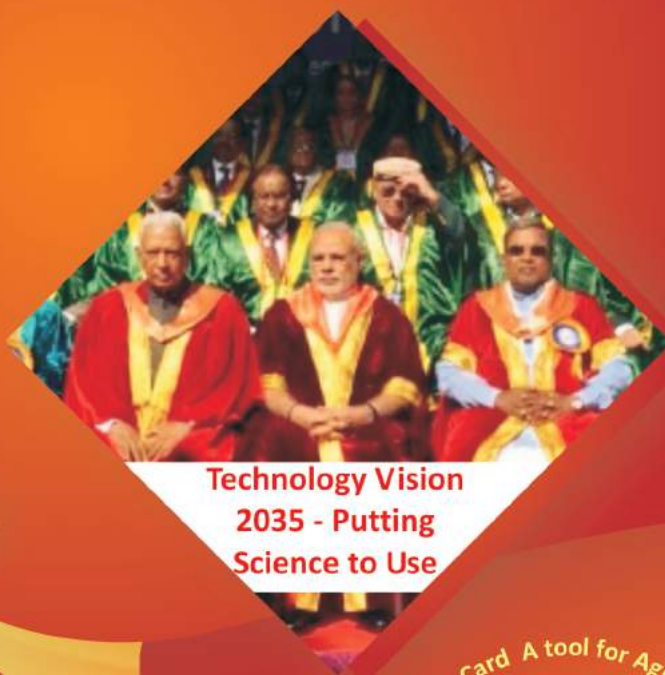


# Master in Current Affairs

*For All Competitive Exams ...*



**Drought  
Management  
in India**



**Technology Vision  
2035 - Putting  
Science to Use**



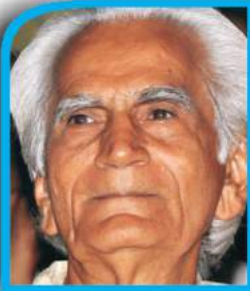
**Climate Change Impacts  
Farm Sector Growth**



**Mahendra Publication  
Pvt. Ltd.**



# Top Notch Captivators Of The Month



Raghuveer Chaudhary was selected for the 51st Jnanpith award.

1

Sadhana Shivdasani passed away.



2



Binny Bansal is the new CEO of Flipkart.

3

Devender Kumar Sikri appointed as Chairman of Competition Commission of India.



4



Indra Nooyi becomes Yale's biggest alumni donor.

5

Lionel Messi scoops Best Player of the Year at Globe Soccer Awards.



6



Vladimir Putin dissolved Roscosmos, Russia's federal space agency.

7

Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach wins Miss Universe 2015 title.



8



Pakistan singer Adnan Sami gets Indian citizenship

9

Sachin Tendulkar Named Brand Ambassador for Diabetes Awareness Campaign.



10

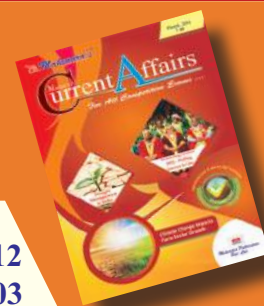


Mahendra Publication  
Pvt. Ltd.



*Mahendra Publication*  
*Pvt. Ltd.*

**VOL - 12**  
**ISSUE - 03**



## Contents

### Editor

N.K. Jain

### Associate Editor

Neeraj Gaur

### Advisors

Neeraj Chabra

K.C. Gupta

### Registered Office

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.  
103, Pragatideep Building, Plot No.  
08, Laxminagar, District Centre, New  
Delhi - 110092

TIN-07136921593

w.e.f. 10-04-2014

### Branch Office

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



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



Owned Printed & Published by  
N.K. Jain

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

### Copyright Reserved

- No part of this issue can be printed in whole or in part without the written permission of the publishers.
- All Disputes are subject to Delhi Jurisdiction only.

Please send your suggestions and grievances to:-

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.

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

Interview	5	Climate Change Impact Farm	
Competition Booster	6-11	Sector Growth	88-89
In Focus	12	Pandora Box (Part - A)	91-95
News Makers	13-18	Pandora Box (Part - B)	96-99
News Diary	20-81	Pandora Box (Part - C)	100-114
Drought Management in India : A Perusal	83-84	National	100-104
Technology Vision 2035 - Putting Science to Use	85-86	International	105-106
Soil Health Card – A tool for Agri revolution	87	Economy	107-112
		Miscellaneous	113-114

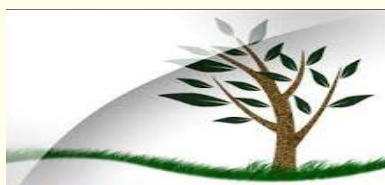
Drought Management in India : A  
Perusal



Technology Vision 2035 -  
Putting Science to Use



Soil Health Card – A tool for  
Agri revolution



Climate Change Impact Farm  
Sector Growth





# EDITORIAL

**You have to dream before your dreams can come true.**

**A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**

Former president of India Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam conceived in 1996, the 'Vision 2020' to ensure inclusive growth and improving quality of life in the country. Now struggling behind this India has embarked on a similar exercise for 2035, betting on emerging technologies to overcome major challenges.

Tech Vision 2035 is a 100-page document, released by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 103rd Indian Science Congress in Mysuru. The document attempts to envision the country's technology future, using as analogy of four gaits of a horse – galloping, cantering, trotting and walking India.

The document articulates a vision for all Indians in 2035 and how technology will bring it to fruition, keeping in view basic needs of security, prosperity and identity of the population, projected to be 153 crore from 120 crore in 2012.

The key challenges that have been identified in the document are development, empowerment, inclusiveness, sustainability, environment, education, health, urban infrastructure, resources, socio-economic policies, solutions, electronic communication and quality research. The vision 2020 was envisaged in the backdrop of liberal reforms since the early 1990s, when the country was emerging from economic bankruptcy. It, however, provided directions for national initiatives in science and technology to make India a developed country by 2020.

Though the country galloped in some areas and cantered to keep pace in others, it trotted in a few but could not walk the talk in many areas in time for various reasons, internal and external. For instance, the country galloped in the services sector, led by IT, but not so in the manufacturing sector, where the country's expertise remained at the basic or intermediate level of technology due to lack of adoption in design and execution. In the past two decades, India galloped in space, nuclear and missile technologies, life sciences and biotechnology, cantered in civil aviation, services and road transportation but trotted in food and agriculture, manufacturing and electronics.

Technology is the bridge between human wants and needs on one side, and available resources on the other side. The biggest challenge would be pressure on resources as they were limited and non-renewable like fossil fuels. More than sixty percent population of India still lives in village settlements where more than half of people struggle to eke out an existence with a paltry income. This needs to be raised to at least to a decent level. Technology should be directed to answer the problem of resources rather than talking about so-called culture, which the people would take care by themselves, when they are empowered and offered minimum decent earnings for living.

**With Best Wishes**

**Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.**



# INTERVIEW



## THE SUCCESS STORY...

### Personal Details

**Name** : Sukanya Sharma  
**Father's Name** : Mr. Braj Bhushan Sharma  
**Mother's Name** : Mrs. Shakuntala Sharma  
**Education** : B.Tech  
**Hobbies** : Reading Books, Writing Poetry, Playing T.T. & Sudoku.  
**Final Selection** : Reserve Bank of India (RBI Assist.)



**Roll No. of Qualified Exam** : 3430715724  
**Roll No. of Mahendra Institute** : MAH 0010728188

**MICA** : First of all congratulations for your selection RBI Assistant in Reserve Bank of India.

**Sukanya** : Thank you.

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

**Sukanya** : To Mahendras team. They Equip up with everything we need. And to God and my family for their support & trust.

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

**Sukanya** : This was my first attempts for RBI.

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

**Sukanya** : I took 3 months classes at Mahendra. Their teaching strategy, Study Material & ST portal is very helpful.

**MICA** : How did you prepare for the written examination?

**Sukanya** : I prepared from Mahendra's study material, Speed tests and by problem solving session facility.

### Quantitative Aptitude:

Class Notes for practice I followed Quantitative Aptitude by Abhijeet Guha and Mahendras STs.

Reasoning Ability:

Class Notes and for practice I followed 'Analytical Reasoning' By M.K. Pandey and Mahendra Speed Test.

### English:

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

### General Awareness:

Class Notes, Newspapers and Master In Current Affairs Magazine.

### Computer & Marketing

Class notes and material available on bankers guru.

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

**Sukanya** : MICA is the best magazine to prepare from & Bankers guru and Interview guru keep us updated and motivated.

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

**Sukanya** : Speed test portal and problem solving sessions provided by the best teachers of Mahendras.

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

**Sukanya** : Time is the giver and taker. We should try to maintain 'Sitting Session' of atleast 2-3 hours.

**MICA** : How did you prepare for the Interview?

**Sukanya** : I took interview classes at Mahendras. The Mentors are experienced and very helping in nature.

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

**Sukanya** : The board is very cooperative and very nice to me. There is no bar on language. Most of it went in Hindi.

### The questions asked were:

(I) Why should we hire you?

(II) Questions related to my native place and hobbies.

(III) Functions of RBI & role of Monetary Policy in our economy.

(IV) What is corporate governance, PPP Model and Swot Analysis.

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

**Sukanya** : I got the information from the official site of RBI. I was very happy and Satisfied.

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

**Sukanya** : Practice, as much as you can. Believe in your capabilities and not be afraid of failure. Hope for success. It will come for sure.

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

**Sukanya** : Thank you.



**Jammu & Kashmir chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed passed away.**

# **COMPETITION BOOSTER**

- |   |                                    |
|---|------------------------------------|
| ✎ With which country India signed Standard Operating Procedure for operationalization of Coastal Shipping Agreement?                          | <b>Bangladesh</b>                  |
| ✎ At which the 10th edition of G-20 Summit was held?  | <b>Antalya, Turkey</b>             |
| ✎ Saeed Jaffrey passed away. He was a / an _____.   | <b>Actor</b>                       |
| ✎ Which state government introduced 'Mobile Governance' in the state?   | <b>Jharkhand</b>                   |
| ✎ Kamala Laxman, a noted writer of _____ passed away.   | <b>children's books</b>            |
| ✎ Who won Brazilian Grand Prix?   | <b>Nico Rosberg</b>                |
| ✎ Who has been selected for 'Person of the Year' award by PETA?   | <b>Kapil Sharma</b>                |
| ✎ Who won women's singles title of China Open Super Series?   | <b>Li Xuerui</b>                   |
| ✎ Name the Advanced Torpedo Defence System that has been handed over by India's Defence Minister to the Indian Navy?                          | <b>Mareech</b>                     |
| ✎ What is the name of country's first retail facility to sell drugs for cancer and cardiovascular diseases at highly discounted rates?        | <b>AMRIT</b>                       |
| ✎ Mitchell Johnson announced his retirement. He is the fast bowler of which country?  | <b>Australia</b>                   |
| ✎ Who has been appointed as India's new Permanent Representative to the United Nations?   | <b>Syed Akbaruddin</b>             |
| ✎ Siril Verma is associated with which sport?   | <b>Badminton</b>                   |
| ✎ Who has been selected for 'Compassionate Athlete Award' from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)?                            | <b>Murali Kartik</b>               |
| ✎ For how many years FIFA banned Nepal's football Chief Ganesh Thapa on charges of corruption?  | <b>10 years</b>                    |
| ✎ K. Shankaran Nair passed away. He was the former Chief of which organisation?   | <b>RAW</b>                         |
| ✎ Who won the ATP World Tour Finals?  | <b>Roger Federer</b>               |
| ✎ Who has been designated as the Disaster Risk Reduction Champion for the Asia Region by the UNISDR?  | <b>Kiren Rijiju</b>                |
| ✎ Hotel Marriott International Inc. is based in which country?  | <b>USA</b>                         |
| ✎ Who has been appointed as Chief Justice of India?   | <b>Justice Tirath Singh Thakur</b> |
| ✎ Which bollywood actress has been named for the prestigious Indira Gandhi Memorial Award 2015?   | <b>Juhi Chawla</b>                 |
| ✎ Which Sports Council conferred Indian hockey team vice-captain P.R. Sreejesh with the Lt. Col. G.V. Raja Award for 2014-2015?               | <b>Kerala Sports Council</b>       |
| ✎ The Union Cabinet has given its ex post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding between India and _____ on Security Cooperation. | <b>Germany</b>                     |



**From 1 April 2020 the union government will implement Bharat Stage (BS) VI emission norms.**

Which has become a member of the International Paralympic Committee?	<b>Badminton World Federation</b>
Who took oath as Chief Minister of Bihar?	<b>Nitish Kumar</b>
Who has been chosen for the Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development for 2015?	<b>UNHCR</b>
At which place the 27th Summit of APEC was held?	<b>Manila, Philippines</b>
Who has been named as India's new Ambassador to China?	<b>Vijay Keshav Gokhale</b>
Which country issued a postage stamp featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi?	<b>Turkey</b>
Ram Krishna Trivedi passed away. He was the former Governor of which state?	<b>Gujarat</b>
Chess player Srishti Pandey belongs to which state?	<b>Maharashtra</b>
Who won 'Women Footballer of the Year' Award at the third Asian Football Awards?	<b>Aditi Chauhan</b>
Who has been elected as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for the year 2016?	<b>Harshavardhan Neotia</b>
Dr. Satya Paul Agarwal passed away. He was the Secretary General of which organisation?	<b>Indian Red Cross Society</b>
With which state South Australia signed a historic 'sister-state agreement'?	<b>Rajasthan</b>
How many gold medals were won by India in the Track Asia Cup cycling meet held in New Delhi?	<b>3</b>
Who was chief guest at the 46th edition of International Film Festival of India?	<b>Anil Kapoor</b>
Tennis champion-turned Hollywood filmmaker _____ was awarded with an honorary doctorate of Arts by the University of East London.	<b>Ashok Amritraj</b>
Which country's resolution was adopted by UNSC calling all nations to take all necessary measures against terrorism?	<b>France</b>
With which country India signed agreements on cyber security, culture and public administration?	<b>Malaysia</b>
Who emerged as winner in Argentina's presidential elections?	<b>Mauricio Macri</b>
Purna Bhambri is associated with which sport?	<b>Tennis</b>
Which groups has been established by ASEAN?	<b>ASEAN Economic Community</b>
Which country won 8th Men's Junior Asia Hockey Cup?	<b>India</b>
Cricketer Raymond Van Schoor passed away. He used to play for which country?	<b>Namibia</b>
Who has been appointed as the official partner for the Hockey World League (HWL) Finals to be held in Raipur?	<b>NTPC</b>
_____ successfully launched the first satellite for Laos, named LaoSat-1.	<b>China</b>
Who won the IBSF World Snooker Championship 2015?	<b>Pankaj Advani</b>
Who is the brand ambassador of Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) 2016?	<b>Jackie Shroff</b>
What is the strike range of India's nuclear-capable Dhanush ballistic missile?	<b>350 Km</b>
Dr. Mahip Singh passed away. He was a _____.	<b>Writer</b>
What was the venue of the 19th International Children's Film Festival of India?	<b>Hyderabad</b>



**North Korea has claimed that it has successfully conducted a hydrogen bomb test.**



- ✎ Which state celebrated its statehood day on 15th November 2015?
- ✎ Exoplanet located \_\_ light years away has reached a value of 8690 km per hour around 20 times faster than that recorded on earth.
- ✎ Scientists have successfully breached which barrier to effectively deliver cancer fighting drugs into the patient's brain?
- ✎ Sending a brief email adds how many grams of carbon dioxide equivalent (gCO<sub>2</sub>e) in the atmosphere, according to scientists?
- ✎ Close to 100 light years away from earth, a \_\_\_\_\_ with blue skies has been found orbiting a red dwarf star.
- ✎ Scientists in Switzerland have discovered a \_\_\_\_ carat gold nugget 1000 times lighter than normal gold and can float on milk foam.
- ✎ Novak Djokovic has defeated which tennis player to win the ATP Tour Finals Title for the 4th successive year?
- ✎ Lanco Solar Ltd has signed an MoU with which state government for setting up a 100 MW solar cell manufacturing plant?
- ✎ The World Fisheries Day 2015 was celebrated on which day?
- ✎ Which former president died at the age of 87?
- ✎ Scientists have discovered a new \_\_\_\_\_ which can effectively deliver anti cancerous agents directly into the tumour and destroy it.
- ✎ Which senior Pakistan political leader passed away?
- ✎ Leaders of the 23rd APEC summit on 19th November 2015 issued the Leaders Declaration at the end of the conclusion of summit.
- ✎ Tennis champion \_\_\_\_\_ has been awarded an honorary doctorate by University of East London.
- ✎ New vaccine for which disease has been found to be effective?
- ✎ Apollo Tyres has acquired which German based tyre firm?
- ✎ Which city's Mayor was recently killed by unidentified assailants?
- ✎ Stan Chartered Bank has appointed whom as the CEO?
- ✎ Senior diplomat ..... has been appointed as Ambassador to China.
- ✎ Senior JDU leader Nitish Kumar has been sworn as Bihar CM for ..... time.
- ✎ India elevated ties to strategic partnership with which country?
- ✎ Which noted poet returned his Padma Shri to protest moral asymmetry in the nation?
- ✎ Which ace shuttler won the third consecutive Super Series title at Hong Kong Open men's singles?
- ✎ Which Indian bank has just opened a representative office in Dhaka, capital city of Bangladesh?
- ✎ Which country is planning to built the world's largest animal cloning centre?
- ✎ Agni-I is a \_\_\_\_\_ missile.
- ✎ Who inaugurated the First International Film Festival for Persons with Disabilities in New Delhi?

**Jharkhand**

**63**

**Blood brain barrier**

**4**

**Small Exoplanet**

**22**

**Roger Federer**

**Chhattisgarh**

**21st November**

**Kim Young-sam**

**Bio-gel**

**Makhdoom Amin Fahim**

**Manila, Philippines**

**Ashok Amritraj**

**Ebola**

**Reifencom**

**Chittoor**

**Zarin Daruwala**

**Vijay Keshav Gokhale**

**Fifth**

**Singapore**

**Jayantha Mahapatra**

**Lee Chong Wei**

**Axis**

**China**

**Surface -to- Surface**

**Thaawar Chand Gehlot**



**Kunal Shah has been appointed as the Chairman of Internet and Mobile Association of India.**



✎ What is the rank of India on Global Index of Information Technology Access?	<b>131st</b>
✎ Which country launched International Agency for Solar Technologies and Applications (IASTA)?	<b>India</b>
✎ Ustad Sabri Khan passed away. He was a _____ player.	<b>Sarangi</b>
✎ The Badminton Association of India announced to give _____ to P.V. Sindhu.	<b>Rs. 10 lakh</b>
✎ Who was awarded with the best director award in the 46th International Film Festival of India?	<b>Peter Greenaway</b>
✎ Which currency has been added to the Special Drawing Rights (SDR) currency basket?	<b>Yuan</b>
✎ Datawind has partnered with Airtel Africa to provide low-cost mobile Internet access in which country?	<b>Nigeria</b>
✎ The President of Sri Lanka Maithripala Sirisena declares to open the ..... International Centre in Matale.	<b>Mahatma Gandhi</b>
✎ Narendra Modi released two commemorative coins of Rs. 125 and Rs. 10 denomination as part of the ..... year celebrations of Dr B R Ambedkar.	<b>125th birth anniversary</b>
✎ Who will be the chief guest at India's Republic Day to be celebrated on 26 January 2016?	<b>Francois Hollande</b>
✎ For which purpose Russia signed an agreement with Egypt?	<b>To build a nuclear power plant in Egypt</b>
✎ Which country is planning to built the world's largest animal cloning centre?	<b>India</b>
✎ India and ..... decided to deepen bilateral defence ties and maintain peace and tranquillity at the LAC.	<b>China</b>
✎ India and ..... signed the standard operating procedure (SOP) in New Delhi.	<b>Bangladesh</b>
✎ Issued a Letter of Award (LoA) to GE Global Sourcing India Pvt Limited.	<b>Ministry of Railways</b>
✎ India has announced ..... for the Commonwealth small states trade finance facility.	<b>2.5 million dollars</b>
✎ Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment announced the launching of ..... schemes for the disabled persons.	<b>10 new/revised</b>
✎ India successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclear capable ..... missile.	<b>Prithvi-II</b>
✎ The SAADMEX- 2015 was concluded by the Union Government in	<b>Delhi.</b>
✎ Union Minister of Food Processing Industries laid the foundation stone of the first Mega Food Park in	<b>Telangana</b>
✎ Delhi will host the first International Qawwali Festival 2015 titled	<b>TaaliHo.</b>
✎ Technology Company ..... launched the 'Ek Kadam Unnati Ki Aur' programme.	<b>IBM</b>
✎ Which state government decided to launch an accident insurance scheme.	<b>Maharashtra</b>
✎ The House of Representatives has easily passed a bill to restrict the admission of Iraqi and Syrian refugees to	<b>America.</b>
✎ Pfizer and Allergan merge in a massive, ..... deal that create the world's largest drugmaker.	<b>\$160 billion</b>
✎ Who is the new prime minister of Portugal after the government formed.	<b>Antonio Costa</b>
✎ ..... 's economy contracted by 1.7 percent during July-September 2015 compared to April-June period in 2015. It entered in longest recession.	<b>Brazil</b>



**Stand Up India Scheme provides for a refinance window through SIDBI.**



## Banking and Financial Awareness

- ✎ Which bank won the 45th S.N. Vohra's All India Gurmit Memorial Hockey Tournament 2015?
- ✎ Who has been appointed as Chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank in India?
- ✎ Who has been elected as a Governor of the World Water Council?
- ✎ How many MoUs has been signed by the Rajasthan govt. with the private companies in the tourism sector?
- ✎ Recently Hemendra Narain passed away. He was a \_\_\_\_\_.
- ✎ Which country announced to give \$1.25 million to the government of Ghana for water-related projects?
- ✎ Tata Steel established its integrated steel plant in which state?
- ✎ Which of the following has been renamed Sydney Stock Exchange Limited?
- ✎ Who headed the 7th Pay Commission?
- ✎ During the visit of PM Narendra Modi to Singapore how many agreements were signed between India and Singapore?
- ✎ Which day has been declared as 'Constitution Day' by the Government of India?
- ✎ Name the railway security fund proposed to be launched by the railways?
- ✎ India and which nation have signed the SOP to operationalise agreement on coastal shipping framed in June 2015?
- ✎ India has signed an agreement to be the first country to buy uranium from which country without signing NPT?
- ✎ Constitution Day was celebrated on which date this year?
- ✎ TCS has partnered which company to oversee smart city projects in France?
- ✎ Which app based cab operator has announced the appointment of advisor to Infosys CEO Rajiv Bansal as Chief Financial Officer?
- ✎ Who was appointed as President of ASSOCHAM?
- ✎ India will have more than ..... million unique mobile subscribers by the end of 2015, according to a study by GSMA.
- ✎ Which Indian American has been nominated as ED to ADB rank?
- ✎ Bangladesh and India will sign an agreement for power from which thermal power project in Tripura?
- ✎ Investment through P-Notes has risen to INR ..... lakh crore in October 2015.
- ✎ Home furnishings e-commerce company Home Lane dot com has hired whom as the Chief Product Officer?
- ✎ Which online travel company has appointed Deepak Tuli as senior VP growth business?

**Punjab & Sind Bank**

**Zarin Daruwala**

**Prithvi Raj Singh**

**37**

**Journalist**

**China**

**Odisha**

**Asia Pacific Stock Exchange**

**Ashok Kumar Mathur**

**10**

**26th November**

**Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh**

**Bangladesh**

**Australia**

**26th November**

**Gift Information**

**Ola**

**Sunil Kanoria**

**500**

**Swati Dandekar**

**Palatana**

**2.58**

**Jayanth Mysore**

**MakeMyTrip**



**Nitin Gadkari inaugurated India's first River Information System (RIS).**

✎ Infosys has completed acquisition of which US based oil and gas consulting firm?	<b>Noah Consulting</b>
✎ The National Inst try will touch USD ____ billion by 2018-2019 with 60% of the contribution coming from exports.	<b>7.5</b>
✎ Which new scheme is launched on December 3rd?	<b>Sugaamya Bharat Abhiyan</b>
✎ Dish TV has appointed whom as the CEO w.e.f November 23, 2015?	<b>Arun Kumar Kapoor</b>
✎ 2 time world champion Carolina Marin from Spain took her ..... title of the year at Hong Kong Open.	<b>Sixth</b>
✎ With which the Export Import Bank of India has inked an agreement to strengthen financial cooperation?	<b>Exim Bank of Malaysia</b>
✎ Prime Minister of ....., Joseph Muscat unveiled a new \$1 billion Commonwealth Green Finance Facility to support environmental projects.	<b>Malta</b>
✎ .....’s economy contracted by 1.7 percent during July-September 2015 compared to April-June period in 2015. It entered in longest recession.	<b>Brazil</b>
✎ India has been projected as the fastest growing economy with growth at the rate of .... percent by 2016. According to the UN WESP report.	<b>7.3</b>
✎ Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus TATA Group has invested in which urban services marketplace company?	<b>UrbanClap</b>
✎ Which online payments company has appointed Anshul Kheterpal as the CFO?	<b>Freecharge</b>
✎ Titan has appointed three directors on the board of its new JV with which company?	<b>Maison Montblanc</b>
✎ The paid up equity capital of the Coal India Limited is ..... crore rupees.	<b>6316</b>
✎ As per provisional data, India has exported _____ lakh tonnes of iron ore in the first seven months of fiscal 2015-2016.	<b>10.75</b>
✎ Which scheme has been launched, under which 10 African countries have committed to restore 31 million hectares of degraded and deforested land.	<b>AFR100</b>
✎ APSSDC and which business group have joined hands to skill youth in areas such as cybersecurity and data analytics?	<b>NASSCOM</b>
✎ NIIT has entered into an educational partnership with which IT major?	<b>HP</b>
✎ IDFC has inked a pact with which IT services major for core banking solutions?	<b>TCS</b>
✎ GAIL India launched a surveillance geo portal known as _____ for monitoring right of use pipeline through space technology.	<b>Bhuvan GAIL</b>
✎ Which State government has conveyed in principal approval for joining the UDAY Scheme?	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>
✎ Gold Monetisation scheme has been declared as ..... by FinMin.	<b>Voluntary</b>
✎ India will attain a larger green cover as per which report according to environment minister Prakash Javdekar?	<b>India State of Forest Report 2015</b>
✎ EPFO has invested INR ..... in ETFs till November 26, 2015, according to the Labour Ministry.	<b>2909 crore</b>
✎ LS has passed a bill to enhance compensation for air travellers. What is it called?	<b>Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill 2015</b>
✎ Rishi Gour was appointed as Country President of Support services company Sodexo India On-site Services with effect from .....	<b>1September 2015</b>



**Hashim Amla has resigned as the captain of South Africa cricket test team.**



# INFOCUS

## ABBREVIATIONS

<b>PBD</b>	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
<b>PMKSY</b>	Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana
<b>DDUGJY</b>	Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyothi Yojana
<b>DRDA</b>	District Rural Development Association
<b>RWSS</b>	Rural Water Supply, Sanitation

## IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

<b>1 January</b>	Global family Day
<b>9 January</b>	NRI Day
<b>10 January</b>	World Laughter Day
<b>12 January</b>	National Youth Day (Birth day of Swami Vivekanand)
<b>15 January</b>	Army Day
<b>25 January</b>	National Tourism Day
<b>26 January</b>	Indian Republic Day
<b>28 January</b>	Birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai
<b>30 January</b>	World Leprosy Eradication Day

## ECONOMIC GLOSSARY

### Sin Tax

A state-sponsored tax that is added to products or services that are seen as vices, such as alcohol, tobacco and gambling.

These type of taxes are levied by governments to discourage individuals from partaking in such activities without making the use of the products illegal. These taxes also provide a source of government revenue.

Sin taxes are typically added to liquor, cigarettes and other non-luxury items. State governments favour sin taxes because they generate an enormous amount of revenue and are usually easily accepted by the general public because they are indirect taxes that only affect those who use the products.

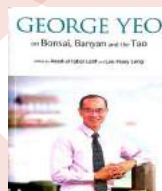
When individual states run deficits, the sin tax is typically one of the first taxes recommended by lawmakers to help fill the budget gap.



As projected by the World Bank 7.8% will be the economic growth rate of India during 2016-17.

## BOOKS AND AUTHORS

### George Yeo on Bonsai, Banyan and the Tao



- Lee Huay Leng



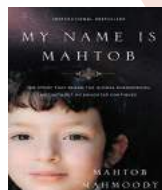
### Hari- A Hero for Hire



- Zac O\_Yeah



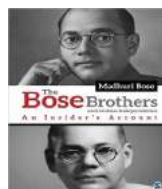
### My Name Is Mahtob



- Mahtob Mahmoody



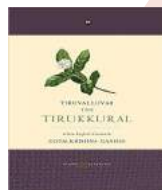
### The Bose Brothers and Indian Independence



- Madhuri Bose



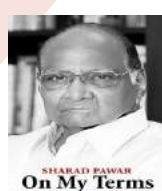
### The Tirukkural



- Gopalkrishna Gandhi,  
- Tiruvalluvar



### On my terms



- Sharad Pawar



# News Makers

## APPOINTMENTS

### Atul Sobti

**A**tul Sobti – who has been working as a board director in Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) – was appointed as the chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company. As a director, Sobti was heading the crucial portfolios of power and finance in the India's largest public sector engineering and manufacturing enterprise. In addition, he has been the chairman of Raichur Power Corporation Limited, a joint venture company of BHEL and Karnataka Power Corporation Limited.

Sobti, was responsible for spearheading and strategizing for the power sector business of BHEL and under his stewardship, BHEL's power business has achieved major milestones including the highest ever capacity addition/synchronisation of 13,452 MW and 11,941 MW in 2013-14 and 2014-15, respectively. The company has exceeded the ministry of power's target of capacity addition by 19 per cent.

### G D Bandgaiyan

**E**conomist and former IAS officer Gyanendra D Bandgaiyan appointed Director General of National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG). Bandgaiyan, ex-chief economist of United Nations Development Programme, has been appointed for a period of three years which is extendable by another two years or up to 60 years of age. 54-year-old Bandgaiyan, a former IAS officer of union territories cadre, hails from Madhya Pradesh. As per an advertisement issued by the government seeking nominations for the post, the DG, NCGG will be paid a consolidated salary of Rs 3.75 lakh per month without the facility of car and house.



### R K Singh Bhadauria

**A**ir Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff, a post that oversees the critical procurement process of the force. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Bhadauria was commissioned in the IAF in June 1980.

Prior to taking over as DCAS, Air Marshal Bhadauria was Senior Air Staff Officer at Central Air Command of IAF.

He is an Experimental Test Pilot, Cat 'A' qualified flying instructor and pilot attack instructor with over 4,200 hours of experience on over 25 types of fighter and transport aircraft. With a career spanning over more than 35 years, Bhadauria has commanded a Jaguar Squadron and a premier Air Force base in the South Western Sector.

### Filippo Grandi

**F**ilippo Grandi took over as the new High Commissioner for the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR). Grandi succeeded Antonio Guterres, a former Portuguese Prime Minister, who retired on 31 December 2015 after heading the Refugee Agency for 10 years. Grandi took over the position amid unprecedented displacement challenges, with worldwide forced displacement of people reaching a new post-World War-II high of 59.5 million.

Filippo Grandi is an Italian diplomat mainly active with the United Nations' humanitarian operations. He started his career in the office of UNHCR in 1988.

He headed a number of emergency operations including in Kenya, Benin, Ghana, Liberia, the Great Lakes Region of Central Africa, Yemen and Afghanistan. From 2001 to 2004, he served as the UNHCR's Chief of Mission.



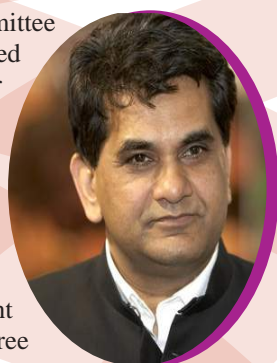
Apurvi won gold medal in women's 10 metre air rifle event at the Swedish Cup Grand Prix shooting tournament.



**Amitabh Kant**

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave Amitabh Kant the additional responsibility of being Chief Executive Officer of NITI Aayog, effective 31 December 2015.

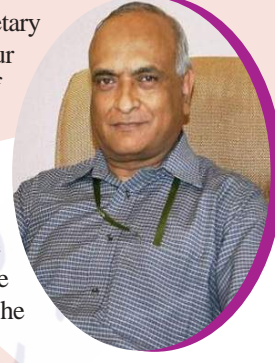
Kant will replace the incumbent NITI Aayog CEO Sindhushree Khullar whose extended tenure was ended on 31 December 2015. The IAS officer of 1980 Batch of Kerala Cadre, Kant is currently serving as Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP). He is set to superannuate on 28 February 2016.

**Pawan Kumar Agarwal**

Senior IAS officer Pawan Kumar Agarwal was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of food regulator Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). He succeeded Yudhvir Singh Malik, who was shifted as Additional Secretary in NITI Aayog in September 2015. Malik is believed to be the man behind the ban on global giant Nestles popular noodle brand Maggi, which has now been removed. Prior to Pawan Kumar Agarwal's appointment, FSSAI Chairman Ashish Bahuguna was holding the additional charge of FSSAI CEO. Pawan Kumar Agarwal is a 1985 batch IAS officer of West Bengal cadre. He is presently serving as the Joint Secretary in Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

**R K Mathur**

Former Defence Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur was appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India. He succeeded Vijai Sharma, who completed his tenure on 1 December 2015. With this, Mathur became the eighth CIC of India. He will have tenure of about three years, till he attains the age of 65 years.



Mathur is a retired IAS officer of Tripura cadre. He was made Defence Secretary for a fixed two-year term on 28 May 2013. He did his graduation from Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur and post graduation from IIT, Delhi. He had been Secretary in Union Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and in Defence Production and Supplies.

**Gautam H Bambawale**

Gautam H Bambawale was appointed as the High Commissioner of India to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan. He is presently serving as the Indian ambassador to Bhutan. Bambawale succeeded TCA Raghavan, who retired at the end of December 2015. Gautam H Bambawale is an Indian Foreign Service officer of 1984 batch. Before serving in Bhutan, he was the Joint Secretary (East Asia) in the Union Foreign Ministry Headquarters from December 2009 to July 2014. In the past, Bambawale has worked in Germany, US and China. He became the first Consul General of India in Guangzhou, China, in 2007.

**Awards****Knighthood Award**

A top Indian-origin cancer research expert has been conferred Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II for being "hugely influential" in his work on prevention and treatment of cancer.

Harpal Singh Kumar, the chief executive of Cancer Research UK (CRUK), has been honoured for services



to cancer research and being "hugely influential in promoting research into the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and cancer care".

"The CRUK's income and research spend are at an all-time high. Under his leadership, it has been instrumental in pushing the government to take further measures to reduce smoking and to ban sun-beds for under-18s.

Kumar leads this year's honours list of Indian-origin names, covering fields of entrepreneurship, financial services and community service. He has been instrumental in setting up the Francis Crick Institute as a world-leading centre of biomedical research and innovation.



For Development of agriculture in India Tata Trusts signed an agreement with Mars, Incorporated.



### Nishagandhi Puraskaram

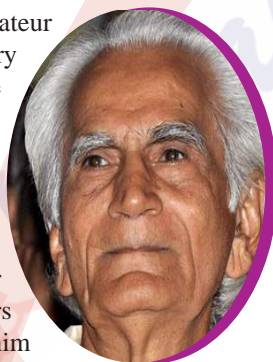
**L**iconic composer Ilayaraja has been chosen for this year's prestigious Nishagandhi Puraskaram, instituted by the Kerala Government. The award comprises a sum of Rs 1,50,000, citation and a statuette. The 72-year-old maestro is being conferred the honour for his artistic excellence and contribution to the Indian film music industry, state Tourism Minister A P Anil Kumar told reporters here last evening.



A recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Tamil Nadu-born Ilayaraja is hailed for raising the bar of mainstream music by fusing Indian folk music with various elements of Western classical to create a new genre that is hugely popular across regions and generations. Chief Minister Oommen Chandy will present the award to Ilayaraja.

### 51st Jnanpith award

**E**minent Gujarati litterateur Raghuvver Chaudhary was selected for the 51st Jnanpith award for his contribution to the Indian literature. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by noted scholar Namwar Singh. Other members of the selection board are Shamim Hanfi, Harish Trivedi, Suranjan Das, Ramakant Rath, Chandrakant Patil, Alok Rai, Dinesh Misra and Leeladhar Mandloi.



Chaudhary is the fourth Gujarati litterateur to bag this prestigious award after Uma Shankar Joshi (1967), Pannalal Patel (1985) and Rajendra Shah (2001). Born in 1938 in Gujarat, Raghuvver Chaudhary is a novelist, poet, critic, a prominent figure on contemporary Gujarati literary scene and a Gandhian. His talent has been influenced by works of Govardhanram Tripathi, Kaka Kalelkar, Suresh Joshi, Prof Ramdarash Mishra and Prof GN Dickey.

### 2015 Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award

**F**ormer Indian Wicket-Keeper Syed Kirmani was awarded with the 2015 Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award. (Test captain Virat Kohli bagged the Polly Umrigar Trophy for Cricketer of the Year in the BCCI awards).

Syed Mujtaba Hussain Kirmani was born on 29 December 1949 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He started off as an understudy to Farokh Engineer in the tours of England in 1971 and 1974 and to the 1975 Cricket World Cup. He made his debut against New Zealand. He represented India at the international level between 1976 and 1986. His record includes 160 catches and 38 stumpings in tests and 27 catches and 9 stumpings in ODIs.



### US National Medal of Science 2015

**I**ndian American professor Rakesh K Jain was selected for the National Medal of Science 2015 of United States (US). Jain is a professor at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Tumour Biology Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital. He will receive the honour along with 16 other winners of the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation at a White House ceremony in 2016.



Professor Jain holds a B.Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology-Kanpur. Prof. Jain is regarded as a pioneer in the area of tumour micro-environment and widely recognized for his seminal discoveries in tumour biology, drug delivery, in vivo imaging and bioengineering. His work includes uncovering the barriers to the delivery and efficacy of molecular and nano-medicines in tumours and developing new strategies to overcome these barriers. A mentor to more than 200 students from over a dozen different disciplines, he has received 75 awards from engineering and medical professional societies and institutions.

### 2016 Genesis Prize

**R**enowned Israeli-US violinist Itzhak Perlman was announced as the 2016 Genesis Prize Laureate for his accomplishments as a musician, teacher and advocate for people with disabilities. Perlman will receive the award on 23 June



Ganga Gram Yojana has been launched in Uttar Pradesh.

2016 from Israel's Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu at a ceremony in Jerusalem. Perlman was born on 31 August 1945 in Tel Aviv. He contracted polio at age four. He first became interested in the violin after hearing a classical music performance on the radio.

He taught himself how to play the instrument using a toy fiddle. He studied with Rivka Goldgart at the Shulamit Conservatory and at the Academy of Music in Tel Aviv, where he gave his first recital at age 10.

The Genesis Prize, also known as the Jewish Nobel, was founded in 2012 as a 1 million US dollar award. It is given annually to an exceptional human being who has attained outstanding excellence and international renown in his or her chosen field, is a role model in the community and who can inspire the next generation of Jews worldwide.

#### 2015 Costa Novel Prize

**B**ritish writer Kate Atkinson won the novel-of-the-year prize at Britain's Costa Book Awards 2015 for the second time in three years. She fetched the

award for *A God in Ruins*, a story of war and its aftermath.

With this, Atkinson became the first author to receive the Costa novel prize three times: for *A God in Ruins* in 2016, *Life After Life* in 2013 and *Behind the Scenes* at the Museum in 1995.

Kate Atkinson was born in 1951 in York, England. She studied English literature at the University of Dundee and obtained her master's degree in 1974.

She subsequently studied for a doctorate in American literature, entitled *The post-modern American short story in its historical context*.

The Costa Book Awards is one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious and popular literary prizes.



## OBITUARIES

#### Sadhana Shivdasani

**V**eteran actress Sadhana Shivdasani passed away. The actress who completed 74 years of age this September, was reportedly admitted to the Hinduja hospital. Fans and admirers of the actress have taken to social media to express their remorse. The actress was detected with a tumor and had been battling cancer for a very long time. In December last year, the lady underwent an emergency surgery for a bleeding oral lesion.

Shivdasani featured in numerous films through her career. Her fame to claim being 'Love In Simla'. She also appeared in popular films like 'Parakh', 'Hum Dono', 'Shree 420', 'Mere Mehboob', 'Waqt' and 'Woh Kaun Thi.' More than her films, however, the actress is till date remembered for the legendary front bangs she sported, a hair cut which is now commonly referred to as the Sadhana cut. The bangs were, in fact supported by the actress in order to cover her unusually large (as she thought) forehead.

#### Mufti Mohammad Sayeed

**J**ammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed passed away at the AIIMS hospital in New Delhi. He was 79. Sayeed who founded the Jammu



and Kashmir Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) had been admitted to AIIMS in Delhi with complaints of severe fever and neck pain.

Born on 12 January 1936, the leader had been a member of the Indian National Congress party until 1987. In 1987, he quit the Congress party to join V. P. Singh's Jan Morcha. He became the first Muslim Minister for Home Affairs in the Union Cabinet of India in 1989. He rejoined the Congress under P V Narasimha Rao. However, Sayeed left the Congress in 1999 along with daughter Mehbooba Mufti to form his own party, Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party.

#### S H Kapadia

**E**x-Chief Justice of India Sarosh Homi Kapadia passed away in Mumbai. He was 68. Kapadia is survived by wife and a son and a daughter.

Born on 29 September 1947, Kapadia graduated from Government Law College, Mumbai. He was enrolled as an



**Kamala Laxman, a noted writer of children's books and wife of iconic cartoonist R.K. Laxman, passed away.**



advocate at the Bombay High Court in 1974. In 1991, he was elevated to the Bench as an Additional Judge of the Bombay High Court, and in 1993, he was appointed as a Permanent Judge. In 2003, he was transferred to the Uttarakhand High Court, where he served a short stint as Chief Justice. On 18 December 2003, he was appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court. On 12 May 2010, he was sworn in as the 38th Chief Justice of India by the President Pratibha Patil. During his tenure as CJI, he served as the Chairman of the General Council of the Gujarat National Law University and the Visitor of the National Law School of India University.

### Vilmos Zsigmond

**C**inematographer Vilmos Zsigmond, winner of an Oscar for Steven Spielberg's *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, passed away in California, United States. He was 85. Zsigmond was also Oscar nominated for Michael Cimino's *The Deer Hunter*, Mark Rydell's *The River* and Brian De Palma's *The Black Dahlia*.



Vilmos Zsigmond was born on 16 June 1930 in Szeged, Hungary. He studied cinema at the Academy of Drama and Film in Budapest. In 1962, he became a naturalized citizen of the United States. He settled in Los Angeles and worked in photo labs as a technician and photographer. During the 1960s, he worked on many low-budget independent films and educational films. Some of the films that he worked on during 1960s credited him as William Zsigmond, including the classic horror B-Film.

### AB Bardhan

**V**eteran Communist Party of India (CPI) leader Ardhendu Bhushan Bardhan passed away on 2 January 2016 after a long illness. He was 92. He was the former general secretary of the CPI, which is one of the oldest political parties in India.



AB Bardhan was born on 25 September 1924 in Barisal, Bengal Presidency, British India (now Bangladesh). He embraced Communism at the age of 15 after he moved

to Nagpur. He joined the All India Students Federation at the Nagpur University in 1940. He took part in the freedom movement as a member of the All India Students Federation. In 1940, he joined the CPI, which was then banned. He won an election just once, to the Maharashtra Assembly, in 1957 as an Independent.

### Om Prakash Malhotra

**G**eneral Om Prakash Malhotra, former Punjab Governor and ex-Chief of Army, passed away due to old age. He was 93. He is survived by his wife and two children. General Om Prakash Malhotra was the 13th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army from 1978 – 1981.



He was born in Srinagar, Kashmir, in August 1922 and attended Government College in Lahore before being selected to join the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. He was commissioned into the Regiment of Artillery. He commanded different Artillery Regiments between November 1950 and July 1961. He was the Military Attache at the Indian Embassy in Moscow for over three years from June 1962. He served as the Ambassador of India to Indonesia from 1981 – 1984. He was appointed as the Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Chandigarh from 1990 - 1991.

### Subir Sen

**V**eteran singer Subir Sen passed away due to lung cancer in Kolkata. He was 81. He is survived by his wife and a daughter.



Sen was condemned to be clone of senior and talented Hemant Kumar. From the 1950s till the 1980s, the melodious singer had sung a number of hit songs. He had also sung duets with Asha Bhonsle and Lata Mangeshkar.

A hit film *Aas ka Panchhi* marked the peak of Sen's popularity. Similarly, *Chhoti Bahen* had several duets by him and Lata Mangeshkar which dominated the charts of the time. Some of Sen's well-known songs include "Aa ja re nain dware" from the Dev Anand-Waheeda Rehman starrer "Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja" and "Main



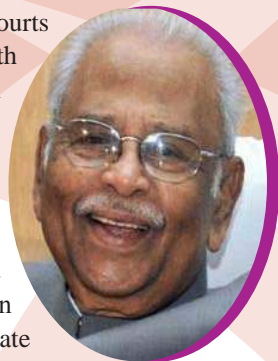
German Formula One Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg won the Brazilian Grand Prix.



rangeela pyar ka raahi" in "Chhoti Bahen". He was also known for his Bengali songs like Dhoronir pathay pathay, "Monalisa tumi ki bolona" and "Saradin tomay cheye".

### VS Malimath

**F**ormer Chief Justice of Karnataka and Kerala High Courts Justice V S Malimath died at Manipal hospital in Bengaluru. He was 86-years old and survived by wife Prema Devi V Malimath, a son and four daughters.



He was born on 12 June 1929, secured first rank in LL.B. and had a post Graduate Diploma in Public International Law from University of London in 1952. He commenced practicing in the High Court of Bombay in 1952 and later shifted to Bengaluru in late 1956. He was appointed as a Judge in the Karnataka High Court in March 1970. Subsequently, he was appointed as Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court in 1984. Post retirement, he was appointed as Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

He served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He headed the Committee on Reform of Criminal Justice System in India. He was the United Nations Representative to monitor human rights enforcement in Nigeria and Sri Lanka.

### Noorul Huda

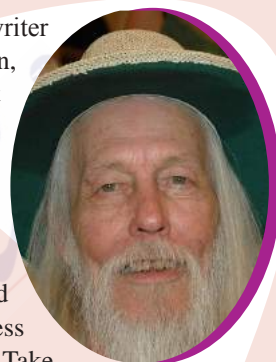
**N**oorul Huda, veteran leader of Communist Party of India (M) of eastern India, passed away following a cardiac arrest in Kolkata. He was 86. Huda is survived by his wife. Huda, a Muslim Meitei Manipuri, was a member of the Central Committee (CC) of the CPI (M) for nearly three decades. Huda joined the then undivided Communist Party of India (CPI-M) in 1949 in Kolkata after giving up his job as an engineer. He shifted to Silchar in Assam in 1966, two years after the CPI-M was formed. Huda became a member of Central Kisan Council in 1967 and continued in the same position till his death. Being a polyglot, Huda knew at least a dozen languages.



Some of his speeches on political turmoil in India were sharp enough for the Prime Minister Indira Gandhi who once asked him why he used rustic terminologies.

### George Clayton Johnson

**P**opular science-fiction writer George Clayton Johnson, who penned the script for the first Star Trek episode, The Man Trap, passed away due to cancer in Los Angeles, California. He was 86. Born on 10 July 1929 in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Johnson debuted into the entertainment business in 1959 when he wrote the I'll Take Care of You episode for Alfred Hitchcock Presents.



The renowned writer is also known for co-writing the novel Logan's Run with William F. Nolan, the basis for the MGM 1976 film. Besides, his television scripts for The Twilight Zone including Nothing in the Dark, Kick the Can, A Game of Pool, and A Penny for Your Thoughts earned him immense fame. Johnson was also the proprietor of Cafe Frankenstein, and co-created the comic book series Deepest Dimension Terror Anthology with cartoonist and author Jay Allen Sanford for Revolutionary Comics.

### Steve Gohouri

**F**ormer Wigan Athletic defender Steve Gohouri passed away. His body was recovered from the River Rhine in the western city of Krefeld. He was 34. Gohouri went missing on 12 December 2015 after attending the party of his German club TSV Steinbach. He was meant to visit his family in Paris but never arrived.



Born in Ivory Coast, West Africa, Gohouri moved to France where he was raised in the suburbs of Paris. He began his football career in France but played for clubs in Israel, Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Greece and Germany.

He played in the Premier League with Wigan Athletic between 2010 and 2012 after joining from Bundesliga side Borussia Moenchengladbach. Gohouri made 42 appearances for Wigan between 2010 and 2012 and also won 12 caps for Ivory Coast.



The first state Jharkhand to sign a MoU with the Union Government for UDAY scheme.

















**Mahendra's<sup>TM</sup>**

**NO. 1 INSTITUTE IN INDIA**

**Specialized in BANKING, SSC & Other Competitive Examinations**

### Features

-  We organize new batches for CWE, PO/Clerk interviews every week.
-  We provide Interview facility for all kinds of Banking & other competitive examinations on all the centres.
-  We provide real environment for Interview.
-  The Mock Interviews are conducted by highly professional, experienced & reputed personalities.
-  We create environment for Extempore, big fight, Group Discussion & Case study.
-  We provide complete Interview material for all competitive examinations.
-  We provide special classes for Personality Development.
-  We provide open sessions for all the candidates where they can discuss their problems with the Experts.
-  We provide minimum 3 Special classes, 5 Mock Interviews & Open Sessions.
-  Minimum of 4 board members will be present at all mock sessions.
-  Interview material kit is free for our candidates (who are going to appear in the interview).
-  We conduct felicitation programme for our successful candidates.
-  Facility of watching LIVE Interviews is provided so that our candidates can learn more.
-  Lowest fee charged all over India.

**ACADEMY<sup>07</sup>**

**EXCELLENCE & PERSONALITY  
DEVELOPMENT**



**TOLL FREE NO.**

**1800-103-5225**



**WEBSITES**

[www.mahendras.org](http://www.mahendras.org)  
[www.interviewguru.mahendras.org](http://www.interviewguru.mahendras.org)  
[www.mahendrapublication.org](http://www.mahendrapublication.org)  
[stportal.mahendras.org](http://stportal.mahendras.org)  
[enews.mahendras.org](http://enews.mahendras.org)  
[myshop.mahendras.org](http://myshop.mahendras.org)  
[www.bankersguru.org](http://www.bankersguru.org)  
[www.railwayguru.org](http://www.railwayguru.org)  
[www.sscguru.org](http://www.sscguru.org)



# News DIARY

NATIONAL



**India-Nepal Bus  
Service resumed after  
27 years**

STATE



**Andhra Pradesh to  
host 2019 National  
Games**

INTERNATIONAL



**Spain's Mireia  
Lalaguna Royo wins  
Miss World title**



## AMRUT plans worth over Rs 19K cr okayed for 474 cities

Dec 16

A whopping Rs 19,170 crore budget has been lined up for improving the basic infrastructure in as many as 474 cities across 18 states and Union



Territories under the AMRUT programme for 2015-16. As per the city-level action plans approved by the Urban Development Ministry under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), about 90 per cent of the expenditure would be on improving water supply and sewerage infrastructure followed by the provision of storm- water drains, non-motorised urban transport and green spaces and parks. Central assistance for this project is over Rs 9,000 crore. A total of 497 cities are identified under the Atal Mission although city-level plans of 23 mission cities across Delhi, Punjab, Uttarakhand, Goa and the north-eastern states are still to be approved.

An inter-ministerial apex committee chaired by UD Secretary Madhusudhan Prasad approved AMRUT Annual Action Plans for Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka for 2015-16. Uttar Pradesh has 61 Atal Mission cities while Karnataka has 27. This was the fifth meeting of the committee. During the discussion on State Plans, the apex committee noted that even as water supply in

the urban areas of Uttar Pradesh was high, non-revenue water (NRW, or water supplied without collection of user charges) was also very high, exceeding the norm of 20 per cent for urban areas in case of all mission cities.

## Narendra Modi chairs Unified Commanders' Conference

Dec 16

The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, chaired the

Combined Commanders Conference on board INS Vikramaditya at Sea, off the coast of Kochi. This is the first time that the Combined Commanders



Conference has been held on board an aircraft carrier. The Prime Minister inspected a Tri-services Guard of Honour at INS Garuda at Kochi, before arriving on board INS Vikramaditya, where he was received by the three Service Chiefs.

After the Conference, the Prime Minister witnessed an operational demonstration of India's naval and maritime air capabilities.

The operational demonstration included take-offs and landings of naval fighter aircraft from INS Vikramaditya, missile firing from a warship, flypast of helicopters and fighter aircraft, marine commando operations, and steam-past of warships, including INS Virat. The Prime Minister interacted with soldiers, sailors and airmen on board INS Vikramaditya.



**Mary Barra has been appointed as Chairman of General Motors (GM).**

*Mahendra's*



**ECONOMY**



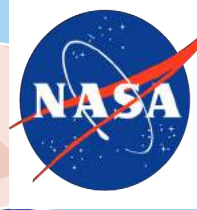
**Union Government to roll out LPG-like DBT scheme for kerosene from 1 April 2016**

**SPORTS**



**Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj Named BCCI Cricketer Of The Year**

**SCIENCE**



**NASA's solar-powered Jupiter probe sets new distance record**

**MISCELLANEOUS**



**Asia's largest underground railway station opens in Shenzhen city**

**26th Conference of Southern Zonal Council held in Vijayawada Dec 16**



**T**he 26th Conference of Southern Zonal Council (SZC) was held at Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh. The conference was chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh. Along with the chairperson, the conference was attended by Chief Ministers of five states-Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Kerala and Puducherry.

The five states and Puducherry together form the Southern Zonal Council. The conference deliberated issues of common interest to the members of the council such as peninsular region industrial corridor, coastal security, introduction of peninsular tourism trains and finalisation of inter-State reciprocal transport agreement.

And, some other substantial issues of Centre State and Inter-State matters were also taken up for discussion in the conference.

**Memorandum of Understanding between India and Spain on cooperation in Port matters Dec 17**



**T**he Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Spain on cooperation in Port matters.

Recognizing the significant mutual benefit that can be derived from cooperation in the port matters between the two countries, it has been decided to sign the Agreement with a view to strengthening cooperation and to render sustained mutual assistance and advice on port matters and other related maritime matters.

Signing of the MoU will help both countries in encouraging and facilitating the development of Ports and provide a cooperation platform for enhancing and stimulating steady growth of maritime traffic, exchange

and training of staff and students from various maritime establishments, exchange of information necessary for accelerating and facilitating the flow of commercial goods at sea and at ports, establishment of joint ventures in the fields of port led development, port efficiency, modernization of existing ports, dredging, particularly maintenance dredging in riverine ports, environment and green port initiative, port engineering, maritime training, information technology including development of simulators, port facilities and related maritime activities, etc.

**Govt approves MoU in energy saving, energy efficiency among BRICS nations Dec 17**



**T**he Union Cabinet, has given its ex-post facto approval to an MoU signed between India and its BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) counterparts for strengthening and further developing of energy saving and energy efficiency cooperation based on the principles of equality and mutual benefit.



**Syed Kirmani is awarded with the 2015 Col. CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award.**

The MoU provides the following areas of cooperation in the field of Energy Savings and Energy Efficiency:

- ✎ Joint scientific and technological research;
- ✎ Conferencing and holding of lectures and seminars;
- ✎ Capacity building and technology transfer;
- ✎ Technology development, sharing policies and best practices;
- ✎ Encouragement of use of energy efficient and energy saving approaches and instruments in the work of the business entities of the BRICS countries, carried out within the BRICS countries in Consultation with the host country.
- ✎ Under the present MoU, the BRICS countries intend to examine the practicability of development of the comprehensive programme of cooperation in energy saving and energy efficiency promotion including specific common projects, applicable methods and instruments of energy saving promotion and energy efficiency increase in their economies.

### Garwood Award for 'Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation' presented to President Mukherjee

Dec 18



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received Garwood Award for 'Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation' from

UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business at Rashtrapati Bhavan. Prof. Solomon Darwin, Executive Director Garwood Center for Corporate Innovation presented the award to the President.

The University of California, Berkeley, one of the most prestigious educational institutes in the world, has established the Garwood Award to acknowledge individuals who have embraced, supported and encouraged open innovation in a significant and impactful way.

In his acceptance speech, the President said that open innovation is a way to future as it captures knowledge-flow from all sources, both internal and external, in an organization. Open innovation is most essential for government entities, who are tasked to serve the citizens. Placing of data in the public domain without compromising the privacy, promotes transparency, innovation and opens up new avenues to solve problems of citizens efficiently and effectively.



Recently LinkedIn appointed Akshay Kothari as Country Manager for India.

*Mahendra's*

### India to purchase Russian S-400 Triumf defense system

Dec 18



The Indian government has approved the purchase of five units of Russian-made S-400 Triumf air defense systems. The S-400 Triumf air defense system

is designed to intercept and destroy airborne targets at an effective range of 250 miles. The system is capable of engaging up to six targets at once, including enemy aircraft, incoming missiles, and unmanned combat aerial vehicles. The purchase of approval comes ahead of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's scheduled visit to Russia at the end of December, according to Hindustan Times.

The S-400 Triumf is a follow-up to the S-300, featuring a faster firing rate. Russian defense officials consider it to be the most modern air defense system in its arsenal. If the purchase moves forward, India will become the system's second buyer after China.

However, Indian defense sources remain uncertain of Moscow's intentions, with defense ministry sources calling Moscow's response "lukewarm," Defense News reports.

In addition to moving forward with plans to purchase the missile system from Russia, India is in the process of developing its own anti-missile system, including the Prithvi Air Defense system for high-altitude interceptions, and Advanced Air Defense system for low-altitude interception.

### Dharamshala to house ACC Centre of Excellence

Dec 20

The Asian Cricket Council announced of setting up an ACC Centre of Excellence in Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh). According to information received from the ACC, this Centre of Excellence will be housed in the Dharamshala Cricket Facility. This Centre will further help the cause of cricket and budding cricketers from the Asian countries.

The site is the first to be designated as such by the ACC. The cricket facility features modern indoor and outdoor training facilities and equipment that will allow coaches and sports staff to enhance the development of International cricketers, assisting them prepare for the demands of international competitions.



## Government Launches Toll-Free 'Eyeway National Helpdesk' for Visually Impaired Citizens of India

Dec 22

**S**ecretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Shri Lov Verma, formally launched the 'Eyeway National Helpdesk' for the blind and visually impaired at the Department Headquarters in Paryavaran Bhawan. Eyeway National Helpdesk is an initiative of Score Foundation with support from the Department and other organizations like Essel Foundation, Tech Mahindra Foundation and the Hans Foundation.

Now visually impaired citizens of India will be able to call the Eyeway Helpdesk on a toll free number, 1800-300-20469, and get queries addressed. Trained counsellors will share information, guide and connect the caller with relevant professional solutions.



Eyeway is a single stop knowledge resource centre on life with blindness. It has been empowering virtually impaired people in the country by sharing information and advocating for change where required. In this National Helpdesk Toll free number, anyone across India can call in for information and get their queries addressed in their regional languages - be it regarding living life with blindness, counselling, advocacy, personal or legal matters, government schemes and programs, employment or education, about making an accessible environment etc.

## Rajya Sabha passed SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015

Dec 22



**T**he upper house of Parliament, Rajya Sabha passed the Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015. The bill seeks to amend the SC & ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. With this, both the Houses of Parliament, viz., Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha passed the bill. Lok Sabha passed the bill in August 2015.

### Main Highlights of the Bill

#### Amending Existing Offences & Adding New Offences

- ✎ The bill amends certain existing categories and adds certain categories of actions by non SCs and STs against SCs or STs to be treated as offences
- ✎ Forcing an SC or ST individual to vote or not vote for a particular candidate in a manner that is against the law was an offence under the Act. The bill adds that impeding certain activities related to voting will also be considered an offence.
- ✎ The bill defines "wrongful" in the context of occupying land belonging to SCs or STs to treat it as an offence under the Act.
- ✎ With respect to assault or sexual exploitation of SC or ST women, the Bill adds following act as an offence:
  - a) Intentionally touching an SC or ST woman in a sexual manner without her consent
  - b) Using words, acts or gestures of a sexual nature
  - c) Dedicating an SC or ST women as a devadasi to a temple, or any similar practice will also be considered an offence.
  - d) The bill defines consent as a voluntary agreement through verbal or non-verbal communication.
- ✎ The bills adds new offences, namely (a) garlanding with footwear, (b) compelling to dispose or carry human or animal carcasses, or do manual scavenging, (c) abusing SCs or STs by caste name in public, (d) attempting to promote feelings of ill-will against SCs or STs or disrespecting any deceased person held in high esteem, and (e) imposing or threatening a social or economic boycott.
- ✎ Preventing SCs or STs from undertaking the following activities will be considered an offence: (a) using common property resources, (c) entering any place of worship that is open to the public, and (d) entering an education or health institution.
- ✎ The court shall presume that the accused was aware of the caste or tribal identity of the victim if the accused had personal knowledge of the victim or his family, unless the contrary is proved.



Recently former Chief Justice of India S.H. Kapadia passed away.



## Lok Sabha passes Bonus Bill

Dec 23



The Lok Sabha passed a bill allowing doubling of wage ceiling for calculating bonus to Rs 7,000 per month for factory workers with establishments with 20 or more workers, with the benefits being applicable retrospectively from April 2014. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015, was passed by a voice vote, with some members objecting to the raising of eligibility limit for payment of bonus from a salary of Rs 10,000 per month to Rs 21,000.

The official amendment provides that the benefits of the Act would be deemed to have come into force on April 1, 2014, instead of April 1, 2015. Dattatreya said the Ministry has held 21 tripartite meetings with all central trade unions while arriving at a decision.

The Bill provides for enhancing monthly bonus calculation ceiling to Rs 7,000 per month from the existing Rs 3,500. It also seeks to enhance the eligibility limit for payment of bonus from Rs 10,000 per month to Rs 21,000 per month.

## Santosh Kumar Gangwar inaugurates Indian Handloom Exhibition

Dec 23

Union Minister of State for Textiles (I/C), Santosh Kumar Gangwar inaugurated Indian Handloom Exhibition at



National Crafts Museum, New Delhi, India. The exhibition will showcase an exquisite collection of Indian Handloom products. It is the need of the hour to produce good quality defect-free handloom fabrics with good colour fastness that do not contain harmful dyes. The product range also needs to be widened to cater to the needs of the youth, the largest population segment of our country.

The exhibition features the latest series of Handloom products by National Centre for Textile Design (NCTD). The series named 'Indian Handloom: Tradition & Trend' presents a trendy garment segment like stoles and shawls, and home furnishing products made up of handloom fabrics.

Twenty Weavers' Service Centres from across the country have been involved in preparing the designs while reputed designers serving as members of the Implementation Committee of NCTD have contributed their expertise in selecting designs for the collection as per the market trend.

## Idea Launches 4G Services

Dec 24

Idea Cellular became the third mobile operator to launch 4G services after Bharti Airtel and Vodafone India. The 4G launch by country's third-biggest mobile phone operator comes ahead of rival Mukesh Ambani-controlled Reliance Jio's much publicized country-wide rollout of 4G services later this fiscal year. Idea holds 1800 MHz (4G) spectrum in 10 telecom circles across India; 75 towns across four telecom

circles and five states - Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu - have been covered under Idea's 4G network in the first phase. But all towns and cities in these states would be covered only by March 2016.

## Agriculture Ministry launches two mobile apps for farmers

Dec 24



In a bid to let farmers harvest the best of mobile technology, the Agriculture Ministry launched two mobile apps for farmers. Launching the apps, Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister Radha Mohan Singh said the government would launch a new crop insurance scheme, which would aim speedy disposal of claims with very less premiums.

The mobile apps — 'Crop Insurance' would help the farmers not only to find out complete details about insurance cover available in their area but also to calculate the insurance premium for notified crops, coverage amount and loan amount in case of a loaned farmer. The other app — 'AgriMarket' could be used by the farmers to get the prices of crops in the market (mandi) within 50 km radius of the device and other mandis in the country, he said. Ministry was organising "Kisan Jai Vigyan Week" to celebrate birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Ch. Charan Singh, starting ensuing December 25. Launching of these mobile apps is the part of the week-long celebrations.



## Development of new flight “theme calendar in 2016 the Government of India issued

Dec 24



**U**nion Information and Broadcasting Minister Arun Jaitley released the 2016 calendar of the Indian government, the Narendra Modi government’s national priorities and agenda “have been emphasized.

The traditional calendar retains his place despite new technology. Each month of the calendar 2016 Development of the Government of India displayed a theme will carry forward the government’s development programs. Calendar of each month a specific target and priority areas related to people is expressed. Calendar skills development, digital smart city programs, from India and the BJP government’s plans to introduce public funding exposes.

That access to the calendar is so wide that the flagship programs of the government message about the country reaches the panchayats. The currency plan, Beti Bachao-daughter Pdhaon and smart city development topics such as the government’s national priorities and goals through the calendar are emphasized. Government doubts the power of evolution is repeated in the calendar. It is part of people belonging to the national program.

## Russia, India ink 4 projects

**R**ussia’s decision to open up its oil and gas sector to Indian companies will significantly boost bilateral trade and the two sides are negotiating on some more acquisitions and projects in the hydrocarbons sector. Russia considers its huge oil and gas reserves as strategic resources and is allowing Indian firms “extensive exposure” to them in sync with close bilateral ties.

The deals sealed in the oil sector include ONGC Videsh Ltd buying a 15 per cent stake in Russia’s Vankorneft oil field for close to \$1.3 billion. Vankorneft is Russia’s second biggest oil field and is owned by oil behemoth Rosneft. India, considered one of world’s fastest growing energy markets, has been eyeing greater access to major gas and oil exploration projects in Russia and central Asian countries. New Delhi had pressed Russia to open its oil and gas sector to Indian companies during summit talks between President Vladimir Putin and Modi in December last year and the Russian side now has heeded to the request. ONGC Videsh Ltd is exploring more acquisitions in Russian oil fields besides working on some other proposals. Sounding confident of Indian companies in oil and gas sector expanding their operation in Russia, the envoy said economic relations between the two countries are on an upswing which is going to boost bilateral trade volume significantly.



Dec 25

## First Ever International Electric Vehicle Expo in India

Dec 25

**B**eing an auto enthusiast, you would have come across different motorshows and auto-expos happening in India. For the very first time, India will be hosting the International Electric Vehicle Expo. Nitin Gadkari, Union Minister for Road



Transport & Highways is going to inaugurate the first ever electric vehicle show and green mobility exposition in India. The event EVEXPO-2015 would kick-start on 24th December, Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

This first EV-Expo 2015 holds special significance particularly because this Expo is the first ever concerted effort put together after the passing of Motor Vehicles (Amendment Bill, 2015) bringing E-Carts & E-Rickshaws under the ambit of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 specially at a time when Govt. is all out to promote E-Rickshaws & E-Carts to provide “End mile connectivity and ‘environment friendly’ transport solutions in order to boost passenger safety, convenience and in making India a pollution free country. Equally important is the fact that the Expo is in line with Govt.’s objective to convert 10% of 2/3/4 wheeler vehicles plying on the Indian roads into Hybrid/ E-Vehicles which makes E-Rickshaws & E-Carts hold special significance in creating a pollution free environment.

**Recently Pakistan has declared its capital Islamabad as sister city of Minsk (Belarus).**





## Suresh Prabhu gets SIES award for national eminence

Dec 26



**R**ailway Minister Suresh Prabhu was conferred the prestigious 'SIES Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award' for outstanding leadership in public. The award has been instituted in memory of late 68th Sankaracharya of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham Swami Chandrasekharendra Saraswati, who lived 100 years until his death in 1994, said South Indian Education Society (SIES) President V. Shankar. Some of the earlier recipients include two former presidents late Shankar Dayal Sharma and Bharat Ratna A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, economist and diplomat Nani Palkhiwala etc.

## Transmission lines ready to supply another 100 MW to Bangladesh

Dec 26

**I**ndia and Bangladesh have completed the erection of a transmission line to supply an additional 100 MW of electricity to power-starved Bangladesh. However, supplies would be delayed by a week or two as the two countries are yet to ink a power purchase agreement (PPA).

Erection of a 47-km transmission line from western Tripura to southern Comilla in eastern Bangladesh has

been completed. The Power Grid Corporation of India (PGCIL) and the Power Generation Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) have tested the transmission lines on both their sides and found they are okay.

The PGCIL and the PGCB, both government-owned companies, erected the transmission lines in their respective areas for the supply of electricity from the Palatana power plant in southern Tripura. Indian and Bangladeshi officials held a series of meetings in New Delhi and Dhaka to finalise all the nitty-gritties of power supply except the tariff. The last two such meetings were held in New Delhi on October 26-28 and November 26.

## India's first indigenous frigate INS Godavari decommissioned

Dec 26



**I**ndia's first indigenously designed and built warship Indian Naval Ship Godavari is scheduled to be decommissioned. Godavari's keel was laid on 03 November 1978 by Adm J Cursetji, CNS, and it was launched on 15 May 1980. It was commissioned in December 1983. Being the first indigenously designed and constructed ship, it was showcased around the world as a symbol of India's growing military might and self-reliance.

INS Godavari has been replete with achievements and glory. Over the past three decades, Godavari

has successfully been deployed in numerous operations, including 'Operation Jupiter' - 1988 (Sri Lanka), 'Operation Shield' and 'Operation Bolster' - 1994 (de-induction of Indian Army from Somalia) and 'Patrol of Gulf of Aden' (PoG) - 2009, 2011 (anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden). The ship has participated in numerous operations and deployments, across the expanse of the Indian Ocean and beyond.

## India, Russia signed 16 pacts to deepen bilateral cooperation

Dec 26



**I**ndia and Russia signed 16 Agreements/Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) to deepen bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, security, technology, etc. The pacts were signed after the conclusion of the 16th India-Russia Annual Summit in Moscow. After the summit, which was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Russian President Vladimir Putin, both the leaders issued a joint statement with the theme Shared Trust, New Horizons.

### Some important Agreements/MoUs

- ✎ Protocol amending the agreement, which was signed on 21 December 2010, between India and Russia on simplification of requirements for mutual travels of certain categories of citizens of the two countries.



**RBI has imposed a penalty of 1 crore rupees on State Bank of Travancore.**

*Mahendra's*



- ✎ Protocol amending agreement between India and Russia on mutual travel regime for holders of Diplomatic & Official Passports of 3 December 2004.
- ✎ Agreement between India and Russia on Cooperation in the field of Helicopter Engineering
- ✎ Plan for Cooperation between the Federal Customs Service of the Central Board of Excise and Customs, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance, India and the Russian Federation for combating Customs violations in 2015 – 2017.
- ✎ Programme of Action Agreed Between the Department of Atomic Energy of India and the Russian State Atomic Energy Corporation “Rosatom” for Localization of Manufacturing in India for Russian-Designed Nuclear Reactor Units.
- ✎ Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Railways of India and the Joint Stock company “Russian Railways” on technical cooperation in railway sector.

## Women and Child Development Ministry launches e-office

Dec 28



**M**inistry of Women and Child Development launched e-office by digitising more than 12,000 files, a step which will help provide transparent, efficient and time-bound services to the public. In the new system, a file will take only 4-5 days for processing as compared to 30-40 days earlier and it will also be possible to locate the point at which it is held up.

The e-office will result in substantial reduction of processing time which will directly impact the delivery mechanism of the ministry, both for the state governments as well as related civil society organisations. The e-office will also result in better accountability and transparency and will ultimately result in higher manpower efficiency. The project was initiated in July and over 12,000 files of the Ministry have been digitised. Several modules

of e-office i.e. File Management System, Knowledge Management System, Leave Management System, Tour Management System, have been running under the e-office.

## A new chapter for State, Central libraries

Dec 28



**T**he Ministry of Culture has approved Rs. 400 crore for the upgradation of Central and State libraries during the 12th Plan period. Under the scheme “National Mission on Libraries (NML) – Upgradation of Libraries – Providing Services to the Public”, six libraries under the Centre will be upgraded. These are Delhi Public Library, Delhi (Rs 234.38 lakh); Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna (Rs 398.78 lakh); National Library, Kolkata (426.84 lakh); Central Secretariat Library (452.38 lakh) Thanjavur Maharaja Serfoji’s Saraswati Mahal Library, Tamil Nadu (Rs 691.22 lakh). No amount has been specified for Rampur Raza Library, Uttar Pradesh, which is also under the Culture Ministry.

In States, Rs. 223 lakh each has been approved for HKM State Library, Bhubaneswar, State Central Library, Bangalore, Birchandra State Central Library, Agartala and State Central Library, Itanagar. State Central Library Kolkata will be provided Rs. 222.81 lakh and State Central Library, Allahabad, will get Rs. 206 lakhs Ministry release said.

“Proposals of 12 States have been approved and fund released to three states,” said the release.

The scheme envisages creation of National Virtual Library of India, setting up of NML model libraries, quantitative and qualitative survey of libraries and capacity building in 35 State Central Libraries and 35 District Libraries (to be identified by State Governments) and six libraries under the Ministry of Culture. As of now, 11 State Central Libraries and 11 District Libraries have been identified so far.



**Italian Filippo Grandi took over as Chief of the office of UN High Commissioner for Refugees.**

## Astra missile proves anti-jamming capability

Dec 28

A crucial capability of the air-to-air Astra missile — its resistance to jamming — was successfully validated in recent trials conducted by missile scientists of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), which indigenously developed the compact missile. After carrying out some more trials, including air launch trial with a warhead, the Beyond-Visual Range missile is set to be inducted into the Air Force next year.

During the recent ground and air trials conducted near Pune, the missile's RF seeker and other electronic components were sought to be jammed to see how it performs in such a scenario at the time of war when the enemy tries to jam its operation. The ECCM (electronic counter-counter measure) features of the missile to overcome any jamming were evaluated.

The all-weather, radar homing missile has high manoeuvrability and capability to engage and destroy aerial targets at supersonic speeds. The 60-km plus range missile possesses Shot Kill Probability (SSKP) making it one of the most reliable in its class of weapon systems.



## Russia tied up with HAL to manufacture Kamov 226T helicopters

Dec 30



Russia's Rostech State Corporation tied up with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture at least 200 Kamov 226T light helicopters. The Kamov will replace the ageing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak. The deal is estimated to be worth 1 billion US dollars and is the first Russian-Indian high-tech project implemented by the Indian government within the framework of the Make in India initiative.

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow in December 2015, an agreement was signed between the two countries on cooperation in the field of helicopter manufacturing. As per the terms of deal, Rostech will organise

in India the production of Russian Ka-226T and its modifications. The agreement also provides for maintenance, operation and repair of helicopters.

## MoU with US firm for smart cities approved

Dec 31

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a memorandum of understanding between the ministry of urban development and Bloomberg Philanthropies (BP), New York, to support the government's ambitious project of developing smart cities. This newspaper had reported about the development first. The proposal entails Bloomberg Philanthropies to work as knowledge partner and support the development and execution of a cities challenge under the Smart Cities Mission.

The Union Cabinet had earlier approved the Smart Cities Mission in April 2015, and subsequently, the Prime Minister had launched it on June 25, 2015. The proposal under the Smart Cities Mission seeks to facilitate creation of quality urban infrastructure which will lead to improvement in the quality of urban life. Bloomberg Philanthropies Government Innovation Initiatives equip mayors and local leaders with practical tools and approaches to solve major challenges and enable public sector innovation to flourish.

As a knowledge partner, Bloomberg Philanthropies will also support the ministry of urban development in helping design and manage the cities challenge. Meanwhile, in yet another decision, the Cabinet decided to scale up by nearly 10-fold the financial assistance for grid connected rooftop and small solar power plants programme to Rs 5,000 crore.



Abidali Neemuchwala has been appointed as new CEO of Wipro.

*Mahendra's*



## India To Renew Agreement On Higher Education With Canada

Dec 31



**R**ecognizing the potential of collaboration between higher education institutions, the Cabinet gave its nod for renewal of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Canada for cooperation in the sector. The Cabinet also gave its ex-post facto approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS countries on BRICS Network University.

A MoU between India and Canada on cooperation in Higher Education was signed in June, 2010 for a period of five years. As per terms of the MoU, at the end of the five years, the MoU was to be renewed for a possible renewal for a further five year period. Recognizing the potential of collaboration between Higher Education Institutions of Canada and India and to further develop bilateral relations in this field, it has been proposed to renew the MoU, the statement added.

## Norway to help India manage construction waste

Dec 31

**I**ndia will sign an MoU with Norway for training of human resource to handle construction and demolition waste, in tune with the Clean India Campaign launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between SINTEF, Norway and Central Public



Works Department (CPWD) for cooperation in the development of human resource capacity-building and scientific research in the field of Recycling of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste in India.

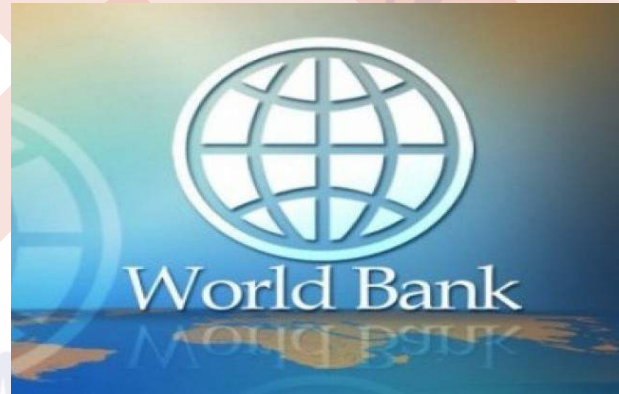
The proposal in this regard was cleared by the union cabinet. India's construction industry generates about 10-12 million tonnes of waste annually. There is a huge demand of aggregates in the housing and road sectors but

there is a significant gap in demand and supply, which can be reduced to a certain extent by recycling construction and demolition waste.

While some of the items like bricks, tiles wood, metal are re-used and recycled, concrete and masonry, constituting about 50 percent of the construction and demolition waste, is not currently recycled in the country.

## India signs Financing Agreement with World Bank

Jan 01



**A** Financing Agreement for IDA credit of US\$ 50 million (equivalent) for the Nai Manzil-Education and Skills Training for Minorities" was signed with the World Bank. The Financing Agreement was signed by Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) on behalf of the Government of India and by Michael Haney, World Bank's Operations Adviser in India on behalf of the World Bank. Representative(s) from the Ministry of Minority Affairs and officials from the World Bank were also present.

The total project size is USD 100 million, out of which USD 50 million will be available as IDA credit, and the balance funding from the Union Budget. The project takes an integrated and holistic approach towards education and skill development of the minority youth, to address the high dropout and unemployment rate among them. Minority BPL (below poverty line) youth in the age group of 17-35 years will be the main beneficiaries of the project. Improvement in the education attainment of the minority youth in the project area and improvement in their employability skills are among the expected outcomes of the project.

The project will follow result based financing modality, and project funds will be disbursed on achievement of specific results such as number of student enrolled, number of students successfully completing education and skill components etc. The closing date of the project is 31st October, 2021.



**ONGC won the prestigious 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri Hockey tournament.**



## Shyam Benegal to head committee to revamp film censor board Jan 02



In the wake of recent controversies, the Centre has decided to form a panel which will be responsible for the overhaul of the Censor Board. The committee will be headed by noted film director Shyam Benegal under holistic interpretation of provisions of Cinematograph Act and Rules. The committee would be expected to take note of the best practices in various parts of the world, especially where the film industry is given sufficient and adequate space for creative and aesthetic expression.

Other members of the revamp board are Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Piyush Pandey, Bhawana Somaaya, Nina Lath Gupta. The committee has been requested to submit their recommendations within two months.

## Cabinet Approves Construction of 69 Bridges in Myanmar Jan 02



The Union Cabinet, chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the construction of 69 bridges including approach roads on the Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa (TKK) road section of the trilateral highway in Myanmar at a cost of Rs. 371.58 crore. This will impart all weather usability to the TTK road section, which is also part of the route for the proposed Imphal-Mandalay bus service. It will improve connectivity between India and Myanmar and facilitate the movement of goods and traffic.

The Government of Myanmar has started work on constructing two bridges, on its own, as these bridges needed urgent attention.

## India to send indigenous Tejas to Bahrain air show Jan 02



Government has decided to field indigenously developed combat aircraft Tejas for the fourth edition of Bahrain International Air Show (BIAS). To be held from January 21-23, BIAS also see participation of Pakistan's JF-17 fighter produced with Chinese help. India also send IAF Sarang helicopter display team that flies indigenous Dhruv helicopters and DRDO's airborne early warning and control platform.

The team is to leave Bangalore on January 5 and halt at Jamnagar, followed by a stopover at Muscat for refuelling before arriving at Bahrain's Sakhir Airbase. The decision to field Tejas is being seen as a bold move as its performance would be analysed by aerospace professionals from across the world. Pakistan's move to send JF-17 is likely to lead to a comparison between the two.

## Wipro names Abid Ali Neemuchwala as CEO Jan 04



India's third largest IT exporter Wipro Limited announced the appointment of Abid Ali Z. Neemuchwala as the Chief Executive Officer and Member of the Board of the company. The company also appointed the current CEO T.K. Kurien as the Executive Vice Chairman. Both the appointments will be effective from February 1, 2016.

T.K. Kurien, will continue to report to Azim Premji and will remain a Member of the Board until March 31, 2017. As Executive Vice Chairman, TK will enable Abid by leveraging his deep relationships with customers and chart out a new technology roadmap for Wipro. Wipro had appointed former TCS BPO CEO Abid Ali Neemuchwala as the group president and chief operating officer (COO) of the company effective April 1, 2015.



New Zealand won the fifth and final one-day international cricket match played at New Zealand.

## Justice RM Lodha Committee submitted its report to Supreme Court Jan 04



**J**ustice RM Lodha Committee on IPL spot fixing submitted its report to the Supreme Court suggesting reforms in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The panel has recommended separate governing bodies for IPL and BCCI, with limited autonomy for the IPL Governing Council. It has also recommended legalising betting.

### Key Recommendations Proposed

- ✎ It proposed that no Minister or government servant should become a BCCI office-bearer.
- ✎ It suggested that the BCCI office-bearer's term should not exceed more than two consecutive terms.
- ✎ It suggests that any BCCI office-bearer cannot hold two posts at the same time.
- ✎ It proposed the constitution and establishment of a players' association.
- ✎ It asks for restructuring of the BCCI constitution.
- ✎ It says that one association from each state should be a member of the BCCI.
- ✎ At present BCCI have 34 members of which few are inactive ones like Railways and Services. It recommended relegation of Railways, Services and other members who don't have competitive presence, to affiliate status without voting rights.
- ✎ For the creation of the players' association, it suggests for a steering committee headed by former Home Secretary G K Pillai with Mohinder Amarnath, Diana Eduljee and Anil Kumble as members.
- ✎ It suggests that the day to day management of the BCCI should be conducted by a CEO, who should be assisted by six professional managers. They will be responsible to an apex council.
- ✎ It suggests that the apex council of the BCCI should constitute of 9 members of whom 5 will be elected, 2 will be representatives of the players' association, and one will be a woman.

## BSNL to set up 40,000 WiFi hot spots in India Jan 05

**S**tate-run BSNL will set up 40,000 wi-fi hotspots across the country, entailing an investment of about Rs 6,000 crore. The tender for the project is likely to be floated by July and it will be completed by 2018. Estimated investment by BSNL for this would be around Rs 6,000 crore. The company also inaugurated WiFi facility at Taj Mahal as part of the government's plan to put such services at major tourist places. This year BSNL will set up another 2,500 WiFi hot spots at 250 locations at the cost of Rs 500 crore. BSNL CMD Anupam Srivastava said that of these 200 hot spots have already been set up. BSNL will be providing free wi-fi services for 30 minutes per 24 hours (three times in a month) which visitors can utilise in multiple sessions. After free usage limit of 30 minutes is exhausted, one can continue using the service on paid basis for which subscription plans are available in the denomination of Rs 20, Rs 30, Rs 50 and Rs 70 for validity of 30 min, 60 min, 120 min and one day, respectively.



## India-Nepal Bus Service resumed after 27 years Jan 05



**I**ndia-Nepal Bus Service resumed after a gap of 27 years. The service was suspended 27 years ago in the wake of the Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty. The service runs between Kanchanpur in Nepal, which is close to Banbasa border in Champavat district of Uttarakhand, and Anand Vihar ISBT in Delhi.

To travel in these buses, no special documents are required as both the countries share open border. The service is expected to benefit people living along the border areas as they have family as well as trade relations with

each other. And, it is also expected to benefit around 10000 Nepalis who travel from Kanchanpur district, Dandel Dhura, Voti, Sopen, Acham, Kalali, Jagbuddha and Siddhartha Nagar areas in Nepal.



**Recently Cricketer Matthew Hobden passed away.**



## Cabinet approved PPP model for wastewater sector under Namami Gange plan

Jan 07

A new entity will be set up in the coming days to explore and develop new markets for treated wastewater as part of the ambitious Namami



Gange Programme which seeks to integrate efforts to clean and protect river Ganga. The Union Cabinet approved a proposal for taking up hybrid annuity-based public-private partnership (PPP) model under Namami Gange Programme to reform the wastewater sector in India.

The proposed SPV will be established under Companies Act, 2013 for providing required governance framework and enabling functional autonomy. It would enter into a tripartite memorandum of agreement (MoA) with participating state governments and concerned urban local bodies for taking up individual projects.

## Cabinet approved aviation MoU with Singapore

Jan 07



The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a memorandum of understanding between India and Singapore on cooperation in the field of civil aviation.

The MoU was signed in November last year between the Airports Authority of India and the Singapore Cooperation Enterprise during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit. The objective of this MoU is to cooperate in the field of civil aviation, which will cover, to begin with, the airports of Jaipur and Ahmedabad. This cooperation will be extended to other airports with mutual consent. The collaboration will focus on master-planning and design, traffic development, maintenance, repair and overhaul, commercial development, service improvement and cargo handling among others.

## Cabinet gives approval to India-Bahrain Agreement on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism

Jan 07

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the



Agreement between India and Bahrain on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs, Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Chemicals and its ratification. The MOU shall come into force from the date of exchange of the instruments of ratification.

The Agreement aims to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and suppression of crimes including crime relating to terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking. It will help establish framework for enhancing cooperation between the officials of intelligence and law-enforcement agencies of the two countries.

## Nitin Gadkari inaugurates the first River Information System of India

Jan 08



Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the River Information System (RIS) System at a function in New Delhi.

The first of its kind in India, the new system will facilitate safe and accurate navigation on National Waterway – 1 on the Ganges River. RIS is being implemented under the overall responsibility of Inland Waterway Authority of India, a statutory body administered by the Ministry of Shipping. Phase- II of the System from Farakka to Patna and Phase-III from Patna to Varanasi will also be implemented on priority.

River Information Services (RIS) are combination of modern tracking equipment related hardware and software designed to optimize traffic and transport processes in inland navigation. The system enhances swift electronic data transfer between mobile vessels and shore (Base stations) through advance and real-time exchange of information. RIS aims to streamline the exchange of information between waterway operators and users.



**R.K. Mathur sworn in as the eighth Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.**

*Mahendra's*

## Sailesh appointed new Registrar General, Census Commissioner Jan 08

Senior IAS officer Sailesh appointed as Registrar General and Census Commissioner. Sailesh, a 1985 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, is presently Additional Secretary in Home Ministry. He has been appointed in place of C Chandramouli, who completed his tenure. The Appointments Committee of Cabinet has approved the appointment of Sailesh as Registrar General and Census Commissioner for a period till July 28, 2017, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training said.

## Hindi writer Ravindra Kalia passes away Jan 09

Noted Hindi writer and journalist Ravindra Kalia passed away at a private hospital. He was 78. Kalia had been suffering from liver cirrhosis, according to family sources. Known for his works like 'Nau Saal Chotti Patni' and 'Ghalib Chutti Sharab', the former Bharatiya Jnanpith director was also the editor of several literary magazines, including Naya Gyanodaya.



## Union Government launched an online initiative to engage LPG consumers and citizens Jan 09



The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) on 9 January 2016 launched an Online Initiative to engage the LPG Consumers and Citizens in providing efficient and citizen friendly services in LPG distribution. It has launched two online discussion forums namely Citizen Friendly Services and Increasing LPG Coverage in the Country, which are available on the websites [www.mygov.in](http://www.mygov.in) and [www.mylpg.in](http://www.mylpg.in). The government also urged consumers to participate and share their thoughts on the respective forums. These comments will be used in improving the customer oriented services

related to LPG Coverage & Delivery. The initiative is one of the many steps for observing 2016 as the Year of LPG Consumers.

## Test Firing of New Tank Ammunition for Arjun MBT Jan 09



Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted test firing of new tank ammunition Penetration-Cum Blast (PCB) and Thermobaric (TB) Ammunition, specially designed for Arjun Tank at Chandipur, Odisha on 6th Jan 2016.

The trials were found to be very effective and the damage was devastating with the firing of ammunition successfully destroying the target tank and severely damaging its turret, barrel, tracks, ammunition bin, various sights, antennas etc.

The ammunitions have been developed by Pune based DRDO laboratories Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).

The trials were conducted jointly with Army and was aimed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the ammunitions on derelict tank fitted with instrumentation to measure the shocks, blast pressure and temperature at various locations and on advanced imaging systems.

The trials were unique as for the first time such evaluation is carried out in India which will give a quantum jump in the fire-power of Arjun tanks.

The technical trials were witnessed by Directors of HEMRL & PXE, Director DQRS, Army representatives and other senior officials from DRDO.



India's first urban yacht marina project will come up in Howrah on the banks of the Hooghly river.



## President of India inaugurates 88th Annual Conference of Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan

Jan 10



The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the three day long 88th annual conference of Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

Speaking on the occasion, the President said he had been closely involved with the organization for the last three decades. He said the great traditions of Bengali literature, language and culture originated from the period of 'Charyapada' a Bengali compilation that was discovered by the noted scholar, Haraprasad Shastri in Nepal in 1907.

The President said Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan, initially known as Prabasi Banga Sahitya Sammelan, was born in 1922 and the next year itself, in 1923, in its Varanasi session it was patronized by Rabindra Nath Tagore. Songs and music composed by Rabindra Nath and Quazi Nazrul Islam along with other luminaries played a major role in nation building.

The President said the core element of Bengali literature is human being and its thinking. During the freedom movement it was Bengali literature that influenced our social thinking and social reforms as well as vice-versa. He named Michael Madhusudan Dutta, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, Rabindra

Nath Tagore and a host of other poets and writers who have contributed significantly in enriching our mind. The President urged all participants of the conference to continue contributing meaningfully towards preserving and encouraging Indian literature.

## Binny Bansal is the new CEO of Flipkart

Jan 11



India's biggest e-commerce company Flipkart its chief executive and co-founder Sachin Bansal will step down and be succeeded by its other co-founder, Binny Bansal.

Binny, who was the chief operating officer before the rejig, launched Flipkart in 2007 along with Sachin, (they are not related) who will now take the role of executive chairman.

Binny as chief executive officer will now be responsible for operationally driving the company and will be accountable for Flipkart's overall performance. All the business areas – Commerce, Ekart and Myntra - will now report to Binny. All corporate functions including Human Resources, Finance, Legal, Corporate Communications and Corporate Development will also report to Binny.

"At Flipkart, we have come a long way in our eight year journey. Today, we are in a very strong leadership position with over 60 per cent market share of the m-commerce market, 50 million customers and

clear leadership in smartphones and fashion. The journey ahead is equally exciting and challenging. Flipkart has all the necessary ingredients of brilliant talent and great technology to win this next phase as well. We will continue to build world-class customer experience, expand our supply chain infrastructure to reach all parts of India, drive innovations in mobile commerce and bring in disruptive technologies," said Binny.

As Flipkart explains, Sachin, in his role as executive chairman, will provide strategic direction for Flipkart, mentor the senior leadership of the company and look for new investment opportunities. He will play an active role in championing the Indian e-commerce sector and building the internet ecosystem, and represent the company in external forums. Sachin will continue to be the Chairman of the Board.

The management changes come amid talks that the company is preparing for an IPO in the United States - in what is expected to be one of the biggest listings by an Indian company abroad.

## Kullu's Nati folk dance entered Guinness Book of World Records

Jan 12



The Nati folk dance of Kullu district of Himachal Pradesh was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest folk dance in the world.



USA lifted a 40-year-old ban on export of crude oil.

Nati entered in the book as the largest folk dance in terms of participants' number. Total 9892 women participated in this folk dance in their traditional colourful Kulluvi on 26 October 2015 during International Dussehra festival. The event, phrased as Pride of Kullu, was dedicated to girl child, was recorded in several cameras. Kullu Dussehra is a centuries-old festival and celebrations begin on Vijaya Dashami, the day when the festivities end in rest of the country.

The folk dance entered the Limca Book of Records in 2014 after about 8760 artists performed it at the Kullu Dussehra festivities. Telangana became first State to make gender education compulsory at graduate level

## 1971 Indo-Pak War Hero, Lieutenant General JFR Jacob Dies

Jan 13



**L**ieutenant General J.F.R. Jacob (retired), who negotiated the surrender of Pakistani troops in Dhaka following the 1971 war, died. Lt Gen Jacob, then a Major General, served as the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Eastern Command during the war. Post retirement, he also served as the Governor of Goa and Punjab.

## Centre clears new Defence Procurement Policy

Jan 13

**T**he new Defence procurement policy was cleared by the Centre, the priority and focus will be to purchase all indigenously designed and developed and manufactured Defence equipment. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar said the Defence acquisition council in its marathon three-hour meeting cleared the key provisions of the policy, which will be that from now on, the priority and focus will be to purchase all indigenously designed and developed and manufactured Defence equipment. Indigenously designed, developed and manufactured equipment must have at least 40 per cent Indian components and 60 per cent Indian component if the design is not Indian. Department of Defence Production will bear 90 per cent of design and development cost of major systems to encourage Research and Development in the Private Sector. Small & Medium Scale industries will be given up to Rs 19 crore for design and development and contract within 24 months.



## NHAI signs MoU with ISRO and NECTAR for use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways

Jan 14



**N**HAI has signed Memorandum of Understanding with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and North East Centre for Technology Application and Research (NECTAR) for use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways.

NHAI has been entrusted with National Highways Development Project (NHDP), along with other projects for development, maintenance and management of National Highways across the country. To accomplish this mandate, it is required to use advanced and multiple technologies to expedite project preparation, monitor

construction progress, operation and maintenance and optimal management of its assets. ISRO is the nodal agency appointed by Govt. of India for Space Technology.

National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), a part of ISRO, is the focal point for distribution of remote sensing satellite data products in India.

The NRSC supplies satellite data products acquired by Indian Satellites (ISRO) and also by the foreign satellite product companies. North East Centre for Technology Application and Research (NECTAR), Department of Science and Technology uses Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for acquiring aerial images for infrastructure planning. The use of satellite data and geospatial technology will be useful in providing inputs in highway and infrastructure projects for preparation of DPR, prefeasibility status in new alignment, upgrade/road widening, monitoring of road segments under construction and Road Asset Management System.



Vladimir Putin was named 'Person of the Year' for 2015 in Israel.



## PM gives away the "Times Now" Amazing Indians Awards 2016 Jan 15



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, gave away the "Times Now" Amazing Indians Awards 2016. The awards were given

in recognition of great achievements in the face of adversity. Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said the awardees were people whose life journey had been like a diamond, that passes through great travails before being recognized and acknowledged by the world at large. The Prime Minister regretted that in India, most of the narrative has been built around the lives of those in power, or the ruling class.

Those who have struggled and achieved noble objectives, or served society, despite severe obstacles and adversity, are rarely recognized and celebrated, he added. The Prime Minister said that today in India, a teacher who might have inspired hundreds of young children to become responsible members of society, often remains unnoticed and unheard, while even a relatively junior political functionary is feted. The Prime Minister said that the world over, most of the great achievers have been those, who overcame personal hardships, or difficult circumstances, and yet contributed to society.

Reflecting on Indian history and mythology, the Prime Minister gave several illustrations from the Ramayana and Mahabharata, and recalled the Panj Pyaaras, and the brave Maratha warriors who were part of Chhatrapati Shivaji's army. The Prime Minister complimented Times Now for discovering and presenting to the world at large, the awardees for the day, and said their work would inspire many others. He complimented the awardees for their achievements.

## Dr. Nasim Zaidi, Inaugurates Matdaata Mahotsav as a Part National Voters' Day Celebrations on the 25th of January 2016 Jan 15

The Chief Election Commissioner of India, Dr. Nasim Zaidi said that National Voters Day is mark of the power of every individual vote. After inaugurating Matdaata Mahotsav 2016, Dr. Zaidi said that voters' Participation in the democratic and electoral



processes is integral to the successful running of any democracy and the very basis of wholesome democratic elections. He reiterated that voter is the bedrock of the institution of democracy. Dr. Zaidi further added that Election Commission aspire to reach out to every adult citizen of the country and promote ethical and aware participation in the electoral process. He agreed that this festival is an effort to initiate the process of collaboration for enhanced and quality participation in the elections. Matdaata Mahotsav 2016 marks completion of 5 successful events of the National Voters Day and launch of the SVEEP programme. This year's theme is 'inclusive and qualitative participation' and slogan is that 'no voter should be left behind'.

The Chief Election Commissioner of India along with Election Commissioner, Sh.O.P.Rawat visited all the State stalls, ECI stalls and the International Stalls including that of Maldives, Nepal, Moldova, Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Fiji and Australia showcasing various components and aspects of election management. The inauguration day witnessed a huge public footfall especially, the youth.

The event will host national exhibition displaying the good practices on various aspects of election management and also describe the process of elections through interactive models, presentations and exhibits from different parts of the country. Every State has been provided a stall in which they will show their unique geographical, cultural and linguistic diversities and how they address their challenge and conduct the elections with perfections. All day activities will include hands on experience of EVM and VVPAT machines, online kiosk for voters registration, understanding various electoral processes through audio, video, Quiz contests, games. Many attractive live models have been set up in the stall. Everyday various cultural troupes would be presenting their voter awareness programme.



Afghanistan is the 164th and the newest member of World Trade Organisation



# STATES

## Microsoft, FORTI tie up to help SMBs adopt technology

Dec 16



**M**icrosoft joined hands with Federation of Rajasthan Trade & Industry (FORTI) to help small and medium businesses (SMBs) in Rajasthan adopt technology and harness its power for enhancing efficiency and seizing new opportunities to grow their businesses. With the recently launched Windows 10 on PC and phone devices like the Lumia 950, and our cloud-based services, SMBs can access new markets, engage with customers more efficiently and manage their costs better.

In association with FORTI along with its channel partners like BB Professionals, Microsoft aims to enable SMBs in the state to be profitable with technology helping them accelerate their businesses. In today's environment technology is not a luxury but a pre-requisite and it is crucial to make technology more accessible for faster adoption.

## UP's CM inaugurated 148 projects Dec 18



**I**nfrastructure is required for development and it is developing in Uttar Pradesh at a fast pace, chief minister Akhilesh Yadav claimed. He laid the foundation stone of 79 projects

and unveiled 69 projects. The CM also condemned people who are dividing the society in the name of cow. He said the SP government is trying to develop the state with the help of this animal. He inaugurated 148 projects worth Rs 661 crore. He distributed laptops to 494 meritorious students. As many as 4,500 cycles were given away to labours and 300 tricycles were also distributed.

Addressing a gathering at DDU Gorakhpur University, Yadav announced that a hostel would be constructed in the university, in which Nepalese students would also be accommodated. Taking a dig at the vice-chancellor, he said that the V-C's is probably close to the governor, so he has not demanded anything from the government.

Yadav announced that the city will have two road overbridges. Urwa Bazaar and Badhalganj will be developed as towns. He also promised a beautiful Lohia Park in the city. He also said that water purifiers would be installed in villages after survey to combat JE/AES. The CM criticized the Central government for not supporting the state government on the issue of sugarcane farmers.

## UP govt bans use of polythene bags in state

Dec 19



**T**he Uttar Pradesh cabinet approved a complete ban on the distribution, manufacture and sales of polythene carry bags in the state. Chief minister Akhilesh Yadav presided over the meeting of the state cabinet that also decided to convene the budget session of the state legislature in the last week of January 2016 (after January 26) and approved e-auctioning in the state 'mandis' (agriculture produce markets) and a unified licence for traders across the state.

The Allahabad high court had directed the Uttar Pradesh government to issue a notification enforcing a complete ban on the sale of polythene across the state by December 31. The National Green Tribunal (NGT) too had recently banned the use of polythene along the Ganga, including areas in Uttar Pradesh, and sources said the cabinet decision was in compliance with those orders.

However, the situation in Ghaziabad remains grim due to the rampant use of polythene carry bags. Environment activists said that the enforcement of the ban will be a major challenge.



Atul Sobti took charge as CMD of BHEL.



## Bihar approves five new medical colleges

Dec 19



**B**ihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has given approval to the opening of five new medical colleges and hospitals in the state. The chief minister approved the proposal for new medical colleges in a meeting called to review the performance of the state health department, in which state Health Minister Tej Pratap Yadav was also present.

Once the new medical colleges come up, the total number of such institutions in Bihar will go up to 22. It was also decided to set up four-bed intensive care units in all district hospitals.

The chief minister directed that free medicines should be provided to the needy without any interruption in government hospitals. He ordered to transform four bed intensive units in government hospitals into 10-bedded Intensive Care Units.

## Akhilesh lays foundation of Dial-100 emergency facility

Dec 21

**T**he foundation for U.P. government's ambitious Police Emergency Response System building was laid by Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav, who said that response time of the police will reduce drastically when the integrated state-wide Dial 100 system comes into operation. The Chief Minister also said that it will instil confidence among the people of the State.

The building, which will house the integrated Dial 100 system, is expected to come up by the end of next year. The scheme will enable the police to reach the scene of incident within 20 minutes in the rural area and the response time in urban areas will be 10 minutes in two-wheelers and 15 minutes in four-wheelers.

This is the biggest project of the state as well as the country for modernisation of the police system and will commence within a year. It will be looked upon as an example in the country. That police force is being provided with modern equipments so as to make it more strong and the process of recruitment in the force has also been simplified by his Movement.



## New Eel species discovered in West Bengal

Dec 23



**N**ew species of eel named *Gymnothorax mishrai* was discovered by Scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) along the coast of Digha in West Bengal's Purba Medinipur district. The discovery of the new species of Bengal moray eel, which is new to science, was jointly published in the journal *Zootaxa* by Anil Mohapatra, along David G. Smith and Dipanjan Ray.

The species is 32.4 cm long, brown in colour and the body is without any patterns. It is a marine species and is also edible. It is distinct from other species described in the group *Gymnothorax*, this species of moray eel has 134 vertebral bones. Due

to presence of less than 150 vertebral bones makes it categorized among short, brown, patterned moray eels. This particularly species was collected from a depth of about 22 metres. The specimen of the species was collected from fishing boats at a fish landing centre in Shankarpur.

## President inaugurates TTD's veda patasala in A.P.

Dec 26

**P**resident Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated Sri Venkateswara Veda Patasala at I. Bhimavaram village in West Godavari district. Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams (TTD) had constructed the school building at a cost of Rs.4.70 crore in Akiveedu mandal.

Addressing the students, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee praised the TTD for promoting vedic traditions and knowledge. The TTD was running Veda Patasalas at Tirumala, Hyderabad, Nalgonda, Vizianagaram, Kotappakonda and I. Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana States and over 1,000 vedic scholars were being provided financial aid. The new veda institute houses a Gosala, Yagasala and Gnana Mandiram.



India won the 2015 South Asian Football Federation Cup (SAFF Cup).

## Uttar Pradesh emerging as favourite for tourists: ASSOCHAM

Dec 26



**I**mproved air connectivity, proper care of heritage sites and better management of pilgrimage spots have helped Uttar Pradesh emerge as an affordable and safe holiday destination for the domestic and foreign tourists. According to a survey conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), "Tourist hot spots in northern, central India and in majority of the coastal belt are expected to see influx of about 15 lakh domestic and foreign tourists as they find it both cheap and safe."

Of the total 500 respondents, 20 per cent said they are planning to visit famous tourist spots in UP like Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Allahabad, Ayodhya, Mathura-Vrindavan (Braj mandal), Sarnath, Varanasi and others considering it a safe and affordable destination.

Inbound tourism in the state is also likely to register an increase of up to 10 per cent during this New Year holiday season as travellers plan to refrain from going overseas in wake of recent terror attacks in most sought-after global tourist destinations of Bangkok and Paris. The ASSOCHAM Social Development Foundation had interacted with about 500 travel enthusiasts (working professionals) in the age group of about 25-60 years in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune during the course of past one month.



**Recently Politician Ardhendu Bhushan Bardhan passed away.**

## Andhra Pradesh to host 2019 National Games

Dec 27

**N**ational Games in 2019 would be held in Andhra Pradesh, Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) Chairman P R Mohan announced. The Indian Olympic Association, at its meeting held in Guwahati agreed to the proposal to host the Games made by the SAAP Chairman, Andhra Pradesh Olympic Association General Secretary Purushotham and other sports officials from the State, Mohan said in a release.

The IOA delegates agreed to the proposal as they have immense faith in the leadership of Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu, it said. The delegates at the meeting recalled the Afro-Asian Games conducted in undivided Andhra Pradesh during Naidu's earlier tenure as Chief Minister.

## After 13 years, Tripura power project finally illuminates

Dec 27



**T**riumphing over 13 years of hurdles, northeast India's third biggest gas based-power project in Tripura has begun generating 101 MW electricity, ensuring the region's self-reliance in energy. After test generation and completing necessary formalities, commercial production of electricity from this power plant would start within a month," Biswas said of the Rs.1,000 crore (\$151 million) project

of the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO), located 70 km south of Tripura capital Agartala and 10 km from the Bangladesh border.

The entire 101 MW would be given to Tripura State Electricity Corporation Limited (TSECL) and would otherwise resolve the electricity crisis of the northeastern region. The project's foundation stone was laid in March 2002 by Suresh Prabhu, the then power minister in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government at the centre. The environment-friendly project was originally slated to be commissioned in 2005. In 2007, the union power ministry abandoned it for a variety of reasons but work resumed in 2010 thanks to the Tripura government's pressure.

## Andhra Pradesh Govt. ink MoU with Microsoft India on technology initiatives

Dec 29

**A**ndhra Pradesh Government has signed a Memorandum of understanding (MoU) with tech giant Microsoft India on various technology initiatives for governance. The MoU was signed after a meeting between the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella in Hyderabad, Telangana. The technology provided by the Microsoft would be utilized by state government to check school dropouts, improve agricultural productivity and providing better citizen services.

The MoU seeks to improve use of Information and communications technology (ICT) drive for digital inclusion and provide better IT-based services to citizens. For digital inclusion Microsoft India will provide technical knowledge to Andhra Pradesh Government and support building three proof-of-concept (PoC) solutions.



## BHEL commissioned Prayagraj power project unit in Uttar Pradesh

Dec 30



State-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) commissioned a 660 MW unit of Prayagraj Super Thermal Power Project at Bara in Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh. The Prayagraj

Super Thermal Power Project is the first supercritical thermal unit in the state to achieve capacity addition on attaining full load. Super-critical units are more efficient and eco-friendly as they consume lesser coal. In addition, it is a greenfield thermal power project. The project is owned by Prayagraj Power Generation Company Limited (PPGCL), a subsidiary company of Jaiprakash Power Ventures Limited.

## Javed Ahmed appointed as new DGP of Uttar Pradesh

Jan 01



Amid growing law and order woes in the state, the Uttar Pradesh government headed by Samajwadi Party appointed the new DGP. Subsequently

after the retirement of Jagmohan Yadav, the state government announced Syed Javed Ahmed, the 1984 batch IPS officer, as the head of its police wing. Javed Ahmed's appointment is seen as a foresighted decision since he was chosen above 15 senior bureaucrats for the prestigious post. He is expected to head the department till 2020, up to his retirement.

## Ashok Khemka promoted to Principal Secy to Haryana Govt

Jan 02

Whistleblower IAS officer Ashok Khemka has been promoted to the rank of Principal Secretary to the Haryana Government. Khemka is one of the most transferred officers after his cancellation of the land deal between Congress president Sonia Gandhi's son-in-law Robert Vadra and real estate giant DLF.



Following this, Khemka was transferred repeatedly and as of April 2 earlier this year, the bureaucrat got transferred for the 46th time in his 22 years of service. Haryana Chief

Minister Manohar Lal Khattar had maintained that the transfer of Khemka was done on administrative grounds and added that it was a routine process.

## Union Government announced setting up of CCL Sports University in Ranchi

Jan 04



Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal, New and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal announced setting up of CCL Sports University in Jharkhand. The university will have a capacity of 1400 students and 15 sports academies. As 700 out of the total 1400 students will be selected from Jharkhand, the university will help the youth from the state to sharpen their skills under coaches of international standard.

The decision was taken to give effect to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Central Coalfield Limited (CCL) and the Jharkhand Government in June 2015. It is a subsidiary of Coal India Limited (CIL), an undertaking of the Union Ministry of Coal. The Mini Ratna Company manages the nationalized coal mines of the Coal Mines Authority, Central division.

## Jharkhand Government inaugurated land bank web portal jharbhoom.nic.in

Jan 04



Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das inaugurated the state's land bank web portal, jharbhoom.nic.in, that will help investors know land-related information. With this, one would be able to get

information about the land which is available at the district and the circle area level with a click of a mouse. This land bank will help investors get information through district-wise nodal officers.

For this purpose, district wise nodal officers have been appointed whose mobile numbers and email ids will also be available on the website. The state government also issued directions to make land available through the land bank to the industrialists allotted with coal blocks.



Sanjay Subrahmanyam was conferred with the 2015 Sangita Kalanidhi award.

## Foundation Stone Laid for an Centre for Operational Oceanography in Hyderabad

Jan 06

India is keen on promoting operational oceanography as it plays an important role in translating benefits of science to the common man, said Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Y.S. Chowdhary. Laying the foundation stone for 'International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography' (ITCO-Ocean) at the ESSO-Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), he cited the examples of Potential Fishing Zone advisories to fishermen, ocean state forecasts for mariners and Tsunami and storm surges warnings.



Since INCOIS was already at the forefront of such operational services, Government of India chose to establish ITCO-Ocean. He said that the Ministry of Earth Sciences had signed a Memorandum of Agreement with IOC / UNESCO to cooperate in capacity development programmes. This shows the confidence of international community in India's achievements, particularly in the field of oceanography.

## Central government allows 'Jallikattu' in Tamil Nadu

Jan 08

Tamil Nadu erupted in joy as the central government announced its decision to allow the traditional 'Jallikattu' or bull taming sport during Pongal festival. People at places like Madurai and Trichy, where Jallikattu is traditionally held, were the most elated. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalithaa thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the decision. The central government bowed to the strong demand made by various organisations and political parties to permit the traditional bull taming sport that was banned by the Supreme Court to prevent cruelty to animals.

## Madhya Pradesh sings four MoUs with Singapore

Jan 15

Madhya Pradesh signed four MOUs with Singapore, including one on a 1,000-megawatt wind energy plant in western part of the state.

The Memorandum of Understandings (MoUs) were signed during business seminar where visiting Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan gave an insight into



the business potential, assuring that the Indian state has 25,000-hectare land bank for setting up industries. The wind-energy, the biggest of the four investment proposals, was signed by the Department of New & Renewable Energy with Singapore corporation unit, Sembcorp Green Infra Ltd. The other MoUs were signed by the Directorate of Town & Country Planning with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise, Department of Technical Education and Skill Development with ITE Education Services of Singapore, and India's LT Food Ltd with Singapore-based DSM Nutritional Products.

These would cover urban planning, capacity building skill training and food processing. Various studies, options and proposals would be studied and considered in further advancing the proposed ventures under the MoUs. "Madhya Pradesh is industry and investment friendly state," stressed Chouhan, assuring investors that low-cost land parcels are availability around Indore, Ujjain, Jabalpur and Gwalior, the main industrializing cities as well as the state capital of Bhopal. There is no shortage of skilled manpower, power and water for industries in the state, he added, pointing to the availability of raw resources including diamond, coal, copper, limestone, diaspore and pyrophyllite. Chouhan assured investors that the state will continue to build infrastructure, having invested USD 14.5 billion during financial year 2009-10 to 2013-14.

## Jagruti Pandya elected as chairperson for Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights

Jan 15

The Gujarat Government appointed Jagruti Pandya as the Chairperson for Gujarat State Commission for Protection of Child Rights. Pandya told that she would like to concentrate on the responsibility entrusted on her at the moment. Asked about her plans for public life, she said that "these things will shape up in days to come. For now I would want to see how I can contribute to the position I am entrusted with."



Six teams are participating in the second edition of Premier Badminton League (PBL).





## INTERNATIONAL

### Saudi Arabia launched 34-nation Islamic Military Coalition to counter terrorism

Dec 16

**S**audi Arabia announced the launch of Islamic Military Coalition to counter terrorism. The coalition will be led by Saudi Arabia and see the participation of 34 nations. It was established in pursuance of the principles and objectives of the charter of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), which calls for member states to cooperate to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.



The coalition includes nations with large and established armies such as Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt as well as war-torn countries such as Libya and Yemen. It will have a joint operations center based in Saudi Arabia's capital, Riyadh.

Member nations: Saudi Arabia, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Pakistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Benin, Turkey, Chad, Togo, Tunisia, Djibouti, Senegal, Sudan, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Gabon, Guinea, Palestine, Comoros, Qatar, Cote d'Ivoire, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Maldives, Mali, Malaysia, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria, Yemen. More than ten other Islamic countries have expressed their support for this alliance and will take the necessary measures in this regard, including Indonesia.

### Fed Raises Key Interest Rate for First Time in Almost a Decade

Dec 17



**T**he Federal Reserve raise short-term interest rates for the first time since the financial crisis, a decision it described as a vote of confidence in the American economy even as much of the rest of the world struggles. The widely anticipated announcement — that the Fed would raise rates to a range between 0.25 percent and 0.5 percent — signals the beginning of the end for the central bank's stimulus program. Fed officials emphasized that they intended to raise rates gradually, and only if economic growth continues. Short-term rates will rise by about one percentage point a year for the next three years.

### Out of 144 nations, India ranks 97th in Forbes' list of best countries for business in 2015

Dec 18

**I**ndia has been ranked a low 97 out of 144 nations on Forbes' annual list of the best countries for business in 2015. India scored poorly on metrics like trade and



monetary freedom and tackling challenges like corruption and violence. Denmark topped the list of the 144 nations on the Best Countries of Business in 2015 list by Forbes.

The US has dropped four spots to number 22, continuing a six-year descent since 2009 when it had ranked second overall. The US is the financial capital of the world and its largest economy at USD 17.4 trillion (China is second at USD 10.4 trillion), but it scores poorly on monetary freedom and bureaucracy/red tape, Forbes said.

India is ranked 97th on the list, with Forbes saying that while the country is developing into an open-market economy, traces of its "past autarkic policies" remain. The outlook for India's long-term growth is moderately positive due to a young population and corresponding low dependency ratio, healthy savings and investment rates, and increasing integration into the global economy.

The publication added that India faces other challenges like high spending and poorly-targeted subsidies, inadequate availability of quality basic and higher education, and accommodating rural-to-urban migration.

Forbes further said that growth in India last year fell to a decade low, as its economic leaders struggled to improve the country's wide fiscal and current account deficits.



PNB ATM Assist mobile app has been launched by PNB to locate PNB ATM to customer.

*Mahendra's*

## UNSC adopts resolution to cut off funding to ISIS, Al-Qaeda

Dec 18



**U**N Security Council has unanimously adopted a resolution to cut off all sources of funding to ISIS and Al-Qaeda with finance ministers from the member

nations vowing to increase sanctions against the terror groups. In the resolution adopted at the first-ever meeting of finance ministers, the 15-member body called for enhanced actions, from closing financial system loopholes to stopping the abuse of charitable causes, as well as updating the existing ISIS and Al-Qaeda Sanctions List.

At the session presided over by American Treasury Secretary Jack Lew under US' monthly presidency, the Council stressed that already existing resolutions mandating nations to ensure that financial assets are not transferred to terrorists by persons within their territory "shall also apply to the payment of ransoms to individuals, groups, undertakings or entities on the ISIS and Al-Qaeda Sanctions List regardless of how or by whom the ransom is paid." The resolution called for increased international cooperation in sharing information and closer collaboration with the private sector to identify suspect transactions.

## Shaymaa Abdel Rahman crowned Miss Iraq 2015

Dec 21

**I**t was smoky, alcohol-free and there was no swimsuit contest, but the first Miss Iraq in four decades and left all feeling a small victory had been won. The jury chose Shaymaa Abdel Rahman, a tall, green-eyed 20-year-old from Iraq's multi-ethnic city of Kirkuk.

The decision was popular with those in attendance, especially in the back rows, where young men with hipster beards and tight blazers had been standing on their chairs shouting her name. Wearing her sash and holding her bouquet, Shaymaa Abdelrahman was fast learning her new trade, saying all the right things without ever breaking her smile. The pageant was designed to meet enough international criteria to propel its winner to the next Miss Universe contest, but some details, such as the Kalashnikov-toting guard at the door, set the event firmly in Iraq.



## World Bank approves \$1 billion loan to Egypt

Dec 21



**T**he World Bank Group announced a \$1 billion loan to Egypt, the first installment of an \$8 billion financing plan to help the country carry out key economic reforms. The size of the loan, coupled with its goal to help the government "renew its social contact with its citizens", indicate a "clear departure from past World Bank support for Egypt." The \$8bn loan will be disbursed over a four-year period and future loan installments will be dependent on the country's progress in carrying out economic reforms. The financing plan provides much-needed foreign currency to Egypt, which heavily relies on imports and has been struggling economically in the wake of the 2011 uprising that toppled long time autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

## Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo wins Miss World title

Dec 20



**S**pain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo was named the winner of the Miss World 2015 competition in the southern Chinese island resort of Sanya, an event dogged by controversy over China's refusal to allow Canada's entrant to attend. Sofia Nikitchuk of Russia was the runner-up and Indonesia's Maria Harfanti took third place in the final following a lengthy competition featuring 114 women.

Lalaguna, a 23-year-old model from Barcelona with a degree in pharmacology who plans to pursue a master's degree in nutrition. She placed first in the competition's top model contest and appeared to impress the judges with her public speaking.



**Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria took over as Deputy Chief of the Indian Air Force.**

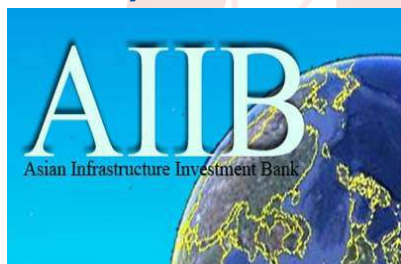


## China to become third-largest contributor to UN regular budget Dec 26

China will be the third-largest contributor to the UN's next regular budget with its assessed contribution accounting for 7.9 per cent of the international body's total membership dues. According to a resolution adopted that decides member nations' share of contributions to the UN's 2016-2018 budget, the US was allocated the largest contribution of 22 per cent, followed by Japan with 9.7 per cent and China with 7.9 per cent.

The resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly's Fifth Committee, which is responsible for budgetary affairs, and will be officially approved at a plenary session of the General Assembly. The Chinese contribution to the total UN membership dues ranks third among 193 member states of the world body, just next to the US and Japan, Wang Min, China's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations.

## Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank officially launched Dec 27



The China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), has been officially launched in Beijing and is expected to start operation early next year. The launch of the bank, the first major multilateral lender with developing countries holding the majority of the shares and votes,

came just six months after an article of agreement (AOA) was signed by 57 prospective founding members in June, and 26 months after President Xi Jinping proposed it in October 2013.

The AIIB will be operational after board of directors and executive council meet for the first time. The meetings are slated to from January 16 to 18 in Beijing. The bank's president will be officially appointed and the management team will be in place at the meetings.

The bank will start recruiting new members, Jin Liqun, the bank's president-designate, said, adding that members of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) could apply to join the AIIB.

With authorized capital of \$100 billion, the AIIB will initially prioritise investment in energy, power generation, transportation, rural infrastructure, environmental protection and logistics. It is expected to offer loans to the first batch of projects in mid-2016.

## China's New Anti-Terrorism Law Dec 27



China has its first anti-terrorism law on the books, after the National People's Congress Standing Committee approved the new legislation.

The law, provides a legal framework for the country's war on terrorism, a focus of increasing concern for Beijing after attacks at home and abroad jeopardized the lives of its citizens.

Abroad, most of the debate about the law focused on its technological provisions. A draft version sparked vocal pushback from the United States, with government officials and businesses alike worried about provisions that could require foreign tech firms to handover proprietary data to Beijing. China defended the law as necessary and in line with international precedents.

## Croatia's new parliament elects Speaker Dec 29



Croatia's new parliament elected Zeljko Reiner, a member of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ), as the Speaker of the 151-seat assembly. In its first session after 8 elections, a total of 88 lawmakers backed Reiner, the sole candidate for the post, while 62 others abstained from voting and one person voted against, Xinhua reported.

Reiner made his first speech after vote, calling for national unity and making Croatia a just state. Reiner announced the eighth parliament would soon hold its first working meeting, likely after January 15. Reiner was a member of the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s executive board from 1995 to 1998 and served as Croatia's health minister from 1998 to 2000. He was deputy speaker of the country's former parliament.



Mysuru is the venue of 103rd Indian Science Congress.

*Mahendra's*

## World Health Organization declares Guinea Ebola free

Dec 30

The UN's health agency declared Guinea is Ebola outbreak over two years after it emerged, spreading death across west Africa and pushing the region's worst-hit communities to the brink of collapse. The World Health Organization hailed that the end of Ebola transmission in Guinea marks an important milestone in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.

This is the first time that all three countries - Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone - have stopped the original chains of transmission that were responsible for starting this devastating outbreak two years ago. The World Health Organisation says there have been more than 28,000 Ebola cases globally. The last reported Ebola patient in the country was a kid.



World Health Organization

## US-Asean summit set for Feb 15-16 in California

Dec 31



US President Barack Obama will host a summit with his counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations at the Californian resort of Sunnylands on Feb 15 and 16. The first US-hosted summit with leaders from the 10 Asean countries will "provide leaders a forum to strengthen cooperation under the new US-Asean strategic partnership" on political, security, and economic issues, it said.

The United States decided to host the event as it and some Asean members have been involved in disputes with China in the South China Sea. The United States

has criticised China for massive reclamation on submerged reefs and construction of facilities on artificial islands, allegedly including military equipment, in a disputed area of the sea despite complaints by other claimants.

## Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for MoU on BRICS Network University

Jan 02

The Union Cabinet gave ex-post facto approval for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS countries on BRICS Network University. The MoU will help in developing pro-active cooperation among the BRICS nations for the purpose of enhancement of scientific research, higher education and information exchange. It will also help in analysis and implementation of best practices, joint research programmes, and mobility of students, researchers and educators. In November 2015, the negotiations were held on the MoU during the 3rd BRICS Education Ministers meeting and Senior Officials meeting held in Moscow, Russia.



## Japan and South Korea reached Agreement on Issue of Comfort Women

Jan 02



Japan and South Korea reached an Agreement on Issue of Comfort Women. The agreement was reached after a meeting between Fumio Kishida, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan and Yun Byung-se, Minister of Foreign Affairs of South Korea in Seoul. It aims to resolve a decades-old dispute over Korean women who were used as sex slaves by Japanese soldiers during World War II.

### Details of the Agreement

It officially recognises Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's apologies and remorse to all the women who suffered incurable physical and psychological wounds as comfort women. For the first time, it also acknowledged Japanese government involvement in the comfort women program. Japan will supply 8.3 million US dollars in government funds to support the former comfort women. A special purpose fund, from the money received from Japan, will be established by South Korea to aid them. Japan agreed to fund a South Korean foundation, which will be established to aid the women forced into servitude, while also insisting the money didn't represent direct compensation for wrongdoing.



Telangana has become the first state in the country to accept Electronic motor insurance policies.



## Five new countries join UNSC as non permanent members

Jan 03



**F**ive new members of the UN Security Council, began to serve a two-year term on the most powerful UN body at a time when the 15-nation council is making

painstaking efforts to defuse crises in the Middle East, ending conflicts in Africa and fighting terrorism in the world at large. the new members, including Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay, replaced Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania and Nigeria who completed their terms on Dec. 31.

In the election, the five countries ran unopposed for the non-permanent seats after regional groups put them forward as their choice. They took their council seats as the United Nations is mediating a ceasefire in Yemen and brokering a political dialogue on Syria. Elections for non-permanent membership to the Security Council take place every year and candidates need to win at least two thirds of votes by the 193 members of the UN General Assembly. Five members are voted to the council each year.

## Putin named Israel's "Person of the Year"

Jan 03



**I**t is nothing new that more than half of Russians named their president Vladimir Putin as the "Person of the Year." While in Israel, the Russian leader also enjoyed great popularity.

According to a poll conducted by the Jerusalem Post, 29 percent of respondents chose Putin as their person of the year for 2015, ahead of German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the second place.

The results certainly showed that Putin has made an impact on the people of Israel during 2015.

Merkel, who had been previously chosen as TIME magazine's Person of the Year for 2015, gained 16 percent, while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu received 15 percent of the vote.

## Saudi Arabia cuts diplomatic ties with Iran

Jan 04



**S**audi Arabia has announced it is severing diplomatic ties with Iran following attack on its embassy in Tehran during protests against executions in the kingdom. Adel al-Jubeir, the Saudi foreign minister, made the announcement while the foreign ministry said it was asking Iranian diplomatic mission to leave the kingdom within 48 hours. The Saudi foreign ministry also announced that the staff of its diplomatic mission had been evacuated and were on their way back to the kingdom. The flight carrying the Saudi embassy staff had landed in Dubai in the UAE. Saudi Arabia's interior ministry announced the execution of 47 people on terrorism charges, including a convicted al-Qaeda leader and a Shia religious leader. Many of the men executed had been linked to attacks in Saudi Arabia between 2003 and 2006, blamed on al-Qaeda.

## Islamabad declared sister city of Minsk

Jan 05



**I**slamabad will be the sister city of Minsk, the capital of Belarus. During Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to Belarus, both the governments agreed that Islamabad and Minsk should be made sister cities. Under the agreement, there will be active cooperation between the two capitals in different fields, including municipal administration and youth development.

Islamabad already has many sister cities including Amman, Ankara, Beijing, Seoul, Madrid and Jakarta. Other cities in Pakistan have over three dozen sister cities all over the world. Istanbul was the first to be declared a sister city of Lahore in 1975.



**Shyam Benegal is the head of the committee formed on Censor Board.**

*Mahendra's*

## Documentary on Malala Yousafzai nominated for 2016 BAFTAs Jan 09



American documentary on the life of Pakistani female activist and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai, *He Named Me Malala*, has been nominated at the 69th BAFTA Awards.

Directed by Davis Guggenheim, the one-hour-30-minute film is a compilation of real footage and interviews which chronicles the journey of the 18-year-old Malala who was targeted by Taliban gunmen, shot in the head and left wounded on October 9, 2012.

The film will compete with Amy Winehouse's biopic *Amy*, *Cartel Land*, *Listen to me Marlon* and *Sherpa* in the best documentary category.

The movie documents true events leading up to the Taliban's attack on Malala for speaking out in support of educating girls in her region of Swat Valley in Pakistan.

Malala, 17, became the youngest-ever Nobel Prize laureate when she was jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize with Indian child rights activist Kailash Satyarthi in 2014.

## Nepal elected UNICEF executive board member Jan 10

Nepal was elected a member of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) executive board, representing the Group of

Asia-Pacific States for 2016-18, officials said. Nepal's Permanent Representative to the UN, Durga Prasad Bhattarai, was also unanimously elected vice-president to the Bureau of the Executive Board of the UNICEF for 2016, representing the Asia-Pacific region, reports Xinhua news agency.

## ICC announces MoneyGram as Event Partner Jan 10



The ICC and MoneyGram International, a leading global provider of money transfer services, on 10th January announced an eight-year deal which confirms MoneyGram as an event partner for ICC events from 2016-2023.

A media release by ICC stated: "The ICC and MoneyGram recently completed a successful five-year partnership, which began with the ICC World Twenty20 West Indies 2010, concluding with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.

"In the current eight-year cycle, the alliance promises to reach greater heights, as the ICC will stage an impressive 17 tournaments, including six majors — two ICC World Twenty20 tournaments, two editions of the ICC Champions Trophy and two ICC Cricket World Cups."

Commenting on the partnership, ICC Chief Executive David Richardson said "I am delighted that MoneyGram International has decided to continue to support cricket by extending

its partnership with the ICC. "The extension says much about the value of our events at which we continue to strive to create an unforgettable experience for fans from all around the world. Sponsors are the lifeline for any sport and on behalf of the ICC, I thank MoneyGram for their continued support."

## 73 Golden Globe Awards 2016 Jan 10



The 73rd Golden Globe Awards were seen as the precursor to Oscar. The award ceremony awarded the best of the best from the world of cinema and television. Comedian Ricky Gervais was the host for the ceremony - his fourth time fronting the awards. Actors like Leonardo Di Caprio, Cate Blanchet, Eddie Redmayne, Michael Fassbender and Jennifer Lawrence were nominated for their performance in the past year. With front running movies like 'Carol', 'Room', 'Spotlight' and 'The Revenant' competing for the the Best Motion Picture, 'The Revenant' swiped three major awards with Best Actor, Best Director and Best Film. Following it was 'Steve Job', which bagged Best Supporting Actress and Best Screenplay. 'The Martian' won Best Actor (Comedy) and Best Motion Picture (Comedy), which surprised even the film's director Ridley Scott.

### FILM

Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role in any Motion Picture-

Kate Winslet, "Steve Jobs"

 Indian amputee mountaineer Arunima Sinha set a new record by climbing Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.



**Best Original Score:** Ennio Morricone, "The Hateful Eight"

**Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy:** Matt Damon, "The Martian"

**Best Motion Picture Animated:** "Inside Out"

**Best Performance by an Actor in a Supporting Role in any Motion Picture:** Sylvester Stallone "Creed"

**Best Screenplay Motion Picture:** Aaron Sorkin "Steve Jobs"

**Best Motion Picture Foreign Language:** "Son of Saul" (Hungary)

**Best Original Song Motion Picture:** "Writing's On The Wall," for the film "Spectre"

**Best Director:** Alejandro González Iñárritu-"The Revenant"

**Best Performance by an Actress in a Television Series:** Drama Taraji P. Henson "Empire"

**Best Performance an Actress in a Motion Picture:** Musical or Comedy Jennifer Lawrence "Joy"

**Best Motion Picture Musical or Comedy:** "The Martian"

**Best Performance by an Actress in a Motion Picture:** Drama Brie Larson, "Room"

**Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture:** Drama Leonardo DiCaprio, "The Revenant"

**Best Motion Picture:** Drama "The Revenant"

## MoU between India and Maldives for Health

Jan 13

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives which was signed in January, 2014 on cooperation in the field of Health.

**The Memorandum of Understanding covers the following areas of cooperation:-**

- Exchange & training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts;
- Assistance in development of human resources and setting up of health care facilities;
- Medical and health research development;
- Management of healthcare sector and public health services;
- Procurement of generic and essential drugs and assistance in sourcing of drug supplies;

vi. Health promotion and disease prevention;

vii. Traditional and; complementary Medicine

viii. Telemedicine; and

ix. Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.

This MoU will facilitate greater cooperation between the two countries, especially for assisting Maldives for development of human resources and facilities for healthcare. Enhanced cooperation in the field of health will foster great friendship and relations between the two countries.

## Cabinet approves India joining the International Energy Agency Ocean Energy Systems

Jan 14



सत्यमेव जयते

Government of India

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for India becoming a member country of the International Energy Agency - Ocean Energy Systems (IEA-OES) by signing the Implementing Agreement (IA).

The nodal agency for the membership would be Earth System Science Organisation - National Institute of Ocean Technology (ESSO-NIOT) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

By becoming a member of the IEA-OES, India will have access to advanced R&D teams and technologies across the world. India will partner in developing test protocols along with other countries.

This will help in testing Indian prototypes as per international requirements and norms.

Joint cooperative programs with institutes of member countries could be taken up. India's own research projects with specific targets can be taken up in conjunction with other countries.



Recently IDBI Bank has raised Rs. 900 crore by way of issuing Basel-III compliant tier-II bonds.

## UNICEF presented David Beckham with Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award

Jan 14



David Beckham was presented with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award at the sixth biennial UNICEF Ball in Los Angeles.

Sir Elton John and David Furnish presented the award to Beckham at the event, honouring him for his tireless work to save and improve the lives of children around the world.

Beckham has been a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2005. In 2015, the footballer launched 7: The David Beckham UNICEF Fund, making a personal commitment to use his voice, influence and connections to raise vital funds and rally for lasting change for children.

The Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award is named after Danny Kaye, star of Hans Christian Andersen and White Christmas. Kaye was one of the world's most beloved entertainers. He was the first ever celebrity representative for UNICEF, and was a Goodwill Ambassador from 1954 until his death in 1987.

## Indian diaspora is world's largest at 16m: UN

Jan 14

According to the latest United Nations estimates, 244 million people, or 3.3% of the world's population, live in a country other than the one where they were born.

Their ranks are growing at a faster pace than the world population as a whole, with enormous economic, social and demographic repercussions for their native and adopted countries. However, they are concentrated in just 20 countries.

By far, the most popular destination in 2015 was the United States, followed by Germany, Russia and Saudi Arabia. But the ranking should not be viewed as a popularity contest. Saudi Arabia shows up because it hosts an enormous number of migrant workers, not immigrants who resettle, as in the United States.

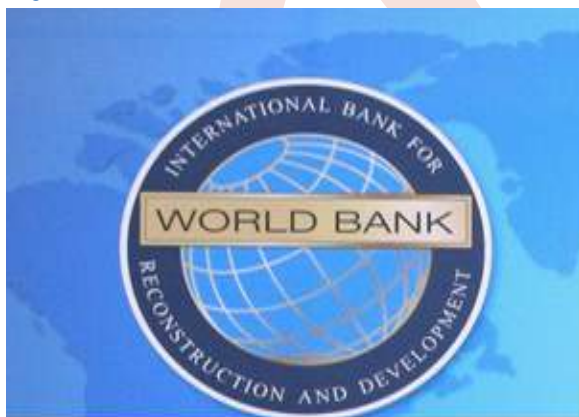


The United Nations report does not distinguish between who migrates with legal papers and who does not. Among the migrants worldwide are 20 million refugees — those who have fled war or persecution in their home countries.

Indians make up the largest diaspora: 16 million Indians are scattered across the world, which partly reflects the country's demographic size (1.2 billion) and youth (median age is around 26).

## Aadhaar Saving Rs. 6,700 Crore For Indian Government Annually: World Bank

Jan 14



Hailing India's Aadhaar digital ID, the World Bank has said the initiative is estimated to be saving the government about Rs. 6,700 crore (USD 1 billion) annually by curbing corruption as it underlined that digital technologies can promote inclusion, efficiency and innovation. "We estimate that this (Aadhaar digital ID) is saving approximately USD 1 billion (Rs. 650 crores) a year by reducing corruption and leakage for the Indian government.

It is a help in fiscal budgeting. It is a help in providing other useful services," World Bank Chief Economist Kaushik Basu told reporters during the release of a report on Digital Dividends.



Indian combat aircraft Tejas will be field in the fourth edition of Bahrain International Air Show.





## IIM-L ties up with Harvard Business School

Dec 16

**T**he Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-L) has entered into an institutional alliance with the Harvard Business School after two IIM-L professors recently visited HBS to attend a faculty workshop on 'Microeconomics of Competitiveness' held at the Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness, HBS.

Under the alliance, IIM-L like HBS, will offer an elective course on 'Microeconomics of Competitiveness' to students of different programmes from academic session 2016-17. The course will be taught by Prof Ashutosh Kumar Sinha and Prof Sanjay Singh of IIM-L. At present, the MOC course is being taught at SP Jain Institute of Management and Research, Mumbai. Not only this, now IIM-L, will be able to use the Harvard expertise in cluster development at local government level too.

## IIM Lucknow



## RBI liable to disclose information about banks under RTI Act: Supreme Court

Dec 16



**T**he Supreme Court held that the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is liable to disclose information about the banks and financial institutions for their action against the loan defaulters including industrialists under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005. The Court further ruled that RBI has statutory duty to uphold public interest and not the interest of individual banks. It has no legal duty to maximise the benefit of any public sector or private sector bank, and thus there is no relationship of trust between them.

It also added that RBI does not place itself in a fiduciary relationship with the financial institutions as the reports of inspections, statements of bank and information related to business obtained by the RBI are not under pretext of confidence or trust. The bench made the remark while dismissing pleas filed by RBI and other private and nationalised

banks against the Central Information Commission's (CIC) order to SBI and other banks for disclosure of information under the RTI Act. The ruling was made by a bench headed by M Y Eqbal and C Nagappan.

## RIL-ONGC gas theft dispute: Oil Ministry appoints Ajit Prakash Shah to the panel

Dec 17

**T**he oil ministry has appointed Ajit Prakash Shah, former chief justice of the Delhi High Court, to the panel set up to quantify the gains made by Reliance Industries in gas theft dispute with Oil and Natural Gas Corporation and recommend ways to compensate the state-run firm and the government.

The report backs ONGC's claim that there is a lateral continuity of gas pools between its blocks and the KGD6 block, which is jointly managed by RIL, BP and Niko. The blocks controlled by the two companies share a common boundary and the state firm had for the first time in July 2013 alleged that the two blocks shared reservoirs and the private player may have extracted its gas. The committee has three months to submit its report. The panel also has "to consider the acts of omissions and commissions, if any, on part of the stakeholders including RIL, ONGC, DGH and government and give recommendations on them."



New Delhi is the venue of the 60th Senior National Wrestling Championship 2015.

## World Bank Approves US\$1.5 Billion to Support India's Universal Sanitation Initiatives

Dec 17



**T**he World Bank approved a US\$1.5 billion loan for the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) Support Operation Project to support the Government of India in its efforts to ensure all citizens in rural areas have access to improved sanitation – such as a toilet or latrine with a focus on changing behaviors – in ending the practice of open defecation by 2019.

Specifically, this project will support the rural component, known as SBM – Gramin (SBM-G), over a five-year period using a new performance-based program which links funds directly to results, ensuring that benefits are delivered to the people in need – more than 60 percent of India's rural population. Of the 2.4 billion people who lack access to improved sanitation globally, more than 750 million live in India, with 80 percent living in rural areas.

More than 500 million of the rural population in India continue to defecate in the open, suffering from preventable deaths, illness, stunting, harassment and economic losses. The SBM-G program focuses on ensuring usage of toilets along with their construction. States and their implementing agencies will be given incentives for meeting performance standards.

## Paytm, IRCTC tie up for e-catering payment

Dec 17

**E**xtending its engagement with Paytm, the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp. (IRCTC) allowed passengers to order food on a train by using Paytm's mobile wallet. Travelers can already make payments for e-tickets booked through the IRCTC website using Paytm's service. Paytm customers will be able to use its service to book tickets and order food. The option will be in addition to other payment options available such as online payments through net banking and cash on delivery. IRCTC, which has often been criticized for not being able to manage traffic on its site, has of late made efforts to improve customers' experience. The e-catering service, called Food on Track, is also available on many railway stations as well. IRCTC is expected to soon tie-up with more food chains.



Recently O.P. Malhotra passed away. He was associated with Indian Army.

## FIPB clears 3 FDI proposals worth Rs 136 crore

Dec 18



**T**he Finance Ministry said FIPB has approved three foreign direct investment proposals worth Rs 136 crore. The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) in its meeting held on November 27, 2015, approved three proposals of FDI amounting to Rs 135.84 crore. Singapore-based GMS Pharma's proposal of acquisition of 25.1% in Stelis Biopharma, from Strides Arcolab, for Rs 135.71 crore was approved by the FIPB.

Also the proposal of GVK Biosciences Pvt Ltd for transfer of its 9.091% shares currently held by Sequoia Capital to Destiny Investments was cleared. However, there was no amount involved in the proposal. The proposal of Scalene Works People Solutions LLP worth Rs 13 lakh was also cleared by the Board.

## Axis Bank to offer electronic signature facility to its customers

Dec 19

**A**s part of its 'Digital India' vision, the Government of India launched 'eSign' services in the country, early this year. Axis Bank, taking its Digital Banking initiatives a step forward, has



partnered with e-Mudhra Ltd., a leading digital security company, to introduce 'eSign' – an online electronic signature service which facilitates an Aadhaar holder to digitally sign a document within seconds. Axis Bank is the first organization in the country to sign up for this service. 'eSign' will be an integrated service which will facilitate customers of the bank to get a digital signature certificate; sign documents, application forms with this digital signature and also submit these digitally signed documents to the bank in a secure online manner, at the click of a button. 'eSign' offers speed, security and convenience as customers needn't visit the Bank's branches for such services and can perform the same from the comfort of one's home, in a totally paperless manner. The service rides on Aadhaar authentication and generates the digital signature automatically. The generated signature is legally valid and secure.



## United States lifts 40-year-old ban on oil export

Dec 19



The United States lifted a 40-year-old ban on export of oil, thus paving the way for energy deficient countries like India to open up another frontier to import oil from a distant friendly nation. The ban was lifted as President Barack Obama signed into law the Omnibus USD 1.8 trillion spending package and tax bill for the current fiscal ending on September 30, 2016. The move was welcomed by the industry, while pro- environmental groups were critical of it. Senator Lisa Murkowski, energy panel chairman, welcomed the decision. "By lifting the domestic crude oil export ban, we are sending a signal to the world that our nation is ready to be a global energy superpower," he said. Business Roundtable welcomed the move to end the ban on the export of US crude oil, a policy enacted during the 1970s.

## China based SHEC to double its Gujarat plant capacity

Dec 20



Lieutenant General Mohinder Puri is the author of the recently released book 'Kargil: Turning the Tide'

*Mahendra's*

China based Shanghai Hitachi Electrical Company (SHEC) announced to double the annual production capacity of the compressor manufacturing plant of its subsidiary, Highly India, situated at Changodar near Ahmedabad to 2 million units by next year with an estimated investment of Rs 430 crore.

The market leader in India in HVAC compressors (used mostly in residential Air Conditioners) with a market share of over 35% will increase its installed capacity from current 1 million units to 2 million by next year to meet the growing export commitments as well as domestic requirements. The sales of Highly India plant which started functioning in November 2013 only has grown robustly to 4 lakh units this year. The year on year increase was 130%.

The residential AC market in India is likely to grow at a good pace in the wake of the growing economy of the country, development of the real estate sector and improving life style. AC market in India is expected to grow between 10 to 12% in 2016 and 2017. The company was also looking for exports to the middle east and south east Asian markets with a target of 50 thousand units for 2016 and one lakh for 2017.

## GDP growth for FY16 pegged at 8.1 pc, says ASSOCHAM

Dec 21

India will truly live up to its reputation of being the bright spot in an otherwise hazy horizon of global economy with a "likely" GDP growth of over eight per cent and "very likely" acceleration of 7.8- 8 per cent in the current financial year, an ASSOCHAM Mid Year Review has pointed out.

The Review made quite an optimistic forecast of nine per cent and above growth in the next financial year of



2016-17 if the government and the Congress come together and clear the Goods and Services Constitutional Amendment Bill in Parliament and the roll out of the major tax reforms takes place from April, 2016.

"The renewed optimism comes about despite continuation of a global meltdown in commodity prices with crude oil trading well below USD 40 barrel mark while the entire metal pack is melting away in the heat of crisis. But, it is the domestic demand pick- up, supported by government investment and the services sector, especially transport, hotels and trade that will push the Indian economy to cross the psychologically important level of eight per cent," the Mid-Year Review of the chamber said. So, the ASSOCHAM Review pegs the GDP growth for fiscal 2015-16 at 8.1-8.2 per cent.

It said the latest revival in manufacturing which helped overall Index of Industrial Production to reach 9.8 per cent in October, 2015 along with robust pick up electricity and capital goods would lead the growth trajectory triggering, in the process, lot more activities in the services. The number of passengers handled by civil aviation in second quarter of the current fiscal went up by 17 per cent. So was the case with commercial vehicles which registered a growth of 10.7 per cent, another indicator of pick up in the economic activity. There was a catch up seen by 3.5 per cent in the case of civil aviation cargo and 3.9 per cent by major ports during of 2015-16.

## Government to expand visa-free travel for diplomatic passport holders

Dec 23

Seeking to expand the envelope of visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and official passports to other countries, the Union Cabinet approved a model agreement on exemption from visa requirements for such people.

This would facilitate visa-free entry, transit and stay up to 90 days (or less) in any period of 180 days (or more) in the territory of India or signatory country for holders of diplomatic and official passports of either country.

This is part of India's ongoing efforts to expand the envelope of visa-free travel for holders of diplomatic and official passports to other countries of the world. Visa free agreements have been signed with 69 countries. There are still more than 130 countries with which India is yet to enter into or sign similar agreements.

## Cabinet approves Rs 3,000 crore scheme for fisheries sector

Dec 23

Government approved an integrated scheme with an outlay of Rs 3,000 crore for the development and management of fisheries sector as it seeks to bring 'blue revolution' in the country. The central scheme will benefit the entire fisheries sector covering about 14.50 million fishers. It will be implemented in all the states and the union territories.

It would mainly focus on increasing production and productivity from aquaculture and fisheries resources, both inland and marine. It seeks to boost private investment as well. The scheme would cover development and management of inland fisheries, aquaculture, marine



fisheries including deep sea fishing, Mari culture and all activities undertaken by the National Fisheries Development Board (NFDB) towards realising 'Blue Revolution'.

The scheme aims at a focused and integrated approach for development and management of fisheries and aquaculture sector to ensure a sustained annual growth rate of 6-8 per cent as against an overall annual growth rate of about 4 per cent in the 11th Five Year Plan period.

## IRCTC and ICICI join hands to sell tickets online

Dec 24

ICICI Bank tied up with railway's e-ticketing platform IRCTC to sell rail tickets through its website. The largest private sector lender will soon introduce the facility to book rail tickets on its mobile banking application and prepaid digital wallet.

Users will have to first register on the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), where it primarily sells rail tickets, and then do a one-time registration on the bank's website to avail of the facility.

The facility is not limited to ICICI customers as any other bank's customer can also use the facility. The payments for the purchases can be made using the online banking facility, debit or credit card of any bank. In the past, IRCTC has tied up with websites, primarily those catering to the travel segment, to sell tickets and this is the first time any bank is offering the tickets for sale on its website.

Users can search for trains, book an e-ticket, cancel a reservation as well as check their PNR status among others. The website will display latest information for services including train options and ticket availability by connecting directly with the reservation system of the Indian Railways on a real time basis.

## IITK and RDSO ink MoU for railway research

Dec 25



The premier IIT-Kanpur and RDSO (Research Design and Standards Organisation), a unit of Indian Railways have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to carry out collaborative research work of the interest of the Indian Railways. For doing the collaborative research, a Centre For Railway Research (CRR) will be set up by Ministry of Indian Railways on the campus of IIT-Kanpur. The centre is expected to start working before the closure of the ongoing financial year.

As many as 25 faculty members from different departments of the institute will be working in CRR. The MoU has been inked by Prof Amalendu Chandra from IIT-Kanpur and Manoj Pandey, Executive Director, railway board, ministry of railways, Delhi. The MoU was signed in the presence of Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha, Chairman of Railway Board and member staff of Railways. Similar research centres will be set up at IIT-Madras and IIT-Roorkee but IIT-Kanpur will work prominently on advance fuel efficient system, fire safety management, high speed track design, advanced signalling system, fog vision to name few.



Recently Laxmi Ratan Shukla announced his retirement. He is associated with Cricket sport.



## Number of financial inclusion accounts touch 19.52 crore: RBI

Dec 25



The Reserve Bank said banks, mostly state-run ones, opened a whopping 19.52 crore accounts under the governments financial inclusion drive till the first week of December. "As on December 9, 2015, 195.2 million accounts have been opened and 166.7 million RuPay debit cards have been issued under the Prime Ministers Jan Dhan Yojana, which was launched on August 28, 2014," the central bank said in its half-yearly report on the operations and performance of scheduled commercial banks.

The report said most of these accounts are in rural areas, thus considerably increasing banking penetration, and a significant number of banking outlets -- a whopping 91 per cent -- operate in branchless mode via business correspondents or facilitators. The RBI report said as many as 92.6 million beneficiaries have been enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and 29.2 million have been enrolled under Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, while 1.3 million account holders have been enrolled under Atal Pension Yojana, as of December 16, 2015.

## Reliance Defence and a Russian firm to work jointly on air defence missile and radar systems

Dec 25

Anil Ambani controlled Reliance Defence Limited and Russia's leading developer and manufacturer of S-400 Triumf air defence missile system Almaz- Antey will work jointly on the entire range of air defence missile and radar systems required for Indian Defence Forces. The partnership was announced as Prime Minister Narendra Modi began a trip to Moscow aimed at strengthening defence ties.

India plans to buy five S-400 Triumf air defence systems for about Rs 40,000 crore. The two sides identified the air defence missile systems, including the TOR-1M missile programme, radars and automated control systems as areas of partnership under 'Make in India' as well as offset policies of the defence ministry



## Dattatreya launches Facebook account, Twitter handle of EPFO

Dec 26



The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) made debut on popular social networking platforms Facebook and Twitter. Union Minister for Labour and Employment (independent charge) Bandaru Dattatreya, who launched Facebook account and Twitter handle of EPFO during a Good Governance Day celebration event said with this the stakeholders would have another medium through which they can put their grievances, ideas and messages across.

EPFO is a beneficial entity engaged in providing social security to crores of workers in the country. Recently EPFO has undertaken several initiatives involving Information

Technology for benefit of its stakeholders. Furthering these initiatives, EPFO has now embarked upon the social networking platform to connect better with its stakeholders.

This would be in addition to the EPFiGMS, the online public grievance handling mechanism which is already in place. Facebook and Twitter would be used for getting feedback on service/delivery and working of EPFO, the minister said, apart from informing about new and upcoming initiatives/facilities/services too. Central PF Commissioner K K Jalan assured that the new initiative would be a two-way (communication) street.

## Tata Power inks pact with Russian Ministry

Dec 26

Tata Power has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Ministry of Development of Russian Far East to explore and develop investment opportunities in the energy sector. Under the agreement, the Ministry of Development of Russian Far East will cooperate with and support Tata Power at all stages of investment projects, including assisting the company's communications with federal and regional authorities, state-owned companies and the private sector. The MoU was signed in Moscow by Ashok Sethi, COO and Executive Director, Tata Power, and Alexander Galushka, Minister for Development of Russian Far East.



Giorgi Kvirikashvili has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Georgia.

## Road projects worth Rs. 50,000 crore to be offered under PPP in FY17 Dec 28



**T**he road transport and highways ministry has lined up projects worth Rs 50,000 crore to be awarded under public-private partnership mode in 2016-17. This will be the largest chunk of highways projects to be awarded by the ministry under the PPP mode in a single financial year. The ministry plans to award close to 5,000 km to private companies during the next fiscal, officials said. As part of this plan, the ministry will invite bids for its religious tourism circuit programme including Char Dham connectivity and the Bharat Mala project, which envisages development of roads along the international borders and coastal areas.

This year the government expects to garner more than Rs 20,000 crore by way of private investments in the roads sector. It has already awarded projects worth Rs 12,000 crore. "Projects will be awarded mostly under the hybrid annuity model. Some of them will also be given out on the build-operate-transfer (BOT) model. We are looking at awarding close to 5,000 km to private players," a senior government official said.

The government is targeting increasing the length of highways across the country to 1.5 lakh km from the existing 1 lakh km in the next four years. It plans to undertake construction of 7,000-8000 km on its own during the next fiscal. To boost private sector interest in the sector, the ministry has taken a slew of measures including introducing an exit policy aimed at improving the availability of equity funds by allowing developers to monetise existing projects.

## Bharat Petroleum's New Crude Distillation unit in Mumbai Dec 28



**T**he new state-of-the-art Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) of Bharat Petroleum's Mumbai Refinery was dedicated to the nation by Devendra Fadnavis, Chief Minister

of Maharashtra and Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas at the Mumbai Refinery. The unit with a capacity of 6.0 MMTPA at a cost of Rs. 1419 Crores is a replacement of old Crude and Vacuum units of the refinery. Also present on the occasion were Members of Parliament Shri Arvind Sawant, Shri Rahul Shewale, Shri Gopal Shetty and MLA from Chembur, Shri Prakash Phaterpekar. This Refinery of BPCL was commissioned in 1955 by Burmah Shell Refineries Ltd. with a capacity of 2.2 MMTPA. Post-nationalization in 1976, the refinery has progressively expanded through low cost revamps and adoption of new technologies.

Currently, it has an installed capacity of 12.0 MMTPA with three Crude & Vacuum Distillation units with matching secondary processing and treatment facilities.

The commissioning of this new CDU would ensure cleaner environment and efficient use of energy with lower emissions and reduction in energy consumption. The Sulphur dioxide emission from this new unit would be less than 10.5 mt/d – the lowest in the country amongst all the refineries. Tightly heat integrated with furnaces of higher efficiency, the reduction in energy consumption in terms of Liquid Fuel Equivalent (LFE) is expected to be about 30 % which results into estimated savings of Rs. 128 Crores per annum on fuel consumption.

## Tech Mahindra launches NFC-based wallet MoboMoney Dec 29

**T**ech Mahindra, which got a mandate to start a payment bank from the Central Bank in August last year, has launched an electronic wallet called MoboMoney. The company claims that it is the country's



first contact-less wallet, which works both at online as well as at brick and mortar stores.

MoboMoney is a prepaid wallet issued in the form of an NFC (Near-Field Communication) Contactless Tag, which can be used to pay on a network of NFC enabled Merchant POS or through an NFC enabled mobile phone. The money loaded into the customers' digital wallets through retail outlets can be used to pay for over the counter payments, recharges, make bill payments, as well as pay online.

There is also an option to refill the wallet through the bank account or credit/debit card and also link it to a bank account to retrieve the unspent amount from the wallet into the linked bank account.



Gujarati writer Raghuveer Chaudhary has been selected for the Jnanpith award 2015.



**No more LPG subsidy for consumers with annual taxable income of more than Rs 10 lakh** Dec 29



**T**he government decided that consumers with taxable income above Rs 10 lakh per year will not get LPG subsidy from January 2016. The benefit of the LPG subsidy will not be available for LPG consumers if the consumer or his/her spouse had taxable income of more than Rs 10 lakh during the previous financial year computed as per the Income Tax Act, 1961, Oil Ministry said in a statement.

In keeping with the approach of trusting the citizens, this will be given effect to initially on self-declaration basis while booking cylinders from January 2016 onwards. At present, all households are entitled to get 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rate of Rs 419.26, while the market price is Rs 608. The government had earlier asked well-off people to voluntarily give up using subsidised LPG and instead buy cooking fuel at market price.

**Centre to provide Rs 5,000-crore subsidy for rooftop solar power** Dec 31



**T**he Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved an increase in the budget for implementation of grid connected solar rooftop systems under National Solar Mission from Rs 600 crore to Rs 5,000 crore by 2019-20. This will support Installation of 4,200 megawatt peak (MWp) solar rooftop systems in the country in the next five years, an official statement on December 30 said.

A capital subsidy of 30% will be provided for general category states and union territories, and 70% for special category states including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and those in the Northeast. There will be no subsidy for private commercial and industrial establishments since these entities are eligible for other benefits such as accelerated depreciation, customs duty concessions, excise duty exemptions and tax holidays etc. The target of 4,200 MWp capacity includes installations in residential, government, social and institutional sector such as hospitals and educational institutions. Industrial and commercial sector will be encouraged for installations without subsidy. This will create the market, build the confidence of the consumers and enable the balance capacity through market mode to achieve the target of 40,000 MWp by 2022.

**SEBI Issues New Listing Norms for Stock Exchanges** Jan 02



**T**he wait's finally over for bourses BSE and NSE to get listed, with the capital markets watchdog SEBI issuing stock exchange listing guidelines. Titled 'Procedures for ensuring compliance with Securities Contracts (Regulation) (Stock Exchanges and Clearing Corporations) Regulations, 2012 (SECC Regulations)' SEBI in a circular issued detailed compliance norms for disclosure and listing regulations including ensuring 'fit and proper' status of investors in the bourses.

The new norms, finalised after taking into account the representations received for listing of stock exchanges, aim to put in place necessary safeguards and procedures with respect to shareholding norms, fit and proper criteria, and other issues of conflict of interest. The exchanges would need to take steps for maintaining of 51 per cent of shareholding of Public Category and ensuring that holding of trading members, associates or agents does not exceed 49 per cent.

Besides, depositories will have to put in place systems for capturing the shareholding data of trading members or their associates and agents and ensure that there is a mechanism for coordination between the depositories towards sharing of information.



**Sanjay Mitra has been appointed as the new Road Transport and Highways Secretary.**

*Mahendra's*



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



<b>Delhi (Janakpuri)</b>	A-1/32 Near Vikaspuri Road Red Light Opp Metro Pillar No-625 Janakpuri. Ph.: 9213353334, 9212069515	<b>Ghaziabad</b>	1st, 2nd And 3rd Floor, Arundeeep Tower, D-45, Rdc (raj Nagar Disstt. Centre), Near New Ghaziabad Railway Station Ghaziabad. Ph.: 9250055517, 9212229752/24
<b>Delhi (Kingsway)</b>	Near Gtb Metro Station Gate No.3, Shop No. 92/94, 2nd Floor Mall Road, Kingsway Camp Delhi. Ph.: 9268108497, 9268561517	<b>Ghazipur</b>	Second Floor, Shubhra Complex, Adjacent To SBI Life Office, Mahuabagh, Ghazipur. Ph.: 9208244539
<b>Delhi (Laxmi Nagar)</b>	209-212, Roots Tower, 2nd Floor District Centre Near Nirmar Vihar Metro Station, Laxminagar, Delhi. Ph.: 9268693952, 9268209355	<b>Gonda</b>	461/529 Malviya Nagar, Above Narain Suzuki Showroom, Lbs Chauraha, Gonda. Ph.: 9208051488, 9208250778
<b>Delhi (Mukherjee Nagar-SSC)</b>	42-44 A, Manu Shri Building, 3rd Floor Commercial Complex, Near Batra Cinema, Mukherjee Nagar Ph: 9250057753	<b>Gorakhpur</b>	Narayan Tower, 2nd Floor Gandhi Gali Gole Ghar, Gorakhpur. Ph.: 9208205892, 9235253400
<b>Delhi (Munirka)</b>	D-211, Laxman Plaza Building, Munirika, New Delhi-67. Ph.: 9210092245	<b>Gurgaon</b>	56/9, Saket Commercial Complex, 2nd floor, New Railway Road Near Bhatnagar Hospital, Bhim Nagar Chawk, Gurgaon-122001 Ph: 9643396139
<b>Delhi (Rohini)</b>	C 9/63, Sector 8, Opp. Fire Station, Rohini, Delhi. Ph.: 9250239674	<b>Guwahati</b>	1st Floor Adams Plaza Christian Basti GS Road Guwahati -781005 Contact:8134935078
<b>Deoria</b>	MEPL (Raghaw Nagar) near Renuka Hotel, Above IDBI Bank, Oppsite SBI Main Branch, Deoria. Ph.: 9208248122	<b>Gwalior</b>	03' Opposite G.D.A Office, Above Patrika Building, 2nd floor, Khedapati Road, Gwalior. Ph.: 9200377275, 9229174910
<b>Dhanbad</b>	2nd Floor, Sam Tower, Infront BOI, (Bank More) Chauhara, Dhanbad. Ph.: 9204979723	<b>Haldwani</b>	Second Floor- Shiv Niwas, Infront Of Bhoatia Padao Police Chowki, Near Shriram Hospital, Nainital Road, Haldwani. Ph.: 9208256021
<b>Durgapur</b>	2nd Floor, Pinnacle Building, Beside The Citi Residency, Near Junction mall, Durgapur 713216, Burdwan, West Bengal. Mob No: 7076856390	<b>Hardoi</b>	Opposite Income Tax Office, Nagheta Road, Hardoi. Ph.: 9208248208
<b>Ernakulam</b>	Vetteel Chambers, Above Corporation Bank, Near Petrol Pump, M.G. Road, Ravipuram, Ernakulam. Ph.: 9645415987	<b>Haridwar</b>	2nd Floor, Above Aptech Computer, Goel Motor Building, Ranipur Modh, haridwar. Ph.: 7706008034
<b>Etah</b>	Ashu Guest House, Near Indrapuri Gate-1, railway Road, Etah. Ph.: 9208237386	<b>Hisar</b>	Red Square Market Scf-2, ground Floor Near Canara Bank, Hisar. Ph.: 9253860062, 9253678050
<b>Faizabad</b>	G.S. Tower, Diagonally In Front Of Jagat Hospital, Near Agrasen Chowk, naka, Raebareli Road, faizabad. Ph.: 9208175803, 9235253421	<b>Hoshangabad</b>	1st Floor, House No. 01, Above Indian Overseas Bank, Anandnagar, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, Ph.: 8358831338
<b>Faridabad</b>	5 R/5, N.i.t., Above Aastha Eye & Lasik Laser Centre, Opposite Punjab National Bank Zonal Office, Near Neelam Petrol Pump, Faridabad. Ph.: 9643396140	<b>Hyderabad (Ameerpet)</b>	Sai Surya Tata Tower 2nd Floor Above South Indian Bank Opposite Maitrivanam Building Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Ph.: 9247332729/9247749865
<b>Farrukhabad</b>	SB Complex, 1st Floor, Above Bajaj Allianz Office, Near Anand Petrol Pump, Lalbagh, Farrukhabad. Ph.: 7706008029	<b>Hyderabad (Dilsukh Nagar)</b>	16-11-741/1/a/a/2-3, above Raymond Showroom, Besides Vasan Eye Hospital, moosaram Bagh, Dilsukh Nagar, Hyderabad. Ph.: 7032410704
<b>Fatehpur</b>	1st Floor Rama Shyama, Civil Lines, Fatehpur 212601 Uttar Pradesh, Ph.: 8960148140	<b>Indore (Bhawar Kuan)</b>	1st Floor, Above I.C.I.C.I. Bank, opposite Yamaha Showroom, Anjani Plaza, Bhawarkuan Road, Indore. Ph.: 7581800953, 7581800954
<b>Firozabad</b>	1st Floor, Ratan Bihar Building, suhag Nagar Chauraha, above Pnb Bank, Firozabad. Ph.: 9219071844, 9208235736	<b>Indore-(Sapna Sangeeta RD)</b>	91/47 2nd Floor Oasis Point, Sapna Sangeeta Road, Sneh Nagar Indore. Ph.: 7581800951, 7581800952
<b>Gaya</b>	2 Floor Zion Complex Opposite Fire Station Swaraj Puri Road, Near Mahavir School Gaya. Ph.: 9234211469, 9204311416	<b>Jabalpur</b>	1230 Bhawani Plaza, 3rd Floor Near 4 Th Brige Napier Town, Jabalpur. Ph.: 9200343764, 9229174904/05
<b>Ghaziabad</b>	1st, 2nd And 3rd Floor, Arundeeep Tower, D-45, Rdc (raj Nagar Disstt. Centre), Near New Ghaziabad Railway Station Ghaziabad. Ph.: 9250055517, 9212229752/24	<b>Jaipur</b>	2nd Floor, 202 Ganga Height Tonk Road, Lal Kothi Opp. Apex Mall, Jaipur. Ph.: 9261601713/9261518894
		<b>Jammu</b>	Canal Road, Near Irrigation Department Jammu. Ph.: 9419305561, 9796610845



<b>Jaunpur</b>	25-husainabad, Near Td College Road, Above Tejas Colour Lab, Jaunpur. Ph.: 9208244355	<b>Lucknow (Rajajipuram)</b>	S-268 E-block, Awasthi Complex Above Syndicate Bank, Rajajipuram, Lucknow Ph.: 9235253425
<b>Jhalandhar</b>	179, Mota Singh Nagar, Opp. Bus Stand, Main Road Jalandhar 144001, Punjab, Ph.: 8557088163, 8557088164	<b>Ludhiana</b>	2 K Tower, 2nd Floor, Link Road, Near Preet Palace, Ludhiana. Ph.: 9217298163, 9256002028, 9217298163
<b>Jhansi</b>	B.K.D Road Near Kunj Bihari Mandir, First Floor, Above State Bank Of India, Jhansi. Ph.: 9208175778, 9235253424	<b>Mainpuri</b>	Opposite Punjabi Colony Gate, Station Road, Mainpuri. Ph.: 9258405374, 9208241450
<b>Jodhpur</b>	1st Nap Plot 206-207, Manjika Hatha Paota, Jodhpur, Ph.: 9636512855	<b>Mathura</b>	2054 Chowki Bagh Bahadur, State Bank Circle Mathura. Ph.: 9219039272, 9208235067
<b>Kanpur (Kakadev)</b>	117/n1, Bhadouria Building Raniganj, Kakadev, Kanpur. Ph.: 9208206019, 9235253484	<b>Meerut</b>	3 Floor, Star Plaza, Near Bachcha Park, Meerut. Ph.: 9219684062, 9235253448
<b>Kanpur (Kidwainagar)</b>	128/566 K-block Kidwai Nagar, Old Veeta Building, near Delhi Public School Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur. Ph.: 9208175776, 9235253482	<b>Mirzapur</b>	Infront Of Kb College, Musaffarganj, Mirzapur. Ph.: 9208243884
<b>Kanpur (Mall Road)</b>	419/1 Agrawal Building, D Mall, Near Obc Bank Mall Road, Kanpur. (only For Females Candidate). Ph.: 9236757143, 9236720133	<b>Moradabad</b>	Opposite Cross Road Mall, Near Lasa Mart, civil Lines, Moradabad. Ph.: 9208205948, 9235253442
<b>Karnal</b>	Shakti Colony, H.No 111, in front of Mahila Ashram, DAV College Road, Karnal-132 001, Haryana, Ph.: 8930175568	<b>Mumbai</b>	1st & 3rd Floor, Pp Manglas Chambers, Opp. Ashok Cinema, Station Road,thane (west) Mumbai. Ph.: 9221944071
<b>Kolkata</b>	120 Lenin Sarani, Sunidhi Building, fifth Floor, above Punjab National Bank, near Moulali Crossing Kolkata. Ph.: 9230141497, 9230482308	<b>Muzaffar-nagar</b>	lind Floor, Prakash Chowk, Civil Lines House, Muzaffarnagar. Ph.: 7706008032
<b>Kurukshetra</b>	Scf 38 Mainmarket,sector- 13 Near Bank Of Baroda, Kurukshetra. Ph.: 9253678053	<b>Muzaffarpur</b>	Opposite City Life Mall ,near Jubba Sahini Park, club Road Mithanpura Muzaffarpur (bihar). Ph.: 9204873141, 9204303515, 9204355614
<b>Lakhimpur</b>	Hotel K Continental, Ground Floor, Near Bus Stand Lakhimpur. Ph.: 9208251562	<b>Nagpur</b>	Plot No-15 Hill Road Opposite Nit Complex, Near Maruti Suzuki Service Center, Gandhinagar, Near Ramnagar, Nagpur. Ph.: 9209863375, 9272273686
<b>Lucknow (Alambagh Po)</b>	Near Allahabad Bank, Above Bata Showroom, Ram Nagar, Alambagh, Lucknow. Ph.: 9235253521	<b>Nagpur-2</b>	1st FLOOR, Kheara No. 83/2, More Bhawan, Vidarabha Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Jhansi Rani Square, Buldi, Nagpur-140012. Ph.: 9168558073
<b>Lucknow (Alambagh SSC)</b>	Sahu Plaza, 3rd Floor Neharia, Above Chabra - 555 Alambagh, Lucknow. Ph.: 9235253466	<b>Nasik</b>	Basement and Ground Floor, Office No. 4, R Square Building, Thatte Nagar Road, Opp. BYK College, Off College Road, Nasik 422005. Ph.: 9168512624, 9168511626
<b>Lucknow (Bhootnath)</b>	Krishna Bazar 3rd Floor, Bhootnath Market, Indra Nagar. Ph.: 9208175813, 9235253528	<b>Noida</b>	101-102, K 4, Ocean Heights, Sector 18, Noida. Ph.: 9953948834
<b>Lucknow (Gomti Nagar)</b>	Laxmi Vardhan Complex, 3rd Floor,patrakarpuram Chauraha Gomtinagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9208175804, 9235253548	<b>Orai</b>	Danik Aaj Karyalaya Building, Infront Of Jdc Bank, Rani Laxmi Bai Chauraha, Kermer Road, Orai. Ph.: 9208158768, 9208237457
<b>Lucknow (Mahanagar PO)</b>	B- 54 Above Central Bank Of India, Bhatia Complex, kapoorthala, Mahanagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9208175746, 9235253443	<b>Patiala</b>	SCO 136, Chotti Baradan, Patiala 147001, Ph.: 9780859720, 9780859721
<b>Lucknow (Mahanagar SSC)</b>	Near Sai Baba Mandir,Kapoorthala Chauraha, Mahanagar,Lucknow Ph.: 9235253468/69	<b>Patna (Boaring Road)</b>	Krishna Shiv Enclave, Roop Bhawan Campus, East Boring Canal Road, Near Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir, Patna. Ph.: 9204855316, 9204855301
<b>Lucknow (Purania)</b>	B-62,63 Sector H 1st Floor Twins Tower Infront Of United Bank, Purania. Ph.: 9235253517, 9235253538	<b>Patna (Frazer Road)</b>	1 to 5 & 19 to 23 3rd Floor Pandey Mall Above Vishal Mega Mart Near Times Of India Building Frazer Road Patna Ph.: 9204855305



<b>Pilibhit</b>	1st & 3rd Floor Shukla Complex, Gandhi Stadium Road, Near Sugandhi Thana, Above Syndicate Bank, Pilibhit, Uttar Pradesh, Ph.: 9837186684	<b>Shahjahanpur</b>	Opposite Durga Hotel, Near Bus Stand, Civil Lines, Shahjahanpur. Ph.: 9208256201
<b>Pratapgarh</b>	2nd Floor Above Sbi Adb Bhagwa Chungi Pratapgarh. Ph.: 9208245660	<b>Shimla</b>	Ground Floor, Moon International Hotel, Circular Road, Near H.P. Secretariat, Chotta Shimla, Shimla Ph.: 8894100342
<b>Pune</b>	Plot No. 92/1, First Floor, Indrayani, Above Barista Coffee Shop, Law College Road, Erandawana, Pune. Ph.: 9209832722, 9225231629	<b>Siliguri</b>	3rd Floor, 157 - Kelsons Complex, Sevoke Road, Beside City Garden, Siliguri. Ph.: 7602742939
<b>Rae Bareilly</b>	Above State Bank Of India, Canal Road (Near Degree College Chauraha), Raibareilly. Ph.: 9208175788, 9235253412	<b>Sitapur</b>	Above ICICI Bank, Near Sbi Main Branch, eye Hospital Road, Civil Lines Sitapur. Ph.: 9235253514, 7706008028
<b>Raipur</b>	Syam Squar IInd Floor Oppsite Lic Building Near Pandri Cloth Market Raipur Ph.: 9200321420, 9229174912	<b>Sultanpur</b>	1st Floor, Usha Commercial Complex, Raj Hotel Compound, Above Bank Of Baroda, Besides Roadways, Civil Lines, Sultanpur. Ph.: 9208252915
<b>Rajkot</b>	Centre One Comp, SF 204, Feeder CD 31 Near Wocard Hospital, Village, Taluka & District - Rajkot. Ph.: 9979316870	<b>Surat</b>	104, 8-block-ICC, International Commerce Center, Opp Civil Hospital, Majura Gate, Ring Road, Surat- 395002 Ph.: 9979321268, 9537360459
<b>Rampur</b>	Royal Complex, 1st & 2nd Floor, Near Allahabad Bank, Shaikat Ali Road, Civil Lines Rampur. Ph.: 9208255388	<b>Thirupati</b>	H.No:23-8-160, New Balaji Colony, MR Palli, Tirupati, Ph.: 9581933099
<b>Ranchi</b>	1st Floor Shriram Neotia Arcade H.b Road Lalpur Chowk, Ranchi. Ph.: 9204631321, 9204855313	<b>Thiruvananthapuram</b>	Deepa Arcade, 3rd Floor, Convent Road, Near General Hospital Junction, Locality - Vanchiyoor, Thiruvananthapuram (Trivendrum). Ph.: 9645415029
<b>Rewa</b>	2nd Floor , Yadvendra Tower, Subash Chowk, Sirmor Road Opposite - Angoori Building Rewa ( MP ) Mobile No. 7415690846	<b>Unnao</b>	C- 919, Awas Vikas Colony, Unnao (u.p.). Ph.: 9208242493
<b>Rohtak</b>	Ashoka Plaza Delhi Road Rohtak-1240 01 Haryana, Ph.: 8930403836	<b>Vadodara</b>	3rd Floor, The Plaza Complex, Near Ginger Hotel, Fatehganj Main Road, Vadodara. Ph.: 9537589477
<b>Roorkee</b>	225, Nehru Nagar, 1st Floor Of The Building, Near Azad Nagar Chowk, Roorkee (haridwar). Ph.: 7706008033	<b>Varanasi</b>	2nd Floor,b-27/70 Above Levis Show Room,adjacent Petrol Pump,barhar Kothi Durga Kund, Varanasi. Ph.: 9208205985, 9235253419
<b>Sagar</b>	2nd Floor, Infront Of Central Bank Of India, Adjacent to SBI, Gopalganj, Sagar, Madhya Pradesh, Ph.: 7509219781	<b>Vijaywada</b>	40-1-21/3, Surya Towers M.G. Road Labbipet , Vijayawada-10 Andhra Pradesh, Ph.: 8886398072
<b>Saharanpur</b>	2nd Floor, Above Dr.chawala Ultra Sound & United Bank , Ved Raj Complex, Ghanta Ghar, Saharanpur. Ph.: 9208205970, 9235253445	<b>Vishakhapatnam</b>	Door No: 47-14-3, 2nd Floor, Potluri Classic, Dwarkanagar, Visakhapatnam, Ph.: 9966593419/8121688138
<b>Sambalpur</b>	2nd Floor Samson Mansion Building, In front of Odia Baptist Church, Above Bank Of Baroda(Regional Office) Christian Para, Sambalpur-768001, Ph.: 8594958962	<b>Warangal</b>	T-01, T-02, T-03 & T-04 in Third floor of Block C in Kandakatla Gateway, KUC X Road, Hanamkonda, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh, Ph.: 7207492789



**TOLL FREE NO.**

**1800-103-5225**



[www.mahendras.org](http://www.mahendras.org)  
[www.interviewguru.mahendras.org](http://www.interviewguru.mahendras.org)  
[www.mahendrapublication.org](http://www.mahendrapublication.org)

[stportal.mahendras.org](http://stportal.mahendras.org)  
[enews.mahendras.org](http://enews.mahendras.org)  
[myshop.mahendras.org](http://myshop.mahendras.org)

[www.bankersguru.org](http://www.bankersguru.org)  
[www.railwayguru.org](http://www.railwayguru.org)  
[www.sscguru.org](http://www.sscguru.org)

## DAVA project of Department of Commerce won 2015 eASIA Award

Jan 02



**D**AVA or Drug Authentication and Verification Application Project won the 2015 eASIA Award under Trade Facilitation category. The award was announced by Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT) in Tehran, Iran. DAVA is an integrated platform for implementation of the Track and Trace system both for exports and domestic markets of Drugs and Pharmaceuticals.

### Features of DAVA Project

- ✎ It was launched on 29 June 2015 by the Department of Commerce. It will provide simpler means to the consumer and regulatory agencies for establishing drug authentication and protect the India's Brand image in international trade.
- ✎ The application has value-added features like availability of stocks for a drug in area/wholesalers/retailers at a point of time
- ✎ Whenever required, drugs can easily be identified and recalled due to traceability of stocks, prevention of black marketing which especially arises during epidemics.
- ✎ It aims to cover all the drugs manufactured in India. Indian Pharmaceutical industry has approximately 250 large units and more than 8000 small and medium scale units.

## Department of Posts formed Kamlesh Chandra Panel on Gramin Dak Sevaks

Jan 02

**D**epartment of Posts formed a one-man committee to study issues related to Gramin Dak Sevaks including wage structure and service conditions. The panel will be headed by Kamlesh Chandra, a retired member of the Postal Services Board, which will be assisted by T Q Mohammad, a senior administrative grade officer, as the secretary.

### Terms of reference of the panel

- ✎ It will examine the system of branch post offices, engagement conditions and the existing structure of wage and emoluments paid to gramian sevaks and recommend necessary changes.
- ✎ It will review the existing facilities for 2.6 lakh employees spread across the country, the service discharge benefit scheme and other social security benefits.
- ✎ It will examine and suggest any change in the method of engagement, minimum qualification for engagement for gramian dak sevaks.
- ✎ It will examine their conduct and disciplinary rules, particularly keeping in view the proposed induction of technology in rural post offices.



## Green PIN launched by PNB

Jan 03



**S**tate-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched host of digital banking solutions including green PIN and an enhancement of its mobile app. The bank launched mobile apps enabling the customer to locate PNB ATM with PNB ATM Assist. Under this customer can obtain duplicate PIN for debit card instantly through SMS request.

The Android app facilitates the customer to use GPS and reach the nearest PNB ATM, it also assists customer to instantly lodge operational issues, reducing the resolution time considerably. The bank also launched another Android app to undertake basic banking. Besides, the bank will provide customer SMS based facility to block and unblock internet banking and mobile banking.



Rory McIlroy has been named as European Tour's golfer of the year.



## Union Government to roll out LPG-like DBT scheme for kerosene from 1 April 2016

Jan 03



The Union Government decided to rollout a LPG-like direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme for kerosene. The scheme will be started from 1 April 2016. In the initial phase, the scheme will be implemented in selected 26 districts of eight states: Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab and Rajasthan.

### Key Highlights of the scheme

- Under the scheme, people will buy kerosene at market rate, but will get subsidy directly in their bank accounts. The cash subsidy to be paid to users will be equivalent to the difference between current Public Distribution System (PDS) price and market rate of kerosene.
- To avoid any inconvenience to the beneficiary through payment of un-subsidised price, subsidy will be credited to eligible beneficiaries in advance during the initial purchase.
- With a view to incentivise States and Union Territories to implement DBT in kerosene, it has been decided that the states will be given cash incentive of 75 percent of subsidy savings during the first two years, 50 percent in the third year and 25 percent in the fourth year.
- In case, the states voluntarily agree to undertake cuts in kerosene allocation, beyond the savings due to DBT, a similar incentive will be given to those States.

## IRB bags Rs 10,050-crore Zozila pass tunnel project

Jan 04

IRB Infrastructure Developers has bagged a Rs 10,050-crore order to construct the Zozila pass tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir. The company has received a Letter of Award from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for the construction, operation and maintenance of the longest tunnel in South-East Asia, Zozila pass Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir.

It is the biggest national highway project awarded in India in terms of project cost with a tunnel length spanning 14.08 km and costing of Rs 10,050 crore. The scope of the project includes constructing approaches on NH-1 (Srinagar Sonmarg Gumri Road) on design, build, finance, operate and transfer (annuity) basis. The project

also involves construction of tunnel spanning length of 14.08 km and approach road of 10.8 Km with three vertical ventilation shafts, snow gallery of 700 meters and avalanche protection measures.

## RBI imposed 1 crore rupees Penalty on State Bank of Travancore

Jan 04

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty of one crore rupees on State Bank of Travancore for violation of its



instructions. RBI in its release said, the monetary penalty has been imposed for violation of its instructions including reporting of data to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC). The penalties have been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the Reserve Bank under the provisions of Section 47(A) (1) (c) read with Section 46(4)(i) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, taking into account the violations of the instructions/directions/guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank from time to time. This action is based on deficiencies in regulatory compliance and is not intended to pronounce upon the validity of any transaction or agreement entered into by the bank and its customers.

## Remove export duty on iron ore and pellets, miners urge Centre

Jan 06



The government has reduced the export duty on iron ore pellets to zero from five per cent, a move that will make the commodity more competitive amid subdued demand and

weakening prices. The government in 2014 had levied a five per cent export duty on iron ore pellets, which are value-added products of leftover material or low grade iron ore and are used in steel-making. In a notification, the Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) said: "...the Central Government being satisfied that it is necessary in public interest so to do, hereby makes following further amendments in the notification of the Government of India in Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue) No. 27/2011— Customs, dated the 1st March, 2011." Iron ore pellet makers as well as some miners had urged the government to reduce the export duty on iron ore as it would help in making the commodity more competitive.



American Movie "Star Wars" pass the \$1 billion mark in global box office sales.

*Mahendra's*

## Rs.1000 crores allocated to LWE affected states

Jan 07

The Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh approved the State wise allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs.1000 crores to 35 worst LWE affected districts in seven states. Out of these 35 districts, there are 16 affected districts in Jharkhand, 8 in Chhattisgarh, 6 in Bihar, 2 in Odisha and one each in Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

The Ministry of Home Affairs has allocated fund Rs.28.57 crores per district. Thus, Jharkhand is allocated Rs.457.12 crore, Chhattisgarh Rs.228.56 crore, Bihar Rs.171.42 crore, Odisha Rs.57.14 crore and Rs.28.57 crore each to the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.



## Tata Trusts, Mars sign MoU to work on food safety in India

Jan 07



Tata Trusts and leading global food manufacturer Mars Incorporated have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to work together to advance agriculture development, address malnutrition and improve food safety in India, according to a joint statement.

Tata Trusts that will participate in the initiative include Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, and Navajbhai Ratan Tata Trust. All these trusts collectively known as Tata Trusts are coalition of philanthropic trusts that have been working to improve the quality of life of people in India.

## Tata Steel bags PM's trophy

Jan 08

Tata Steel has been declared as the winner of Prime Minister's Trophy for being the 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant' in the country for the performance year 2013 – 2014. This Award has been conferred on the Company for the eighth time. In addition it has also received Certificate for Excellence twice and Steel Minister's Trophy once, since this trophy was instituted in 1992-93.

The Company went through three rounds of rigorous assessment, adjudged by a panel of distinguished judges. The enthusiasm and involvement of its employees including the Union Leadership team was highly appreciated by the panel of judges for the Prime Minister's Trophy, reaffirming the core strength of Tata Steel – its skilled and motivated workforce that has a will to excel.



## Devender Kumar Sikri appointed as Chairman of Competition Commission of India

Jan 12



Devender Kumar Sikri was appointed as Chairman of fair-trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI). He succeeds Ashok Chawla, whose tenure as the Chairman of CCI. Sikri will have a tenure of about two and half years, i.e. till he attains the age of 65 years.

### About Devender Kumar Sikri

- ✎ Sikri is a former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Gujarat cadre. He has held various positions in Centre as well as in his cadre state Gujarat.
- ✎ He superannuated as Secretary, Department of Justice on 31 July 2013.
- ✎ He had also been Secretary in the Union Ministry of women and child development, Registrar General of Census.
- ✎ He also served as the Collector of Rajkot and Jamnagar.
- ✎ As per the agreement, water plants will be established and maintained to provide clean drinking water to more than 800 villages in Barmer, a part of the Thar Desert where drinking water is a precious commodity.
- ✎ The initiative will involve setting up of 333 small scale reverse osmosis (RO) plants over the next three years.
- ✎ The initiative will provide safe drinking water to an estimated population of over one million.



**Lallianzuala Chhangte is a Footballer.**



## Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry launches an online initiative to engage LPG consumers and citizens

Jan 12



**T**he Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) has launched an Online Initiative to engage the LPG Consumers and Citizens of India in providing efficient and citizen friendly services in LPG distribution

LPG Consumers/ Citizens are requested to participate and share their thoughts on the respective forums online. Valuable suggestions/ comments are welcome and will be considered for improving the customer oriented services related to LPG Coverage & Delivery.

This initiative is one of the many initiatives for observing 2016 as the "Year of LPG Consumers", announced by the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently.

## Bharthi Sihag assumes additional charge of NMDC Chairman

Jan 12



**A**dditional Secretary in the Steel Ministry Bharathi S Sihag has been given the additional charge of Chairman-cum-

Managing Director (CMD) of state-run iron ore miner NMDC, with effect from January 1, 2016.

Sihag, who also holds the charge of Financial Adviser in the ministry, will remain at the helm of affairs at the National Mineral Development Corporation for three months or till a regular incumbent is appointed, whichever is earlier.

NMDC in a BSE filing said: "In terms of order dated January 11, 2016 of Ministry of Steel, the additional charge of the post of CMD NMDC is assigned to Bharathi S Sihag, Additional Secretary and Financial Adviser, Steel Ministry."

Sihag will hold the post "...For a period of 3 months with effect from January 1, 2016 or till the appointment of a regular incumbent to the post or until further orders, whichever is the earliest," it added.

The previous CMD of the country's largest iron ore miner Narendra Kothari retired on December 31.

Government's head hunter Public Enterprises Selection Board (PSEB) recommended Gopal Singh for the top post, but sources said that Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has still not given its nod on the same.

Gopal Singh has been heading Central Coalfields Ltd (CCL) since March 2012.

## IndraNooyi becomes Yale's biggest alumni donor

Jan 12

**T**he most famous graduate of Yale School of Management, IndraNooyi, has become the school's biggest alumni donor, with a gift to endow the deanship at the school.

The chair and chief executive of PepsiCo has made the donation, for an undisclosed sum, in recognition



of what she calls "the fundamental understanding that leadership requires an expansive worldview and a deep appreciation of the many points of intersection between business and society" Ms Nooyi is one of the few women to give a substantial donation to a business school. This is not the first time that the PepsiCo boss has donated to the school — indeed a classroom is already named after her, following a previous substantial gift. She has also been a member of the Yale Corporation, the governing board and policy making body for the university.

## WPI inflation contracts to - 0.73% in December

Jan 14



**T**he Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation for December 2015 has come in at (-) 0.73 per cent. This is a contraction for the 14th straight month. Also, October WPI inflation has now been revised to (-) 3.7 per cent from (-) 3.81 per cent.

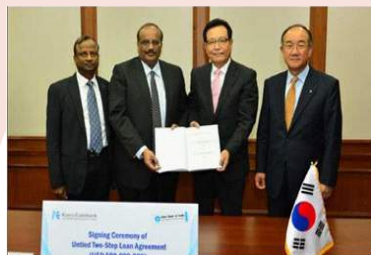
For November 2015, WPI-based inflation had come in at (-) 1.99 per cent. Food inflation remains a point of concern with the overall number coming in at 8.8 per cent for December 2015.



Silver Fern is the name of New Zealand's new flag.

## SBI, Exim Bank of Korea ink \$500-m credit line

Jan 14



**S**tate Bank of India (SBI) and Export-Import Bank of Korea (K-Exim) concluded a \$500-million (about 3,300 crore) line of credit.

With the signing of this line of credit (LoC), the total facility from K-Exim to SBI will be \$1 billion. The latest facility will have a maturity of a maximum 15 years.

The agreement was signed by Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chairman, SBI, and DukHoon Lee, Chairman and President, K-Exim. Bhattacharya said there is huge opportunity for Korean companies to take part in the Prime Minister's 'Make in India' mission.

This LoC will help SBI in arranging long-term foreign currency funds to finance Korean companies setting up manufacturing units or Indian corporates sourcing goods from joint ventures or subsidiaries of Korean companies having manufacturing set-up in India which will be a push to the mission, she added.

### Branch in Korea

Meanwhile, SBI has opened its first branch in South Korea, PTI has reported. The Seoul branch is expected to play an important role in strengthening economic partnership between the two nations, the bank's Managing Director B Sriram said in a statement. With over 135 branches, SBI has the largest presence in foreign markets among domestic banks.

## SBI Launches Wealth Management Service, 'Start-ups Branch'

Jan 14



**S**tate Bank of India on became the first public sector lender to launch wealth management service, a space dominated by private and foreign players, to cater to fast-growing affluent segment of the country. The bank also inaugurated a dedicated branch for start-

ups which will provide advisory services to the budding entrepreneurs. "Introducing wealth management has been one of the bank's top strategic priorities, as we have a number of HNI customers in the bank and potentially many more whose banking needs are more sophisticated and who require a highly specialized service delivery mechanism," SBI chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya said.

The wealth management offering - 'SBI Exclusif' and the start-up branch - 'SBI InCube'

'SBI Exclusif' will offer many firsts in wealth banking like the first 'e-Wealth Center' that can deliver quality relationship management services remotely for extended hours. Its customers will be able to transact and invest on digital channels such as

### Internet and mobile.

'SBI InCube' the bank will be helping, guiding and counselling the new entrepreneurs in starting a new company or business enterprise, which so far was not available in the banking industry.

"With this, the entrepreneurs will be guided right from setting up of a company. Legal issues connected to that, taxation issues etc will be properly explained to them under one roof," Bhattacharya added.

## RBI allows banks to offer more services via offsite ATMs

Jan 15



**I**n a bid to provide operational freedom to banks, the Reserve Bank of India said they are now free to offer all their products and services through the ATM channels provided technology permits the same.

In a partial modification of the circular relating to 'Relaxations in Branch Authorisation Policy – Offsite ATMs', the RBI said banks have to ensure that adequate checks are put in place to prevent the (ATM) channel from being misused to perpetuate frauds on banks/other genuine customers.

According to RBI data, there were 1,92,166 ATMs across the country as at November-end 2015. The volume of transactions at the ATMs using debit and credit cards was at 675.09 million and 0.49 million, respectively.

Saudi Arab is leading the "Islamic military alliance" of 34 countries.





**Shiva, Mandeep among four boxers to receive IOC Olympic scholarships**

Dec 16



**F**our Indian boxers, namely Shiva Thapa, Mandeep Jangra, Gaurav Bidhuri and Sumit Sangwan were selected by the International Olympics Committee (IOC) for a scholarship. Under the scholarship, the boxers will get a sum of 800 US dollars (about 53 thousand rupees) every month till August 2016, provided they qualify for the Olympic Games. They will also get an additional 5000 US Dollars (about 3 lakh 34 thousand rupees) to cover their transportation cost for participation in the Olympic qualifying events. Shiv Thapa is a World Championships' bronze-medallist in 56 kilogram segment and Mandeep Jangra is a Commonwealth Games silver-medallist in 69 kilogram segment. Bidhuri has made an impression by his run at the World Series of Boxing and has bagged a second successive stint, signed by the USA Knockouts franchise for the upcoming season. On the other hand, Sumit is a silver-medallist in at the 2010 Asian Championships and Gold-medallist at the Asian Olympic Qualifiers before the 2012 London Games.

**Rory McIlroy bagged European Tour Golfer of the Year award**

Dec 17

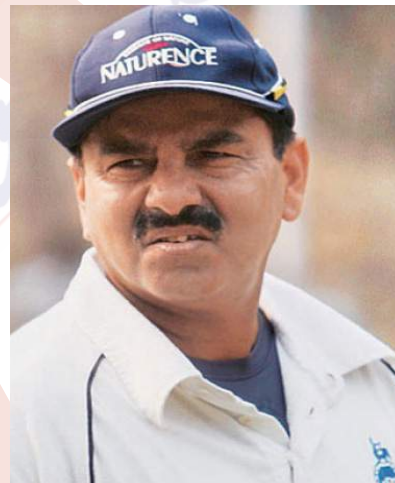


**R**ory McIlroy was named the European Tour Golfer of the Year. He received the award for the third time in four years. McIlroy bagged the European Tour Golfer of the Year award after a panel consisting of members of the golfing media unanimously voted for him as the 2015 winner. Previously, McIlroy was named the European Tour Golfer of the Year in 2014 and 2012.

Born on 4 May 1989, Rory McIlroy is a Northern Irish professional golfer from Hollywood in County Down who is a member of both the European and PGA Tours. Currently World No. 3, he was World No. 1 in the Official World Golf Ranking for 95 weeks. He is a four-time major champion, winning the 2011 U.S Open, 2012 PGA Championship, 2014 Open Championship, and 2014 PGA Championship. He is the first European to win three different majors.

**Manoj Prabhakar named Afghanistan bowling coach for World T20**

Dec 18



**K**eeping in mind next year's ICC World Twenty20 in India, the Afghanistan's Cricket Board has roped in former India allrounder Manoj Prabhakar as the bowling coach of its national team. Prabhakar's appointment is until the World Twenty20 scheduled to be held in India from March 11 to April 3, 2016. Prabhakar, who was one of the leading swing bowlers in Indian team during 1990s, last coached the Delhi Ranji Trophy team in 2011-12 before he was sacked.

Afghanistan recently shifted their home base from Sharjah to the UPCA stadium in Greater Noida in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, where they will play their matches and practice after an MoU was signed last month in this regard. Prabhakar, who has over 250 international wickets in 39 Tests and 130 ODIs, will assist former Pakistan captain Inzamam-ul-Haq who is the chief coach of Afghanistan.

**Burj Khalifa has been voted as the 'Best Attraction' in the world for 2015.**



*Mahendra's*

## CW TT: Indian men claim historic gold; women win silver

Dec 19



**I**ndian men claimed the team championship beating England 3-1 while their women's squad had to satisfy themselves with the silver medal after losing to Singapore 1-3 in the final of the 20th AVADH Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships at the Pandit Dindayal Upadhyay Indoor Stadium.

The Indian men paddlers have done it only for the second time in 20 editions of the championships, having won gold in 2004 in Malaysia under the leadership of Achanta Sharath Kamal, who went on to win his individual gold, too. For the women, this was the fourth occasion to claim silver. They had won the white metal in 1975, 1983 and 1991. In the golden fight, England's David McBeath gave

a scare to both Harmeet Desai and India when the Indian, after leading 2-0, went down 2-3 in what was a wonderful comeback by the Englishman. McBeath had the presence of mind to slow down the game and catch Harmeet on the wrong foot several times in the last three games to put his team one-up.

## Dan Carter claims BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year award

Dec 20

**N**ew Zealand fly-half Dan Carter has been named BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year for 2015. Carter beat Usain Bolt, Novak Djokovic, Katie Ledecky, Jordan Spieth and Serena Williams to the award that was decided by public vote for the first time.

The Racing 92 fly-half won the World Rugby Player of the Year award after his performances helped New Zealand win the Rugby World Cup. He was man of the match in the final, scoring 19 points to lead the All Blacks to a 34-17 win over rivals Australia. It was the third time in his glittering career he has been named as the best player in the world. Carter, who retired from international rugby after the World Cup final, won 112 caps for the All Blacks in a Test career that started with victory over Wales in 2003. He was born and raised in the town of Leeston, 30 miles south west of Christchurch in New Zealand's South Island.

## Tennis player Alexandros Jakupovic banned for life

Dec 20

**G**reek tennis player Alexandros Jakupovic has been banned from the sport for life for committing offenses under the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (Program). The confirmation of the lifetime ban follows a Decision announced on 12 November, that Jakupovic had been found guilty of five corruption Charges.

The lifetime ban takes immediate effect and means that the player, 33, is permanently ineligible to compete in or attend any tournament or event organised or sanctioned by the governing bodies of the sport.



## Lyngdoh and Bala Devi win top awards in football

Dec 20



**B**engaluru FC (BFC) midfielder Eugeneson Lyngdoh was named the 2015 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Player-of-the-Year. India skipper Bala Devi was voted the woman Footballer-of-the-Year, AIFF president Praful Patel announced at the AIFF AGM held in Margao. Lyngdoh enjoyed a good season, 16 assists and eight goals, which earned him the I-League Best-Midfielder award.

The 29-year-old was also named the Players' Player-of-the-Year and Fans' Player-of-the-Year at BFC's annual awards night earlier this year. Lyngdoh received a call-up to the India team in March.

Manipur footballer Devi, who had won the award last year as well, stated that the honour would motivate her to achieve greater success.



Asia's largest underground railway station opened in China.



## Singapore Slammers beat Indian Aces to win IPTL 2

Dec 21



In an anticlimactic result for the Indian Aces, who had topped the table coming into the final, the Indian team lost the champions crown to hosts Singapore

Slammers, who prevailed 26-21. The Slammers, coached by India's double specialist Purav Raja, claimed a prize pursed of USD one million while Indian Aces got USD 500,000.

Two-time Grand Slam champion Stan Wawrinka then beat Bernard Tomic 6-3 in the men's singles to help Slammers maintain slight edge. Ivan Dodig (Aces) was adjudged the Most Valuable Player (MVP) (Male) while Slammers' Belinda Bencic was adjudged the MVP (Female) for their superlative performances through the season. They got USD 50,000 each for the dominant tennis they played all throughout the season.

## FC Barcelona won 2015 FIFA Club World Cup

Dec 21

FC Barcelona won the 2015 FIFA Club World Cup. To win the title, Barcelona defeated Argentina's River Plate by 3-0. The final match was held at the International Stadium in Yokohama, Japan. From Barcelona, Luis Suárez of Uruguay scored two goals, while the remaining goal was made by Lionel Messi of Argentina.



With this goal, Messi became the first player to score in three finals after leading Barca to victory in 2009 and 2011. At the end of the annual event, Suarez collected the Player-of-the-Tournament and Golden Boot awards. So far, the event was held for 12 times and Barcelona tops the table of winners with three titles overall.

## Sania Mirza to lead Indian team in Fed Cup 2016

Dec 22

World number one Sania Mirza was named captain of the Indian team for next year's Fed Cup while two six-member squads were announced by the AITA selection panel for the South Asian Games. The selection committee, headed by SP Misra, chose a four-member team for the Asia/Oceania



Group I matches in Fed Cup, to be held in Hua Hin, Thailand from February 3 to 5. The other members of the team are country's number one singles player Ankita Raina, national champion

Perna Bhambri and Prarthana Thombare. Karman Kaur Thandi has been named the Reserve player. Under Sania's leadership, India were promoted to Group I after doing well in season 2015 and they will strive to make it to the World Group II Play-offs. The selectors also named a six-member men's squad for the South Asian Games, to be held in Guwahati in February. The women's squad comprises Ankita, Perna, Rishika Sunkara, Natasha Palha, Prarthana and Sharmadaa Baluu. Zeeshan Ai will be the coach of the men's team while Shalini Thakur Chawla will guide the women's team.

## Australia captain Steve Smith wins ICC's cricketer of the year award

Dec 23

Australia captain Steve Smith has been named cricketer of the year by the International Cricket Council, winning the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy. The 26-year-old



becomes the fourth Australian to lift the trophy since the inception of the awards in 2004, following Ricky Ponting (2006 and 2007), Mitchell Johnson (2009 and 2014) and Michael Clarke (2013). Smith, who succeeded Clarke as his country's Test skipper in August, also picked up the Test cricketer of the year accolade. He guided Australia to a 2-0 Test series win over New Zealand last month, and they lead the ongoing series against West Indies 1-0.

He was the sixth highest run-scorer at this year's triumphant Cricket World Cup campaign, hitting 402 runs at an average of 67, and registered 1,734 runs in 13 Tests - at an average of 82.57 - during the voting period from 18 September, 2014 to 13 September, 2015. South Africa's one-day captain AB de Villiers was named ODI Cricketer of the Year for the second straight year. He also won the award in 2010. Australia fast bowler Josh Hazlewood was crowned emerging cricketer of the year, while Australia women's captain Meg Lanning was named Women's ODI cricketer of the year and West Indies women's captain Stafanie Taylor won her maiden Women's T20 cricketer of the year award.



The Centre has sanctioned over Rs. 5,000 crores for drought-hit Maharashtra and MP.

*Mahendra's*

## Michael Bradley named U.S. Soccer Player of the Year for first time

Dec 23

**M**ichael Bradley called it a “big honor” to be named U.S. Soccer’s Male Player of the Year. Bradley, 28, captained the U.S. at the CONCACAF Gold Cup, where he scored twice and earned his 100th cap. The midfielder had three goals and six assists in 18 appearances for the U.S. in 2015, the most assists on the team in a calendar year since Landon Donovan’s eight in 2013. Bradley also scored five goals for Toronto FC, helping his club to the MLS playoffs for the first time.



He received 43 percent of the votes, followed by Fabian Johnson at 33 percent and Clint Dempsey with 20 percent. The award was voted on by U.S. national team and youth team coaches and staff, players who earned a cap, MLS and NASL coaches and selected media and former U.S. players and officials. It is the first time Bradley has won the award, though he won the Young Male Player of the Year in 2007.

## Sania & Hingis are ITF World champions

Dec 24



**S**ania Mirza and Martina Hingis named as women’s doubles World champions by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) in recognition of their stupendous success in season 2015. Hingis is an ITF World champion 15 years after last being named World champion in singles in 2000. Sania and Hingis joined forces in March this year but proved a force to be reckoned with in 2015, winning two Grand Slam titles at Wimbledon and the US Open, and seven other tournaments.

They won their last 22 matches from the start of the US Open through wins in Asia at Guangzhou, Wuhan, Beijing and the WTA Finals, ending the year with a 55-7 record. The ITF also announced American Serena Williams and Serbian

Novak Djokovic as the 2015 ITF World champions. Serena is named women’s World champion for the sixth time, while this is the fifth occasion that Djokovic has received the honour.

## Raman, Sekhar and Hirwani to work at NCA

Dec 24

**F**ormer India all rounder WV Raman has been named the batting coach of the National Cricket Academy. The NCA governing board has also appointed TA Sekhar and Narendra Hirwani as the fast bowling and spin bowling coaches respectively. NCA chairman Niranjan Shah told ESPNcricinfo their roles were “full time” and all three men would be stationed in Bangalore, where the NCA is currently located.

It is also learnt that academies will be established in each of the five zones, and about 30 coaches will be appointed in January to look after under-16 and under-19 cricketers.

## Shiva Keshavan wins silver at Asian Championship

Dec 27

**S**easoned Indian luger Shiva Keshavan won a silver medal at the Asian Championship which concluded. The race consisted of two heats closely contested by athletes. Though in the first heat Shiva was a mere 2/10th of a second behind, minor technical snags cost him the gold medal in the second heat.

The first place was claimed by Japan’s Hidenari Kanayama, and third by Korea’s Dong Hyeon Kim. Shiva will continue the season by participating in three of the remaining World Cups, all to be held in Germany. The season will end with the Homologation of the Olympic Track in Korea, where selected athletes will be able to preview and test the track there. Shiva had won two gold, a silver and two bronze medals in the previous editions of the event.



## PBL announces Akshay Kumar as brand ambassador

Dec 27



**P**remier Badminton League announced Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar as the brand ambassador for the much-awaited badminton League (PBL) beginning January 2, 2016. Dr Akhilesh Das Gupta, President BAI & Chairman PBL said, “We welcome Akshay Kumar as the Brand Ambassador and his association with the League is in line with our focus to create the required excitement.” Akshay Kumar said, “I have always believed in associating with sports and this League is yet another platform for me



**Amitabh Kant has got the additional charge as CEO of NITI Aayog.**



to showcase my support. Badminton has given us reasons to rejoice for years now and I am very excited to meet the young stars who have conquered many feats on the court. The Premier Badminton League will start from 2nd January 2016 where six franchisees - Delhi Acers, Hyderabad Hunters, Bengaluru Top Guns, Chennai Smashers, Mumbai Rockets and Awadh Warriors - will compete for the top honour.

### Mumbai Garuda emerge inaugural Pro Wrestling League champions Dec 28



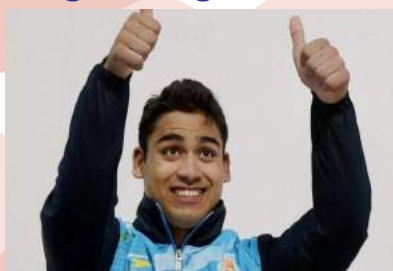
Putting up a sparkling show in the final showdown, Mumbai Garuda outclassed Haryana Hammers 7-2 to clinch the inaugural Pro Wrestling League title. High on confidence after winning all their previous matches in the tournament, Mumbai started as the favourites in the grand finale and successfully lived up the expectations with a comfortable win.

In the final, none of the categories were blocked as all nine bouts were fought and Mumbai ended up unbeaten in the event. Down 1-2, Mumbai Garuda won their next four bouts on the trot to claim the trophy after the seventh match itself, making the last two ties inconsequential. Mumbai won the back-to-back bouts through captain Adeline Gray, Giorgi Sakandelidze, Odunayo Adekuoroye and Odikadze Elizbar. Last two inconsequential bouts were also won by Mumbai.



*Mahendra's*

### Vikas Thakur creates new national record in weightlifting Dec 28



Vikas Thakur of Services Sports Control Board created a new national record with a total lift of 341kg in the 85kg category at the 68th mens and 31st womens National Weightlifting Championships. Vikas created the record in all three events -- snatch, clean and jerk and overall. He lifted 154kg in the snatch and 187kg in clean and jerk to come up with a total lift of 341kg.

Vikas thus better his own record of 339kg (153kg snatch and 186kg clean and jerk) created during 35th National Games at Thrissur, Kerala earlier this year. Harshad Wasdekar of Maharashtra finished second, way behind Vikas with a total lift of 305kg (136 snatch, 169 clean and jerk) while Haryanas Subham secured the third spot lifting 302kg (131 snatch, 171 clean and jerk).

### Australia become first team to score 1000 centuries in international cricket Dec 28



Deepak Mohanty is a committee on Financial Inclusion.

Australia became the first team to score 1000 International centuries when Joe Burns and Usman Khawaja notched up their respective hundreds against West Indies on the first day of Boxing Day Test at Melbourne. The Aussies reached their hundreds two balls apart, in the 58th over bowled by Jomel Warrican, Burns reached his second hundred with a three off the very first delivery of the over. Two balls later, Khawaja took a single to continue his superb run - three three hundreds in three consecutive Tests, and also a Big Bash ton in between.

### Lionel Messi scoops Best Player of the Year at Globe Soccer Awards Dec 28



Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi triumphed at the Globe Soccer Awards in Dubai after scooping the Best Player of the Year accolade. The La Liga giants, who won a historic treble last season, were named Best Club of the Year while chief Josep Maria Bartomeu was awarded the Best President of the Year accolade.

The Argentina forward, who has endured a spell on the sidelines this season, notched 58 goals as Barca enjoyed a memorable treble-winning campaign last season. Only the Spanish Super Cup eluded the La Liga club after they were defeated by top-flight rivals Athletic Bilbao.

## Gujarat win maiden Vijay Hazare Trophy

Dec 29



**G**ujarat have been crowned as the 2015/16 Vijay Hazare Trophy champions after beating a star-studded Delhi by 139 runs at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium

in Bangalore. This is Gujarat's first Vijay Hazare Trophy title as they put in all-round display to come out as convincing winners.

Delhi had beaten a consistent Himachal Pradesh in the semi-finals to reach the finals of the domestic limited-overs tournament while Gujarat beat Tamil Nadu to take on Delhi. Parthiv Patel's brilliant hundred at the top of the innings propelled Gujarat to a respectable total of 273 in 50 overs. The wicketkeeper-captain was ably supported by Rujul Bhatt as the two batsmen put in a 149-run stand for the third wicket.

Losing two early wickets in Priyank Panchal and Bhargav Meraai might have been a bit of a worry for Gujarat, but Parthiv and Bhatt stabilised the innings and scored at a healthy run rate. Gujarat lost the two set batsmen in a matter of just seven balls to spinners Pawan Negi and Nitish Rana. After being six down for 224 in the 43rd over, it seemed like Delhi would wrap things up quickly.

## Mysore to host Senior National Basketball

Dec 31

**M**ysore will host the 66th Senior National Basketball Championship for men and women from January 9 to 16 next year. Besides, the 42nd Sub-Junior National



Basketball Championship for boys and girls will be organised by the Basketball Federation of India (BFI) in association with Pondicherry Basketball Association in Puducherry from February 2 to next year.

The 66th Senior National Basketball Championship will be organised by the Basketball Federation of India in association with Karnataka Basketball Association.

The venue will be Chamundi Vihar Indoor Stadium, Mysore. The venue for the 42nd Sub-Junior National Basketball Championship will be Rajiv Gandhi Indoor Stadium.

## Hero HIL Appoints Bjorn Isberg As Tournament Director

Dec 31

**S**weden's Bjorn Isberg was named the tournament director of the fourth edition of the Hockey India League (HIL) that will be held across six venues in India from January 18 to February 21. The tournament will witness six franchises -- Jaypee Punjab Warriors, Delhi Waveriders, Kalinga Lancers, Uttar Pradesh Wizards, Dabang Mumbai and defending champions Ranchi Rays -- battling for supremacy.



Alongside Isberg, Scottish Andy Mair has been appointed the umpire's manager while Muthukumar Balakrishnan from Malaysia will don the role of assistant tournament director, announced Hockey India.

## Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj Named BCCI Cricketer Of The Year

Jan 01

**A** fortnight after being dubbed the most popular Indian sportsperson on Google, India's Test captain Virat Kohli has bagged another prize -- BCCI's 'Cricketer of the Year' for 2015. India's captain of the women's team Mithali Raj was picked for the top women's



award in the BCCI annual honours to be given away on January 5 in Mumbai.

The 27-year-old batsman took over as India captain in the middle of the tour of Australia last year after Mahendra Singh Dhoni's sudden decision to retire. Under Kohli the skipper, India achieved a string of good results.

The Indian team ended a 22-year wait for a series win on Sri Lankan soil after which they hammered World No.1 Test side South Africa to give them their first overseas loss in nine years.

Mithali, on the other hand, became the first Indian woman and second overall to complete 5,000 runs in ODI format this year. Mithali will be presented with the MA Chidambaram Trophy for the best women's cricketer.



Gujarat teams won Vijay Hazare Cricket Trophy 2015.



## Uruguay midfielder Sanchez voted best in South America

Jan 01

Uruguay international midfielder Carlos Sanchez has been named the 2015 Rey de America, awarded to the best player in South American football. The 31-year-old, who helped Argentina giants River Plate to this year's Copa Libertadores title, received 182 votes from the region's most renowned journalists.

Sanchez is the first Uruguayan to win the prize since Enzo Francescoli in 1995. The Rey de America award is considered to be South American football's top individual accolade.



## Indian Football Team Becomes SAFF Champions For 7th Time

Jan 04



India exacted sweet revenge of their last edition defeat as they beat defending champions Afghanistan 2-1 in the summit clash in a dominating display to lift the South Asian Football Federation Cup for the seventh time, in Thiruvananthapuram. India, who had lost to Afghanistan 0-2 in the final of 2013 edition in Kathmandu, were clearly the better side in the final match between the two best teams of the regional tournament though they had to come back from one goal deficit and had to settle the match in the extra time.

The home side under Stephen Constantine could have won by a bigger margin had the woodwork not denied them twice in the match. But at the end, India ran away victors in the third straight summit clash of the SAFF Cup between the two sides and regained the title they had won in 2011.

## Australia pulled out of U-19 World Cup in Bangladesh due to safety concerns

Jan 05

Australia withdrew from the Under-19 World Cup Tournament in Bangladesh. It pulled-out citing security reasons. The decision was announced by Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland who said the decision was taken after monitoring the security situation in Bangladesh. The tournament is scheduled to happen from 22 January to 14 February 2016. ICC announced that Australia will be replaced by Ireland team – the runners-up in the qualifying tournament in Kuala Lumpur in October 2015.

The first matches of the event will start on 27 January 2016 in which England will play against Fiji and Bangladesh will play against South Africa. It will be the eleventh edition of the Under-19 Cricket World Cup, and the second to be held in Bangladesh, after the 2004 event.

## Pranav Dhanawade became first ever to score 1000 runs in a cricket innings

Jan 05

15-year-old Pranav Dhanawade of Mumbai became first cricketer ever to score 1000 runs in an innings. With this he became the world's highest individual scorer in all forms of cricket. Pranav, batting for KC Gandhi Higher Secondary School for over two-days, scored unbeaten 1009 runs in a match against Arya Gurukul in the Bhandari Cup inter-school tournament. The event was organised by the Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA). The epic knock ended when his school declared at 1465/3, which is also a world record. His school went past Victoria's 1107 against New South Wales made in 1926.



## Wayne Rooney named England Player of the Year

Jan 06

Wayne Rooney has again been named Vauxhall England Player of the Year after a record-breaking campaign. The 30-year-old may have endured a topsy-turvy time with Manchester United, but 2015 was a year to remember on the international front.

Rooney's five goals in eight England appearances moved the forward onto 50 goals, seeing him usurp Sir Bobby Charlton as the country's all-time top scorer.

Furthermore, the forward captained Roy Hodgson's men to European Championship qualification with a 100 per cent record - just the sixth side to ever do so. Such impact has seen Rooney voted England Player of the Year for the second successive campaign - and fourth time in his career.



**The Iraqi Government has liberated Ramadi Iraqi city from the Islamic State.**

## BCCI plans day-night cricket in Duleep Trophy

Jan 06



**T**aking a cue from the success of the first Day-Night Test in Adelaide last year, the Tour and Program Fixtures Committee has recommended to the BCCI Technical panel to consider organising the Duleep Trophy matches with pink ball. In a meeting in Mumbai. The Tour and Program Fixtures Committee also discussed various options to bring more fans to Test matches in the coming season, according to a BCCI release.

During the 2016-17 season India are slated to play a total of 13 Test matches, 10 One-day Internationals and one T20I's against Bangladesh, New Zealand, England and Australia. The day-night Test fever is catching on and after Australia successfully hosted the first first pink-ball match in the longer format against New Zealand, CA (Cricket Australia) is also mulling a day-night game against England in the Ashes of 2017-18

## Chandela wins gold with world record in Sweden

Jan 07

**I**ndian shooter Apurvi Chandela broke the world record on way to winning gold in the women's 10 metre air rifle event at the Swedish Cup Grand Prix. Chandela shot 211.2 in the event held to surpass the feat of



Chinese Olympic gold medalist Yi Siling, who held the record with 211.

The result marked a positive start for Chandela, who has already qualified for the Rio Olympics. Chandela had won the gold in the National Championships held last month. She had won an Olympic quota place for India after winning a bronze in the ISSF World Cup in Changwon, Korea in April last year. The silver and bronze went to Swedish shooters Astrid Steffensen (207.6) and Stine Nielsen (185.0).

## Sania Mirza-Martina Hingis Start 2016 With a Bang, Win Brisbane International Title

Jan 09



**S**ania Mirza and Martina Hingis continued their dominant run in Women's doubles by winning yet another title at the start of 2016. Sania-Martina defeated the German duo of Angelique Kerber and Andrea Petkovic 7-5, 6-1 to win the Brisbane International Title at the Pat Rafter Arena.

Sania-Martina have won 26 consecutive matches and this is their sixth consecutive title. It is the longest winning streak since Italians Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci's 25 in

a row in 2012. Sara and Roberta had won five titles in a row, at Barcelona, Madrid, Rome, the French Open and 's-Hertogenbosch. They are on course to beat the record of 28 consecutive wins in doubles set by Gigi Fernandez and Natasha Zvereva in 1994.

## Novak Djokovic beats Rafael Nadal to win Qatar Open title

Jan 09



**T**he Serb continued his recent dominance of the 14-time Grand Slam winner with a ninth victory in 10 meetings - the last five in straight sets. The 28-year-old broke twice in both sets as Nadal, 29, had no answer to the pace and power of his groundstrokes. Djokovic is preparing to defend his Australian Open title from 18 January. This was Djokovic's most convincing victory against Nadal in their 47 meetings, a head-to-head he leads for the first time. Nadal made just 13 unforced errors but was bullied off the court by an inspired opponent who gave him perhaps the most uncomfortable 73 minutes he has faced on court. Djokovic, who has reached the final of every event he has entered since losing to Ivo Karlovic in the quarter-finals of last year's Qatar Open, lost just nine points on his own serve. Nadal, meanwhile, won only 48% of points on his own first serve and made nine winning returns compared to 30 from Djokovic. Djokovic, for whom this was a first Qatar Open title, said: "I played very much perfect tennis."

"From the beginning, I hit every shot the way I imagined I would hit it. Those two sets give me a great feeling."



Akshay Kumar has been appointed as brand ambassador of Premier Badminton League (PBL).



## Stan Wawrinka defends Chennai Open title with ease

Jan 10



Living up to his top billing, Stan Wawrinka annexed his third Chennai Open singles title in a row, demolishing the challenge of Borna Coric in the final. The World number four defending champion strolled to a 6-3 7-5 win over world number 44 Coric in one hour and 26 minutes. Wawrinka asserted his supremacy over Coric, winning the third clash against him and extended his Chennai winning streak to 12 matches and 24 sets. Wawrinka was clearly playing at a different level and the onus to make it a contest was on the young Croat. While the Swiss hardly conceded points on his serve, Coric's serve was under tremendous pressure from the start.

It was evident in the second game of the match when Coric just survived the Wawrinka onslaught. The Swiss hit a deep return, inches before the baseline, which Coric failed to return, his forehand dying at the net. It was deuce.

Wawrinka's backhand was too hot as he opened the court with single-handed shots, landing very wide. Another Coric forehand landed at the net and it was the second deuce. The Swiss almost repeated the strategy but could not execute the final shot in the open court and Coric finally managed to hold. The Swiss was great with his soft drop shots, using those very effectively. Wawrinka broke Coric in the sixth game, hitting a backhand to the body which the Croat failed to return across the court. Wawrinka made it 5-2 but not before defusing five breakpoints in the nine-minute game, which was the first in which the Swiss was made to work hard for points. Wawrinka never looked under pressure and wriggled out of the tight situation with his forehand winners and very a powerful serve. To Coric's credit, he made his presence felt on the court. Coric was now serving to stay in the opening set, which he managed but could not stop the world number four from pocketing the set in the next.

The Croat succeeded in delaying the inevitable with better serve games and did not concede a game till the 11th game, saving a break chance in the third game, in between. In that game, Wawrinka won the battle of

picking drop volleys to earn a break point and converted that with his trademark backhand winner. Wawrinka conceded only three points in the entire second set as he served four games at love, moving leisurely in a park. He served out the match when Coric failed to pick up another superb drop shot by Wawrinka.

The doubles trophy was lifted by third seeds Fabrice Martin and Oliver Marach, who got the better of Austin Krajicek and Benoit Paire 6-3 7-5 in the final.

In the 68-minute contest, the third seeds broke their rivals one time in the opening set and saved two breakpoints. In the second set Martin and Marach surrendered serve one time but broke the opponents twice to seal the win.

## Sania retains top spot, Bopanna ninth in doubles rankings

Jan 12



Tennis sensation Sania Mirza continues to top the women's double chart while her Swiss partner Martina Hingis maintained her second spot in the latest tennis WTA rankings.

Sania is atop the list with 11395 points while Hingis has 11355 points in her kitty. Sania and Martina, the world number one women's doubles team, have stitched a 26-match winning streak together, which has brought them six titles in a row at the US Open, Guangzhou, Wuhan, Beijing, WTA Finals and now the Brisbane International. It is the longest winning streak since Italians Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci's 25 in a row in 2012.

Sara and Roberta had won five titles in a row, at Barcelona, Madrid, Rome, the French Open and 's-Hertogenbosch. Among the men, Rohan Bopanna is the only one to feature in the top 10 of the doubles rankings, which is being headed by Marcelo Melo of Brazil, followed by Horia Tecau of Romania and Netherlands Jean-Julien Rojer.

At 95th position, Yuki Bhambri is the highest placed Indian in the men's singles rankings even though he dropped two places. Saketh Myneni is the next best Indian at 168th spot ahead of Somdev Devvarman (173rd). Novak Djokovic of Serbia tops the chart ahead of Andy Murray of Great Britain and Swiss Roger Federer.



Gaofen-4 is the observation satellite of China.

*Mahendra's*



## ISRO launches six Singapore satellites

Dec 17

**T**he Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) never misses an opportunity. This time, even as it successfully launched six Singapore satellites, the national space agency also tested the fourth stage of its PSLV rocket.

The test to restart the fourth stage of the PSLV rocket would help the country in its future launches while attempting to launch multiple satellites in different orbits. According to ISRO chairman A.S. Kiran Kumar, "The four-second firing test is a success. This test will help us when we launch multiple satellites with a single rocket but want to place them in different orbits."

ISRO's PSLV C-29 rocket lifted off from the first launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre and in about 21 minutes, it placed all six Singapore satellites in the intended orbit before it commenced its 'coasting' to prepare for the test.

And some 50 minutes later, ISRO scientists at the Mission Control Centre fired the fourth stage of the rocket for a few seconds as a test.



## Isro Successfully Tests Multiple Burn PSLV Engine

Dec 17



**T**he Indian space agency Isro successfully tested restarting of its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) rocket after its engine was cut off during the mission to launch six Singaporean satellites. The next three satellite launches using PSLV rocket will be navigation satellites.

After that, there will be some multiple satellite launches and this technology will be used.

The multiple burn fuel stage/engine will be used in PSLV-C35 rocket which will carry two satellites. One satellite will be launched at an higher orbit and

the other one will be at a slightly lower. Technically speaking, India tested a multiple burn fuel stage/ engine for the first time.

Launching of multiple satellites with a single rocket is nothing new for Isro and it has been doing that for several years. The challenge, however, is to launch several satellites at different orbits with one rocket. This is what Isro tested after PSLV ejected out six Singaporean satellites. The PSLV rocket is a four stage/engine rocket powered by solid and liquid fuel alternatively. The PSLV's fourth stage was restarted successfully at just over 67 minutes into the flight or 50 minutes after the engine was cut off. At the time of restart the fourth stage was in a lower altitude of 523.9 km while the satellites were ejected at 550 km altitude.

## Apple names Jeff Williams as Chief Operating Officer

Dec 21

**A**pple Inc promoted longtime executive Jeff Williams to the role of chief operating officer, reinstating the title previously held by Chief Executive Tim Cook, as part of a series of changes to the company's leadership team. Williams, who joined Apple in 1998, previously served as senior vice president of operations and oversaw development of the Apple Watch, the company's first new product since the iPad.

In charge of the iPhone maker's supply chain, and service and support operations, he also looked after the company's social responsibility initiatives. Williams' new job vaults him into the elite group of C-level executives, which includes chief design officer Jony Ive. The title change formalise a role Williams had been playing since Cook's promotion, said analyst Tim Bajarin of Creative Strategies.



**S. Chikkarangappa won the McLeod Russel Tour golf Championship Title.**



## China launched DAMPE satellite Dec 26



**C**hina launched the Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) Satellite to shed light on mysterious dark matter. It was the country's first space telescope and launched on a Long March 2-D rocket from the Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center. The purpose of the satellite is to search for smoking-gun signals of dark matter, invisible material that scientists say makes up most of the universe's mass.

The satellite will be placed in a sun-synchronous orbit at a height of 500 kilometers to observe the direction, energy and electric charge of high-energy particles in space. The satellite was nicknamed "Wukong" after the Monkey King with penetrating eyes in the Chinese classical fiction Journey to the West.

## SpaceX successfully launched and landed Falcon 9 rocket Dec 28

**A**merican aerospace company SpaceX achieved the historic feat of successfully launching and landing Falcon 9 rocket. The Falcon 9 rocket was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida carrying 11 satellites to low-Earth orbit and was also successfully landed after 10 minutes to the Earth.



It is the first time in the history of rocketry that a rocket has returned back after delivering a spacecraft to its orbit, so that it could potentially fly again. This exercise of using reusable rockets will help in reducing the cost of access to space making explorations a more realistic goal. The 230-foot Falcon 9 blasted off from Launch Complex with 1.5 million pounds of thrust and carrying 11 commercial satellites. It marks the company's first flight since an accident in June 2015 that destroyed a cargo ship bound for the International Space Station. Success of SpaceX's mission is significant as the NASA is heavily relying on this private company for transport to the International Space Station after the US Space Shuttle program ended in 2011.

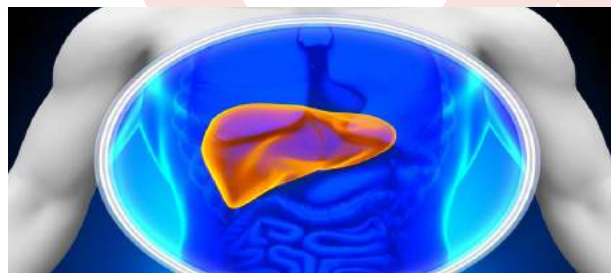
## Vladimir Putin dissolved Roscosmos, Russia's federal space agency Dec 29

**P**utin has dissolved the Russian Federal Space Agency, Roscosmos. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the necessary documents to transfer all of the responsibilities of the government's space agency to a newly established state-run corporation, which will begin its operations on January 1, 2016.



The move has been likely to occur since the beginning of 2015, when the Russian government decided that a new government-owned company would usurp the responsibilities of the space agency, writes the Smithsonian. Despite the dissolution of the space agency itself, the new company will also bear of its predecessor - Roscosmos.

## Pandorum Technologies developed India's first Artificial Liver Tissue using 3D printing Dec 30



**P**andorum Technologies Private Limited December 2015 developed India's first artificial liver tissue with the help of 3-D printing technology. The development is a major step forward in the on-demand manufacturing of 3D printed human organs. The artificial liver tissue performs critical functions of a human liver including, metabolism, secretion of biochemicals such as cholesterol and albumin and detoxification.

### Key feature of artificial liver tissue

- ✎ It can grow and survive up to eight weeks
- ✎ 3D printing mini-livers has the potential to save lives of patients with liver failure
- ✎ 3D bio-printed mini-livers that mimic the human liver will serve as test platforms for discovery and development of drugs with better efficacy
- ✎ It has less side-effect and can be made at lower costs
- ✎ It would significantly reduce animal and human trials and help doctors develop new life-saving medicines and vaccines.



**Indian Ashok Kumar has been selected as wrestling referee for 2016 RIO Olympic Games.**

*Mahendra's*

## Cheaper car batteries on the lines of space vehicles Jan 05



City-based the Automotive Research Association of India (ARAI) has joined hands with the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) to develop battery for passenger cars employing the same technology used in space vehicles. ARAI will develop and test batteries for use in electric vehicles (EV) and hybrid electric vehicles (HEV) before offering the technology to manufacturers for mass production. The focus of the research will be to develop technology in EV HEV applications for Indian automotive industry and facilitate pro motion of green mobility plat form. This will also promote import substitution and the government's mission of Make in India. VSSC has successfully con ducted laboratory level testing to find that the technology used in making batteries for space applications is suitable

for auto mobile sector applications, she said, adding that ARAI will work towards testing of the technology at vehicle level and will come out with a prototype in about one year's time.

ARAI also plans to set up an automotive industry museum which will display the journey of India's automobile industry over the years. The blueprint for the project is ready and we are in discussions with vari ous stakeholders to finalize the plan.

## Indian-American professor developed Galacto-Seismic method to hunt Dark Matter Jan 10

An international team of scientists led by Indian-American Sukanya Chakrabarti devised a new method, galactoseismology, to detect dwarf galaxies dominated by dark matter. The method also explains ripples on the outer disk of the galaxy. Sukanya Chakrabarti, an assistant professor at Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, presented her findings at a press conference hosted by the American Astronomical Society meeting in Kissimmee on 7 January 2016. Findings were submitted to The Astrophysical Journal Letters.

The discovered method use waves in the galactic disk to map the interior structure and mass of galaxies, much similar to seismologist who uses seismic waves to gather details about the interior of the earth. This method will help in the hunt for the mysterious space phenomenon. In the process, the team used the spectroscopic observations to calculate the speed of three Cepheid variables in the Norma constellation. Cepheid variables are the stars that are used as yardsticks to calculate the distance of galaxies. The team used Cepheid variables to locate the dark matter dominated dwarf galaxy some 3 lakh light years away. In contrast, the disk of Milky Way Galaxy terminates some 48000 light years away from earth. The study tracks a cluster of Cepheid variables which are travelling at an average speed of 450000 miles per hour (MPH), that is, 437000 MPH faster than the stars in stellar disk of the Milky Way. Later they explained that the radial velocity is the proof they have been looking for, and it can be concluded that it is not a part of our galaxy.

## NASA's solar-powered Jupiter probe sets new distance record Jan 14

NASA's Juno mission to Jupiter broke the record to become humanity's most distant solar-powered emissary, when the spacecraft reached about 793 million kilometres from the Sun. The previous record-holder was the European Space Agency's Rosetta spacecraft, whose orbit peaked out at the 792-million-kilometre mark in October 2012, during its approach to comet 67P/Churyumov-Gerasimenko. Juno will arrive at Jupiter on July 4 this year. Over the next year the spacecraft will orbit the Jovian world 33 times, skimming to within 5,000 kilometres above the planet's cloud tops every 14 days.

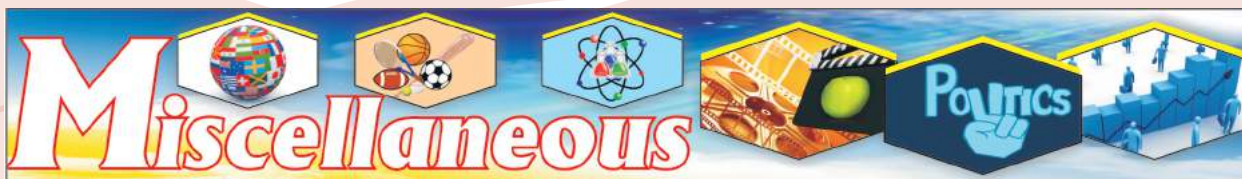
During the flybys, Juno will probe beneath the obscuring cloud cover of Jupiter and study the planet's aurorae to learn more about its origins, structure, atmosphere and magnetosphere. Launched in 2011, Juno is the first solar-powered spacecraft designed to operate at such a great distance from the Sun. That is why the surface area of solar panels required to generate adequate power is quite large. The four-tonne Juno spacecraft carries three 9-metre-long solar arrays festooned with 18,698 individual solar cells. At Earth distance from the Sun, the cells have the potential to generate approximately 14 kilowatts of electricity. Prior to Juno, eight spacecraft have navigated the cold, harsh underlit realities of deep space as far out as Jupiter. All have used nuclear power sources to get their job done.

Solar power is possible on Juno due to improved solar-cell performance, energy-efficient instruments and spacecraft, a mission design that can avoid Jupiter's shadow, and a polar orbit that minimises the total radiation. Juno's maximum distance from the Sun during its 16-month science mission will be about 832 million kilometres, an almost five per cent increase in the record for solar-powered space vehicles.



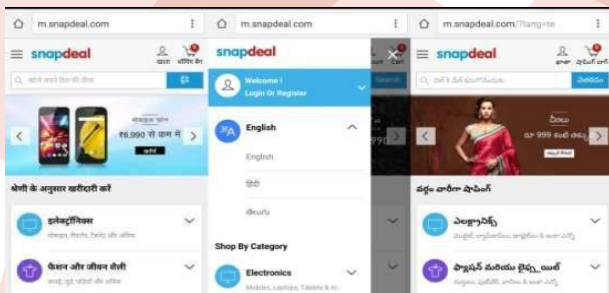
**Mumbai Garuda won the inaugural Pro Wrestling League.**





## Snapdeal launched mobile website in Hindi, Telugu

Dec 16



Online marketplace Snapdeal.com launched its mobile website in Hindi and Telugu language. With this platform, Snapdeal will now cater to 270 million users in India. The multilingual platform will be made available to users on the mobile website only. This platform goes hand in hand with Snaplite platform, which allows users to access the mobile website in areas where internet connectivity is poor. Snaplite is Snapdeal's website for mobile browser.

Based on the experience and customer feedback, the company will plan to roll the multilingual platform to other platforms such as the mobile app as well as its desktop website. Snapdeal also expects to reach out to an additional 130 million smartphone users in India by launching its mobile platform in 11 regional languages such as Hindi, Telugu, Gujarati, Tamil, Marathi, Bengali, Kannada, Malayalam, Oriya, Assamese and Punjabi by 26 January 2016.

## Miss Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach wins Miss Universe 2015 title

Dec 21

Miss Universe Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach won the coveted Miss Universe 2015 crown at the Planet Hollywood Las Vegas Resort & Casino, USA. Miss Universe 2014 Paulina Vega from Colombia crowned the



new beauty queen Miss Universe Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach.

Miss Universe Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez was named the first runner-up and Miss Universe USA Olivia Jordan was named second runner-up. Earlier, Miss Universe Colombia Ariadna Gutierrez was announced as the winner of Miss Universe 2015. However, host Steve Harvey apologised for the error and said that the card had the correct name and he took full responsibility for the mistake.

Top 10 finalists are announced and in no particular order they are: Miss Universe USA, Miss Universe Colombia, Miss Japan, Miss Thailand, Miss Australia, Miss Universe Dominican Republic, Miss France, Miss Universe Curacao, Miss Universe Philippines and Miss Universe Venezuela.

## Chinese-led team publishes "Flora of the Pan-Himalayas"

Dec 22

Three volumes of "Flora of the Pan-Himalayas"

have been published as part of a project to understand the region's plant life. Started in 2010, the compilation aims to provide scientific guidance for protecting the local environment and bio-diversity as well as for using plant resources.



The project was led by Hong Deyuan, an academician at the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS), and botanists from Britain, the United States, Japan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Afghanistan also participated. They plan to publish the compilation in 50 volumes by 2020. The three volumes were published by China's Science Press and Cambridge University Press, according to the Institute of Botany under the CAS.

The team has collected 60,000 specimens, more than 20,000 DNA samples and 50,000 photos of plants over the past five years. Some new species were discovered during the course of the research. The Pan-Himalayan region covers parts of China, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Myanmar and Afghanistan. It is home to more than 20,000 species of plants.

China has turned down One Child Policy policies.



*Mahendra's*

## Indian-American doctor is Ohio's first Poet Laureate

Dec 25



A 36-year-old Indian-American doctor has been named the first Poet Laureate by the US state of Ohio for showcasing a variety of styles in his poetry. Amit Majmudar, a diagnostic nuclear radiologist, was named to the two-year honorary position by governor John Kasich who created the honour. During his two-year term beginning January 1 next year, Majmudar said he intends to bring an interdisciplinary approach to promoting poetry by establishing a link with the existing, thriving Ohio arts community.

## Bread bank in Aurangabad

Dec 29



A group of four friends have set up a bread bank in Aurangabad, Maharashtra,

to feed the poor and underprivileged thrice a day. The bread bank, run by the Haroon Mukati Islamic Centre, has 250 members who give their leftover food to the bank every day.

Leftover food from parties and wedding programmes is conserved for distribution among the needy. People who could barely manage a one course meal are now able to have food thrice a day due to the bread bank. The bank prepares 750 packets of food for one time. They serve food thrice a day.

## Asia's largest underground railway station opens in Shenzhen city

Dec 31



Asia's largest underground railway station, covering a total area of 147,000 square metres, opened in China's southern Shenzhen city. The Futian High-speed Railway Station in downtown Shenzhen, Guangdong Province, covers a total area of 147,000 square meters, or about the size of 21 football fields.

Its three underground floors have seating for 3,000 passengers, according to Guangzhou Railway Corporation, which operates the station. With the opening of the new station, travel time between Guangzhou and Hong Kong will be slashed to half an hour. The

travel time between Guangzhou and Hong Kong takes about two hours by ordinary train. Residents in Shenzhen, which is adjacent to Hong Kong, can reach Hong Kong in 15 minutes.

## Pakistan singer Adnan Sami gets Indian citizenship

Dec 31



Pakistani singer Adnan Sami's more-than-decade-long quest for Indian citizenship ended with the Indian government gifting him a new nationality from the New Year. Sami, who shot to fame with several solo albums and Bollywood hits in the last decade, had first applied for Indian citizenship in 2004.

He had made a fresh representation to the home ministry on May 26 this year requesting his stay in India on humanitarian grounds. The last visa extension was granted in October 6 and sources in the government had since indicated that he would be granted citizenship.

The 46-year-old said as an artiste, he loves "Indian culture, the vibes Mumbai has and its beautiful loving people who have embraced me with love and who I feel are my own". He lives with his wife Roya in Andheri, at Lokhandwala. Born in Lahore, Sami first arrived in India on March 13, 2001 on a visitor's visa. His Pakistani passport issued on May 27, 2010 expired on May 26, 2015 and his passport was not renewed by the Pakistan government which led him to approach the Indian government with a request to legalise his stay in India on humanitarian grounds.



Indian PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Afghanistan's new Parliament complex, built by India.



## Union Cabinet approved Raptor MoU for conservation of migratory birds of prey

Dec 31

The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gave its approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia. The MoU, also called as Raptor MOU, will help India gain knowledge in effectively managing the habitats of the raptors. With the signing of the MoU, India will become the 54th signatory to the MoU.

The Memorandum of Understanding on the Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia is an international, legally non-binding, agreement to protect migratory birds of prey. It was concluded on 22 October 2008 and came into effect on 1 November 2008. It is an agreement under Article IV paragraph 4 of the CMS. It seeks willingness of the signatory Range States for working for conservation of the raptor species and their habitats.

An action plan has been formulated which primarily envisages the conservation action for Raptor species. The MoU extends its coverage to 76 species of birds of prey out of which 46 species including vultures, falcons, eagles, owls, hawks, kites, harriers, and more which are also found in India.



## Arunima Sinha conquers Mt Aconcagua in Argentina

Jan 03



Arunima Sinha, the amputee mountaineer who set a record by climbing the Mount Everest, has added another feather in her cap by conquering Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. Arunima, in a statement, said she started her mission of December 12 and hoisted the Indian tricolour on December 25. Aconcagua is the highest mountain outside Asia, at 6,960.8 metres, and by extension, the highest point in both the Western Hemisphere and the Southern Hemisphere.

Arunima had lost her left leg in a train accident in 2011 and she surprised the world by climbing Mt. Everest on May 21, 2013. She was awarded the Padamshree for her achievement.

## Sachin Tendulkar Named Brand Ambassador for Diabetes Awareness Campaign

Jan 05

Novo Nordisk, world's leading diabetes care company announced cricketing legend Sachin Tendulkar as the brand ambassador for 'changing diabetes', its programme in India to fight against the lifestyle disease. The company officials announced Sachin as the ambassador at an event. The announcement supports Novo Nordisk's efforts focused on creating awareness about diabetes and its related complications. Speaking on the occasion, Sachin said diabetes is a growing concern not just in India but the world over, and stressed the need for creating public awareness. In India, 69.2 million people have diabetes and by 2035, this number is estimated to go up to 123.5 million. What is even more alarming is that 35 million people are unaware that they have diabetes. Novo Nordisk has partnered with various state governments and government institutions to increase awareness and educate people about diabetes and need for early detection.



## Mary Barra is General Motors chairman

Jan 05

General Motors chief executive Mary Barra was named chair of the automaker, smashing yet another gender ceiling in the US auto industry. Barra, 54, will succeed Tim Solso, who will continue to serve as the board's lead independent director.

Barra, a GM career veteran, became chief executive on January 15, 2014, the first female CEO of any major automaker. In the month after becoming CEO, Barra was handling a recall of 2.6 million cars for defective ignition switches that grew into a massive scandal as it emerged the company knew about the deadly defects nearly a decade earlier.



Lionel Messi has topped Spanish paper Marca's list of the top 10 players of 2015.

## 45 Indians in Forbes list of achievers under age of 30

06 Jan

Forty five Indians and Indian- origin people have made it to Forbes' annual list of achievers under the age of 30 across varied fields. The Forbes fifth

**Forbes**  
**30 UNDER 30**

annual '30 Under 30' list features 600 women and men, who are America's "most important young entrepreneurs, creative leaders and brightest stars" and are "changing the world" across 20 varied sectors such as consumer technology, education, media, manufacturing and industry, law and policy, social entrepreneurs, science and art and science.

In the past, youth was a handicap to professional success. Getting older meant more resources, more knowledge, more money. No more. Those who grew up in the tech age have way bigger ambitions — perfectly suited to the dynamic, entrepreneurial and impatient digital world they grew up in. If you want to change the world, being under 30 is now an advantage.

## 13-Indian origin girl wins Hindi Literary Award in Singapore

10 Jan



A nine-year-old Indian-origin girl in Singapore has won the first prize for writing a story in Hindi in a literary competition at the inaugural "Hindi

Prerna Awards". Saamiya Khan, who won the competition in the children group of age 8-12, has taken Hindi as a second language, which is compulsory in Singapore school curriculum for students of north Indian origin.

The competition was held for three groups, pupils of 8-12-year-old in children group, students of 13-16 in youth group and those above 16 in the higher learning classes in the open group. Ms Saamiya, a primary four pupil, says she was inspired by her parents, Mohammed Shariq Khan and Sheba Khan, to learn Hindi and now speaks more confidently on telephone with her grandparents in Mumbai. India's High Commissioner Vijay Thakur Singh handed over the prize to Ms Saamiya. Anshul Tukol won the story writing in the youth group and Anjali Tripathi for the open group. Sanjay Kumar topped the competition winning all three categories of the awards - poetry, public speaking and writing for the open group. More than 100

pupils and students from Singapore schools took part in the three-month long competition. Forty-five of them were short-listed and went through the day-long final competition. "We aim to be connected with the Hindi language and culture through these awards," said Mamta Mandal, founder of the Hindi Prerna Awards and Global Hindi Organisation. "We are encouraging our younger generation to be linked to their roots in India through the language and culture," she said. Ms Mandal aims to make the awards a global platform for the Indian diaspora's younger generation learning Hindi across the world.

## DRDO successfully test-fired anti-tank missile Nag in Rajasthan

15 Jan

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired Nag anti-tank missile at the Mahajan Field Firing Range in Rajasthan. The test was conducted during a night trial to validate the enhanced 4-km range capability of Imaging-Infrared seeker, which guides the missile to the target after its launch. During the test, the Thermal Target System (TTS) was used as target for the missile. The TTS simulated a target similar to an operational tank as thermal mapping from tank to TTS was carried out for generating thermal signature.

### Features of Nag missile

- ✎ It is a third generation fire-and-forget and can be fired anti-tank missile. It can be fired during night and day as well.
- ✎ It is equipped with top attack capability to nullify the explosive reactive armour (ERA) of a battle tank.
- ✎ It weighs 42kg having 1.90m length and can be fired against both moving and fixed targets.
- ✎ Besides HeliNa, a helicopter version, it has land, air-launched and man portable (weighing 14 kg) versions.
- ✎ To carry the land version, DRDO developed the NAMICA (Nag Missile Carrier) for the army.
- ✎ While the land version can hit targets in the range between 500m to 4km, the range of air-launched version is between 7 and 10 km. It can carry a war head weighing up to 8kg.
- ✎ It has been developed at a cost of 300 crore rupees by the DRDO under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP).
- ✎ Once inducted in the Armed Forces, the HeliNa missile will be integrated with the weaponised version of the Advanced Light Helicopter (ALH) Dhruv, the light combat helicopter produced by



Satyavati Berera has been appointed as COO of 'Big Four' accounting firm in India.





 **Mahendra's**™

Helping  
and

**Website**

[www.mahendras.org](http://www.mahendras.org)  
[www.interviewguru.mahendras.org](http://www.interviewguru.mahendras.org)  
[www.mahendrapublication.org](http://www.mahendrapublication.org)  
[stportal.mahendras.org](http://stportal.mahendras.org)  
[enews.mahendras.org](http://enews.mahendras.org)

[myshop.mahendras.org](http://myshop.mahendras.org)  
[www.bankersguru.org](http://www.bankersguru.org)  
[www.railwayguru.org](http://www.railwayguru.org)  
[www.sscguru.org](http://www.sscguru.org)



# Drought Management in India : A Perusal

Drought is a condition where water availability falls below the statistical requirements for a region. In India due to high temporal and spatial variations in rainfall and climatic conditions, droughts are experienced almost every year in varying intensities.

Drought declaration is announced when the rainfall is –20% to –59% (early warning), –60% to 99% (drought) and –100% of normal (severe drought) conditions.

Around 68% of the country is prone to drought in varying degrees. 35% which receives rainfall between 750 mm and 1125 mm is considered drought prone while 33% receiving less than 750 mm is chronically drought prone.

## Classification of Droughts

Droughts are classified into meteorological droughts, hydrological droughts and agricultural droughts

Meteorological drought is classified based on rainfall deficiency with respect to long term average – 25% or less is normal, 26-50% is moderate and more than 50% is severe.

Hydrological drought occurs when water level in surface and sub surface falls leading to a lack of water for normal and specific needs.

Agricultural drought is identified by 4 consecutive weeks of meteorological drought, weekly rainfall is 50 mm from 15/5/ to 15/10, 6 such consecutive weeks rest of the year and crop planted is 80% in kharif season.

## Causes of drought

- Climate change like variability in the volume and pattern of rainfall from the SW monsoon are primarily responsible for droughts in India. Further, El Niño phase of the Southern Oscillation (ENSO) too has impacted droughts in India.
- Land-use changes, improper agricultural practice and drainage issues. All these reduce the water retention capacity of the soil.
- Natural resource degradation, poor water management, deforestation have aggravated drought occurrences and vulnerability.

## Impact of drought

Drought has varying degrees of economic, environmental and social impact

Agricultural losses due to drought impact income and purchasing power of farmers rendering them unemployed. The 2002 drought, one of the severest in India, affected 56 per cent of its geographical area, the livelihoods of 300 million people and 150 million cattle in 18 states.

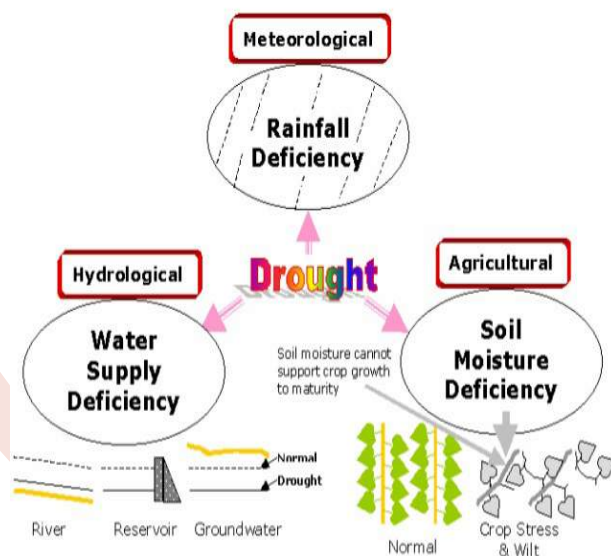
Shortage of drinking water supplies and food insecurity, fodder deficit, distress sale of animals lowering of soil moisture and ground water table, malnutrition, starvation, etc are the other consequences.

Regions of Rajasthan, Bundelkhand, Karnataka and Orissa are typical examples of drought-related deprivation and resultant conflicts, whereas drought in states like Chhattisgarh, Punjab, Haryana, etc. are the result of improper agriculture practices and poor water management.

## Drought management in India

The Union Ministry of Agriculture is the nodal Ministry in respect of monitoring and managing drought conditions.

Over the years, India's drought management strategies have contributed to overall development . for



Japan was the venue of 18th edition of the Asian Luge Championship.



example, the drought of 1965–1967 encouraged the ‘green revolution’, after the 1972 drought employment generation programmes were developed for the rural poor.

In the last few years, India has shifted its focus from relief centric to the present drought management strategy. It includes institutional mechanisms, employment generation and social welfare practices, community participation and operation of EWS

### **Institutional mechanism**

India has in place an institutional mechanism that ensures coordinated action across ministries. The National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) constituted under 2005 Disaster Management Act, provide immediate drought relief to the affected people.

For combating the adverse financial impacts of drought, the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) was introduced in 1999 and Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme in 2007.

The Drought Management Group was constituted to coordinate the efforts to deal with drought in various states. The National Disaster Management Cell monitors the drought situation in different states, National Calamity Contingency Fund from the Government deals with calamities of severe nature.

Drought Prone Area Development Programme and Desert Development Programme use the plans prepared on the basis of the integrated estimation.

Research institutions like the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-arid Tropics (ICRISAT); Central Arid Zone Research Institute; Indian Grassland and Fodder Research Institute; Indian Council of Forestry Research and Training etc. are some of institutes that are involved in drought management.

### **Employment generation and social welfare practices**

Several programmes of the Government of India help build resilience of communities against drought. The National Mission for Green India, aims at improving the quality of forest cover. Currently, there is an outlay of 2.14 billion dollar, for a period of 2012-17, to address 2.8 million hectares (mha) of degraded lands and enhance livelihoods of the people dependent on them.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has a strong focus

on land, water and afforestation activities. Similarly the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) has targeted development of 75 million hectares of rainfed/degraded area in a phased manner during 2007-2027.

India’s draft National Water Policy address issues such as the water scarcity, inequities in its distribution and the lack of planning, management and use of water resources

Other programmes include the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas, National Food Security Mission, National Horticulture Mission, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, National Mission on Micro Irrigation.

### **Community participation**

Community participation approach can play a key role in effectiveness of government efforts.

Under this Gram Sabha/Panchayat recommend relief works, Districts and Block-level committees are involved in sanctioning and monitoring of relief works and NGOs play a significant role in training and motivation.

### **Operation of Drought Early Warning Systems (EWS)**

EWS has two components: drought forecasting and drought monitoring. IMD and the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting offer meteorological information support for drought preparedness and early warning.

In order to overcome the limitations of drought monitoring, the National Agricultural Drought Assessment and Monitoring System (NADAMS) project provides near real-time information on prevalence, severity level and persistence of agricultural drought.

### **Conclusion**

Drought management practices have reduced the adverse consequences for the people at large. However, these efforts need to emphasize more on environmental conservation and management like using modern technologies for rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge, water conservation at basin or micro level etc.

Further there is a need to enhance capacity building and skills for early warning system in light of climate change impacts.

There is need of top-down approach to provide national real-time drought monitoring and seasonal forecasting, and a bottom-up approach that builds upon existing regional and local systems to provide national coverage.



# Technology Vision 2035 - Putting Science to Use

The Prime Minister unveiled the 'Technology Vision Document 2035' while inaugurating the 103rd Indian Science Congress on 3rd January 2016.

The document foresees the Indians of 2035, and technologies required for fulfilling their needs. It is not a visualization of technologies that will be available in 2035, but a vision of where our country and its citizens should be in 2035 and how technology should bring this vision to fruition.

The document is dedicated to late Dr.A.P.J.Abdul Kalam, the former President of India.

## The 12 identified sectors of Vision Document are:

Education, Medical Sciences & Healthcare, Food and Agriculture, Water, Energy, Environment, Habitat, Transportation, Infrastructure, Manufacturing, Materials, Information and Communication Technology

Roadmaps, when prepared, will be presented to the Government of India and they would lead for further adoption of technologies in those sectors.

The document says that as technology is for empowering individual citizens, it will empower the country as well.

The Aim of this 'Technology Vision Document 2035' is to ensure the Security, Enhancing of Prosperity, and Enhancing Identity of every Indian, which is stated in the document as "Our Aspiration" or "Vision Statement" in all languages of the 8th Schedule of the Constitution. The Vision documents also identifies twelve (12) prerogatives- (six for meeting individual needs and six for the collective needs) that should be available to each and every Indian. These are:

### Individual Prerogatives:-

Clean air and potable water, Food and nutritional security, Universal healthcare and public hygiene, 24x7 energy, Decent habitat, Quality education, livelihood and creative opportunities

### Collective Prerogatives:-

Safe and speedy mobility, Public safety and national security, Cultural diversity and vibrancy, Transparent and effective governance, Disaster and climate resilience, Eco-friendly conservation of natural resources

Assurance of these prerogatives, according to the Vision document, is the core of technology vision for India. For assuring these prerogatives, technologies are mapped as: 1) those readily deployable, 2) those that needs to be moved from Lab to Field, 3) those that require targeted Research and 4) those that are still in Imagination. The last of these category of technologies could come about as a result of curiosity driven or paradigm- shattering 'Blue-sky' Research like on Internet of Things, Wearable Technology, Synthetic Biology, Brain computer Interface, Bio-printing and regenerative medicine. Precision agriculture and robotic farming, vertical farming, interactive foods, autonomous vehicles, Bioluminescence, 3D printing of buildings, earthquake prediction, weather modification technologies, green mining etc are some other such technologies expected that would go a long way in sustainably fulfilling the needs of the present and future generations of mankind.

To illustrate such mapping here is the table of categorization of various technologies for meeting the need of 'Clean air and Potable Water':

The vision document also makes a mention of three critical essential prerequisites or Transversal Technologies i.e., materials, manufacturing, and Information and Communication technology (ICT) to provide the foundation upon which all other technologies would be constructed.

The document also talks of required infrastructure which it says primarily include relevant knowledge institutions besides ports, highways, airports, railways, cold chains, etc. Among the essential prerequisites, it also mentions fundamental research in the fields of physics, chemistry, biology and other allied sciences.

The document dwells upon the grand challenges in the field of Technologies which, it says, we should resolve as a nation. The challenges are:

- ✎ Guaranteeing nutritional security and eliminating female and child anaemia
- ✎ Ensuring quantity and quality of water in all rivers and aquatic bodies
- ✎ Providing learner centric, language neutral and holistic education to all



16 agreements were signed between India and Russia.

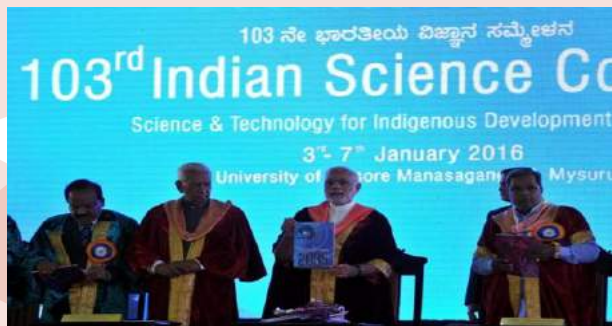


- ✎ Developing commercially viable decentralized and distributed energy for all
- ✎ Making India non-fossil fuel based
- ✎ Securing critical resources commensurate with the size of our country
- ✎ Ensuring universal eco-friendly waste management
- ✎ Taking the railway to Leh and Tawang
- ✎ Understanding national climate patterns and adapting to them
- ✎ Ensuring location independent electoral and financial empowerment

There has also been a raging debate on the Social Impact of technology and the choice between capital intensive and manpower intensive. Capital intensive technology, especially in India with abundant human resources, has been projected as detrimental to the use of 'Manpower' as it is argued that it would reduce jobs. The Vision Document seeks to bust this myth by arguing in favor of judicious policy and conscious planning in employing technology to impart new skills to the manpower and fulfill needs of the society. It visualizes technology as a great leveler rather than as an enhancer of social stratification.

In order to overcome these challenges, the Vision Document 2035 envisages a rational assessment of the capabilities and constraints of the Indian Technological Landscape. It categorizes technologies into a six-fold classification from an Indian perspective which is as follows:

- ✎ Technology Leadership – niche technologies in which we have core competencies, skilled manpower, infrastructure and a traditional knowledge base eg., Nuclear Energy, Space Science.
- ✎ Technology Independence – strategic technologies that we would have to develop on our own as they may not be obtainable from elsewhere eg., Defence sector.
- ✎ Technology Innovation – linking disparate technologies together or making a breakthrough in one technology and applying it to another eg., solar cells patterned on chlorophyll based synthetic pathway are a potent future source of renewable energy.
- ✎ Technology Adoption – obtain technologies from elsewhere, modify them according to local needs and reduce dependence on other sources eg., foreign collaboration in the sectors of rainwater harvesting, agri-biotech, desalination, energy efficient buildings.
- ✎ Technology Constraints – areas where technology is threatening and problematic i.e. having a negative social or environmental impact because of serious legal and ethical issues eg., Genetically Modified(GM) Crops.



The Vision Document, in a separate section, gives a 'Call to Action' to all the key stakeholders. It brings to notice that for long term sustainability of India's technological prowess, it is important that

- ✎ Technical Education Institutions engage in advanced research on a large scale leading to path-breaking innovations.
- ✎ Government enhances its financial support from the current 1% to the long-envisaged 2% of the GDP.
- ✎ the number of full-time equivalent Scientists in the core research sector should increase.
- ✎ Private Sector Participation and Investment in evolving technologies that is readily deployable and is translatable from lab to field thereby increasing efficiency in terms of technology and economic returns.
- ✎ Academia-Intelligentsia-Industry connect is established via idea exchange, innovative curricula design, based on the needs of the industry, industry-sponsored student internships and research fellowships inter alia.
- ✎ Creation of an Research Ecosystem so as to achieve the translation of research to technology product/process by integrating students, researchers and entrepreneurs.

The document also identifies three key activities as a part of the 'Call to Action'. The first being knowledge creation. It says that India cannot afford not to be in the forefront of the knowledge revolution, either applied or pure. The second activity that cannot be reflected, it says is ecosystem design for innovation and development. The document again interestingly says that the primary responsibility for ecosystem design must necessarily rests with government authorities. A third key activity that it mentions is technology deployment with launching certain national missions involving specific targets, defined timelines requiring only a few carefully defined identified players. While this Vision document walks towards the future taking into consideration the country as a whole, the technology roadmap of each sector would provide of outlining future technology trends, R&D directives, pointers for research, anticipated challenges and policy imperatives pertaining to each sector.



**Akhilesh Mishra has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Maldives.**



## **Soil Health Card – A tool for Agri revolution**

Agriculture since ages is the mainstay of the Indian population. The story of Indian agriculture has been a spectacular one, with a global impact for its multi-functional success in generating employment, livelihood, food, nutritional and ecological security. Agriculture and allied activities contribute about 30 per cent to the gross domestic product of India. The green revolution had heralded the first round of changes. India is the second largest producer of wheat, rice, sugar, groundnut as also in production of cash crops like coffee, coconut and tea.

India is now eyeing second Green Revolution in eastern India. The need for enhanced investment in agriculture with twin focus on higher quality productivity and welfare of farmers is rightly emphasized from time to time by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In the entire scenario, importantly the Narendra Modi government has laid emphasis on the awareness campaign and enhanced agri-knowledge for the farming community. But besides the measures to improve minimum support price and assistance like improved irrigation and rural electrification, the incumbent NDA regime has laid emphasis on the Soil Health Card Scheme.

Launched by the central government in February 2015, the scheme is tailor-made to issue 'Soil card' to farmers which will carry crop-wise recommendations of nutrients and fertilizers required for the individual farms. This is aimed to help farmers to improve productivity through judicious use of inputs.

In the words of the union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh, this path-breaking initiative would create a golden opportunity for the farmers to improve the productivity of their crops and also go for diversification. This will certainly contribute significantly to ensuring food security of the country.

Awareness of soil health position and the role of manures would help in higher production of foodgrains in eastern India too and this would help tackle the decline in production in central and peninsular India. The growth in foodgrains, rice and wheat, from eastern India would provide an opportunity to procure and create foodgrain reserves locally. This would reduce the agricultural pressure on Punjab and Haryana as well.

Essentially, the Soil Health Card scheme is modeled on a successful programme launched by Prime Minister

Modi during his tenure as Chief Minister of Gujarat. In fact from 2003-04 itself, Gujarat has been the first state to introduce Soil Health cards, according to government sources, to initiate the scientific measures for Soil Health care. In Gujarat, over 100 soil laboratories were set up and the result of scheme was found quite satisfactory. To start with, the agriculture income of Gujarat from Rs 14000 crore in 2000-01 had gone up to staggeringly high Rs 80,000 crore in 2010-11.

In July 2015, the union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh said that for the first time, a massive agricultural population of 14 crore card holdings will be covered once in a cycle of 3 years to promote soil management practices and restore soil health.

To state a truism, this is a timely intervention as aggressive farming coupled with absence of any concrete step to bring new lands under cultivation has already affected yields and deprived farmlands of valuable nutrients. Experts and agri scientists have often said that a likely famine and drought stare various parts of India.

Thus it goes without saying that if necessary corrective steps are not taken, there could be food shortage in next 10 years' time span.

Experts also talk about the importance of genetic food cultivation calling for lot more variety in the land. The Agriculture ministry maintains that the emphasis should be to develop more and more pulses and green vegetables as this can bring in inherent resilience in the land. According to renowned expert and the 'father of Green Revolution', M S Swaminathan, there is need to opt for wide range of crops cultivation. The awareness of soil health conditions would only make these operations easier and more result oriented. The studies of soil across the states also show that there's need to promote alternate crops like pulses, sunflower, bajra, or fodder and vegetables. Thus we realize that the Soil Health Card mechanism definitely aims to help herald some essential revolutionary changes and salutary effect in country's agricultural scene. There are actually many path-breaking initiatives associated with the scheme. Under this, the government can help farmers adopt crop diversification. Farmers would understand the fertility factor of the land better and can be attracted towards value added newer crops.

**Continued on Pg. No. 89...**



**The new deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes with the new ones is 30 June 2016.**



# Climate Change Impact Farm Sector Growth

The year 2015 was a challenging one for the agriculture sector. It was the second consecutive year of hardships for farmers owing to drought and inclement weather in several parts of the country highlighting the urgency to address issues of climate change. The concerns are carried forward in the coming year as currently rabi sowing of wheat is lower by 20.23 lakh hectares than last year, the prices of pulses and vegetables continue to rule high and towards sugarcane growers stand at Rs. 5406 crore. Southwest monsoon was 14 per cent below normal of the Long Period Average in 2015 on the back of 12 per cent deficiency in the previous year affecting the kharif crop. The northeast monsoon that followed played havoc in Tamil Nadu and adjoining region with unprecedented floods wiping out entire paddy and cash crops.

While the production of pulses and oilseeds is perpetually short of demand for several years now, this time there are concerns about the output of cereals. Although the country is surplus in foodgrains as of now, experts point out that with a legal commitment to provide at least 62.5 million tonnes of subsidized foodgrains in the Targeted Public Distribution System under the National Food Security Act, farmers are keeping their fingers crossed for good weather conditions to achieve a good harvest. Sowing is still going on so hopes are high. At least nine states have declared drought-hit districts this year. These are Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Jharkhand. Tamil Nadu of course, has flood-hit districts. Parts of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh had been hit by drought during 2014-15 as well.

The fourth advance estimates of foodgrains production in 2014-15 at 252.68 is 12.36 million tonnes lower than the output of 265.04 million tonnes in 2013-14.

This is due to a 6.91 million tonnes decline in the production of wheat. Rice too was slightly lower. Pulses output went down from 19.24 million tonnes to 17.20 million in tonnes in 2014-15 leading to the crisis of unprecedented price rise in these commodities. Tur prices, for instance, jumped up from Rs. 75 per kilogram a year ago to Rs. 199 per kg and are still not under control. Not just tur and urad, major pulses are selling in the retail market at almost Rs. 140 per kilogram. Efforts

to nail in hoarders and blackmarketeers did not yield the desired effect. During the year the government raised the minimum support price of major pulses by Rs. 275 per quintal. Time and again the government has had to intervene in the market for onions and pulses this year. Even the prices of potato and tomatoes have ruled high this year not to talk of the regular vegetables and fruits. At the onset of the season peas were selling for as high as Rs 110 per kilogram.

To tide over the situation the government has set up a Price Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore. Some of the funds were released this year for subsidised sale of pulses for states who came up with innovative schemes to provide pulses at affordable prices to Public Distribution System beneficiaries. With production estimates for 2015-16 still lower than the bumper crop of 2013-14, the government has decided to create a buffer stock of 1.5 lakh tonnes of tur and urad dals which will be procured directly from farmers at market rates.

To mitigate the suffering from drought, the government came up with several measures including taking 50 per cent of the damaged crop area into consideration rather than mere 33 per cent and raising the relief amount by 50 per cent. Reportedly Maharashtra's Marathwada region, which has been reeling under drought for last four years, saw the highest number of suicides by distressed farmers this year. The central government has given a drought relief of Rs. 3050 crore to the state, followed by Rs. 2033 crore to Madhya Pradesh, Rs. 1540 crore to Karnataka and Rs. 1672 crore to Chhattisgarh.

The money will be given from the National Disaster Relief Fund. Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh blamed states for tardy implementation of drought relief and delay in sending memoranda of demand which led to farmers' distress. "Implementation is in the hands of states," the Minister said.

Lower rabi sowing this year has prompted the Agriculture Ministry to be ready with Contingency Plan and be prepared to move seeds and fertilizers to the affected region. Last year while the average deficiency in monsoon was 14 per cent, in Punjab and Haryana it was to the tune of 17 per cent. Although these states are irrigation, pre-harvest inclement weather hurt standing crop.



**Indian Oil Corporation Company topped the Fortune 500 List of Indian companies for 2015.**

Seeking to address the issue of low productivity, the government has launched in a big way the scheme to issue Soil Health Cards. It proposes to cover 14.40 crore farmers in the next three years and has allocated Rs. 568.54 crore for the project. The card will enable a farmer to get assessed his/her far, soil for nutrient deficiency and fertilizer use. It will come with an advisory for the farmer on how much fertilizer etc. be applied in each crop.

With its focus on organic farming the government launched Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojna which encourages cluster farming. The subsidy for organic manure was raised to Rs. 300 from Rs. 100 per hectare. About 60 per cent of India's agriculture is dependent on timely and adequate rain every year and recent droughts have only but emphasized the need for raising irrigation potential for farming. Towards this end the government last year launched the Prime Minister's Krishi Sinchai Yojna which is meant to ensure that more hectares are brought under irrigation. The budget allocation for this was about Rs.5300 crore which includes the funds for the Accelerated Integrated Benefit Programme. Agriculture Ministry says that about 1.55 lakh hectares have been covered under drip and sprinkler project under this programme.

Crop insurance and raising the income of farmers has been a long standing demand. While the minimum support price of cereals, pulses and oilseeds were raised substantially during the year, an adequate Crop Insurance Scheme is still elusive. Replying to a debate in Parliament on Drought, Radha Mohan Singh announced

### **Continued From Pg. No. 87**

This would help reduction in risk in farming and also the cost of overall cultivation process would get reduced. Some states are already issuing Soil Health Cards but, it was found that, there was no uniform norm for sampling, testing and distribution of Soil Health Cards across the states. Taking a holistic view on these, the central government has thus rightly taken measures like launching of a Soil Health Card portal. This would be useful for registration of soil samples, recording test results of soil samples and generation of Soil Health Card (SHC) along with Fertilizer Recommendations. The official sources in the Agriculture ministry say that the Soil Health Card portal aims to generate and issue Soil Health Cards based on either Soil Test-Crop Response (STCR) formulae developed by ICAR or General Fertilizer Recommendations provided by state Governments.

The scheme has been approved for implementation during 12th Plan with an outlay of Rs.568.54 crore. For the current year (2015-16) an allocation of Rs.96.46

that the government will soon come up with a crop insurance scheme that does not burden the farmer with high premiums and shall be more accurate in assessing crop damage.

Knowledge of markets and market intelligence is one area that can benefit farmers for getting remunerative price for its produce.

To this extent the government moved towards setting up National Agriculture Market which will enable farmer to offer his produce to any market through e-marketing.

During the year the Ministry launched several mobile applications for farmers to empower them. Crop Insurance application will help farmers find out the insurance cover and the premium applicable to them. The "AgriMarket Mobile" enables a farmer to get the market prices of crops in the mandi within 50 km radius.

To get over the problems of lack of mobiles and lack of connectivity in hinterlands, the Agriculture Ministry has decided to make all its services available through mobile platforms. Over two crore farmers are registered with the Ministry for use of 'mKisan' portal for receiving SMS advisories on crops and weather.

However, there is no denying the fact that weather conditions hold the key for agricultural growth and prosperity, more so in the coming year when concerns about crop production, availability and prices will spill over. In 2015 while horticulture and fisheries sector remained robust, farm sector growth decelerated due to continuously bad weather. (EOM).

crore – only for the central government share-has been made. The scheme is to be otherwise implemented on 50:50 sharing pattern between Government of India and state Governments. In order to improve quality of soil and ultimately for better nutrient values and higher yields, experts say while at present, general fertilizer recommendations are followed by farmers for primary nutrients, the secondary and micro nutrients are often overlooked. "We have often come across deficiency of nutrients like Sulphur, Zinc and Boron.

This has become a limiting factor in increasing food productivity. The Soil Health Card scheme will address these," says Agriculture Radha Mohan Singh. The government is effectively marching in quite ambitiously for a grand success of the Soil Health Card scheme and proposes to ensure that all farmers in the country have their respective Soil Health Cards by the year 2017. In the first year of NDA regime 2014-15, a sum of Rs 27 crore was sanctioned and in 2015-16, there is an allocation of Rs 100 crore to all the states to prepare soil health cards.



**Defence Minister of India inaugurated the first cable-stayed bridge of north India.**





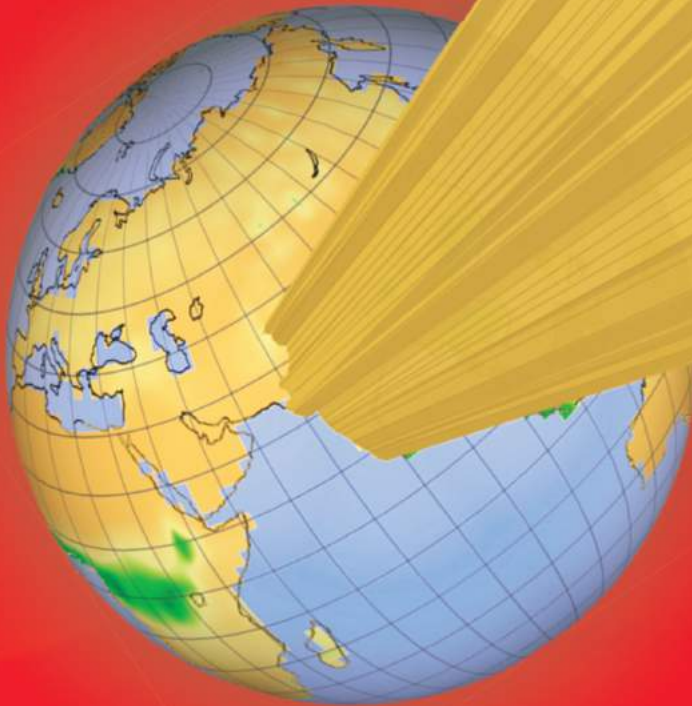
# Mahendra's<sup>TM</sup>

## NO. 1 INSTITUTE IN INDIA

Specialized in **BANKING, SSC & Other Competitive Examinations**

FOR ANY QUERIES

# 1800-103-5225



**CONNECT TO US  
THROUGH**



[www.mahendras.org](http://www.mahendras.org)  
[www.interviewguru.mahendras.org](http://www.interviewguru.mahendras.org)  
[www.mahendrapublication.org](http://www.mahendrapublication.org)  
[stportal.mahendras.org](http://stportal.mahendras.org)  
[enews.mahendras.org](http://enews.mahendras.org)  
[myshop.mahendras.org](http://myshop.mahendras.org)  
[www.bankersguru.org](http://www.bankersguru.org)  
[www.railwayguru.org](http://www.railwayguru.org)  
[www.sscguru.org](http://www.sscguru.org)



- Q.1.** Who has been appointed Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?  
 (1) Arun Kumar Jain  
 (2) Vinay Pathak  
 (3) Harpreet Kaur  
 (4) Suhasini Sharma  
 (5) Rakesh Singh
- Q.2.** Who has been named as European Tour's golfer of the year?  
 (1) Gary Player  
 (2) Tiger Woods  
 (3) Jordan Speith  
 (4) Rory McIlroy  
 (5) Tom Watson
- Q.3.** Recently how much loan has been approved by the World Bank for the ambitious clean India campaign?  
 (1) \$1 billion  
 (2) \$1.2 billion  
 (3) \$1.3 billion  
 (4) \$1.4 billion  
 (5) \$1.5 billion
- Q.4.** Who bagged gold medal in the 10-metre Air Rifle event on the final day of the 59th National Shooting Championship?  
 (1) Hemalatha Annamalai  
 (2) Rahi Sarnobat  
 (3) Apurvi Chandela  
 (4) Dipika Pallikal  
 (5) Joshana Chinappa
- Q.5.** Which country is leading the "Islamic military alliance" of 34 countries?  
 (1) Iran (2) Iraq  
 (3) Pakistan (4) Afghanistan  
 (5) Saudi Arab
- Q.6.** What is the name of New Zealand's new flag?  
 (1) Silver Feather  
 (2) Golden Fern  
 (3) Silver Fern  
 (4) Golden Feather  
 (5) Golden Bird
- Q.7.** Who has been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Maldives?  
 (1) Sarabjit Kaur  
 (2) T.Y. Sinha  
 (3) Rashid Khan  
 (4) Akhilesh Mishra  
 (5) Sudhir Agarwal
- Q.8.** Which of the following has been made mandatory for all transactions in excess of Rs. 2 lakh?  
 (1) Aadhaar Card  
 (2) PAN  
 (3) Voter ID Card  
 (4) 1 and 2  
 (5) 1, 2 and 3
- Q.9.** Who has been appointed as Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh?  
 (1) Justice Surjit Pal  
 (2) Justice Ravi Matthew  
 (3) Justice A.L. Husain  
 (4) Justice Sudhir Sharma  
 (5) Justice Virendra Singh
- Q.10.** Recently Supreme Court banned the commercial vehicles registered before \_\_\_\_\_ from entering Delhi.  
 (1) 2000 (2) 2010  
 (3) 2005 (4) 2007  
 (5) 2009
- Q.11.** Which of the following launched its mobile wallet service 'MoboMoney'?  
 (1) ICICI Bank  
 (2) Tech Mahindra Ltd  
 (3) HDFC Bank  
 (4) Reliance Jio Infocomm  
 (5) Federal Bank
- Q.12.** Who has become the title-sponsor for the next three editions of the Hockey India League beginning 2016?  
 (1) Hero Motorcorp  
 (2) Coal India Ltd.  
 (3) Tata Communications  
 (4) Reliance Communications  
 (5) Infosys
- Q.13.** Recently the Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a MoU between India and \_\_\_\_\_ on cooperation in Port matters.  
 (1) Sri Lanka  
 (2) Seychelles  
 (3) Spain  
 (4) Bangladesh  
 (5) Afghanistan
- Q.14.** Francois Hollande will be the Chief Guest at 67th India's Republic Day celebrations. He is the President of which country?  
 (1) France  
 (2) Russia  
 (3) Turkey  
 (4) Singapore  
 (5) Namibia



Sanjita Chanu is associated with Weightlifting sport.



**Q.15.** Recently the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to an MoU signed between India and its \_\_\_\_\_ counterparts on energy matters.

- (1) AIIB (2) BRICS  
(3) SAARC (4) TAPI  
(5) ASEAN

**Q.16.** Who has been selected for 3rd National Yash Chopra Memorial Award?

- (1) Anupam Kher  
(2) Hema Malini  
(3) Rekha  
(4) Dilip Kumar  
(5) Naseeruddin Shah

**Q.17.** What is the union government's prediction of India's GDP for FY 2015-16?

- (1) 7-7.5% (2) 7.1-7.5%  
(3) 7.2-7.5% (4) 7.3-7.5%  
(5) 6.9-7.5%

**Q.18.** Which state launched 'Dial 100' scheme for better handling of crimes in the state?

- (1) Maharashtra  
(2) Uttar Pradesh  
(3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Gujarat  
(5) Sikkim

**Q.19.** Which of the following has been awarded CII-ITC Sustainability Awards for the year 2015?

- (1) IOC  
(2) Reliance Communications  
(3) Tata Communications  
(4) Cairn India  
(5) BHEL

**Q.20.** Who received Garwood Award for 'Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation' from UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business?

- (1) Prime Minister of India  
(2) President of India  
(3) Finance Minister of India  
(4) Vice- President of India  
(5) Urban Development Minister of India

**Q.21.** Recently ICRA downgraded which banks's long-term ratings to 'stable' from 'positive'?

- (1) Corporation Bank  
(2) Union Bank of India  
(3) United Bank of India  
(4) Indian Bank  
(5) Indian Overseas Bank

**Q.22.** Recently \_\_\_\_\_ and Hollywood director Steven Spielberg's DreamWorks Studios jointly formed Amblin Partners company.

- (1) Eros International  
(2) Zee Entertainment  
(3) Aditya Birla Group  
(4) Reliance Entertainment  
(5) Azim Premji Entertainment

**Q.23.** What is the rank of India on Forbes' annual list of the best countries for business in 2015?

- (1) 97th (2) 62nd  
(3) 67th (4) 75th  
(5) 100th

**Q.24.** Which Indian film director has been awarded in the Rafi Peer International Film Festival 2015 held in Pakistan?

- (1) Madhur Bhandarkar  
(2) Karan Johar  
(3) Mani Ratnam  
(4) Sanjay Leela Bhansali  
(5) Prakash Jha

**Q.25.** Yan Dhanda became the first footballer of Indian origin to

sign a professional contract with Liverpool. He plays for which country?

- (1) Australia (2) England  
(3) USA (4) Italy  
(5) Russia

**Q.26.** Which of the following is the 164th and the newest member of World Trade Organisation?

- (1) Seychelles (2) Algeria  
(3) Afghanistan (4) Bangladesh  
(5) India

**Q.27.** Who has been appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)?

- (1) Raghvendra Raman  
(2) Bipin Singh  
(3) Sudhir Sharma  
(4) R. Pathak  
(5) R.K. Mathur

**Q.28.** Which country won gold medal in the men's 20th Avadh Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship?

- (1) Singapore  
(2) England  
(3) China  
(4) India  
(5) Malaysia

**Q.29.** Who has been appointed as chief operating officer of Apple Inc.?

- (1) Roger Clog  
(2) Jeff Williams  
(3) Tim Cook  
(4) Bilare Thompson  
(5) Michale Sans

**Q.30.** David Alaba is associated with which sport?

- (1) Tennis (2) Football  
(3) Cricket (4) Golf  
(5) Squash



**Q.31.** Which of the following has recently been launched by Kotak Mahindra Bank?

- (1) 'Kotak Fast app' campaign
- (2) 'Phone Phone Mein Kotak' campaign
- (3) 'Mobile Kotak' campaign
- (4) 'Phone Aapka Bank Hamara' campaign
- (5) 'Kotak Aapke Phone Mein' campaign.

**Q.32.** Recently Tennis Integrity Unit banned \_\_\_\_\_ professional tennis player Alexandros Jakupovic from the sport for life.

- (1) British
- (2) South Korean
- (3) Greek
- (4) Italian
- (5) Russian

**Q.33.** Who has been crowned as Miss Universe 2015?

- (1) Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach
- (2) Ariadna Gutiérrez
- (3) Olivia Jordan
- (4) Urvashi Rautela
- (5) Susane Ahmed

**Q.34.** Who has been crowned as Miss World 2015?

- (1) Sofia Nikitchuk
- (2) Maria Harfanti
- (3) Lagano Soman
- (4) Mireia Lalaguna Royo
- (5) Patrica Clerg

**Q.35.** What is the rank of Tata Motors in top-50 league of the world's biggest companies in terms of their R&D investments?

- (1) 100th
- (2) 49th
- (3) 67th
- (4) 82nd
- (5) 102nd

**Q.36.** Who has won the 2015 FIFA Club World Cup?

- (1) River Plate FC
- (2) Sydney FC
- (3) Barcelona FC
- (4) Melbourne FC
- (5) Manchester FC

**Q.37.** Which country lifted a 40-year-old ban on export of crude oil?

- (1) USA
- (2) Russia
- (3) India
- (4) Pakistan
- (5) Italy

**Q.38.** What was the venue of the 10th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO)?

- (1) Beijing (China)
- (2) Rundu (Namibia)
- (3) Nairobi (Kenya)
- (4) New York (USA)
- (5) New Delhi (India)

**Q.39.** Which of the following won the 2015 Indian Super League (ISL) for football?

- (1) Goa FC
- (2) Chennaiyin FC
- (3) Atletico de Kolkata FC
- (4) Kerala Blasters FC
- (5) Mumbai City FC

**Q.40.** The government has announced to establish country's first medical devices park in which state?

- (1) Uttar Pradesh
- (2) Sikkim
- (3) Madhya Pradesh
- (4) Gujarat
- (5) Andhra Pradesh

**Q.41.** Which of the following has declared 2016 as the International Year of Pulses (IYP)?

- (1) UN
- (2) USA
- (3) India
- (4) WHO
- (5) EU

**Q.42.** Which ministry has recently launched new 'Make in India' website?

- (1) Ministry of Defence
- (2) Ministry of Finance
- (3) Ministry of HRD
- (4) Ministry of Rural Development
- (5) Ministry of Urban Development

**Q.43.** Which has become the first bank to start online electronic signature service "e-sign"?

- (1) HDFC Bank
- (2) ICICI Bank
- (3) Axis Bank
- (4) SBI
- (5) PNB

**Q.44.** Who has been awarded BBC Sports Personality of the Year award for 2015?

- (1) Novak Djokovic
- (2) Sebastian Vettel
- (3) Rafael Nadal
- (4) Michael Schumacher
- (5) Andy Murray

**Q.45.** Who has been appointed as MD & CEO of Lakshmi Vilas Bank?

- (1) Parthasarathi Mukherjee
- (2) Subroto Mukherjee
- (3) Keshab Nath Chattopadhyay
- (4) M. Husain
- (5) Suhasini Rai

**Q.46.** With which state Tata Trusts signed a long-term partnership agreement in community development related works?

- (1) Gujarat
- (2) Madhya Pradesh
- (3) Mizoram
- (4) Uttar Pradesh
- (5) Andhra Pradesh



**Gautam Bambawale has been appointed as new High Commissioner to Pakistan.**



**Q.47.** 'Eyeway National Helpdesk' has been launched for which of the following?

- (1) Blind and visually impaired people
- (2) Mentally disabled people
- (3) Poor Children
- (4) 1 and 2
- (5) 1 and 3

**Q.48.** Brendon McCullum announced his retirement from international cricket. He is the captain of which team?

- (1) England
- (2) South Africa
- (3) Australia
- (4) New Zealand
- (5) West Indies

**Q.49.** Who has been awarded AIFF woman Footballer-of-the-Year 2015 award?

- (1) Alex Morgan
- (2) Bala Devi
- (3) Heather Mitts
- (4) Laure Boulleau
- (5) Amandine Henry

**Q.50.** Which pair has been named as 2015 ITF women's doubles World Champions?

- (1) Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis
- (2) Serena Williams and Venus Williams
- (3) Venus Williams and Sania Mirza
- (4) Martina Hingis and Venus Williams
- (5) Martina Hingis and Serena Williams

**Q.51.** Who has been awarded the best ODI player for 2015?

- (1) Virat Kohli
- (2) Steve Smith

- (3) A.B. de Villiers
- (4) Brandon Mccullen
- (5) M.S. Dhoni

**Q.52.** Which state government has appointed film actor Dharmendra and MP Hema Malini as brand ambassador of the tourism department?

- (1) Gujarat
- (2) Haryana
- (3) Uttar Pradesh
- (4) Sikkim
- (5) Mizoram

**Q.53.** Which country rejected same-sex marriage in the country in a referendum held in the country?

- (1) Algeria
- (2) France
- (3) Bulgaria
- (4) Slovenia
- (5) Switzerland

**Q.54.** Which of the following announced the acquisition of US-based back-office firm Viteos Group?

- (1) Wipro
- (2) Infosys
- (3) Alibaba
- (4) Snapdeal
- (5) Walmart

**Q.55.** Which of the following mobile apps has recently been launched by State Bank of India?

- (1) State Bank Solution
- (2) State Bank Samadhaan
- (3) State Bank Mobile Samadhan
- (4) State Bank e-Solution
- (5) State Bank Mobile Saathi

**Q.56.** What is the name of the physically disabled Indian who's name has been entered in URF Asian Records for making a record in Swimming?

- (1) P.R. Sharma

- (2) Nitin Sehgal
- (3) E. D. Baburaj
- (4) Saurashtra Nath
- (5) Sarabjit Kaur

**Q.57.** Which country successfully launched the Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) Satellite?

- (1) India
- (2) China
- (3) America
- (4) Russia
- (5) France

**Q.58.** Which state will host National Games in 2019?

- (1) Andhra Pradesh
- (2) Gujarat
- (3) Sikkim
- (4) Maharashtra
- (5) Uttar Pradesh

**Q.59.** Which country has announced to adopt Chinese yuan as its legal tender?

- (1) New Zealand
- (2) Kenya
- (3) Zimbabwe
- (4) Namibia
- (5) Somalia

**Q.60.** Who has been appointed as CEO of food regulator FSSAI?

- (1) Roshan Khan
- (2) Narendra Singh
- (3) Sushil Verma
- (4) R.L. Mishra
- (5) Pawan Kumar Agarwal

**Q.61.** Recently \_\_\_\_\_, the first indigenously designed and built warship of the Indian Navy, was decommissioned in Mumbai.

- (1) INS Varun
- (2) INS Garun
- (3) INS Yamuna
- (4) INS Ganga
- (5) INS Godavari



**Q.62.** Indian Railways has tied up with which Bank to sell rail tickets through its applications?

- (1) Axis Bank
- (2) ICICI Bank
- (3) HDFC Bank
- (4) Yes Bank
- (5) Federal Bank

**Q.63.** Recently the United Nations has appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as new peacekeeping chief in Mali.

- (1) Mahamat Saleh Annadif
- (2) Mongi Hamdi
- (3) Habib Essid
- (4) Ahmed Salem
- (5) Ruhana Wajib

**Q.64.** Who has been awarded U.S. Soccer's Male Player of the Year?

- (1) Clint Dempsey
- (2) Michael Bradley
- (3) Landon Donovan
- (4) Nick Rimando
- (5) Tim Howard

**Q.65.** Recently how many agreements were signed between India and Russia?

- (1) 10
- (2) 16
- (3) 18
- (4) 8
- (5) 20

**Q.66.** What is the new deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes with the new ones?

- (1) 30 July 2016
- (2) 30 May 2016
- (3) 30 March 2016
- (4) 30 April 2016
- (5) 30 June 2016

**Q.67.** Which company topped the Fortune 500 List of Indian companies for 2015?

- (1) State Bank of India
- (2) ICICI Bank
- (3) Tata Motors
- (4) Indian Oil Corporation
- (5) Reliance Industries Limited

**Q.68.** Who topped the 'International World Leader Index'?

- (1) Vladimir Putin
- (2) Barack Obama
- (3) Narendra Modi
- (4) David Cameron
- (5) Angela Merkel

**Q.69.** Who inaugurated the first cable-stayed bridge of north India?

- (1) Defence Minister of India
- (2) IT and Communications Minister of India
- (3) Prime Minister of India
- (4) President of India
- (5) Urban Development Minister of India

**Q.70.** When is Good Governance Day celebrated?

- (1) 23th December
- (2) 24th December
- (3) 25th December
- (4) 26th December
- (5) 27th December

## ANSWERS PART-A

Q.1.(1)	Q.2. (4)	Q.3.(5)	Q.4.(3)	Q.5. (5)	Q.6.(3)	Q.7.(4)	Q.8. (2)	Q.9.(5)	Q.10.(3)
Q.11.(2)	Q.12.(2)	Q.13.(3)	Q.14.(1)	Q.15.(2)	Q.16.(3)	Q.17.(1)	Q.18.(2)	Q.19.(4)	Q.20.(2)
Q.21.(3)	Q.22.(4)	Q.23.(1)	Q.24.(1)	Q.25.(2)	Q.26.(3)	Q.27.(5)	Q.28.(4)	Q.29.(2)	Q.30.(2)
Q.31.(2)	Q.32.(3)	Q.33.(1)	Q.34.(2)	Q.35.(2)	Q.36.(3)	Q.37.(1)	Q.38.(3)	Q.39.(2)	Q.40.(4)
Q.41.(1)	Q.42.(1)	Q.43.(3)	Q.44.(5)	Q.45.(1)	Q.46.(4)	Q.47.(1)	Q.48.(4)	Q.49.(2)	Q.50.(1)
Q.51.(3)	Q.52.(2)	Q.53.(4)	Q.54.(1)	Q.55.(2)	Q.56.(3)	Q.57.(2)	Q.58.(1)	Q.59.(3)	Q.60.(5)
Q.61.(5)	Q.62.(2)	Q.63.(1)	Q.64.(2)	Q.65.(2)	Q.66.(5)	Q.67.(4)	Q.68.(2)	Q.69.(1)	Q.70.(3)



**Mahendra's** <sup>TM</sup>

**NO. 1 INSTITUTE IN INDIA**

**Specialized in BANKING, SSC & Other Competitive Examinations**



Zimbabwe has announced to adopt Chinese yuan as its legal tender.





# Pandora Box

## Part-B

**Q.71.** Who is appointed as Secretary in Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)?

- (1) Devendra Chaudhary
- (2) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
- (3) Sanjay Kumar Srivastava
- (4) Rajinder Khanna
- (5) None of these

**Q.72.** Gautam H Bambawale appointed as High Commissioner of India to .....

- (1) Bangladesh
- (2) Pakistan
- (3) Sri Lanka
- (4) USA
- (5) UK

**Q.73.** Who has been selected for 51st Jnanpith award. He is fourth Gujarati litterateur to receive this prestigious honour?

- (1) Raghuveer Chaudhary
- (2) Pradeep Kumar Sinha
- (3) Ramesh Abhishek
- (4) Kavary Banerjee
- (5) Salman Rushdie

**Q.74.** Former cricketer ..... has been selected for BCCI Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award 2015.

- (1) Sachin Tendulkar
- (2) Syed Kirmani
- (3) Sunil Gavaskar
- (4) Saurav Ganguly
- (5) Rahul Dravid

**Q.75.** Who has been selected for 2015 National Medal of Science of United States, along with 16 other winners?

- (1) Vrinda Sarup
- (2) G Mohan Kumar
- (3) Naveen Verma
- (4) Rakesh K. Jain
- (5) R. K. Swami

**Q.76.** Who has been named as first Poet Laureate by US state of Ohio for his various poetry styles?

- (1) Ashok Lavasa
- (2) M. Nair Rajeevan
- (3) Navtej Singh Sarna
- (4) Sujata Mehta
- (5) Amit Majmudar

**Q.77.** Who won a prestigious award in UK for creating an innovative electronic smart key system which enables creation of keys and locks that cannot be copied?

- (1) Sudarshan Patnaik
- (2) E Sridharan
- (3) Nandagopal Lakshminarayanan
- (4) Tapan Ray
- (5) Sujata Mehta

**Q.78.** "Bose Brothers and Indian Independence – An Insider's Account" written by .....

- (1) Chetan Bhagat
- (2) Amish Tripathi
- (3) Madhuri Bose
- (4) Arindam Chaudhuri
- (5) Dan Nikole

**Q.79.** Giorgi Kvirikashvili has been elected as 12th Prime Minister of which country?

- (1) USA (2) UK
- (3) Lithuania (4) Georgia
- (5) Spain

**Q.80.** Government gave industry secretary ....., an additional charge of post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog.

- (1) S. Ayyappan
- (2) V. K. Subburaj
- (3) Siraj Hussain
- (4) Rita A Teaotia
- (5) Amitabh Kant

**Q.81.** Who has been appointed as Director General in National Centre for Good Governance under Department of Personnel & Training?

- (1) Tapan Ray
- (2) J S Deepak
- (3) Gyanendra D. Bandgaiyan
- (4) Naveen Verma
- (5) None of these

**Q.82.** Delhi Government appointed ..... Commission for enquiring DDCA (Delhi & District Cricket Association) scam.

- (1) Nripendra Mishra
- (2) Ajit Doval
- (3) Ramesh Abhishek
- (4) Gopal Subramaniam
- (5) R M Lodha

**Q.83.** Who became first to implement recommendations of Supreme Court appointed committee under K.S. Radhakrishnan to deal with traffic violations in the city?

- (1) Delhi
- (2) Uttar Pradesh
- (3) Gujarat
- (4) Madhya Pradesh
- (5) Andhra Pradesh



Amazon has signed an agreement with the NIESBUD to grow business profitably online.

**Q.84.** Government appointed ..... as chief of Judicial Committee to look into implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme for Ex-Servicemen.

- (1) Siraj Hussain
- (2) L Narasimha Reddy
- (3) Anil Swarup
- (4) Surjit Kumar Chaudhary
- (5) Nripendra Mishra

**Q.85.** Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas appointed committee under ..... to look into dispute between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Krishna Godavari (KG) gas fields.

- (1) Ajit Prakash Shah
- (2) A k Pujar
- (3) Ajit Doval
- (4) Rakesh Garg
- (5) B S Baswan

**Q.86.** Ministry of Finance released report of Committee on Revisiting and Revitalising Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model under whom?

- (1) Sibabrata Tripathi
- (2) Vijay Kelkar
- (3) Bhanu Pratap Sharma
- (4) Arvind Mayaram
- (5) A P Shah

**Q.87.** Reserve Bank of India released Report of Committee on Mediumterm Path on Financial Inclusion headed by .....

- (1) Deepak Mohanty
- (2) H R Khan
- (3) Urjit Patel
- (4) R Rajan
- (5) Urjit Patel

**Q.88.** ..... edition of Joint Indian-Russian Navies Exercise INDRA NAVY was conducted in Bay of Bengal.

- (1) 8th
- (2) 9th
- (3) 10th
- (4) 12th
- (5) 5th

**Q.89.** Indian Coast Guard inducted 19th of 20 Fast Patrol Vessels being built by Cochin Shipyard. what is the name of the vessel?

- (1) ICGS Achook
- (2) ICGS Akash
- (3) ICGS Atulya
- (4) ICGS Amogh
- (5) ICGS Akhand

**Q.90.** Combined Commanders Conference annual tri-services event chaired by PM Narendra Modi held on board .....

- (1) INS Akash
- (2) INS Tarangini
- (3) INS Vikrant
- (4) INS Vikramaditya
- (5) None of These

**Q.91.** "On My Terms: From the Grassroots to the Corridors of Power", autobiography of former Union Minister ..... has been released.

- (1) Rajnath Singh
- (2) Manmohan Singh
- (3) Sushil Kumar Shinde
- (4) Nitin Gadkari
- (5) Sharad Pawar

**Q.92.** American aerospace company ..... successfully launched and landed Falcon 9 rocket along with 11 satellites to lowEarth orbit.

- (1) NASA
- (2) SpaceX
- (3) ESA
- (4) ISRO
- (5) ROSCOSMOS

**Q.93.** Chief Economic Advisor ..... led Committee submitted recommendations for Tax Rates under GST Goods and Services Tax (GST).

- (1) Arvind Mayaram
- (2) Arvind Subramanian
- (3) P D T Achary
- (4) Arun Jaitley
- (5) Narendra Modi

**Q.94.** Which state's assembly passed Members of Legislative Assembly Salaries, Allowances, Pension Amendment Bill 2015, based on recommendations of PDT Achary panel?

- (1) Uttar Pradesh
- (2) Madhya Pradesh
- (3) Delhi
- (4) Maharashtra
- (5) Bihar

**Q.95.** BRICS Emerging Economies Universities Summit 2015 Held in ....., sponsored by TIMES Group.

- (1) Johannesburg
- (2) Moscow
- (3) Beijing
- (4) Delhi
- (5) New York

**Q.96.** Fifth edition of Heart of Asia conference started in which country?

- (1) Sri Lanka
- (2) India
- (3) Nepal
- (4) Myanmar
- (5) Pakistan

**Q.97.** Defence Acquisition Council approved purchase of ..... advance S400 Triumf Air Defence Missile Systems for approx 40000 crore rupees.

- (1) Germany
- (2) France
- (3) UK
- (4) USA
- (5) Russia



**Pawan Kumar Agarwal has been appointed as CEO of food regulator FSSAI.**



**Q.98.** Indian army and Air Force started Operation ..... for relief work in Heavy Floods in Chennai (Tamilnadu).

- (1) Rahat (2) Sulabh  
(3) Madad (4) Pravah  
(5) Suraksha

**Q.99.** Noted ..... Subir Sen passed away.

- (1) Actor (2) Scientist  
(3) Writer (4) Singer  
(5) Politician

**Q.100.** ISRO Launched its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle PSLV C-29 successfully with six satellites from .....

- (1) Singapore  
(2) Japan  
(3) UK  
(4) China  
(5) Malaysia

**Q.101.** Scientists at Imperial College from ....., genetically modified malariacausing mosquito Anopheles gambiae species to fight disease of malaria.

- (1) USA (2) France  
(3) UK (4) Germany  
(5) Norway

**Q.102.** Zoological Survey of India Scientists discovered new species of eel named Bengal moray eel (Gymnothorax mishrai) in which district of West Bengal?

- (1) South 24 Parganas  
(2) North 24 Parganas  
(3) Hooghly  
(4) Purba Medinipur  
(5) None of these

**Q.103.** CDAC stands for-

- (1) Centre for Deployment of Advanced Computing

(2) Centre for Development of Aggregate Computing

(3) Centre for Development of Advanced Computing

(4) Centre for Development of Advanced Conclusion

(5) Center for digital of Aggregate computing

**Q.104.** Which team beat Haryana Hammers to win Pro Wrestling League title?

- (1) Punjab Royals  
(2) Mumbai Garuda  
(3) UP Warriors  
(4) Bengaluru Yodhas  
(5) Dilli Veer

**Q.105.** Senior National Weightlifting Championships Organized in which state?

- (1) Punjab  
(2) Haryana  
(3) Uttar Pradesh  
(4) Delhi  
(5) Himachal Pradesh

**Q.106.** Sixth Globe Soccer Awards 2015 Best Player Lionel Messi, Best Club ....., Best Coach Marc Wilmots.

- (1) Manchester United  
(2) Chelsea  
(3) Liverpool  
(4) Real Madrid  
(5) F.C. Barcelona

**Q.107.** ..... cricketer Kusal Perera banned for four years after being tested positive for a banned substance.

- (1) Bangladeshi  
(2) Sri Lanka  
(3) Australian  
(4) South African  
(5) West Indian

**Q.108.** Government approved ..... Metro Rail Project Phase - 1 A. It will cover

approx 23 km with 22 stations with cost of 6,928 crore rupees.

- (1) Lucknow (2) Allahabad  
(3) Kanpur (4) Bareilly  
(5) Varanasi

**Q.109.** Government approved aid of Rs. 6,794 crore for Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh and .... affected by deficit rainfall in 2015.

- (1) Andhra Pradesh  
(2) Uttar Pradesh  
(3) Uttaranchal  
(4) Madhya Pradesh  
(5) Bihar

**Q.110.** Which country's Bjorn Isberg has been appointed as Tournament Director of Coal India Hockey India League (HIL)?

- (1) Sweden (2) Spain  
(3) France (4) Germany  
(5) Hongkong

**Q.111.** 10th Ministerial Conference of WTO (World Trade Organization) held in Nairobi, .....

- (1) Libya (2) Kenya  
(3) Niger (4) Nigeria  
(5) Norway

**Q.112.** Noted ..... cinematographer Haskell Wexler passed away.

- (1) British (2) Spanish  
(3) French (4) American  
(5) Russian

**Q.113.** Noted ..... poet Mangesh Padgaonkar passed away.

- (1) Tamil (2) Marathi  
(3) Gujarati (4) Telugu  
(5) Urdu



Indian Railways has tied up with ICICI Bank Bank to sell rail tickets through its applications.

**Q.114.** 14th Meeting of Heads of Governments of SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organization) Member States concluded in Zhengzhou of which country?

- (1) China (2) Russia  
(3) Japan (4) UK  
(5) USA

**Q.115.** 2nd World Internet Conference held in Zhejiang province of .....

- (1) Japan  
(2) China  
(3) Vietnam  
(4) South Korea  
(5) North Korea

**Q.116.** South Korea and ..... signed an Agreement on Issue of Comfort Women.

- (1) Vietnam (2) China  
(3) Japan (4) USA  
(5) UK

**Q.117.** As per Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries 2015 OPEC World Oil Outlook Oil and gas are expected to supply ..... of global energy demand by 2040.

- (1) 43 % (2) 53 %  
(3) 63 % (4) 73 %  
(5) 66 %

**Q.118.** Which country became first Asian country to approve sale of the world's first ever

dengue vaccine Dengvaxia manufactured by French pharmaceutical manufacturer Sanofi Pasteur?

- (1) India  
(2) Philippines  
(3) Japan  
(4) China  
(5) Germany

**Q.119.** India's Reliance Defence signed \$6 billion pact with Russian arms firm ..... during visit of PM Narendra Modi to Russia?

- (1) Dassault Rafale  
(2) Sevmash  
(3) Rosoboronexport  
(4) AlmazAntey  
(5) None of these

**Q.120.** India's Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) signed an agreement with Russian oil firm .....

- (1) Rosneft  
(2) Lukoil  
(3) Gazprom Neft  
(4) Tatneft  
(5) None of these

**Q.121.** PM Narendra Modi inaugurated new Parliament built by India in Kabul of..... during his recent trip to Russia, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- (1) Afghanistan  
(2) Pakistan

- (3) Russia  
(4) Libya  
(5) Syria

**Q.122.** Noted ..... science-fiction writer George Clayton Johnson passed away. He was best known for dystopian novel Logan's Run.

- (1) British (2) German  
(3) American (4) French  
(5) Spanish

**Q.123.** Noted ..... Sadhna Shivdasani passed away.

- (1) Novelist (2) Actress  
(3) Scientist (4) Singer  
(5) Writer

**Q.124.** .....s Rostech Corporation signed 1 Billion USD deal with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture 200 Kamov 226T light helicopters.

- (1) USA (2) Russia  
(3) UK (4) Spain  
(5) France

**Q.125.** World Bank approved assistance of \$35 million to ..... to support development of water resources in Indus River Basin.

- (1) India  
(2) Bangladesh  
(3) Pakistan  
(4) China  
(5) Bhutan

## ANSWERS PART-B

- Q.71.(1) Q.72.(2) Q.73.(1) Q.74.(2) Q.75.(4) Q.76.(5) Q.77.(3) Q.78.(3) Q.79.(4) Q.80.(5)  
Q.81.(3) Q.82.(4) Q.83.(1) Q.84.(2) Q.85.(1) Q.86.(2) Q.87.(1) Q.88.(1) Q.89.(3) Q.90.(4)  
Q.91.(5) Q.92.(2) Q.93.(2) Q.94.(3) Q.95.(4) Q.96.(5) Q.97.(5) Q.98.(3) Q.99.(4) Q.100.(1)  
Q.101.(3) Q.102.(4) Q.103.(3) Q.104.(2) Q.105.(1) Q.106.(5) Q.107.(2) Q.108.(1) Q.109.(4) Q.110.(1)  
Q.111.(2) Q.112.(4) Q.113.(2) Q.114.(1) Q.115.(2) Q.116.(3) Q.117.(2) Q.118.(2) Q.119.(4) Q.120.(1)  
Q.121.(1) Q.122.(3) Q.123.(2) Q.124.(2) Q.125.(3)



United Nations has appointed Mahamat Saleh Annadif as new peacekeeping chief in Mali.





**Q.126. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) A whopping Rs. 19,170 crore budget has been lined up for AMRUT programme for 2015-16.
- (B) Only 10 per cent of the expenditure would be on improving water supply and sewerage infrastructure.
- (C) It is a totally centrally sponsored scheme.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only C
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only A
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.127. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) The Prime Minister, chaired the Combined Commanders Conference on board INS Vikramaditya at Sea, for first time.
- (B) This conference was organised at off the Chennai Coast.
- (C) The Prime Minister inspected a Tri-services Guard of Honour at INS Garuda.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.128. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) The 26th Conference of Southern Zonal Council (SZC) was held at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh.
- (B) The conference was chaired by the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- (C) The five states and Puducherry together form the Southern Zonal Council.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.129. With which of the following countries the centre has approved the signing of a MoU on cooperation in Port matters?**

- (1) France
- (2) Spain
- (3) UAE
- (4) United Kingdom
- (5) None of these

**Q.130. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) The centre has approved an MoU signed between India and its BRICS counterparts in the field of energy saving and energy efficiency.
- (B) Encouragement of use of energy efficient and energy saving approaches is carried out in Consultation with the host country.
- (C) BRICS countries include Britain, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and C
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and B
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.131. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee received Garwood Award for 'Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation' from UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business.
- (B) Prof. Solomon Darwin, Executive Director Garwood Center for Corporate Innovation presented the award to the President.
- (C) The University of California, Berkeley, has established the Garwood Award.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.132. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) The Indian government has approved the purchase of five units of Russian-made S-400 Triumf air defense systems.
- (B) The S-400 Triumf air defense can intercept and destroy airborne targets at a range of 250 miles.



**Michael Bradley has been awarded U.S. Soccer's Male Player of the Year.**

(C) China is the second buyer of S-400 Triumf air defense system after India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.133. Consider the following statements:**

(A) The Asian Cricket Council would set-up an ACC Centre of Excellence in Dharamshala (Himachal Pradesh).

(B) This will also house hockey facility alongwith cricket.

(C) There would be a separate wing for women cricketers.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.134. Consider the following statements:**

(A) 'Eyeway National Helpdesk' for the blind and visually impaired at New Delhi.

(B) Eyeway National Helpdesk is an initiative of Score Foundation with support from the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities.

(C) Visually impaired citizens of India can call the Eyeway Helpdesk on a toll free number, 1800-300-20469, and get queries addressed.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.135. Consider the following statements regarding Schedule Caste and Schedule Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015 passed by Rajya Sabha recently:**

(A) Occupying land belonging to SCs or STs is an offence under the Act.

(B) Imposing or threatening a social or economic boycott is a new offence under the act.

(C) Preventing SCs or STs from entering an education or health institution will now be considered an offence.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.136. Consider the following statements:**

(A) Monthly bonus calculation ceiling has been doubled to Rs 7,000 per month.

(B) Eligibility limit for payment of bonus has been increased from Rs 10,000 per month to Rs 21,000 per month.

(C) These benefits would be deemed to have come into force on April 1, 2015.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.137. Consider the following statements:**

(A) Indian Handloom Exhibition has been inaugurated at National Crafts Museum in New Delhi.

(B) The exhibition was inaugurated by Union Minister of State for Textiles (I/C), Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

(C) The exhibition features the latest series of Handloom products by National Centre for Textile Design (NCTD).

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.138. Consider the following statements:**

(A) Idea Cellular is the third mobile operator to launch 4G services after Bharti Airtel and Vodafone India.

(B) Reliance Jio's will launch its 4G services later this fiscal year.

(C) Idea Cellular is controlled by Mukesh Ambani.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.139. Consider the following statements:**

(A) Rajnath Singh is the Union Agriculture and Farmers Welfare Minister.

(B) The Agriculture Ministry has launched two mobile apps 'Crop Insurance' and 'Agri market' for welfare of farmers.

(C) The Ministry organised "Kisan Jai Vigyan Week" to celebrate birth anniversary of Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Ch. Charan Singh, starting December 22.



**A.B. de Villiers has been awarded the best ODI player for 2015.**



**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.140. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Union Minister Arun Jaitley released the 2016 calendar of the Indian government.
- (B) Calendar of each month expresses a specific target and priority areas related to people.
- (C) Arun Jaitley is also the Union Information and Broadcasting Minister.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.141. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) India for the second time hosted the International Electric Vehicle Expo in December 2015.
- (B) The expo was named as EVEXPO-2015.
- (C) Motor Vehicles (Amendment Bill, 2015) brings E-Carts & E-Rickshaws under the ambit of Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.142. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Russia has opened up its oil and gas sector to Indian companies.
- (B) ONGC Videsh Ltd has bought a 15 per cent stake in Russia's Vankorneft oil field.
- (C) India had pressed Russia to open its oil and gas sector to Indian companies during summit talks between President Vladimir Putin and Modi in December last year.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.143. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Suresh Prabhu has been conferred with the prestigious 'SIES Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswati National Eminence Award'.
- (B) This Award is given for outstanding leadership in public.
- (C) Suresh Prabhu is Union Rural Development Minister.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.144. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) India and Bangladesh have erected a 47-km transmission line from Sikkim to Comilla.
- (B) This supply an additional 100 MW of electricity to power-starved Bangladesh.
- (C) The supply of electricity will be made from the Palatana power plant in southern Tripura.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.145. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) INS Godavari was India's first indigenously designed and built warship.
- (B) INS Godavari was commissioned in December 1983.
- (C) INS Godavari was a part of 'Operation Jupiter' - 1988 (Sri Lanka).

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.146. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) 16th India-Russia Annual Summit was held in Moscow.
- (B) India and Russia signed 16 Agreements during the summit.
- (C) Ministry of Railways of India has signed an MOU with "Russian Railways" on technical cooperation.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.147. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Ministry of Women and Child Development has launched e-office.
- (B) In the new system, a file will take only 4-5 days for processing as compared to 30-40 days earlier.
- (C) The e-office project was initiated in July 2015 and over 12,000 files of the Ministry have been digitised.



**Slovenia rejected same-sex marriage in the country in a referendum held in the country.**

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.148. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) The Ministry of Culture has approved Rs. 400 crore for the upgradation of libraries during the 13th Plan.
- (B) This has been sanctioned under the scheme "National Literacy Mission (NLM)".
- (C) The scheme envisages creation of National Virtual Library of India.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.149. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Astra missile is resistant to jamming.
- (B) Astra is an surface-to-air missile.
- (C) It is a 60-km plus range missile with Single Shot Kill Probability (SSKP).

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.150. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Rostech State Corporation will manufacture about 200 Kamov 226T light helicopters for India.
- (B) The Kamov will replace the ageing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak.
- (C) This is the first Russian-Indian high-tech project within the framework of the Make in India initiative.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.151. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Bloomberg Philanthropies (BP) will support the Smart Cities Mission.
- (B) Bloomberg Philanthropies will work as a knowledge partner under the Smart Cities Mission.
- (C) Smart Cities Mission was launched on April 15, 2015.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.152. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) India and Canada has renewed their cooperation in the higher education sector.
- (B) The Cabinet has approved an MoU among BRICS countries on BRICS Network University.
- (C) An MoU between India and Canada on cooperation in Higher Education was signed in June, 2010.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.153. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) India will sign an MoU with Sweden for training of human resource to handle construction and demolition waste.
- (B) This will supplement the Clean India Campaign.
- (C) About 50 percent of the construction and demolition waste, is not currently recycled in the country.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.154. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) India has signed a financing agreement with world bank for IDA credit of US\$ 50 million.
- (B) This IDA credit will be used for the Nai Manzil Scheme.
- (C) Nai Manzil Scheme is related with the Education and Skills Training for Minorities.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.155. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Centre has formed a panel for the overhaul of the Censor Board.
- (B) The panel will be headed by noted film director Piyush Pandey.
- (C) The board includes six other members.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these



**Wipro announced the acquisition of US-based back-office firm Viteos Group.**



**Q.156. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) The centre has, approved the construction of 69 bridges in Myanmar.
- (B) This includes approach roads on the Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa (TKK) road section of the trilateral highway in Myanmar.
- (C) This is a part of the route for the proposed Imphal-Mandalay bus service.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.157. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Tejas is an indigenously developed combat helicopter of India.
- (B) JF-17 is a fighter plane produced by Pakistan with the help of China.
- (C) The fourth edition of Bahrain International Air Show (BIAS) was held at Bahrain's Sakhir Airbase.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.158. Who is the new CEO of Wipro Limited?**

- (1) T. K. Kurien
- (2) Shantanu Narayen
- (3) Abid Ali Z. Neemuchwala
- (4) Anant Gupta
- (5) None of these

**Q.159. Justice RM Lodha Committee is associated with-**

- (1) Eradicating black money
- (2) Criminal Justice
- (3) Corporate governance
- (4) IPL spot fixing
- (5) 1992 Bombay riots

**Q.160. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) State-run BSNL will set up 40,000 wi-fi hotspots across the country.
- (B) This will require an investment of about Rs. 6,000 crore.
- (C) The project is expected to be completed by 2018.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.161. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) India-Nepal Bus Service resumed after a gap of 27 years.
- (B) The service runs between Kanchanpur in Nepal, and Anand Vihar ISBT in Delhi.
- (C) This would require the people to have Nepali or Indian passports to travel in these busses.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.162. With which of the following ASEAN country India has signed a memorandum of understanding in the field of civil aviation during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit there?**

- (1) Indonesia
- (2) Malaysia
- (3) Thailand
- (4) Singapore
- (5) Cambodia

**Q.163. With which of the following countries, India has agreed to sign an Mou on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs?**

- (1) Bahrain
- (2) UAE
- (3) Kuwait
- (4) Saudi Arabia
- (5) None of these

**Q.164. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the River Information System (RIS) System.
- (B) This system will facilitate accurate navigation on National Waterway-1.
- (C) Nitin Gadkari is Union Minister of Water Resources.

**Which of the statements given above is/are false?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.165. Consider the following statements:**

- (A) Sailesh has been appointed as Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.
- (B) Sailesh, was Additional Secretary in Finance Ministry.
- (C) He has been appointed in place of C. Chandramouli.

**Which of the statements given above is/are true?**

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these





**Q.166. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Saudi Arabia launched Islamic Military Coalition to counter terrorism.
- (B) The coalition will be led by Saudi Arabia and see the participation of 34 nations.
- (C) The coalition includes nations such as Pakistan, Turkey and Egypt as well as war-torn countries such as Libya and Yemen.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.167. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The Federal Reserve raise short-term interest rates for the first time.
- (B) Fed officials intended to raise rates gradually, and only if economic growth continues.
- (C) Short-term rates will rise by about one percentage point a year for the next three years.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.168. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) India ranked 97 out of 144 nations on Forbes' annual list of the best countries for business in 2015.
- (B) Denmark topped the list of the 144 nations on the Best Countries of Business in 2015.
- (C) India scored poorly on metrics like trade and monetary freedom and tackling challenges like corruption and violence.

**Which of the above statements is/are FALSE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.169. Which organization/council has unanimously adopted a resolution to cut off all sources of funding to ISIS and Al-Qaeda?**

- (1) UN Security Council
- (2) World Bank

(3) Interpol

(4) IMF

(5) UNO

**Q.170. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Spain's Mireia Lalaguna Royo is the winner of the Miss World 2015.
- (B) Sofia Nikitchuk of Russia was the runner-up and Indonesia's Maria Harfanti took third place.
- (C) Lalaguna, a 23-year-old model from Barcelona has a master's degree in nutrition.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.171. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The World Bank Group announced a \$2 billion loan to Egypt.
- (B) It is the first instalment of an \$8 billion financing plan to help the country carry out key economic reforms.
- (C) The \$8bn loan will be disbursed over a four-year period and future loan instalments will be dependent on the country's progress.

**Which of the above statements is/are FALSE?**

- (1) Only B
- (2) Only A
- (3) Only C
- (4) Both A and C
- (5) Both A and B

**Q.172. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) China will be the third-largest contributor to the UN's next regular budget with its assessed contribution.
- (B) UN's 2016-2018 budget, the US was allocated the largest contribution of 22 per cent, followed by Japan with 9.7 per cent and China with 7.9 per cent.
- (C) The resolution was adopted by the UN General Assembly's Fifth Committee.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these



**China successfully launched the Dark Matter Particle Explorer (DAMPE) Satellite.**



**Q.173. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The China-initiated Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), has been officially launched in Beijing.
- (B) The AIIB will be operational after board of directors and executive council meet for the first time.
- (C) With authorized capital of \$100 billion, the AIIB will initially prioritise investment in energy, power generation, transportation etc.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Both A and B
- (4) Both B and C
- (5) All A, B and C

**Q.174.** Which country has its first anti-terrorism law on the books, after the National People's Congress Standing Committee approved the new legislation?

- (1) Japan
- (2) China
- (3) USA
- (4) Singapore
- (5) India

**Q.175. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Liberia's new parliament elected Zeljko Reiner, as the Speaker of the 151-seat assembly.
- (B) He is a member of the Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ).
- (C) He was deputy speaker of the country's former parliament.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both B and C
- (2) Both A and C
- (3) Both A and B
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.176. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The UN's health agency declared Guinea is free from Ebola outbreak.
- (B) WHO said that the end of Ebola transmission in Guinea marks an important milestone in the Ebola outbreak in West Africa.
- (C) The World Health Organisation says there have been more than 28,000 Ebola cases globally.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.177. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Five new members of the UN Security Council, began to serve a two-year term.
- (B) The new members, include Egypt, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay.
- (C) They replaced Chad, Chile, Jordan, Lithuania and Nigeria who completed their terms on Dec. 31.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.178.** Which two countries have reached an Agreement on Issue of Comfort Women?

- (1) Japan and South Korea
- (2) Japan and North Korea
- (3) North Korea and South Korea
- (4) USA and South Korea
- (5) Japan and USA

**Q.179. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) According to a poll conducted by the Jerusalem Post, 29 percent of respondents chose Putin as their person of the year for 2015.
- (B) German Chancellor Angela Merkel in the second place in the poll.
- (C) The results certainly showed that Putin has made an impact on the people of Israel during 2015.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) Both B and C
- (5) All A, B and C

**Q.180. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Islamabad will be the sister city of Minsk, the capital of Belarus.
- (B) Under the agreement, there will be active cooperation between the two capitals in different fields.
- (C) Islamabad already has many sister cities including Amman, Ankara, Beijing, Seoul, Madrid and Jakarta.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these





**Q.181. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The IIM-Lucknow has entered into an institutional alliance with the Harvard Business School.
- (B) Under the alliance, IIM-L like HBS, will offer an elective course on 'Microeconomics of Competitiveness' to students.
- (C) Expect this, now IIM-L, will be able to use the Harvard expertise in cluster development at local government level too.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.182. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is liable to disclose information about the banks and financial institutions for their action.
- (B) Actions against the loan defaulters include industrialists under the Right to Information (RTI) Act, 2005.
- (C) The Court further ruled that RBI has statutory duty to uphold public interest and not the interest of individual banks.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both A and C
- (3) Both B and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.183. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) RBI does not place itself in a fiduciary relationship with the financial institutions as the reports of inspections.
- (B) All rules were made by a bench headed by M Y Eqbal and C Nagappan.
- (C) The bench dismissed pleas filed by RBI and other private and nationalised banks against the Central Information Commission's (CIC) order.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.184. IIM stands for-**

- (1) Indian Institute of Management
- (2) International Institute of Management
- (3) Indian Institute of Monetary
- (4) Indian Institute of Money
- (5) None of these

**Q.185. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The oil ministry has appointed Ajit Prakash Shah, to the panel set up to quantify the dispute between Reliance Industries and ONGC.
- (B) He is former chief justice of the Delhi High Court.
- (C) The panel recommends ways to compensate the state-run firm and the government.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Both A and B
- (4) Both B and C
- (5) All A, B and C

**Q.186. ONGC stands for-**

- (1) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
- (2) Oil and Nitrogen Gas Corporation
- (3) Oil and Nitrite Gas Corporation
- (4) Both 1 and 2
- (5) Both 2 and 3

**Q.187. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The World Bank approved a US\$ 2.5 billion loan for the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM).
- (B) It will Support Operation Project to support the Government of India in its efforts to ensure all citizens in rural areas.
- (C) Specifically, this project will support the rural component, known as SBM – Gramin (SBM-G), over a five-year period.

**Which of the above statements is/are FALSE?**

- (1) Only B
- (2) Only A
- (3) Only C
- (4) Both A and B
- (5) Both B and C

**Q.188. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Today, of the 2.4 billion people who lack access to improved sanitation globally, more than 750 million live in India.



**Axis Bank became the first bank to start online electronic signature service "e-sign".**



- (B) And in them, with 80 percent living in rural areas.  
 (C) More than 500 million of the rural population in India continue to defecate in the open, suffering from preventable deaths, illness etc.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
 (3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
 (5) None of these

**Q.189. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The IRCTC allowed passengers to order food on a train by using Paytm's mobile wallet.  
 (B) Travelers can already make payments for e-tickets booked through the IRCTC website using Paytm's service.  
 (C) Paytm customers will be able to use its service to book tickets and order food.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Both A and B  
 (3) Both B and C (4) Both A and C  
 (5) All A, B and C

**Q.190. IRCTC stands for-**

- (1) Indian Railway Cafeteria and Tourism Corp.  
 (2) International Railway Catering and Tourism Corp.  
 (3) Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corp.  
 (4) Indian Railway Catering and Travel Corp.  
 (5) Indian Railway Cafeteria and Travel Corp.

**Q.191. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) FIPB has approved three foreign direct investment proposals worth Rs 136 crore.  
 (B) FIPB stands for Foreign Investment Promotion Board.  
 (C) Singapore-based GMS Pharma's proposal of acquisition of 25.1% in Stelis Biopharma, from Strides Arcolab, for Rs 135.71 crore was approved by the FIPB.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
 (3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
 (5) None of these

**Q.192. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) As part of its 'Digital India' vision, the Government of India launched 'eSign' services in the country.  
 (B) Axis Bank, taking its Digital Banking initiatives a step forward, has partnered with e-Mudhra Ltd.

- (C) 'eSign' is an online electronic signature service which facilitates an Aadhaar holder to digitally sign a document within seconds.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Only B  
 (3) Only A (4) Both A and C  
 (5) All A, B and C

**Q.193. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Axis Bank is the first organization in the country to sign up for e-sign service.  
 (B) The service rides on Aadhar authentication and generates the digital signature automatically.  
 (C) The generated signature is legally valid and secure.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Only B  
 (3) Only A (4) Both A and C  
 (5) All A, B and C

**Q.194. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The United States lifted a 40-year-old ban on export of oil.  
 (B) The ban was lifted as President Barack Obama signed into law of USD 1.8 trillion spending package.  
 (C) The move was welcomed by the industry, while pro- environmental groups were critical of it.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only C (2) Only B  
 (3) Only A (4) All A, B and C  
 (5) None of these

**Q.195. Who is the President of USA?**

- (1) Tony Abott (2) Barak Obama  
 (3) Turnbull Macullam (4) Bladimir Putin  
 (5) None of these

**Q.196. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) China based Shanghai Hitachi Electrical Company (SHEC) announced to double the annual production capacity in its subsidiary, Highly India, to 2 million units by next year.  
 (B) It is situated at Changodar near Ahmadabad.  
 (C) Estimated investment of this project is Rs 430 crore.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Only B  
 (3) Both A and B (4) Both B and C  
 (5) All A, B and C



**Andy Murray has been awarded BBC Sports Personality of the Year award for 2015.**

**Q.197. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The residential AC market in India is likely to grow at a good pace in the wake of the growing economy of the country.
- (B) AC market in India is expected to grow between 10 to 12% in 2016 and 2017.
- (C) SHEC is looking for exports to the middle east and south east Asian markets with a target of 50 thousand units for 2016 and one lakh for 2017.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Both A and B
- (3) Both B and C
- (4) Both A and C
- (5) All A, B and C

**Q.198.** An ASSOCHAM Mid Year Review has pointed out, India's GDP growth of over eight per cent and "very likely" acceleration of ..... in the current financial year.

- (1) 7.8- 9 per cent
- (2) 7.9- 8 per cent
- (3) 7.8- 8 per cent
- (4) 7.5- 8 per cent
- (5) 7.7- 8 per cent

**Q.199. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The Union Cabinet approved a model agreement on exemption from visa requirements for holders of diplomatic and official passports people.
- (B) This would facilitate visa-free entry, transit and stay up to 90 days (or less) in any period of 180 days (or more) in the India.
- (C) This is part of India's ongoing efforts to expand the envelope of visa-free travel.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.200. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The government has reduced the export duty on iron ore pellets to zero from five per cent.
- (B) The government in 2014 had levied a five per cent export duty on iron ore pellets.
- (C) Iron ore pellet makers as well as some miners had urged the government to reduce the export duty on iron ore.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.201. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The Union Home Minister approved the State wise allocation of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) of Rs.1000 crores.

(B) Union Home Minister is Rajnath Singh.

(C) It is allocated to 35 worst LWE affected districts in seven states.

Which of the above statements is/are FALSE?

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.202. Consider the following statements-**

(A) The Ministry of Home Affairs has allocated fund @ Rs.28.57 crores to LWE affected per district.

(B) Jharkhand is allocated Rs.457.12 crore, Chhattisgarh Rs.228.56 crore, Bihar Rs.171.42 crore, Odisha Rs.57.14 crore.

(C) Rs.28.57 crore each to the states of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.203. Consider the following statements-**

(A) Tata Trusts and Mars Incorporated have entered into a MoU to work together to advance agriculture development, address malnutrition and improve food safety in India.

(B) Tata Trusts include Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Sir Ratan Tata Trust, and Navajbhai Ratan Tata Trust.

(C) All these trusts collectively known as Tata Trusts.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both B and C
- (2) Both A and C
- (3) Both A and B
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.204.** Government approved an integrated scheme with an outlay of ..... for the development and management of fisheries sector.

- (1) Rs 3,000 crore
- (2) Rs 4,000 crore
- (3) Rs 5,000 crore
- (4) Rs 6,000 crore
- (5) Rs 7,000 crore

**Q.205. Consider the following statements-**

(A) Volvo Group announced the merger of its bus manufacturing arm Volvo Buses India and joint company Volvo India Pvt Ltd (VIPL).

(B) The Consolidation has come into effect from 31 December 2015.



**Parthasarathi Mukherjee has been appointed as MD & CEO of Lakshmi Vilas Bank.**



- (C) Volvo Group in India includes multiple business areas and brands such as Volvo Buses, Volvo Penta Engines, Volvo Construction Equipment, UD Buses, Volvo Trucks, Eicher Trucks and Buses.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) Both A and B  
(5) All A, B and C

**Q.206.** VRV Sriprasad will continue to lead the Volvo Bus business in .....

- (1) Japan (2) India  
(3) USA (4) China  
(5) Sweden

**Q.207.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) imposed monetary penalty of 1 crore rupees on State Bank of Travancore.  
(B) The monetary penalty has been imposed for violation of its instructions including reporting of data to CRILC.  
(C) CRILC stands for Central Repository of Information on Large Credits.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both A and C  
(3) Both B and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.208.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Tata has invested an undisclosed amount in his personal capacity in online pet shop Dog-Spot.  
(B) Other investors in the round include Ashok Mittal, Rishi Parti, Dheeraj Jain and Abhijeet Pai.  
(C) Over the past 12 months, Tata has backed several Indian startups, like company Ola, Snapdeal, CarDekho.com etc.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Only B  
(3) Only C (4) Both A and B  
(5) All A, B and C

**Q.209.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) IRB Infrastructure Developers has bagged a Rs 10,050-crore order to construct the Zozila pass tunnel.  
(B) Zozila pass tunnel is situated in Arunachal Pradesh.  
(C) Company has received a Letter of Award from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

**Which of the above statements is/are FALSE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Only B  
(3) Only C (4) Both A and C  
(5) Both A and B

**Q.210.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Government decided to rollout a LPG-like direct benefit transfer (DBT) scheme for kerosene.  
(B) The scheme will be started from 1 April 2016.  
(C) In the initial phase, the scheme will be implemented in selected 26 districts of eight states.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Only B  
(3) Only C (4) Both A and C  
(5) All A, B and C

**Q.211.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) State-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB) has launched host of digital banking solutions including green PIN.  
(B) The bank launched mobile apps enabling the customer to locate PNB ATM with PNB ATM Assist.  
(C) Under this customer can obtain duplicate PIN for debit card instantly through SMS request.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.212.** DBT stands for-

- (1) Direct Benefit Transfer  
(2) Double Benefit Transfer  
(3) Direct Buy Transfer  
(4) Direct Benefit Transist  
(5) Double Benefit Transmission

**Q.213.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Department of Posts formed a one-man committee to study issues related to Gramin Dak Sevak.  
(B) The panel will be headed by Kamlesh Chandra, a retired member of the Postal Services Board.  
(C) It will examine the system of branch post offices, engagement conditions and the existing structure of wage and emoluments.



**'Eyeway National Helpdesk' has been launched for Blind and visually impaired people.**

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and C
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and B
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.214. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Panel on Gramin Dak Sevaks will review the existing facilities for 2.6 lakh employees spread across the country.
- (B) It will examine and suggest any change in the method of engagement, minimum qualification for engagement for gramian dak sevaks.
- (C) It will examine their conduct and disciplinary rules, particularly keeping in view the proposed induction of technology in rural post offices.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) Both A and B
- (5) All A, B and C

**Q.215. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) DAVA Project won the 2015 eASIA Award under Trade Facilitation category.
- (B) DAVA stands for Drug Authentication and Verification Application.
- (C) The award was announced by Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation and Electronic Business (AFACT) in Tehran, Iraq.

Which of the above statements is/are FALSE?

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) Both A and B
- (5) Both B and C

**Q.216. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Capital markets watchdog Sebi issuing stock exchange listing guidelines.
- (B) SEBI in circular, issued norms for disclosure and listed regulations including ensuring 'fit and proper' status of investors.
- (C) Its aim is to put in place necessary safeguards and procedures with respect to shareholding norms, fit and proper criteria, and other issues of conflict of interest.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Both A and B
- (3) Both B and C
- (4) Both A and C
- (5) All A, B and C

**Q.217.** The stock exchanges would need to take steps for maintaining of ..... of shareholding of Public Category and ensuring that holding of trading members, associates or agents does not exceed.....

- (1) 55 per cent, 49 per cent
- (2) 51 per cent, 49 per cent
- (3) 50 per cent, 45 per cent
- (4) 50 per cent, 47 per cent
- (5) 51 per cent, 43 per cent

**Q.218. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) CCEA has approved an increase in the budget for implementation of grid connected solar rooftop systems.
- (B) It is under National Solar Mission.
- (C) Budget is now from Rs 600 crore to Rs 5,000 crore by 2019-20.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and B
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.219.** Consumers with taxable income above ... per year will not get LPG subsidy from January 2016.

- (1) Rs 20 lakh
- (2) Rs 10 lakh
- (3) Rs 30 lakh
- (4) Rs 40 lakh
- (5) Rs 60 lakh

**Q.220. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) The benefit of the LPG subsidy will not be available for LPG consumers if the consumer or his/her spouse had taxable income of more than Rs 10 lakh.
- (B) This will be given effect to initially on self-declaration basis while booking cylinders from January 2016 onwards.
- (C) At present, all households are entitled to get 12 cylinders of 14.2-kg each at subsidised rate of Rs 419.26, while the market price is Rs 608.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B
- (2) Both B and C
- (3) Both A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

**Q.221. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Tech Mahindra has launched an electronic wallet called MoboMoney.
- (B) MoboMoney is a prepaid wallet issued in the form of an NFC (Near-Field Communication) Contactless Tag.
- (C) It can be used to pay on a network of NFC enabled Merchant POS or through an NFC enabled mobile phone.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A
- (2) Only B
- (3) Only C
- (4) Both A and B
- (5) All A, B and C



**New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum announced his retirement from international cricket.**



**Q.222. Consider the following statements-**

(A) Crude Distillation Unit (CDU) of Bharat Petroleum's Mumbai Refinery is dedicated to the nation.

(B) It is dedicated by Devendra Fadnavis.

(C) He is the Chief Minister of Maharashtra.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Only B  
(3) Only C (4) Both A and B  
(5) All A, B and C

**Q.223. Consider the following statements-**

(A) Refinery of BPCL was commissioned in 1955 by Burmah Shell Refineries Ltd. with a capacity of 2.2 MMTPA.

(B) Currently, it has an installed capacity of 12.0 MMTPA with three Crude & Vacuum Distillation units.

(C) The commissioning of the new CDU would ensure cleaner environment and efficient use of energy with lower emissions and reduction in energy consumption.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both A and C  
(3) Both B and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.224. LFE stands for-**

- (1) Liquid Fertilizer Equivalent  
(2) Liquid Fuel Equivalent  
(3) Liquid Fuel Equalizer  
(4) Large Fuel Equivalent  
(5) Large Fuel Equalizer

**Q.225. Consider the following statements-**

(A) ICICI Bank tied up with railway's e-ticketing platform IRCTC to sell rail tickets through its website.

(B) Users will have to first register on the website of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), where it primarily sells rail tickets.

(C) The facility is not limited to ICICI customers as any other bank's customer can also use the facility.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both A and C  
(3) Both B and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.226. Consider the following statements-**

(A) The premier IIT-Kanpur and RDSO have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to carry out collaborative research work.

(B) For doing the collaborative research, a Centre For Railway Research (CRR) will be set up by Ministry of Indian Railways on the campus of IIT-Kanpur.

(C) The centre is expected to start working before the closure of the ongoing financial year.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.227. As per Reserve Bank, banks, mostly state-run ones, opened ..... accounts under the government's financial inclusion drive till the first week of December.**

- (1) 20.52 crore (2) 19.52 crore  
(3) 18.52 crore (4) 17.52 crore  
(5) 16.52 crore

**Q.228. Defence Limited and Russia's leading developer and manufacturer of ..... defence missile system Almaz- Antey.**

- (1) P-400 Triumf air (2) S-500 Triumf air  
(3) S-400 Triumf air (4) T-400 Triumf air  
(5) D-400 Triumf air

**Q.229. .... made debut on popular social networking platforms Facebook and Twitter.**

- (1) EPFO (2) ESIC  
(3) RBI (4) SBI  
(5) NPCI

**Q.230. Consider the following statements-**

(A) The road transport and highways ministry has lined up projects worth Rs 50,000 crore to be awarded under public-private partnership mode in 2016-17.

(B) This will be the largest investment of highways projects to be awarded by the ministry under the PPP mode in a single financial year.

(C) The ministry plans to award close to 5,000 km to private companies during the next fiscal.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these



**Bala Devi has been awarded AIFF woman Footballer-of-the-Year 2015 award.**



**Q.231.** Who is appointed as Chairman of General Motors?

- (1) Merry Barra (2) TCA Anant  
(3) Sanjay Kumar Panda (4) Shashi Shekhar  
(5) None of these

**Q.232.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Sachin Tendulkar is named as the brand ambassador for 'changing diabetes' campaign.  
(B) Novo Nordisk, world's leading diabetes care company announced this.  
(C) In India, 69.2 million people have diabetes and by 2035, this number is estimated to go up to 123.5 million.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.233.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Arunima Sinha, the amputee mountaineer has conquered Mount Aconcagua in Argentina.  
(B) Aconcagua is the highest mountain outside Asia, at 6,960.8 metres.  
(C) She was awarded the Padma shree for her achievement to climb to Mt Everest.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.234.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) The Union Cabinet, gave its approval for signing a MoU for conservation of migratory birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia.  
(B) The MoU, also called as Raptor MOU, will help India gain knowledge in effectively managing the habitats of the raptors.  
(C) With the signing of the MoU, India will become the 54th signatory to the MoU.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Both A and B  
(3) Both B and C (4) Both A and C  
(5) All A, B and C

**Q.235.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Pakistani singer Adnan Sami got Indian citizenship.  
(B) Adnan Sami had first applied for Indian citizenship in 2004.  
(C) Born in Lahore, Sami first arrived in India on March 13, 2001 on a visitor's visa.

**Which of the above statements is/are FALSE?**

- (1) Only A (2) Only B  
(3) Both A and C (4) Both A and B  
(5) None of these

**Q.236.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Online marketplace Snapdeal.com launched its mobile website in Hindi and Telugu language.  
(B) With this platform, Snapdeal will now cater to 270 million users in India.  
(C) This platform goes hand in hand with Snaplite platform, Snaplite is Snapdeal's website for mobile browser.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.237.** Consider the following statements-

- (A) Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach won the coveted Miss Universe 2015 crown.  
(B) Miss Universe 2014 Paulina Vega from Colombia crowned the new beauty queen Miss Universe Philippines Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach.  
(C) This program was organized in USA.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these



**Pia Alonzo Wurtzbach has been crowned as Miss Universe 2015.**



**Q.238.** ..... has been named the first Poet Laureate by the US state of Ohio for showcasing a variety of styles in his poetry.

- (1) Amit Majmudar (2) U Ramamurthy  
(3) Amish Tripathi (4) Sanjeev Kapoor  
(5) Frank Islam

**Q.239. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) A group has set up a bread bank in Aurangabad, Maharashtra, to feed the poor and underprivileged thrice a day.  
(B) The bread bank, run by the Haroon Mukati Islamic Centre, has 250 members who give their leftover food to the bank every day.  
(C) The bank prepares 750 packets of food for one time.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

**Q.240. Consider the following statements-**

- (A) Asia's largest underground railway station, covering a total area of 147,000 square metres, opened in China.  
(B) It is opened in southern Shenzhen city.  
(C) With the opening of the new station, travel time between Guangzhou and Hong Kong will be slashed to half an hour.

**Which of the above statements is/are TRUE?**

- (1) Both A and B (2) Both B and C  
(3) Both A and C (4) All A, B and C  
(5) None of these

### ANSWERS PART-C

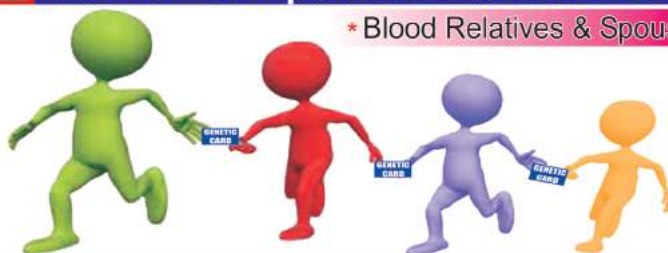
Q.126.(3) Q.127.(2) Q.128.(1) Q.129.(2) Q.130.(3) Q.131.(4) Q.132.(3) Q.133.(2) Q.134.(4) Q.135.(5)  
Q.136.(3) Q.137.(4) Q.138.(1) Q.139.(3) Q.140.(4) Q.141.(1) Q.142.(4) Q.143.(3) Q.144.(2) Q.145.(4)  
Q.146.(4) Q.147.(5) Q.148.(3) Q.149.(3) Q.150.(4) Q.151.(3) Q.152.(4) Q.153.(2) Q.154.(4) Q.155.(2)  
Q.156.(4) Q.157.(2) Q.158.(3) Q.159.(4) Q.160.(5) Q.161.(1) Q.162.(4) Q.163.(1) Q.164.(3) Q.165.(3)  
Q.166.(4) Q.167.(4) Q.168.(5) Q.169.(1) Q.170.(4) Q.171.(2) Q.172.(4) Q.173.(5) Q.174.(2) Q.175.(1)  
Q.176.(4) Q.177.(4) Q.178.(1) Q.179.(5) Q.180.(4) Q.181.(4) Q.182.(4) Q.183.(4) Q.184.(1) Q.185.(5)  
Q.186.(1) Q.187.(2) Q.188.(4) Q.189.(5) Q.190.(3) Q.191.(4) Q.192.(5) Q.193.(5) Q.194.(4) Q.195.(2)  
Q.196.(5) Q.197.(5) Q.198.(3) Q.199.(4) Q.200.(4) Q.201.(5) Q.202.(4) Q.203.(4) Q.204.(1) Q.205.(5)  
Q.206.(2) Q.207.(4) Q.208.(5) Q.209.(2) Q.210.(5) Q.211.(4) Q.212.(1) Q.213.(4) Q.214.(5) Q.215.(3)  
Q.216.(5) Q.217.(2) Q.218.(4) Q.219.(2) Q.220.(4) Q.221.(5) Q.222.(5) Q.223.(4) Q.224.(2) Q.225.(4)  
Q.226.(4) Q.227.(2) Q.228.(3) Q.229.(1) Q.230.(4) Q.231.(1) Q.232.(4) Q.233.(4) Q.234.(5) Q.235.(5)  
Q.236.(4) Q.237.(4) Q.238.(1) Q.239.(4) Q.240.(4)

 **Mahendra's**  
**NO. 1 INSTITUTE IN INDIA**

Specialized in **BANKING, SSC & Other Competitive Examinations**

**Mahendra's Presents**  
**a "Genetic Card":**  
**A Next Generation Card for**  
**Banking & SSC Aspirants &**  
**Their Family\* with**

\* Blood Relatives & Spouse



- ★ Infinite Validity Period
- ★ Never Ending Facilities
- ★ Transfer Facility PAN INDIA
- ★ Add On Card Facility for Your Family\*

**TOLL FREE NO. 1800-103-5225**

**Website : www.mahendras.org**



Maria Harfanti has been crowned as Miss World 2015.

 **Mahendra's**





# Mahendra's<sup>TM</sup>

## NO. 1 INSTITUTE IN INDIA

SBI/IBPS/LIC/SSC/Railways and Other Competitive Examinations

# ONLINE SPEED

# TEST CARD

Available in Denominations of

₹ 250, ₹ 300, ₹ 400, ₹ 500

# HURRY!!!

Purchase Online On  
[myshop.mahendras.org](http://myshop.mahendras.org)



**AT YOUR  
NEAREST  
BOOK STORE...**

Toll Free No. ☎

**1800-103-5225**

[www.mahendras.org](http://www.mahendras.org)  
[www.interviewguru.mahendras.org](http://www.interviewguru.mahendras.org)  
[www.mahendrapublication.org](http://www.mahendrapublication.org)  
[stportal.mahendras.org](http://stportal.mahendras.org)  
[enews.mahendras.org](http://enews.mahendras.org)

**Website**

[www.bankersguru.org](http://www.bankersguru.org)  
[www.railwayguru.org](http://www.railwayguru.org)  
[www.sscguru.org](http://www.sscguru.org)



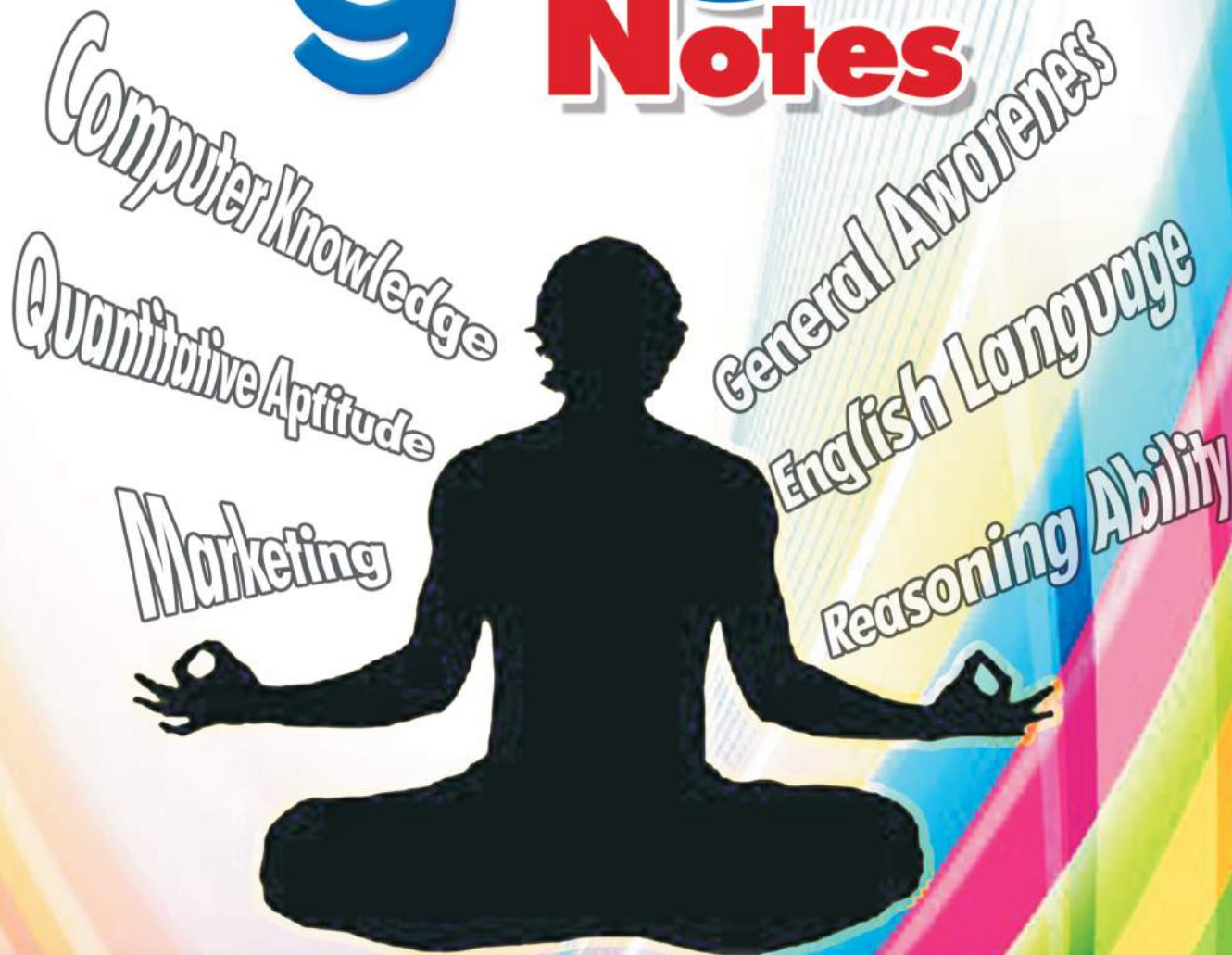


# Tired of theory?

Digi Notes, smart shortcuts for smart students.

[www.bankersguru.org](http://www.bankersguru.org)

**b Digi Notes**



 **Mahendra's**  
NO. **1** INSTITUTE IN INDIA



X0001784