations while India-Australia set drama "Lion" bagged four nods, including the best supporting actor for Dev Patel.

Casey Affleck, Joel Edgerton, Andrew Garfield, Viggo Mortensen and Denzel Washington will vie for best actor in a motion picture drama while Amy Adams, Jessica Chastain, Isabelle Huppert, Ruth Negga and Natalie Portman are competing for best actress in that category.

### Global Teacher Prize :

A woman Indian physics teacher Kavita Sanghvi in the UK, recognised for her experiential method of teaching physics, is among the top 50 contenders from around the world for a global prize of USD one million.

Kavita Sanghvi has been recognised for her experiential method of teaching physics as principal of MET Rishikul Vidyalyaya in Mumbai by The Global Teacher Prize 2017.

### Hunterian Professorship and the Medal 2017 :

A renowned Indian-origin orthopaedic surgeon Anan Shetty has been awarded the prestigious Hunterian Professorship and the Medal for 2017 by UK's Royal College of Surgeons for his research on stem cells in articular cartilage repair.

Anan Shetty is a knee surgeon in the UK and a Chairman and Director of stem cell research at Canterbury Christ Church University.

**89th Academy Award :**

It could be a double whammy for Indian music maestro A.R. Rahman once again at the 89th Academy Awards as his work for 'Pele: Birth of a Legend' has found a spot in the list of Oscar contenders for the year.

**Officier de la Legion dHonneur :**

Chairperson and Editorial Director of Hindustan Times, Shobhana Bhartia was conferred Frances top civilian honour - Officier de la Legion dHonneur.

**Indira Gandhi Peace Prize 2015 :**

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2015 to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Yasuko Shimizu.

**SKOCH Award :**

The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) of Ministry of Women and Child Development has been conferred the Skoch Silver and Skoch Order-of Merit award.

**AIBA 70th Anniversary Award :**

The legendary M C Mary Kom and former Asian Games gold-medallist Vikas Krishan

shone bright at the International Boxing Associations 70th anniversary gala in Montreux, Switzerland, picking up different awards for their performances.

**Bihari Puraskar :**

The K K Birla Foundation announced that eminent Rajasthani litterateur Satya Narayan has been chosen for the 26th Bihari Puraskar, 2016 for his Hindi book titled, "Yeh Ek Dunia".

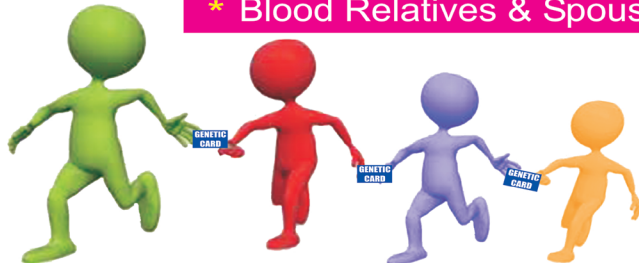
**Honorary D.Litt degree by D Y Patil University :**

Noted playback singer Anuradha Paudwal will be conferred with honorary D. Litt degree by the D Y Patil University on its 5th convocation ceremony, to be held in Kolhapur.

A National Award recipient, she is also the four-time winner of prestigious Filmfare Award.

**Navlekhan award 2016**

Two new Hindi writers Shraddha and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh have been chosen for Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Award for the year 2016.

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## Eulogies of the Month

### John Mansfield :

John Mansfield who survived two world wars and saw historic events like the April 1912 sinking of Titanic.

Jack, who was born in 1907, passed away peacefully in his sleep just six weeks after breaking the record of Britain's oldest man, Metro.co.uk reported. He has lived through 19 Prime Ministers, five monarchs and survived two world wars.

### Sulabha Brahme :

Eminent economist and Left ideologue Sulabha Brahme passed away. She was 84.

She authored more than 50 high quality booklets in Marathi and monographs on these topics to create awareness among people and to educate activists.

### A V Sreedharan :

Former Deputy Speaker of Puducherry Assembly and senior Congress leader A V Sreedharan passed away. He was 72.

He was the Deputy Speaker of Puducherry Assembly between 2006 and 2011.

### Bekal Utsahi :

Veteran poet and former Rajya Sabha MP Bekal Utsahi passed away following brain haemorrhage. He was 88.

Utsahi was awarded the Padmashree in 1976 for his contribution to literature.

### Syed Abdus Salam :

Former India footballer and Coach Syed Abdus Salam, who was awarded Best Defender in the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, died at his Salarjung Colony residence. He was 77.

He also coached Andhra Pradesh and was the first coach of the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh in 1981 and retired there as a deputy director.

### Jayalalithaa :

J JAYALALITHAA, the iconic Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, who scorched a lonely, often controversial, road from cinema to an almost mythic political

status among her followers, who mastered the art of the comeback despite setbacks electoral and legal, passed away.

### Cho Ramaswamy :

Veteran Indian journalist, former Rajya Sabha member and political commentator Cho Ramaswamy died. He was 82.

### John Glenn :

Former US Senator and astronaut John Glenn, who became the first American to orbit the earth, has died in Ohio. He was 95.

Glenn, who circled the earth three times, was the third US astronaut in space. He was the first to get into orbit.

### Alan Thicke :

Veteran actor Alan Thicke best known for playing the head of the Seaver family on the popular ABC sitcom "Growing Pains," has died. He was 69.

Born in Kirkland Lake, Ontario in 1947, Thicke attended the University of Western Ontario after graduating from secondary school. He hosted a game show, "First Impressions," in Canada, as well as a talk show, "The Alan Thicke Show."

### Thomas Schelling :

The former Harvard University and University of Maryland professor Thomas Schelling was passed away at the age of 95 years.

According to colleague, Nobel Prize-winning economist Thomas Schelling, who used game theory to explain nuclear strategy.

### Zsa Zsa Gabor :

Zsa Zsa Gabor, the Hungarian actress, known for her life full of glamour and glitz has died. She was 99.

The actress, whose love life always made headlines, passed away, just two months of her 100th birthday.

### Anupam Mishra :

Noted journalist, environmentalist, and water conservationist Anupam Mishra passed away. He was 68.

**Jagannatha Varma :**

Veteran Malayalam Film and Television actor K N Jagannatha Varma passed away. He was 77.

An accomplished Kathakali artist, Varma was in the Kerala Police force and had retired as Superintendent of Police.

**Michele Morgan :**

French screen legend Michele Morgan, who starred in some 70 movies and took home the best actress prize at the first-ever Cannes film festival has died at the age of 96 years.

Her career flourished in the 1940s to 1960s, and faded with the arrival of new wave cinema.

**Mehar Singh :**

World War II veteran Mehar Singh, who had served with Royal Corps of Signals, passed away on December 15

Sant Mehar Singh joined the Royal Corps of Signals in 1942 and worked as a despatch rider. He saw operations in Imphal and during India-Pakistan war in 1947-48.

**Surendra Prasad Tarun :**

Former Bihar Education Minister and veteran Congress leader Surendra Prasad Tarun passed away after prolonged illness. He was 88.

He also worked for Press Trust of India as its Rajgir correspondent in the past.

**George Michael :**

British pop singer George Michael, who rose to fame with the band Wham! And sold more than 100 million albums in his career, has died aged 53.

**Vera Rubin :**

A pioneering astronomer who helped find powerful evidence of dark matter has died. Vera Rubin was 88.

Rubin's scientific achievements earned her numerous honors, including becoming the second female astronomer to be elected to the National Academy of Sciences.

**Carrie Fisher :**

Actress Carrie Fisher, who found enduring fame as Princess Leia in the original "Star Wars," has died. She was 60.

**Ratnasiri Wickremanayake :**

Veteran politician Ratnasiri Wickremanayake who served twice as Prime Minister of Sri Lanka passed away. He was 83.

Wickremanayake held many key ministerial positions since 1970.

**Sunderlal Patwa :**

Veteran BJP leader and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Sunderlal Patwa passed away. He was 92.

**Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil :**

Veteran Congress leader and former Union Minister Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil passed away. He was 84.

Considered a pillar of the cooperatives movement in the state and his family credited with launching Asia's first sugar cooperative factory in Loni, Vikhe-Patil had been elected Member of Parliament eight times from Ahmednagar.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

1st Dec.	World's AIDS DAY
2nd Dec.	World Pollution Prevention Day
3rd Dec.	World Disabled Day
4th Dec.	Indian Navy Day
7th Dec.	International Civil Aviation Day
9th Dec.	International Anti Corruption Day
10th Dec.	Human Rights Day
14th Dec.	National Energy Conservation Day
16th Dec.	Vijay Diwas
18th Dec.	International Migrants Day

## ABBREVIATIONS

ACS	Automated Clearing System
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ADR

American Depository Receipt

ASSOCHAM

Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India

BSCS

Basel Committee on Banking Supervision

CAR

Capital Adequacy Ratio

CARE

Credit Analysis and Research Limited

CASA

Current and Savings Accounts

DTAA

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement

EFTPOS

Electronic Funds Transfer At Point Of Sale

GAAR

General Anti Avoidance Rule

IBBI

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India

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## SPECIAL FEATURES

### India signs Rs 5000 crore M777 howitzer contract with US



Ending a three-decade-old howitzer drought, India signed a contract with the US for buying 145 M777 ultralight howitzers for \$737 million (Rs 5000 crore). A senior MoD official formally signed the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) with the US government for the seven regiments of howitzers.

The acquisition of the 'Ultra Light Howitzers', thus called because at 4.2 tons, they weigh only a third of normal 155 mm howitzers. The guns, which can be carried underslung by heavy lift helicopters like the Chinook, will give the army tremendous flexibility especially along the mountainous border with China.

Sources said the first three M777 howitzers will be delivered within the next three months to allow high-altitude and desert trials with Indian-made ammunition. The three guns will also be used to train Indian gunners. The first batch of 20 guns (18 guns make an artillery regiment) will be delivered by manufacturer BAE Systems in two years. The remaining 120 guns will be assembled in India between 48-54 months by BAE partner Mahindra Defence at their plant in Faridabad, Haryana.

The deal was cleared by the Cabinet Committee on Security chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on November 15. It has been in the pipeline for nearly a decade since the Indian army mooted the acquisition of the M777 Ultra Light Howitzers (ULH) from the US under 'Foreign Military Sales'.

According to the Dr. Joe Senftle, vice president & general manager for Weapon Systems at BAE Systems statement they look forward to providing the Indian Army with the combat-proven M777. The Company anticipates signing a contract in the coming weeks with the U.S. Department of Defense to supply the M777 to the army.

The Indian army bought its first artillery guns this year after a thirty-year gap. Earlier this year, the government cleared buys of the first batch of Dhanush 155/45 mm

howitzers built by the Ordnance Factory Board. The first six Dhanush howitzers are already undergoing user familiarization with the army's artillery units in Siachen and in the desert.

India signed its last howitzer contracts in 1986 but a bribery controversy that broke in 1987 scuttled the acquisition of more guns. The Bofors howitzers played a decisive role in the 1999 Kargil War between India and Pakistan. An artillery modernisation plan mooted in 2000 called for acquiring over 2200 new guns but multiple bribery controversies scuttled new gun acquisitions.

### PM Narendra Modi wins Time's Person of the Year online readers' poll



Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won the online reader's poll for TIME Person of the Year. PM Modi beat other world leaders, artists and politicians as the most influential figure in 2016.

Modi has won the popular vote but the Time magazine's editors will decide the final Person of the Year. But the online vote has given an idea how the world see these personalities.

Modi won with 18 per cent of the total votes polled in the survey, which closed Sunday at midnight.

PM Modi was well ahead of his closest contenders, including Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Julian Assange, who all received 7 per cent of the "yes" vote. Hillary Clinton got 4 per cent of the votes.

Modi was placed far ahead of Facebook founder and immensely popular online personality Mark Zuckerberg, who got only 2 per cent.

Commenting on the poll results, the Time magazine said, in recent months, Modi saw high approval ratings from Indians, according to a September Pew poll, and ratified the Paris Climate Change Agreement.

The magazine also factored in the demonetisation decision taken by the government. Time commented that Modi has come under scrutiny recently for getting rid of 500- and 1,000-rupee notes, impacting cash-based businesses and threatening India's economy.

The analysis of poll results showed varying pattern of choices in different parts of the world. Poll host Apester

found that "preferences differ across the world and the United States.

According to Apester, Modi performed particularly well among Indian voters as well as those in California and New Jersey.

### **Prime Minister unveils First Ever Indian Institute Of Skills at Kanpur**



In line with the vision of making India the Skill Capital of the World by empowering its youth to be more employable and self-sustainable, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of the first ever "Indian Institute of Skills" in the country at Kanpur. The Institute has been conceptualized by the Prime Minister during his visit to Singapore's Institute of Technical Education. Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, headed by Rajiv Pratap Rudy, in partnership with the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore decided to open an institute first ever of its kind in the country, the institute is inspired by the Singapore model of training and would adopt various best practices from the country. The Ministry has decided to have six such institutes all across.

Prime Minister also inaugurated the Kaushal Pradarshini (Skill Exhibition) for the youth of Uttar Pradesh. The Exhibition showcases state-of-the-art vocational training practices across different sectors, and will remain open for public view at the Railway Grounds, Kanpur between 19th to 22nd December.

Modi launched an array of skill development initiatives for the youth of the country, including Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKKs) and Drivers' Training Institutes. There was also strategic partnership with various industries that will train and employ approximate 4 Lakh youth over the next 3 years.

Prime Minister had shown concern about the training of drivers so to achieve his dream Ministry has decided to open up 100 Driver Training Institutes all across India soon. NSDC has signed a MoU with OLA cabs. OLA cabs need 1 lakh drivers and we will ensure we provide trained drivers.

The Prime Minister had announced "National Apprentice Promotion Scheme" in the State where the State Government has a major role in its successful implementation. There are only 23000 private companies

that are engaged in apprenticeship across the country. It is MSDE's endeavour to encourage State Government support and ensure engagement with more corporates on apprenticeship trainings. This is one direct way of bridging the gap between the potential employee and the employer and has models under Apprenticeship training has benefited economies of many countries. The financial year target for 2016-17 is to ensure enrolment of 5 lakh apprentices at least across the country.

Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) has plans to open one Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendra (PMKK) each, in each district of the country creating opportunities of growth for the youth locally and the launch of some 31 PMKKs was announced by Modi at the event. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras are iconic state-of-the-art skill development centres with modern infrastructure to facilitate skill trainings in the country.

### **Smriti Mandhana lone Indian in ICC Women's Team of the Year**



Indian batswoman Smriti Mandhana has been named in the Women's Team of the Year 2016, the International Cricket Council (ICC).

The women's team of the year, which will be captained by West Indies' Stafanie Taylor, has been added to the list of awards to acknowledge and appreciate outstanding performances of women's cricketers over a 12-month period.

Based on their performance between September 14, 2015 and September 20, 2016, which included the ICC Women's World Twenty20 and the ICC Women's Championship, the players have been selected.

The previous Women's ODI Player of the Year include Australia's Karen Rolton (2006), Jhulan Goswami of India (2007), Charlotte Edwards of England (2008), Claire Taylor of England (2009), Australia's Shelley Nitschke (2010), West Indies' Stafanie Taylor (2011 and 2012), Sarah Taylor of England (2014) and Australia's Meg Lanning (2015).



Women's Team of the Year (in batting order): Suzie Bates (New Zealand), Rachel Priest (New Zealand, wicketkeeper), Smriti Mandhana (India), Stafanie Taylor (West Indies, captain), Meg Lanning (Australia), Ellyse Perry (Australia), Heather Knight (England), Deandra Dottin (West Indies), Sune Luus (South Africa), Anya Shrubsole (England), Leigh Kasperk (New Zealand). 12th player: Kim Garth (Ireland).

### **DRDO successfully test-fires India's longest range nuclear capable Agni-5 missile**



The Defence and Research Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully tested its indigenously developed intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni-5' from the Wheeler Island off Odisha coast.

The three stage, solid propellant missile test-fired from a mobile launcher from the launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).

This was the fourth trial of the long range missile.

The indigenously-developed surface-to-surface missile, 'Agni-5', is capable of striking a target more than 5,000 km. It is about 17-metre long, 2-metre wide and has launch weight of around 50 tonnes. The missile can carry a nuclear warhead of more than one tonne.

Unlike other missiles of Agni series, the latest one 'Agni-5' is the most advanced having some new technologies incorporated with it in terms of navigation and guidance, warhead and engine.

Lot of new technologies developed indigenously were successfully tested in the first Agni-5 trial. The redundant navigation systems, very high accuracy Ring Laser Gyro based Inertial Navigation System (RINS) and the most modern and accurate Micro Navigation System (MINS) had ensured the Missile reach the target point within few metres of accuracy.

### **Portugal's Antonio Guterres appointed UN Secretary-General**

- ✎ Antonio Guterres, who was the Prime Minister of Portugal from 1995 to 2002, was sworn-in as the UN Secretary General. He will succeed Ban Ki-moon as the ninth chief of the organisation.
- ✎ President of the UN General Assembly Peter Thomson administered his Oath of Office at a special plenary meeting of the 193-member General

Assembly at the United Nations. After the sworn-in ceremony, Guterres, 67, also addressed the General Assembly.

- ✎ Addressing the UN General Assembly, the new UN Secretary-General vowed to reform the 71-year-old world body, making it decentralised and flexible to improve its ability to respond to global crises. He said the organisation is the cornerstone of multilateralism and has contributed to decades of relative peace, but the challenges are now surpassing our ability to respond.
- ✎ Guterres was unanimously appointed by the General Assembly as the successor to Ban, after the 15-nation Security Council had in October 2016 decided by acclamation to send his name to the Assembly for final approval.
- ✎ Guterres will assume his new role for a five-year tenure beginning 1 January 2017. He will serve the organisation till ending 31 December 2021.

### **About Antonio Guterres**

- ✎ He served as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees from June 2005 to December 2015. He was the 10th High Commissioner for Refugees.
- ✎ He was elected to the Portuguese Parliament in 1976, where he served for 17 years.
- ✎ During his seven-year tenure as the Prime Minister of Portugal, he was involved in the international effort to resolve the crisis in East Timor.
- ✎ Born on 30 April 1949, Guterres spent more than 20 years in government and public service.
- ✎ He briefly presided over the European Council in early 2000.
- ✎ He also founded the Portuguese Refugee Council in 1991.
- ✎ He graduated from the Instituto Superior Técnico with a degree in engineering in 1971.
- ✎ Besides, Guterres is the first Secretary-General from Western Europe since Kurt Waldheim who served the organisation from 1972 to 1981.

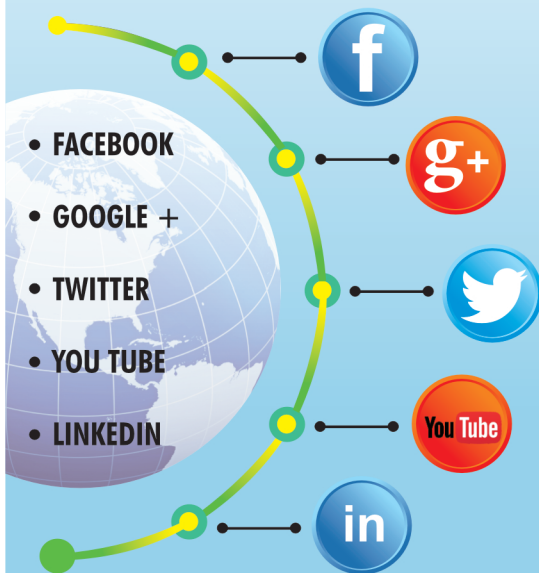
### **About United Nations Secretary-General**

- ✎ The United Nations (UN) Secretary is the head of the UN Secretariat, which is one of the principle organs of the United Nations. He acts as de facto spokesperson and leader of the United Nations.
- ✎ The role of the UN Secretary-General and Secretariat is laid out by Chapter XV (Articles 97 to 101) of the United Nations Charter. The post lasts for five years and is limited to a maximum of two terms.



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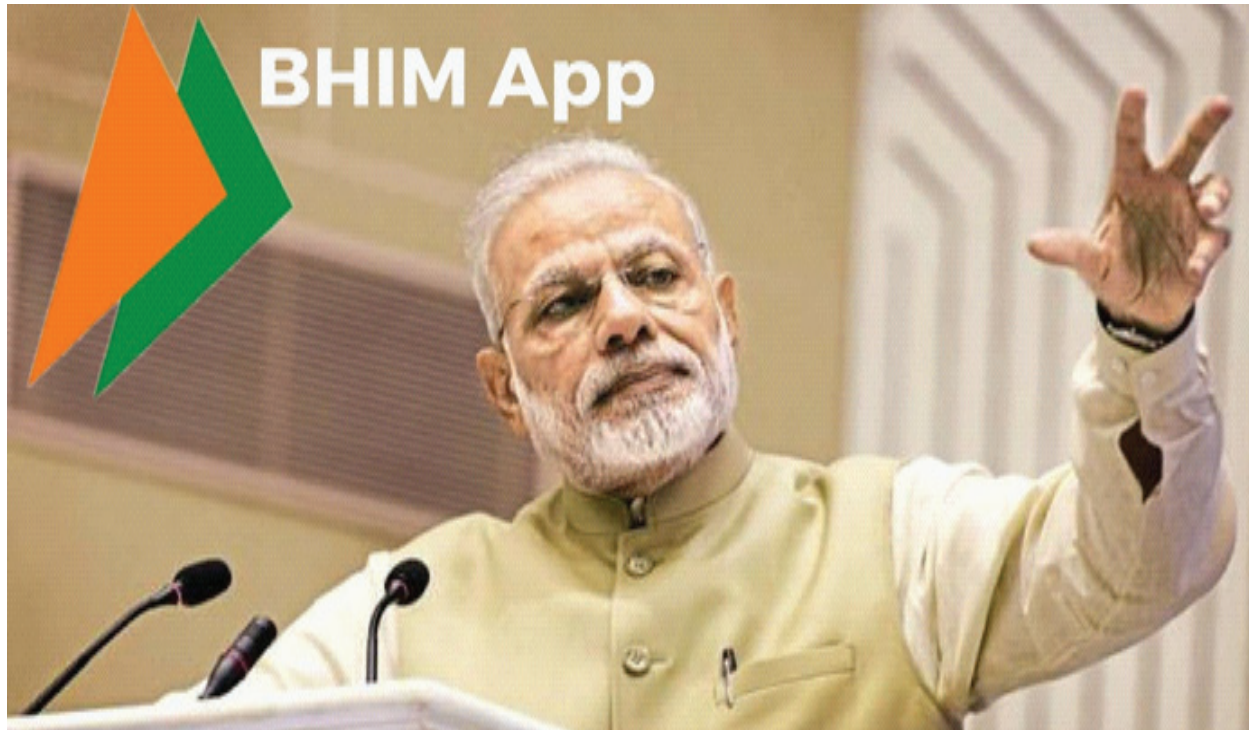


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# DIGI PAGE



## **BHIM: Bharat Interface for Money**

- ✎ Launch Date: 30 December 2016
- ✎ By: National Payment Corporation of India(NPCI)
- ✎ Based on: Unified Payment Interface(UPI)
- ✎ The new indigenously developed payment app 'BHIM' (Bharat Interface for Money) has been named after the main architect of Indian constitution, Bhim Rao Ambedkar.
- ✎ This app will create financial equality in the Country, as envisaged by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.
- ✎ BHIM is a biometric payment system app using Aadhar platform, and is based on Unified Payment Interface (UPI) to facilitate e-payments directly through bank.
- ✎ It was launched to stress on the importance of technology and digital transactions.
- ✎ It can be used on all mobile devices, be it a smartphone or a feature phone with or without internet connection.
- ✎ The payments through the new system (BHIM App) can be made by just a thumb impression after the bank account is linked with Aadhaar gateway.
- ✎ Indeed, the technology through BHIM will empower poorest of the poor, small business and the marginalised section.
- ✎ The new app is expected to minimise the role of plastic cards and point of sale machines.
- ✎ The app will eliminate fee payments for service providers like MasterCard and Visa, which has been a stumbling block in people switching to digital payments.
- ✎ The app can be used to send and receive money through smartphones.
- ✎ Money can also be sent to non UPI supported banks.
- ✎ Bank balance can also be checked through the app.
- ✎ Currently Hindi and English are supported in the app, with more languages coming soon.
- ✎ Indicating that the e-wallet app will feature fingerprint verification in future, "Only thumb will be needed to make a payment.
- ✎ Thumb will be your bank now".
- ✎ People should utilize the app and support this to curb black money and to create financial equality, he appealed.

# DIGI PAGE

 <b>ICC CRICKETER OF THE YEAR</b> (SIR GARFIELD SOBERS TROPHY) <b>Ravichandran Ashwin</b>  IND	 <b>ICC WOMEN'S ODI CRICKETER OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Suzie Bates</b>  NZ	 <b>ICC T20I PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Carlos Brathwaite</b>  WI
 <b>ICC TEST CRICKETER OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Ravichandran Ashwin</b>  IND	 <b>ICC WOMEN'S T20I CRICKETER OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Suzie Bates</b>  NZ	 <b>ICC EMERGING CRICKETER OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Mustafizur Rahman</b>  BAN
 <b>ICC ODI CRICKETER OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Quinton de Kock</b>  SA		
 <b>ICC ASSOCIATE/AFFILIATE CRICKETER OF THE YEAR</b> <b>Mohammad Shahzad</b>  AFG	 <b>ICC SPIRIT OF CRICKET AWARD</b> <b>Misbah-ul-Haq</b>  PAK	 <b>ICC UMPIRE OF THE YEAR</b> (DAVID SHEPHERD TROPHY) <b>Marais Erasmus</b>

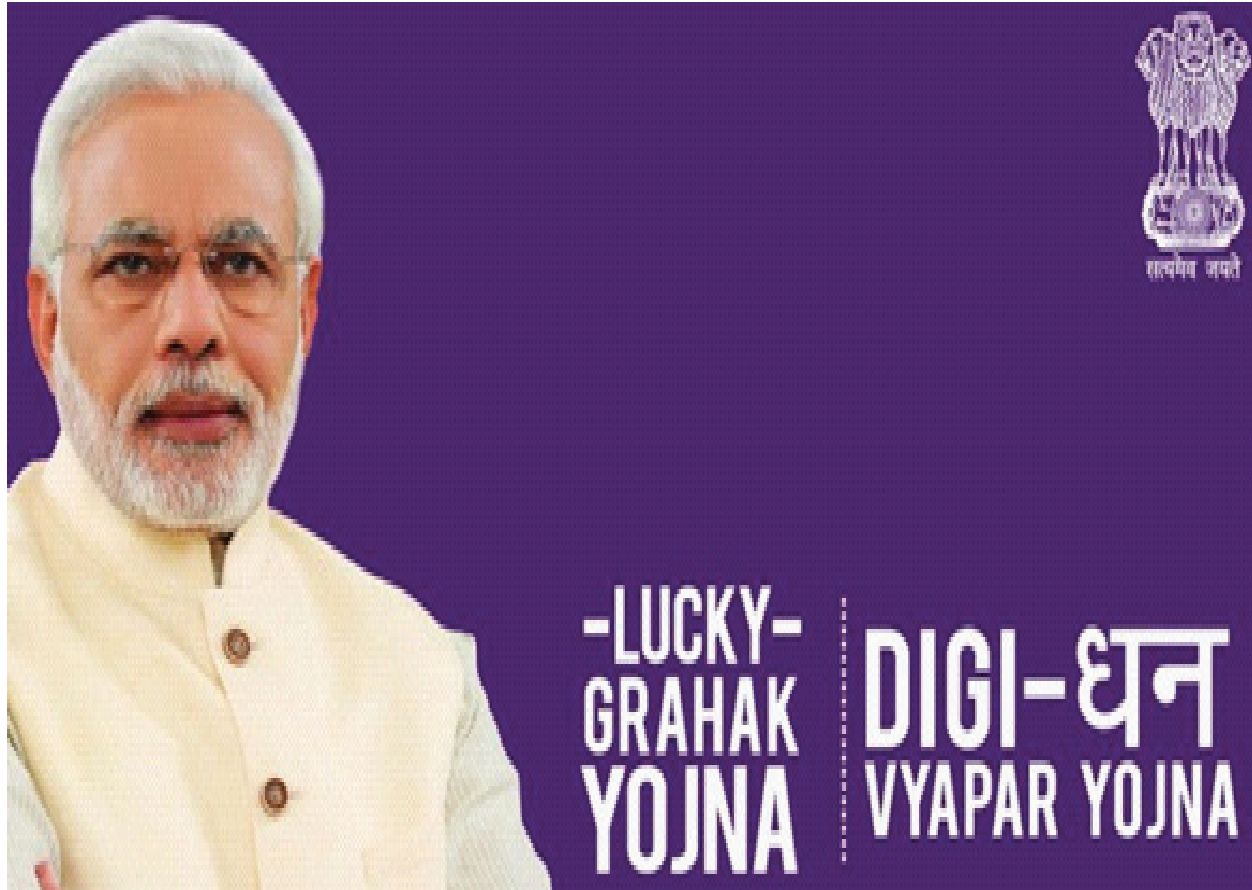
## List of ICC Awards 2016 Winners

Sr.No.	Category	Person
1	ICC Cricketer of the Year (Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy)	Ravichandran Ashwin (India)
2	ICC Test Cricketer of the Year	Ravichandran Ashwin (India)
3	ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year	Quinton de Kock (South Africa)
4	ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year	Suzie Bates (New Zealand)
5	ICC Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year	Suzie Bates (New Zealand)
6	ICC T20I Performance of the Year	Carlos Brathwaite (West Indies)
7	ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year	Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh)
8	ICC Associate / Affiliate Cricketer of the Year	Mohammad Shahzad (Afghanistan)
9	ICC Spirit of Cricket Award	Misbah-ul-Haq (Pakistan)
10	ICC Umpire of the Year (David Shepherd Trophy)	Marais Erasmus



# **DIGI PAGE**

## **LUCKY GRAHAK YOJANA and DIGI DHAN VYAPAR YOJANA**



- ✎ Launched on: 25th December 2016 at Vigyan Bhavan New Delhi
- ✎ Objective: The primary aim of these schemes is to incentivize digital transactions so that electronic payments are adopted by all sections of the society, especially the poor and the middle class.
- ✎ Duration: The scheme will become operational with the first draw on 25th December, 2016 (as a Christmas gift to the nation) leading up to a Mega Draw on Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanti on 14th April 2017
- ✎ Criteria: Incentives shall be restricted to transactions within the range of Rs 50 and Rs 3000. All transactions between consumers and merchants; consumers and government agencies and all AEPS transactions will be considered for the incentive scheme.
- ✎ Estimated Expenditure: Rs 340 Crore for the first Phase

### **LUCKY GRAHAK YOJANA (CONSUMERS)**

- ✎ Daily Reward of Rs 1000 to be Given 15000 lucky consumers for a period of 100 days
- ✎ Weekly Prizes worth Rs 1Lakh, Rs 10,000 and Rs 5000
- ✎ 3 Mega prizes worth Rs 1 Cr , Rs 50 Lakh , Rs 25 Lakh
- ✎ Eligibility: This will include all forms of transactions viz. UPI, USSD, AEPS and RuPay Cards but will for the time being exclude transactions through Private Credit Cards and Digital Wallets.

### **DIGI DHAN VYAPAR YOJANA (MERCHANTS)**

- ✎ Weekly prizes worth Rs 50,000 ; Rs 5,000 and Rs 2,500
- ✎ 3 Mega Prizes worth Rs 50 Lakh , Rs 25 Lakh and Rs 12 Lakh

# DIGI PAGE



## NEXT HELD SPORTS & SUMMITS

Events	Venue
BRICS Summit 2017	China
FIFA World Cup 2018	Russia
FIFA World Cup 2022	Qatar
FIFA U-20 World Cup	Republic of Korea
Commonwealth Games 2018	Gold coast (Australia)
Olympics Games 2020	Tokyo (Japan)
Winter Olympics Games 2018	Pyongyang (South Korea)
Winter Olympic Games 2022	Beijing (China)
Paralympic Games 2020	Tokyo (Japan)
World Cup T20 Tournament 2020	Australia
ODI Cricket World Cup 2019	England & Wales
ODI Cricket World Cup 2023	India
Asian Games 2018	Jakarta
Men's Hockey World Cup 2018	India
Women's Hockey World Cup 2018	England
G-20 summit 2017	Hamburg
G-20 summit 2018	Buenos Aires



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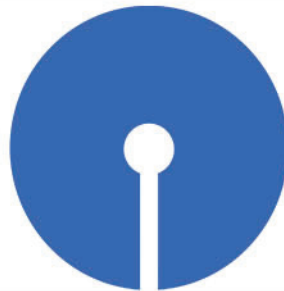
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