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Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India



PADMA AWARDS 2017

- ▶ TRAI seeks views from all sides on the issue of net neutrality, the consultation paper issued
- ▶ Maternity Benefit Programme (MBP)
- ▶ Jallikattu Festival : A report
- ▶ PAN Card, PAN Number, Uses and Benefits
- ▶ Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2017
- ▶ Australian open 2017

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Editor

N.K. Jain

Advisors

Neeraj Chabra

K.C.Gupta

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Ph.: +91-9670575613



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Please send your suggestions and
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CP-9, Vijayant Khand,
Gomti Nagar Lucknow - 226010

E-mail:info@mahendras.org

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PRAVASI BHARATIYA DIVAS



MATERNITY BENEFIT PROGRAMME (MBP)



TRAI



JALLIKATTU FESTIVAL



PADMA AWARD



AUSTRALIAN OPEN 2017

**BUDGET 2017-18
& ECONOMIC SURVEY
2016-17 ON PG. NO. 50 - 52**

EDITORIAL

**PADMA AWARDS: EXCEPTIONAL
AND DISTINGUISHED SERVICE**

**SATYAMEV
JAYATE**

Dear Aspirants,

With a zenith level of zeal we present you again with the March issue of your favourite magazine meticulously made for aspirants who want to be ahead of others in the field of competitive examination.

We take privilege to present you the study material relevant for the competitive examination keeping in view the requirement of our esteemed readers.

If you read the issue carefully like an eager-beaver, we assure you will be fully equipped in the battlefield of the competitive examination.

This issue of March will provide you some of the most imperative and substantial events, e.g. Padma Awards, Jallikattu in India, Australian Open 2017, Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Celebration, TRAI views from all sides on the issue of net neutrality, PM announcement on the Maternity Law.

We always try to paint the demand, suggestion and changes of our readers in our magazine.

We make all effort to include them in the further issue of the magazine, It gives us great exhilaration that our readers unanimously endorse our drudgery and skill nationally.

MICA gives you guidance, counselling and keeps ahead in every aspect of competition, because we believe in the quote

“Your Success is Our Success”

Gratitude

With Best Wishes

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name : Deepak Kumar Yadav

Father's Name : U S YADAV

Mother's Name : BINESH YADAV

Education : B.Tech. (Mechanical)

Hobbies : Cricket , Listening Music

Prior Selection : It is my 3rd attempt.

Name of the Exam : SBI PO 2016

Roll No. of Qualified Exam : 3970903877

Roll No. of Mahendra Institute : PDH- IV0270070649



MICA : Mahendras family expresses its heartiest congratulations on your success as PO in SBI-2016.

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

Deepak : I want to give credit of my selection to Almighty, My Family & Mahendras Institute for constantly supporting and motivating me.

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

Deepak : It was my 3rd attempt.

MICA : What is the role of Mahendra institute in your selection?

Deepak : Mahendra Institute gave me proper idea about preparation specially in case of scarcity of time & helped me in developing my communication skills which finally helped me in GD & Interview.

MICA : How did you prepare for the written examination?

Deepak : Since, I have strong background so I did not give any extra effort in this.

Quantitative Aptitude:

To keep your basics clear and have patience while solving questions. Practice of previous year papers will improve your speed. Eg Mahendras Maths Book

Reasoning Ability:

Keep practicing reasoning questions of previous papers, STs and Mahendras Reasoning Book will help a lot. Eg Mahendra Reasoning book & practice paper

English:

I have taken help from Mahendra Guru, STs and Hindu Newspaper that helped me in knowing the pattern of error. Eg Speed test were so helpful and read text book thoroughly for all subjects.

General Awareness:

Read newspaper at least updated with weekly current affairs and its periodic revision. Eg Internet, Mahendras Banking, MICA & Monthly Boosters.

Computer & Marketing:

From Mahendras study material & class notes.

MICA : How do you take "Master in Current Affairs Magazine", and "Mahendra Guru" Website?

Deepak : These are really very helpful sources, need to be followed everyday. Specially Mahendra Guru website is full of content & effective educational videos.

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

Deepak :

1. Inspiring faculties and so competitive ambience.
2. The facility of rejoining batches
3. The faculty member are very polite and they tried their best to clear our doubt.

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

Deepak : Time management is very important if one wants to crack SBI PO and Mahendra speed test are helpful in improving Time Management Skills.

MICA : How did you prepare for the Interview?

Deepak : I spoke to previously selected students and searched for frequently asked question in interview & prepared them.

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

Deepak : My interview panel was consist of 5 members, each of them expert in their respective fields.

The questions asked were:

- (I) Why not defence job (because my father is a retired defence employee) ?
- (II) Why banking after B.Tech. in mechanical ?
- (III) BRICS Bank: Establishment, Head and Functions?
- (IV) About GDP: How much by volume the Indian GDP?
- (V) GST and its implications?

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

Deepak : I myself downloaded the pdf and was very happy after being selected.

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

Deepak : Don't Quit, work hard with patience and persistence to achieve your goal.

MICA : Once again congratulations on your success, because "Your success is our success".

Deepak : Thank You Mahendra for guiding me to Success.

- ✂ Number of India born CEO's that are featured in Fortune's "Businessperson of the Year" list 2016 is-
- ✂ According to a compilation by Time magazine in 2016, picture of which indian is among the 100 most influential images of all time?
- ✂ A second Indian-American woman, at a top administration position in US Federal Agency is -
- ✂ Keo Woolford who died recently was related to-
- ✂ The "International Man of the Year" at the 2016 Esquire "Man at His Best Awards" held in Dubai is -
- ✂ According to the World Economic Forum (WEF), India's rank in terms of enabling cross border trade in 2016 is -
- ✂ Recently, Bharatiya Mahila Bank got approval to get merged with the country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) by -
- ✂ The ATM which are setup on a standalone basis is -
- ✂ To win the World Chess Championship 2016 for the third consecutive time, Sergei Karjakin was defeated by -
- ✂ The year in which central office of the Reserve Bank of India was permanently moved to Mumbai from Calcutta-
- ✂ According to the Times Higher Education 'BRICS and Emerging Economies University Rankings 2017', the country which topped is -
- ✂ The recently included Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in UNESCO's Representative List is -
- ✂ Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn has been proclaimed the new King of-
- ✂ _____ Health Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma launched an 'e-blood bank software' which will interconnect all blood banks located at different places of the state and help maintain a centralised database.
- ✂ The country which won the AFC Developing Member Association of the Year Award at the Asian Football Confederations Annual Awards 2016 is -
- ✂ International Children's Peace Prize 2016 for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation is awarded to -
- ✂ The state Tourism which has been adjudged as "One of the best emerging destination for adventure" by a leading US-based travel magazine Conde Nast is -
- ✂ Recent announcement of his retirement from Formula One, just after winning German Grand Prix 2016 was done by -
- ✂ Recently, who became the incharge of NSE after its CEO Chitra Ramakrishnan quit ?
- ✂ Tehri Dam is constructed on river-
- ✂ John Key has announced his resignation recently. He was PM of-
- ✂ Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal, founders of _____ have been chosen for the Asian of the Year 2016 awards by Straits Times of Singapore.
- ✂ Public sector company MMTC has tied-up to sell government-minted 'Indian Gold Coins' with bank -
- ✂ 2016 Hero World Challenge Golf title won by -

4
Mahatma Gandhi
Seema Verma
Film Industry
Ranveer Singh
102
CCI
Offsite ATM
Magnus Carlson
1937
China
Yoga
Thailand
Assam
India
Kehkashan Basu
J&K
Nico Roseberg
J Ravichandran
Bhagirathi river
New Zealand
Flipkart
SBI
Hideki Matsuyama

- ✎ The oldest golfer who win an Asian Tour title after lifting the Panasonic Open 2016 is -
- ✎ New PM of France by President Francois Hollande is -
- ✎ Who sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after the death of AIADMK Supremo J Jayalalithaa?
- ✎ Recently appointed Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) is -
- ✎ _____ Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev became the country's second president.
- ✎ The Account which is suitable for those who can save regularly an expect to earn a fear return on deposits over a period of time is-
- ✎ 43rd Chief Justice TS Thakur who is going to be retire on January 3, 2017, will be succeeded by-
- ✎ According to World Economic Forum, the most powerful language on the planet is -
- ✎ According to RBI, the economic growth forecast for the year 2016-17 is -
- ✎ "Konkan 16" is a Joint Naval Exercise between-
- ✎ According to a new list released by Glassdoor, the company which became the best technology company to work for US in 2017 is -
- ✎ Pakistan President _____ appointed Justice Saqib Nisar as the new chief justice of Pakistan.
- ✎ Company which is named as 'company of the year' by Fortune magazine in its annual Blue Ribbon ranking 2016 is -
- ✎ Arunachal Pradesh State Co-operative Apex Bank launched Mobile Banking Service named 'SIM se PaY' in collaboration with bank -
- ✎ Michael Jordan has been named as the highest-paid athlete of all time by Forbes magazine. The sport with which he belong is -
- ✎ Number of days for which Interbank call money refers for borrowing among banks -
- ✎ Recently appointed Commissioner to the US Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) is -
- ✎ According to the Swachh Sarvekshan rural report 2016, the cleanest state of India is -
- ✎ According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2016, India's rank in the list of countries most impacted by terrorism in 2015 is -
- ✎ Recently, the company joined hands with taxi aggregator Ola to train aspiring drivers-partners is -
- ✎ According to a report the Stadium of India which will be the biggest cricket stadium in the world in terms of seating capacity is-
- ✎ The mission which was recently launched by Union IT Minister Ravishankar Prasad to enable every citizen, small traders and merchants to adopt digital payments in their everyday financial transactions is-
- ✎ According to Forbes 2016 report, the second richest person in the world is -
- ✎ The Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) _____ has launched a 'Veterans Outreach App' in a bid to reach out to its ex-servicemen.
- ✎ Recently, the train which was unveiled by Indian Railways which has features like CCTVs and braille-integrated displays is -
- ✎ If a bank is not able to provide appropriate banking facilities, the risk is known as-
- ✎ The country which has launched a new weather satellite 'Fengyun-4' marking an upgrade of its meteorological satellites in geostationary orbit is -

Mukesh Kumar
Bernard Cazeneuve

O.Panneerselvam
B.S.Bhullar
Uzbekistan's

Fixed Deposit Account
Jagdish Singh Khehar
English
7.1 %
India and Britain

Facebook

Mamnoon Hussain

Alphabet

Yes Bank

Basketball
For one day only

Tenzin Dorjee
Sikkim

7th

Maruti Suzuki

Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium

Digidhan Abhiyan
Warren Buffett

Dalbir Singh Suhag

Humsafar
Operational Risk

China

- ✎ The newly appointed New Zealand's prime minister following the resignation of John Key from his post is -
- ✎ Golden Jubilee Lifetime Achievement Award 2016 by the Sports Journalists Association of Mumbai (SJAM) has been recently conferred to -
- ✎ Famous Book 'Eminent World Scientists' written by-
- ✎ The city which hosted the world's first ever Wind Music festival on 17 December, 2016 is -
- ✎ Who has been announced as the UNICEF Global Goodwill Ambassador to promote child rights at the UNICEF 70th anniversary event?
- ✎ Cristiano Ronaldo who has won the Ballon d'Or award 2016 for the fourth time. He hails from which country?
- ✎ After beating Peter Gilchrist of Singapore, the 11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships is won by -
- ✎ According to Expedia 'Vacation Deprivation report 2016', India's rank in the most vacation deprived country globally is -
- ✎ According to RBI guidelines the facility which are not provided by White label ATMs is -
- ✎ 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 is awarded to -
- ✎ 'The Global Teacher Prize 2017' nomination goes to -
- ✎ The site included in the list of 'World Heritage Sites' by UNESCO is -
- ✎ "Indra Navy 2016" is a joint naval exercise between-
- ✎ Famous cricketer Sid O'Linn died recently. The country he hails from is -
- ✎ World's most powerful CEO of 2016 by Forbes is -
- ✎ World's Most Powerful Person 2016 by Forbes, for the fourth consecutive year is -
- ✎ For the current year 2016, the France's top civilian honour - Officier de la Legion d'Honneur conferred to -
- ✎ Noble Prize winner Thomas Schelling who died recently, was related to which field?
- ✎ Scheduled and Non-scheduled banks are described under 2nd article of which act?
- ✎ Bharatmuni Samman 2016 conferred to -
- ✎ For the first time, the Indian-American woman who has been elected as the new Mayor of the key Californian city of Cupertino is -
- ✎ The state which 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 is -
- ✎ According to Pew research 2016, India's rank in the list of countries having maximum number of international migrants is -
- ✎ Which of the following has been re-appointed to the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee of the US Department of Commerce?
- ✎ Country which has launched its first fully-owned overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole is -
- ✎ Country which will host the 71st Commissions Meeting of AIBA in February is -

Bill English
Answer- Sunil Gavaskar
Sicily Kodian
Visakhapatnam
Priyanka Chopra
Portugal
Pankaj Advani
4th
Regular Bills Payments
Anan Shetty
Kavita Sanghvi
Rio de Janeiro
India and Russia
South Africa
Larry Page
Vladimir Putin
Shobhana Bhartiya
Economics
Reserve Bank of India Act 1934
Tijan Bai
Savita Vaidhyathan
Haryana
Answer-1
Vijay Sazawal
China
India

- ✎ The state government which has launched 'Sustainable Action for Climate Resilient Development in Majuli' (SACReD, Majuli) to make river island Majuli country's first ever Carbon Neutral district by 2020 is -
- ✎ "EKUVERIN- 2016" is a joint military exercise between-
- ✎ The correct process of money laundering is -
- ✎ The Miss World 2016 is -
- ✎ Country which won the Hockey world cup 2016 is -
- ✎ A new Army chief who succeeded General Dalbir Singh recently, is -
- ✎ Who took over as the President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) for 2016-17 at the conclusion of the Chamber's 89th Annual General Meeting?
- ✎ Newly appointed chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB) is -
- ✎ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the first ever 'Indian Institute of Skills' in the country. It is located at -
- ✎ The EPFO has cut the interest rates on Provident Fund deposits for 2016-17 to-
- ✎ The state government which has appointed Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra as the brand ambassador of the state's tourism for two years is -
- ✎ Recently, the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) has been conferred the Skoch Silver and Skoch Order-of Merit award 2016 for-
- ✎ Reserve Bank of India constituted a committee for Financial Technology (Fintech) and Digital Banking in India. The committee will work under-
- ✎ The number of new castes which have been included in the Central list of Other Backward Classes (OBCs) by Government is -
- ✎ According to air travel intelligence company OAG, the rank of Indira Gandhi International Airport in "World's most connected airport" is -
- ✎ The e-commerce company which has launched its global startup program 'Launchpad' in India that will enable Indian startups to sell their products overseas is -
- ✎ Indian Oil Corporation (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation (HPCL) signed a pact to build India's biggest oil refinery with an estimated cost of-
- ✎ New president of South Korea is -
- ✎ The state Government which has launched country's first amphibious bus project recently is -
- ✎ The name of the indigenously-designed cruise missile launched by Pakistan that can hit targets at 700 kms is -
- ✎ The state government which has launched 'Annapurna Rasoi Scheme' to provide quality meal at cheap price to poor and needy on the lines of Tamil Nadu Government's Amma canteens is -
- ✎ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and Minister of state for communications and Railways, Manoj Sinha launched State Bank MobiCash Mobile Wallet, which is a product of-
- ✎ The first development financial institution of India-

Assam

India and Maldives

**Placement- Layering-
Integration**

Stephanie del Valle

India

Bipin Rawat

Pankaj R. Patel

Rajiv Jain

Kanpur

8.65 %

Assam

POCSO e-Box

Sudarshan Sen

15

22nd

Amazon

30 Billion dollar

Hwang Kyo-ahn

Punjab

Babur

Rajasthan

SBI and BSNL

**Industrial Finance
Corporation of India**



ABBREVIATIONS

GAAR	General Anti-Avoidance Rule
AMCs	Asset Management Companies
MCLR	Marginal cost of fund based lending rates
DTAC	Double Taxation Avoidance Convention
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
SLNP	Street Lighting National Programme
SAFF	South Asian Football Federation
CABI	Cricket Association for the Blind in India

IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

January 9	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (Non-resident Indian Day)
January 12	National Youth Day (India) (Birth Day of Swami Vivekanand)
January 15	Indian Army Day
January 23	Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's Birth anniversary
January 25	International Customs Duty Day, India Tourism Day, Indian Voter Day
January 26	Republic Day (India)
January 28	Data Privacy Day
January 28	Birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai
January 30	World Leprosy Eradication Day

ECONOMIC GLOSSARY

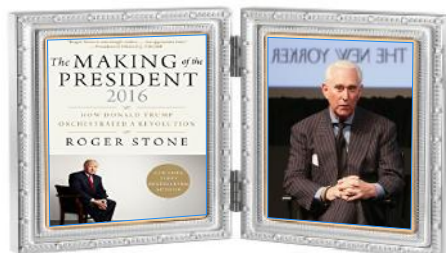
GLOSSARY:

National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) is a fund created by the Government of India for enhancing infrastructure financing in the country.

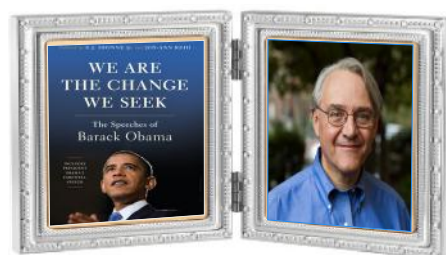
This is different from the National Investment Fund. NIIF was proposed to be set up as a Trust, to raise debt to invest in the equity of infrastructure finance companies such as Indian Rail Finance Corporation (IRFC) and National Housing Bank (NHB). The idea is that these infrastructure finance companies can then leverage this extra equity, manifold. In that sense, NIIF is a banker of the banker of the banker. Its creation was announced in the Union Budget 2015-16. The operational framework was approved on 20 August 2015. NIIF got registered with SEBI as Category II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF) on December 28, 2015. A website was created on 8 June 2016. Mr. Sujoy Bose, Director and Global Co-Head, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Washington DC, was appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIIF Ltd on 27 June 2016.

Financial Times (London) had adjudged NIIF as the Most Innovative structure in Asia Pacific under Finance category.

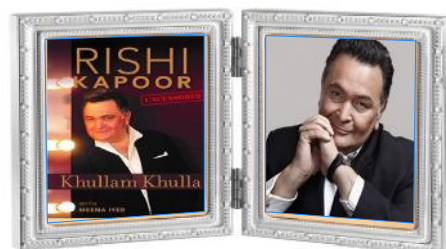
BOOKS AND AUTHORS



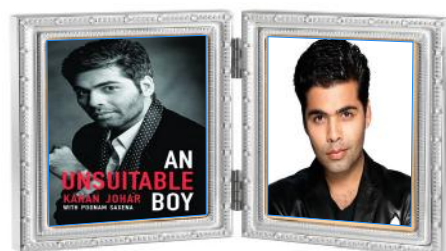
The Making of the President 2016: How Donald Trump Orchestrated a Revolution :- Roger Stone



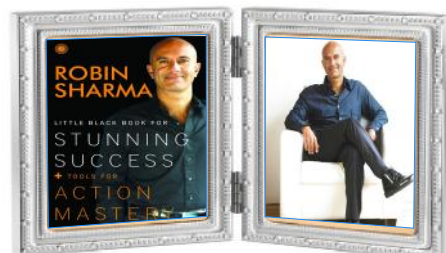
We are the change We Seek : The Speeches of Barack Obama :- E.J. Dionne Jr & Joy Ann Reid



Khullam Khulla: Rishi Kapoor Uncensored :- Rishi Kapoor and Meena Iyer



An Unsuitable Boy :- Karan Johar & Poonam Saxena

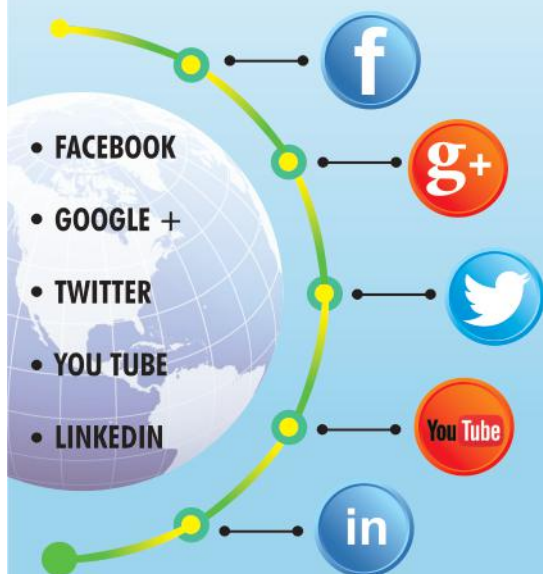


Little Black Book for Stunning Success + Tools for Action Master :- Robin Sharma

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EXAMS



LEADS



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APPOINTMENT

Shaikh Rafik Mohammed

An Indian-origin Saudi-based entrepreneur, Shaikh Rafik Mohammed has been appointed as Major General of Kyrgyzstan, a rare military position occupied by an Indian in the Central Asian country.



- Shaikh Rafik Mohammed, who hails from Kerala, was appointed as Major General of Kyrgyzstan by Ali Mirza, Defence Minister of Kyrgyzstan at an official ceremony held in the country. Rafik, whose family resides in Dubai, holds Kyrgyzstan nationality conferred by its former President Kurmanbek Saliyevich Bakiyev whom he casually met in his 20s while working in Iran.
- Rafik was invited by the Kyrgyzstan government to take up the prestigious military position in view of his earlier contribution to the country.

David R Syiemlieh

David R Syiemlieh has been appointed as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by President Pranab Mukherjee.



- Syiemlieh, a UPSC member, has been taken over charge on January 4 and will remain the head of the organisation till his retirement on January 21, 2018 or till further orders.
- The President has appointed Prof David R Syiemlieh, Member, Union Public Service Commission, to perform the duties of the post of Chairman, Union Public Service Commission, with effect from the forenoon of January 4, 2017 till further orders or till completion of his term as member on January 21, 2018 whichever is earlier.
- He taken over from Alka Sirohi, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

SB Deo

Air Marshal SB Deo (PVSM AVSM VM VSM ADC) paid homage at Amar Jawan Jyoti, India Gate before taking over as Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) at Air HQ. On his arrival at the Air Headquarters (Vayu Bhawan), the Air Marshal was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour.



- Air Marshal SB Deo was commissioned as a fighter pilot in the IAF on 15 Jun 79. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.
- He is a FCL (Fighter Combat Leader) and a Cat A" Qualified Flying Instructor with over 3800 hours of operational and training flying. He was also Directing Staff at TACDE.

Preeti Sudan

Preeti Sudan, IAS (Andhra Pradesh: 1983) assumed charge as Secretary, Department of Food and Public Distribution in the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution on superannuation of Vrinda Sarup (IAS).

- Prior to her appointment, Ms. Preeti Sudan has served in various capacities in the Union Ministries/Departments including Ministry of Women and Child Development and Ministry of Defence.
- During a career span of more than 33 years Ms. Sudan has served in various capacities in his cadre state of Andhra Pradesh.
- She served in various department including Revenue Department, Disaster Management Department, Health and Family Welfare, Finance, Seeds/Agriculture Corporation.

JS Khehar

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar was sworn in as the Chief Justice of India (CJI). He succeeded Justice Tirath Singh Thakur. Khehar is the 44th CJI and also the first Sikh to hold the apex office. He would have a tenure of little over seven months.

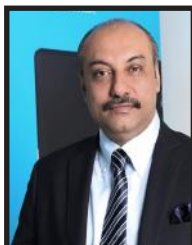


- Khehar was administered the oath of office by President Pranab Mukherjee at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
- Justice Khehar was the author of the judgment by a five-judge constitution bench that held "unconstitutional" the Constitution's 99th amendment paving way for the National Judicial Appointment Commission and the National Judicial Appointment Commission Act, 2014.
- Justice Khehar, known for his unflinching stand has had many rough brushes within the Judicial establishment itself, even if it meant impeachment of a colleague.
- In 2010, as the Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court, Justice Khehar was appointed a member of the three jurists committee, set up to examine corruption charges against Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, P D Dinakaran, who was facing impeachment proceedings.

- Before the proceedings could get over, Justice Dinakaran had resigned from his post.
- Later, as Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court, Justice Khehar confronted a sitting HC judge accused of sexual harassment by a lady civil judge, resulting in his resignation as well.

Karan Bajwa

Technology giant IBM has appointed Karan Bajwa Managing Director of its India operations.



- He succeeds Vanitha Narayana, who has been elevated as Chairman of IBM India.
- Bajwa joined IBM last year as Executive for Strategy and Transformation in the Asia-Pacific region. Previously, he was Microsoft India's managing director. He was associated with IBM's networking business and was based in Singapore in 2001-05.

S. Padmanabhan

Tata Power has said that S Padmanabhan has been nominated as chairman of the board of directors of the company.



- S Padmanabhan, additional director on the company's board, has been nominated as Chairman of the board of directors of the company effective January 4, 2017.
- Last month, Padmanabhan was appointed the Additional Director.
- Prior to joining the Tata Power board, he was the Executive Chairman, Tata Business Excellence Group (TBExG), and was recently given the additional responsibility as Head of Group HR for Tata Sons. Padmanabhan has been associated with the Tata group for over 34 years.
- The nomination comes against the backdrop of Cyrus Mistry's resignation as director of the company in December.

Raj Shah

U.S. President-elect Donald Trump appointed Indian-American Raj Shah as Deputy Communications Director and Research Director, a key White House position.

- Shah, is currently head of Opposition Research in the Republican National Committee. In this position, he led a team of experts to carry out research against Hillary Clinton, the Democratic presidential candidate.

Shah was behind all the anti-Clinton campaign during the presidential elections.

Rajiv Shah

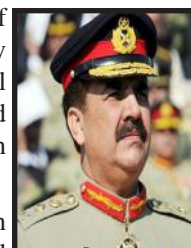
Former USAID head Rajiv J Shah is set to be named as president of the Rockefeller Foundation, one of America's largest and most influential philanthropies, becoming the youngest person and the first Indian-American to lead the group.



- A report in the New York Times said the Rockefeller Foundation was name Shah to succeed Judith Rodin, who has been president for 12 years.
- The selection was made Shah the youngest person and the first Indian-American to lead the Rockefeller Foundation, which was founded in 1913 by the oil tycoon John D Rockefeller. Shah was USAID head under the Obama administration from 2009 to 2015.
- He had previously served as Undersecretary and Chief Scientist in the US Department of Agriculture, where he created the National Institute for Food and Agriculture.

Raheel Sharif

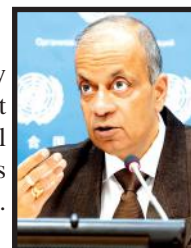
Defence Minister Khawaja Asif said that Pakistan's recently retired army chief Gen Raheel Sharif will head the Saudi Arabia-led 39-nation Islamic military coalition formed to combat terrorism.



- Raheel retired as the army chief in November and has been succeeded by General Qamar Javed Bajwa.

Nitin Khandelwal

All India Gems and Jewellery Trade Federation (GJF) said it has appointed Nitin Khandelwal as Chairman and Pramod Agarwal as Vice Chairman for a period of two years.



Kumar Sharadindu

SBI Pension Funds, a subsidiary of State Bank of India, has appointed Kumar Sharadindu as its managing director and chief executive. SBI Pension Funds is one of the three pension fund managers appointed by the regulator PFRDA to manage the pension corpus of employees enrolled under the National Pension System for government employees.

- Prior to this assignment, Sharadindu was a general manager at SBI Corporate Centre, Mumbai, heading the private equity business.

Kalyan Krishnamurthy

Flipkart has promoted former Tiger Global Management executive Kalyan Krishnamurthy as the new chief executive to run the operations of India's largest online retailer. Mr. Krishnamurthy is replacing co-founder Binny Bansal, who has been elevated to the position of Group CEO.



- ✎ Mr. Krishnamurthy joined Flipkart in June last year as head of 'category design organisation.' He was hired from Flipkart's largest investor Tiger Global, a New York-based investment firm.
- ✎ The company announced a new organisation structure with Flipkart Group organisation at the apex level. It said that the newly formed 'Group Org' will focus on creating future value through a portfolio of new and high growth businesses. It would also manage capital allocation across group companies, and ensure each business has a strong CEO in place.
- ✎ Flipkart said that Nitin Seth, presently the Chief Administrative officer, will be the Chief Operating Officer for the company and will report to Mr. Krishnamurthy.
- ✎ Flipkart's other co-founder Sachin Bansal will remain as the executive chairman, providing strategic direction for existing businesses and mentoring senior leadership. Flipkart said that Ananth Narayanan will continue as CEO of the company's fashion unit Myntra-Jabong and Sameer Nigam will stay on as CEO of PhonePe, a Flipkart-owned payment app.

Madhur Bhandarkar

National award winning director Madhur Bhandarkar has been nominated as member of the society of Kolkata-based 'Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute' (SRFTI) by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.



- ✎ Bhandarkar, who is currently shooting his next "Indu Sarkar" received the official letter from SRFTI, Kolkata.
- ✎ The institute, named after Ray, who has given memorable movies like "Aparajito", "Charulata", "Apar Sansar", offers post-graduate programmes in cinematic studies.
- ✎ He was also honoured with the 4th highest civilian award 'Padma Shri' for his contribution to Hindi cinema.

Jason Kothari

Former Housing.Com CEO Jason Kothari has been roped in by Snapdeal to head the e-commerce company's strategy and investment operations, a day after the merger of the realty portal with Prop Tiger.



- ✎ As Snapdeal's Chief Strategy and Investment Officer, Kothari will work alongside co-founders, Kunal Bahl and Rohit Bansal, in this key leadership role.
- ✎ He will be joining Snapdeal on January 16, 2017.
- ✎ Interestingly, Snapdeal and Housing.Com are both backed by Japanese conglomerate SoftBank.

U Thaung Tun

The Myanmar government has appointed U Thaung Tun as National Security Advisor. The National Security Advisor was named to advise the President and the government on internal and external threats by assessing the situation from a strategic point of view.

The advisor holds the same status as a minister.

N Chandrasekaran

Natarajan Chandrasekaran, the chief executive officer of India's largest software exporter Tata Consultancy Services, was appointed chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of India's largest conglomerate by revenues.

- ✎ The Tata Sons board met on Bombay House, the headquarters of the Tata Group, and unanimously endorsed the appointment after a search panel recommended Tata lifer Chandrasekaran, 53, usually referred to as Chandra.
- ✎ Chandra, a computer engineer who joined TCS in 1987 and became its CEO in 2009, received a standing ovation from his employees after he returned to TCS House in Fort. He is the first professional to head the salt-to-software business house and will take over from interim chairman Ratan Tata on February 21. Rajesh Gopinath will replace him at TCS.
- ✎ The appointment of Chandra, a regular marathoner, is seen as the group's preference to hand over the reins to an insider who understands the Tata Group culture and values. The new Tata Sons boss, who is also an avid photographer, was inducted on its board on October 25, the day after Mistry was sacked.
- ✎ Tata Sons, after sacking Mistry, had formed a 5-member selection panel to shortlist the candidates for the top job. The panel included TVS Chairman Venu Srinivasan, Bain Capital's Amit Chandra, former diplomat Ronen Sen and Kumar Bhattacharyya of Warwick University.

Rajesh Gopinathan

The board of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) appointed Rajesh Gopinathan as the new chief executive officer and managing director in place of N Chandrasekaran who has been appointed as the chairman of Tata Sons, effective February 21, 2017.



- ✎ Gopinathan started his professional career with TCS in 2001. He was appointed as Chief Financial Officer of the company in February 2013. Prior to becoming the CFO Rajesh was the vice president – Business Finance.
- ✎ TCS has also named N Ganapathy Subramaniam who is currently president, TCS Financial Solutions as the president and chief operating officer and appointed him as a director on the board of the company.

Ravikumar S

Country's second biggest IT firm Infosys has elevated its President and Chief Delivery Officer, Ravikumar S, as the Deputy Chief Operating Officer.



- ✎ He will report to Infosys COO U B Pravin Rao with immediate effect.
- ✎ In addition to his current responsibility of heading the global delivery organisation, Ravikumar S will oversee certain strategic business enabling functions and will be based in India.
- ✎ Infosys CEO Vishal Sikka said the appointment will provide "more bandwidth".
- ✎ Ravikumar also oversees Infosys operations in Japan. He is the Chairman of the Board of Infosys China and is also on the board of Infosys Public Services.
- ✎ Infosys Consulting Holding AG, Panaya (an Infosys company) and McCamish Systems (an Infosys BPO company).
- ✎ Infosys had elevated Jayesh Sanghrajka as Deputy CFO in 2015.

Sarath Chand

Lieutenant General Sarath Chand took over as Vice Chief of Army Staff and paid homage at Amar Jawan Jyoti. Before taking over as Vice Chief of Army Staff, the General officer was commanding South Western Command.

- ✎ The General Officer was commissioned into the Garhwal Rifles in June 1979. During career spanning over 38 years, he has served in all operational theatres

and has participated in many active combat leadership roles at every stage of command. He has also held a number of important staff as well as instructional appointments during his career. The General Officer has served at the United Nations Mission in Somalia (UNOSOM-II).



- ✎ The General Officer in his capacity as Vice Chief will head the General Staff Branch at the Army Headquarters and will provide crucial support to the Army Chief in discharge of his duties.
- ✎ He will be responsible for ensuring the operational effectiveness of the Army by directly overseeing the functioning of the military operations, intelligence and logistics directorates. He will coordinate and facilitate decision making on critical issues involving multiple stakeholders within and outside Army.

Antonio Tajani

Antonio Tajani of the EPP Christian Democrat group has been elected president of the European Parliament in a day-long polling series during which he defeated his socialist opponent.



- ✎ Before the first round of voting, the EPP, the largest group in the European Union's legislature, and the ALDE liberals, the fourth-largest, announced a coalition that gave Tajani a big early lead over S&D socialist Gianni Pittella. He maintained the lead through four rounds of voting at the legislature in Strasbourg, France.
- ✎ The battle among the two Italians was won by Tajani on a vote of 351-282 in the decisive final round, which only the top two candidates could enter.
- ✎ Tajani's victory gives the Christian Democrat group all the biggest jobs in the EU, with Donald Tusk as Council President and Jean-Claude Juncker as Commission chief.
- ✎ Tajani, an ally of former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, devoted his victory to the victims of August's earthquake in Italy and to all victims of terror.

Sonny Perdue

President-elect Donald Trump has named former Governor of Georgia Sonny Perdue Agriculture Minister, filling in all positions of his cabinet a day before he takes oath as America's next leader.



- ✎ From growing up on a farm to being governor of a big agriculture state,

he has spent his whole life understanding and solving the challenges our farmers face, and he is going to deliver big results for all Americans who earn their living off the land.

Alok Kumar Verma

The government appointed Delhi Police Commissioner Alok Kumar Verma as Director of CBI. His name was cleared by a three-member selection panel headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and comprising Chief Justice of India Jagdish Singh Khehar and Congress leader in Lok Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge as members.



- ✎ Kharge is understood to have recorded his dissent note on Verma's name, during the meeting of the selection committee held on January 16, on the ground that the officer had never served in CBI.
- ✎ Verma made it to the top post in the premier investigating agency pipping a number of contenders including Director General of Indo Tibetan Border Police Krishna Choudhary and Maharashtra's Director General of Police S C Mathur.
- ✎ As CBI chief, Verma will have a fixed two-year tenure. The post of CBI director was lying vacant for over one month following Anil Sinha's retirement on December 2.
- ✎ At present, Gujarat-cadre IPS officer Rakesh Asthana is the interim director of the investigating agency.
- ✎ Verma, a 1979 batch IPS officer of Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territories (AGMUT) cadre, took over as Delhi Police Commissioner on February 29, 2016. 59-year-old Verma, who belongs to Delhi, has worked in various positions in Delhi Police, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Puducherry, Mizoram and in the Intelligence Bureau.
- ✎ Before being appointed as Delhi Police Commissioner, he was Director General of Tihar Prisons. Verma is the 27th Director (including two acting chief) of the CBI.

Praful Patel

All India Football Federation (AIFF) president Praful Patel was appointed member of FIFA's all-important finance committee for a four-year term.



- ✎ Patel was appointed senior vice-president of Asian Football Confederations (AFC) in December last year.
- ✎ Under Patel's tutelage, India won the rights to host

its first FIFA World Cup, the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2017 and had hosted the AFC U-16 Championship last September. AIFF had also won the Recognition Award for grassroots football in 2014 and the AFC Member Association (Developing) Award for 2016.

- ✎ The FIFA finance committee monitors the financial management and advises the FIFA executive committee on financial matters and asset management. It also analyses the FIFA budgets and the financial statements prepared by the FIFA general secretary and submits them to the FIFA executive committee for approval.

Vishal Kaul

Cab aggregator Ola announced the appointment of Vishal Kaul as its Chief Operating Officer. Kaul, a PepsiCo veteran who has been with the company since the start of his career in 1999, will head Ola's operations and strengthen Ola's market leadership.



- ✎ Kaul will also expand Ola's market reach to nooks and corners of the country and widen the base of Ola's customers and driver-partner fraternity, in line with its mission to build mobility for a billion Indians.

S Jaishankar

Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar whose tenure was to end on January 28 got a one-year extension. The nod for the extension of his tenure till January 28, 2018 was given by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.



- ✎ A 1977-IFS batch officer Jaishankar was appointed Foreign Secretary on January 29, 2015 just few days before his retirement replacing Sujata Singh, whose term was abruptly curtailed by the government.
- ✎ With Jaishankar getting the extension, many senior diplomats including India's ambassador to Italy Anil Wadhwa (1979-batch) and Secretary (West) Sujata Mehta (1980-batch) will retire without getting a shot at the top position.
- ✎ India's ambassador to China, Vijay Gokhale, seen as one of the main contenders to replace Jaishankar, is retiring in the end of January 2019. And with Jaishankar getting a one-year term, it leaves Gokhale in the race for the top diplomatic position in the External Affairs Ministry.
- ✎ The coming month will also see a number of key appointments in the External Affairs Ministry with

Vikas Swarup, Additional Secretary and Spokesperson in the Ministry, on his way to Canada as High Commissioner. He is waiting for his official agreement to come from Ottawa which is likely by the month end.

- ✎ The post is lying vacant after Vishnu Prakash retired in October.
- ✎ Swarup is expected to be replaced by Gopal Baglay, currently looking after (Pakistan-Iran-Afghanistan) in the ministry. Baglay has earlier also had a stint in the XP division of the MEA as Director from 2008 to 2010.
- ✎ In first half of 2017, ambassadorial positions will also open up in several key countries including Germany and Nepal.

Vetri Subramaniam

Mutual fund industry veteran Vetri Subramaniam joined UTI Asset Management Company (UTI AMC) as Group President and Head of Equity.



- ✎ He has taken overall charge of research and fund management of the equity schemes of UTI Mutual Fund aggregating to around Rs 35,000 crore.
- ✎ Currently, UTI AMC is the sixth largest fund house in the country in terms of AUM (asset under management).

Derk Segaar

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has appointed a senior Dutch official as head of the world body's information centre in New Delhi, covering India and Bhutan.



- ✎ Derk Segaar of the Netherlands has been appointed Director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in New Delhi, covering India and the Kingdom of Bhutan.
- ✎ He assumed his duties on January 20.
- ✎ Prior to this appointment, Segaar had served since 2013 as the Chief of the United Nations Resident Coordinator's Office and Head of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan's (UNMISS) Relief, Reintegration and Protection Section.
- ✎ He was responsible for the overall managing of the UNMISS protection of civilians sites, where more than 200,000 people had sought shelter from the violence.
- ✎ From 2011 to 2013, Segaar was the Head of Communications of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in New

York, where he directly managed its global media and communications activities, including the development and implementation of its corporate advocacy and communications strategy.

- ✎ He has worked in different capacities in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs field mission in El Fasher, Sudan.

Mike Pompeo

Mike Pompeo was sworn in as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). He was administered the oath to office by Vice President Mike Pence.



- ✎ The sworn-in ceremony was held swiftly after the United States Senate confirmed Pompeo to run the CIA, giving President Donald Trump the third member of his cabinet. Pompeo was confirmed by a vote of 66-32.

About Mike Pompeo:-

- ✎ Mike Pompeo previously served as the U.S. Representative for Kansas's 4th congressional district from 2011–2017.
- ✎ He is a member of the Tea Party movement within the Republican Party.
- ✎ He represented Kansas on the Republican National Committee.

About Central Intelligence Agency

- ✎ The Central Intelligence Agency is a civilian foreign intelligence service of the United States federal government.
- ✎ The agency gathers, processes and analyzes national security information from around the world, primarily through the use of human intelligence (HUMINT).
- ✎ It is primarily focused on providing intelligence for the President and Cabinet.
- ✎ The CIA reports to the Director of the agency.
- ✎ Unlike the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the CIA has no law enforcement function. It primarily focuses on overseas intelligence gathering, with only limited domestic intelligence collection.
- ✎ One of the CIA's largest divisions, the Information Operations Center (IOC), has shifted focus from counter-terrorism to offensive cyber-operations.
- ✎ The CIA has had achieved some major accomplishments, such as locating Osama bin Laden and taking part in the successful Operation Neptune Spear.

AWARDS/HONOURS

Technical Achievement Award

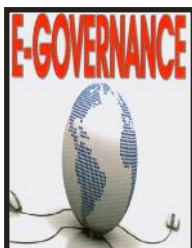
An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, Parag Havaladar has won the prestigious Technical Achievement Award (the Scientific & Technical Awards prize), popularly called the 'Technical Oscar', awarded by the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences.



- Parag Havaladar, who graduated from IIT-Kharagpur in 1991 with a degree in computer science and engineering, has been awarded for "the development of expression-based facial performance-capture technology at Sony Pictures Imageworks".
- Havaladar's popular works include 'Watchmen', 'Green Lantern', 'The Amazing Spider-Man', 'Beowulf' and 'Hancock'. He will be awarded a certificate from the Academy at Beverly Hills on Feb 11.

E-governance Award

National e-Governance award was conferred upon Gurugram district administration at the 20th national conference on e-Governance.



- The conference was taken place at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh on January 9 and 10.
- The G-Triangulation project of Gurugram district administration has been awarded Gold under category VI innovative use of GIS Technology in e-Governance.

US Embassy Honour for TB awareness

Megastar Amitabh Bachchan has been honoured by the US Embassy to acknowledge his immense contribution to the India-US ties on tuberculosis.

- The award was presented on January 8 by US Ambassador to India Richard R Verma to the 74-year-old actor, who himself is a TB survivor and brand ambassador for the cause.

Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)

US President Barack Obama chose four Indian-American scientists for the highest honour given to science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their research careers for keeping the US on the cutting edge by their innovations.



- The four are part of the list of 102

scientists and researchers who are recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

- These scientists are Pankaj Lal from Montclair State University, Kaushik Chowdhury from Northeastern University, Manish Arora from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and Aradhna Tripathi from University of California, Los Angeles.
- It is the highest honour bestowed by the United States Government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research career.

Laureus Awards Nominations

Sprint legend Usain Bolt and football superstar Cristiano Ronaldo were nominated but his great rival Lionel Messi missed out on the shortlist for the Laureus World Sports Awards. Nominees for the World Sports Awards include Rio Olympic heroes Bolt, already a three-time Laureus winner, 5000 and 10,000 metre champion Mo Farah, tennis gold medal winner Andy Murray, Ronaldo and basketball duo Stephen Curry and LeBron James.



- The sportspersons were nominated for the prestigious award following a ballot by the world's media.
- Ronaldo was nominated for three awards, individual and through his teams Portugal and Real Madrid.
- Olympians fill all six nominations for the World Sportsman of the Year Award, including Americans Simone Biles, Katie Ledecky and Allyson Felix, German tennis No.1 Angelique Kerber, Jamaican sprint star Elaine Thompson and British cyclist Laura Kenny.
- Swimmer Michael Phelps, the most successful Olympian ever with 28 medals inclusive of 23 golds, heads the nominees in the Laureus World Comeback of the Year category, after winning another five golds and a silver medal in Rio. Others selected for this award are Spain's high jumper Ruth Beitia, Argentina's Davis Cup winner Juan Martin del Potro, British show jumper Nick Skelton, Mauritius triathlete Fabienne St Louis and Norwegian skier Aksel Lund Svindal.

Presidential Medal of Freedom

President Barack Obama has awarded former Vice President Joe Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honour, in a surprise tribute to his White House partner of 8 years. Obama described the former Delaware senator as "the best vice president Americas ever had" and a "lion of American history", during an emotional ceremony to honour the 74-year-old at the White House.



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Filmfare Awards 2017

The 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards have been awarded.

Here is the complete list of winners of the 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017:



Best Actor (Male)	: Aamir Khan for Dangal
Best Actor (Female)	: Alia Bhatt for Uda Punjab
Best Film	: Dangal
Best Director	: Nitesh Tiwari for Dangal
Filmfare Critics Award for Best Film	: Neerja
Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Male)	: Shahid Kapoor for Uda Punjab and Manoj Bajpayee for Aligarh
Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Female)	: Sonam Kapoor for Neerja
Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film	: Manoj Bajpayee for Taandav
Best Short Film People's Choice	: Khamakha
Best Short Film (Fiction)	: Chutney
Best Short Film (Non-fiction)	: Matitali Kusti
Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film	: Tisca Chopra (Chutney)
Best Debut Director	: Ashwini Iyer Tiwari (Nil Battey Sannata)
Best Male Debut	: Diljit Dosanjh (Uda Punjab)
Best Female Debut	: Ritika Singh (Saala Khadoos)
Best Dialogue	: Ritesh Shah (Pink)
Best Screenplay	: Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon (Kapoor & Sons)
Best Story	: Shakun Batra and Ayesha Devitre Dhillon (Kapoor & Sons)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	: Rishi Kapoor (Kapoor & Sons)
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	: Shabana Azmi (Neerja)

Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award	: Shatrughan Sinha
Best Music Album	: Pritam (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)
Best Lyricist	: Amitabh Bhattacharya (for Channa Mereya from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)
Best Playback Singer (Male)	: Arijit Singh (for Ae Dil Hai Mushkil from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)
Best Playback Singer (Female)	: Neha Bhasin (for Jag Ghoomeya from Sultan)
Filmfare RD Burman Award for New Music Talent	: Amit Mishra (for Bulleya from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil)
Best Visual Effects: Red Chillies for Fan :	
Best Editing	: Monisha Baldawa (Neerja)
Best Costume	: Payal Saluja (Uda Punjab)
Best Action	: Shyam Kaushal for Dangal
Best Background Score	: Sameer Uddin for Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)
Best Choreography	: Adil Shaikh for Kar Gayi Chull in Kapoor & Sons (Since 1921)
Best Cinematography	: Mitesh Mirchandani for Neerja

2016 TS Eliot Prize

British poet Jacob Polley has won the 2016 T.S. Eliot prize for his fourth collection, 'Jackself', a sequence of narrative poems partly inspired by his childhood in Cumbria.



- One of the judges of the panel, Ruth Padel said 'Jackself' was a firework of a book; inventive, exciting and outstanding in its imaginative range and depth of feeling.
- Polley emerged as winner of the UK's richest poetry prize at a ceremony at the Wallace Collection gallery in London. The book was chosen from a 10-strong shortlist including the winner of the 2015 Forward prize, Vahni Capildeo, and previous TS Eliot prize winner Alice Oswald.
- Polley is the 23rd winner of the coveted £20,000 (\$24,000) award. It was founded by T.S. Eliot's widow Valerie in 1993 and is now run by the TS Eliot Foundation. Born in Carlisle in 1975, Polley studied Creative Writing at the University of Lancaster, and now teaches at Newcastle University in England.

People's Choice Award 2017

Indian actress Priyanka Chopra has won the "Favourite Dramatic TV Actress" at the People's Choice Award 2017 for her role in the American drama TV series "Quantico".



- ✎ This is the second People's Choice Award for Priyanka. She bagged her first award in 2016 in the "Favourite Actress in a New TV series" category for her role in "Quantico".
- ✎ Priyanka, beat popular actresses like Ellen Pompeo, Kerry Washington, Taraji P. Henson and Viola Davis for the award.
- ✎ Hollywood star Dwayne Bravo, who will be seen sharing screen space with Priyanka in the upcoming film "Baywatch", was seen cheering for her at the event. Actress and comedienne Ellen Degeneres made People's Choice Awards history by becoming the most decorated celebrity in the TV ceremony's 43 years.
- ✎ The "Finding Dory" star, who hosts her own top-rated daytime talk show in America, picked up her 20th, 21st and 22nd awards at the Microsoft Theater.
- ✎ Singer-actor Justin Timberlake presented her with the favourite daytime TV host and favourite animated movie voice trophies, while her sketch romp around a shopping mall with Britney Spears, which aired on her show last year, earned her the favourite comedic collaboration prize.
- ✎ DeGeneres "Finding Dory" film was also named favourite movie and favourite family movie at the ceremony. Timberlake was also a big winner at the awards bash, picking up favourite male artist and favourite song for "Cant Stop The Feeling."
- ✎ Blake Shelton was another double winner, making history as the first country act ever to win a People's Choice favourite album award and landing the favourite male

Golden Peacock Award

The Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) announced that it won the prestigious Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Social Responsibility in the aviation transport sector for the year 2016.



- ✎ The award was presented on 20 January 2017 at a ceremony during the 11th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility.

- ✎ More than 325 responses were received for the annual awards in 2017. Out of them, 191 applications were shortlisted. They were then subjected to a three-tier assessment process for final selection.
- ✎ Earlier in January 2017, DIAL also won the 6th EPC World Awards for its contribution in the infrastructure and construction sector.

Australia's Highest Civilian Award



Three Indian-origin persons-Purushottam Sawrikar, Makhan Singh Khangure and Vijay Kumar have been awarded Australia's highest civilian honour 'Order of Australia medal' for the year 2017.

- ✎ They have been honoured for their contributions in the field of medicine and work towards the community.
- ✎ Purushottam Sawrikar, a Sydney-based medical practitioner, received Order of Australia medal for the year 2017 announced on the Australia Day in General division category for his service to medicine, and to the Indian community.
- ✎ Sawrikar was a former President of Australian Indian Medical Graduates Association and also founded a community radio called Akashwani Sydney.
- ✎ Makhan Singh Khangure from Perth was given the award for his for significant service to medicine in the field of neuroradiology, to education, and to a range of professional medical associations.
- ✎ Vijay Kumar, a nuclear medicine specialist and a researcher, was given the award for his significant service to medical research in the disciplines of nuclear medicine and biology, to professional organisations, and to the community.
- ✎ Kumar, a founding Member of Sydney Tamil Sangam Association, was also awarded Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Award in 2007 and 2014. A Darwain-based Tejinder Pal Singh was among the list of finalists in the Australian of the Year Local Hero category awards, for his efforts in improving the community.

OBITUARY

John Berger

John Berger, the Booker prize-winning novelist and pioneering art critic, has passed away at the age of 90.

- ✎ The Marxist intellectual, whose BBC series, "Ways of Seeing", brought a political view to art criticism.
- ✎ Berger won the Booker Prize in 1972 for his novel G, and pledged to give half the prize money to the radical African-American movement, the Black Panthers.
- ✎ Born in Hackney, North London, Berger began his career as a painter.

H S Mahadev Prasad

Karnataka Cooperation and Sugar Minister H S Mahadev Prasad died at a private resort in Koppa in Chikkamagaluru district. He was 58.

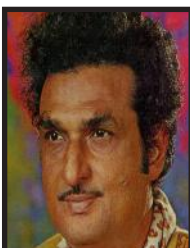
- ✎ He had undergone bypass surgery few years ago. Prasad, who represented Gundlupete constituency in Chamarajanagar district, was a close associate of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.
- ✎ Prasad was a minister in the JD(S)-BJP coalition government headed by H D Kumaraswamy during 2005-07 and quit JDS and joined the Congress.



Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan

Renowned sitar player Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan died. He was 88.

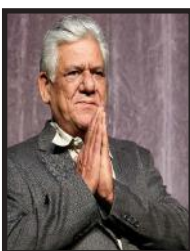
- ✎ Conferred with the Padmashri, Padma Bhushan and Sangeet Natak Akademi awards, Khan hailed from the Indore Gharana and is credited for innovating the unique music style of 'Jafferkhani Baaj'.
- ✎ Born in 1929 in Jawra, Madhya Pradesh, during his music career spanning over six decades, Khan played the sitar for various Bollywood films, including "Mughal-E-Azam", "Kohinoor", "Goonj Uthi Shehnai" and "Jhanak Jhanak Payal Baaje", among many others.



Om Puri

Om Puri, one of the most versatile and celebrated actors in India, has died at 66. The Padma Shri-winning actor died of a heart attack at his home in Mumbai.

- ✎ The veteran actor starred in several award-winning Indian movies and



also featured in crossover ventures. Om Puri rose to fame with films like Ardh Satya, Aakrosh and Paar. His popularity later extended to mainstream cinema, with iconic roles in films like Jaane Bhi DoYaaron and Maachis.

Ustad Fateh Ali Khan

Classical singer Ustad Fateh Ali Khan died. He was 82. Born in 1935 in Patiala, he (at the age of 12) and his elder brother Amanat Ali Khan (at the age of 14) became the Maharaja's chosen singers, at his 'darbar' or court.



- ✎ Being paid the handsome amount of Rs.100 per month in the year 1946, he grew up in an environment where music was valued. He was the sixth generation in his family devoted to classical singing. He was joined by his brothers, the late Amanat Ali Khan and Hamid Ali Khan, in keeping the family legacy alive.

Saral Deb

Veteran All India Forward Bloc leader and former West Bengal minister Saral Deb passed away. He was 82.

- ✎ Deb was the state Library Minister from 1977 to 1982 and held the Cooperative portfolio from 1982 to 1987. He was a six-time state legislator, winning from Barasat constituency of North 24 Parganas district. Born in Khulna district (now in Bangladesh), Deb was a brilliant student and joined the party while studying at the Scottish Church College. He was the front runner to organise cooperative movement in the state. Deb initiated several agricultural programme with Nabard in the state.



Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani

Former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani died at the age of 82, a big blow to moderates and reformists deprived now of their most influential supporter in the Islamic establishment.

- ✎ Rafsanjani was an influential figure in Iran, and headed the Expediency Council, a body which is intended to resolve disputes between the parliament and the Guardian Council.
- ✎ He was also a member of the Assembly of Experts, the clerical body that selects the supreme leader, Iran's most powerful figure.



Ramu Sharma

Senior sports journalist Ramu Sharma passed away. He was 81. Sharma worked as a Senior Sports Correspondent with the Statesman for three decades before taking over as Sports Editor of the Indian Express in 1990.

- ✎ Olympian 800m runner Sriram Singh recalled that in my active days, he not only covered my races but also helped my coach Mohd Ilyas Babar and me in our personal matters.

Buddy Greco

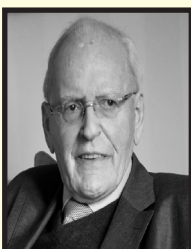
Buddy Greco, the popular singer and piano player, who started his long career with Benny Goodman, has died. He was 90.



- ✎ Born Armando Greco in Philadelphia, he was hired at age 16 to sing on tour with Goodman's orchestra. He left the band at 20 and returned to singing in nightclubs.
- ✎ Greco's version of "The Lady Is a Tramp" was released in 1962 and sold over a million copies.
- ✎ Among his popular pop, jazz and country songs were "Oh Look A-there," "Aint She Pretty," "Up, Up and Away" and "Around the World."
- ✎ He recorded several albums for Frank Sinatra's Reprise Records, forming a long friendship with the singer and hanging out with the Rat Pack. Buddy Greco and His Jazz Friends was recorded in 1992 with fellow greats including Grover Washington Jr, Ernie Watts, Buddy DeFranco, Jack Sheldon and Toots Thielemans.

Roman Herzog

The former President of Germany Roman Herzog, who pioneered remembrance of the Holocaust, passed away in Bad Mergentheim, Germany. He was 82.



- ✎ Herzog used the presidency to serve as a moral guardian for liberal and democratic values. He often talked about Germany's moral responsibility for the crimes of its past.

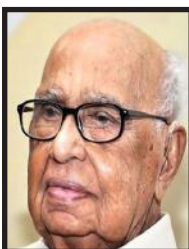
About Roman Herzog:-

- ✎ Roman Herzog served as the President of Germany from 1994 to 1999. He was elected as the President by the Federal Assembly (Bundesversammlung) on 23 May 1994.
- ✎ He was a member of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU).

- ✎ In 1994, he participated in the commemorations of the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising during the Nazi occupation of Poland.
- ✎ He was the first President of Germany to be elected to office after the reunification of Germany.
- ✎ Before being elected as the President of the country, he served as a judge of the Federal Constitutional Court.
- ✎ He also served as the President of the Constitutional Court.
- ✎ Between December 1999 and October 2000, he chaired the European Convention. The Convention had drafted the Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union.
- ✎ He, along with former central bank President Hans Tietmeyer and former federal judge Paul Kirchhof, led an independent commission to investigate a financing scandal plaguing the CDU.

K M Philip

K.M. Philip, a whole-time Director of MRF Ltd and the first Asian to become the President of the World Alliance of YMCA, died at the age of 104.



- ✎ He was the sixth son of late K.C. Mammen Mappillai, former Chief Editor of Malayala Manorama, and was a recipient of Padma Shri and many national and international awards.

Chandrakant Chhajed

Senior Congress leader and former Maharashtra minister Chandrakant Chhajed passed away in Pune. He was 67. Chhajed was Minister of State for Tourism in the Sushilkumar Shinde state government in 2003.



William Peter Blatty

William Peter Blatty, the author of the novel The Exorcist and writer of its Oscar-winning big-screen adaptation, has died aged 89.



- ✎ Blatty wrote several books but his signature achievement was the 1971 novel that told the story of a 12-year-old girl whose vile behavior leads a young priest to conclude that she is possessed by a demon.

- ✎ The novel was panned by critics but went on to sell 13 million copies, topping The New York Times bestseller list for 17 weeks, and is retrospectively considered to be one of the greatest horror novels of all time.

Oliver Smithies

Genetics researcher Oliver Smithies, who won the Nobel Prize for medicine in 2007, died. He was 91.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill announced Smithies' death.



Surjit Singh Barnala

Former Punjab Chief Minister Surjit Singh Barnala, who took over reins of the state when militancy was at its peak in the mid-80s, passed away in Chandigarh. He was 91.



- ✎ Barnala died at the Postgraduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh.
- ✎ Barnala served as Punjab's Chief Minister from 1985 to 1987. A moderate leader of the Akali Dal, he became the CM after the Rajiv-Longowal accord to usher in peace in the troubled state was reached in the summer of 1985.
- ✎ The government headed by Chandrashekhar then dismissed the Karunanidhi ministry using the "otherwise" provision in Article 356 of the Constitution after Barnala's refusal to make a recommendation.
- ✎ Barnala was the Agriculture Minister in the Moraji Desai government and the Chemicals and Fertilizers Minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Cabinet.

About Surjit Singh Barnala:-

- ✎ He was born on 21 October 1925 in Ateli, Haryana.
- ✎ 1st time Barnala fought with the ticket of akali dal in 1952 but he was defeated by 4 votes.
- ✎ In 1969 he became the education minister and in 1977 he became MP.
- ✎ Surjeet Singh Barnala, was Agriculture and Water Resource Minister in the Government of Morarji Desai.
- ✎ In his service tenure, he did water agreement with Bangladesh in 1978.
- ✎ He became Punjab's Chief Minister on 29 September 1985 and was on this post till 11 May 1987.

Tarun Prasad Chatterjee

Senior Congress leader and former state minister Tarun Prasad Chatterjee passed away. He was 68.

A popular leader among the down-trodden sections of the society, Tarun Prasad Chatterjee was a four-time MLA (from Raipur rural constituency) and three-time Mayor of Raipur Municipal Corporation.

- ✎ He was elected as member of Legislative Assembly for the first time from Raipur rural constituency in 1980 (on Congress ticket) and then in 1990 (on Janata Party ticket).

Eugene Cernan

Astronaut Eugene Cernan, commander of Apollo 17 and the last man to walk on the moon, has died at the age of 82. Cernan, a Captain in the U.S. Navy, left his mark on the history of exploration by flying three times in space, twice to the moon.



- ✎ He also holds the distinction of being the second American to walk in space and the last human to leave his footprints on the lunar surface.
- ✎ He was one of 14 astronauts selected by NASA in October 1963. He piloted the Gemini 9 mission with Commander Thomas P. Stafford on a three-day flight in June 1966. Cernan logged more than two hours outside the orbiting capsule. In May 1969, he was the lunar module pilot of Apollo 10, the first comprehensive lunar-orbital qualification and verification test of the lunar lander.
- ✎ The mission confirmed the performance, stability, and reliability of the Apollo command, service and lunar modules. The mission included a descent to within eight nautical miles of the moon's surface.
- ✎ Cernan concluded his historic space exploration career as commander of the last human mission to the moon in December 1972. Apollo 17 established several new records for human space flight, including the longest lunar landing flight (301 hours, 51 minutes); longest lunar surface extravehicular activities (22 hours, 6 minutes); largest lunar sample return (nearly 249 pounds); and longest time in lunar orbit (147 hours, 48 minutes).

Geeta Sen

Renowned actress Geeta Sen, wife of celebrated filmmaker Mrinal Sen, died in her residence after a month-long illness. She was 86.

- ✎ Known for her excellent portrayal of character roles, she had acted in a number of films including "Chorus",



“Calcutta 71”, “Kharij”, “Akaler Sandhane”, “Ekdin Pratidin” and “Khandahar”.

Rachael Heyhoe-Flint

Former England women's cricket captain Rachael Heyhoe-Flint has died at the age of 77.

- Heyhoe-Flint became one of the MCC's first women members, and in 2004 was the first woman ever elected on to the club's full committee.
- On the pitch, in a near 20-year international career, she represented her country 45 times in Tests and one-day internationals and won the 1973 World Cup as captain.
- Heyhoe-Flint became near synonymous with women's cricket in this country, in an era when her sport struggled at times to achieve its current prominence.



Naqsh Lyallpuri

Renowned Urdu poet and lyricist Naqsh Lyallpuri died. He was 88. Naqsh was born as Jaswant Rai in the town of Lyallpur in Punjab (now in Pakistan). He first got break in the 1952 film “Jaggu” with the song “Agar Teri Aakhon Se Aakhein Mila Doon”.

- He went on to write lyrics in films like “Chetna”, which was his first big break, followed by “Aahista Aahista”, “Tumhare Liye”, “Gharonda” among others. He also wrote lyrics for the 2005 “Taj Mahal- An eternal love story” and “Yaatra” in 2006, whose music was composed by Naushad and Khayyam respectively.



Alexander Kadakin

Russian Ambassador to India Alexander Kadakin passed away. He was 67. He served as the Minister Counselor of Russia to India between 1989 and 1992, but his first term as Russian ambassador to India was between 1999 and 2004.

- Kadakin took over as the ambassador to India for a second time in 2009.
- It's Kadakin 2nd tenure as the ambassador to India, previously he was ambassador in Russian from 1999 to 2004.
- He was fluent Hindi speaker and he loved his nation a lot.



Barbara Hale

Barbara Hale, a movie actress who found her most famous role on television as steadfast secretary Della Street in the long-running “Perry Mason” series, has died. She was 94.

- Hale appeared in “Perry Mason” on CBS from 1957 to 1966, winning an Emmy as best actress in 1959. When the show was revived in 1985 on NBC as an occasional TV movie, she again appeared in court at the side of the ever-victorious lawyer played by Raymond Burr.
- She continued her role after Burr died in 1993 and was replaced by Hal Holbrook for the movies that continued into 1995.



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NATIONAL

Burning Topics of the Month

1. Helpline for Handloom Weavers 'Bunkar Mitra' starts functioning.
2. Govt. launches 'ShaGun' - a web-portal for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.
3. India's biggest ship INS Vikramaditya to get ATM.

PM to inaugurate Indian Science Congress at Tirupati, 02 January 2017



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the five-day annual Indian Science Congress at the Sri Venkateswara University. Prof D Narayana Rao, General President of Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA), said that Science and Technology for National Development would be the focal theme of the Indian Science Congress.

The main venue for the Science Congress is the Srinivasa Auditorium in the University where the Prime Minister would address the gathering of eminent scientists including Nobel laureates.

Six Nobel Prize winners from different countries such as the US, Japan, Israel, France and Bangladesh would also take part in the event besides about 14,000 scientists and scholars from across the country. The Nobel laureates would also be felicitated with gold medals by the Prime Minister at the ISC venue.

After his inaugural address, Modi, at a tea ceremony at the varsity, would hold a brief conference with about 50 people, including the Nobel laureates, eminent Indian scientists, other dignitaries and top officials. It is the second time that Tirupati is hosting the Indian Science Congress, the first being in 1983 when the 70th ISC was held.

This is the 104th conference. Later in the afternoon, Modi would offer worship at the Lord Venkateswara shrine atop Tirumala hills near here. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Governor ESL Narasimhan would receive and accompany Modi during his six-hour visit.

5 Indian Americans take oath as members of Congress, 04 January 2017



Creating history for a minority ethnic community that comprises just one per cent of the US population, five Indian Americans took oath as members of the Congress.

52-year-old Kamala Harris whose mother was from India and father from Jamaica of African heritage, was sworn as the Senator from California by the outgoing US Vice President Joe Biden. She is the first Indian American to have ever served in the Senate.

She was accompanied by her husband Doug Emhoff, sister Maya Harris and other members of her immediate family members during the swearing in ceremony.

Harris, who before the swearing in held the position of California Attorney General replaced Senator Barbara Boxer, who decided against seeking re-election. She is one of the seven new Senators to have taken office in the new Congress.

After her elections, she has made it clear that her top priority would be to fight out the alleged divisive policies of the Republicans who are now in majority in both the House of Representative and the Senate.

After this, four Indian Americans were sworn in as its members, including Congressman Ami Bera, who has been re-elected for the third consecutive term.

In the process he equalled the record of Dalip Singh Saundh, who exactly 60-years ago became the first Indian American to be elected as a member of the US Congress.

Joining Bera were young and dynamic Ro Khanna (40) representing the Silicon Valley. He was sworn in on a bicentennial edition of the Constitution on loan from the rare books division of the Library of Congress.

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Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, 42, who won the election from Illinois took the oath on Gita. He is only the second US lawmaker after Tulsi Gabbard from Hawaii to take the oath on a Gita. Gabbard, the first ever Hindu to be elected to the US Congress took the oath for third consecutive term.

NDMC appoints Olympic medalist, as Ambassador for Swachh Programme, 04 January 2017



नई दिल्ली नगरपालिका परिषद्

CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) appointed Rio Olympic medalist and Arjun Awardee Deepa Malik and first female amputee to climb Mount Everest Arunima Sinha as brand ambassadors for its Swachh programme.

The announcement for the same was made by NDMC Chairman Naresh Kumar at an event at Connaught Places central park.

India-Uruguay Customs agreement receives Cabinet nod, 04 January 2017



Government approved an agreement between India and Uruguay on co-operation and mutual assistance on Customs matters.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The agreement will help in the availability of relevant information for prevention and investigation of Customs offences. The agreement is also expected to facilitate trade and ensure efficient clearance of goods traded between the countries.

Shripad Naik inaugurates three day International Conference on Yoga for Diabetes, 05 January 2017

The three day International Conference on "Yoga for Diabetes" was inaugurated by Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shripad Naik in New Delhi. In his inaugural address, the Minister informed that UNESCO, the world's apex body for culture has recently included yoga in its list of intangible cultural heritage. This is yet another recognition of the universal relevance of yoga and will add to its respectability across national borders.

Naik said that this conference aims to generate discussions on the role of Yoga in the prevention and management of Diabetes and to draw up a roadmap to be adopted for the control of Diabetes through Yoga. It will provide a common platform for the Allopathy and AYUSH practitioners, Researchers, Academicians, Policy makers and students to come together in the fight against diabetes.

Approximately 400 delegates and 50 experts from India and abroad are expected to participate in the Conference. Eminent experts of conventional medicine, AYUSH systems as well as Yoga are participating in the Conference. The three days Conference consists of main and parallel sessions on different aspects of Yoga & Diabetes including research, policy making and panel discussion.

Helpline for Handloom Weavers 'Bunkar Mitra' starts functioning, 05 January 2017

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“Bunkar Mitra”, the Government of India’s Helpline for Handloom Weavers. The helpline was launched by the Union Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on December 25, 2016 on the occasion of “Good Governance Day”.

Interacting with an official of the call centre housing the helpline agents, the Minister said that the helpline is a great mix of technology, youth and tradition. She told the officials of the Ministry to monitor issues on which maximum complaints are received, so that corrective actions can be taken accordingly. Irani congratulated the Development Commissioner (Handlooms) and appreciated the time-bound manner in which the helpline is designed to address to respond to weavers’ queries and grievances.

The helpline provides a single point of contact to handloom weavers across the country for addressing queries and providing guidance. This helpline can be accessed by dialing the toll free number 1800-208-9988. Weavers can call from anywhere in India, from any number. The service is available from 10.00 A.M to 06.00 P.M, on all 7 days of the week, in seven languages: Hindi, English, Tamil, Telugu, Bengali, Kannada and Assamese.

The following services are available through this helpline:

- ✎ Assistance on technical issues
- ✎ Guidance for
- ✎ Raw material supply
- ✎ Availing credit facility
- ✎ Quality control
- ✎ Access to marketing linkages
- ✎ Information about various schemes and procedure to avail benefits

Randeep Hooda made brand ambassador of fire services in India, 07 January 2017



The Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC), a Central government body, has roped in Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda as the brand ambassador of

fire services in India. P S Rahangdale, Chief Fire Officer of Mumbai Fire Brigade, said that every service has a brand ambassador, likewise we decided to have our own. The SFAC and the Union Government approached the actor, who is already associated with the Mumbai fire brigade, to be the face of fire services.

Hooda has agreed to be the brand ambassador of SFAC. The actor will be part of our various fire safety campaigns in future.

Piyush Goyal Dedicated the World’s Largest Street Light Replacement Programme to the Nation, 09 January 2017



Union Minister of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal dedicated the Street Lighting National Programme (SLNP), currently running in the South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC) area, to the Nation in New Delhi. It is the World’s Largest Street Light Replacement Programme, which is being implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture under the Ministry of Power, Government of India.

The SLNP programme is presently running in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, Tripura, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan.

A total of 15.36 lakh street lights have already been replaced in the country with LED bulbs, which is resulting in energy savings of 20.35 crore kWh, avoiding capacity of 50.71 MW and reducing 1.68 lakh tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions per annum. The energy efficiency market in India is estimated at US\$ 12 billion that can potentially result in energy savings of up to 20 per cent of current consumption, by way of innovative business and implementation models.

Under the SLNP, SDMC area alone accounts for over 2 lakh street light replacements. The cumulative annual energy savings in SDMC through this programme is 2.65 crore kWh which has helped to avoid capacity addition of 6.6 MW, resulting in a daily reduction of 22,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases. Additionally in Delhi, under Phase II of the street lighting programme, EESL has signed a tripartite agreement with BSES and SDMC to install 75,000 more street lights with more focus on installation in parks.

Modi inaugurates India's first international exchange at GIFT city, 10 January 2017

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first international exchange –India INX — at the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) of GIFT City, saying it will enable Indian firms to compete on equal footing with offshore firms.

A subsidiary of Bombay Stock Exchange, India INX is one of the world's most advanced technology platforms with a turn-around-time of 4 micro seconds which will operate for 22 hours a day, allowing international investors and NRIs to trade from anywhere across the globe.

INX will trade initially in equity derivatives, currency derivatives, commodity derivatives including index and stocks. It plans to offer depository receipts and bonds later. Modi, after opening the exchange by sounding the virtual gong, termed it as a "momentous occasion for Indian financial sector".

Although the international exchange was inaugurated on January 9, the trading operations are scheduled to begin on January 16.

India INX is one of the world's most advanced technology platforms with a turn-around time of 4 micro seconds. It will operate for 22 hours a day to allow international investors and Non Residents Indians to trade from anywhere across the globe.

According to the Sudhakar Rao, Chairman (BSE), BSE is a pioneer in the world of financial services and India INX will act as a gateway to raise capital for the country's infrastructure and development needs. In parallel, it would provide cross-border opportunities of investment with a comparatively low cost of transaction in the world's most technologically advanced platform.

The international exchange inauguration was held as part of Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit- 2017, to be kicked off by PM Modi at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar.

BSE is also going to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the Vibrant Summit proposing Rs. 500 crore for its international exchange, clearing corporation and other activities.

Railways Launches New App for Faster Booking of Tickets, 11 January 2017

Railways launched a new ticketing App, IRCTC Rail Connect, to facilitate booking of train tickets in a faster and easier way.

Equipped with latest technology, the new App also makes possible booking of tatkal ticket, ladies quota, premium tatkal quota booking and current reservation.



Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Limited, which handles online train ticket bookings, has synchronised the new App, IRCTC Rail Connect, with its website.

According to the IRCTC release travellers will be able to search and book train tickets, check their existing reservations or cancel them, and get upcoming journey alerts in the new application.

The App is based on a next generation e-ticketing system.

Second Scorpene class submarine Khanderi launched in Mumbai, 12 January 2017



Khanderi, the second Scorpene class submarine that has superior stealth and the ability to launch a crippling attack with torpedoes as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles whilst underwater or on surface, was launched at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).

Union Minister of State for Defence Subhash Bhamre presided over the function to initiate the launch of Khanderi (Yard 11876). The submarine was launched by the Union minister's wife, Bina Bhamre.

Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lanba was also present on the occasion when the submarine was separated from the pontoon on which it was assembled.

The state-of-the-art features of this Scorpene class submarine include superior stealth and the ability to launch a crippling attack on the enemy using precision guided weapon.

The attack can be launched with torpedoes, as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles, whilst underwater or on surface. The stealth features will give it an invulnerability, unmatched by many submarines.

The submarine is designed to operate in all theatres, including the tropics. All means and communications are provided to ensure interoperability with other components of a Naval task force.

It can undertake multifarious types of missions typically undertaken by any modern submarine, i.e. anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, area surveillance, etc.

Khanderi is the second of the six submarines being built at MDL in collaboration with M/s DCNS of France, as part of Project 75 of Indian Navy. The first one, Kalvari, is completing sea trials and will be commissioned shortly into the Indian Navy.

The Indian Navy's submarine arm will complete 50 years on December 8 this year.

App named 'SEZ India' launched by Commerce Ministry, 16 January 2017



A Mobile app named "SEZ India" has been launched by the Commerce Secretary on 06.1.2017. SEZ Division, Department of Commerce under its broader e-Governance initiative i.e. SEZ Online System, has developed mobile app for Special Economic Zones (SEZs). Commerce Secretary launched the app and mentioned that the App would help the SEZ Units and Developers to find information easily and track their transactions on SEZ Online System. Now the SEZ Developers & Units can file all their transactions digitally through SEZ Online system and track the status on the go through the SEZ India mobile app.

The app is available on Android Platform for use by SEZ Developers, Units, officials and others. The app has four sections i.e. SEZ Information, SEZ Online Transaction, Trade Information, and Contact details. Salient Features of the four sections are as under:-

1. **SEZ INFORMATION:** This is a compendium of the SEZ Act, 2005, SEZ Rules, 2006, MOCI Circulars, details of SEZs and Units etc. It gives up to date comprehensive details on all the above aspects.
2. **TRADE INFORMATION:** This provision gives access to important information / tools such as Foreign Trade Policy, Hand Book of procedure, Duty Calculator, Customs & Excise Notification and MEIS Rates.
3. **CONTACT DETAILS:** We see that the contact details of all Development Commissioners Office, DGFT, DG System, DGCIL & S and SEZ online.
4. **SEZ online Transaction:** This is a dynamic submenu that tracks the Bill of Entry / Shipping Bill processing status and also does verification. The app also helps the Importers / Exporters to track the status of 'Bill of Entry / Shipping Bill' integration and processing in the EDI system of the ICEGATE.

Railway ministry, Karnataka sign MoU for suburban railway system, 17 January 2017



The Karnataka government and the Railways Ministry signed a memorandum of understanding in what is seen as a step towards realising the city's long standing demand for a suburban railway system to address its notorious traffic congestion.

The MoU for the development of suburban railway system in Bengaluru was released by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah at a function.

Counting on the credentials of Bengaluru as a global city and technology capital of the country, Prabhu said it is the duty of the government, at the Centre and the state that transportation needs of the people are taken care of.

Minister of Railways Unveils Mission 41k, 18 January 2017



Minister of Railways Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu unveiled Mission 41k during the Round table Discussion with External Stakeholders on Energy Initiatives of Indian Railways. Suresh Prabhu said that Ministry of Railways has come up with Mission 41k to save Rs. 41000 crore in the next decade in Railways' energy costs.

To implement this comprehensive strategy with the participation of various stakeholders, we shall take advantage of regulatory frameworks, look at new technologies. He said that this is an opportunity to relook at everything and determine an ideal baseline. All electrification works done in the last decade would be doubled and this would change the energy mix of Indian Railways.

Indian Railways has set a target of 1000 MW of solar power and 200 MW of wind energy.

AIIMS signs three MoU, 18 January 2017



आरोग्यम् सुख सम्पदा

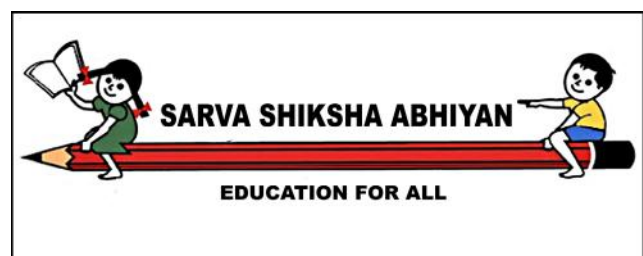
All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi signed MoUs with NBCC (India) Limited, HSCC (India) Limited and with HITES HLL Life Care Ltd to expand infrastructure and other facilities. The signing ceremony was presided over by J P Nadda, Hon'ble Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare and Shri Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Union Minister for Urban Development, Urban Poverty Alleviation, and Information & Broadcasting.

AIIMS signed an MOU worth ₹ 4441 crores with NBCC (India) Limited, ₹ 2500 crores with HSCC (India) Limited and ₹ 729 crores with HITES HLL Life Care Ltd, a cumulative net worth of ₹ 7670.

The agreement with NBCC for redevelopment envisages construction of 3060 residential apartments at Ayur Vigyan Nagar campus and 868 apartments at West Ansari Nagar Campus by construction of 3060. The total augmentation of 3928 units would take the total available residential units of AIIMS to 4505. The detailed proposal identifying the housing requirements/type design/project rollout schedule has been firmed up after wide consultations and deliberations by a broad based committee of faculty and consensus was arrived at in a meeting Chaired by the Director, AIIMS in presence of Heads of Departments, Faculty Association, the Officers Union, the Nursing Union and the Karmachari Union.

The agreement with HLL Infra Tech Services Limited (HITES) is for procurement of all types of Medical Equipment and Services including Medical Gas distribution system, CSSD, Modular Operation Theatres for National Cancer Institute, AIIMS, Jhajjar, Haryana. Similarly, HSCC has been selected as a project management consultant for the design, tendering, supervision of engineering components and for equipment procurement and allied infrastructure works for the proposed National Cardiovascular Institute, (NCVI) at the AIIMS second campus at Jhajjar.

Govt. launches 'ShaGun' - a web-portal for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, 19 January 2017



To put an innovative progress in elementary education sector of the country by continuous monitoring of the flagship scheme - Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Ja-

Javadekar yesterday launched a dedicated web portal 'Sha-Gun', which has been prepared by World Bank in collaboration with Ministry of Human Resource Development.

On this occasion, the Union Minister also reiterated government's commitment for improving the 'Quality' of Education.

Javadekar, launching this e-initiative, termed it as a global democratic forum enabled by technology which will give a peek in the Indian elementary education scenario and spread constructive lessons.

He highlighted that this first-of-its kind platform will give due recognition to people, state governments, schools, teachers working towards improving elementary education across the country.

The Union Minister further emphasized that 'ShaGun' will help monitor progress of implementation of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) by assessing performance of states and UTs on key parameters and thereby serve as a platform for the central government for effective planning and deliver on the promise of providing quality education to all.

ShaGun, which has been coined from the words 'Shala' meaning schools and 'Gunvatta' meaning quality, has been developed with a twin track approach.

President Pranab Mukherjee okays change in rules for rail budget merger, 20 January 2017



President Pranab Mukherjee has approved changes in government rules to allow merger of rail budget with the central budget. The Department of Economic Affairs has been entrusted with the work relating to preparation of central budget including rail budget, as per a recent order issued by Cabinet Secretariat.

Earlier, the department was looking after the preparation of budget other than the railway. The President has given nod to amend Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 in this regard and the department will now prepare both the budgets.

The Union Cabinet had in September last year approved certain landmark budgetary reforms relating to the merger of railway budget with the general budget from 2017-18 onwards.

The presentation of separate railway budget started in 1924, and has continued after independence as a convention rather than under Constitutional provisions.

The Cabinet had also given nod for advancement of the date of budget presentation from the last day of February. The government will present the Union budget 2017-18 on February 1.

Dr Jitendra Singh and MoS Agriculture Parshottam Rupala inaugurate International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of India, 21 January 2017

MoS DoNER Dr Jitendra Singh and MoS Agriculture Parshottam Rupala inaugurated International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants of India.

Addressing the inaugural session at the two-day International Symposium on Medicinal and Aromatic plants of India, the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh said that lifestyle diseases like Diabetes Mellitus Type 2 require holistic management and with more than 65% to 70% of India's population being less than 40 years of age, Diabetes and heart attack in young are going to be the main challenges ahead, because these tend to affect the youth potential which is imperative in the task of nation building.

Dr Jitendra Singh referred to the change of disease spectrum of India over the last few decades and said that India has evolved from an era of communicable diseases into an era of non-communicable diseases like Diabetes Mellitus, heart attack, lipid disorders, hypertension and other metabolic diseases. Even though a number of new remedies and medicinal options are available for the treatment of these diseases, he said, the basic Mantra is still based on lifestyle modifications and natural methods, and for this purpose, the various Indian medicine regimens incorporated in Naturopathy, Yoga and other indigenous therapies find a contributory role.

AYUSH, ASCI sign MoU to weed out misleading advertisements, 21 January 2017

The Ministry of AYUSH inked a MoU with the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) to identify potential misleading advertisements in its advertising sector.



Under the MoU, the ASCI will also process complaints against the misleading advertisements through its Consumer Complaints Council (CCC).

We have entered into a MoU with ASCI to effectively weed out such advertisements so that consumers are protected from unscrupulous manufacturers selling products making false claims. This is vital for the propagation of AYUSH system of medicine within India and beyond.

Sharan termed it an another important step taken by the AYUSH Ministry to ensure that Indian consumers have access to safe and effective medicine.

The MoU also requires ASCI to report to the Ministry of AYUSH, advertisements in potential violation of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954 and Rules there under as well as non-compliance of ASCI's CCC recommendations for the Ministry of AYUSH to take further action.

Sharan said that the arrangement would also ensure that any advertisement making claims for diseases and disorders, in violation of the notification issued by ministry for indications that have been prohibited from claiming, are immediately brought to the attention.

India's biggest ship INS Vikramaditya to get ATM, 21 January 2017

Indian Navy's biggest aircraft carrier, INS Vikramaditya will soon to have an ATM onboard. State Bank of India will launch the ATM facility onboard premier warship today in Karwar, Karnataka.

This was made possible after the Navy approached SBI, the country's largest bank. The cash dispensing machine will operate via a satellite communication link and facility would be inaugurated in Karwar.



INS Vikramaditya is based in Karwar and the jetty is located quite far away from the town. The topography of the area is such that travelling either from the jetty to the town or from the sailors' colony to the town can be arduous task.

The Russian-built INS Vikramaditya was commissioned in Indian Navy in November 2013. With over 1,600 personnel on board, Vikramaditya is literally a 'Floating City', as the Indian Navy terms it.

India concludes MoU on MSME Cooperation with Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Member Countries, 21 January 2017

Ministry of MSME, Government of India finalised MoU on MSME Cooperation with Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member countries. The MoU will take effect for each party upon signature by 5 countries. The MoU finalized would be signed soon at an appropriate forum.

The focus areas of the Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) are:

1. To finalise linkages and alliances amongst MSMEs organizations, associations and various institutions engaged in MSME development in their countries.
2. Exchange best practices, policies and programs for MSME development
3. Exchange greater involvement of MSMEs in the global supply chain, increase their market access.
4. Promote youth and women's economic empowerment.
5. Encourage synergies with the IORA forum.

IORA Secretariat at Mauritius will be the coordinating agency for the implementation of the MoU. IORA special fund created for the member countries to use it for to carrying out activities envisaged under this MoU.

Dr. Mahesh sharma Inaugurates 'Bharat Parv' at Red Fort Delhi, 27 January 2017

Bharat Parv, a national festival showcasing the country's diverse culture, cuisines, handicrafts and catch glimpses of a progressive India was



inaugurated by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism and Culture at Red Fort, Delhi. Bharat Parv event is being organized by the Government of India at the Red Fort, Delhi from 26th to 31st January 2017, as part of the Republic Day 2017 Celebrations. The prime objective of organizing the event is to generate a patriotic mood, promote the rich cultural diversity of the country, and ensure wider participation of the general public and to popularise the idea of “Ek Bharat Shreshta Bharat”. The Event is open to the public and entry is free. However, identity proof must be carried for entry.

The Ministry of Tourism has been designated as the nodal Ministry for the event, the highlights of which include display of the Republic Day Parade Tableaux, Performances by the Armed Forces Bands (static and moving), a Multi-Cuisine Food Court, Crafts Mela, Cultural Performances from different regions of the country and a Photo Exhibition by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting.

The participating States and Union Territories in the Event are Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Chandigarh, Dadra – Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.

Union Cabinet approves Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017, 27 January 2017

The Union Cabinet, presided by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its post-facto approval for launching of Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 (VPBY 2017). The Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017 is a part of Union Government’s commitment for financial inclusion and social security.

Key highlights of the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana 2017

- The Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) will implement the VPBY 2017 during the current financial year. The scheme aims at providing social security during old age and protecting elderly persons aged 60



years and above against a future fall in their interest income due to uncertain market conditions.

- It will provide an assured pension based on a guaranteed rate of return of 8 per cent per annum for ten years.
- The scheme also has an option to opt for pension on a monthly/quarterly/half yearly and annual basis.
- The difference between the return generated by LIC and the assured return of 8 per cent per annum will be borne by Government of India as subsidy on an annual basis.
- The scheme is proposed to be open for subscription for a period of one year from the date of launch.

Reliance Defence bags Rs. 916 cr contract from Defence Ministry, 30 January 2017

Reliance Defence and Engineering Ltd (RDEL) has signed Rs. 916 crore contract with Defence Ministry for design and construction of 14 fast patrol vessels for Indian Coast Guard. RDEL is a wholly—owned arm of Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra).

RDEL emerged winner through a competitive bidding process undertaken by Ministry of Defence with participation from almost all the private sector and public sector shipyards namely, L&T, Cochin Shipyard Ltd, Goa Shipyard Ltd, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE). This is the first time a private sector shipyard has been awarded a contract to design and build such class of ships for Indian Armed Forces. RDEL will be developing the design in—house.

Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) are medium range, high speed vessels; they are primarily utilised for patrol within Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), coastal patrol, anti—smuggling, anti—piracy, search and rescue operations. They also support front line warships in the hour of need.

Reliance Shipyard, with the largest dry—dock of the country, has successfully mastered the block—construction technique through unique ‘modular construction technology’ for building large ships for both commercial usage and Navy. The shipyard, with state—of—the—art technology, processes and skilled manpower, is well poised to deliver any class of vessel in a most optimum time—frame.

STATE

Burning Topics of the Month

1. Two-day 20th National Conference on e-Governance concludes in Visakhapatnam.
2. Over 25,000 MoUs inked in Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.
3. Assam's first lit fest BLF will start in Guwahati

Centre, Telangana Govt. and Distribution Companies ink MoU on UDAY, 04 January 2017



An MOU was signed between Government of India, Telangana Government and Distribution Companies on UDAY (Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana).

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao stated that he is happy to inform the August house that his Government and TS Discoms are executing an MOU with Government of India, to join in UDAY Scheme.

He said that the government is committed to continue to provide quality, quantity and reliable power to all the category of consumers in the state.

The State Power Utilities have undertaken number of measures such as:-

1. Reduction of T&D Losses from 16.83% to 15.98%
2. Staggering of loads to 24 hours of the day
3. Increase in generation by TSGENCO plants
4. Entering into short term power purchase agreements
5. Purchase from exchange.

Rao said as a result of these measures, there is substantial improvement in the power supply position in the state.

The Chief Minister said to make Telangana progressive and power surplus, the state will be getting 1000 MWs of Chattisgarh power from April, 2017 onwards.

Hyderabad to host T20 world cup semi-final for blind on Feb 10, 07 January 2017



Hyderabad would play host to a semi-final match of the second T20 World Cup cricket for the blind on February 10.

The tournament would be played from January 28 to February 12, with inaugural fixture in New Delhi and the final in Bengaluru, according to Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled, the parent body of Cricket Association for the Blind in India (CABI).

India, Australia, Bangladesh, England, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka and West Indies would participate in the tournament, to be played on a league-cum-knockout basis in ten cities of India.

In November last year, Rahul Dravid was announced as the Brand Ambassador for this edition of the World Cup.

Vice-Chairman, Planning Board, Government of Telangana, S Niranjan Reddy, declared the State government's support to the event.

The Trust also expanded its reach to Telangana by opening a branch, which boasts of a Braille and Audio library.

The objective of the project is to ensure easy access to braille books and encourage braille reading and writing amongst the visually impaired students, helping them to develop language proficiency, Mahantesh, also CABI President.

DRDO planning research campus in MP, 07 January 2017



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The Defence Research and Development Organisation is planning to develop a major facility in Madhya Pradesh's Morena district on a vast area of over 900 hectares, for which land acquisition process is on.

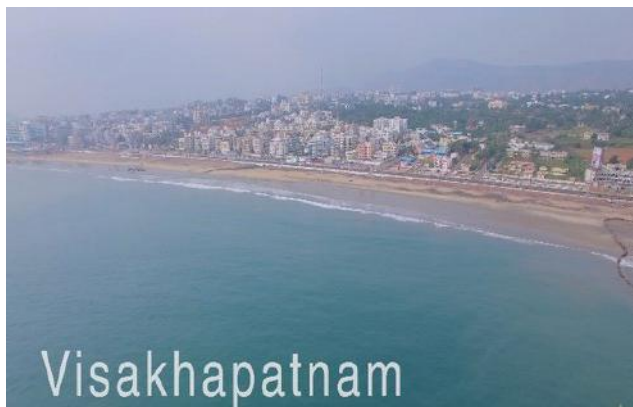
DRDO have earmarked 930 hectares (about 2,300 acres) of land to DRDO for setting up its centre at Kailaras tehsil. The total area includes 34 hectares of private land and some forest land.

The process of procuring land is underway.

Morena Collector said part of the land, being procured by the DRDO, belongs to the forest department and it has been handed over to the revenue department.

Besides, state Principal Secretary (Revenue) Arun Kumar Pandey said a proposal (for land allotment to DRDO) would soon be put before the Cabinet for discussion and approval.

Two-day 20th National Conference on e-Governance concludes in Visakhapatnam, 11 January 2017



The two day National Conference on e-Governance concluded in Visakhapatnam.

The Union Minister of State for Electronics and Information Technology and Law & Justice P.P. Chaudhary chaired the valedictory session of the 20th National Conference on e-Governance.

Addressing on the occasion, P.P. Chaudhary said that there is a need for bridging the digital divide between the urban and rural areas. He said the Union government promotes research and development and innovative eco-system of Information Technology and also encourages acquisition of the Intellectual Property Rights by Indians.

Two-day Digidhan Mela inaugurated in Guwahati, 12 January 2017

The Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER),

MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh and Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju inaugurated the Digidhan Mela organized in Guwahati. The two-day Digidhan Mela is being organised with an aim to enable citizens and merchants to familiarize and adopt real time digital transactions.

On the occasion, Sarbananda Sonowal launched "Toka Paisa" e-wallet for initiative towards cashless economy. The Mela is being organized by the Government of Assam in collaboration with IT Department and NITI Aayog.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that demonetisation is a courageous decision taken by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The demonetisation decision has been taken in the interest of the poorest of the poor in the country. He also said that the North East Region has taken steps in the direction of cashless transactions after the demonetisation decision. The tea garden labourers are very happy to get exact wages without any cut in their earnings and they are happy to adopt cashless economy. The cashless economy will also help to improve social behaviour as well as the economic management in the country.

Kiren Rijiju said that India is transforming and converting to digital transactions. The North East Region must give a hand to transforming India and for the development of nation. He said that the Digidhan Mela being organized in Assam is a historic movement in the North East Region along with entire India.

The Adviser to NITI Aayog, Jitendra Kumar said the cashless transactions improve our economy and make it stronger. The Digidhan Mela will help motivate the common man towards cashless transactions.

More than a hundred stalls have been set-up by various Government departments, banks, mobile wallet operators and other vendors. The stalls have been set up to educate people about the cashless transactions and to help them undertake digital transactions.

Suzlon bags 226.8 MW wind power project in Andhra Pradesh, 12 January 2017



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Wind Turbine maker Suzlon Group said it won a 226.8 megawatt wind power project from an independent power producer (IPP) in Andhra Pradesh.

Suzlon said in a BSE filing that the order consists of 108 units of S111 90 m tubular tower with rated capacity of 2.1 MW. The project will be located in Anantapur district of Andhra Pradesh, and is scheduled for completion by March 2017.

Suzlon said it has entered into an exclusive Supply and Installation Agreement and Engineering and Construction of the project. Suzlon will also be responsible for operation and maintenance services with dedicated life cycle asset management services for an initial period of 10 years.

Shares of Suzlon Energy were trading 3.48% higher at Rs. 15.47 apiece on BSE.

Over 25,000 MoUs inked in Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, 13 January 2017



Gujarat government said that 25,578 memorandum of understanding (MoUs) were inked during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, but refrained to give the amount of investment they will generate. The state government broke the tradition of last seven editions of biennial summits of announcing the amount of investment that the MoUs will bring.

In the last summit held in 2015, the state government had announced that it had inked 22,602 MoUs which will bring in investment of Rs 25 lakh crores. Gujarat Deputy Chief Minister Nitin Patel said 25,578 MoUs were signed in the three-day event, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. In the 8th edition of Vibrant Gujarat summit we have signed 25,578 MoUs which are around 2,500 more than that we had signed in 2015.

Rupani said Gujarat government is criticised by some sections for non-implementation of 20 per cent of MoUs signed during earlier Vibrant Summits. We are made to give accounts of implementation of MoUs signed during earlier Vibrant Summits even after we have realised and implemented 80 per cent them. People say that we are not able to realise that remaining 20 per cent MoUs.

Dharamsala declared second capital of Himachal Pradesh, 20 January 2017



Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh declared Dharamsala as the second capital of the state.

Singh said the city fully deserved the status because of its history and significance. According to The Tribune, the chief minister believes that Dharamsala holds special importance and value in lower areas of the state like Chamba, Hamirpur, Kangra and Una districts. He also highlighted the importance of the city, saying it attracted people from across the world. He added that tourism had changed the town's fortune.

Dharamsala is a city in Himachal's Kangra district. It was formerly known as Bhagsu. It was selected as one of the hundred Indian cities to be developed as a smart city under PM Narendra Modi's flagship Smart Cities Mission. Dharamsala has held 12 Winter Sessions of the state Assembly.

The Dalai Lama's residence and the headquarters of Central Tibetan Administration (the Tibetan government in exile) are in Dharamsala.

Ministry of Railways Signs Joint Venture Agreement with the Govt. of Jharkhand, 21 January 2017



A Joint Venture Agreement was signed on 20th January, 2017 between Ministry of Railways and Government of Jharkhand for developing railway infrastructure in the State.

- ✎ This Joint Venture agreement for development of Railway Infrastructure will provide active representation to States in the Planning and Implementation of Railway Infrastructure Projects
- ✎ Speed up the Development of Railway Projects on state's priority.
- ✎ Generate more financial resources through participation of State & other stakeholders in the project specific subsidiaries.
- ✎ Government of Jharkhand has initially identified 3 projects viz., Namkum - Kandra, Giridih - Parasnath-Madhuban, Tori - Chatra Rail Line covering a length of 222 km at a cost of Rs. 2150 Crore for taking up through the proposed JV Company after establishing their viability, bankability and financial closure.
- ✎ Governments of Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Odisha, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Gujarat have already signed JV agreement with Ministry of Railways.
- ✎ Government of Jharkhand with 51% equity is the 9th State which had agreed to form a Joint Venture Company with the Ministry of Railways.
- ✎ The present railway network density in Jharkhand is 17.64 Km per 100 square Km which is the best in India and way above the national average of 2.01 Km per 100 square Km.
- ✎ Signing of these JVs will go a long way in developing infrastructure in the State of Jharkhand.
- ✎ The average outlay to Jharkhand in Railway Budget was Rs.1544.3 crore during 2014-15 to 2016-17 which is an increase of 238% over the average outlay of 457.2 crore during 2009-10 to 2013-14.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurates 4 lakh sqft IT building, 23 January 2017

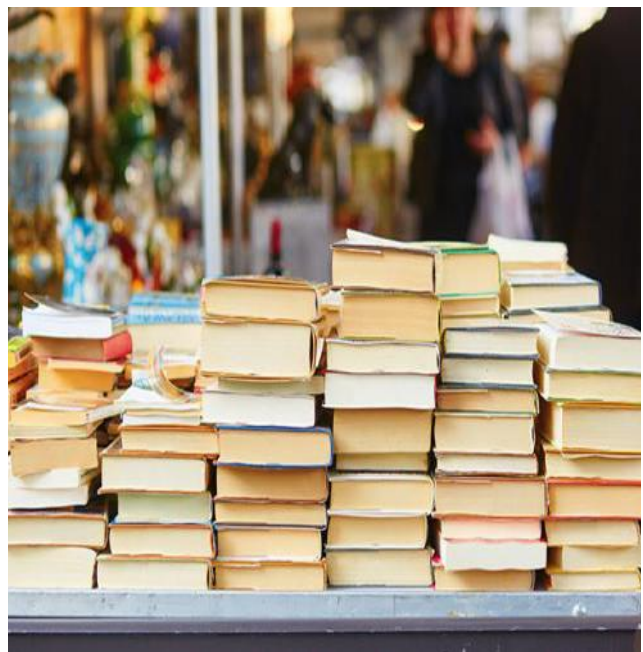


Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the 4 lakh square feet state-of-the-art IT building, 'Jyothirmaya' at the Infopark in Kochi.

Dedicating the 9-storeyed building, constructed over six acres of land, he said 80,000 job opportunities will be created when the buildings constructed in second phase development in Infopark become fully operational.

'Jyothirmaya', constructed as part of the second phase of development in Infopark, will generate 4000 job opportunities in the field of IT sector, Vijayan said. He said the second phase of Infopark that is being developed on 160 acres land on the shores of Kadamprayar river, has been envisaged as a 'walk to work' Technology campus.

Assam's first lit fest BLF will start in Guwahati, 27 January 2017



Assam joins the growing list of states hosting literary jamborees with the three-day Brahmaputra Literary Festival (BLF), which will see the participation of more than 150 authors from India and abroad .

The festival, organised jointly by the National Book Trust (NBT) and the Assam government, will host 60 panel discussions, book releases, readings and culture events including screenings of films based on books, musical and dance performances.

The focus is on the languages, literature, culture, society, politics, performance traditions, music, identity, media of the northeastern region of the country but also national and international elements packages in the three-day event .

The festival will be inaugurated by Union Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar.

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Assam governor given additional charge of Meghalaya, 28 January 2017

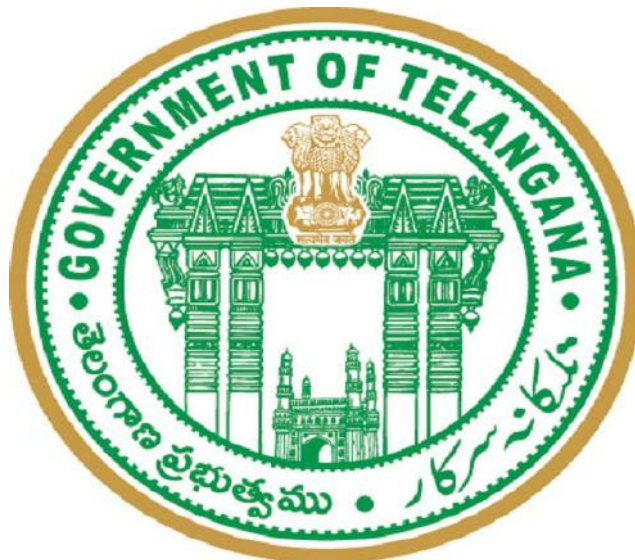


Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit has been given the additional charge of Meghalaya following the resignation of V Shanmuganathan.

The President of India through a warrant at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, has appointed Assam Governor Banwarilal Purohit to discharge the functions of the Governor of Meghalaya.

The charge of Meghalaya will be in addition to his present charge as the Governor of Assam.

Telangana inks pact with AEROCAMPUS for aero skills academy, 28 January 2017



Telangana government signed a memorandum of agreement with Frances AEROCAMPUS Aquitaine on setting up an aero skills academy.

The project deliverables include identifying skill gaps, designing courses and enabling EASA (European Aviation

Safety Agency) and DGCA (Directorate general of Civil Aviation) certifications for the academy and its courses.

This partnership focuses on developing skills across youth as well as experienced professionals in tune with the latest industry trends.

The new academy would offer specialised aeronautical courses in engineering, manufacturing and maintenance domains.

HPCL, GAIL ink pact with Andhra Pradesh govt for Rs 40k-crore project, 28 January 2017



Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) and GAIL India has signed an agreement with the Andhra Pradesh government for setting up Rs 40,000-crore petrochemical plant in the state.

The 50:50 joint venture will set up a 1.5-million tonnes ethylene derivatives plant, which will produce a wide range of petrochemical raw materials for the manufacture of detergents, paints and coatings, cosmetics, textiles and adhesives.

The plant will be set up at the Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) sites identified by the state government at Kakinada.

Further, in another MoU, Aditya Birla group plans to invest ₹7,000 crore in the next two years in Andhra Pradesh on expanding existing businesses, said Kumar Mangalam Birla, chairman. The company already has investments worth Rs 10,000 crore in the state across sectors like telecom, retail and cement.

INTERNATIONAL Burning Topics of the Month

1. **Japan ready to associate in development of Chennai, Varanasi.**
2. **China establishes technological cooperation with 158 nations.**
3. **India becomes Associate Member State of CERN.**

India, Pakistan exchange lists of nuclear sites, 02 January 2017



India and Pakistan exchanged the list of their nuclear installations and facilities under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations. This is the 26th consecutive exchange of such list between the two countries after the first list was exchanged on 1 January 1992.

This exchange is done every year on 1st of January between them to prevent them from attacking each other's nuclear facilities. Both countries also exchanged the lists of nationals (including civil prisoners and fishermen) of each country lodged in their respective jails as per provisions of the Agreement on Consular Access.

It is a bilateral agreement signed between India and Pakistan that bars them from carrying out any surprise attack (or to assist foreign power to attack) on each other's nuclear installations and facilities. Under it, both countries inform each other about their nuclear installations and facilities that need to be covered under the Agreement on 1 January every year.

It was signed on 31st December 1988 and entered into force on 27 January 1991. It was signed by then Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and his Pakistani counterpart Benazir Bhutto.

Justice Saqib Nisar sworn in as Chief Justice of Pakistan, 03 January 2017



Justice Mian Saqib Nisar took oath as Chief Justice of Pakistan. He is the 25th Chief Justice of the Supreme Court who will serve on the post till January 17, 2019, date of his retirement.

President Mamnoon Hussain administered the oath in a ceremony held at the President's House. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif also attended the ceremony.

Justice Saqib Nisar replaced Justice Muhammad Anwar Zaheer Jamali as Chief Justice of Pakistan who retired on December 30 having served the office since September 10, 2015.

Started with the recitation of verses from Holy Quran, the whole ceremony was conducted in Urdu, including the oath. At conclusion of the ceremony, the prime minister felicitated the chief justice.

Later Chief Justice, Justice Mian Saqib Nisar called on President Mamnoon Hussain who congratulated the latter on his appointment as Chief Justice of Pakistan and wished him well in discharge of his new responsibilities.

Paul Ryan re-elected as Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, 04 January 2017



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Paul Ryan was re-elected as the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives for another term by the House of the 115th Congress.

Ryan, who received 239 votes, got the support of all republican except for Tom Massie, who voted for Daniel Webster.

Nancy Pelosi was re-elected as the Minority Leader though four Democrats voted for other members.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Kenya on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors, 05 January 2017



The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kenya on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

The MoU covers various activities in these fields which include agricultural research, animal husbandry and dairy, livestock and fisheries horticulture, natural resource management, post-harvest management and marketing, soil and conservation, water management, irrigation farming systems development and integrated watershed development integrated pest management, agricultural plant, machinery and implements, sanitary and phytosanitary issues.

The MoU provides for constitution of a Joint Working Group comprising of representatives from both countries, the task of which would be to develop detailed cooperation programmes and monitor implementation of the MoU.

The MoU shall enter into force on the day of signing and shall remain valid for a period of five years and shall automatically be renewed for a subsequent period of five years unless either Party notifies the other in writing, six months before the expiry of the validity period of the intention to terminate it.

Britain appoints new EU ambassador, 05 January 2017



The British government will appoint senior diplomat Tim Barrow as its new ambassador to the European Union (EU).

The decision to name a new ambassador to the EU has come one day after his predecessor decided to step down in a surprising manner.

Barrow, Britain's former ambassador to Moscow, is expected to play a key role in Britain's Brexit negotiations, replacing the outgoing EU Ambassador Ivan Rogers.

Japan ready to associate in development of Chennai, Varanasi, 06 January 2017



Japan has decided to associate itself with India in developing Chennai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi as smart cities.

During a meeting of Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu with Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu, he said, Japan is "quite interested" in urban development initiatives of the government and decided to be a partner.

Responding to Naidu's observation about the need for speedy action, the Japanese envoy said that we would like to match the action oriented approach of the government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Meanwhile, British High Commissioner Dominic Asquith also met Naidu and discussed converting into action the MoU signed between the two countries on cooperation in urban development sector.

China launches longest bullet train, 06 January 2017



China launched its longest bullet train "Shangri-la of the World" from Kunming, capital of southwest Chinas Yunnan Province to Beijing, expanding its high speed train network to about 20,000 kms connecting almost all provinces.

The train left Kunming at 11:05 am on a 2,760-km trip to Beijing, which takes about 13 hours.

The trains name highlights the world famous resort in Shangri-la of Yunnan, a name first appearing in British novelist James Hilton's "Lost Horizon."

A ticket for a second-class seat on the train from Kunming to Beijing costs 1,147.5 yuan (USD 166).

The line is also the longest east-west high-speed railway in China.

A longer rail line stretching north to south is the 2,298-km Beijing-Guangzhou line, put into operation in 2012.

China has built more than 20,000 km of high-speed rail lines.

According to the government's plan, the mileage will increase to 45,000 km by 2030.

The launch of the Shanghai-Kunming line means the country's high-speed rail grid has taken shape, connecting almost all provinces on the Chinese mainland.

China is also aggressively marketing its bullet train technology in different countries including India effectively competing with Japan.

India, Kazakhstan agree to amend tax treaty, 06 January 2017



India and Kazakhstan signed an agreement to amend the two-decade old bilateral tax treaty under which information exchanged between the two can be shared with other law enforcement agencies.

The protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between the two countries provides internationally-accepted standards for effective exchange of information on tax matters.

The initial DTAC between India and Kazakhstan was signed on December 9, 1996, for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of evasion with respect to taxes on income.

The revised tax treaty will provide for a Limitation of Benefits clause to prevent misuse of DTAC. It would help allow application of domestic law and measures against tax avoidance or evasion.

The protocol inserts specific provisions to facilitate easing of economic double taxation in transfer pricing cases.

Cuba signs first exports to US in half a century, 06 January 2017

Two firms have signed a deal for the first commercial exports in half a century from Cuba to the US, a new step in the countries' historic rapprochement.

Cuban company CubaExport signed an agreement to sell charcoal to US firm Coabana Trading for USD 420 a tonne.

Although a nearly 55-year US trade embargo on Cuba remains in place, the exports are authorized under exceptional measures approved by outgoing US President Barack Obama.

It is a key step in the gradual normalizing of ties that he and Cuban President Raul Castro launched in late 2014.

A first shipment of 40 tonnes of "marabu" vegetable charcoal for burning, made from a local hardwood tree originating in Africa, is due for delivery on January 18.

Top Indian diplomat in UN panel to tackle sexual abuse, 07 January 2017

New UN chief Antonio Guterres has set up a task force, which includes a senior Indian diplomat, to develop a “game-changing” strategy aimed at preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers.

Top UN peacekeeping official and senior diplomat Atul Khare is part of the high-level task force. Khare is currently Under Secretary-General, Department of Field Support.

UN Secretary-General Guterres has asked Jane Holl Lute, Special Coordinator for improving the organisations response to sexual exploitation and abuse, to convene the high-level task force to develop “a clear, game-changing strategy” to achieve visible and measurable further improvement in the UNs approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse.

Members of the high-level task force, all of whom hold official positions within the UN system, will use the upcoming Report of the Secretary-General on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation to present elements of the strategy.

Guterres has said that he wants the strategy developed “as a matter of urgency” and that member states and relevant organisations across the UN system are to be widely consulted.

According to the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, 79 cases of allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation were reported until October, 2016.

India, Portugal sign six agreements, including MoU on defence cooperation, 09 January 2017

India and Portugal signed six agreements - including one on defence cooperation - after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with Portugal’s Prime Minister Antonio Costa.



The two nations also took a veiled dig at China for blocking New Delhi’s move at the UN to list Jaish-e-Muhammad chief Masood Azhar as a global terrorist.

PM Modi said the MoU on defence cooperation will help both nations harness their “respective strengths in this field for mutual benefit.”

The other MoUs signed provide for cooperation in the areas of information technology and electronics, agricultural trade (including market access for agricultural products), deeper engagement in renewable energy and marine research.

Pakistan test-fires first nuclear-capable submarine cruise missile Babur-3, 10 January 2017

Pakistan successfully test-fired its first Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile capable of carrying a nuclear warhead up to 450km from an undisclosed location in the Indian Ocean, giving the country a “credible” second-strike capability.

According to the Pakistani military statement the missile, Babur-3, was fired from an underwater, mobile platform and hit its target with precise accuracy, the Inter Services Public Relations.

Babur-3, which has a range of 450km, is a sea-based variant of Ground Launched Cruise Missile (GLCM) Babur-2+, which was successfully tested earlier in December, last year.

The Babur-3 SLCM incorporates state-of-the-art technologies including underwater controlled propulsion and advanced guidance and navigation features, duly augmented by Global Navigation, Terrain and Scene Matching Systems.

The missile features terrain hugging and sea skimming flight capabilities to evade hostile radars and air defenses, in addition to certain stealth technologies, in an emerging regional Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) environment.

Pentagon successfully tests micro-drone swarm, 10 January 2017



The Pentagon may soon be unleashing a 21st-century version of locusts on its adversaries after officials said it had successfully tested a swarm of 103 micro-drones.

The important step in the development of new autonomous weapon systems was made possible by improvements in artificial intelligence, holding open the possibility that groups of small robots could act together under human direction.

Military strategists have high hopes for such drone swarms that would be cheap to produce and able to overwhelm opponents' defenses with their great numbers.

The test of the world's largest micro-drone swarm in California in October included 103 Perdix micro-drones measuring around six inches (16 centimeters) launched from three F/A-18 Super Hornet fighter jets.

India & Portugal to work out a co-production agreement in Films Sector, 10 January 2017

India and Portugal have agreed to work out modalities for a co-production agreement in the Film Sector. The agreement would be framed in a time-bound manner keeping in mind the legal aspects of such an agreement. A possibility of an MoU between the Public Broadcasters of both the Countries to share best practices and seek cooperation in Technical and Content related matters was

also discussed. The discussions took place during a meeting between Minister of State for Information & Broadcasting Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore and Portugal Minister of Culture, Mr. Luis Filipe Castro Mendes in New Delhi.

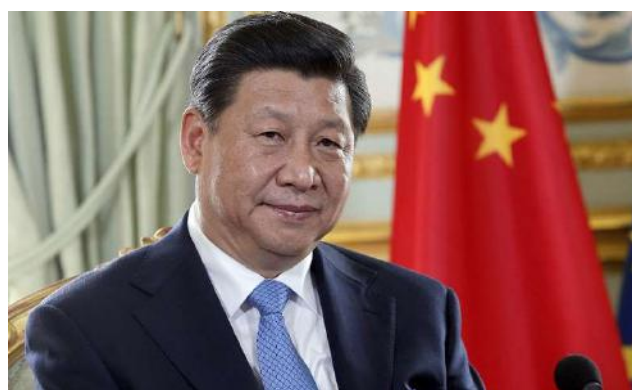
During the deliberations, Col. Rathore apprised the Portuguese Minister on the initiatives taken by Ministry of I&B to provide Single Window clearances for Foreign Film Producers in the country through the Film Facilitation Office. He also highlighted the prestigious National Film Heritage Mission of the Government to Digitise, Restore, Preserve the rich filmic heritage of the Country.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister also apprised the Portuguese Minister about the IIMC and FTII as the premier educational institutes in the field of Journalism and Film Production respectively in the country. The Ministers also discussed the possibility of Student Exchange programmes between educational institutions of both the countries. Ministers also expressed interest for possible co-operation in the areas of Renewable energy, information and communication technology and Start-ups.

The scheduled meeting of Prime Minister of Portugal with the film fraternity at Goa on 12th January 2017, organized by FICCI was also discussed where in many Indian Producers have also been invited.

The Ministers also expressed interest in sharing of experiences and best practices in Social Media to enhance the outreach.

China establishes technological cooperation with 158 nations, 13 January 2017



China has established cooperation ties in science and technology with 158 countries and regions in the world.

China's Ministry of Science and Technology said that a total of 111 intergovernmental agreements on science and technology cooperation had been signed, and China took part in over 200 intergovernmental organisations devoted to boosting such cooperation.

A stable intergovernmental cooperation mechanism, which covers major countries, regions and international organisations, has taken shape, contributing to the improvement of the nation's capability in science and technology cooperation.

Statistics from the ministry also showed that some 70 offices of science and technology had been set up in Chinese embassies, consulates and diplomatic missions in 47 countries, regions, international organisations and multilateral mechanisms, with 146 diplomats.

India, US sign MoU for collaboration in third world countries, 14 January 2017



India and the US have signed a MoU to collaborate in the fields of developmental activities and aid in third world countries.

The MoU has been signed between the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), and Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India.

MCC is a US agency providing eligible countries with grants to fund country-led solutions for reducing poverty through sustainable economic growth. DPA looks after implementation of India's development cooperation programmes with partner countries.

As per the MoU signed, the two countries would collaborate on exchange of information and experience in sectors or issues pertaining to project development or implementation in partner countries.

India and US might also provide advisory or technical assistance to third countries regarding sector policy reform, project and sector management, project implementation, and economic growth promotion strategies in relevant sectors.

The MoU also facilitates officials of two countries to site visits to cross-border or other relevant projects, and capacity building of partner countries.

India and US, the MoU said, share a vision of reducing poverty globally through sustainable economic growth.

US President Barack Obama declares January 16 a Religious Freedom Day, 14 January 2017



Continuing a yearly tradition, outgoing US President Barack Obama signed a proclamation to declare January 16 a Religious Freedom Day.

Religious freedom is a principle based not on shared ancestry, culture, ethnicity, or faith but on a shared commitment to liberty - and it lies at the very heart of who we are as Americans.

Each year, by Presidential Proclamation, January 16 is declared Religious Freedom Day in the US.

Obama rued that in 2015, nearly 20 percent of hate crime victims in America were targeted because of religious bias.

UAE launches first robot pharmacy, 14 January 2017



The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has inaugurated its first "robot pharmacy" at Rashid Hospital in Dubai.

This smart pharmacy is deploying a robot for the

first time in the UAE to dispense prescribed medication, which would be done at a click of button based on a bar code, therefore “minimise any human error.”

The robot, which will serve customers can store up to 35,000 medicines and dispense around 12 prescriptions in less than a minute, which would reduce customers’ waiting time significantly.

The Dubai Health Authority (DHA) said it plans to adopt the use of robot in all its hospitals soon.

The robot is one of the latest smart technologies adopted by the authority to meet the 2016-2021 strategy, which aims to achieve a “happy and healthy society”.

The UAE has installed robots at several public places in order to be at the forefront of a digital economy within the Arab world.

Robots greet passengers at Dubai international airport and the first driverless cars are tested by the Dubai government in the Business Bay near the world’s tallest tower Burj Khalifa.

Ecuador takes chair of UN group of 77 developing countries, 16 January 2017



Ecador took over the chair of the United Nations Group of 77. It took the charge of Group of 77 from Thailand.

After taking the chairmanship of the group, Ecuador’s President Rafael Correa said that the group will continue promoting “social and economic equality.” He also said that this quality can be brought only if “poverty, inequality and exclusion” are eradicated. This eradication will allow people to live with “sovereignty, dignity and in peace.”

Thailand Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai said that in 2016 his country focused on how to implement the 17 UN goals for 2030, which would help in promoting development and good governance, and preserve the environment. Thailand passed the baton of the group to Ecuador.

New Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the G-77 is his “preferred forum” to implement his vision including seeing the new goals become reality and reforming UN operations.

Group of 77

The Group of 77 (G77) at the United Nations is a coalition of developing nations. It was designed to promote its members’ collective economic interests and create an enhanced joint negotiating capacity in the United Nations.

In short G77 promotes the interests of the 134 developing countries it represents at the United Nations, including China.

China has never officially joined the G77 but the nations provide consistent political support and financial donation to the G77, since 1994.

The group is named as Group of 77 or G77 because at the time of formation it had 77 founding members. By November 2013, the group or organisation expanded to 134 member countries. The group was formed on 15 June 1964 with a Joint Declaration of the Seventy-Seven Countries at the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in Geneva.

25th Asia-Pacific forum opens in Fiji, 16 January 2017



ASIA PACIFIC FORUM
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The 25th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) opened in Fiji, focusing on parliamentary partnerships for peace and security.

The five-day forum, which was being held at Natadola saw the participation of delegations from over 20 countries from the Asia-Pacific region, including Australia, China, Japan, Peru, Philippines, and Russia.

Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who declared the forum open, called on participants to boost parliamentary partnerships that would be in line with the sustainable development goals of the UN.

India & Mauritius Sign MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cooperatives, 17 January 2017

The Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh and Minister of Business, Enterprise and Cooperatives, Govt. of Mauritius, Soomil duth Bholah signed on MoU for Cooperation in the field of Cooperatives & related areas.



The MoU will enable the two countries to collaborate in this vital sector and can significantly benefit thousands of Mauritians. India offered to exchange its expertise and technology with Mauritius in agro industry, fisheries and dairy sector.

The two ministers expressed satisfaction at the historic, time-tested relationship between India and Mauritius which is anchored in linkages of culture and ancestry has grown from strength to strength over the years, adding that frequent high level visits have added significant momentum to the bilateral relationship between the two countries.

Middle East Peace Conference held in Paris, 17 January 2017

Middle East Peace Conference

The Middle East Peace Conference, an international meeting aiming to revive the stranded Middle East peace talks, was held in Paris.

About 70 countries, including the UN Security Council permanent members, key European countries and major Arab states, are taking part in the meeting.

However, neither Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas nor Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are represented in the meeting. Israelis called the meeting a “rigged conference” aiming to adopt additional anti-Israel stances.

French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, who chairs Paris gathering, urged for a resumption of the talks.

But France affirmed that the meeting wouldn't impose conditions on the two rival camps to reach a lasting a peace accord.

France launched a diplomatic initiative to revive Middle East peace talks last June.

The last round of peace negotiations between Israel and Palestinian authorities broke down in April 2014 after the two sides failed to resolve their deep disputes on issues, such as Israeli settlements, Palestinian state borders and security.

India becomes Associate Member State of CERN, 18 January 2017



India on 16 January 2017 became an Associate Member State of European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) after the Union Government completed its internal approval procedures for the membership.

Earlier in November 2016, India signed an agreement with the organisation in this regard. The agreement was signed by Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Sekhar Basu and CERN Director General Fabiola Gianotti in Mumbai.

As an Associate member of CERN, India will have full access to all data generated at CERN. Moreover, it can now participate in all the experiments conducted at CERN by paying additional charges. Indian industry will also be entitled to bid for CERN contracts.

From now onwards, India will be required to pay around Rs 40 crore every year as an Associate member.

India-CERN relations

- ✎ India-CERN relations date back to 1991 when both the sides signed a Cooperation Agreement setting priorities for scientific and technical cooperation, followed by the signature of several Protocols.
- ✎ However, India's Tata Institute of Fundamental Research had already been working with CERN since the 1960s. The physicists of the institute were actively participating in experiments at CERN.

- ✎ These physicists were later joined by scientists from the Raja Ramanna Centre for Advanced Technology in the 1990s.
- ✎ These institutes built components for the LEP accelerator and the L3, WA93 and WA89 detectors.
- ✎ All these developments by Indian scientists paved the way for the Indian AEC (Atomic Energy Commission) to take part in the construction of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) and to contribute to the CMS and ALICE experiments in 1996.
- ✎ In recognition of these contributions, India was granted the Observer status to the CERN Council in 2002.
- ✎ Indian scientists were also involved in ISOLDE, a high-tech particle detector and electronics research and n-TOF experiments of CERN.

Govt okays MoU with UAE for cooperation in agriculture, 19 January 2017



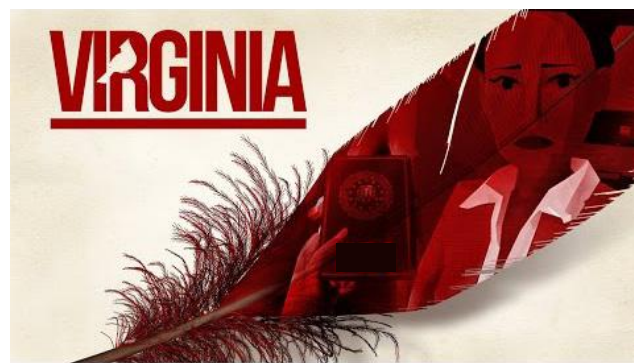
The government approved the signing of an agreement between India and the United Arab Emirates in the area of agriculture and allied sectors.

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has given its approval for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and the United Arab Emirates in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

It will promote understanding of best agricultural practices in the two countries and will help in better productivity at farmer fields as well as improved global market access leading to equity and inclusiveness.

The cooperation in agricultural technology would lead to innovative techniques for increasing productivity leading to strengthening of food security.

Local prosecutor becomes first Indian-American judge in Virginia, 20 January 2017



Rupen R. Shah, who is currently the Chief Deputy of Augusta County Commonwealth in Virginia, has become the first Indian American judge to be elected the southeastern US state.

- ✎ Shah is a resident of Staunton city and his six-year term will commence on February 1.
- ✎ Shah has served on executive committee and council of Virginia State Bar and also as chair of Diversity Conference of Virginia State Bar.
- ✎ He was recognised by the State Bar as a local leader of the year 2009 and also served as president of the Augusta County Bar Association during 2008-2009.
- ✎ Shah, who has a law degree from New York's Syracuse University, founded the non-profit Valley Children's Centre, which helps law enforcement and Child Protective Services workers interview abused and neglected children.
- ✎ The Indian American also has extensive experience in teaching law.

China acquires strategic 40 per cent stake in Pakistan stocks exchange, 21 January 2017



A consortium led by Chinese firms has signed a strategic agreement to acquire 40 per cent equity of Pakistan Stock Exchange for \$85 million, in a move aimed at mobilising funds for the \$46-billion CPEC project and facilitating China's entry into the Pakistani capital market. The Sale and Purchase Agreement (SPA) was signed in the presence of Finance Minister Ishaq Dar in Karachi. The consortium comprises Chinese Financial Futures Exchange Company Ltd (lead bidders), Shanghai Stock Exchange, Shenzhen Stock Exchange, and two local partners Pak-China Investment Company and Habib Bank Ltd.

- ✎ It had won by placing the highest bid of 28 rupees a share for 320 million shares at a price consideration of Rs 8.96 billion (USD 85 mn) when the stake was put forth in December. The PSX also plans to launch infrastructure bonds which would be predominantly be used for the USD 46-billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor project, that passes through the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Xi made head of new commission for military, civilian development, 23 January 2017



Chinese President Xi Jinping became the head of a new commission for integrated military and civilian development, as he assumed more powers and firmed up his hold over the ruling Communist Party, the PLA and the government.

- ✎ The decision was made at a meeting of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, which was chaired by Xi.
- ✎ The central commission will be the central agency tasked with decision-making, deliberation and coordination of major issues regarding integrated military and civilian development.
- ✎ The power status would enable him to have his

supporters in the key bodies of the party when, once in five years, its Congress is held to elect the powerful Political Bureau and the seven-member Standing Committee.

- ✎ Since he took over power towards the end of 2012, Xi has carried out a massive anti-corruption drive in which over a million officials at various levels were punished.
- ✎ Over 40 high level officials of the military also faced corruption probes.
- ✎ The newly formed commission will report to the Political Bureau and the Standing Committee.

China commissions 31st stealth warship, 23 January 2017



Rapidly expanding its naval fleet, China has commissioned its 31st stealth warship as it got its battle group under its first aircraft carrier ready amid tensions with the U.S. and other nations over its assertiveness in the disputed South China Sea.

- ✎ The People's Liberation Army Navy has commissioned its 31st Type—056 class corvette, marking a new addition to the world's largest fleet of modern corvettes.
- ✎ With a maximum speed of 52 km/h, the ship features good manoeuvrability, a high-level of automation and stealth capability, and is capable of hitting aircraft, ships and submarines.
- ✎ The CNS Ezhou with a hull number of 513 was delivered to the East Sea Fleet in a naval base in East China's Fujian province.
- ✎ The ship will perform coastal patrol, fishery escort, anti-submarine and anti-ship operations.
- ✎ It is the second ship that has been commissioned to the PLA Navy since the start of 2017, following the CNS Kaiyangxing, a Type—815A class electronic reconnaissance ship, which now belongs to the North Sea Fleet.
- ✎ Russia has the world's largest corvette group that consists of about 80 vessels, but most of them were built in the 1980s and 1990s and cannot compete with

the Type—056 in terms of technology and equipment, the report quoted defence observers as saying, adding that China's fleet is now the biggest force of modern corvettes of all navies.

- ✎ PLAN has expanded its fleet rapidly in the past ten years taking delivery of about 100 advanced ships and submarines as well as a large number of new aircraft.
- ✎ It commissioned around 20 new ships in 2015 as well as last year and is believed to have deployed several new-generation nuclear submarines during this period.
- ✎ The Navy now has a carrier battle group headed by its first aircraft carrier Liaoning, which just completed a long-distance, live-fire drill in the Western Pacific Ocean and South China Sea. A second aircraft carrier is being built with plans for the third. The Navy's aviation force has carried out several long-range, combat-ready drills as China appears bracing itself for renewed tensions in the South China Sea under Donald Trump Presidency.

Austria's Left-Leaning Winner New Presidential Is Sworn In, 27 January 2017

Austria's new president called for a tolerant and diverse nation free of ideological and racial hatred in an inauguration speech that embraced the ideal of a united Europe.

President Alexander Van der Bellen outlined a vision markedly different from that offered during campaigning by his right-wing rival Norbert Hofer, the populist he defeated last month after an unprecedented repeat vote.



Hofer had campaigned on a law-and-order platform in line with his Freedom Party's opposition to Muslim immigration, its focus on Austrians first and its depiction of the European Union as an out-of-touch institution damaging the sovereignty of national states that needs to be radically weakened, if not abolished.

In contrast, the left-leaning Van der Bellen rejected nationalism in favor of a common Europe as a project of peace. He urged equal treatment for all Austrians, whether their families live here for generations or not, whether they love men or women, and whether they are men or women.

The presidency is a mostly symbolic post. But Van der Bellen's victory was welcomed by established European political parties fearful of the next possible victory for populists after Donald Trump's presidential win in the United States and Britain's Brexit vote.

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BUDGET AT A GLANCE 2017-2018

1. Budget at a Glance shows Budget Estimates in broad aggregates to facilitate easy understanding.

The document shows receipts and expenditure as well as the Fiscal Deficit (FD), Revenue Deficit (RD), Effective Revenue Deficit (ERD), and the Primary Deficit (PD).

The document gives an illustrative account of sources of receipts, and their application through suitable charts, and graphs. In addition, the document contains the resource transfer to States and allocations on major programmes and schemes.

2. Fiscal Deficit is the difference between the Revenue Receipts plus Non-debt Capital Receipts (NDCR) and the total expenditure. This indicates the total borrowing requirements of Government from all sources.

Revenue Deficit refers to the excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts. Effective Revenue Deficit is the difference between Revenue Deficit and grants for creation of capital assets. Primary Deficit is measured by Fiscal Deficit less interest payments.

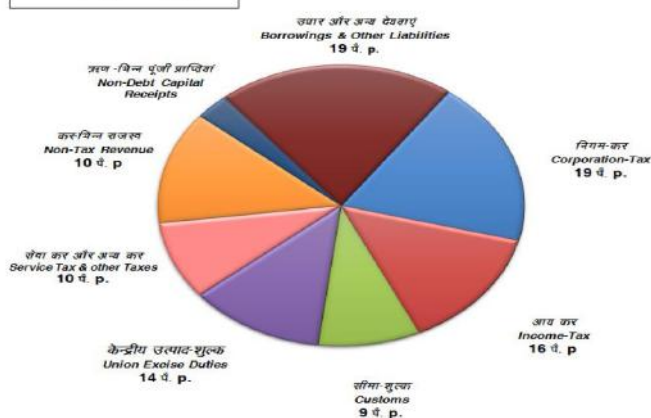
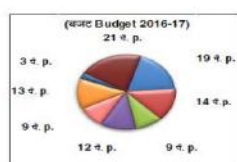
3. A significant reform initiative in the budgeting process, announced by the Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech of 2016-17 was the removal of the Plan and Non-Plan distinction in expenditure budgeting.

This has been implemented from the Budget of 2017-18.

With the removal of this distinction it is expected that the link between spending and outcomes will improve and become more holistic and focused.

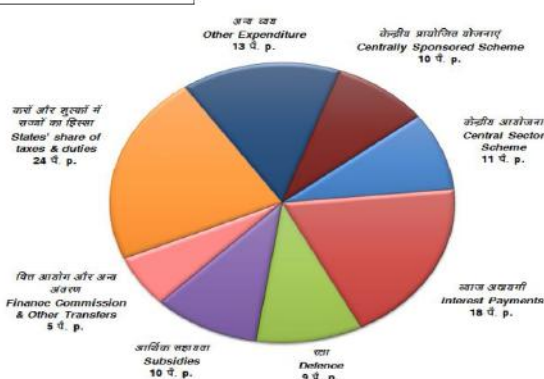
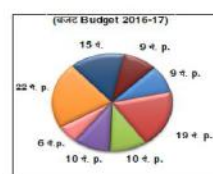
4. Budget 2017-18 reflects Government's firm commitment to substantially boost investment in Agriculture, Social Sector, Infrastructure and Employment Generation on the one hand and simultaneously sticking to the fiscal consolidation path on the other hand. This is substantiated by increase of ₹ 1,32,328 crores over RE (2016-17) while simultaneously conforming to the fiscal deficit target of 3.2%.
5. In RE (2016-17), the total expenditure at ₹ 20,14,407 crore is more than the BE (2016-17) by ₹ 36,347 crore. Accordingly, the Fiscal Deficit target of 3.5% in 2016-2017 has been achieved without reduction in expenditure at the RE stage.
6. Since 2015-16, the devolution of States' share in taxes has witnessed a major jump. Continuing with this trend, the total resources going to States including the devolution of State's share in taxes, Grants/Loans, and releases under Centrally Sponsored Schemes in BE (2017-18) is ₹ 10,85,075 crore, with a jump of ₹ 94,764 crore over RE (2016-17) and ₹ 2,50,592 crore more than the Actual (2015-16). These facts reflect Government's firm commitment to co-operative federalism and strong belief in the principle that the Nation grows when States grow.

रुपया आता है Rupee Comes From
(बजट Budget 2017-18)



टिप्पणियां:- 1. कुल प्राप्तियों में कर्ष और शुल्कों में राज्यों का हिस्सा शामिल है, जिन्हें शुद्ध 1 पर सारणी में घटा दिया गया है।
2. आंकड़ों को पूर्णांकित किया गया है।
Notes:- 1. Total receipts are inclusive of States' share of taxes and duties which have been netted in the table on page 1.
2. Figures have been rounded.

रुपया जाता है Rupee Goes To
(बजट Budget 2017-18)



टिप्पणियां:- 1. कुल व्ययों में कर्ष और शुल्कों में राज्यों का हिस्सा शामिल है, जिन्हें शुद्ध 1 पर सारणी में घटा दिया गया है।
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ECONOMIC SURVEY 2016-17

The Indian Economy has sustained a macro-economic environment of relatively lower inflation, fiscal discipline and moderate current account deficit coupled with broadly stable rupee-dollar exchange rate. The Economic Survey 2016-17 presented in the Parliament today by the Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley states that such a sustenance is despite continuing global sluggishness.

It says:

- As per the advance estimates released by the Central Statistics Office, the growth rate of GDP at constant market prices for the year 2016-17 is placed at 7.1 per cent, as against 7.6 per cent in 2015-16. This estimate is based mainly on information for the first seven to eight months of the financial year. Government final consumption expenditure is the major driver of GDP growth in the current year.
- Fixed investment (gross fixed capital formation) to GDP ratio (at current prices) is estimated to be 26.6 per cent in 2016-17, vis-à-vis 29.3 per cent in 2015-16.
- For 2017-18, it is expected that the growth would return to normal as the new currency notes in required quantities come back into circulation and as follow-up actions to demonetisation are taken. On balance, there is a likelihood that Indian economy may recover back to 6 ¾ per cent to 7 ½ per cent in 2017-18.



Fiscal

- Indirect taxes grew by 26.9 per cent during April-November 2016.
- The strong growth in revenue expenditure during April-November 2016 was boosted mainly by a 23.2 per cent increase in salaries due to the implementation of the

Seventh Pay Commission and a 39.5 per cent increase in the grants for creation of capital assets.

Prices

- The headline inflation as measured by Consumer Price Index (CPI) remained under control for the third successive financial year. The average CPI inflation declined to 4.9 per cent in 2015-16 from 5.9 per cent in 2014-15 and stood at 4.8 per cent during April-December 2015.
- Inflation based on Wholesale Price Index (WPI) declined to (-) 2.5 per cent in 2015-16 from 2.0 per cent in 2014-15 and averaged 2.9 per cent during April-December 2016.
- Inflation is repeatedly being driven by narrow group of food items, of these pulses continued to be the major contributor of food inflation.
- The CPI based core inflation has remained sticky in the current fiscal year averaging around 5 per cent.

Trade

- The trend of negative export growth was reversed somewhat during 2016-17 (April-December), with exports growing at 0.7 per cent to US\$ 198.8 billion. During 2016-17 (April-December) imports declined by 7.4 per cent to US\$ 275.4 billion.
- Trade deficit declined to US\$ 76.5 billion in 2016-17 (April-December) as compared to US\$ 100.1 billion in the corresponding period of the previous year.
- The current account deficit (CAD) narrowed in the first half (H1) of 2016-17 to 0.3 per cent of GDP from 1.5 per cent in H1 of 2015-16 and 1.1 per cent in 2015-16 full year.
- Robust inflows of foreign direct investment and net positive inflow of foreign portfolio investment were sufficient to finance CAD leading to an accretion in foreign exchange reserves in H1 of 2016-17.
- In H1 of 2016-17, India's foreign exchange reserves increased by US\$ 15.5 billion on BoP basis.
- During 2016-17 so far, the rupee has performed better than most of the other emerging market economies.

External Debt

- At end-September 2016, India's external debt stock stood at US\$ 484.3 billion, recording a decline of US\$ 0.8 billion over the level at end-March 2016.
- Most of the key external debt indicators showed an improvement in September 2016 vis-à-vis March 2016. The share of short-term debt in total external debt

declined to 16.8 per cent at end-September 2016 and foreign exchange reserves provided a cover of 76.8 per cent to the total external debt stock.

- India's key debt indicators compare well with other indebted developing countries and India continues to be among the less vulnerable countries.

Agriculture

- Agriculture sector is estimated to grow at 4.1 per cent in 2016-17 as opposed to 1.2 per cent in 2015-16; the higher growth in agriculture sector is not surprising as the monsoon rains were much better in the current year than the previous two years.
- The total area coverage under Rabi crops as on 13.01.2017 for 2016-17 is 616.2 lakh hectares which is 5.9 per cent higher than that in the corresponding week of last year.
- The area coverage under wheat as on 13.01.2017 for 2016-17 is 7.1 percent higher than that in the corresponding week of last year. The area coverage under gram as on 13.01.2017 for 2016-17 is 10.6 percent higher than that in the corresponding week of last year.



Industry

- Growth rate of the industrial sector is estimated to moderate to 5.2 per cent in 2016-17 from 7.4 per cent in 2015-16. During April-November 2016-17, a modest growth of 0.4 per cent has been observed in the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).
- The eight core infrastructure supportive industries, viz. coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity registered a cumulative growth of 4.9 per cent during April-November 2016-17 as compared to 2.5 per cent during



April-November 2015-16. The production of refinery products, fertilizers, steel, electricity and cement increased substantially, while the production of crude oil, natural gas fell during April-November 2016-17. Coal production attained lower growth during the same period.

- The performance of corporate sector (Reserve Bank of India, January 2017) highlighted that the growth of sales grew by 1.9 per cent in Q2 of 2016-17 as compared to near stagnant growth of 0.1 per cent in Q1 of 2016-17. Growth in net profit registered a remarkable growth of 16.0 per cent in Q2 of 2016-17 as compared to 11.2 per cent in Q1 of 2016-17.

Services

- Service sector is estimated to grow at 8.9 per cent in 2016-17, almost the same as in 2015-16. It is the significant pick-up in public administration, defence and other services, boosted by the payouts of the Seventh Pay Commission that is estimated to push up the growth in services.

Social Infrastructure, Employment and Human Development

- The Parliament has passed the "Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016". The Act aims at securing and enhancing the rights and entitlements of Persons with Disabilities. The Act has proposed to increase the reservation in vacancies in government establishments from 3 per cent to 4 per cent for those persons with benchmark disability and high support needs.

ECONOMY

Burning Topics of the Month

1. **Anti-avoidance tax rule GAAR to kick in April 2017.**
2. **Unemployment in India to increase marginally in 2017-18: Report.**
3. **Suryoday, Utkarsh small finance banks commence operations.**

Petronet signs pact to set up \$950 mn LNG project in Bangladesh, 02 January 2017



India's largest LNG importer Petronet has signed an agreement to set up a \$950 million liquified natural gas import project in Bangladesh.

Petronet signed a MoU with Petrobangla to set up a 7.5 million tonnes a year project to receive and regasify LNG on Kutubdia Island in Cox's Bazar and lay a 26-km pipeline to connect it to the consumption markets.

Singh signed the memorandum of understanding with Petrobangla secretary Syed Ashfaquzzaman on December 30.

The project envisions future expansion and can be used to supply LNG through small barges and LNG trucks to users which are not connected by gas grid.

Paytm gets RBI approval for payments bank, 04 January 2017

Paytm said it has received final approval of the Reserve Bank to formally launch its payments bank and it expects to start operations next month.

Payments banks can accept deposits from individuals and small businesses of up to Rs. 1 lakh per account.

In 2015, RBI had awarded 'in-principle' approval to Vijay Shekhar Sharma, the founder of One97 Communications, to set up a Payments Bank along with 10 others.

With the objective of deepening financial inclusion, RBI kicked off an era of differentiated banking by allowing SFBs (small finance banks) and PBs (payments banks) to start services. A total of 21 entities were given in-principle nod last year, including 11 for payments banks.

Later, three entities -Tech Mahindra, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Company and a consortium of Dilip Shanghvi, IDFC Bank and Telenor Financial Services -- backed out of the payments bank licensing.

Currently, Airtel is the only player that has commenced Payments Bank operations. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank is expected to launch services in the first half of 2017.

Sharma will hold the majority share in Paytm Payments Bank, with the rest being held by One97 Communications.

Google CEO Sundar Pichai Unveils Digital Unlocked Training, My Business Websites Service for Indian SMBs, 05 January 2017



Google at its SMB-focused event in New Delhi announced two new initiatives for small and medium businesses in India - Digital Unlocked and My Business Websites. The event was helmed by Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who spoke about the power of the Internet to transform entrepreneurship.

Speaking of the need to bring Indian SMBs online, Google cited a joint study with KPMG that showed 68 percent of the 51 million SMBs in India are offline. The study attributed the lack of understanding of the benefits of digital technology and technical skills as the primary reasons for being offline. Their digitisation will dramatically increase their contribution to the Indian GDP.

The Digital Unlocked training programme has been built "across online, offline, and mobile". The offline training, spaced over the next three years, will be conducted in

partnership with FICCI - with 5,000 workshops envisioned in 40 Indian cities. As for the online portion, Google has released 90 self-paced video tutorials that have been curated specifically for India and are available at g.co/digital unlocked. The company says the trainings are certified by Google, Indian School of Business, and FICCI.

Coming to the mobile facet, Google's Digital Unlocked training programme will be available in the form of a mobile app called Primer. It is already available for Android and iOS on Google Play and the App Store. The app is meant to teach digital marketing skills in an interactive manner, and has been launched in English and Hindi. The app works offline, and the company is touting upcoming support for Marathi, Tamil, and Telugu.

As we mentioned, Google also unveiled My Business Websites in a preview form. It's meant to help business have a "rich, optimised mobile digital presence". It will be launched later this year for Google My Business users. The service lets business easily create a mobile optimised website for free. Using data provided by business alongside photos from Google Maps, the service will create template, editable websites. The service will be available in English, Hindi, Bengali, Telugu, Marathi, Tamil, Urdu, Gujarati, Kannada, and Malayalam.

Suzlon bags 105 MW order from Axis Energy Group in Andhra, 06 January 2017



Wind turbine maker Suzlon Group said that it has bagged 105 megawatt (MW) order from Axis Energy Group in Andhra Pradesh.

The company said in a BSE filing that the project consists of 50 units of S111 90 metre tubular tower, each with a capacity of 2.1 MW. Located in Andhra Pradesh, the project is scheduled for completion in two phases.

While, the first phase will be completed in March 2017 and the second phase will be completed in June 2017.

Shares of Suzlon Energy Ltd were trading 2.91 per cent lower at Rs 14.70 apiece on BSE.

SBI Research pegs FY17 GDP down to 6.7%, 07 January 2017



Even as the Central Statistics Office (CSO) revised downwards the GDP growth estimate for the current financial year to 7.1 per cent, SBI Research pegged it further down at 6.7 per cent, citing the note-ban impact on consumption and therefore production.

The report said even though an objective assessment of the demonetisation exercise on output growth is a difficult one now, it expects GDP growth to be decisively lower than 6 per cent in the third quarter and in the fourth quarter, it could only make a gradual comeback.

The report estimates GDP growth for the second half and for the full year at 6.3 per cent and 6.7 per cent, respectively with a downward bias.

Indian economy's growth estimated at 7.1% in 2016-17: Government, 07 January 2017



The Indian economy is expected to grow at 7.1 per cent this fiscal -- without the impact of demonetisation being taken into consideration, according to an official advance estimate for the year released. The actual expansion in the first six months of 2016-17 stood at 7.1 per cent.

The country's gross domestic product will grow at 7.1 per cent in 2016-17 compared with 7.6 percent in 2015-16, according to the estimate of national income for 2016-17 released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), even as industry called for a suitable union budget to stimulate investments and growth.

The CSO has primarily used seven-month data to extrapolate for the full fiscal.

The anticipated growth of real GVA (gross value added, which excludes taxes and subsidies) in 2016-17 is 7 per cent against 7.2 per cent in 2015-16.

The GVA at basic prices for 2016-17 for manufacturing sector is estimated to grow by 7.4 per cent as compared to growth of 9.3 per cent in 2015-16.

The agriculture, forestry and fishing sector is likely to show a growth of 4.1 per cent in its GVA during 2016-17, as against the previous year's growth rate of 1.2 per cent.

Anti-avoidance tax rule GAAR to kick in from April 2017, 09 January 2017



The tax department said that General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) will kick in from April 1, 2017.

In its 2016 year-end review, the Central Board of Direct Taxes, which is the apex policy making body of the I-T department, listed its major achievements.

Major achievements of CBDT in the current financial year 2016-17 so far include, among others, Enactment of The Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act, 2016, Implementation of The Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme, 2016 and of GAAR from Assessment Year 2018-19.

In May last year, CBDT had started consultation with stakeholders asking them to give their views where they require clarity before GAAR is implemented.

General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) was part of the 2012-13 Budget speech of the then Finance Minister Pranab Mukherjee to check tax evasion and avoidance.

GAAR, which was originally to be implemented from April 1, 2014, will now come into effect from April 1, 2017 (Assessment Year 2018-19).

BSE launches mobile app for mutual fund trading, 09 January 2017



Making trading in mutual funds more convenient for investors, BSE announced the launch of the 'BSE STAR MF' mobile application. The app is currently available to android mobile users.

BSE runs the mutual fund trading platform — BSE STAR MF — the largest MF distributor platform in India with more than 4 lakh SIPs (Systematic Investment Plans) per month.

All mutual fund investors/distributors/registered investment advisers are informed that the exchange is pleased to announce the launch of BSE STAR MF mobile application.

Users can download BSE STAR MF mobile app (beta release) from Google Playstore now.

The platform provides a range of services for easy transactions and seamless order flow for Asset Management Companies (AMCs). On many occasions, the platform has exceeded 70,000 orders per day.

Rockman Ind acquires majority stake in Moldex Composites, 09 January 2017

Rockman Industries, the auto-components arm of the USD 5 billion Hero Group, has forayed into carbon composites space by acquiring majority stake in Surat-based Moldex Composites in a deal valued at around Rs. 100 crore.

With the stake buyout, the company eyes diversifying into motorsports, aerospace and high-end automotive components manufacturing.

Over the next five years, the company expects carbon composites to account for 10 per cent of its topline which currently stands at around Rs. 2,250 crore.

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**Exim Bank launches export facilitation portal
EXIM Mitra, 10 January 2017**

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) has launched a portal primarily for providing information on financial products available to facilitate exports, and delivering trade-related information.

In consonance with the Digital India campaign of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the bank has launched the online platform called EXIM Mitra -- meaning a friend for exporters and importers.

EXIM Mitra will provide preliminary help to a large number of exporters and importers who may not have access to an array of crucial trade-related information under one single platform.

Bank of Baroda offers lowest home loans rates at 8.35%, 10 January 2017

State-run Bank of Baroda reduced home loan rates by 70 basis points to the industry's lowest level of 8.35 per cent that will be applicable for customers having a strong Cibil scores.

At 8.35 per cent, the rate is lower than industry leader State Bank of India's 8.50 per cent offer.

The bank's existing customers who are on base rate can also switch to the new MCLR without any additional charges.

Against this almost all banks, including SBI is charging a minimum of Rs 10,000 or 0.5 per cent of the outstanding loan amount as a switchover fee.

BoB has reduced its marginal cost of fund based lending rates (MCLR) by 55-75 basis points across all tenors effective January 7.

World Bank pares India's growth forecast for FY17 to 7% from 7.6%, 11 January 2017

The World Bank has pared India's growth forecast for FY17 to 7% from 7.6% estimated earlier, attributing it partly to demonetisation of high-value currency notes.

India is still forecast to retain its position as the world's fastest growing major economy ahead of China, which



is forecast to grow 6.7% in 2016. "India's slight growth slowdown from the preceding fiscal year reflects the short term impact of the unexpected exchange of most of the bank notes in circulation.

According to World Bank's 'Global Economic Prospects' report, the ongoing weakness in private investment also weighed on activity.

World Bank in June 2016 forecast 7.6% growth for India for FY17, which it reiterated in October, a month before the government decided to cancel the legal tender of Rs.500 and Rs. 1,000 notes. "Unexpected 'demonetisation'— the phasing out of large-denomination currency notes which were subsequently replaced with new ones — weighed on growth in the third quarter of FY2017.

World Bank, however, said that over the medium term, demonetisation may lead to liquidity expansion in the banking system, helping lower lending rates and lift economic activity. India's statistics office has forecast 7.1% growth for the current fiscal, down from 7.6% in the last fiscal, but this slowdown does not factor in the impact of demonetisation.

The Reserve Bank of India has cut its gross value added (GVA) forecast to 7.1% from 7.6% estimated earlier, attributing it largely to a poor second quarter. Indian economy expanded 7.2% in the first half of the current fiscal. Global growth is expected to slow down to its post 2008 crisis low of 2.3%, according to World Bank estimates.

India is forecast to rebound in the next fiscal in line with a pickup in global growth pegged at 2.7% in 2017.

Govt to sell 51 pc stake in Pawan Hans, transfer control, 12 January 2017

Moving ahead with the strategic sale of Pawan Hans, the government said it will sell its entire 51 per cent stake and transfer the management control of the helicopter service operator.

Pawan Hans is a joint venture where state-owned ONGC holds 49 per cent.

The government has sought applications from entities to act as transaction advisor for the proposed disinvestment of its stake in the company.



The government of India intends to divest its entire shareholding of 51 per cent in Pawan Hans Ltd, through strategic disinvestment with transfer of management control.

As per the notice, issued by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management, a transaction advisor is to be roped in from “reputed professional consulting firm, investment bankers, merchant bankers, financial institutions and banks” who would provide advisory services and manage the strategic disinvestment process. The deadline for sending the applications is February 2.

Set up in 1985, Pawan Hans currently has a fleet of 46 helicopters.

It was incorporated with the primary objective of providing helicopter support services to the oil sector for off-shore exploration operations, services in remote and hilly areas as well as for charter services.

Spice Jet to buy up to 205 Boeing aircraft worth Rs. 1.5 lakh crore, 13 January 2017



In one of the biggest aircraft orders by an Indian airline, Spice Jet announced it will buy up to 205 Boeing planes worth \$22 billion (Rs. 1.5 lakh crore).

Spice Jet chairman Ajay Singh, who brought the airline back from the verge of closure two years back, said the order is a firm one for 155 Boeing 737-8 Max and 50 purchase rights for wide body long haul planes like Dreamliner and the B-737s.

The agreement with Spice Jet is a much-needed boost for Boeing in India, as its rival Airbus has won record-sized orders with Inter Globe Aviation’s IndiGo, India’s biggest budget airline, as well as a recent deal with Go Air.

India is the world’s fastest growing aviation market and among the most attractive for plane makers seeking a new wave of growth. Indian passenger numbers are increasing by more than 20 percent annually thanks to low prices and rising disposable incomes.

Unemployment in India to increase marginally in 2017-18: Report, 13 January 2017



Unemployment in India is projected to witness marginal increase between 2017 and 2018, signalling stagnation in job creation in the country, according to a UN labour report. The United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO) released its 2017 World Employment and Social Outlook report, which finds economic growth trends lagging behind employment needs and predicts both rising unemployment and worsening social inequality throughout 2017.

Job creation in India is not expected to pick up pace in 2017 and 2018 as unemployment rises slightly, representing a near stagnation in percentage terms.

The report added that global unemployment levels and rates are expected to remain high in the short term, as the global labour force continues to grow. In particular, the global unemployment rate is expected to rise modestly in 2017, to 5.8 per cent (from 5.7 per cent in 2016) – representing 3.4 million more unemployed people globally (bringing total unemployment to just over 201 million in 2017).

The increase in unemployment levels and rates in 2017 will be driven by deteriorating labour market conditions in emerging countries – as the impacts of several deep recessions in 2016 continue to affect labour markets in 2017.

The number of unemployed people in emerging countries is expected to increase by approximately 3.6 million between 2016 and 2017 (during which time the unemployment rate in emerging countries is expected to climb to 5.7 per cent, compared with 5.6 per cent in 2016).

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Ahmedabad	9227575027
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Aligarh	7706008037
Allahabad	9235253403
Alwar	9521177944
Ambala	9253058711 /7206424816
Ambikapur	8823868882
Amritsar	9646606160
Asansol	7076880723
Azamgarh	9208242842
Badaun	9627671787
Bahraich	9208249852
Balasore	9583185223
Ballia	9208243152
Banda	9554334847
Bangalore	9538712808
Bareilly	9235253431
Basti	7706008031
Berhampur	9078907945
Bhagalpur	9204363221
Bhilai-Durg	8878783345
Bhopal	9229174901
Bhopal-Lalghati	9229174902
Bhubaneswar	9237026745/ 9237081352
Bijnor	7706008027
Bilaspur	8878817515
Bulandshahr	7706008030
Chandigarh	9256002024
Chennai	8939777224
Coimbatore	8110967668
Cuttack	7894013095
Darbhanga	9204303818/ 9204300620
Dehradun	9236510116
Delhi Janakpuri	9212069515
Delhi Kingsway	9268561517
Delhi Laxmi Nagar	9268209355 /9268693952
Delhi Munirka	9210092245
Delhi Rohini	9250239674
Deoria	9208248122
Dhanbad	9204979723/24

Durgapur	7076856390
Ernakulam	9645415987
Etah	9208237386
Faizabad	9235253421
Faridabad	9643396140
Farrukhabad	7706008029
Fatehpur	9554330811
Firozabad	9208235736
Gaya	9204311416
Ghaziabad	9212229752/24
Ghazipur	9208244539
Gonda	9208250778
Gorakhpur	9235253400/ 9208205892
Gurgaon	9643396139
Guwahati	8134935078
Gwalior	9229174910
Haldwani	9208256021
Hardoi	9208248208
Haridwar	7706008034
Hisar	9253678050
Hoshangabad	8358831338
Hyderabad	9247749865 /8790034792
Hyderabad-Dilsukh Nagar	7032410704/ 9032168413
Indore-Bhawarkuan	7581800954
Indore	7581800952
Jabalpur	9229174905
Jaipur	9261601713/ 9261518894
Jammu	9419305561
Jamshedpur	8877187640
Jaunpur	9208244355
Jhalandhar	8557088164
Jhansi	9235253424
Jodhpur	9636512855
Kanpur Kakadev	9235253484
Kanpur Kidwainagar	9235253482
Kanpur Mall Road	9236757143/ 9236720133
Karnal	8930175568
Kolkata	8017652042/45
Kurukshetra	9253678053
Lakhimpur	9208251562

OUR PRESENCE

Lucknow Alambagh Po	9235253521
Lucknow Alambagh Ssc	9235253438/66
Lucknow Bhootnath	9235253528
Lucknow Gomti Nagar	9235253548
Lucknow Mahanagar Po	9235253443
Lucknow Rajajipuram	9235253425
Ludhiana	9256002028
Mainpuri	9208241450
Mathura	9208235067
Meerut	9235253448
Mirzapur	9208243884
Moradabad	9235253442
Mumbai	9221944071
Muzaffarnagar	7706008032
Muzaffarpur	9204303515/ 9204355614
Nagpur	9272273686
Nagpur-Buldi	9168558073
Nasik	9168512624/ 9168511626
Noida	9953948834
Orai	9208237457
Patiala	9780859721
Patna Boaring Road	9204855301/02
Patna Fraizer Road	9204855305/06/09/11

Pilibhit	9837186684
Pratapgarh	9208245660
Pune	9225231629
Raebareilly	9235253412
Raipur	9229174912/ 9200193438
Rajkot	9979316870
Rampur	9208255388
Ranchi	9204855313
Rewa	7415690904/ 7415690846
Rohtak	8930403886
Roorkee	7706008033
Sagar	7509219781
Saharanpur	9235253445
Sambalpur	8594958962/ 8594959148
Shahjahanpur	9208256201
Shimla	8894100342
Siliguri	7602742939
Sitapur	7706008028/ 9235253514
Sultanpur	9208252915
Surat	9537360459
Tirupati	9581933099
Trivandrum	9645415029
Unnao	9208242493
Vadodara	9537589477
Varanasi	9235253419
Vijaywada	8886309897
Vishakapatnam	9966593419
Warangal	8142230661



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That statistic is even worse for emerging countries. Those living in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa are facing the greatest risk.

In contrast, unemployment is expected to fall in 2017 in developed countries (by 670,000), bringing the rate down to 6.2 per cent from 6.3 per cent in 2016.

In Europe, notably Northern, Southern and Western Europe, unemployment levels and rates are both expected to continue to fall, but the pace of improvement will slow, and there are signs that structural unemployment is worsening.

The ILO advocates policy approaches that address root causes of secular stagnation as well as structural impediments to growth.

Airtel rolls out payments bank, to invest Rs. 3,000 crore, 13 January 2017



Finance Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated Airtel Payments Bank of Bharti Enterprises, which is being rolled out across the country with an investment of Rs. 3,000 crore.

Bharti Enterprises Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal said that just as mobile telephone leapfrogged traditional telecom networks to take affordable telecom services deep into the country, Airtel Payments Bank aims to take digital banking services to the unbanked over their mobile phones in a quick and efficient manner.

Airtel first started its payments bank pilot in Rajasthan across 10,000 retail outlets on November 23, 2016, and later rolled out pilot services in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

Mittal added that Bharti holds 80 per cent stake in the payments bank, while the rest is held by Kotak Mahindra Bank.

The payments bank will offer interest of 7.25 per cent per annum to attract customers.

Gionee signs Virat Kohli as brand ambassador, 13 January 2017



Mobile handset brand Gionee has roped in Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli as the brand ambassador. The poster boy for Indian cricket will be joining Bollywood actor Alia Bhatt who was roped in a few months ago. The announcement of Kohli's appointment was made alongside the announcement of Gionee clocking 1.2 crore customers in India.

Gionee has two manufacturing units in India and is continuously beefing up its brand and marketing initiatives with the aim to grow as much as 2.5 times in 2017.

As part of this, it will also be establishing 500 brand stores in India along with doubling their strength of retail representatives to 20,000.

Arvind R Vohra, Country CEO & MD, Gionee India said that India is one of the fastest growing young economies in the world and Gionee takes immense pride in having India's biggest youth icons Virat Kohli and Alia Bhatt as its brand endorers. With the two of the most loved icons in India, our motto of Making Smiles is bound to create a new benchmark across billions of young hearts.

Gionee has been expanding its visibility through leading Indian personalities and platforms that appeal to youth, through avenues like sports, movies or music. This includes sponsoring IPL cricket team Kolkata Night Riders, football club Shillong Lajong (part of the ISL), and Pro Kabaddi League for the last few years.

BSNL partners with Tata Communications, 14 January 2017

Deploys Tata Communications' Wi-Fi+ solution for providing BSNL subscribers Wi-Fi network access internationally.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam has partnered with Tata Communications to deliver a high-quality mobile experience and accelerate how its subscribers use Wi-Fi

internationally. In an industry first, BSNL has deployed Tata Communications' Wi-Fi+, Wi-Fi cloud communication solution, giving its subscribers seamless access to 44 million Wi-Fi hotspots in more than 100 countries including international flights and rail systems.

Wi-fi+ allows BSNL subscribers access to the single largest global Wi-Fi network in the world while travelling outside India. Typically accessing Wi-fi hotspots is very cumbersome and requires the user to remember multiple passwords. With Wi-fi+, BSNL users will have to register just once to automatically connect to the closest participating Wi-Fi hotspot, even if they travel to a different city, country or continent.

IMF cuts India's growth rate to 6.6% due to note ban, 17 January 2017



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered India's growth forecast for the current fiscal 2016-17 to 6.6 per cent from 7.6 per cent estimated earlier.

In an update of its flagship publication the World Economic Outlook, the IMF said India is likely to grow by 6.6 per cent only in FY17, down from 7.6 per cent estimated earlier and marginally behind China that is pegged to grow at 6.7 per cent in 2016. According to IMF Report, in India, the growth forecast for the current (2016-17) and next fiscal year were trimmed by one percentage point and 0.4 percentage point, respectively, primarily due to the temporary negative consumption shock induced by cash shortages and payment disruptions associated with the recent currency note withdrawal and exchange initiative.

India on November 8, 2016 cancelled the legal tender of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes, invalidating in one stroke over 86 per cent of the cash in circulation. The shortage of currency has according to anecdotal evidence caused a slump in demand and widespread job losses, though official data released so far shows economy has done better than feared. Industrial production was up 5.7 per cent in November 2016, exports touched their highest since March 2015 in December 2016 and tax collections have been robust.

Last week, the World Bank also reduced India's FY17

growth forecast to 7 per cent from 7.6 per cent. The IMF report sees the impact of note exchange lasting in the next fiscal year as well. The forecast for FY18 has been trimmed by 0.4 percentage points to 7.2 per cent. The forecast for FY19 is unchanged at 7.7 per cent.

India's economy projected to grow by 7.7% in FY 2017: UN report, 18 January 2017



According to United Nations report India is projected to grow by 7.7 per cent in fiscal 2017, remaining the fastest growing large developing economy, as it benefits from strong private consumption and gradual introduction of significant domestic reforms.

The United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 report launched said India's economy is projected to grow by 7.7 per cent in the financial year 2017 and 7.6 per cent in 2018, benefiting from strong private consumption.

It, however, cautioned that low capacity utilisation and stressed balance sheets of banks and businesses will prevent a strong investment revival in the short term.

China's growth, on the other hand, is projected to remain stable at 6.5 per cent for fiscal years 2017 and 2018, supported by favourable domestic demand and accommodative fiscal measures, including off-budget fiscal support through policy banks and public-private partnerships.

However the implications of China's ongoing economic rebalancing will inevitably be felt by the region in the medium and long-run through trade (including commodity prices) and financial channels, albeit to a varied extent across countries.

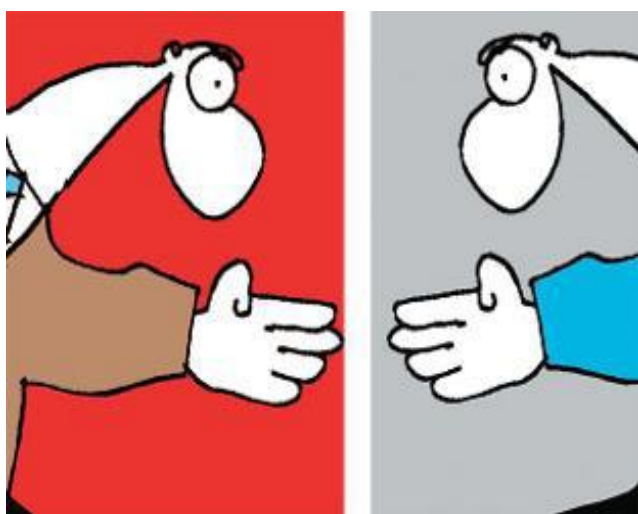
The report, UN's flagship publication on expected trends in the global economy, comes just a day after the International Monetary Fund cut India's growth rate for the current fiscal year to 6.6 per cent from its previous estimate of 7.6 per cent due to the "temporary negative consumption shock" of demonetisation.

The World Bank too decelerated India's GDP growth for 2016-17 fiscal to 7 per cent from its previous estimate of 7.6 per cent citing the impact of demonetisation. The UN report

does not make any mention of the withdrawal of the high-denomination 500 and 1000 currency notes by the Indian government nor its impact on the country's economic growth.

The report said India has positioned itself as the most dynamic emerging economy among the largest countries and is expected to remain the fastest growing on the back of robust private consumption and significant domestic reforms gradually being implemented by the government. It estimated that in the 2016 fiscal, India grew by 7.6 per cent.

Future Consumer forms JV with Tilda Hain India, 20 January 2017



Kishore Biyani-led Future Consumer has forged a joint venture with Tilda Hain India Pvt, part of US' Hain Celestial Group Inc, to manufacture and sell food products in the health and wellness space in India.

The company has entered into a joint venture agreement with Tilda Hain India Pvt Ltd, a part of Hain Celestial Group, Inc, New York, USA, for undertaking the business of manufacturing, marketing, trading, selling and distributing various food products in the health and wellness category such as chips, non-dairy beverages, straws and infant/toddler foods, by way of forming a joint venture company.

The company and Hain India each shall hold 50 per cent of the paid-up share capital of the JV company. Both shall have the right to nominate three directors each on the board of the JV company.

Hong Kong to open Economic and Trade Office in India, 21 January 2017

Hong Kong, a Special Administrative Region of China, would open an Economic and Trade Office (ETO) in India to strengthen trade ties and investment linkages.



The ETO would go a long way in strengthening trade, economic and investment linkages between India and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong is a business hub for Indian business and much of the Chinese investments are routed through the former British colony.

Suryoday, Utkarsh small finance banks commence operations, 24 January 2017



According to Reserve Bank two small finance banks -- Suryoday and Utkarsh commenced operations. With this, the number of small finance banks (SFBs) operating in India has risen to four.

In September 2015, the RBI had issued in-principle approval to 10 SFB applicants.

Suryoday Micro Finance Private Limited, Navi Mumbai and Utkarsh Micro Finance Private Limited, Varanasi were among the 10 applicants.

Equitas Small Finance Bank (ESFBL) and Capital Small Finance Bank had started operations last year.

Small finance banks will offer basic banking services, accepting deposits and lending to unserved and under-served sections including small business units, small and marginal farmers, micro and small industries, and entities in the unorganised sector.

Cisco to acquire software firm founded by IITian for \$3.7billion, 27 January 2017



A San Francisco-based software company founded by an IIT alumnus will be acquired by American technology giant Cisco for USD 3.7 billion. Jyoti Bansal founded application intelligence software company App Dynamics in 2008 with a vision to help modern enterprises embark on their journey of digital transformation with a disruptive approach to managing their software applications.

Cisco said it will acquire App Dynamics for approximately USD 3.7 billion in cash and assumed equity awards. It said App Dynamics's cloud application and business monitoring platform enabled the world's largest companies to improve application and business performance. Applications have become the lifeblood of a company's success. Keeping those apps running and performing well has never been more important.

Alibaba's financial arm acquires MoneyGram for \$880 million, 27 January 2017

Ant Financial, e-commerce giant Alibaba's financial arm, has reached an agreement to acquire American money-transfer major MoneyGram for \$880 million, in a deal that will expand the firm's business in the US after India and Thailand.

Eric Jing, chief executive officer of Ant Financial Services Group said that the acquisition of MoneyGram



is a significant milestone in our mission to bring inclusive financial services to users around the world.

The company owns Alipay, one of China's biggest online payment platforms and controls the company that manages the country's largest money market fund, Yu'eobao.

The transaction will connect MoneyGram's money transfer network of 2.4 billion bank and mobile accounts and 350,000 physical locations with Ant Financial's users.

MoneyGram will remain headquartered in Dallas and continue to operate under its existing brand. The transaction will help expand Ant Financial's business following its partnering with Paytm in India and Ascend Money in Thailand.

Alex Holmes, CEO of MoneyGram, said Ant Financial is an ideal partner. The transaction is subject to approval of MoneyGram's stockholders and regulatory approvals.

CCI clears Schneider Electric-Luminous power deal, 27 January 2017

The Competition Commission has approved French firm Schneider Electric's proposed purchase of the remaining 26 per cent in power backup solutions provider Luminous.

In 2011, Schneider Electric had acquired 74 per cent of Luminous Power Technologies (LPT) for a total consideration of Rs. 1,400 crore. Competition Commission of India (CCI), which keeps a tab on unfair business ways, has approved the deal to acquire the remaining stake.

As per a filing to the watchdog, the French firm would acquire 26 per cent shares of LPT presently held by the founder shareholders, resulting in their exit and Schneider acquiring sole control of the company. LPT, a joint venture, is engaged in the business of manufacturing home electrical devices and equipment.

The founder shareholders are Rakesh Malhotra, Nirupama Malhotra, Om Prakash Kapoor and Navneet Kapoor and they would be selling their stake in LPT. Schneider is a leading player in energy management and automation.

Australia-listed Liquefied Natural Gas Ltd signs 20 year pact to supply US LNG to India, 27 January 2017



Australia-listed Liquefied Natural Gas Ltd (LNG Ltd) has signed a pact to potentially supply gas from its planned Magnolia LNG project in the US to India for 20 years.

LNG Ltd signed a Heads of Agreement (HOA) with Vessel Gasification Solutions, Inc (VGS) for supply of 4 million tonnes a year of LNG from its Lake Charles, Louisiana, project for 20 years.

VGS Group, an Indo-American company, is developing a floating LNG import and regasification terminal offshore Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh.

The project has two stages, with phase one comprising building a Floating Storage Regasification Unit (FSRU) with a capacity of 4.47 million tonnes, which in the second phase would be scaled up to 8.94 million tonnes.

Competition Commission clears Reliance-Dassault JV, 28 January 2017

Competition Commission approved the proposed joint venture between Anil Ambani-led group firm Reliance Aerostructure and Rafale-maker Dassault



Aviation, one of the major deals in India's private defence industry.

The combination relates to the setting up of a joint venture between Reliance Aero and Dassault -- Dassault Reliance Aerospace Ltd, in which Reliance Aero would hold 51 per cent shares, with the remaining 49 per cent to be held by Dassault.

The JV, which was announced by the two companies in October last year, aims to be a "key player" in execution of offset contract worth about Rs 22,000 crore as part of the multi-billion euro Rafale fighter jet deal between India and France.

The strategic partnership between Dassault and Reliance will also focus on promoting research and development projects under the IDDM programme (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured), a key initiative of Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. The deal is the largest FDI in the defence sector till date and expected to be more than ten times the total FDI received by the entire sector in last 10 years.

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SPORTS

Burning Topics of the Month

1. **India women's football team beats Bangladesh to lift 4th SAFF Championship.**
2. **Cristiano Ronaldo wins FIFA Best Player Award for fourth time.**
3. **Anurag Thakur elected as Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association president.**

Somdev Devvarman announces retirement from professional tennis, 02 January 2017



Ravaged by injuries, India's star singles player Somdev Devvarman announced his retirement from professional tennis, bringing an abrupt end to what was once a promising career.

The 31-year-old's career was hampered by a recurring shoulder injury in 2012. He recovered to stage a comeback but he had been missing from action without any specified reason for some time now.

There is speculation that he might take to coaching from here on.

Somdev was India's star singles player since he first broke into the scene in 2008.

A regular in India's Davis Cup squad, Somdev appeared in 14 rubbers and played a crucial role in India reaching the World Group back in 2010.

Somdev had also made the finals of two ATP Tour events, the 2009 Chennai Open as a wildcard and the 2011 South Africa Open. He also got the singles and doubles gold medals at the 2010 Asian Games in Guangzhou, China.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni's highs and lows as India's limited-overs captain, 05 January 2017

Mahendra Singh Dhoni has stepped down as India's limited-overs captain but will still be available for selection, the Board of Control for

Cricket in India. The 35-year-old Dhoni is considered one of India's most successful captain. Dhoni captained India in 199 ODIs and 72 T20Is and led the country to their second ODI World Cup in 2011 and into the semi-finals of the 2015 World Cup.

He has led the Indian team in ODIs and T20 since he retired from Tests in December 2014.

Here are some of the highs and lows of Dhoni's 12-year limited-over career.

This was the tournament which started it all for the Indian captain. Dhoni was handed over the reigns after regular captain Rahul Dravid and senior pros like Sachin Tendulkar and Sourav Ganguly decided to skip the tournament. Dhoni led a group of young and inexperienced boys into the tournament who became a household name after India, against all odds, clinched the maiden World T20 title beating arch-rivals Pakistan by 5 runs in a thrilling final played at Johannesburg.

India women's football team beats Bangladesh to lift 4th SAFF Championship, 05 January 2017



A dominant India defeated Bangladesh 3-1 to win their fourth consecutive SAFF Women's Football Championship title at the Kanchenjunga Stadium.

The Indian eves, in the process, are now unbeaten in 19 matches having won 18 and drawn one.

India's first goal came in the 12th minute through striker Dangmei Grace, who got a slight touch and the ball slowly rolled into the empty net with rival goalkeeper Sabina Akhtar caught in a dilemma.

It set the tone for the match. The match being a final meant that Bangladesh had to shrug off their defensive aspirations and that allowed India the width and space.

In the first 20 minutes, India had earned four corners and every time Bala Devi touched the ball, she created something out of nothing.

In fact, Kamala Devi should have doubled the lead in the 17th minute when Bala set her a free-header, but it narrowly sailed out.

However, Bangladesh withstood the storm, regrouped, and eventually equalised in the 40th minute through Sirat Jahan Shopna as both teams headed into the interval locked at 1-1.

After the change of ends, India were again faster off the blocks. The hosts pressed high and hard even as Bangladesh depended mostly on counter-attacks.

The break came in the 60th minute when the irrepressible Bala was pushed inside the box as the referee pointed to the spot and 2016 AIFF Player of the Year, Sasmita Malik gleefully converted the opportunity.

With just 30 minutes remaining, it was quite a task for Bangladesh to come back and it went worse for them seven minutes later when goalkeeper Sabina, who was having a decent game till then, misjudged the bounce of a harmless Indumathi shot from long and it rolled in.

Spurred, the Indians did go all out as they smelt more but but their perseverance failed to yield any more goals.

Sahara Group extends Hockey India sponsorship till 2021, 05 January 2017



In what can be termed as a major boost to Indian hockey, the Sahara Group has renewed its association with Hockey India by signing a sponsorship deal which will run till 2021.

Associated with Indian hockey since 1995, Sahara India will be the major partner of the national teams at the junior and senior levels until 2021.

Abhijit Sarkar, Head Corporate Communications, Sahara India Pariwar stated that hockey is our national game and we are very proud of the team's performances at both junior and senior level, men and women, in the past year. Sahara India Pariwar is committed to the development of the sport at all levels and are keen to continue our partnership with Hockey India in their endeavour to achieve greater heights.

Olympic Champ Rudisha SCMM Event Ambassador, 07 January 2017



Reigning Olympic and world 800m champion and world record holder, David Rudisha is the International Event Ambassador for the 14th Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon to be held on January 15.

The 28-year-old Kenyan middle-distance runner retained his Olympic 800m title with an imperious display at the Rio 2016 Olympic Games in August with a run of 1:42.15, the fastest time in the world since he took the gold in London four years before in a world record 1:40.91.

The Kenyan middle distance ace was the 2010 IAAF World Athlete of the Year and for three consecutive years, between 2010 and 2012, was the Track & Field News Athlete of the Year.

Having visited the country in 2012, as the Airtel Delhi Half Marathon event ambassador, Rudisha has fond memories from his first visit to India and is excited to be returning to the country.

Djokovic wins Qatar Open tennis title, 09 January 2017



Novak Djokovic has won the Qatar Open tennis title. In an epic final in Doha, the Serbian defeated Andy Murray 6-3, 5-7, 6-4.

Djokovic missed out on three match points and had to repel a roaring Murray comeback before ending the Briton's 28-match, five-tournament winning streak.

With the win, Djokovic made an immense statement in his bid to rule men's tennis again as it was Murray, who deposed him as world number one.

The world number two said it was "the dream start" to 2017 in his build-up to the defence of the Australian Open title later this month.

It was the 36th contest between the two, and Murray lost for the 25th time against his old rival.

Bopanna-Nedunchezhiyan clinch Chennai Open title, 09 January 2017



Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, playing only the second time together, notched up a memorable victory in a historic all-Indian doubles final, as they outplayed compatriots Divij Sharan and Purav Raja in the Chennai Open.

World number 28 Bopanna and Jeevan beat the most-consistent and impressive team 6-3, 6-4 in just 65 minutes to win their first title together and deny Raja-Sharan their third at this level.

It is the first time that an Indian team has clinched the Chennai Open trophy since the legendary Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi took the title in 2011.

It was Bopanna's 15th career title and first since June 2015 when he won the Stuttgart trophy with Florin Mergea. He lost two final last season in Sydney and Madrid.

Sharan and Raja, who have two titles (Bogota, 2013) and (Los Cabos, 2016), have lost a final for the first time in the third appearance together.

Pankaj Advani wins Kolkata Open snooker meet, 09 January 2017



Cuesports ace Pankaj Advani defeated two-time defending champion Aditya Mehta by 5-1 to win the 3rd Kolkata Open National Invitation Snooker Championship 2017. The tournament was organised by the West Bengal Billiards Association at the Bengal Rowing Club.

Bautista Agut lifts Chennai Open title, 09 January 2017



Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut defeated Russian Daniil Medvedev 6-3, 6-4 to lift the Chennai Open tennis title.

The World No.14 needed a one hour and 13 minutes to beat the unseeded Russian, ranked 99th in the world, and pocket \$79,780.

It was Bautista Agut's first title at Chennai, in his second final after having lost to Serbian Janko Tipsarevic in 2013.

The second seed broke Medvedev's serve in the fourth game of the first set to surge to a 3-1 lead and soon wrapped up the first set in 33 minutes.

The 20-year-old Medvedev fought hard in the second set and was level at 4-4. But Bautista Agut broke his serve in the ninth game and then claimed the contest.

Cristiano Ronaldo wins FIFA Best Player Award for fourth time, 10 January 2017



Cristiano Ronaldo received FIFA's best player award for the fourth time, after Portugal and Real Madrid won both major European titles in 2016. He beat runner-up and rival Lionel Messi and Antoine Griezmann to complete a sweep of top individual awards.

Ronaldo got 34.54 per cent of total voting points in a 23-candidate ballot. Messi received 26.42 per cent, and third-place Griezmann got 7.53 per cent. Voting was by national team captains and coaches, selected media, and fans online.

Ronaldo's fourth FIFA award closed the gap on five-time winner Messi, the runner-up to each Ronaldo victory, who did not attend the ceremony.

Ronaldo's 2016 trophy haul included the European Championship, Champions League, and Club World Cup, plus individual best player awards from UEFA and France Football magazine.

Messi's Barcelona won the Spanish league and cup double, though he captained Argentina to lose the Copa America final.

Griezmann's France and Atletico Madrid lost both finals to Ronaldo's teams.

Shreyas bags Scottish Junior Open title 2017, 10 January 2017

India U-13 squash player Shreyas Mehta scripted a remarkable comeback to win the Scottish Junior Open title.

Shreyas, who had earlier won the US junior open, added another title to his kitty with a comeback from the jaws of defeat to post a five game win over Colombias Juan Jose Torres Lara. The 9/12 seeded Indian won 8-11, 8-11, 11-5, 11-6, 11-7. Like in the US tournament, Shreyas was fluent in progress, not dropping a game until the title-round. A significant win enroute to the final was against Scottish player Ben Robert John Barron, who was seeded higher.

Yana Kudryavtseva, 13-time gymnastics world champion, retires aged 19, 12 January 2017



Russian rhythmic gymnast Yana Kudryavtseva has retired from competition aged just 19 following a brief but dazzling career.

Kudryavtseva won 13 world championships from 2013 to 2015, making her the early favorite for the all-around gold medal at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, but a foot fracture disrupted her preparations. She had to settle for silver in Rio behind fellow Russian and friend Margarita Mamun following a rare mistake on her club routine.

Kudryavtseva was the latest in a long line of world-class rhythmic gymnasts from Russia, which has won every Olympic gold medal in the discipline since 2000 with stars such as Alina Kabaeva and Evgeniya Kanaeva.

PR Sreejesh becomes member of FIH Athletes' Committee, 12 January 2017

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) Executive Board has confirmed the nomination of Indian men's hockey team captain PR Sreejesh to the FIH Athletes' Committee.

FIH Athletes' Committee comprises a total of eight current and former hockey players who have the responsibility to act as a liaison between the FIH and the athletes and make sure the athletes have voice in the federation's decision making process.

While Sreejesh' role will also cover seeking and providing feedback to the FIH on behalf of all athletes, the Committee also gets to interact with the current Athletes' in a number of ways, including post-event surveys for the athletes and coaches to get direct feedbacks from the FIH events.

The FIH Athletes' Committee will also need to liaise with the Athletes' Committee of the IOC and other sporting organisations to enable the sharing of information and research. The team of eight will also get to develop, collate, provide and promote resources for Athletes on topics of direct concern including Athlete health and welfare, career preparation and management, anti-doping, betting and match-fixing.

FIFA Ranking: India national team placed at 129 in the world, 13 January 2017



The Indian national team, under Stephen Constantine, are ranked 129th in the world, as per the latest Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) rankings, published.

India currently have a total of 243 points, which is higher than their previous figure of 217.

This meant that The Blue Tigers moved up six places on the table as per the January edition of FIFA World Rankings.

India are now 19th in the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) list in the rankings.

Among the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) members, Maldives are now placed 145th, Bangladesh 190th, Nepal 175th, Bhutan 176th, Sri Lanka 196th and Pakistan 197th as India continue to dominate the rankings among its neighbours.

The best mover in this edition was Suriname (128), who climbed 22 places, with the worst movers being Afghanistan (151), Bangladesh (190), Mauritania (113), and Trinidad and Tobago (83) - all dropping by five ranks respectively.

Johanna Konta beats Agnieszka Radwanska to win WTA Apia International in Sydney, 14 January 2017



Johanna Konta's preparations for the Australian Open began in perfect style as she sealed her second WTA Tour title with victory at the Apia International in Sydney. The British No 1 made it third time lucky against Radwanska with an emphatic 6-4 6-2 victory at the Ken Rosewall Arena.

The Polish second seed and 2013 champion, who beat her opponent in both of their previous meetings last year, was unable to cope with Konta's dominance as she produced an 82-minute display of aggression and power.

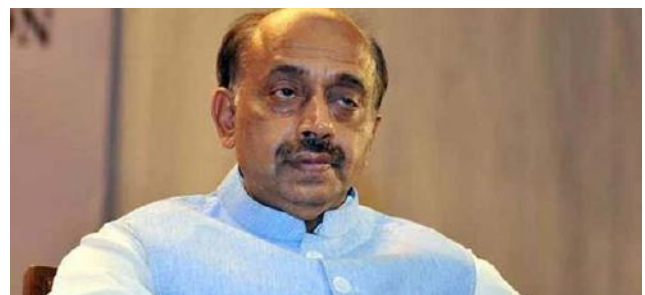
Shelar replaces Pawar as interim president of MCA, 14 January 2017

Almost a month after the stepping down of Sharad Pawar as its president, the Mumbai Cricket Association nominated its vice president Ashish Shelar to fill up the post as its interim chief.

MCAs joint secretary, Umesh Khanvilkar after a meeting of the associations managing committee said they have filled up the posts which have become vacant. Mr Ashish Shelar has been made the interim president of the Mumbai Cricket Association as Mr Sharad Pawar has resigned.

Pawar had cited his ineligibility to continue as president as he had crossed the age cap of 70 laid down by the Supreme Court in its order based on the Lodha Committee recommendations and quit the post on December 17 last.

Sports Minister Vijay Goel inaugurates 'Khelo India' competitions, 16 January 2017



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Union Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel inaugurated national level competitions under the Khelo India scheme at the Mukherjee Swimming Pool complex in the Talkatora Stadium.

Besides swimming, various competitions of cycling, wrestling under different categories will be held under this championship till January 21.

More than 1,000 children from 25 states are participating in this event.

Kapil Dev inducted into Legends Club 'Hall of Fame', 18 January 2017



Cricket icon Kapil Dev was inducted into Legends Club 'Hall of Fame' in presence of former India captains Ajit Wadekar, Sunil Gavaskar and Nari Contractor at the Cricket Club of India.

Kapil, who led India to the emphatic World Cup victory in 1983, is considered as the country's greatest all-rounder. He was presented with a citation by former India player and Legends Club president Madhav Apte.

Gavaskar, who was the first batsman to score 10,000 runs in Test cricket, was also presented a citation by Wadekar. He was already inducted into the club's Hall of Fame on July 11, 2013.

China's Alibaba becomes major sponsor of Olympics, 20 January 2017

Chinese e-commerce company Alibaba has become a major sponsor of the Olympic Games after signing a deal with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that runs until 2028.

Alibaba, which becomes the official e-commerce and cloud services partner, joins 12 other companies – including Coca-Cola and McDonald's – as top Olympic sponsors.

No financial details were disclosed. IOC sources have previously told Reuters that major sponsors pay about \$100 million per four-year cycle, which includes one summer and one winter games.

The Alibaba deal comes as Asia prepares to host three consecutive games, with South Korea's Pyeongchang staging the 2018 winter games, Tokyo the 2020 summer Olympics and Beijing the 2022 winter games.

The IOC hopes the deal will make the Olympics movement more technologically efficient and secure, while also creating a platform for promoting licensed products and extending the reach of its newly-created digital platform, the Olympic Channel.

The deal also includes the 2024 Olympics, with Los Angeles, Paris and Budapest bidding for them and the IOC due to pick the winner in September. The bidding process for the 2026 and 2028 games, which the agreement also includes, has not yet started.

India top the list of most 350-plus totals in ODIs, 20 January 2017



India registered its 23rd 350+ score in ODI cricket during the Cuttack ODI against England, becoming the team with the most 350-plus totals in the 50-over format.

India took an unassailable 2-0 lead with a match to go in the ODI series against England by winning the second ODI by 15 runs.

Yuvraj Singh scored a career best 150 and put together a 256-run stand for the fourth wicket with MS Dhoni (134) which rescued India from a precarious 25 for three. England were always behind the eight ball and got close towards the end thanks a brilliant century by their skipper Eoin Morgan (102).

The high scoring game saw a number of records being surpassed.

Mahendra Singh Dhoni first Indian to hit 200 ODI sixes, 20 January 2017



Mahendra Singh Dhoni became the first Indian batsman to hit 200 sixes in one-day internationals.

Dhoni, who relinquished the limited-overs captaincy earlier this month, also slammed his 10th ODI century in the second match of the ongoing series against England in Cuttack. Dhoni was on 93 when he pulled Chris Woakes towards deep square leg on the second ball of the 43rd over. But the umpire signaled a dead ball as the ball dropped down after hitting the spider cam.

However, the 35-year-old wicketkeeper batsman was unfazed as he launched the next ball miles over long on to move to 99 and complete the milestone. Dhoni finally perished on 134, blasting 6 sixes and 10 fours.

Dhoni is now the -fourth leading batsman in the world with most sixes in ODI cricket after Shahid Afridi (351), Sanath Jayasuriya (270), Chris Gayle (238).

The other Indians on the list are Sachin Tendulkar (195) and former captain Sourav Ganguly (190).

Anurag Thakur elected Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association president, 23 January 2017



Former BCCI president Anurag Thakur was unanimously elected head of the Himachal Pradesh Olympic Association (HPOA) for a four-year term.

Thakur, who had to step down as BCCI president owing to the Supreme Court ruling on Lodha Committee reforms earlier this month, was elected at the HPOA's Annual General Meeting.

Nirwan Mukherjee was the observer from the Indian Olympic Association for the polls.

Other observers included NP Gulleria, Hockey Coach, and Ratan Lal Thakur, observer Himachal Pradesh Government Sports Council.

Virender Kanwar was elected senior vice-president, while Rajesh Bhandari, who is a vice president in the Boxing Federation of India, was elected general secretary.

Saina Nehwal wins 2017 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold, 23 January 2017

Saina Nehwal won the 2017 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold Women's Singles title.

Nehwal defeated Thailand's Pornpawee Chochuwong by a score of 22-20, 22-20 in a 46-minute clash.

It was Nehwal's 23rd title overall and the first after 2016 Australian Open. On the other hand, Men's Singles title was won by Hong Kong's Ng Ka Long. Berry Angriawan and Hardianto clinched the 2017 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold Men's Doubles, while Jongkolphan Kititharakul and Rawinda Prajongjai lifted the Women's Doubles title. Mixed Doubles title was grabbed by Tan Kian Meng and Lai Pei Jing.

The 2017 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold was held at the Sibu Indoor Stadium in Sarawak, Malaysia from 17 January to 22 January 2017.

About Saina Nehwal

- ✎ Saina Nehwal has been maintaining her world ranking in the top ten since 2009.
- ✎ She has clinched over twenty international titles, which include ten Superseries titles.
- ✎ She attained the World No. 1 ranking in 2015. With that, she became India's only female player and overall the second Indian player after Prakash Padukone to achieve it. She represented India thrice in the Olympics, winning bronze medal in her second appearance.
- ✎ She is the only Indian to have won at least a medal in every BWF major individual event, namely the Olympics, the BWF World Championships, and the BWF World Junior Championships.
- ✎ She is the first Indian badminton player to win an Olympic medal. In 2006, she became the first Indian female and the youngest Asian to win a 4-star tournament. In 2016, she was honoured with the Padma Bhushan by the Government of India.

David Boon, Matthew Hayden inducted into Australian Cricket Hall of Fame, 24 January 2017



Two of Australia's greatest top-order batsmen, David Boon and Matthew Hayden and the brilliant women's all-rounder Betty Wilson will be inducted into the Australian Cricket Hall of Fame (ACHoF) at the 2017 Allan Border Medal ceremony in Sydney.

ACHoF chairman Peter King today announced that Boon, Hayden and Wilson were the selection committee's choice for induction this year.

David Boon and Matthew Hayden are among a select group of just 12 players to have appeared in 100 Test matches but their significance goes way beyond that simple statistic.

David Boon was a key figure in the rise of the Australia side under Allan Border that went from easy-beats to winners of the ICC Cricket World Cup in India and Pakistan in 1987 and then the best Test side in the world.

He was player of the match in the 1987 World Cup final against England and was a reassuring presence either as opener or number three with more than 13,000 international runs across more than a decade at the highest level.

Sehwag to head cricket operations of Kings XI Punjab, 24 January 2017



Former India opener Virender Sehwag confirmed his appointment as the head of cricket operations and strategy for Kings XI Punjab (KXIP), the Indian Premier League (IPL) franchise for IPL 2017.

Sehwag, who was named the mentor of the team in 2016 will continue that role along with being the brand ambassador of the franchise as well.

The 10th edition of the IPL will be played from April 3 to May 26.

David Warner wins second Allan Border medal in a row, 24 January 2017



Prolific opening batsman David Warner has won Australian cricket's top individual prize for the second year in a row, beating skipper Steve Smith and pacer Mitchell Starc for the Allan Border Medal.

Warner is the fourth player - following former skippers Ricky Ponting and Michael Clarke and all-rounder Shane Watson - to win back-to-back awards.

Warner finished the season with centuries in consecutive Tests against Pakistan in Melbourne and Sydney, where he became the first batsman to score 100 in the opening session of a Test match in Australia.

The 30-year-old left-hander joined fellow Australians Victor Trumper (1902 in Manchester), Charlie Macartney (1926 in Leeds) and Donald Bradman (1930 in Leeds) as well as Pakistan's Majid Khan (1976 in Karachi) among the batsmen to have achieved the feat.

He was the highest run scorer in ODIs last year with 1388 runs and was voted Australia's limited-overs international player of the year.

Starc was voted Test player of the year, taking 52 wickets in the voting period, and Meg Lanning was voted the prize for the Australia's top female player.

AIFF launches professional league for women footballers, 24 January 2017



Trying to make the sport professional for female footballers, the All India Football Federation (AIFF) today launched the first-ever Indian Women's League (IWL) to be held at the Ambedkar Stadium from January 28 till February 14.

The inaugural edition of the IWL will feature six teams -- Jeppiar (Puducherry), Eastern Sporting Union (Imphal), Rising Student's Club (Cuttack), Football Club Alakhpura (Haryana) and a team each from I-League and ISL clubs, Aizawl FC and Pune City FC.

The six participating teams would play each other in a round robin format with the top four teams advancing to the semi-finals.

20 Teams from across nine states had taken part in the first leg of the qualifiers from which nine teams qualified for the IWL prelims which were held in Cuttack in October 2016.

Dalima Chibber (FC Pune City), Oinam Bembem Devi (ESUFC), Sasmita Malik (Rising Student FC), Sanju Yadav (FC Alakhpura), Sumithra Kamaraj (Jeppiar Institute FC) and K Lalruaizeli (Aizawl FC) represented their respective teams at the launch.

Among other dignitaries who were present during the launch were Sports Minister Vijay Goel and chairperson of AIFF's women's division Sarah Pilot.

Bindra to head new TOP Committee to identify talent, 28 January 2017

Beijing Olympics gold-medallist shooter Abhinav Bindra was appointed as chairman of the re-constituted Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Committee, which also has yesteryear sprint star PT Usha and badminton great Prakash Padukone among others.

Bindra was part of the previous Committee but quit to focus on his preparations for the 2016 Rio Olympics.

The two other sportspersons in the 10-member panel are shooter Anjali Bhagwat and woman weightlifter



Karnam Malleswari, the 2000 Sydney Olympics bronze-medallist. The remaining five members are All India Tennis Association (AITA) Life President Anil Khanna, Boxing administrator P K Muralidharan Raja, Railways Sports Promotion Board Secretary Rekha Yadav, SS Roy, ED (Teams) SAI and Joint Secretary (Sports) Inder Dhamija. Committee will decide on its own procedures and will be competent to invite subject experts as and when required. The Initial tenure of the committee will be one year from the date of notification. The Committee has the objective of identifying and supporting potential medal prospects for 2020 and 2024 Olympic Games under the TOP Scheme, which was formulated keeping in mind the 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games. Under the scheme, the selected athletes are provided financial assistance for their customised training at Institutes having world-class facilities and other necessary support which is expected to result in improved performance and a higher position in medals tally for the country. Benchmark for selection of athletes under the scheme is in relation to international standards.

PV Sindhu wins her maiden women's singles crown at the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament, 30 January 2017

Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu has won her maiden women's singles crown at the Syed Modi Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament.

In Lucknow, top seed Sindhu outplayed Indonesia's Gregoria Mariska in the summit clash in straight games 21-13, 21-14.

In the Men's Singles, National Champion Sameer Verma bagged the title while in mixed doubles, Pranav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy won the title.

SCIENCE

Burning Topics of the Month

1. Agni-IV ballistic missile successfully test-fired from Balasore.
2. India, France strengthen 50 years space bond, ink pact for satellite launch.
3. 'Alien' signals are pinpointed: Mystery fast radio bursts are coming from a dwarf galaxy 3 billion light years away

Agni-IV ballistic missile successfully test-fired from Balasore, 02 January 2017



India successfully test-fired its nuclear-capable strategic ballistic missile Agni-IV with a strike range of 4000 km as part of a user trial from a test range off Odisha coast.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) sources said that this missile which is supported by a mobile launcher, the surface-to-surface missile was flight tested from launch complex-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Dr. Abdul Kalam Island, formerly known as Wheeler Island, at about 11.55 hours.

Describing the trial as successful, they said this was the 6th trial of the indigenously developed Agni-IV missile which met the mission objectives. The last trial conducted by the specially formed strategic force command (SFC) of Indian Army on November 9, 2015 was also successful.

The sleek missile having 4000 km strike range is a two stage missile. It is 20 meter-long weighing 17 tonnes.

Agni-IV missile is equipped with state-of-the-art Avionics, 5th generation on board computer and distributed architecture. It has the latest features to correct and guide itself for in-flight disturbances.

China to launch record number of 30 space missions this year, 04 January 2017



China plans to conduct a "record" number of 30 space launch missions this year as part of its efforts to expand its ambitious space programme.

The record-breaking space launches will be launched by Long March-5 and Long March-7 rockets, China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation said. Long March-5 is China's largest carrier rocket.

For a space station

The successful test launch of the vehicle in November in South China's Hainan Province will pave the way for space station construction.

China recently released an official white paper on its space missions stating that it will launch a lunar probe in 2018 to achieve the world's first soft landing on the far side of the Moon and a mission to Mars in the same year.

Wang Yu, general director of the Long March-5 programme, has said 2017 is a critical year for China's new generation of carrier rockets and the Long March-5 rockets will carry Chang'e-5 probe to the space, adding the probe will land on the Moon, collect samples and return to Earth.

'Alien' signals are pinpointed: Mystery fast radio bursts are coming from a dwarf galaxy 3 billion light years away, 06 January 2017

Rare and brief bursts of cosmic radio waves have puzzled astronomers since they were first detected nearly 10 years ago.

Some suggested these mysterious bursts of energy could be a sign of alien life trying to contact us.

Now the signals have finally been tied to a source - a dwarf galaxy more than 3 billion light years from Earth.

Fast radio bursts, or FRBs, were first 'heard' by radio telescopes back in 2007.

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The signal was so temporary and seemingly random that it took years for astronomers to agree it was not a glitch in one of the telescope's instruments, and none of those first observed were ever seen again.

A repeating burst discovered in 2012, however, provided the opportunity for a team of researchers from the University of California, Berkeley and Cornell University to repeatedly monitor its area of the sky. Shami Chatterjee, of Cornell University said that we now know that this particular burst comes from a dwarf galaxy more than three billion light-years from Earth.'

That simple fact is a huge advance in our understanding of these events.

The team used the Karl Jansky Very Large Array in New Mexico and the Arecibo radio dish in Puerto Rico, in hopes of pinpointing its location.

'For a long time, we came up empty, then got a string of bursts that gave us exactly what we needed,' said Casey Law, from the University of California at Berkeley.

Using new software, the VLA last year detected a total of nine bursts over a period of a month, which was enough to pinpoint its location in the sky.

China launches commercial rocket mission Kuaizhou-1A, 10 January 2017



The rocket Kuaizhou-1A (KZ-1A) has sent three satellites into space in its first commercial mission.

The rocket, carrying the satellite JL-1 and two CubeSats XY-S1 and Caton-1, blasted off from northwestern China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center at around 12:11 pm Beijing Time.

The KZ-1A was developed from the Kuaizhou-1 rocket with improvements in adaptability. It is a low-cost solid-fuelled carrier rocket with high reliability and short preparation period and was designed to launch low-orbit satellites weighing under 300 kg.

The JL-1 is a multifunctional remote-sensing satellite providing high-definition video images which is expected to be used for land resource and forestry surveying, environmental protection, transport and disaster prevention and relief purposes.

The XY-S1 and Caton-1 are experimental satellites to test technologies of low-orbit narrow-band communication and VHF Data Exchange System (VDES) respectively.

A rocket technology company under the China Aerospace Science and Industry Corporation was responsible for the launch mission.

India, France strengthen 50 years space bond, ink pact for satellite launch, 10 January 2017



Indian Space Research Organisation and French Space agency (CNES) signed a partnership agreement in satellite launch technology.

The agreement was signed between ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar and CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall in the presence of visiting French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Marc Ayrault.

Space cooperation between France and India spans over 50 years and is one of the cornerstones of the Indo-French strategic partnership.

IMA launches campaign, to send text alerts to its members for organ donation, 12 January 2017



The Indian Medical Association (IMA) has launched a country wide campaign “Puchna Mat Bhulo” as a part of which it will urge doctors to request relatives or legal heirs, in case of routine death, for donation of eyes and organs (in case of brain death).

As a part of the initiative, IMA members will be sent text alerts reminding them to ask families to donate organs of their deceased loved ones to promote organ donation in the country.

According to government data, 200,000 people are wait-listed for kidneys in India and 30,000 currently await a liver. Legal donations meet about 3 to 5 per cent of the demand.

The mandatory or required request for donation of organs of patients dying in hospitals will help increase the rate of organ harvest. Also, doctors posted in the intensive care units (ICUs) need to be made aware about the various aspects of organ donation since these places are potential centres for organ retrieval.

IMA president Dr KK Aggarwal said that doctors should counsel the families and encourage them to donate the organs after a death .

In the present scenario, the number of patients who need organ transplants exceed the number of organs donated and there is a need to promote organ donation. According to government data, there is a waiting list of 2,00,000 people for kidney transplants and 30,000 people for liver.

ISRO's indigenous cryogenic engine for upper stage of GSLV Mk III rocket tested successfully, 28 January 2017



ISRO has successfully tested its indigenously developed cryogenic engine in a major step forward for its landmark ‘GSLV Mk III’ rocket, scheduled for launch within the first quarter this year. Cryogenic engines are used in the upper stage of a rocket launch as they provide the maximum thrust to a launcher vehicle.

The cryogenic upper stage, designated as C25, was tested on January 25 for 50 seconds at ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC) at Mahendragiri in Tamil Nadu, demonstrating all the stage operations.

The performance of the stage during the test was as predicted, adding that this was the first test in a series of two tests. The next one was planned for a flight duration of 640 seconds.

The 50 second test is a significant milestone in the development of indigenous cryogenic propulsion technology, ISRO said, adding that the successful hot test of the stage in the first attempt itself demonstrates the agency’s ability to work in new areas like cryogenic technology.

The development of C25 cryogenic stage began with the approval of GSLV MkIII, the next generation launch vehicle of ISRO, capable of launching 4 ton class spacecraft in Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO).

MISCELLANEOUS Burning Topics of the Month

1. 30 Indian-origin men, women in Forbes list of super achievers.
3. India slips 3 places to 92nd rank on global talent competitiveness.
3. 6 Indian Cities in World's Most Dynamic List

Kerala featured in British agency's 'Destinations to Watch' category, 03 January 2017



Kerala has been pegged as a 'Destination to Watch' in 2017 by one of the UK's largest and most influential body of travel agents and tour operators. 'God's Own Country' is the only Indian entry in the list of 12 tourist hotspots brought out by the Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA).

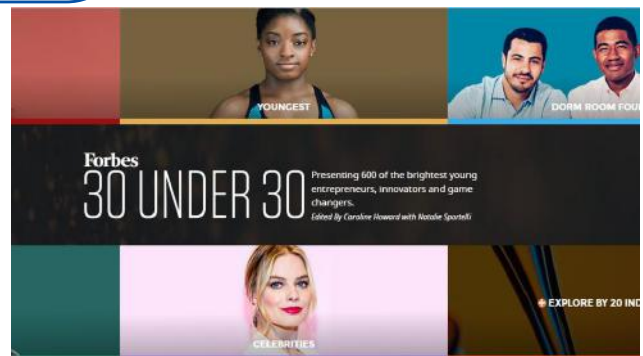
The list, featured in ABTA's 'Travel Trends Report 2017', has Kerala in the eighth spot — higher than premier destinations like the US, South Africa and Vietnam.

The rankings consist of locations that are expected to capture travellers' imaginations over the next year.

Minister for Tourism Kadakampally Surendran. Kerala, is known around the world for its authentic tourism products, a commitment to sustainable and responsible tourism practices and for providing diverse experiences to travellers. This latest recognition of Kerala's stature as a must-visit destination is a matter of pride for us and bodes well for the year ahead.

30 Indian-origin men, women in Forbes list of super achievers, 04 January 2017

Over 30 Indian-origin innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders have been featured in the 2017 edition of Forbes list of super achievers under the age of 30



who seek to break the status quo and transform the world. The Forbes list has 30 game changers in 20 industries including healthcare, manufacturing, sports and finance.

The 600 in the list are "challenging the conventional wisdom and rewriting the rules for the next generation of entrepreneurs, entertainers, educators and more. They are passionate and formidable bunch, and for good reason. Their goal is nothing short of breaking the status quo and transforming the world."

The group has over 30 men and women who are of Indian-origin and are making a mark in their fields.

The list includes 27-year-old Vivek Koppa, co-founder of Neo Light that has developed a phototherapy device that is portable for use at home for jaundice.

The company is also working on a second tool to treat infant hypothermia.

Prarthna Desai, 27, left her Harvard graduate school programme to use drones to get medication to people in the developing world.

Indian-origin girl to represent Malaysia at Miss Universe 2016, 11 January 2017



A 20-year-old Sikh girl will represent Malaysia at the Miss Universe 2016 finals at Manila.

Kiranmeet Kaur Baljeet Singh Jassal, won Miss Universe Malaysia title in 2016 and was awarded 'Miss My Dentist Winning Smile' subsidiary title.

Kiran's family shifted to Malaysia decades ago and is based

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in the suburbs of Subang Jaya town of Selangor state. Her mother, Ranjit Kaur, was the winner of the Classic Mrs Malaysia title in 2015 while her sister Ranmeet, a model, was also a beauty pageant titleholder and a doctor by profession.

The Jassal sisters grew up admiring and idolising beauty queens, Miss World 1994 Aishwarya Rai and Miss Universe 1994 Sushmita Sen.

The 65th Miss Universe 2016 finals will take place in Manila, Philippines on January 20.

Indian-American student wins \$5,000 scholarship in US, 14 January 2017



An Indian-American student has won a \$5,000 scholarship for writing an essay on contribution of dental health on the well-being of children and families in the US. Arth Patel, a student at the UCLA School of Dentistry, discussed his experience growing up in rural India where quality dental care was not available and how his family benefited from access to community-based dental healthcare programmes after moving to the US.

Patel earned a \$5,000 scholarship for his winning essay on how dental health contributes to the well-being of children and families.

Kool Smiles, a provider of quality dental care in underserved communities in the US, announced the winner of its first annual My Kool Smiles Scholarship Fund essay contest, sponsored by the Benevis Foundation.

India slips 3 places to 92nd rank on global talent competitiveness, 16 January 2017

India has slipped 3 places to 92nd rank on the global index of talent competitiveness that measures how countries grow, attract and retain talent, a list topped by Switzerland.



India's ranking is worst among the five BRICS countries. While China was ranked at the 54th place, Russian Federation was placed at 56th, followed by South Africa at 67th and Brazil 81st.

Switzerland topped the overall index, followed by Singapore and the United Kingdom in second and third places respectively, in the list released by INSEAD Produced in partnership with The Adecco Group and the Human Capital Leadership Institute of Singapore (HCLI).

Others in the top 10 include the United States (4th), Sweden (5th), Australia (6th), Luxembourg (7th), Denmark (8th), Finland (9th) and Norway (10th).

Last year, India came in at 89th on the index.

The report noted that the BRICS countries are not getting stronger and both China and India have slipped from their year-ago rankings.

India most trusted nation in terms of institutions, 17 January 2017

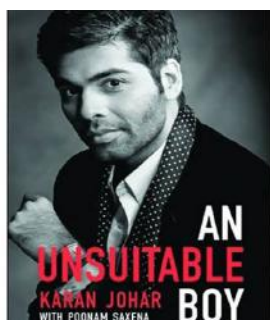


Faring better than last year, India has emerged as the most trusted nation in terms of its institutions by general population even as there has been a "global implosion of trust" worldwide.

The Indian government is also the second most trusted after neighbouring China, according to the 2017 Edelman Trust Barometer released ahead of the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meet.

This year's barometer showed the largest-ever drop in trust across the institutions of government, business, media and NGOs. The conclusions are based on an online survey of more than 33,000 respondents conducted during October 13 November 16, 2016. Among the 28 nations, India has emerged as the most trusted nation in terms of institutions with 72 per cent of the respondents from general population feeling so. The country is followed by Indonesia (69 per cent), China (67 per cent), Singapore and UAE (both at 60 per cent). In 2016, India was the third most trusted after China and UAE.

Shah Rukh Khan launches Karan Johar's biography 'An Unsuitable Boy', 17 January 2017



Bollywood Actor Shah Rukh Khan launched famous filmmaker Karan Johar's biography 'An Unsuitable Boy'.

The book captures details from Karan's life, starting right from his childhood to his entry into the film industry with a blockbuster of a debut. The event also saw Karan's mentees, Alia Bhatt and Sidharth Malhotra in attendance, the two walked in seconds apart.

India among top 6 promising markets, but slips one notch: Survey, 17 January 2017

India features among top six for global executives when it comes to overall growth prospects over the next 12 months, but enthusiasm for investing in the country has dropped from three years ago, finds out a survey.

According to the annual global CEO survey of consultancy giant PwC, released here at the WEF annual meeting, the top two markets from the growth point of view are the US, as voted by 43 per cent of respondents, followed by China (33 per cent). Others in the pecking order are Germany (17 per cent), UK (15 per cent), Japan (8 per cent) and India (7 per cent).

Last year, India was among the top five most promising markets globally. As per the findings, the changeability of markets, exacerbated by currency volatility, has caused CEOs to turn to a greater mix of countries. This year's study shows that the US, Germany and the UK have become bigger priorities while willingness to invest in Brazil, India, Russia and Argentina has lessened from three years ago.

German passport world's most powerful, India ranks 78th in global rankings, 18 January 2017



Indian passport has been ranked a lowly 78 in a global ranking of the world's most powerful passports which was topped by Germany.

Germany stands at the top with a visa-free score of 157 while Singapore overtakes South Korea and becomes the highest ranked Asian passport with a visa-free score of 156.

India stands at 78th position with a visa-free score of 46, ahead of China and Pakistan which are ranked 58th and 94th on the list respectively.

Afghanistan's is the least powerful passport with a visa-free score of just 23.

The latest edition of the world's most popular Arton Capitals global ranking Passport Index is based on cross-border access of national passports.

The world's most popular online interactive tool which collects, displays and ranks the passports globally assigns a "visa-free score" according to the number of countries a passport holder can visit visa-free or with visa on arrival.

John Hanafin, CEO of Arton Capital stated that the desire to improve one's opportunity and security for their family transcends borders. As such, having a second citizenship has never been more relevant. The newly added World Openness Score (WOS) tracks the progression of freedom of mobility across the globe. The WOS in 2016 was 17,925. In the first month of 2017, the score has already increased to 17,948.

With the recent backlash against globalisation and ongoing immigration issues, the World Openness Score may be in danger of decline. In recent years, citizenship by investment has become a US\$ 2 billion industry, with over 20,000 investors seeking a second residency or citizenship around the globe every year.

6 Indian Cities in World's Most Dynamic List, 19 January 2017



According to JLL's fourth annual City Momentum Index, Six Indian cities have made it to the world's 30 most dynamic places with Bengaluru topping the chart. Other Indian cities in the list are Hyderabad (5th), Pune (13th), Chennai (18th), Delhi (23th) and Mumbai (25th).

Top 10 cities in the JLL index are Bengaluru, Ho Chi Minh City, Silicon Valley, Shanghai, Hyderabad, London, Austin, Hanoi, Boston and Nairobi.

The report noted that dynamic labour markets help fuel some 'Emerging Megacities' such as Chennai, Manila, Delhi and Mumbai. However, this group faces significant infrastructure and quality of life issues, with high levels of inequality, congestion and pollution hindered by weak city governance.

President Inaugurates 28TH Dantan Gramin Mela -2017, 21 January 2017



The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 28th Dantan Gramin Mela -2017 at Dantan, Paschim Medinipur, West Bengal.

President Pranab Mukherjee expressed concern over growing tensions and difference of opinion in society. Referring to the violence in different parts of the world, the President said that, the general trend of human society is for people to love each other and co-exist, not spread hatred. Rural fairs like Dantan Gramin Mela promote brotherhood, harmony and peaceful co-existence among people. They reflect the eternal wisdom of rural areas and increase friendship amongst different sections of society.

U.S. scientists officially declare 2016 the hottest year on record, 21 January 2017



In a powerful testament to the warming of the planet, two leading U.S. science agencies jointly declared 2016 the hottest year on record, surpassing the previous record set just last year — which itself had topped a record set in 2014.

Average surface temperatures in 2016, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, were 0.07 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than 2015 and featured eight successive months (January through August) that were individually the warmest since the agency's records began in 1880.

The average temperature across the world's land and ocean surfaces was 58.69 Fahrenheit, or 1.69 degrees above the 20th-century average of 57 degrees. The agency also noted that the record for the global temperature has now successively been broken five times since the year 2000. The years 2005 and 2010 were also record warm years, according to the agency's data set.

NASA concurred with NOAA, also declaring 2016 the warmest year on record in its own data set that tracks the temperatures at the surface of the planet's land and oceans, and expressing "greater than 95 percent certainty" in that conclusion. (In contrast, NOAA gave a 62 percent confidence in the broken record.

NASA found a bigger leap upward of temperatures in 2016, measuring the year as .22 degrees Fahrenheit higher than the prior record year of 2015. The agency also noted that since the year 2001, the planet has seen “16 of the 17 warmest years on record.”

Inter-service military exercise Tropex kicks off, 28 January 2017



Aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya backed by nuclear submarine INS Chakra besides fighting assets of the Indian Navy and Coast Guard have come together in the country's biggest inter-service Tropex exercise along the western seaboard.

The navy's annual Theatre Readiness Operational Exercise (TROPEX) got underway on January 24.

The month-long exercise will have ships and aircraft of both the Western and Eastern Naval Commands, as also assets from the Indian Air Force, Indian Army and the Indian Coast Guard exercising together.

The last edition of the exercise was conducted in January 2015.

Miss France Iris Mittenhaere crowned Miss Universe 2017, 30 January 2017

Iris Mittenhaere from France has been crowned the new Miss Universe during the 65th edition of the pageant, while Miss Haiti Raquel Pelissier was named first runner-up.



Iris, 24, is a Parisian native, currently pursuing a degree in dental surgery. She plans to use her Miss Universe platform to advocate for dental and oral hygiene.

She takes over from the until-now reigning Miss Universe, Pia Wurtzbach from Philippines.

India's Roshmitha Harimurthy failed to advance to the top 13 of the contest, which saw Andrea Tovar from Colombia emerge as second runner-up.

Roshmitha wasn't the only India connect at this year's pageant. Sushmita Sen, who won the pageant in 1994, was one of the judges of the contest and was introduced at the event as “Bollywood superstar, former Miss Universe and champion of women's rights.”

The panel of judges also included “The Real Housewives of Atlanta” star Cynthia Bailey, Paper magazines Mickey Boardman and producer Francine LeFrak, as well as Miss Universes 2011 and 1993.

The competitions other top 13 finalists were Kenya, Indonesia, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Philippines, Canada, Brazil, Thailand and USA.

- ✎ 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas celebrations was held in Bangalore from January 7-9, 2017. PBD conventions are being held every year since 2003 and India is honoring our Pravasis since the first edition.
- ✎ It was decided late last year to hold the PBD conventions after an interval of two years. Therefore, the number of awards to be conferred for PBD 2017 have been doubled to 30.
- ✎ This year, the jury also considered Pravasi's contribution for achievements on philanthropic investments and charitable work in India and for contribution towards India's development.
- ✎ Nominations were invited in the prescribed format from all eligible categories of Overseas Indians/Organizations. The last date for receipt of nominations at the Ministry was 29th August 2016.
- ✎ The Jury-cum-Awards Committee, chaired by Hon'ble Vice-President, considered all the nominations for the PBSA. A list of 123 nominations that were found eligible as per the guidelines and another list of 55 nominations that were received late were presented for consideration of the Committee. The nominations were initially examined by a Screening Committee comprising of Officers from the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✎ The Jury-cum-Awards Committee for Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards (PBSA) comprised of following members:
 - i. Vice President of India-Chairman
 - ii. Hon'ble EAM, Vice-Chairman
 - iii. Swapan Dasgupta, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha
 - iv. Principal Secretary to PM
 - v. Dr. S. Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary
 - vi. Rajeev Mehrishi, Home Secretary
 - vii. Satish Chandra, former Ambassador of India to the USA
 - viii. Indra Nooyi CEO Pepsico
 - ix. Yusuf Ali M.A. Managing Director, Lulu Group of Industries, UAE
 - x. Shyam Parande, Secretary, Antar Rashtriya Sahyog Parishad
 - xi. Dnyaneshwar M. Mulay, Secretary (OIA & CPV) & Member Secretary
- ✎ The Jury members considered all eligible nominations and the relevant information placed before the Committee. After detailed discussions, thirty nominees were unanimously recommended



by the Jury-cum-Awards Committee for Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Awards, 2017 by the Committee on December 20, 2016.

List of Pravasi Bharatiya Samman-2017 Awardees

1. Dr. Gorur Krishna Harinath/Australia/Community Service
2. Rajasekharan Pillai Valavoor Kizhakkathil/Bahrain/Business
3. Antwerp Indian Association/Belgium/Community Service
4. Nazeer Ahamed Mohamed Zackiriah/Brunei/Community Service
5. Mukund Bhikhubhai Purohit/Canada/Business
6. Nalinkumar Sumanlal Kothari/Djibouti/Community Service
7. Vinod Chandra Patel/Fiji/Social Service
8. Raghunath Marie Antonin Manet/France/Arts & Culture
9. Dr. Lael Anson E. Best/Israel/Medical Science
10. Dr. Sandip Kumar Tagore/Japan/Arts & Culture
11. Ariful Islam/Libya/Community Service
12. Tan Sri Dato Dr. Muniandy Thambirajah/Malaysia/Education, Community & Service
13. Pravind Kumar Jugnauth/Mauritius/Public Service
14. H.E. Mr. Antonio Luis Santos da Costa/Portugal/Public Service
15. Dr. Raghavan Seetharaman/Qatar/Business Management
16. Zeenat Musarrat Jafri/Saudi Arabia/Education

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17. Singapore Indian Association/Singapore/Community Service
18. Dr. Carani Balaraman Sanjeevi/Sweden/Medicine
19. Susheel Kumar Saraff/Thailand/Business
20. Winston Chandarbhan Dookeran/Trinidad & Tobago/Public Service
21. Vasudev Shamdas Shroff/United Arab Emirates/Community Service
22. India Social and Cultural Centre, Abu Dhabi/United Arab Emirates/Philanthropy and Community Service
23. Priti Patel/United Kingdom/Public Service
24. Neena Gill/United Kingdom/Public Service
25. Hari Babu Bindal/USA/Environmental Engineering
26. Dr. Bharat Haridas Barai/USA/Community Service
27. Nisha Desai Biswal/USA/Public Affairs
28. Dr. Mahesh Mehta/USA/Community Service
29. Ramesh Shah/USA/Community Service
30. Dr. Sampatkumar Shidramapa Shivangi/USA

Community Leadership

- ✎ A long time ago, our elders embarked on an arduous journey, uprooting themselves from familiar surroundings, to seek their dreams. Armed only with their belief in their abilities, they transformed the world around them against all odds and constructed realities from dreams.
- ✎ The common thread, the indestructible filament that binds all of us together is the enduring connect with a country whose history dates back to five millennia, whose contemporary reality takes you on an incredible journey and whose future offers you endless possibilities. We consider Pravasi Bharatiya as one of our own and we offer them the best of what we have.
- ✎ Whether Pravasi Bharatiya are looking for adventure tourism, or affordable quality education, or tech start-ups or even a market for novel utility products, India offers limitless opportunities. For example, Bengaluru alone is home to many educational and research institutions. It is also home to several active tech startups. Similar facilities and opportunities exist in towns and cities across the country.
- ✎ To familiarize the Diaspora youth with the limitless opportunity and potential that is India, and to harness their imagination and creativity, we have several programmes in place.
- ✎ The Know India Programme, through which many of Pravasi Bharatiya are visiting India presently, is

one such scheme aimed to give you a flavour of India and provide a platform for interaction with policy makers; industry and civil society. We hope that the KIP alumni will remain in touch with one another as well as with us, including through new networking platforms.

- ✎ The Scholarship Programme for Diaspora Children enables Diaspora youth to pursue Undergraduate courses in Indian Universities and Institutes. This programme has recently been revamped and extended from 44 to 66 countries; and the number of scholarships has also been increased. A portal has been set up to enable online application and processing.
- ✎ Bharat Ko Janiye (Know India) Quiz programme which Prime Minister launched for young overseas Indians in the last PBD in 2015 in Gandhinagar was another initiative which received tremendous response. The winners received medals from PM during the inauguration of Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra on Gandhiji's birthday, October 2 this year.
- ✎ The Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas which we launched in 2015 was yet another reflection of our conviction in the power of the youth Diaspora to bring in change. The 2015 Youth PBD was about 3Cs:-

- ✎ **Connect-** to connect the Indian Diasporas to their motherland;

- ✎ **Celebrate-** to celebrate the pride in the history and civilization heritage of India and;

- ✎ **Contribute-** participation in transforming India.

- ✎ In this Youth PBD 2017, about 4 Ts through which we can transform our lives as well as that of India. These are:

- Talent
- Technology
- Training
- Teamwork

The first T: Talent

- ✎ By 2020, the average age in India will be 29 making it the world's youngest country with 64% of the population in the working age group. The Prime Minister's vision will make India the skill capital of the world by 2022.
- ✎ Whatever Pravasi Bharatiya chosen field of endeavour, Pravasi Bharatiya will encounter many Indians in Pravasi Bharatiya peer group. If Pravasi Bharatiya have the relevant talent, relevant skill-set and are willing to partner with us, there is a world of opportunity for you. Cross-fertilization of ideas can also bring rich rewards to Pravasi Bharatiya host country.

- ✎ Sharpening of talents or skills requires infrastructure that we can build together as partners. Skilling is not a zero-sum-game. An increase in competence levels and range of skills in India would contribute to greater employment opportunities both within India and elsewhere, thanks to linkage and multiplier effects.
- ✎ The skilling eco-system should also lead to innovation and techno-entrepreneurship which, directly or indirectly, result in social good. The Youth PBD 2017 has a plenary session on Start-ups and Innovation which have a social impact in India.

The second T: Technology

- ✎ Indian achievements in the field of Science and Technology need no reiteration: From super computer to indigenous space programme; Mars Mission to Chandrayaan; Antarctic mission to oceanographic research, there are several stellar examples. We have always believed in Technology with a human face.
- ✎ Knowledge-based economies know no boundaries. Today, the world is already a digital village. With technology, we can transform lives at the touch of a button.
- ✎ From the use of networking platforms to stay connected; or social media to disseminate information; creation of technology partnerships, there are a zillion ways in which you can transform lives through technology.

The third T: Training

- ✎ In an age of rapid technological transformation, learning is not a one-time process with a fixed beginning and end, but a continuous flow of constantly learning, unlearning and relearning.
- ✎ We consider this as a two-way process. Knowledge multiplies when shared. India is ready to offer training and education to Pravasi Bharatiya in areas where we are good at and similarly, we will be happy to take Pravasi Bharatiya up on their offers of expertise in their areas of interest. Training could also take the shape of internships; volunteering or even philanthropy. The choice is yours.

- ✎ Living far from home as students is challenging. We must make it easier for students to focus on excellence— whether they are Indian students abroad, or NRI students or other foreign students in India. To help us understand the related issues and possible solutions, the Youth PBD 2017 includes plenary sessions on issues faced by Indian students abroad and NRI and PIO students in India. We have recently launched a platform for online registration of Indian students abroad – it is voluntary and will help us estimate the number of such students, map them and also reach out to them in a more effective manner.

- ✎ At the Youth PBD Pravasi Bharatiya will also have an opportunity to meet and interact with the young students who have come here from all over India and especially from colleges and universities in Bengaluru.

Finally 4th T: Teamwork

- ✎ Global good cannot be achieved by any single country alone. Also, the challenges that we face in the world today are too complicated to be addressed by any single country. We need to realize this and stand together. We need to strengthen the bridges that connect us and create new ones.
- ✎ We have launched a number of flagship programmes to achieve our developmental objectives. Our dream is of a prosperous, skilful, enterprising, clean and futuristic India. The Smart Cities Mission; the Digital India; the Skill India; the Start Up India; the Swacch Bharat Campaign are all part of our efforts to realize that dream. We also look at our friends and partner countries to realize that dream. Our challenges also offer opportunities for you to be part of India's growth story through which you will also realize your dreams.
- ✎ We can give several reasons why India has an exciting story to offer, but the most compelling is what you see around you for yourself. Take the time to visit the Exhibition at the PBD convention which showcases the flagship programmes, state governments' initiatives; and Indian craft and cultural bazaar.



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Pan-India expansion of Maternity Benefit Programme (MBP) to benefit pregnant and lactating mothers across the country

Government of India is committed to ensure that every woman attains optimal nutritional status – especially from the most vulnerable communities as nutrition constitutes the foundation for human development. This is all the more important during the period of pregnancy and lactation coupled with wage loss. A woman's nutritional status has important implications for her health as well as the health and development of her children.

An under-nourished mother almost inevitably gives birth to a low birth weight baby. When poor nutrition starts in-utero, it extends throughout the life cycle, particularly in women. Owing to economic and social distress many women continue to work to earn a living for their family right upto the last days of their pregnancy. Furthermore, they resume working soon after childbirth, even though their bodies might not permit it, thus preventing their bodies from fully recovering on one hand, and also impeding their ability to exclusively breastfeed their young infant in the first six months. To address the above issues, Ministry of Women and Child Development, in accordance with the provisions of Section 4(b) of National Food Security Act, formulated a scheme for pregnant and lactating mothers called Maternity Benefit Programme – a conditional cash transfer scheme. The Scheme provides



cash incentives to pregnant and lactating women. (i) for the wage loss so that the woman can take adequate rest before and after delivery. (ii) to improve her health and nutrition during the period of pregnancy and lactation. (iii) to breastfeed the child during the first six months of the birth, which is very vital for the development of the child.

Under the scheme, all Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM), excluding the Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers who are in regular employment with the Central Government or State Governments or Public Sector Undertakings or those who are in receipt of similar benefits under any law for the time being are eligible. The cash incentive of Rs.6,000/- is payable in three instalments for the first two live births at the following stages:

Cash Transfer	Conditions	Amount (in Rs.)
First instalment (in first trimester of pregnancy)	Early Registration of Pregnancy, preferably within first three months.	3,000/-
Second instalment	Received one antenatal check-up.	1500/-
Third instalment (3 months after delivery)	At the time of institutional delivery. Child birth is registered. Child has received BCG vaccination. Child has received OPV and DPT-1 & 2.	1,500/-

The cash transfer would be Aadhaar linked through the individual bank/post office account etc. in DBT mode.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, in his address to the nation on 31.12.2016 has announced pan-India expansion of MBP in all the districts with effect from 01.01.2017. It is expected that annually about 51.70 lakh beneficiaries would avail of the benefit.

Expansion of MBP will have huge impact on the PW&LM as it will not only provide them compensation for the wage loss but will also provide them adequate nutrition and rest before and after delivery. Mothers will have sufficient time to breastfeed the child during first six months of the

birth. Resultantly, it is expected that it will reduce mother mortality rate, IMR, under-nutrition and its adverse effects.

It is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and the cost sharing between Centre and States is 60:40 for all the States and UTs (with legislature), 90:10 for NER and Himalayan States and 100% GoI share for UTs without legislatures. The total cost of the proposal for the balance period of 2016-17 and from 2017-18 to 2019-20 including Centre and State share is expected to be Rs. 12,661.00 crore. Out of this, Government of India's share for the balance period of 2016-17 (Rs. 584 crore) and from 2017-18 to 2019-20 (Rs. 7348 crore) is expected to be Rs. 7932 crore.

The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) 'pre-consultation paper on net neutrality' issue and has sought comments from stakeholders on issues related to the topic.

The regulator noted that the increased use of the Internet, especially in those services which increase the bandwidth consumption is high, the telecom service providers (TSP) may be required to adopt certain appropriate measures, such as network integrity protect and provide appropriate quality services to its users and all the internet's "best effort" will remain under design.

The Authority noted that the various issues related to the topic of net neutrality demands deeper investigation. Determining the appropriateness of the traffic management tools, an understanding of the importance of the Internet Access, transparency and informed choice by the user and customer privacy and national security is involved.

The Department of Telecom (DoT), the traffic management techniques, over-the-top (OTT) services, economic, security and privacy aspects, and the 27 March 2015. TRAI consultation paper on the subject of net neutrality in other related fields including TRAI the recommendations sought.

Consultation paper, seeks to identify the relevant issues in these areas which regulatory intervention on the issue of net neutrality or regulator will help in formulating policy.

TRAI has sought the opinion of stakeholders on six questions:

- 1) What should be the underlying principle of net neutrality in the Indian context? Important issues which need to be considered in order to ensure the principles of net neutrality?
- 2) Use the internet while performing services which reasonable traffic management is required to follow the ways of the TSP and in what way they can be misused? In India there are any existing or potential other practices that may lead to concerns about net neutrality?
- 3) Issues relating to net neutrality for India's policy and / or regulatory approach should be?
- 4) To protect the interests of national security in the context of activities with respect to the TSP and content providers should ensure what precautions?
- 5) Customer What precautions should be taken to maintain confidentiality?
- 6) What's the point TSP and OTT content providers to define the relationship between the broad policy framework should be considered?

TRAI stakeholders to June 21 this 'pre-consultation paper on' Written comments are invited. The Authority noted that a clear regulatory framework in the absence of net neutrality, traffic management techniques advanced by an operator to discriminate or potentially can be used for anti-competitive purposes.

For example, the network relies on the TSP services to discriminate against any competitor to use its control over

Internet access services can provide. On the other hand, strict adherence to the net neutrality rules for handling traffic for the TSP and the desired quality of service to their users (QoS) can be difficult to provide. Authorities said these issues in an appropriate policy and regulatory approaches to strike a good balance between these competing interests need to be included.

The regulator said the OTT communication services to operate in the absence of a comprehensive regulatory framework can be the result of several telephone numbers, such as management, public safety, emergency numbers and use the issue of national security.

Currently, the Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) and Instant Messaging services like OTT communication transmission using the Internet sites. Such services partly Information, Technology Act, 2000, such provisions would come, but they are not subject to the regulatory system. TSP provided by this Act being applied to traditional voice and messaging services are used. The Authority pointed out that OTT media and communication at the national level in addition to the security challenges that can pose a threat to the privacy of individual users.

Internet open mechanism responsible for the phenomenal growth of OTT services, but the potential risk of transfer of personal information on the Internet and can be filled with scope for abuse. The regulator said the privacy of OTT services, user needs to examine the legal and regulatory framework is needed.

Authority on March 27, 2015, over-the-top (OTT) services Regulatory Framework "issued a consultation paper seeking views of stakeholders. This is currently being considered.

In December 2015, TRAI 'individual pricing for data services on a consultation paper was released. Feedback from stakeholders and on the basis of internal discussions, TRAI 'Data Service Regulations prohibit discriminatory charges, 2016 is released. Regulation by the consumers of content services based on data on the TSP to charge discriminatory tariff restrictions.

In addition, the DOT also examine the issue of net neutrality and other related areas had formed a high level committee. The committee submitted its recommendations in a detailed report, which was released in May 2015.

Net Neutrality:-

- The concept of Net Neutrality refers to the equal treatment of all data over the Internet by the Internet Service Providers (ISPs).
- The term was coined by Tim Wu in 2003 as an extension of the longstanding concept of a common carrier.
- As per the principle, the Governments and ISPs should treat every bit transmitted over the Internet equally, without any option for priority delivery or differential charges on the basis of user (Business or Domestic), content (voice or video or data), platform, application, type of attached equipment or mode of communication.

PAN Card is a Permanent Account Number consisting of 10-digit alphanumeric number, which is used as an identity proof and issued under the Indian Income Tax Act, 1961 in the form of a laminated card in India. PAN Card is issued by the Indian Income Tax Department under the supervision of the Central Board for Direct Taxes (CBDT). It is also issued to foreign nationals like investors as a subject to a valid visa unlike Aadhaar Number and Driving License but it is not acceptable as a proof of Indian citizenship. The PAN number is important for major financial transactions like opening a bank account, receiving taxable salary, sale or purchase of assets etc. That is why it provides details of the account holder in a unique way.

Classification of characters in PAN Card

10 Characters of PAN card is divided into five parts. The first five figures of the representation are alphabets, the next four digits are numbers and the last number is again an alphabet. All these digits have a meaning and reveal the information of the account holder. The meaning of each number has been explained below:

First three Characters (1):

The first three characters are normal alphabetic series starting from AAA to ZZZ. The I.T. Department allocates the digits randomly and is a combination of the letters such as AZT or ZRT.

Fourth Character (2):

The fourth character represents the status of the PAN card holder. It is one of the most important character and those who deals in PAN card usually look at this character to identify the status of that particular person. The fourth character for a majority of PAN holders is the letter "P", which stands for "person". The other nine letters that can represent the fourth character are C, H, F, A, T, B, L, J, and G.

These letters stands for:

- C Company
- H Hindu Undivided Family
- F Firm
- A Association of Persons
- T Trust
- B Body of Individuals
- L Local Authority
- J Artificial Juridical Person
- G Government

Fifth Character (3):

The fifth character represents the first alphabet of PAN holder's last name or surname. Like someone has Amit Goyal name then G as the fifth character on his PAN card as his last name's first alphabet is G. Also, if your surname changes after marriage or due to any other reason, then also your PAN card number will remain unchanged.

Sixth to Ninth characters (4):

These four characters are sequential numbers starting from 0001 to 9999. Also like first three characters, here too the selection is random.

Tenth Character (5):

The last or Tenth character in the PAN card is an alphabetic check digit which is the result of the calculation based on a formula that accommodates all the nine characters.

Importance of its classification :

With the help of this unique number (PAN Number) income-tax department can link all the transactions of the person with the department. These transactions include tax payments, tax deducted at source/tax collected at source credits, returns of income/wealth/gift, specified transactions and so on. Therefore we can say that PAN card acts as a universal identification key to track financial transactions that might have a taxable component to prevent tax evasion. It also remains unaffected by change of address throughout India.

Application for PAN Card:

Those who earns taxable income in India including foreign nationals who pay taxes. Also, persons who are running business may be of retail, services or consultancy and total sales, turnover or gross receipt is exceeding Rs 5 lakhs in the previous financial year.

Process for PAN Card Application:

1. For this, use 'Form 49 A' or 'Form 49AA' as applicable to you and for more details visit incometaxindia.gov.in. From the websites of Income Tax Department or National Securities Depository Limited (NSDL) you can find the location of PAN Card offices in any city. Also photocopy of identity card and address proof is required. And payment can be made via cheque, cash or DD.
2. Online also you can apply through the websites of the I-T Department or NSDL. Fee can be paid via net banking, credit card or debit card. And you can even track your application online.

Need of PAN Card:

PAN Card is necessary to file income tax returns, for the payment of direct taxes, to avoid deduction of tax at higher rate and also some provisions are there to enter in to specific transaction like sale or purchase of immovable property of Rs. 5 lakh or more, Sale or Purchase of a vehicle other than a two wheeler, Payment to hotels or restaurants of amount exceeding Rs. 25,000 at one time, deposit exceeding Rs. 50,000 with any single banking institution in 24 hours, Payment exceeding Rs. 5 lakh for purchase of bullion and jewellery etc.



ATM card is also known as Debit Card and it is used for online shopping, online bill payments etc. We can withdraw money by using Debit Card or ATM card from any ATM machine.

ATM card can be used in the same manner as we use SIM card. If we do not have balance in SIM, we cannot talk over cell phone, similarly if there is no balance in bank, we cannot use debit card. Due to advancement of technology, we have received a benefit that now we need not to visit banks to withdraw cash, now we can have cash in hand through ATM machines by using ATM card. Therefore we can say that the meaning of Debit Card is Online Banking Transaction by which you can make any kind of Online Payment.

Nowadays, every bank account holder has a debit (ATM) card. People use them conveniently but there are still some people who do not have much knowledge about these cards. They even don't know that bank account details can be easily accessed by the digits given on their debit card? They just know that some numbers are written on both sides of the debit card.



These digits or numbers not only depict the details of your bank account but are also very important from security point of view. It is very helpful in preventing fraudulent activities that can occur at the time of shopping and online banking. Moreover, if due to some type of negligence these details are leaked, then it might lead to the frauds.

Let us see what is revealed by 16 digits written on Debit Card:

On the front face of debit card, a 16 digits' code is written. First 6 digits are Bank Identification Number and the rest 10 digits are Unique Account Number of the card holder. Even the Global Hologram printed on the debit card is a type of security hologram, which is very difficult to copy. It is three dimensional. The date and year of expiry is also written on the debit card so that the card holder can remember that after this date, debit card will not work.

We will now talk about the first digit of Debit Card:



First number shows that industry, which has issued the card; it is known as Major Industry Identifier (MII). Like the Banks, Petroleum etc. It is different for different industries.

Do you know which industries roll out MII code?

1. ISO and other industries
2. Airlines
3. Airlines and other industries
4. Travels and entertainment (American Express or Food Club)
5. Banking and Finance (VISA)
6. Banking and Finance (Master Card)
7. Banking and Merchandising
8. Petroleum
9. Telecommunications and other industries
10. National Assignment

Now we will see what is meant by first 6 digits:

The first 6 digits of debit card tell about the company which has issued the card. It is known as Issuer Identification Number (IIN).

Company's IIN

Master Card = 5XXXXXX

VISA = 4XXXXXX



Now the next 7 numbers, leaving the last digit, which is from 7th to 15th digit:

From 7th digit to 15th digit, leaving the last digit, are linked to your bank account number. We cannot call it your bank account number but this number is linked with the account. But there is nothing to be worried about, as these numbers does not reveal anything about you and your bank account. It has only been issued by the card provider and is kept unique.

Now let us see about the last digit of the debit card:




The last number of debit card is known as Check Digit. From this digit, it can be inferred that whether the card is valid or not.

At the back of the Debit Card:



At the time of Online Shopping, CVV number is required so that the transaction can be completed properly. CVV is the three - digit number, which is given at the back of the card, it is generally present near the signature strip and is highlighted in italics.

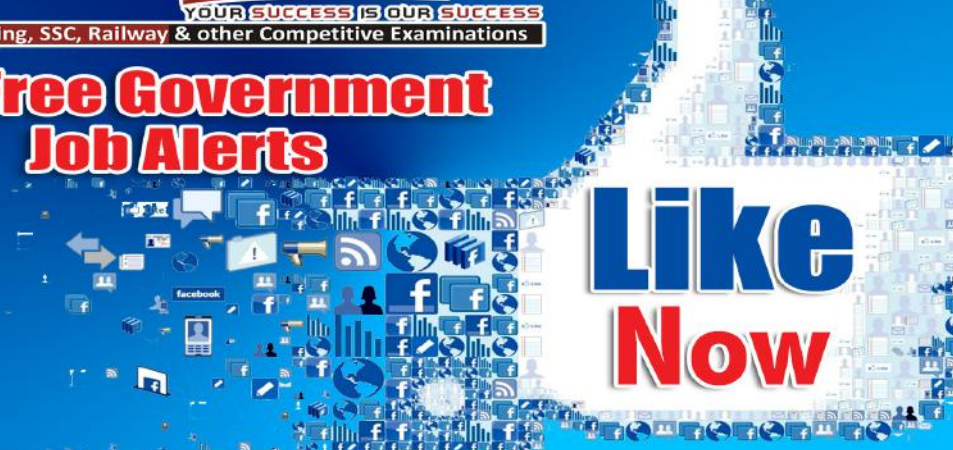
It is believed that you must have gained knowledge about 16 digits on the debit card and will use them in a proper manner.



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The bull-taming sport jallikattu conducted on the third day of Pongal festival sparked a national debate. In the last three days, the nation witnessed an uprising in Tamil Nadu against the ban on jallikattu.

A participant in Jallikattu trying to tame a bull

On May 7, 2014, the Supreme Court of India banned the traditional bull-taming sport conducted in Tamil Nadu -- Jallikattu -- after a 10-year-long battle by animal activists and animal welfare organisations like Federation of India Animal Protection Agencies (FIAPO) and People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

The Supreme Court ruled that flouting of the ban will attract penalties and upheld the ban on January 14, 2016 when the Government of India passed an order reversing the ban imposed. There was massive outrage across Tamil Nadu in 2016, but this year, the outrage has turned into nothing less than a revolt, something the Supreme Court, State and Central governments, and organisations like PETA didn't foresee.

Before getting into why there is a revolution, mostly peaceful yet powerful, brewing in Tamil Nadu, let us understand what Jallikattu is and what it means to the people of Tamil Nadu.

WHAT IS JALLIKATTU?

Jallikattu, in the simplest of terms, is a sport conducted as part of Mattu Pongal, the third day of the four-day-long harvest festival Pongal. The Tamil word 'mattu' means bull, and the third day of Pongal is dedicated to cattle, a key partner in the process of farming. Bulls get more importance over cows for bulls help farmers to plough their field, pull their cart loaded with goods, and inseminate cows, in turn resulting in production of milk, offspring and preserving indigenous species.

Temple bulls, usually considered the head of all cattle in a village, are readied for the sport. Temple bulls from different villages are brought to a common arena where the Jallikattu happens.

The bulls are then freed into a ground, one by one. Participants are to embrace the bull's hump, and try to tame it by bringing the raging bull to a stop, possibly by riding for as long as possible holding its hump.

The bulls that could be tamed are considered weaker, and are used for domestic purposes by the farmers and the untameable ones -- considered the strongest and most virile -- are used for breeding the cows in many villages.

HISTORY OF JALLIKATTU

Jallikattu is believed to be a tradition practiced since at least last 2,500 years. Cave paintings, as old as 2,500 years, that depicts a man trying to tame a bull, have been found by



archeologists. Jallikattu in the present form is believed to have played first between 400 to 100 BC.

A seal, dated between 2,500 - 1,800 BC, discovered at Mohenjodaro that shows bull-taming, is another reference to Jallikattu. There are references of people enjoying witnessing and participating in Jallikattu in Silappatikaaram, one of the five great epics of Tamil literature, and two other ancient literary works like Kalithogai and Malaipadukadaam.

S Annamalai, in an op-ed for The Hindu quotes four lines from a poem in anthology Kalithogai that capture the essence and key ingredients of Jallikattu. These are dust in the air, able physique of tamers, ferocious bulls stooping to conquer and agitated mood of spectators.

IMPORTANCE OF JALLIKATTU AND WHY TAMILS ARE SENTIMENTAL ABOUT IT

Jallikattu is key to the farmers. It is a chance for them to flaunt their personal strength, the strength of their bulls, love for their cattle and how well they have looked after them and a chance to find out the most potent bull to breed with their cows.

Jallikattu is not a leisure sport for Tamils, but a tradition that establishes the identity of hard-working, self-sufficient, powerful Tamil. Jallikattu also symbolises a cordial man-animal relationship, reads the op-ed. "For the owner, the bull was a member of the family. Native breeds used in bullfights ensured biodiversity and acted as geographical indicators," B Thirumalai of Madurai told The Hindu.

THE CONTROVERSY AND ANIMAL CRUELTY ANGLE

Jallikattu has been a one-to-one sport, a bull and a man inside the ring at a time. Recently, however, the way the sport has been conducted changed. What we see now is a one raging bull freed into an arena with many men, each person trying to embrace the hump of the bull and tame the beast.

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Since the bulls are not as wild and ferocious, people tend to provoke it and there have been reports of ill-treating the animal, for instance getting it drunk, poking it with sharp objects and even smearing chilli powder in its eyes.

Another issue is gambling. Men who put money at stake, betting to tame the bull, take the tradition of bull embracing to an objectionable level where the animal is hurt and left bloodied. But such instances are rare and the main argument Tamils raise, when it comes to the ban on Jallikattu imposed by the Supreme Court, is that a tradition that dates back to over 2,500 years cannot be banned citing rare occurrences mentioned above.

MASSIVE OUTRAGE

What started off as petitions on the internet has now turned into a massive revolt. People of Tamil Nadu have been flooding the streets, cities and villages alike, protesting against the Supreme Court ban on Jallikattu since the last three days. People feel more driven since superstars from Kollywood, including A-listers like Rajinikanth, Kamal Haasan, Vijay, Vikram, Suriya, Dhanush and Simbu, are supporting the protests.

Actor Vijay, in a short video he posted on social media platforms, said, "Law was not created to rob people off their tradition and rights but to protect it. Jallikattu is every Tamil's identity. Those who are protesting against the ban

on Jallikattu are united by the feeling that they are Tamils and not out of compulsion or political pressure. I bow down to each and everyone of them." The video tweeted from his official Twitter handle has, by now, got over 25,000 retweets and more than 51,000 likes. Tamil Nadu CM O Panneerselvam met Prime Minister Narendra Modi to request for an ordinance that will reverse the ban but the prime minister observed that the matter is sub-judice but said he appreciates the cultural significance of Jallikattu.

WHAT DOES PETA SAY?

Talking to The News Minute, the India CEO of the international NGO that works for the protection and welfare of animals People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) Poorva Joshipura said that anger against PETA is not going to have any effect on the laws under which Jallikattu, bull race and bull fights have been banned and that "Cruelty is cruelty. Cruelty is not culture."

The statements come at a time when protestors and politicians are calling the organisation "anti-national" and are demanding the ban of the NGO in the state. Urging the Centre to ban PETA in Tamil Nadu, DMK working president MK Stalin said in a statement that only then it would be understood that traditional sports like Jallikattu are not cruelty inflicted upon animals but signifies the cultural link between the man and the animal.



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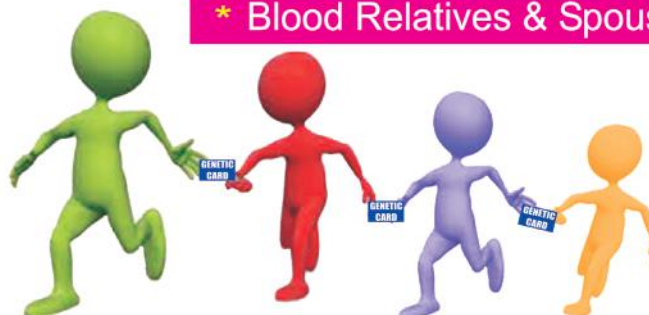
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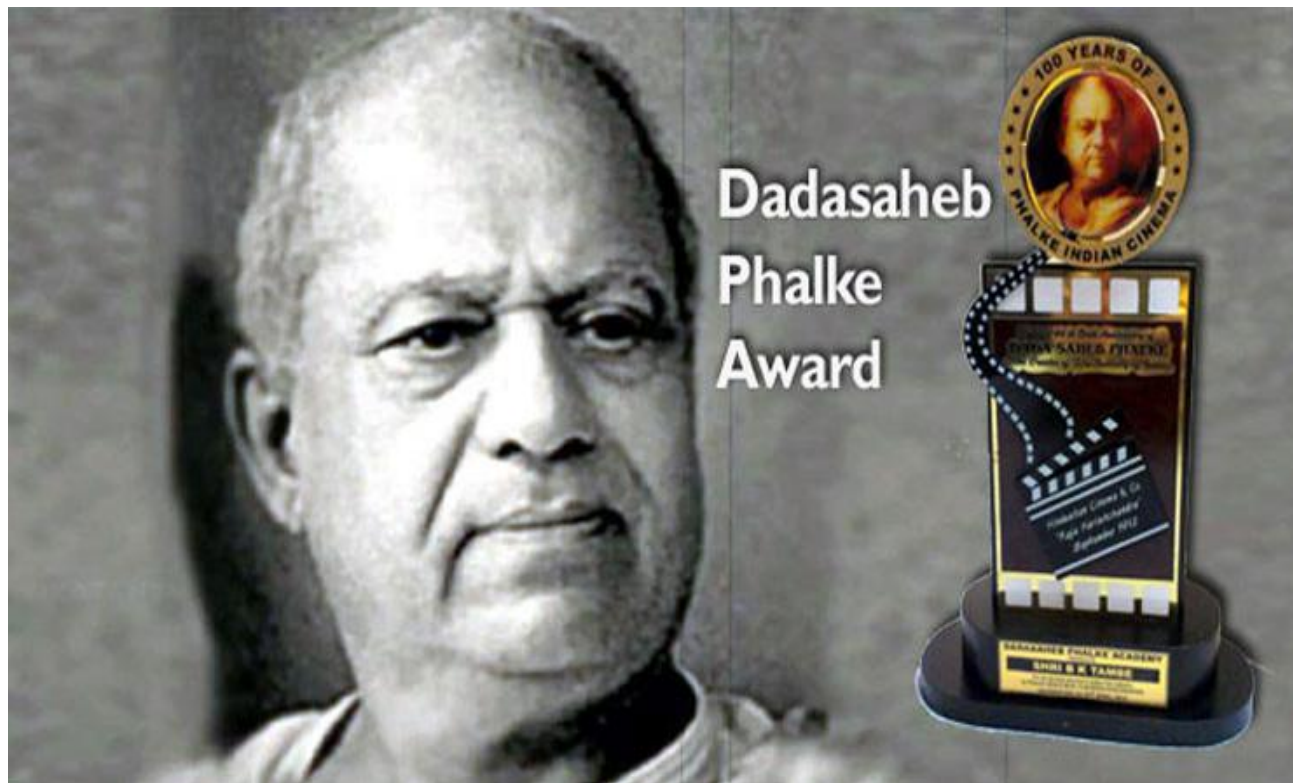
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The Dadasaheb Phalke Awards is given annually at the National Films Awards which is India's highest award in cinema. The awardee is honoured for their "outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian cinema". Here, we are given the list of Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1969-2016) for the aspirants of different competitive examination.

List of Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1969-2016)

Ceremonial Year	Recipient	Film industry
1969 (17th)	Devika Rani	Hindi
1970 (18th)	Birendranath Sircar	Bengali
1971 (19th)	Prithviraj Kapoor	Hindi
1972 (20th)	Pankaj Mullick	Bengali & Hindi
1973 (21st)	Ruby Myers (Sulochana)	Hindi
1974 (22nd)	Bommireddy Narasimha Reddy	Telugu
1975 (23rd)	Dhirendra Nath Ganguly	Bengali
1976 (24th)	Kanan Devi	Bengali
1977 (25th)	Nitin Bose	Bengali, Hindi
1978 (26th)	Raichand Boral	Bengali, Hindi
1979 (27th)	Sohrab Modi	Hindi
1980 (28th)	Paidi Jairaj	Hindi, Telugu
1981 (29th)	Naushad	Hindi
1982 (30th)	L. V. Prasad	Hindi, Tamil, Telugu

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1983 (31st)	Durga Khote	Hindi, Marathi
1984 (32nd)	Satyajit Ray	Bengali
1985 (33rd)	V. Shantaram	Hindi, Marathi
1986 (34th)	B. Nagi Reddy	Telugu
1987 (35th)	Raj Kapoor	Hindi
1988 (36th)	Ashok Kumar	Hindi
1989 (37th)	Lata Mangeshkar	Hindi, Marathi
1990 (38th)	Akkineni Nageswara Rao	Telugu
1991 (39th)	Bhalji Pendharkar	Marathi
1992 (40th)	Bhupen Hazarika	Assamese
1993 (41st)	Majrooh Sultanpuri	Hindi
1994 (42nd)	Dilip Kumar	Hindi
1995 (43rd)	Rajkumar	Kannada
1996 (44th)	Sivaji Ganesan	Tamil
1997 (45th)	Kavi Pradeep	Hindi
1998 (46th)	B. R. Chopra	Hindi
1999 (47th)	Hrishikesh Mukherjee	Hindi
2000 (48th)	Asha Bhosle	Hindi, Marathi
2001 (49th)	Yash Chopra	Hindi
2002 (50th)	Dev Anand	Hindi
2003 (51st)	Mrinal Sen	Bengali
2004 (52nd)	Adoor Gopalakrishnan	Malayalam
2005 (53rd)	Shyam Benegal	Hindi
2006 (54th)	Tapan Sinha	Bengali, Hindi
2007(55th)	Manna Dey	Bengali, Hindi
2008 (56th)	V. K. Murthy	Hindi
2009 (57th)	D. Ramanaidu	Telugu
2010 (58th)	K. Balachander	Tamil, Telugu
2011 (59th)	Soumitra Chatterjee	Bengali
2012 (60th)	Pran	Hindi
2013 (61st)	Gulzar	Hindi
2014 (62nd)	Shashi Kapoor	Hindi
2015 (63rd)	Manoj Kumar	Hindi

The Dadasaheb Phalke Award was introduced in 1969 by the government to recognise the contribution of film personalities towards the development of Indian Cinema. The first recipient of this award was Devika Rani. In the above list of Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1969-2016) is very useful GK revision capsule for upcoming different competitive examination.



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 89 persons as per the list below. The list comprises of 7 Padma Vibhushan, 7 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees. 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 5 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs and 6 Posthumous awardees.

PADMA VIBHUSHAN			
Sr.	Name	Field	State
1.	K J Yesudas	Art-Music	Kerala
2.	Sadguru Jaggi Vasudev	Others-Spiritualism	Tamil Nadu
3.	Sharad Pawar	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
4.	Murli Manohar Joshi	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh
5.	Prof. Udipi Ramachandra Rao	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
6.	Late Sunder Lal Patwa(Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Madhya Pradesh
7.	Late Shri PA Sangma (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Meghalaya
PADMA BHUSHAN			
Sr.	Name	Field	State
8.	Vishwa Mohan Bhatt	Art-Music	Rajasthan
9.	Prof. (Dr.) Devi Prasad Dwivedi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
10.	Tehemton Udwadia	Medicine	Maharashtra
11.	Ratna Sundar Maharaj	Others-Spiritualism	Gujarat
12.	Swami Niranjana Nanda Saraswati	Others-Yoga	Bihar
13.	H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner)	Literature & Education	Thailand
14.	Late Cho Ramaswamy(Posthumous)	Literature & Education-Journalism	Tamil Nadu
PADMA SHRI			
Sr.	Name	Field	State
15.	Basanti Bisht	Art-Music	Uttarakhand
16.	Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair	Art-Dance	Kerala
17.	Aruna Mohanty	Art-Dance	Odisha
18.	Bharathi Vishnuvardhan	Art-Cinema	Karnataka
19.	Sadhu Meher	Art-Cinema	Odisha
20.	T K Murthy	Art-Music	Tamil Nadu

21.	Laishram Birendrakumar Singh	Art-Music	Manipur
22.	Krishna Ram Chaudhary	Art-Music	Uttar Pradesh
23.	Baoa Devi	Art-Painting	Bihar
24.	Tilak Gitai	Art-Painting	Rajasthan
25.	Dr. Prof. Aekka Yadagiri Rao	Art-Sculpture	Telangana
26.	Jitendra Haripal	Art-Music	Odisha
27.	Kailash Kher	Art-Music	Maharashtra
28.	Parassala B Ponnammal	Art-Music	Kerala
29.	Sukri Bommagowda	Art-Music	Karnataka
30.	Mukund Nayak	Art-Music	Jharkhand
31.	Purushottam Upadhyay	Art-Music	Gujarat
32.	Anuradha Paudwal	Art-Music	Maharashtra
33.	Wareppa Naba Nil	Art-Theatre	Manipur
34.	Tripuraneni Hanuman Chowdary	Civil Service	Telangana
35.	T.K. Viswanathan	Civil Service	Haryana
36.	Kanwal Sibal	Civil Service	Delhi
37.	Birkha Bahadur Limboo Muringla	Literature & Education	Sikkim
38.	Eli Ahmed	Literature & Education	Assam
39.	Dr. Narendra Kohli	Literature & Education	Delhi
40.	Prof. G. Venkatasubbiah	Literature & Education	Karnataka
41.	Akkitham Achyuthan Namboothiri	Literature & Education	Kerala
42.	Kashi Nath Pandita	Literature & Education	Jammu & Kashmir
43.	Chamu Krishna Shastry	Literature & Education	Delhi
44.	Harihar Kripalu Tripathi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
45.	Michel Danino	Literature & Education	Tamil Nadu
46.	Punam Suri	Literature & Education	Delhi
47.	VG Patel	Literature & Education	Gujarat
48.	V Koteswaramma	Literature & Education	Andhra Pradesh
49.	Balbir Dutt	Literature & Education-Journalism	Jharkhand
50.	Bhawana Somaaya	Literature & Education-Journalism	Maharashtra
51.	Vishnu Pandya	Literature & Education-Journalism	Gujarat
52.	Dr. Subroto Das	Medicine	Gujarat
53.	Dr. (Smt.) Bhakti Yadav	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
54.	Dr. Mohammed Abdul Waheed	Medicine	Telangana
55.	Dr. Madan Madhav Godbole	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh

56.	Dr. Devendra Dayabhai Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
57.	Prof. Harkishan Singh	Medicine	Chandigarh
58.	Dr. Mukut Minz	Medicine	Chandigarh
59.	Arun Kumar Sharma	Others-Archaeology	Chhattisgarh
60.	Sanjeev Kapoor	Others-Culinary	Maharashtra
61.	Meenakshi Amma	Others-Martial Art	Kerala
62.	Genabhai Dargabhai Patel	Others-Agriculture	Gujarat
63.	Chandrakant Pithawa	Science & Engineering	Telangana
64.	Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray	Science & Engineering	West Bengal
65.	Chintakindi Malleshham	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
66.	Jitendra Nath Goswami	Science & Engineering	Assam
67.	Daripalli Ramaiah	Social Work	Telangana
68.	Girish Bhardwaj	Social Work	Karnataka
69.	Karimul Hak	Social Work	West Bengal
70.	Bipin Ganatra	Social Work	West Bengal
71.	Nivedita Raghunath Bhide	Social work	Tamil Nadu
72.	Appasaheb Dharmadhikari	Social Work	Maharashtra
73.	Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal	Social Work	Punjab
74.	Virat Kohli	Sports-Cricket	Delhi
75.	Shekar Naik	Sports-Cricket	Karnataka
76.	Vikasa Gowda	Sports-Discus Throw	Karnataka
77.	Deepa Malik	Sports-Athletics	Haryana
78.	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Sports-Athletics	Tamil Nadu
79.	Dipa Karmakar	Sports-Gymnastics	Tripura
80.	P R Shreejesh	Sports-Hockey	Kerala
81.	Sakshi Malik	Sports-Wrestling	Haryana
82.	Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu	Trade & Industry	Telangana
83.	Imrat Khan (NRI/PIO)	Art-Music	USA
84.	Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education	USA
85.	H.R. Shah (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education-Journalism	USA
86.	Late (Smt.) Suniti Solomon (Posthumous)	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
87.	Asoke Kumar Bhattacharyya (Posthumous)	Others-Archaeology	West Bengal
88.	Dr. Mapuskar (Posthumous)	Social Work	Maharashtra
89.	Anuradha Koirala (Foreigner)	Social Work	Nepal

Date	16–29 January
Edition	105th
Category	Grand Slam
Prize money	A\$ 50,000,000
Surface	Hard (Plexicushion)
Location	Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
Venue	Melbourne Park
Champions	
Men's Singles	Roger Federer
Women's Singles	Serena Williams
Men's Doubles	Henri Kontinen / John Peers
Women's Doubles	Bethanie Mattek-Sands / Lucie Šafářová
Mixed Doubles	Abigail Spears / Juan Sebastián Cabal
Boys' Singles	Zsombor Piros
Girls' Singles	Marta Kostyuk
Boys' Doubles	Hsu Yu-hsiou / Zhao Lingxi
Girls' Doubles	Bianca Andreescu / Carson Branstine
Wheelchair Men's Singles	Gustavo Fernández
Wheelchair Women's Singles	Yui Kamiji
Wheelchair Quad Singles	Dylan Alcott
Wheelchair Men's Doubles	Joachim Gérard / Gordon Reid
Wheelchair Women's Doubles	Jiske Griffioen / Aniek van Koot
Wheelchair Quad Doubles	Andrew Lapthorne / David Wagner

Introduction:

The 2017 Australian Open was a tennis tournament that took place at Melbourne Park between 16–29 January 2017.

It was the 105th edition of the Australian Open, and the first Grand Slam tournament of the year.

The tournament consisted of events for professional players in singles, doubles and mixed doubles play.



Junior and wheelchair players competed in singles and doubles tournaments.

Novak Djokovic and Angelique Kerber were the defending champions and both were unsuccessful in their title defense; they lost to Denis Istomin and Coco Vandeweghe in the second and fourth rounds, respectively.

Roger Federer won his eighteenth men's single Grand Slam title by defeating Rafael Nadal after a five-set final – his first major title since 2012.

Serena Williams overcame her sister Venus Williams in the women's singles final, surpassing Steffi Graf to become the tennis player with most Major wins (male or female) in the Open Era.

As in previous years, this year's tournament's title sponsor was Kia.

Some Interesting EVENTS:

Safarova, Mattek-Sands dance to doubles title

Second seeds Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova took out the Australian Open women's doubles title to be crowned Grand Slam champions for a fourth time.

The American-Czech pairing battled past 12th-seeded Andrea Hlavackova, also from the Czech Republic, and China's Peng Shuai 6-7 (4/7), 6-3, 6-3 on Rod Laver Arena.

Mattek-Sands and Safarova got the decisive break in the fourth game of the deciding set to go 3-1 up after Hlavackova sent down a double fault.

There was no looking back, with Mattek-Sands clinching the title with a volley as they jumped for joy and then celebrated with a dance routine in front of the trophy.

It was their fourth major title together, and ninth overall, after winning at Melbourne and Roland Garros in 2015 and at the US Open last year.

Serena Williams Beats Venus Williams to Win Her 7th Australian Open Title

Serena Williams won her seventh Australian Open singles title and reclaimed the No. 1 world ranking with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over her older sister Venus Williams.

Serena's latest triumph in tennis's great sibling rivalry also gave her a 23rd Grand Slam singles title, breaking her tie with Steffi Graf for the most in the Open era and putting her within one victory of Margaret Court's all-time record of 24.

This victory was Williams's 10th major singles title since turning 30, and she has broken her own record, set at Wimbledon last year, by becoming the oldest woman to win a Grand Slam singles title in the Open era. Venus, 36, became the oldest finalist in Grand Slam singles in the Open era.

At 35, Serena Williams is back on top after playing little in 2016 outside the Grand Slam events and losing the No. 1 ranking to Angelique Kerber, who defeated her in last year's Australian Open final.

Sania Mirza, Ivan Dodig end runner-up at Australian Open

Sania Mirza will have to wait for her seventh Grand Slam trophy as the Indian and her Croatian partner Ivan Dodig lost the Australian Open mixed doubles final 2-6 4-6 to underdogs Abigail Spears and Juan Sebastian Cabal at Melbourne on Sunday.

The second-seeded Indo-Croatian pair paid the price for the free-flowing unforced errors from the racquet of Dodig, who struggled with his serve and groundstrokes on Sunday.

It is second runners-up finish for Sania and Dodig together after losing the final of the 2016 French Open to Leander Paes and Martina Hingis.

Sania had won her first ever Grand Slam at the Australian Open when she won the mixed doubles with compatriot Mahesh Bhupathi in 2009 and the last of her three women's doubles Major trophies also came here last year with Martina Hingis.

Federer pips Nadal to win Australian Open

Swiss legend Roger Federer kept his nerves to fend off 14-time grand slam champion Rafael Nadal in a pulsating summit clash to clinch the men's singles title of the Australian Open.

The Swiss maestro defeated Nadal 6-4, 3-6, 6-1, 3-6, 6-3 at Rod Laver Arena in the final match that lasted for more than two-and-a-half hours.

Federer, the 17th seed, hit 73 winners, including 20 aces, and won 76 per cent of his first service points for victory in three hours and 37 minutes. The Spaniard, who went 4/17 in break points won, committed 28 unforced errors- 29 fewer than Federer.

It was Federer's fifth Australian Open title and 18th major crown in all.

With the win, the 35-year-old Swiss extended his lead over Nadal in the all-time major wins list to four with his first Melbourne Park crown since 2010, and his first major title win since Wimbledon 2012.

This was Federer's first win over Nadal in four meetings at the Australian Open. Federer also won his third major final over the Spaniard in nine attempts.

Federer will now rise to number 10 in the ATP Rankings.

MALES DOUBLES – BOB BRYAN AND MIKE BRYAN DEFEATED HENRI KONTINEN AND JOHN PEERS

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Q.1. What is the name of the Aadhaar based mobile payment application, which was recently launched by PM Narendra Modi?

- 1) BHIM 2) VYAPAAR
- 3) GRAHAK 4) GARV
- 5) PAY

Q.2. Who has been appointed as the new PM of Romania?

- 1) Dacian Cioloş
- 2) Sorin Cîmpeanu
- 3) Sorin Grindeanu
- 4) Victor Ponta
- 5) Gabriel Oprea

Q.3. Who has been awarded the 'Central Board of Irrigation and Power Award' for his contribution in the power distribution sector?

- 1) Archana Nigam
- 2) Arun Jain
- 3) Sambasiv Rao
- 4) Praveer Sinha
- 5) Ashish Nanda

Q.4. Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil who passed away recently, was a famous-

- 1) Sitarist 2) Director
- 3) Author 4) Journalist
- 5) Politician

Q.5. "Khullam Khulla" is the autobiography of which actor?

- 1) Rishi Kapoor
- 2) Emraan Hashmi
- 3) Ranveer Singh
- 4) Ranbir Kapoor
- 5) Akshay Kumar

Q.6. Which of the following is the strike range of Agni-IV missile?

- 1) 1000 Km 2) 2000 Km
- 3) 3000 Km 4) 4000 Km
- 5) 5000 Km

Q.7. Somdev Devvarman, who announced his retirement recently, is related to which sport?

- 1) Hockey 2) Shooting
- 3) Swimming 4) Badminton
- 5) Tennis

Q.8. Which state has become the first state in India to go fully organic?

- 1) Sikkim 2) Kerala
- 3) Tamil Nadu 4) Assam
- 5) Odisha

Q.9. Who took charge as the 27th Chief of Army Staff (CoAS) of India?

- 1) Dalbir Singh Suhag
- 2) Arup Raha
- 3) Bipin Rawat
- 4) B.S.Dhanao
- 5) Sunil Lanba

Q.10. Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a scheme to provide pregnant women financial aid of _____ as part of efforts to bring down the maternal mortality rate.

- 1) Rs. 10000 2) Rs. 2000
- 3) Rs. 8000 4) Rs. 4000
- 5) Rs. 6000

Q.11. According to HSBC Holdings data, which country is on top, among the countries offering the highest average annual salary to expatriates?

- 1) India 2) USA
- 3) France 4) UAE
- 5) Switzerland

Q.12. John Berger was a famous-

- 1) Novelist
- 2) Politician
- 3) Piano Player
- 4) Sports Person
- 5) Journalist

Q.13. Recently who took oath as the 25th Chief Justice of Pakistan?

- 1) Mamnoon Hussain
- 2) Nawaz Sharif
- 3) Mian Saqib Nisar

- 4) Sohail Aman
- 5) Muhammad Zakaullah

Q.14. In which state Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 104th Indian Science Congress?

- 1) Karnataka
- 2) Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Assam
- 5) Sikkim

Q.15. Which bank has launched a chatbot service called 'OnChat' to allow users to make payments through Facebook Messenger?

- 1) Axis Bank
- 2) HDFC Bank
- 3) ICICI Bank
- 4) SBI
- 5) Yes Bank

Q.16. How many Indian-origin innovators, entrepreneurs and leaders have been featured in the 2017 edition of Forbes list of 'super achievers' under the age of 30?

- 1) 10 2) 20
- 3) 30 4) 40
- 5) 50

Q.17. Name the first district in Maharashtra to issue Aadhaar cards to children aged from 0-5 years, who avail government health facilities for vaccination?

- 1) Osmanabad 2) Thane
- 3) Raigarh 4) Suburban
- 5) Solapur

Q.18. Which state Government has launched 'NTR Arogya Raksha Scheme' to provide the medical treatment to the people Above Poverty Line (APL) at Rs. 1200 premium per annum?

- 1) Sikkim
- 2) Andhra Pradesh
- 3) Odisha
- 4) Assam
- 5) Tamil Nadu

- Q.19.** Who has been appointed as the new Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India(RBI)?
1) Bharat Narotam Doshi
2) Shaktikanta Das
3) Nachiket M. Mor
4) Sudhir Mankad
5) Surekha Marandi
- Q.20.** Recently who has got its final approval by RBI in order to setup its Payment Bank in India?
1) MobiKwik
2) PayUMoney
3) Paytm
4) Citrus Pay
5) Freecharge
- Q.21.** Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan, who died recently was a famous-
1) Sitarist 2) Pianist
3) Actor 4) Director
5) Socialist
- Q.22.** With which country India has signed a MOU on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors?
1) Vietnam 2) Afghanistan
3) Uruguay 4) Bangladesh
5) Kenya
- Q.23.** Which country has won their fourth consecutive South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) women's championship title 2016?
1) Bangladesh 2) Pakistan
3) India 4) China
5) Japan
- Q.24.** Google CEO _____, announced two new initiatives for small and medium businesses in India - 'Digital Unlocked' and 'My Business Websites'.
1) Sundar Pichai
2) Larry page
3) Mark Zuckerberg
4) Jeff Bezos
5) Binny Bansal
- Q.25.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a postal stamp dedicated to Guru Gobind Singh to mark his ____ birth anniversary.
1) 150 2) 200
3) 250 4) 300
5) 350
- Q.26.** Who has declared the year 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development?
1) World Bank 2) WHO
3) ILO 4) UNGA
5) IMF
- Q.27.** Which bank has partnered with Gupshup, a leading bot platform, to launch 'Yes mPower' - a banking chat bot for its loan products?
1) Axis Bank 2) Yes Bank
3) ICICI Bank 4) HDFC Bank
5) SIDBI
- Q.28.** Who wrote Puri's biography titled 'Unlikely Hero: The Story Of Om Puri'?
1) Nandita Puri
2) Arundhati Roy
3) Amitav Ghosh
4) Vikram Seth
5) Jhumpa Lahiri
- Q.29.** Which country has launched its longest high-speed train 'Shangri-la of the World'?
1) Japan 2) Germany
3) China 4) USA
5) Hong Kong
- Q.30.** Name the Indian teenager, who has won the prestigious Travel Photographer Of The Year award 2016?
1) Darpan Basak
2) Ankit Kumar
3) Rahul Khosla
4) Vipin Rai
5) Both 1 and 2
- Q.31.** Who has been appointed as the brand ambassador of the Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) for its fire services in India?
1) Ranveer Singh
2) Randeep Hooda
3) Ranbir Kapoor
4) Jimmy Shergil
5) Irfan Khan
- Q.32.** According to SBI Research, what is the estimated GDP growth rate in the current fiscal(2016-17)?
1) 6.5 % 2) 6.6 %
3) 6.7 % 4) 6.8 %
5) 6.9 %
- Q.33.** "Matitali Kusti", a short film has won the Filmfare Award in non-fiction category, which is directed by?
1) Anurag Kashyap
2) Sujoy Ghosh
3) Neeraj Ghaywan
4) Shlok Sharma
5) Prantik Deshmukh
- Q.34.** Road Transport and Highways minister _____ will launch two mobile apps - 'm-Parivahan' and 'e-challan' - to enhance road safety.
1) Smriti Irani
2) Prakash Javadekar
3) Rajnath Singh
4) Nitin Gadkari
5) Arun Jaitley
- Q.35.** Who has announced Rs 1,000 monthly living wages for 'distressed lonely women' in the state?
1) N Chandrababu Naidu
2) Akhilesh Yadav
3) Devendra Fadanvis
4) Nitish Kumar
5) K Chandrasekhar Rao

Q.36. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a skill development program targeted at-

- 1) Youth
- 2) Women
- 3) Children
- 4) Poor
- 5) Differently-abled Person

Q.37. Which state has been conferred with the "National e-Governance award" at the 20th national conference on e-Governance?

- 1) Gurugram
- 2) Odisha
- 3) Tamil Nadu
- 4) Bihar
- 5) Punjab

Q.38. Who has won the prestigious Technical Achievement Award this year?

- 1) Divij Sharan
- 2) Purav Raja
- 3) Pankaj Advani
- 4) Aditya Mehta
- 5) Parag Havaldar

Q.39. Who has been awarded Infosys Prize 2016 in Humanities?

- 1) Aditya Mehta
- 2) Divij Sharan
- 3) Purav Raja
- 4) Parag Havaldar
- 5) Sunil Amrith

Q.40. Who has won the 2017 Qatar Open tennis title in the men's single category?

- 1) Rafael Nadal
- 2) Novak Djokovic
- 3) Andre Agasi
- 4) Andy Murray
- 5) Roger Federer

Q.41. Who inaugurated India's first international exchange –India INX — at the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) of GIFT City?

- 1) Pranab Mukherjee
- 2) Nirmala Sitaraman

- 3) M. Venkaiah Naidu
- 4) U.K.Sinha
- 5) Narendra Modi

Q.42. What is the name of the Pakistan's first submarine-launched nuclear-capable missile?

- 1) Babur-1
- 2) Babur-2
- 3) Babur-3
- 4) Babur-4
- 5) Babur-5

Q.43. Who among the following has won the FIFA Best Male Player Award for the 4th time?

- 1) Cristiano Ronaldo
- 2) Lionel Messi
- 3) Neymar
- 4) Luis Suarez
- 5) Paul Pogba

Q.44. Recently who has been appointed as the new chief executive officer (CEO) of Flipkart?

- 1) Binny Bansal
- 2) Jeff Bezos
- 3) Sunder Pichai
- 4) Mark Zuckerberg
- 5) Kalyan Krishnamurthy

Q.45. Who has been selected for Kerala's prestigious Harivaranam award-2017, in recognition of his contribution to religious harmony and national integration?

- 1) S.P. Balasubrahmanyam
- 2) K.J. Yesudas
- 3) Gangai Amaran
- 4) Parag Havaldar
- 5) Sunil Amrith

Q.46. How many Indian American scientists have been chosen for the Presidential Award 2016 by Barack Obama?

- 1) 2
- 2) 4
- 3) 6
- 4) 8
- 5) 10

Q.47. What is the name of the app launched by Indian Railways to facilitate booking of train tickets in a faster and easier way?

- 1) IRCTC Join
- 2) IRCTC Ticket
- 3) IRCTC Book
- 4) IRCTC Rail Connect
- 5) IRCTC Travel

Q.48. Which Airport has become the first aerodrome in the world to adopt unique performance and benchmarking digital platform?

- 1) Lucknow
- 2) Chennai
- 3) Bengaluru
- 4) Mumbai
- 5) Delhi

Q.49. The two day 20th National Conference on e-Governance concluded in-

- 1) Visakhapatnam
- 2) Bengaluru
- 3) Pune
- 4) New Delhi
- 5) Gandhinagar

Q.50. The 21st National Youth Festival will commence on which place?

- 1) Kaithal
- 2) Mewat
- 3) Hisar
- 4) Rohtak
- 5) Bhiwani

Q.51. With which country India has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the field of cyber Security?

- 1) USA
- 2) Vietnam
- 3) Israel
- 4) France
- 5) China

Q.52. What is the name of first Asian to become the President of the World Alliance of YMCA?

- 1) Rana Kapoor
- 2) Roman Herzog
- 3) K.M. Philip
- 4) Pankaj Lal
- 5) Manish Arora

- Q.53.** Famous rhythmic gymnast Yana Kudryavtseva announced her retirement at the age of 19. She hails from which country?
- 1) Russia
 - 2) Turkey
 - 3) Netherlands
 - 4) Romania
 - 5) Belgium
- Q.54.** Where did Digidhan Mela started?
- 1) Gandhi Nagar
 - 2) Namchi
 - 3) Shillong
 - 4) Silchar
 - 5) Guwahati
- Q.55.** Which country has recently announced to have 100% wind powered trains in the country after 1 Jan 2017 ?
- 1) Germany
 - 2) Turkey
 - 3) Netherland
 - 4) China
 - 5) Japan
- Q.56.** Who has been awarded with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by US President Barak Obama?
- 1) Joe Biden
 - 2) Michael Blake
 - 3) Anthony Brindisi
 - 4) Brian Curran
 - 5) Sandy Galef
- Q.57.** Which of the following is a guided rocket, which was successfully test fired from the Integrated Test Range situated in Chandipur?
- 1) Pinaka Mark I
 - 2) Pinaka Mark II
 - 3) Pinaka Mark III
 - 4) Pinaka Mark IV
 - 5) Pinaka Mark V
- Q.58.** What is the name of the India's first ever solar powered boat, which was launched at Kochi's Vembanad lake in Kerala?
- 1) Rahul
 - 2) Aditya
 - 3) Nikhil
 - 4) Ankit
 - 5) Vijay
- Q.59.** What is India's Rank, according to the latest FIFA rankings?
- 1) 126
 - 2) 127
 - 3) 128
 - 4) 129
 - 5) 130
- Q.60.** India's first Madame Tussauds museum to open in which city?
- 1) Mumbai
 - 2) Pune
 - 3) Bengaluru
 - 4) Jaipur
 - 5) Delhi
- Q.61.** World Employment and Social Outlook report is published by whom?
- 1) ILO
 - 2) IMF
 - 3) World Bank
 - 4) ADB
 - 5) WHO
- Q.62.** Continuing a yearly tradition, US President Barack Obama signed a proclamation to declare which day as 'Religious Freedom Day'?
- 1) January 14
 - 2) January 15
 - 3) January 16
 - 4) January 17
 - 5) January 18
- Q.63.** Who is the author of the famous novel 'The Exorcist'?
- 1) John Grisham
 - 2) J K Rowling
 - 3) Nora Roberts
 - 4) William Peter Blatty
 - 5) Khaled Hosseini
- Q.64.** Who has launched 'Sanchar Aadhar' for Aadhar based eKYC and digital customer engagement?
- 1) Tata Docomo
 - 2) Idea
 - 3) Vodafone
 - 4) Airtel
 - 5) BSNL
- Q.65.** Which country inaugurated its first 'robot pharmacy' recently?
- 1) India
 - 2) UAE
 - 3) USA
 - 4) France
 - 5) China
- Q.66.** Who has won the best actor male in the 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards 2017?
- 1) Amir Khan
 - 2) Shahrukh Khan
 - 3) Salman Khan
 - 4) Ranvir Singh
 - 5) Sushant Singh Rajput
- Q.67.** A Mobile app named 'SEZ India' has been launched by-
- 1) Ministry of Communications
 - 2) Ministry of Civil Aviation
 - 3) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
 - 4) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
 - 5) Ministry of Textiles
- Q.68.** Which state inaugurated 'Digital Dakiya' scheme to encourage cashless transactions?
- 1) Tamil Nadu
 - 2) Maharashtra
 - 3) Bihar
 - 4) Madhya Pradesh
 - 5) Sikkim
- Q.69.** The Book, 'Jinnah Often Came to Our House' is authored by-
- 1) Kiran Desai
 - 2) Arundhati Roy
 - 3) Jhumpa Lahiri
 - 4) Kiran Doshi
 - 5) Meira Kumar
- Q.70.** The five-day 25th Asia-Pacific Parliamentary Forum (APPF) started in-
- 1) Cuba
 - 2) Canada
 - 3) Bolivia
 - 4) Bulgaria
 - 5) Fiji
- Q.71.** According to a World Economic Forum (WEF) report, what is India's rank in the inclusive development index 2017?
- 1) 20
 - 2) 30
 - 3) 40
 - 4) 50
 - 5) 60

Q.72. According to the '2017 Edelman Trust Barometer', which country is the most trusted nation in terms of its institutions by general population?

- 1) China 2) India
- 3) France 4) USA
- 5) Japan

Q.73. Which country is on top position in the list of global index of talent competitiveness 2017?

- 1) India 2) China
- 3) France 4) Switzerland
- 5) Pakistan

Q.74. "An Unsuitable Boy", is the biography of which actor?

- 1) Shahrukh Khan
- 2) Karan Johar
- 3) Salman Khan
- 4) Farhan Akhtar
- 5) Akshay Khanna

Q.75. Recently which player has been named in Forbes' 30 under 30 list for Europe in the 'Social Stars' category?

- 1) Cristiano Ronaldo
- 2) Luis Suarez
- 3) Lionel Messi
- 4) Paul Pogba
- 5) Roger Federer

Q.76. Who has won the 2016 T.S. Eliot prize for his fourth collection, 'Jackself'?

- 1) Eugene Carnan
- 2) Kiran Doshi
- 3) William Peter Blatty
- 4) Jacob Polley
- 5) Buddy Greco

Q.77. Who has been elected president of the European Parliament?

- 1) Gianni Infantino
- 2) Oliver Smithies
- 3) Rafael Correa
- 4) Elon Musk
- 5) Antonio Tajani

Q.78. According to the annual global CEO survey of consultancy giant PwC, which country is on top position in context to top markets from the growth point of view?

- 1) India 2) China
- 3) USA 4) Germany
- 5) UK

Q.79. The 11th Asian Film Awards is going to be held in-

- 1) Hong Kong 2) China
- 3) Japan 4) Singapore
- 5) Mauritius

Q.80. According to the global ranking of the world's most powerful passports, which country is on top position?

- 1) India 2) Afghanistan
- 3) China 4) Singapore
- 5) Germany

Q.81. MICR Code comprises 9 digits. Where can we find it on a simple cheque?

- 1) right at the top
- 2) top left hand corner
- 3) at bottom in center
- 4) it is not there on the cheque
- 5) other than the given options

Q.82. Which banks are referred as the Schedule Banks?

- 1) Included in the 2nd schedule of the Banking Regulation Act 1949
- 2) Included in the 2nd schedule of the Reserve Bank of India Act 1934
- 3) Included in the 2nd schedule of the Companies Act 1956
- 4) Included in the Bank Nationalization Act 1969
- 5) None of these

Q.83. Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched a dedicated web portal _____ for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

- 1) Dhruv 2) Shiksha
- 3) Shagun 4) Drishti
- 5) Ujala

Q.84. According to the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 report, India's economy is projected to grow by ____ per cent in the financial year 2017.

- 1) 7.6 percent 2) 6.7 percent
- 3) 7 percent 4) 7.7 percent
- 5) 7.5 percent

Q.85. According to JLL's fourth annual City Momentum Index, which Indian state has topped the world's 30 most dynamic places list?

- 1) Pune 2) Chennai
- 3) Bengaluru 4) Mumbai
- 5) Delhi

Q.86. Who has authored the book 'The Untold Vajpayee: Politician and Paradox'?

- 1) Arundhati Roy
- 2) Jhumpa Lahiri
- 3) Amitav Ghosh
- 4) Ullekh NP
- 5) Arvind Adiga

Q.87. CV Vishveshwara who died recently, was related to which field?

- 1) Science 2) Literature
- 3) Politics 4) Cinema
- 5) Journalism

Q.88. When at the end of the day, all transactions are entered for the purpose of updation of records stored in the computer, it is called _____.

- 1) Real time operation
- 2) Online update
- 3) Offline update
- 4) batch update
- 5) None of these

Q.89. Which of the following is the parliament of Bangladesh ?

- 1) Majlis
- 2) Shura
- 3) Jatiyo Sangshad
- 4) Jirga
- 5) Sangosthi

Q.90. Which of the following is correct regarding the amount of withdrawal from currency chest?

- 1) Min. Rs. 1 Lac and thereafter in multiple of Rs. 1 Lac.
- 2) Min. Rs. 1 Lac and thereafter in multiple of Rs. 50,000.
- 3) Min. Rs. 5 Lac and thereafter in multiple of Rs. 10 Lac.
- 4) Min. Rs. 5 Lac and thereafter in multiple of Rs. 5 Lac.
- 5) None of these

Q.91. Who among the following has been appointed as the Director of CBI, country's premier investigating agency?

- 1) Bipin Rawat
- 2) Alok Kumar Verma
- 3) J.S.Khehar
- 4) Anil Bajjal
- 5) Arup Raha

Q.92. Which of the following is the oldest Stock Exchange of Asia?

- 1) Bombay Stock Exchange

- 2) National Stock Exchange
- 3) Multi Commodity Exchange
- 4) Hong Kong Stock Exchange
- 5) Shanghai Stock Exchange

Q.93. Adama Barrow was sworn in as the third President of-

- 1) Mali
- 2) Senegal
- 3) Ghana
- 4) Nigeria
- 5) Gambia

Q.94. Which e-commerce giant became the major sponsor of Olympic Games until 2028?

- 1) Snapdeal
- 2) Flipkart
- 3) Alibaba
- 4) Amazon
- 5) Ebay

Q.95. Wax statue of whom was recently unveiled at Madame Tussauds museum?

- 1) Priyanka Chopra
- 2) Narendra Modi
- 3) Donald Trump
- 4) Rahul Gandhi
- 5) Sonia Gandhi

Q.96. The terms drawer, drawee and payee are associated with-

- 1) Cheques
- 2) Promissory notes
- 3) Delivery order
- 4) Hundies
- 5) None of these

Q.97. Paper currencies of our country are issued by RBI under -

- 1) Section- 22 of the RBI act -1934
- 2) Section- 24 of the RBI act -1934
- 3) Section- 28 of the RBI act -1934
- 4) Section -29 of the RBI act-1934
- 5) None of these

Q.98. The government has barred _____ from accepting deposits under the new tax amnesty scheme Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY).

- 1) RBI
- 2) Cooperative banks
- 3) RRB's
- 4) PSB
- 5) Foreign Banks

Q.99. Who has become the first Indian American judge to be elected the south-eastern US state?

- 1) A.K.Mittal
- 2) Nitesh Tiwari
- 3) Rupen R. Shah
- 4) Alok Kumar Verma
- 5) Praful Patel

Q.100. Karang is a small lake island situated in-

- 1) Sikkim
- 2) Assam
- 3) Himachal Pradesh
- 4) Tamil Nadu
- 5) Manipur

ANSWER - GENERAL AWARENESS

Q.1.(1).	Q.2.(3).	Q.3.(4).	Q.4.(5).	Q.5.(1).	Q.6.(4).	Q.7.(5).	Q.8.(1).	Q.9.(3).	Q.10.(5).
Q.11.(5).	Q.12.(1).	Q.13.(3).	Q.14.(2).	Q.15.(2).	Q.16.(3).	Q.17.(1).	Q.18.(2).	Q.19.(5).	Q.20.(3).
Q.21.(1).	Q.22.(5).	Q.23.(3).	Q.24.(1).	Q.25.(5).	Q.26.(4).	Q.27.(2).	Q.28.(1).	Q.29.(3).	Q.30.(5).
Q.31.(2).	Q.32.(3).	Q.33.(5).	Q.34.(4).	Q.35.(5).	Q.36.(1).	Q.37.(1).	Q.38.(5).	Q.39.(5).	Q.40.(2).
Q.41.(5).	Q.42.(3).	Q.43.(1).	Q.44.(5).	Q.45.(3).	Q.46.(2).	Q.47.(4).	Q.48.(5).	Q.49.(1).	Q.50.(4).
Q.51.(1).	Q.52.(3).	Q.53.(1).	Q.54.(5).	Q.55.(3).	Q.56.(1).	Q.57.(2).	Q.58.(2).	Q.59.(4).	Q.60.(5).
Q.61.(1).	Q.62.(3).	Q.63.(4).	Q.64.(5).	Q.65.(2).	Q.66.(1).	Q.67.(3).	Q.68.(4).	Q.69.(4).	Q.70.(5).
Q.71.(5).	Q.72.(1).	Q.73.(4).	Q.74.(2).	Q.75.(2).	Q.76.(4).	Q.77.(5).	Q.78.(3).	Q.79.(1).	Q.80.(5).
Q.81.(3).	Q.82.(2).	Q.83.(3).	Q.84.(4).	Q.85.(3).	Q.86.(4).	Q.87.(1).	Q.88.(4).	Q.89.(3).	Q.90.(2).
Q.91.(2).	Q.92.(1).	Q.93.(5).	Q.94.(3).	Q.95.(3).	Q.96.(1).	Q.97.(1).	Q.98.(2).	Q.99.(3).	Q.100.(5).

Q.1. Which of the following country will host the FIFA world cup 2018?

- 1) Russia 2) Qatar
- 3) Beijing 4) Australia
- 5) Germany

Ans-1)

Source: The Indian express

Q.2. Who has been appointed as a brand ambassador of nutricharge woman?

- 1) Saniya Mirza
- 2) Saina Nehwal
- 3) Sakshi Malik
- 4) Priyanka Chopra
- 5) PV Sindhu

Ans-1)

Source: Dainik jagran

Q.3. Which Indian batsman is ranked second in ICC's latest test ranking?

- 1) Yuvraj Singh
- 2) R. Ashwin
- 3) Virat Kohli
- 4) Cheteshwar Pujara
- 5) Ajinkya Rahane

Ans-3)

Source: The Indian express

Q.4. Recently, Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani has passed away, he was the former president of which country?

- 1) Russia 2) Iran
- 3) Iraq 4) Afghanistan
- 5) Turkmenistan

Ans-2)

Source: The times of India

Q.5. Novak Djokovic has won Qatar open title 2017 by defeating which tennis player?

- 1) Roger Federer
- 2) Rafael Nadal
- 3) Andy Murray
- 4) Pete Sampras
- 5) Stan Wawrinka

Ans-3)

Source: The Indian express

Q.6. Who has won the third Kolkata open national invitational snooker championship 2017?

- 1) Devendra Joshi
- 2) Ashok Shandilya
- 3) Sourav Kothari
- 4) Aditya Mehta
- 5) Pankaj Advani

Ans-5)

Source: The Indian express

Q.7. Recently, who has resigned the post of PepsiCo India sales head?

- 1) D Shivakumar
- 2) Muktar kant
- 3) Pratik Pota
- 4) Harsh Rai
- 5) Kimsuka Narsimhan

Ans-3)

Source: The times of India

Q.8. Who has clinched his fifth ATP singles title at the Chennai open 2017?

- 1) Danill Medvedev
- 2) Rohan Bopanna
- 3) Leander Paes
- 4) Roberto Bantista Agut
- 5) Mahesh Bhupathi

Ans-4)

Source: The Indian express

Q.9. What was the name of India's oldest first time voter, who died recently?

- 1) Intizar Hussain
- 2) Ustad Rashid
- 3) Balamram Jakhar
- 4) Asgar Ali
- 5) Om puri

Ans-4)

Source: The Indian express

Q.10. Recently, Who has been awarded Infosys prize 2016 in humanities?

- 1) Umesh Waghmare
- 2) Jonardon Ganeri
- 3) Sunil Amrith
- 4) Amit Sharma
- 5) G Ravindra Kumar

Ans-3)

Source: The Hindu

Q.11. China's Economy likely to grow _____ in 2016 by the top economic planner?

- 1) 6.5% 2) 6.7%
- 3) 6.8% 4) 6.9%
- 5) 6.1%

Ans-2)

Source: The economic times

Q.12. Which actor has inaugurated the 28th edition of the road safety week in Mumbai?

- 1) Shahrukh Khan
- 2) Salman Khan
- 3) Amir Khan
- 4) Amitabh Bachchan
- 5) Akshay Kumar

Ans-4

Source: The times of India

Q.13. Recently which state has launched a pilot project on cashless transactions?

- 1) Haryana
- 2) Madhya Pradesh
- 3) Rajasthan
- 4) Maharashtra
- 5) Uttar Pradesh

Ans- 3)

Source: The financial express

Q.14. Which airport has become the first aerodrome in the world to adopt digital platform Arc?

- 1) Delhi 2) Lucknow
- 3) Bengaluru 4) Mumbai
- 5) Chandigarh

Ans-1)

Source: The economic times

Q.15. According to World Bank, the estimated GDP growth of India is projected at _____ for the current fiscal?

- 1) 7% 2) 7.6%
- 3) 7.5% 4) 7.2%
- 5) 7.7%

Ans-1

Source: The economic times

Q.16. Recently, Ramu Sharma has passed away, he was a famous_____.

- 1) Politician
- 2) Author
- 3) Sport editor
- 4) Social worker
- 5) Singer

Ans-3)

Source: The times of India

Q.17. Recently which country has started 1st solar powered road in the world?

- 1) China
- 2) USA
- 3) France
- 4) India
- 5) Japan

Ans-3)

Source: The economic times

Q.18. What is the name of the Pakistan's first nuclear-capable missile launched by submarine?

- 1) Babur-2
- 2) Babur -3
- 3) Babur-4
- 4) Babur-5
- 5) Babur-6

Ans- 2

Source: The times of India

Q.19. In which of the following city PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated the Nobel Prize series exhibition?

- 1) New Delhi
- 2) Hyderabad
- 3) Bengaluru
- 4) Gandhinagar
- 5) Lucknow

Ans-4)

Source: The times of India

Q.20. Recently who has won Scottish Junior Open squash title 2017?

- 1) Ben Robert
- 2) Juan Jose
- 3) Shreyas Mehta
- 4) Amirah Rosli
- 5) Mukunth Gopalakrishnan

Ans-3)

Source: The Indian express

Q.21. Which e-commerce company has launched regional language support services for its sellers?

- 1) Flipkart
- 2) Amazon
- 3) Myntra
- 4) Jabong
- 5) ebay

Ans-2)

Source: The financial express

Q.22. According to IMF, the estimate of India's economic growth rate for FY 2016-17 is projected to be-

- 1) 7.6%
- 2) 6.6%
- 3) 6.5%
- 4) 7.0%
- 5) 7.6%

Ans-2)

Source: The Times of India

Q.23. WPI for December month has risen up from 3.15% to-

- 1) 3.39%
- 2) 3.4%
- 3) 3.36%
- 4) 3.16%
- 5) 8.65%

Ans-1)

Source: The times of India

Q.24. Who among the following has won 'The Hindu Prize 2016' for the novel 'Jinnah Often Came to Our House'?

- 1) Ritu Khoda
- 2) Vanita Pai
- 3) Kiran Doshi
- 4) Kiran Desai
- 5) Meira Kumar

Ans-3)

Source: The Hindu

Q.25. Who is the richest man in the world according to the International Organization Oxfam report 2017?

- 1) Amansio Ortega
- 2) Warren Buffett
- 3) Jeff Bejons
- 4) Mark Zuckerberg
- 5) Bill Gates

Ans-5)

Source: dainik jagran

Q.26. Who is the richest man in India according to the International Organization Oxfam report 2017?

- 1) Deelip Shanghvi
- 2) Ajij Premji
- 3) Lakshmi Mittal

- 4) Uday Kotak
- 5) Mukesh Ambani

Ans-5)

Source: The financial express

Q.27. Who has been appointed as new managing director of Coring India?

- 1) Thomas Appelt
- 2) Subhas Sethi
- 3) Raj rana
- 4) Amit Bansal
- 5) Amit Tripathi

Ans-4)

Source: The financial express

Q.28. Which country has topped the list of global talent competitiveness index 2017?

- 1) Australia
- 2) Switzerland
- 3) Singapore
- 4) United Kingdom
- 5) United states

Ans-2)

Source: The financial express

Q.29. Who has been appointed as the president of BMW group India?

- 1) Sambit Mohanty
- 2) Leo Burnett
- 3) ALT Balaji
- 4) Jason Kothari
- 5) Vikram Pawah

Source: The financial express

Q.30. What is India's rank in global talent competitiveness index 2017?

- 1) 92nd
- 2) 89th
- 3) 94th
- 4) 95th
- 5) 56th

Ans-2)

Source: The financial express

Q.31. Which city has launched Jan Dhan Aadhaar mobile application for property registration?

- 1) Ludhiana
- 2) Amritsar
- 3) Chandigarh
- 4) Jalandhar
- 5) Patiala

Ans - 3)

Source: The Indian Express

Q.32. To which of the following company has RBI given approval to set up payment bank for digital payment?

- 1) Mobikwik
- 2) Paytm
- 3) Citrus pay
- 4) Pay U money
- 5) None of these

Ans-2)

Source: the Indian Express

Q.33. With which bank Hindustan Coca-Cola beverages, the bottling arm of Coca-Cola in India, has tied up for digital solution?

- 1) PNB
- 2) BOB
- 3) SBI
- 4) Axis
- 5) ICICI

Ans-3)

Source: The Financial Express

Q.34. Who has been appointed as Executive Director of RBI?

- 1) US Paliwal
- 2) Surekha Marandi
- 3) Usha Ananta Subramanian
- 4) Arundhati Bhattacharya
- 5) Shikha Sharma

Source: The Indian Express

Q.35. Recently, RBI has impose fine **Source:** The Hindu

of what amount on Mumbai district Co-operative bank for violating Know-Your-Customer and anti-money laundering norms?

- 1) 5 lakh
- 2) 10 lakh
- 3) 2 lakh
- 4) 15 lakh
- 5) 1 lakh

Ans-5)

Source: The Financial Express

Q.36. Who has succeeded T.S Thakur as the new Chief Justice India?

- 1) V.N Khare
- 2) Altamas Kabir
- 3) P.Sathasivam
- 4) J.S Khehar
- 5) Rajendra Mal Lodha

Ans-4)

Source: The Indian Express

Q.37. In which of the following year India will be among the top three countries in science and technology and will be among the most attractive destinations for the best talent in the world?

- 1) 2020
- 2) 2025
- 3) 2030
- 4) 2019
- 5) 2021

Ans-3)

Q.38. Who has been appointed as a bowling coach of Kolkata Knight Riders?

- 1) Washim Akram
- 2) A.R Srikanth
- 3) Laksmipathy Balaji
- 4) Simon Katich
- 5) Joy Bhattacharya

Ans-3)

Source: The Indian Express

Q.39. Recently which Indian bourse has got approval for its IPO by SEBI?

- 1) NSE
- 2) MCX
- 3) BSE
- 4) CSE
- 5) MSE

Ans-3)

Source: The Indian Express

Q.40. According to the recent announcement by RBI, what is extended date up to which foreigners can exchange Indian currency?

- 1) 30 Jan 2017
- 2) 31 Jan 2017
- 3) 31 March 2017
- 4) 31 May 2017
- 5) 31 December 2017

Ans-2)

Source: The Indian Express

"Examination is Near, No Fear Dear"



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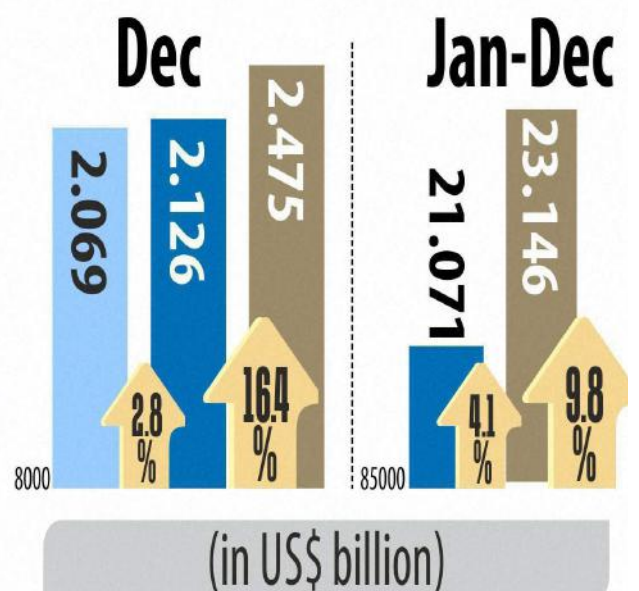
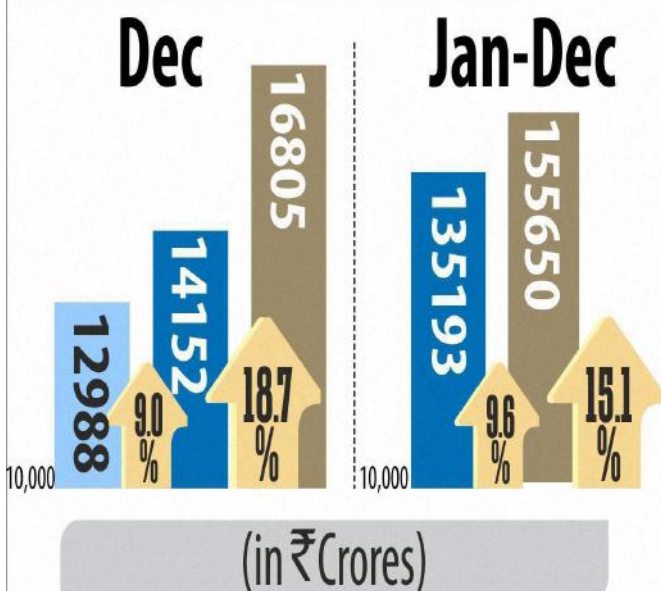
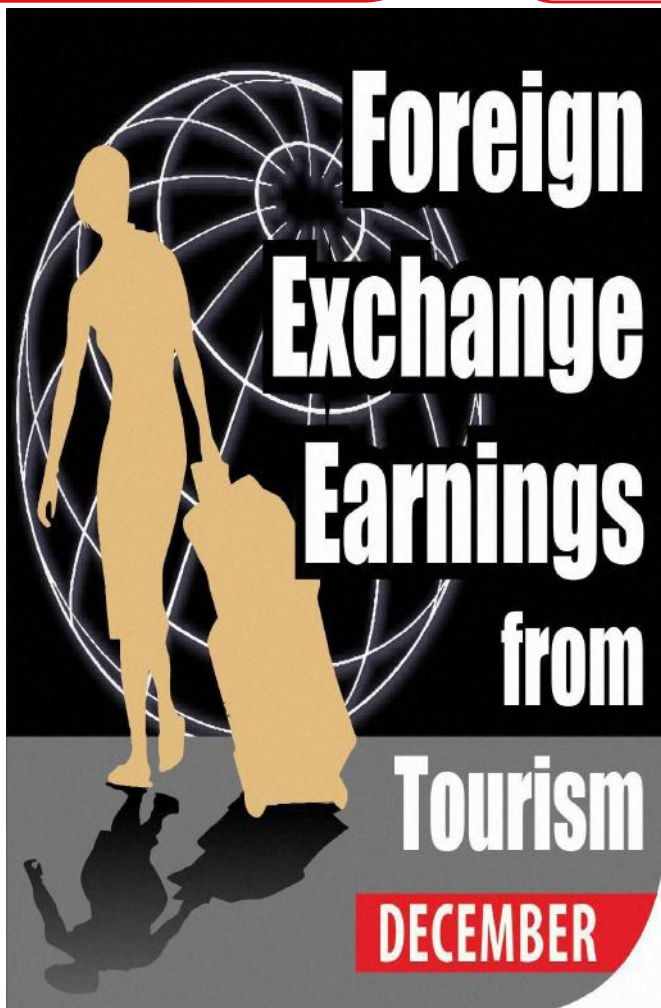
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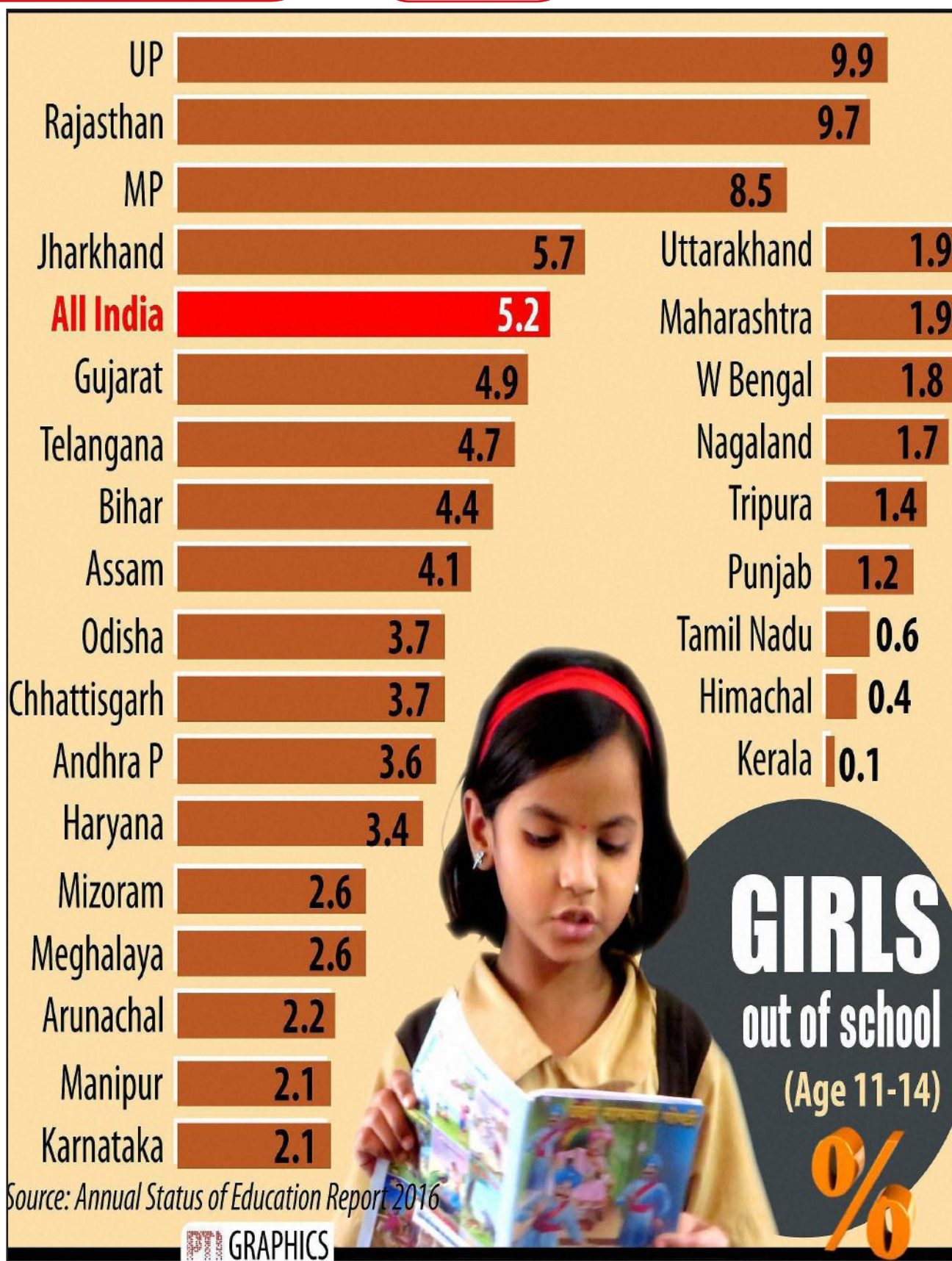
**Service charge on hotel/
restaurant bill is not compulsory**

✦ **Service charge is voluntary
and a customer dissatisfied
with dining experience can
have it waived**

✦ **Govt asks states to ensure
hotels and restaurants display
information on service charges**

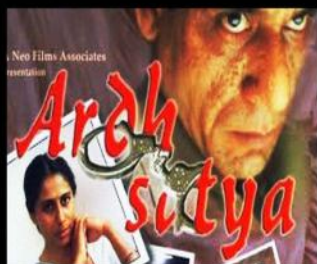
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Indian actor- Art films to mainstream commercial Indian, British, and American films... independent films

OM PURI Passes Away



Best-known for his author-backed roles in films like Aakrosh (1980), Arohan (1982) and television films like Sadgati (1981) and Tamas (1987) and also light-hearted roles in Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro (1983) and Chachi 420 (1997).

He had various collaborations with director Shyam Benegal and Govind Nihalani

Om Prakesh Puri

Born: 18 October 1950

Ambala, Punjab, India

Died: 6 January 2017

(aged 66) Mumbai

Cause of death: Heart attack

Education: National School of Drama, Film and Television

Institute of India

Occupation: Actor

Years active:

1972–2017

Awards:

Padma Shri,
National Film Awards



Awards

1981: Filmfare Best Supporting Actor for Aakrosh

1981: National Film Award for Best Actor for Arohan

1983: National Film Award for Best Actor for Ardh Satya

1984: Karlovy Vary Intl. Film Festival Best Actor for Ardh Satya

1998: Brussels Intl. Film Festival Best Actor for My Son the Fanatic



Source: Wikipedia

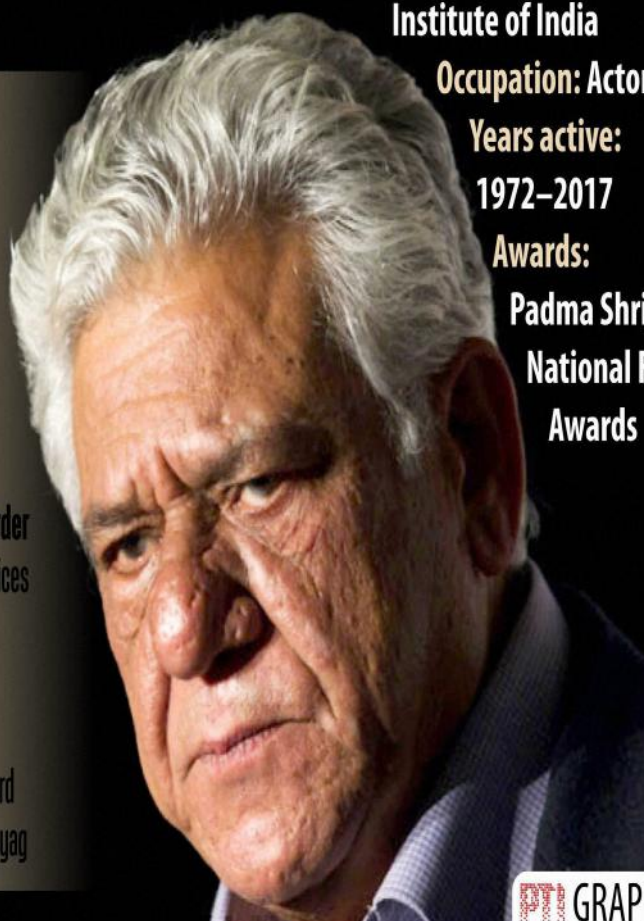
1990: Padma Shri

1998: Grand Prix Special des Amériques Montréal World Film Festival for exceptional contribution to the cinematographic art

2004: Honorary Officer of the Order of the British Empire for services to The British Film Industry

2009: Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award

2015: Lifetime Achievement Award International Film Festival of Prayag



GRAPHICS

WHO'S WHO		
S.No.	DESIGNATION	NAME
1.	Chairman, Rajya Sabha	Mohd.Hamid Ansari
2.	Chairperson of Lok Sabha	Sumitra Mahajan
3.	Chairman of NITI Ayog	Narendra D Modi
4.	Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha	Gulam Nabi Azad
5.	Leader of House in Lok Sabha	Narendra D Modi
6.	Leader of Congress in Lok Sabha	Mallikarjun Kharge
7.	Chief Election Commissioner	Syed Nasim Ahmed Zaidi
8.	Election Commissioner	Om Prakash Rawat
9.	Election Commissioner	Achal kumar jyoti
10.	Chief Vigilance Commissioner	K V chaudhary
11.	Foreign Secretary	Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
12.	Comptroller & Auditor General of India	Shashi Kant Sharma
13.	Chairman, National Commission for Backward Classes	Jus. Vangala Eswaraiah
14.	Chairman, Telecom Regulatory Authority of India	R. S Sharma
15.	CBI Director	Anil Kumar Sinha
16.	Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes	Rameshwar Oraon
17.	Chairperson, National Commission for Minorities	Naseem Ahmed
18.	Chairman, UPSC	Deepak Gupta
19.	Director General, National Investigation Agency	Sharad Kumar
20.	Chairman, UGC	Ved Prakash
21.	Chairman, Space Commission and ISRO	A S Kiran kumar
22.	Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Sec. Deptt. of Atomic Energy	Sekhar Basu
23.	Chairman, SSC	Ashim Khurana
24.	Chairman, National Human Rights Commission	Justice H.L. Dattu
25.	Registrar General of India and Census Commissioner	Sailesh
26.	Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes	Sushil Chandra
27.	Chairman, Insurance Regulatory Development Authority	T.S. Vijayan
28.	Chairman, Securities & Exchange Board of India	Upendra Kr. Sinha
29.	Chairperson, State Bank of India	Arundhati Bhattacharya
30.	Chairman, LIC	V.K. Sharma
31.	India's permanent representative in UNO	Syed Akbaruddin
32.	Home Secretary	Rajiv Mehrishi
33.	Chairperson of National Commission for Women	Lalitha Kumaramanglam
34.	Chairman, 14th Finance Commission	Y.Venugopal Reddy
35.	Chairman, Competition Commission of India	Devendra Kumar Sikri
36.	Chairperson, Central Board of Film Certification	Pahlaj Nihalani
37.	President, ASSOCHAM	Sunil kanoria
38.	Chairman, NASSCOM	C.P. Gurnani
39.	New Chief of Army Staff	Bipin Rawat
40.	Director General, RAW	Anil Dhasmana
41.	Chairperson, Children Film Society of India	Mukesh Khanna
42.	Director, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre	Kamlesh Nilkanth Vyas
43.	President, CII	Dr. Naushad Forbes
44.	President, FICCI	Harshvardhan Neotia
45.	Chairman, National Knowledge Commission	Sam Pitroda
46.	National Security Advisor	Ajit Doval
47.	Chairperson, Prasar Bharati	Dr. A. Surya Prakash
48.	Chairman, Investment Commission	Ratan Tata
49.	Finance Secretary	Ashok Lavasa
50.	Chairman, Indian Banks Association	T.M.Basin



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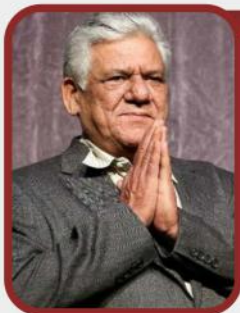


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TOP NOTCH CAPTIVATORS OF THE MONTH

1



Om Puri, a most versatile actor has died at the age of 66 years.

6



India becomes Associate Member State of CERN.

2



62nd Jio filmfare Awards have been awarded.

7



Helpline for Handloom Weavers 'Bunkar Mitra' starts functioning.

3



Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar was sworn in as the 44th Chief Justice of India.

8



Over 25,000 MoUs inked in Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit.

4



Miss France "Iris Mittenaere" Crowned Miss Universe 2017.

9



Agni-IV ballistic missile successfully test-fired from Balasore.

5



Anti-avoidance tax rule GAAR to kick in April 2017.

10



India women's football team beats Bangladesh to lift 4th SAFF Championship.



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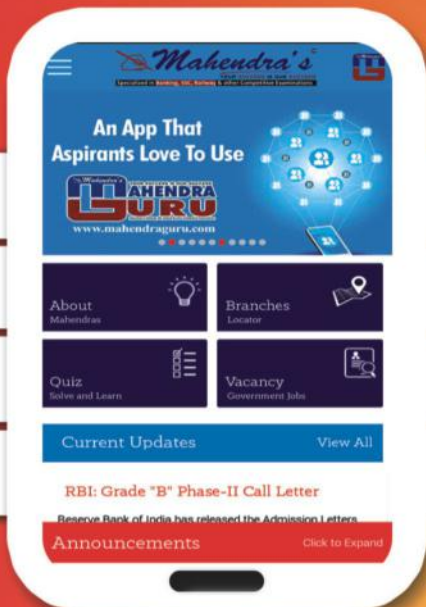
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