

Master in Current Affairs

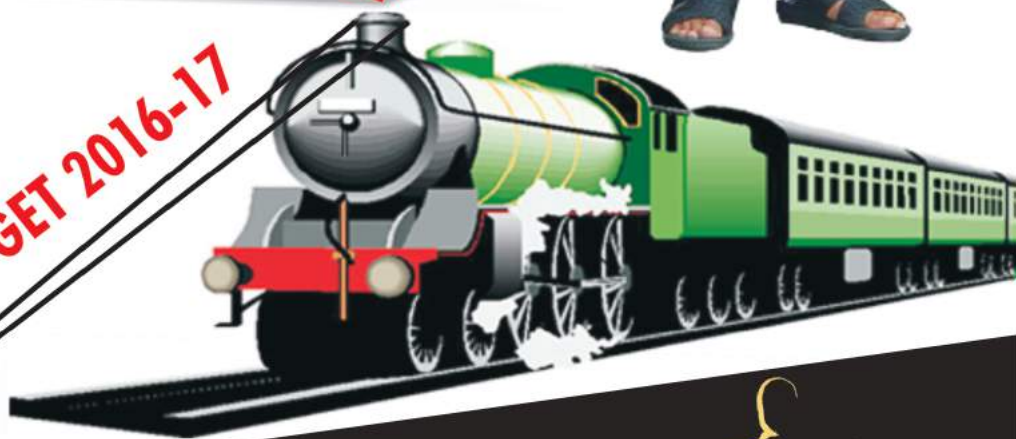
For All Competitive Exams ...






BUDGET 2016-17



RAIL BUDGET 2016-17



-  Sukanya Samriddhi Account
-  Economic Survey 2015-16
-  Oscar Awards 2016

*We all
dream
in gold.*

THE
OSCARS
CHRIS ROCK HOSTS
LIVE OSCAR SUNDAY 8P
FEBRUARY 28th 7:30p



Top Notch Captivators Of The Month



Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan has been appointed as the chairperson of the 21st Law Commission.

1



Former Chief Justice of India H. L. Dattu has taken over the charge as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

2



Vinod Rai, Former CAG of India has been appointed as Chairman of banks board bureau.

3



Veteran actor and director Manoj Kumar will be conferred the 47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2015.

4



Purno Agitok Sangma, a politician from the Northeast, passed away.

5



Kalikho Pul sworn in as Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

6



Christine Lagarde gets second term as IMF chief.

7



Lalita Babar named Sports Person of the Year.

8



Gianni Infantino Crowned New FIFA President.

9



Myanmar's parliament elects Suu Kyi confidant Htin Kyaw as president.

10



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Railway Budget 2016-17



Economic Survey 2015-16



General Budget 2016-17



OSCAR AWARDS 2016



SUKANYA SAMRIDDHI ACCOUNT





EDITORIAL

"YOU MUST BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD."

Mahatma Gandhi

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented his third Budget at a time when domestic economy is confronted with a rather adverse global environment, an agricultural sector reeling from two successive years of drought, and a manufacturing sector that has been limping along. There was a universal feeling that the economy was in a vulnerable state and that even a relatively minor shock could cause a big downward slide. The believers in impending doom for the economy felt that an expansionary Budget designed to stimulate aggregate demand was the only way out. Ranged against this school were the fiscal conservatives who believed with equally strong conviction that the Budget must keep the fiscal deficit under control. Finance Minister would have to choose one or the other option. However, Mr. Jaitley seems to have achieved the impossible. He has definitely embraced fiscal prudence. Significant increase has been made in the allocation to agriculture and rural development, as well as infrastructure.

As far as budgetary allocations are concerned, the emphasis has definitely been on agriculture and the rural sector in general, with a huge increase in the allocation to the sector. A key policy instrument will be a large increase in investment in irrigation, with the emphasis on completing several projects very soon.

Echoing the Prime Minister's recent promise, Mr. Jaitley too has announced the target of doubling farm incomes within five years. This can be nothing more than a pipe dream, but viewed in its entirety, an admittedly simplistic characterisation of the Budget is that it is pro-poor rather than pro-rich. It is debatable whether the quantitative targets claimed during the Budget speech will be achieved. The cynical will claim that this shift in emphasis from pro-business reforms to the somewhat old-fashioned strategy of stimulating agriculture has been brought due to electoral defeats in the Bihar and Delhi Assembly elections. But good politics is not necessarily bad economics. This Budget may well be an example of this.

With Best Wishes

Mahendra Publication Pvt. Ltd.

INTERVIEW



THE SUCCESS STORY...

Personal Details

Name : Kapil Muni Mishra
Father's Name : Mr. Arun Kumar Mishra
Mother's Name : Mrs. Indu Mishra
Education : M.Sc. (Maths)
Hobbies : Reading Books
Final Selection : Grameen Bank of Aryavart
Roll No. of Qualified Exam : 3010733825
Roll No. of Mahendra Institute : AMG0240238393



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

Kapil : Thank you.

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

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

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

Kapil : It was my second attempt in RRBs.

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

Kapil : Yes, I took help of Mahendras Institute. It gave me proper guidance, suitable atmosphere to study and it's Speed tests and PSS helped me a lot.

MICA : How did you prepare for the written examination?

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

Quantitative Aptitude:

Daily practicing from study material, mahendra guru quiz, class notes and taking speed tests

Reasoning Ability:

Daily taking speed test, solving mahendra guru quizzes, and clarifying doubts in Live PSS.

English:

Daily reading newspaper, practicing quizzes on mahendra guru and going through digi pages and digi notes on regular basis

General Awareness:

Reading monthly MICA, visiting mahendra e-news portal, reading digi pages and digi notes on mahendra guru website.

Computer & Marketing

Taking speed tests, reviewing class notes, going through digi pages and digi notes and discussing doubts in live pss

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

Kapil : They both are a great source of knowledge, one can learn about each and every relevant aspect from the examination point of view under a single roof.

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

Kapil : The best thing about my institute is it's speed tests, live problem solving session facility and the it's study material

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

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

MICA : How did you prepare for the Interview?

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

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

Kapil : The interview board panel was very cordial and encouraging.

The questions asked were:

(I) Tell something about yourself.

(II) Since your education is M.Sc. in Maths then why bank?

(III) Tell something about your family?

(IV) Why you want to come in bank?

(V) Some current affairs questions like what is ISIS...?

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

Kapil : I saw the link of the result on Mahendra guru website and clicked on it to see my result. I got overwhelmed to see my result

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

Kapil : Believe in yourself, give your best and do what you want in your life with full honesty.

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

Kapil : Thank you.



Kalikhho Pul has been sworn in as Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh.

COMPETITION BOOSTER

- ✎ Who has been appointed as High Commissioner to India by Australia?
- ✎ In suburban section of which Railway Zone paperless unreserved ticketing system has been launched?
- ✎ Acclaimed ----- Aurobindo Mukherjee passed away.
- ✎ Who has been named as vice-chairman of the Paris-based 'International Chamber of Commerce Commission'?
- ✎ Foundation stone of an integrated consumer goods manufacturing unit by ----- was laid at Panchla in Howrah.
- ✎ Which country has signed two agreements with North Korea on cooperation in foreign trade and scientific and technological development?
- ✎ Who has been appointed as the Chief Commissioner for Persons with Disabilities?
- ✎ Which Union Territory has launched MITRA mobile application to ensure safety and security of women?
- ✎ Who has broken the most stumping record of 139 by Kumar Sangakkara in international cricket?
- ✎ Senior journalist T. N. GopaKumar passed away recently. He belonged to:-
- ✎ ----- player Angelique Kerber, has won the Australian Open Women's singles title 2016?
- ✎ Who has been chosen for the 'K Veeramani Award for Social Justice 2015' ?
- ✎ Who has been appointed as India's Ambassador to Mexico?
- ✎ Which country's new parliament has elected U. Win Myint as its Speaker?
- ✎ Which place in India has been selected for the first 'Spaceward Bound Program 2016' of NASA?
- ✎ Who has won Australian Open Mens Singles title 2016?
- ✎ Who has won Syed Modi International Badminton Championship 2016?
- ✎ Frank Finlay, Oscar nominated ----- Actor known for 'Othello' passed away recently.
- ✎ Who has claimed the top spot in the International Cricket Council's (ICC) latest T20 batting rankings?
- ✎ India has approved how many small development projects in Afghanistan in third phase?
- ✎ Who has scored fastest Under-19 World Cup fifty recently in the last group match against Nepal?
- ✎ Who has become the first women Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB)?
- ✎ Who has been appointed as the Secretary of Ministry of Tribal Affairs?
- ✎ Chinese authorities have named an asteroid after 2015 Nobel winning scientist-

Harinder Sidhu

South Central Railway

Film director

Devendra Singh

ITC

Cuba

Dr. Kamlesh Kumar Pandey

Puducherry

Mahendra Singh Dhoni

Kerala

German

Nitish Kumar

Muktesh Kumar Pardeshi

Myanmar

Laddakh

Novak Djokovic

Kidambi Srikanth

British

Virat Kohli

92

Rishabh Pant

Archana Ramasundaram

Shyam S. Agarwal

Tu Youyou



Conference of Health/AYUSH Ministers was held at New Delhi.

✎ Borehole Geophysics Research Laboratory (BGRL) being set-up in-	Maharashtra
✎ Which Indian neighbour has approved Citizenship Law, 2016 expanding scopes for dual citizenship for its expatriate citizens?	Bangladesh
✎ What is the capital of Brunei?	Bandar Seri Begawan
✎ Unique MAGIC (Modular, Agile, Intensified & Continuous) Process Lab has been inaugurated at-	NCL, Pune
✎ At which place the Counter-Terrorism Conference- 2016 was organised?	Jaipur
✎ ----- Urdu short story writer, poet and journalist Intizar Husain passed away.	Pakistani
✎ Former ----- Balram Jakhar passed away recently.	Lok Sabha speaker
✎ Rosoboronexport has provided India with the final consignment of ----- helicopters.	Mi-17V-5
✎ For what duration a supernumerary post in the rank of air marshal has been created in the Indian Air Force?	17 months
✎ What is the extended tenure of Indo-German Science & Technology Centre (IGSTC)?	2017-2022
✎ Chief of the Army Staff, of which neighbouring country has been conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army by the President of India?	Nepal
✎ Who has been appointed as the head of Mission and Force Commander of the UNDOF in Golan to maintain the ceasefire between Israeli and Syrian forces?	Jai Shanker Menon
✎ Yash Chopra Memorial Award recently has been conferred to-	Rekha
✎ After how many years India has regained its No. 1 ICC Test ranking recently?	Five
✎ Famous ----- Actor Abe Vigoda passed away recently.	American
✎ Which state has launched weekly free clinics for women to provide free check up, treatment, tests and medicines?	Madhya Pradesh
✎ Which country has been ranked number one in Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index?	Denmark
✎ Who is the first Indian to receive the Amnesty International Human Rights Award 2016?	Henri Tiphagne
✎ Who has been declared as 2015's Coach of the Year in men's category?	Craig Fulton
✎ Popular ----- film actress Kalpana passed away recently.	Malayalam
✎ Which city hosted the first T20 Asia cup cricket for Blind?	Kochi
✎ P. V. Sindhu is associated with which among the following sports?	Badminton
✎ Who has been elected as the President of Portugal?	Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
✎ Who has won the PEN/Allen Foundation Literary Service Award 2016?	J. K. Rowling
✎ In which country India will set up a satellite tracking and imaging centre to access pictures from Indian earth observation satellites covering China and the South China Sea?	Vietnam
✎ Eminent ----- player Pandit Shankar Ghosh passed away.	Tabla
✎ To which Telugu star the Star Sports Pro Kabaddi has signed as brand ambassador for the third season?	Rana Daggubati
✎ Who has been appointed as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India?	Ravi Chellam
✎ From where the Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar hoisted the largest flag of the country atop the tallest pole?	Pahari Mandir, Ranchi

India and Nepal, has signed nine agreements recently.



✎ Who flagged off the first test run of Kochi Metro rail project?	Oommen Chandy
✎ Which Indian origin person has bagged the Oscar Award with Richard Chuang in the category of 'groundbreaking design'?	Rahul Thakkar
✎ Shivnarine Chanderpaul from -----has announced his retirement from international cricket.	West Indies
✎ To which sports firm the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has signed as its marketing rights partner for the next two years?	IOS Sports & Entertainment
✎ Which U-15 badminton player has been appointed as the brand ambassador of Life Insurance Company PNB Metlife India?	Vaishnavi Reddy
✎ Lleyton Hewitt who announced his retirement from tennis recently belongs to which country?	Australia
✎ Who has been appointed as the Prime Minister of Moldova?	Pavel Filip
✎ Who has won the prestigious 'Nishagandhi Puraskaram' in recognition of his valuable contribution to Indian film music?	Ilayaraja
✎ Uttar Pradesh recently won Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy for the first time. To which teams did it defeated?	Baroda
✎ MRF Tyres will be the Global Partner of ICC for all world cricket events during-	2016-20
✎ Government of which country has exclusively offered to India for transfer of biofarming technology and also exchange of cooperation in the health sector?	Mauritius
✎ The National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and NASA has announced that 2015 was by far the hottest year in 136 years of record keeping. That was ----- above the 20-century average.	1.62°F
✎ ISRO has launched India's ----- navigation satellite IRNSS-1E powered by PSLV - C31 rocket.	fifth
✎ The first Indian Institute of Geomagnetism (IIG) has been inaugurated at-	Shilong
✎ Which Indian neighbour has conducted a successful flight test of the indigenously developed nuclear capable cruise missile Ra'ad with a range of 350 kms?	Pakistan
✎ Amina J. Mohammed, who will serve the next chair of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council (WSSCC) is the environment minister of which country?	Nigeria
✎ Who has won Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Year Award?	Anirban Lahiri
✎ Who has been appointed as High Commissioner to India by Australia?	Harinder Sidhu
✎ How many agreements have been signed by India and the United Arab Emirates?	Nine
✎ ----- has qualified for the Rio Olympics women's marathon after winning the event in the 12th South Asian Games.	Kavita Raut
✎ On which personality London School of Economics has released archival documents to mark his 125th birth anniversary?	Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
✎ Which country is at the top of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce International IP Index "Infinite Possibilities" released by GIPC?	USA
✎ Which Indian businessman has been elected to the prestigious National Academy of Engineering based in USA?	Mukesh Ambani
✎ Justice Dhirendra Hiralal Waghela has been appointed as the Chief Justice of the -----High Court.	Chhattisgarh



India and Armenia has signed an agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture.

✎ Which stadium will host the final of the Women's Cricket World Cup in 2017?	The Lord's
✎ What is the name of Indo-Nepal Combined Military Exercise held at Pithoragarh?	Surya Kiran IX
✎ At which place India and China conducted their first joint tactical exercise?	Laddakh
✎ In how many languages a 24x7 Toll Free Tourist Infoline has been launched by the Ministry of Tourism & Culture and Ministry of Civil Aviation?	12
✎ Project Sunrise is associated with prevention of which disease in the eight North-Eastern states?	AIDS
✎ Inter-ministerial HRIDAY National Empowered Committee has approved development of a heritage park in:	Amaravati
✎ Which Indian actor has been selected for a video campaign by the World Health Organisation to raise awareness about diabetes in India?	Akshay Kumar
✎ Tamar Hahn is the new director of the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Buenos Aires. She belongs to:-	Israel
✎ What is the name of the world's oldest man who died recently at the age of 112 years in the Japanese city of Nagoya?	Yasutaro Koide
✎ Which country has won the 2016 Africa Nations Championship (CHAN) after beating Mali football team 3-0?	Congo
✎ North Korea launched a long-range rocket from the ----- launch station of North Korea.	Tongchangri
✎ NASA Astronaut Edgar Mitchell, was the ----- man to walk on the Moon as a lunar module pilot on Apollo 14 Mission in 1971.	Sixth
✎ Who has been appointed as the commander of the NATO forces in Afghanistan?	John Nicholson
✎ Jimmy Morales has been sworn in as the new president of which country?	Guatemala
✎ Who has won the European Commission's prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for 2015 in Asia and the Pacific amateur category?	Ankita Anand
✎ What is the name of the Indian-American Scientist who has won the prestigious National Medal of Science?	Rakesh K. Jain
✎ For which European country China has sent its first communication satellite, Belintersat-1?	Belarus
✎ What is the name of the NASA's mission to Jupiter which has broken the record to become humanity's most distant solar-powered emissary, by reaching about 793 million kilometres from the Sun?	Juno
✎ Who has won the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize?	Alejandro Aravena, Chile
✎ Who has won the European Commission's prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for 2015 in Asia and the Pacific amateur category?	Ankita Anand
✎ Veteran BJP leader and former ----- governor V. Rama Rao died in Hyderabad after prolonged illness.	Sikkim
✎ For which book the Indian author Anuradha Roy has won the prestigious DSC Prize for South Asian Literature?	Sleeping on Jupiter
✎ In which of the following states the Prime Minister, has inaugurated the Organic Festival 2016?	Sikkim
✎ The Central Government of India has approved to set up a Sanskrit University in-	Jharkhand

Italian writer Umberto Eco, best known for his 1980 work 'The Name of the Rose' has died.



Banking and Financial Awareness

✎ Which bank has become the first public sector lender to launch wealth management service, to cater to fast-growing affluent segment of the country?	State Bank of India
✎ With which country's Export-Import Bank the State Bank of India has concluded a deal of \$500 million line of credit?	Korea
✎ What is the total budget outlay of the Neeranchal project being implemented with World Bank Assistance?	Rs.2142 crore
✎ Which organisations has released Global Risks report 2016?	World Economic Forum
✎ With which company the Cochin Port Trust has entered into an MoU for the running of weekly container train service from Irugur ICD, Coimbatore to ICTT Vallarpadam, Cochin Port.	CONCOR
✎ According to World Tourism Barometer released by World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), what is the recorded growth in international tourist arrivals during 2015?	4.4 percent
✎ Which project has been launched by the Ministry of Shipping to make the Major Ports across India cleaner and greener?	'Project Green Ports'
✎ What is the maximum percentage of premium for foodgrains and oilseeds crops under Pradhan MantriFasalBimaYojana?	2 per cent
✎ At which of the following places the Finance Minister inaugurated India Investment Summit 2016?	New Delhi
✎ As per Professional forecasters' survey of the Reserve Bank of India's (RBI) what would be the gross value added (GVA) economic growth of India in 2015-16?	7.4 per cent
✎ Which refinery has again become country's top refiner after its state of the art refinery dedicated to the nation in Odisha?	Paradeep
✎ Which institution has ruled against differential pricing for data services giving a big boost to Net Neutrality?	TRAI
✎ What route length has been proposed to be constructed for the four Himalayan shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri?	900 km.
✎ What is the expected growth rate of Indian Economy according to CRISIL research, for 2016-17?	7.9 percent
✎ Who has been appointed as the Vice-President, Chief Investment Officer of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?	Dr. D. J. Pandian
✎ Every year, India observes National Immunisation Day in January to mark the launch of-	pulse polio programme
✎ Department of Electronics & Information Technology and M/s. Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd Launched Electronics Development Fund (EDF) in-----	Mumbai
✎ What is the rank of India among the top markets considered as most important for overall growth according to the annual global CEO survey of PwC released at the WEF Annual Meeting?	Fifth
✎ Which company has announced to launch Indo-Nepal remittance services in partnership with Nepal's Prabhu Money Group?	Giftly



The US author of the famous book "To Kill a Mockingbird" Harper Lee, has died.

✎ How much expenditure has been approved by the Cabinet for Solar projects?	Rs. 5,050 crore
✎ Who has been appointed as the Vice-President, Chief Investment Officer of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)?	Dr. D. J. Pandian
✎ BetiBachao, BetiPadhao scheme has been extended in additional 61 districts (covering 11 states). This Scheme was launched from:-	Panipat
✎ The Government has marginally revised the economic growth downward for 2014-15 by-	0.1%
✎ What does IREPS stand for?	Indian Railways E-Procurement System
✎ Which company, is the most valuable company in the world in terms of market capitalisation?	Alphabet
✎ Who has been appointed as a Senior Director for the Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group at the World Bank?	Saroj Kumar Jha
✎ India has overtaken which country to become the world's largest rice exporter in 2015?	Thailand
✎ What is the total number of capital cities under the 'Smart Cities' mission?	24
✎ For the capital cities of which two states ADB has signed a \$80-million loan agreement with the Centre to help continue improving infrastructure?	Mizoram and Tripura
✎ Who was the Chairman of the Expenditure Management Commission?	BimalJalan
✎ Who has become the first women to be appointed as CMD in Insurance Sector in India?	Alice Vaidyan
✎ What is the rank of India in the inaugural list of the world's best countries, released on the sidelines of WEF Annual Meeting?	22nd
✎ Who has been appointed as Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?	Atulesh Jindal
✎ 'Mahamana Express' was recently flagged off by ther Prime Minister from-	Varanasi
✎ UmaidBhawan Palace in ----- has been declared world's best hotel in the Travellers' choice awards by the world's biggest travel site TripAdvisor.	Jodhpur
✎ With which institution India has signed a Financing Agreement of US\$ 250 million for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project?	World Bank
✎ National Securities Clearing Corporation Limited (NSCCL), has got the highest corporate credit rating of 'CCR AAA' from Crisil. NSCCL is a wholly owned subsidiary of-	NSE
✎ According to an annual report of the UNCTAD, Global FDI flows during 2015 has increased by-	36 per cent
✎ According to an ILO study, what was unemployment rate of India during 2014 and 2015?	3.5 per cent
✎ Which organisation has decreased its global economic growth forecast for 2016 to 3.4 percent?	International Monetary Fund
✎ In which China sponsored bank, India has been elected to the board of directors?	Asian Institutional Investment Bank
✎ Who has won the International Woolmark Prize 2015-2016?	SuketDhir
✎ Every year, India observes National Immunisation Day in January to mark the launch of-	Pulse Polio Programme

New Zealand captain Brendon McCullum set a new record of fastest Test century in 56 balls.



ABBREVIATIONS

BBB	Banks Board Bureau
NPA	Non-Performing Assets
NPS	National Pension Plan
RERA	Real Estate Regulatory Authority
NHSRCL	National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited
SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle

IMPORTANT DAYS AND DATES

March 03	World Wildlife Day
March 08	International Women's Day
March 15	World Consumer Rights Day
March 20	World Sparrow Day
March 21	World Forestry Day
March 22	World Water Day
March 23	World Meteorological Day
March 24	World Tuberculosis Day

ECONOMIC GLOSSARY

GAAR

GAAR is a concept which generally empowers the Revenue Authorities in a country to deny the tax benefits of transactions or arrangements which do not have any "commercial substance" or consideration other than achieving the tax benefit. GAAR is a general set of rules focused on regulating tax-avoidance methods across the world. Indian Government has taken initiative to introduce GAAR or General Anti Avoidance Rules with a view to increase tax collections.

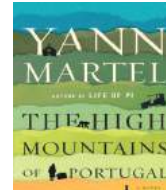
The Direct Taxes Code 2010 was passed with effect from April, 2012, but due to its negative publicity it was postponed and since has been postponed periodically. Erstwhile Prime Minister Manmohan Singh appointed Mr. Parthsarathi Shome as the Head of the committee to review GAAR norms. Shome committee proposed to defer GAAR by 3 years. As per the Budget 2016-17, GAAR provisions has been proposed to be implemented w.e.f. April 2017 and apply only to business arrangements with a tax benefit exceeding Rs3 crores.



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

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

The High Mountains of Portugal



- Yann Martel



Mothering Sunday



- Graham Swift



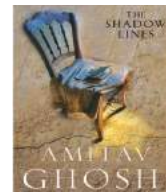
Slade House



- David Mitchell



The Shadow lines



- Amitav Ghosh



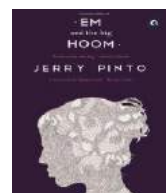
Beyond Partition



- Deepti Misri



Em and the big Hoom



- Jerry Pinto



News Makers

APPOINTMENTS

B. S. Chauhan

Union Government appointed former Supreme Court judge Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan as the chairperson of the 21st Law Commission. The post was vacant since September 2015 when the commission was constituted.



At present, Justice Chauhan is heading the Cauvery River Water Disputes Tribunal. He was a judge of the Supreme Court from May 2009 to July 2014. Earlier from July 2008 to May 2009, he served as the Chief Justice of Orissa High Court.

The 21st Law Commission was constituted through a Union Government Order with effect from 1 September 2015. It has a three-year term, ending on 31 August 2018. The Commission presently comprises of three members, Member-Secretary and Secretary to the Union Government, two ex-officio members and Secretary to the Law Commission of India.

Present members are:

- ✎ Justice Ravi R Tripathi, a former judge of the Gujarat High Court, was appointed as the member of the commission. He retired as judge May 2015.
- ✎ PK Malhotra, Member-Secretary and Secretary to the Union Government
- ✎ PK Malhotra, Law Secretary Member (Ex-Officio)
- ✎ Dr. G Narayana Raju, Secretary (Legislative) Member (Ex-Officio)
- ✎ Dr. Pawan Sharma, Secretary to the Law Commission of India

Terms of Reference of the 21st Law Commission are as follows:

- ✎ Review/Repeal of obsolete laws including laws which are not in tandem with atmosphere of economic liberalization.

- ✎ Examine the Laws which affect the poor, carry out post-audit for socio-economic legislations and take all such measures as may be necessary to harness law and the legal process in the service of the poor.
- ✎ Keep under review the system of judicial administration to ensure that it is responsive to the reasonable demands of the times.
- ✎ Examine the existing laws in the light of Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP) and to suggest ways of improvement and reform and also to suggest such legislations as might be necessary to implement the DPSP and to attain the objectives set out in the Preamble to the Constitution.

Examine the existing laws with a view for promoting gender equality and suggesting amendments thereto.

- ✎ Revise the Central Acts of general importance so as to simplify them and to remove anomalies, ambiguities and inequities.
- ✎ Recommend to the Government measure for making the statute book up-to-date by repealing obsolete laws and enactments or parts thereof which have outlived their utility.

Consider and to convey to the Government its views on any subject relating to law and judicial administration that may be specifically referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).

- ✎ Consider the requests for providing research to any foreign countries as may be referred to it by the Government through Ministry of Law and Justice (Department of Legal Affairs).
- ✎ Examine the impact of globalization on food security, unemployment and recommend measures for the protection of the interests of the marginalized.

H. L. Dattu

Former Chief Justice of India H. L. Dattu has taken over the charge as the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He is the seventh Chairperson of the Commission. Justice KG Balakrishnan completed his tenure on May 11, last



Long jumper Mayookha Johny fetched India a gold in the Asian Indoor Athletics Championships.

year following which member of the Commission Justice Cyriac Joseph held charge as the acting Chairperson. Born on December 3, 1950 in Chikamagaluru district of Karnataka, Justice Dattu, after completing his early education in Kadur, Tarikere and Birur, moved to Bengaluru to pursue his higher studies. He completed his LLB from Bengaluru and enrolled at the Karnataka Bar Council on October 23, 1975 as an advocate and pleaded in civil, criminal, constitutional and taxation matters.



He was appointed as a Judge of the Karnataka High Court on December 18, 1995 and elevated as the Chief Justice of the Chhattisgarh High Court on February 12, 2007. On May 18, 2007, he was transferred to head the Kerala High Court. He was elevated as the Judge of the Supreme Court December 17, 2008 and was appointed as the Chief Justice of India on September 28, 2014. He retired on December 2, 2015.

K. N. Vyas

K. N. Vyas, Distinguished Scientist and Associate Director, Reactor Projects Group of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) took over as Director, BARC from Dr. Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Atomic Energy.



Vyas graduated from the 22nd batch of the BARC Training School and joined Fuel Design & Development Section of Reactor Engineering Division of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre. During the past 36 years, Vyas has gained a vast experience in design and analysis of nuclear reactor fuels. Subsequently, as Head, Reactor Projects Division, he has also worked for design and analysis of reactor systems. He has worked extensively in thermal hydraulics and stress analysis of critical reactor core components. Vyas has also participated in design & analysis of the Test Blanket Module planned to be installed in ITER, France. Vyas has been conferred several awards, which include Indian Nuclear Society Outstanding Service Award 2011, Homi Bhabha Science and Technology Award 2006, DAE Awards in the years 2007, 2008, 2012 and 2013. He is also a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineers.

Atanu Chakraborty

The government has named Atanu Chakraborty, managing director of Gujarat State Petroleum Corp., as the director general of Directorate General of Hydrocarbon (DGH). DGH is the oil ministry's technical advisory arm for exploration and production that oversees multi-billion dollar exploration programmes of private and public sector companies.



A 1985 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Gujarat cadre, Chakraborty's appointment comes after several months of search by the ministry for suitable candidate to fill the post, which fell vacant after B.N. Talukdar retired in July.

The petroleum ministry had earlier proposed to open the post of DGH for candidates from the private sector. However, this proposal was turned down as it faced opposition from other departments.

Chakraborty is an electronics and communication engineering graduate.

He also has a post graduate diploma in business finance and an MBA from the UK. In Gujarat, Chakraborty has served several departments including finance, ports, home and labour. DGH has been traditionally headed by a technocrat. However, Rajiv Nayan Choubey, a 1981-batch IAS officer of Tamil Nadu cadre was appointed as its head in 2012 by the then petroleum minister S. Jaipal Reddy.

Rajendra Singh

The government has appointed Rajendra Singh as the Director General (DG) of Indian Coast Guard, the country's coastal protection force. This is the first time an officer from within has been promoted as its Chief which was traditionally headed by a three-star Naval officer.



Mr. Singh joined the Coast Guard in 1980 and is currently the Additional Director General.

He will replace Vice Admiral HCS Bisht who has been promoted as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Naval Command.



The IMF has appointed Christine Lagarde for a second term as managing director.

He was awarded the Tatrakshak Medal (TM) by the President on August 15, 1990. In recognition of his distinguished service, he was awarded President's Tatrakshak Medal (PTM) on Aug 15, 2002.

Having served in various capacities both ashore and afloat, Mr. Singh has an impeccable track record in the field of Operations, Administration, Human Resources (HR) and Policy and Plans as well.

Vinod Rai

With a view to improve the Governance of Public Sector Banks (PSBs), the Government had decided to set up an autonomous Banks Board Bureau. The Bureau will recommend for selection of heads - Public Sector Banks and Financial Institutions and help Banks in developing strategies and capital raising plans.

Now, the Government has announced the constitution of Banks Board Bureau which will have three ex-officio members and three expert members in addition to Chairman.

All the Members and Chairman will be part time. The BBB, which will start functioning from 1st April, 2016 is constituted as follows:

S.No.	Name/Designation	Designation
1	Shri Vinod Rai, Former CAG of India	Chairman
2	Secretary, Department Financial Services	Ex-officio member
3	Secretary, Department of Public Enterprises	Ex-officio member
4	Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India	Ex-officio member
5	Shri Anil K. Khandelwal, Former CMD of Bank of Baroda	Member
6	Shri H.N. Sinor, Former Joint MD, ICICI Bank	Member
7	Ms. Rupa Kudwa, Former MD&CEO, CRISIL	Member

Dinesh Sharma

Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance and India's Governor to the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Rome was unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of IFAD for a period of two years in its 39th Session held in Rome, Italy on 17th and 18th February, 2016.

Speaking on the occasion, the Italian President Mr Sergio Mattarella said that hunger and poverty are insidious, and are at the root of conflict and instability and are the link in chain that we need to break first to deal with emergencies and humanitarian disasters.

IFAD was set-up in 1977 as the 13th Specialised Agency of the United Nations and works towards removing poverty and hunger in rural areas all over the world. India is a founder member of IFAD and a key contributor among the member countries.

IFAD is managed by the two main governing bodies i.e. the Governing Council and the Executive Board. The Governing Council is the highest decision making body and consists of 176 member countries.

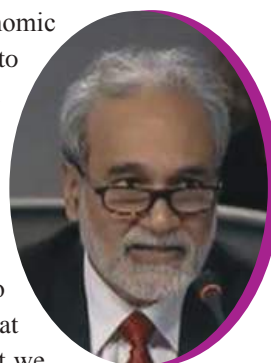
Sushila Karki



Nepal is set to have its first woman chief justice with a judicial body recommending Sushila Karki's name for the top post, months after the country got its first woman President and Speaker. A meeting of the Judicial Council recommended the name of Karki, the senior-most judge in Nepal's Supreme Court, for appointment as the next chief justice of the country.

The Judicial Council decided to forward the name of Karki to the Constitutional Council, headed by Prime Minister K P Oli, which is responsible for nominating the head of the judiciary.

Karki will take charge once President Bidhya Bhandari formally endorses her nomination. She will take charge after April 13 when the current Chief Justice Kalyan Shrestha retires, officials said. Karki is known for her 'zero tolerance' for corruption.



National Rurban Mission was launched from Kurubhat in Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh.

Awards

Vyas Samman 2015

Well-known Hindi scholar and writer Sunita Jain's poetry collection "Kshama" has been selected for the prestigious Vyas Samman 2015. Instituted by the K K Birla Foundation, the award carries an amount of Rs 2.50 lakh and is given to outstanding literary work in Hindi authored by an Indian citizen.



"Kshama poetry collection by Sunita Jain, a well-known Hindi scholar and writer, has been selected for the 25th Vyas Samman 2015. This book was published in 2008. "The selection has been made by the Chayan Samiti presided over by eminent litterateur Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari," the Foundation said in a statement. The Foundation has also instituted other awards like the Saraswati Samman, given every year for an outstanding literary work written in any of the Indian languages.

Dinanath Mangeshkar Award 2016

Filmmaker Sanjay Leela Bhansali, actor Ranveer Singh and Popular Marathi actor-comedian Prashant Damle have been chosen for the prestigious 2016 Pandit Dinanath Mangeshkar Award. Prashant Damle will be conferred with the Master Dinanath Mangeshkar Award for his work in the field of theatre, film and music. The prestigious annual award is given to personalities from Marathi and Hindi theatre, music and films. The award will be bestowed upon them by Lata Mangeshkar at a function to be held in Pune on 24 April to commemorate Pandit Dinanath Mangeshkar's death anniversary. The award was instituted in 1999 in the memory of Dinanath Mangeshkar, father of Lata Mangeshkar. Since then it is awarded annually to persons for their outstanding contributions to music and movies. The award carries monetary award of 101001 rupees, a citation and a memento. In 2015, the award was conferred on Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor. In 2014, the award was given to Bollywood legend Rishi Kapoor and eminent musician Zakir Hussain. In 2015, the award was given to Bollywood actor Anil Kapoor and veteran Marathi actor Dilip Prabhavalkar.



Bihari Puraskar

Eminent poet Dr Bhagwati Lal Vyas has been chosen for the 2015 Bihari Puraskar for his anthology of Rajasthani poems 'Katha Sun Aawe Hai Sabad'. A recipient of Sahitya Akademi Award, Dr Vyas has highlighted the increasing tendencies of commercialization and degradation of human values through his poetry.



Dr Vyas's works reflect the unpleasant changes in human relations, social disparity and loss of human values although positivity and his faith in human life also shine through the vast collection of his poetry.

Among the best known works of Dr Vyas, who has also authored several short stories and an eminent translator, are compendium of poems titled 'Shatabdi Niruttar' (1977), 'Footpath Par Chiriya Nachti Hai' (1984) and a collection of short stories 'Suraj Leelti Ghatian' stand out. Instituted by the K K Birla Foundation in 1991, Bihari Puraskar is given annually for an outstanding literary work in Hindi or Rajasthani published during last 10 years by a Rajasthani writer.

Apart from original residents of Rajasthan, it is open to those living in the state for the last seven years or more. The award carries a cash prize of Rs one lakh, a citation and a plaque.

Dr Vyas was born on July 10, 1941 in village Gilund of Raj Samand district of Rajasthan. He retired as Principal of RNT College of Teacher Education in Chittorgarh district of Rajasthan.

Dada Saheb Phalke award 2015

Veteran actor and director Manoj Kumar will be conferred the 47th Dadasaheb Phalke Award for the year 2015. The award — conferred by the Centre for outstanding contribution to the growth and development of Indian Cinema — consists of a Swarn Kamal (Golden Lotus), a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh and a shawl. The award is given on the basis of recommendations of a committee of eminent



India Post will invest Rs. 800-crore for setting up of a payment bank.

Mahendra's

personalities set up by the Centre. This year, a five-member jury comprising Lata Mangeshkar, Asha Bhosle, Salim Khan, Nitin Mukesh and Anup Jalota unanimously recommended Kumar's name for the award.

Manoj Kumar was born in July 1937 in Abbottabad, then part of pre-Independent India. When he was 10, he shifted to Delhi. After graduating from Hindu College, University of Delhi, he decided to enter the film industry.

After making a debut with *Fashion* in 1957, Manoj Kumar got his first leading role in *Kaanch Ki Gudia* in 1960. In the following years, he played memorable roles in films like *Hariyali Aur Raasta*, *Woh Kaun Thi?*, *Himalaya Ki God Mein*, *Do Badan*, *Upkar*, *Patthar Ke Sanam*, *Neel Kamal*, *Purab Aur Paschim*, *Roti Kapda Aur Makaan*

and *Kranti*. *Do Badan* was remembered for Raj Khosla's direction, Manoj Kumar's performance, an outstanding musical score by Ravi and immortal songs by lyricist Shakeel Badayuni, among others.

Manoj Kumar is known for acting in and directing films with patriotic themes.

His image as the patriotic hero started with the 1965 film *Shaheed*, based on the life of Bhagat Singh. After the India-Pakistan war of 1965, then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri asked him to make a film based on the popular slogan *Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan*. The result was Kumar's magnum opus and directorial debut, *Upkar*, which went on to win National Film Award. In 1992, Kumar was honoured with the Padma Shri.

OBITUARIES

George Kennedy

George Kennedy, who won an Academy Award for his bruising performance in *"Cool Hand Luke"* and later starred in the goofy *"Naked Gun"* franchise, died in Idaho. He was 91.



Kennedy, who stood nearly 6½ feet tall, was a World War II veteran who broke into acting, in part, through military dramas and TV Westerns. In 1967, he appeared in the Oscar-winning World War II film *"The Dirty Dozen."*

That same year, he starred alongside Paul Newman in what would be the best-known role of his career—*Dragline* in the prison drama *"Cool Hand Luke."* The film won him an Academy Award for best supporting actor. Beginning in 1988, Kennedy starred with Leslie Nielsen in the slapstick police trilogy *"The Naked Gun."*

Lee Reherman

Lee Reherman, the former Ivy League football star who shot to fame as the towering, muscular Hawk on the popular 1990s television show *"American Gladiators,"* died. He was 49. Reherman, who followed *"Gladiators"* with a successful career as an actor-producer, died at his home.



A standout offensive tackle at Cornell University who also had a tryout with the Miami Dolphins,

Reherman wasn't just the huge, grappling athlete viewers saw on *"American Gladiator."* He was a scholar as well.

After graduating with honors from Cornell, he earned a master's in business administration and was pursuing a doctorate in economics at the University of California, Los Angeles, when *"American Gladiators"* came calling.

At 6-feet-4 and with a body builder's physique, the intimidating but charismatic Hawk became an immediate fan favorite as he did battle with other elite athletes.

P. A. Sangma

Purno Agitok Sangma, a politician from the Northeast, died of a heart attack at the age of 68.

The Lok Sabha, of which he was Speaker two decades ago, was adjourned for the day. Speaker Sumitra Mahajan made the announcement of his death and said she learnt from the leader, who used to run the House with a smile as its presiding officer from 1996 to 1998. He was elected to the Lower House nine times. Mr. Sangma, who was born in 1947 at Chapahati in West Garo Hills district of Meghalaya, earned an MA in International Relations from Dibrugarh University in Assam and studied law.



He became Minister of State for Commerce and Civil Supplies in the Rajiv Gandhi government in the 1980s.

From 1988 to 1990, he served as Meghalaya Chief Minister. He served as a Minister of State for Coal (independent charge) in the Narasimha Rao government in the 1990s. Mr. Sangma broke away from the Congress, along with Sharad Pawar and Tariq Anwar, in 1999,



K. Sanath Kumar is the new CMD of National Insurance Company.

raising the banner of revolt against Sonia Gandhi's leadership. They founded the Nationalist Congress Party. He was expelled from the party in 2012 when he refused to accept its decision to back out of the election for President of India.

In 2013, Mr. Sangma founded the National People's Party. His daughter, Agatha Sangma, was the youngest Minister in the previous UPA government.

P.K. Nair

P.K. Nair, founder director of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), Pune, is no more. He was 86. Paramesh Krishnan Nair, who had dedicated his life to preservation of films and building the collection of films at the NFAI, was instrumental in archiving several landmark Indian films like Dadasaheb Phalke's Raja Harishchandra and Kaliya Mardan, Bombay Talkies films such as Jeevan Naiya, Bandhan, Kangan, Achhut Kanya and Kismet, S.S. Vasan's Chandralekha and Uday Shankar's Kalpana.

Mr. Nair joined the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII), Pune as a research assistant in 1961 and went on to play a key role in the setting up of the NFAI in 1964. He was appointed assistant curator in 1965, and continued with the NFAI till 1991 and, by the time he



retired as NFAI director, he had acquired a whopping 12,000 films for the archive. Of these, 8,000 were Indian and the rest foreign films.

His life and work has been immortalised in the documentary Celluloid Man, made by Shivendra Singh Dungarpur.

Ray Tomlinson

Ray Tomlinson, the inventor of email and the man who picked the @ symbol for addresses, has died aged 74.

"A true technology pioneer, Ray was the man who brought us email in the early days of networked computers," Raytheon spokesman Mike Doble said in a statement confirming his death.



The tech world reacted with sadness over the passing of Tomlinson, who became a cult figure for his invention in 1971 of a program for ARPANET, the Internet's predecessor, that allowed people to send person-to-person messages to other computer users on other servers.

Ray Tomlinson was the recipient of several awards for his work and held electrical engineering degrees from the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and MIT. He is also ranked number 4 on the MIT list of the top 150 innovators to have studied at MIT.



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Default approval for public utility projects in Naxal-regions has been extended to December 2018.

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News DIARY

NATIONAL



PM Narendra Modi launched Rurban Mission in Chhattisgarh

STATE



Kerala's Muziris Heritage project launched

INTERNATIONAL



World Bank offers US\$150 million in financing to Zika-affected countries



Govt unveils first-ever policy for capital goods sector

Feb 16

Government unveiled the first-ever policy for the country's capital goods sector which envisages creation of 21 million additional jobs by 2025. The policy envisions increasing the share of capital goods in total manufacturing activity from 12 per cent at present to 20 per cent by 2025.



The objectives of the National Capital Goods Policy are to create an ecosystem for a globally competitive capital goods sector to achieve total production in excess of Rs 7.5 lakh crore by 2025 from the current Rs 2.3 lakh crore. It also aims to increase direct domestic employment from the current 1.4 million to at least 5 million and indirect employment from the current 7 million to 25 million by 2025, thus providing additional employment to over 21 million people.

Multi-modal logistics park to come up for freight corridor

Feb 17



The railways will set up five multi-modal logistic parks, including one on the river front at Varanasi, along the dedicated freight corridor to facilitate seamless movement of goods. The logistics hubs, expected to cost around Rs 5000 crore, are expected

to be set up in Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

The Dedicated Freight Corridor Corporation (DFCC), which is implementing the 3342-km freight corridor project, is acquiring land for logistic parks and is in consultation with state governments to finalizes MoUs.

The logistics parks would facilitate the last mile connectivity in terms of door-to-door services for customers besides giving value addition including packaging, retailing, labelling and transportation of the goods on the dedicated tracks.

Northern Central Railway commissioned ultra modern computer-based signalling system

Feb 17

North Central Railway in association with the Construction and open line Units of the Railway commissioned an ultra-modern computer-based signaling system at the Khurja junction. With this commissioning, the Khurja Yard, which is a part of the Allahabad Railway Division, will have a 256 possible movements leading to immense flexibility and faster clearance of trains.



Features of the signalling system-

- The system will also lead to better reliability, safer shunting operation, better handling of long goods train, enhanced line capacity and fully computerized operation.



"Swachh Parayatan Mobile App" has been launched by Dr. Mahesh Sharma.

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ECONOMY



Cabinet gives green light to Rs. 8,000-cr rural LPG scheme

SPORTS



India win Asia Cup title for sixth time

SCIENCE



China's lunar probe sets record for longest stay

MISCELLANEOUS



London No 1. Mumbai Ranked 17th On the list of world's most expensive

- Overall, the newly installed system will improve traffic movement on important Ghaziabad Kanpur Section and lead to an ultra modern centralized traffic centre system.
- This re-signaling work was executed as part of the project of Modernization of Signalling and telecommunication System on Ghaziabad – Kanpur Section costing 440 crore rupees.
- A substantial part of the project was executed through a soft funding by German Development Bank.

Amendment to the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Representation of the People Act, 1950 approved Feb 18

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to amend Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. This approval will enable the Election Commission to carry out limited delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the Cooch Behar District of West Bengal. This became necessary consequent upon the exchange of 51 Bangladeshi enclaves and 111 Indian enclaves respectively between India and Bangladesh with effect from 31 July 2015.

CCEA approves construction of additional railway lines Feb 18



The central government approved the construction of additional infrastructure to cater to the growth in passenger and freight traffic. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) which met here under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved construction of six railway lines and a railway bridge. The total cost of the approved projects has been estimated at over Rs.10,700 crore. The six projects include -- doubling of Hubli-Chickajur line (190 km), Ramna-Singrauli stretch (160 km) and Katni-Singrauli railway line (261 km). Other approved projects include construction of the third line between Anuppur-Katni (165 km) and Wardha (Sewagram)-Ballarshah (132 km).



First batch of 20 cities will launch respective smart city projects by 25th June.

Union Cabinet approved collaboration in Traditional Medicine between Ministry of AYUSH and WHO

Feb 18



The Union Cabinet approved signing of a collaborative agreement between the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and the World Health Organisation (WHO). The agreement will help the Ministry in leveraging the WHO's potential in improving acceptability and branding of Ayush systems across the world.

Features of the collaboration

- ✎ It will facilitate awareness generation regarding AYUSH systems of Medicine by means of education, skill development, workshops and publications.
- ✎ It involves exchange programs between AYUSH and WHO for capacity building; facilitate advocacy and dissemination of information on AYUSH systems amongst the member States.
- ✎ It will facilitate collaboration with third Parties for creating synergies in implementation of WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023 particularly in the context of AYUSH systems.
- ✎ The expenditure for carrying out collaborative activities will be met from the allocated budget under the existing plan schemes of Ministry of AYUSH.

Cabinet gives nod to BRICS MoU for cooperation in Science, Technology and innovation

Feb 18

The Union Cabinet has apprised signing of BRICS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the fields of Science, Technology and innovation (STI). The MoU seeks to promote of cooperation in the field of STI among BRICS countries by means of mutually agreed S&T events and activities.

Objective of MoU is to establish a strategic framework of cooperation in STI to address the common regional and global socio-economic challenges. For this purpose



BRICS nations will be utilizing shared experiences and complementarities in STI in order to co-generate new knowledge and innovative products, services and processes.

From Indian side, Union Ministry of Science and Technology and the counterpart Ministries from other BRICS countries are the nodal agencies for realizing the objectives of this MoU.

STI Cooperation which shall be on the basis of mutually agreed areas of cooperation, modes and mechanisms and joint funding as per national norms of respective BRICS member countries.

India had signed this BRICS MoU on cooperation in the fields of STI in March 2015 at Brasilia, Brazil on the sidelines of 3rd BRICS STI Ministerial meeting.

India-Myanmar sign SOP on joint patrol

Feb 19

Fourth edition of India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) was conducted jointly by ships of both navies along the International Maritime Boundary Line in the Andaman Sea.



Indian Navy ships Saryu and Bitra along with Union of Myanmar ships Aung Zeya and FAC 563 participated in the four-day IMCOR. Naval Component Commander from the Tri-Service HQs in Port Blair Cmde Girish Garg was embarked onboard INS Saryu.

During the closing ceremony of the IMCOR, the standard operating procedure (SOP) for IMCOR was also signed between Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy. Cmde Atul Anand from Indian Navy and Cmde Aung Zaw Hlaing from Myanmar Navy signed the document in the presence of Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Gautam Mukhopadhyaya.

This is only the third country with which India has signed a formal agreement for maritime coordinated patrols. It reflects growing naval interaction between India and Myanmar.

The signing of the SOP will facilitate smooth conduct of coordinated patrols between two friendly neighbours that share a long maritime boundary.



CII has signed an MoU with Dubai Exports to strengthen India-UAE economic ties.

✎ *Mahendra's*

Government clears eight highway projects worth Rs 6,000 crore

Feb 20

The government cleared eight highway projects worth Rs 6000 crore. The total length of the projects is around 350 km. Of the eight projects, two will be undertaken on the newly-conceived hybrid annuity model. Six will be taken up on government-funded engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) model.



These projects won't require cabinet clearance as their construction cost is less than Rs 1,000 crore, the limit up to which the road transport and highways ministry can approve projects on its own. Most of these projects are in Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Under the hybrid annuity model, 40 per cent of the project cost is to be provided by the government as construction support to the private developer during the construction period and the balance 60 per cent as annuity payments over the concession period along with interest on outstanding amount to the concessionaire.

General Approval Extended for Creation of Public Utility Infrastructure in Left-Wing Extremism Affected Districts

Feb 21



Realising the importance of developmental activities in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected areas, the general approval as contained in the Ministry of Environment and Forest letter, dated 13th May, 2011, has been extended up to December 31, 2018, as per the extant terms and conditions.

In an effort to expedite the creation of public utility infrastructure in 60 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts the Ministry of Environment & Forests, vide letter dated May 13, 2011, had accorded general approval under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for creation of critical public utility infrastructure by government departments, not involving more than 5.00 hectares of forest land. This provision was further extended to a total of 117 LWE affected districts. The approval was valid upto December 31, 2015.

The general approval was granted, keeping in view the importance of creation of public utility infrastructure such as schools, dispensaries/hospitals, electric and telecommunication lines, drinking water projects, water/rainwater harvesting structures, minor irrigation canals, non-conventional sources of energy, skill up-gradation / vocational training centres, power sub-stations, rural roads, communication posts, police establishments like police stations/outposts / border outposts / watch towers, in sensitive areas identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It also includes underground laying of optical fibre cables, telephone lines & drinking water supply lines in Left-Wing Extremism affected areas.

PM Narendra Modi launched Rurban Mission in Chhattisgarh

Feb 21

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Shyama Prasad Mukherjee National Rurban Mission. The mission was launched from Kurubhat village in Dongargarh block of Rajnandgaon district in Chhattisgarh.



Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister described the Rurban Mission as one which would enable cluster based development – with a “rural soul and urban amenities.” He said this scheme would complement the Smart Cities initiative by creating Smart Villages. The Prime Minister described Rurban clusters as centres of economic activity, which would spur growth, and improve the quality of life in nearby villages.

The Prime Minister said the country is taking a new direction of development. He said one example of this was that the important Rurban mission was being launched not from New Delhi, but from Kurubhat, in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh. He said that Government was now being brought to the doorstep of the villages and the tribal communities. The Prime Minister congratulated villages and communities of nearby areas for achieving Open Defecation Free status. Earlier, the Prime Minister visited an exhibition at the venue, which showcased the implementation of development schemes, and handicrafts.



Nicole Kidman has won the best actress award at London's Whats On Stage Awards.

Swachh Paryatan Mobile App Launched

Feb 22

“Swachh Paryatan Mobile App” was launched by Dr. Mahesh Sharma, the Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism & Culture and Minister of State for Civil Aviation. This project is being implemented by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India through DeGS and NIC. This Mobile App is available on Google Search Engine as ‘Swachh Paryatan’ and initially it is available on Android Phones. This mobile app shall be monitored by the Project Monitoring Unit of Swachh Bharat Mission in Ministry of Tourism.

Addressing on the occasion, Dr. Sharma said that since the general public and the tourists are the largest stakeholders in keeping the monuments clean, the Ministry of Tourism has decided to facilitate the general public to communicate their complaints about any unclean area/garbage piles in and around tourist destinations. Hence as a part thereof, the Ministry of Tourism is launching this Mobile App. He opined that till all stakeholders don't contribute, such project will not succeed.

To start with, 25 Adarsh Smarak Monuments protected by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) have been identified for inclusion in the app.

This mobile app enables a citizen to take photograph of garbage at the monument and upload the same along with his/her remarks. The application then sends an SMS to the ASI Nodal Officer concerned with the monument upon receipt of which the Nodal Officer gets the garbage cleared/removed. The Nodal Officer thereafter sends confirmation about the redressal of the complaint through an SMS to the complainant.

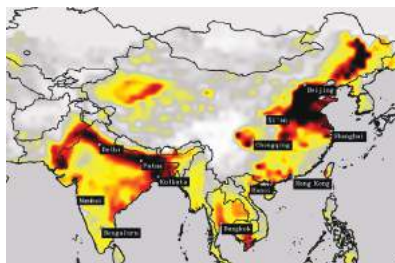


According to WHO, India is home to 13 out of 20 most polluted cities in the world.

Mahendra's

India overtakes China's in air pollution in 2015: Greenpeace

Feb 22



According to WHO, India is home to 13 out of 20 most polluted cities in the world with air pollution levels deteriorating during the past decade. Indian citizens had a higher exposure to average particulate matter than their Chinese counterparts, an analysis of satellite data on particulate matter has shown, environmental group Greenpeace has claimed.

It said while China's strong measures to curb pollution have contributed to the biggest year-on-year air quality improvement on record, in contrast, India's pollution levels continued a decade-long increase to reach the highest level on record.

Greenpeace, in its National Air Quality Index (NAQI) ranking report had revealed that as many as 15 of the 17 Indian cities with NAQI stations showed levels of air pollution that far exceeded prescribed Indian standards. The report also revealed 23 of the 32 stations across India showing levels which were more than 70 per cent higher than national standards, putting public health at risk.

India's NAQI network, with 39 operating stations, compares poorly with the 1,500 stations in China. The satellite images until 2005 showed India's pollution, while serious, was lot lower than eastern China's. However, as of 2015, In China, particulate pollution levels rose an

estimated 20 per cent between 2005 and 2011 due to growing dependence on fossil fuels. However, after adopting a comprehensive National Action Plan in 2013 along with strong policies and stricter enforcement, China's particulate trend started bending, as 2015 witnessed a fall of 15 per cent as compared to 2014.

India world's largest arms importer again

Feb 23



India has yet again emerged as the world's largest buyer of weapons and military equipment, accounting for some 14 per cent of all such international imports, while Russia continues to hold a dominant position, accounting for some 70 per cent of all military equipment supplies to New Delhi.

Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia are the next four biggest global importers. These trends have emerged from a report by the Sweden-based think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI). The assessment was done for a five-year period (2011-2015).

Titled 'Trends in international arms transfers-2015', it says, "India was the largest importer of major arms in 2011-15, accounting for 14 per cent of the global total."

Comparing two five years blocks – that is between 2006-10 and 2011-15 – the report says "imports (by India) increased by 90 per cent".

During the period 2011-15 India's imports were three times greater than those of either of its regional rivals:

China and Pakistan. “A major reason for the high-level of imports is that India’s arms industry has so far largely failed to produce competitive indigenously designed weapons”. “During the period 2011–15 Russia supplied 70 per cent of India’s arms imports, the USA 14 per cent and Israel 4.5 per cent”.

The SIPRI predicts, “based on existing orders and weapons, Russia will remain, by a significant distance, the main supplier of major arms to India for the foreseeable future”.

Acquisitions from the US are a break with in the recent past. During the period studied by SIPRI, India procured fighter jets, a sea-borne aircraft carrier and Mi-17-V5 helicopters from Russia; specialised transport planes, the C-130-J Super Hercules and the C-17 Globemaster along with maritime surveillance planes the Boeing P8-I from the US; UAV’s and radars from Israel.

The bigger story is, however, China, which, in a sign of an omnipresent threat, has been helping Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma in ramping up military prowess. China is now the third largest exporter of weapons ahead of traditional manufacturers Germany, France and UK. Its biggest benefactors are Pakistan, Bangladesh and Burma — all having a shared boundary with India and could potentially cause trouble for New Delhi. The three countries accounted for 71 per cent of Beijing’s exports during 2011-2015.

New Delhi sees China’s exports to countries around India as a part of its long-term strategy of having a ‘string of pearls’ — a kind of military toe-hold in countries around India.

The five biggest exporters in five year block period 2011-2015 were the US, Russia, China, France and Germany. The US and Russia remained by far the largest exporters, accounting for 33 per cent and 25 per cent, respectively, of all global trade.



An exhibition on the “Coin and Currency of India” was inaugurated in the Great Hall in New Delhi.

3-day international conference on Antimicrobial Resistance Organised

Feb 23

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda inaugurated a 3-day International Conference on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance in New Delhi.



Noting that AMR has emerged as the number one public health challenge

faced by the world, the Union Health Minister stated that the first step in addressing the problem of AMR is to avoid the need for antibiotics at all in the first place. He further added that this is best done through improved water and sanitation, in the absence of which the proliferation of diarrheal diseases results in inappropriate antibiotic use. Through the Swachh Bharat programme, the Government has taken active steps to improve hygiene and sanitation and reduce the environmental spread of pathogens, he said.

Exercise IBSAMAR between India, South Africa, Brazil started in Goa

Feb 26

The fifth edition of exercise IBSAMAR between Brazil, India and South Africa kicked off in Goa. The exercise will conclude on 29 February 2016. This is the first time that Exercise IBSAMAR is being conducted in Indian waters. All the previous editions were being held off South Africa.

The primary aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the three navies as well as develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.

Key highlights of IBSAMAR V

- ✎ The scope of Exercise IBSAMAR V includes wide-ranging professional interactions during the Harbour Phase and a diverse range of operational activities at sea during the Sea Phase.
- ✎ The thrust of exercises at sea in 2016 will be on Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW), Surface firings, Air Defences, Visit Board Search and Seizure (VBSS), Flying Operations, Search and Rescue and tactical procedures.
- ✎ The Indian Navy will be represented by INS Mumbai, an indigenous designed and built guided missile destroyer, INS Trishul, a stealth frigate and INS Shalki, a Shishumar class submarine.
- ✎ The Brazilian Navy will be represented by Brazilian Naval Ship Amazonas with Special Forces, commanded by Commander Alessandro Felipe Imamura Carneiro.
- ✎ The South African Navy will be represented by South African Naval Ship SAS Spioenkop with integral helicopter and Special Forces, commanded by Captain MA Boucher.

About IBSAMAR

- ✎ IBSAMAR denotes a series of naval exercises between the navies of India, Brazil and South Africa.
- ✎ The name IBSAMAR is an abbreviation of India-Brazil-South Africa Maritime.
- ✎ The exercise was initiated in 2006.
- ✎ IBSAMAR IV took place off the coast of South Africa in October 2014.

Goverdhan Mehta conferred Cross of the Order of Merit

Feb 26

Renowned researcher in Chemical Sciences Goverdhan Mehta was conferred with Federal Republic of Germany's prestigious Cross of the Order of Merit. Achim Fabig, the German Consul General in Chennai, presented the award to Hyderabad-based professor Mehta.



The Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany was instituted in 1951 by Federal President Theodor Heuss. It is the only honour that may be awarded in all fields of endeavour. It is the highest tribute the Federal Republic of Germany can pay to individuals for achievements in political, economic, social or intellectual realm and for all kinds of outstanding services to the nation in the field of social, charitable or philanthropic work.

Union Home Minister inaugurates IOCR, BISAG & Tele-medicines projects

Feb 27



The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh visited Border Security Force (BSF) Headquarters and inaugurated the Integrated Operations Control Room (IOCR). In the new system, the online data received from field formations are integrated with satellite imageries and projected on a three dimension wall for better assimilation and collation. The improved systems will enable control room to respond effectively.

Rajnath Singh also launched the BISAG (Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo Informatics) project, which is a platform for satellite communication working specially in Gujarat. BSF is availing this facility for establishing a dedicated communication link to Border Out Posts (BOPs) for broadcasting welfare, administration and healthcare related programmes. Rajnath Singh addressed BSF Jawans sitting on BOPs at different Frontiers through this platform. Another BSF developed project of Tele-medicine was also inaugurated by the Union Home Minister. This project is enabling the BSF men deployed at far flung areas on Frontiers where specialists in medical field are not available. Through this project advices of super specialists from Delhi are made available there. Union Home Minister was given a demonstration that how patients and doctors are connected online.

A documentary 'A Soldier's Diary' was released by Rajnath Singh. This documentary is addressing the critical and sensitive issue of suicide of Borderman. After detailed research on all probable reasons of suicide by Borderman, help of NFDC was taken to prepare a documentary on this issue.

Resul Pookutty becomes first Asian to win Golden Reel Award

Feb 29

Oscar-winning sound designer Resul Pookutty has made the country proud by becoming the first Asian to win the award for best sound for documentary "India's Daughter" at the coveted Motion Picture Sound Editors' 63rd annual Golden Reel Awards.

Pookutty, 44, who attended the awards ceremony here, took to Twitter to share his excitement about winning the honour for British documentary maker Leslee Udwin-directed "India's Daughter", made on the Delhi gangrape incident of December 2012, which is banned in India.

This is an incredible recognition for Pookutty as well as for all those worked in the banned film apart from all those who protested against the brutal killing of Nirbhaya. He is the first Asian to win the coveted award at the 63rd Golden Reel Awards for best sound.

Raisina Dialogue held in New Delhi

March 01

Ms. Kumaratunga was amongst a high-power panel of former South Asian leaders, as well as External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Bangladesh Foreign Minister A.H. Mahboob Ali at the first 'Raisina Dialogue', hosted by the Ministry of External Affairs in Delhi.

The conference, attended by speakers from 40 countries, is being seen as the government's attempt to rival conferences around the world that attract global players such as the Shangri-La dialogue in Singapore, and the Munich Conference on national security. While Ms. Swaraj didn't mention India's relationship with China during her speech on Asian connectivity, other leaders on the panel made a point of speaking about China's role.



Amar Singh has become the highest ranked sikh police officer in Malaysia.

Science journalist Bagla bags national award

March 02

Noted science journalist Pallava Bagla was conferred with an award for his efforts in science and technology communication on television. The national award for “Outstanding Efforts in the Field of Science and Technology Communication on Electronic Medium”, carrying a citation, memento and cash, was presented by Union Minister of Science and Technology Harsh Vardhan. Speaking at a function, organised by National Council for Science and Technology and Communication, the minister said in order to inculcate interest among students in the field of science, his ministry is in the process of coming up with a book based on lives of renowned scientists of the country.



Vardhan said a team of experts is studying the lives of India's great scientists from Meghnad Saha to Srinivasa Ramanujan. He said learning about the great Indian scientists could help inspire students to take up professional careers in the field of science.

P. M. launches “Setu Bharatam” –to ensure seamless travel on National Highways

March 04



The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, launched “Setu Bharatam” – an ambitious programme with an investment of Rs. 50,000 crore to build bridges for safe and seamless travel on National Highways. The programme aims at making all national highways Railway Level Crossing free by 2019.

208 new “road over bridges/road under bridges” are envisaged for construction, while 1500 bridges will be widened, rehabilitated or replaced. The Prime Minister spoke of the Government's initiatives in other infrastructure sectors as well, including railways, irrigation and digital connectivity.

NASSCOM Foundation launched the Indian Public Library Movement

March 07

NASSCOM Foundation has launched the Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM), a multi-stakeholder effort to revitalise and transform public libraries into inclusive knowledge and information centres catering to the needs of communities across India. Towards this end, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has provided a \$4.78 million grant to provide support towards repositioning of the libraries across India.



The IPLM movement will start by reaching out to a million library users at 300 district-level libraries and providing them with community driven services such as computer training classes to build digital skills, access to online information about agriculture and health, a safe place for students to study, and learning opportunities for people of all ages. With a grant from Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation IPLM implementation, NASSCOM Foundation will have an independent team of professionals, the IPLM Secretariat, to manage all programmatic activities.

Germany to back ‘Smart Cities’ projects in Kochi, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar

March 08

Germany announced that it will support the government's ‘Smart Cities’ programme by taking up projects in Bhubaneswar, Kochi and Coimbatore. State Secretary in German Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety Gunther Adler led a delegation of technical experts to meet the officials of the Ministry of Urban Development. It was the second meeting of the Indo-German working group on urban development. The first was held in September 2015.

Adler said the German Building Ministry “will support German companies that want to cooperate intensively with Indian partners in order to assist Indian cities in implementing their plan.” He also met his Indian counterparts Urban Development Ministry secretary Madhusudan Prasad and Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation Secretary Nandita Chatterjee. German officials said they expect the Indian government to put in place necessary institutional and policy frameworks to facilitate the public private partnerships between German companies and their Indian counterparts for the ‘Smart Cities’ programme.



The Pakistan parliament has become the first in the world to completely run on solar power.

Indo-Indonesia Joint Training Exercise Garuda Shakti IV

March 09



Indo-Indonesia Joint Training Exercise G A R U D A SHAKTI is conducted as part of military diplomacy between Indian and Indonesian Army alternatively in India and Indonesia

respectively. The exercise is conducted on a reciprocal basis and its first edition was conducted in the year 2012 in India. The second edition was conducted in Indonesia in 2013 and third in India in 2014. The exercise is aimed at building and promoting positive relations between the two Armies of India and Indonesia.

The fourth edition of the joint exercise will be conducted for 13 days from 10 to 23 March 16 at Magelang, Indonesia in which an Indian Army platoon strength contingent will carry out cross training with a platoon from the Airborne battalion of the Indonesian Army. The selected Indian unit has had varied operational experience in Counter Insurgency and Counter Terrorist operations in the Northern, Western and Eastern theatres. The Indian Contingent has been put through a rigorous training schedule to prepare it for the exercise which includes combat conditioning, firing, tactical operations, tactical skills and special heliborne operations training.

To coordinate modalities of training of the exercise, an Exercise Planning Conference was held at Yogyakarta, Indonesia on 22 and 23 September 2015. During the conference both Armies finalized the modalities of conduct of joint training and signed an Agreement. The operational part of the exercise commenced with individual Armies training in respective countries and this would translate in exchange of expertise during the Joint Training Exercise in Indonesia. The opening ceremony for the exercise will be conducted on 11 March 16. The Indian contingent will reach the exercise location at Magelang, Indonesia, familiarize with the weapons, equipment, tactical drills and orient themselves to the terrain.

'Nari Shakti Puraskar-2015' conferred by the President

March 09

The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar-2015' on the occasion of International Women's Day. The awards are given every year by the Ministry of Women & Child Development to institutions and individuals who

have made exceptional contribution towards empowerment of women. The president explained that the key and urgent priority is to develop a comprehensive approach to the holistic empowerment of women.



The Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi said that the Nari Shakti Award is the highest and most prestigious Indian National award conferred by the President of India upon exceptional women in recognition of their achievement in promoting positive change and being examples among women. The women recognized by this award have a history of overcoming seemingly insurmountable obstacles through courage and foresight to bring about positive change they wish to see in the world, the Minister added.

Nari Shakti Puraskar include Institutional awards in 6 categories instituted in the name of illustrious daughters of India i.e. Rani Rudramma Devi, Mata Jijabai, Kannagi Devi, Rani Gaidinliu Zeliang, Devi Ahilyabai Holkar and Rani Lakshmibai. Besides, there are Individual awards in two categories for courage & bravery and for making outstanding contributions to women's endeavour / community work/ making a difference / women empowerment.

Nari Shakti Puraskar carries a cash award of Rs. 2 Lakh and a certificate for institutions and Rs.1 Lakh and a certificate for individuals.

Government signs MoU on conservation of birds of prey March 10

The Government has signed 'Raptor MoU' - a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on conservation of birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia. The 'Raptor MoU' extends its coverage to 76 species of birds of prey, out of which 46 species, including vultures, falcons, eagles, owls, hawks, kites, harriers, etc. also occur in India.

The MoU has been signed on March 7, 2016 at the Convention on Migratory Species Office in Abu Dhabi by the Ambassador of India to the UAE, Shri T.P Seetharam. India has become the 56th signatory State to sign the 'Raptor MoU' that was concluded on October 22, 2008 and came into effect on November 1, 2008. The 'Raptor MoU' is an agreement under Article IV paragraph 4 of the CMS and is not legally binding.

The Union Cabinet, in its meeting, held on December 30, 2015 had approved the proposal of the Ministry of



India is the world's largest importer of arms in the world.

Environment, Forest and Climate Change to sign the MoU, also called 'Raptor MoU', on Conservation of Migratory Birds of Prey in Africa and Eurasia, with the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS), or Bonn Convention, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The CMS aims to conserve migratory species throughout their range. India had become a party to the CMS since November 1, 1983.

India, US Launch Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship

March 12



India and the US have launched the Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship, in a new initiative to advance bilateral cooperation on climate change, that will enable Indian research scholars to work with American institutions in the field.

The first call for applicants was announced for the fellowship jointly funded by both the governments and will enable up to 6 Indian PhD students and post-doctoral researchers to work with US host institutions for a period of 6-12 months, according to a press release.

The fellowship, named after the late Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, is part of a commitment made by the US President Barack Obama and Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build long-term capacity to address climate change-related issues in both the countries.

The fellowship will be operated by the binational US-India Educational Foundation (USIEF) under the umbrella of the prestigious Fulbright programme.

ISRO successfully launches sixth navigational satellite on PSLV-C32

March 11

ISRO successfully put into orbit India's sixth dedicated navigation satellite, the IRNSS-1F. The satellite was launched on-board India's workhorse launch vehicle, the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV). The Independent Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) is designed to provide accurate position information service to users in India and the region extending up to 1,500 km from the border. The IRNSS-1F carrying two payloads — the navigation payload and ranging payload — was put into orbit 20 minutes after take-off from the second launch pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.



The satellite had a lift-off mass of 1,425 kg and was powered by two solar panels generating 1660 W and one Lithium-ion battery of 90 Ampere-hour capacity. With this launch, India inches closer to having its own navigation system (like a GPS). The navigation payload of IRNSS-1F will transmit navigation service signals and will operate in the L5 band and S band. The ranging payload consists of a C-band transponder that facilitates accurate determination of the range of the satellites. ISRO is now preparing to launch the last satellite in the IRNSS series, the IRNSS-1G, and work has already begun on it.

Post Office account holders can operate their accounts from any branch

March 15

Communication and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad has said that customers with Post Office savings can now operate their accounts from more than 20 thousand branches as they have been connected with core banking facility. Mr Prasad said, only about 230 such branches were there in May 2014 and now it has touched 20 thousand one hundred and six. Implementation of Core Banking Solution is part of the IT Modernization Project of the Department of Posts that aims to bring in various IT solutions with the required IT infrastructure to the post offices. Department of Posts has decided to implement Core Banking Solution in all departmental post offices including provision of ATM and Internet banking facilities.

The postal department has also received In-Principle approval from the Reserve Bank of India in September last year for setting up of the Payments Bank within 18 months. The Department of Posts is now providing core insurance solution at 25,406 post offices. It has installed ATMs at 576 post offices.



Harvard University has honoured the actress Lucy Liu as University's Artist of the Year.



Jharkhand's first mega food park set up at Ranchi

Feb 16

The state of Jharkhand got its first mega food park. Union Food Processing Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated it at Getalsud village in Ranchi district. The event was titled "Food for Thought". The Jharkhand Mega Food Park Private Limited is promoting the mega food park.



It seeks to boost the growth of the food processing sector in Jharkhand. The food park has been established on a 51.5-acre patch of land at a cost of Rs 114.73 crore. The food park will have state-of-the-art facilities such as multi-chamber cold storage, vegetable dehydration line and dry warehouse. It will reduce the chances of crop wastage. The park will also act as a quality managing unit. It will include modern quality control and testing laboratories for fruits and vegetables.

Delhi University gets Yogesh Tyagi as vice-chancellor

Feb 16



South Asian University professor Yogesh Kumar Tyagi has been appointed the new vice-chancellor of Delhi University after his name was selected by President Pranab Mukherjee from

among four persons. Human resource development (HRD) ministry had forwarded the four names to the President who, as Visitor of Central Universities, makes the final selection.

Last week, the HRD ministry had forwarded the four names to the President who, as Visitor of Central Universities, makes the final selection. Apart from Tyagi, who is the Dean of the Law Faculty at South Asian University, the other names on the panel were JNU professor Rameshwar Nath Kaul Bamezai, former IIT professor and UPSC member Hemchand Gupta and Bidyut Chakraborty, a professor in the DU Political Science department.

Haryana, South Korean state of Chungcheongbuk to collaborate on technology and development

Feb 17

South Korean state of Chungcheongbuk and Haryana agreed to enter into a sister-statehood relationship for development. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar accepted the proposal for such a relationship made by a visiting South Korean delegation. The South Korean delegation was led by Section Chief of Chungcheongbuk Government Lee Iksoo.

Besides, Khattar invited South Korean businesses and investors to the Happening Haryana Global Investors Summit-2016 scheduled to be organized in Gurgaon from 7 to 8 March 2016.

Signing of MoU Between IIPE and Andhra University

Feb 19

Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MoPNG), Government of India has established Indian Institute of Petroleum and Energy



(IIPE), Visakhapatnam, as noted in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act (2014), with the mandate to lead the nation forward in education, research and training related to all areas of Petroleum and Energy. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed on 4th February, 2016 between IIPE and Andhra University to start the IIPE sessions during the academic year 2016-17. The MoU is for a period of 3 years till the period IIPE sets up the infrastructure in its own premises. The session of 2016-17 shall start using the resources of AU College of Engineering (A), viz., AUs lecture halls, teaching laboratories, Library, Workshops, Office space, technological facilities so on and so forth. Mutual knowledge exchange amongst the two prestigious educational institutes shall be facilitated by giving opportunity to faculty members of IIPE to attend a set of lectures / course(s) at AU. Andhra University has assured of support in terms of knowledge and resources for IIPE operationalisation. The MoU is facilitated by Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited.



Lalita Babar has been named as the Sports Person of the Year in the India Sports Awards 2015.

Mahendra's

Kalikhho Pul sworn in as Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh

Feb 20



Kalikhho Pul was sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh. Pul was sworn in as the CM with the support of 18 rebel Congress MLAs, and two Independents and 11 BJP MLAs who gave outside support. State Governor J P Rajkhowa administered the oath of office to Pul around 9.30 in the night.

Arunachal Pradesh witnessed a political crisis after 14 Congress MLAs were suspended by Speaker Nabam Rebia in June 2015. Later in December 2015, the Deputy Speaker TN Thongdok cleared an impeachment motion against the Speaker owing to his personal relationship with Chief Minister Nabam Tuki. On 26 January 2016, President Pranab Mukherjee approved the Union Cabinet's recommendation for the imposition of President's rule on Arunachal Pradesh.

Justice Saran takes oath as new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court

Feb 21

Justice Vineet Saran will be the new Chief Justice of Orissa High Court. A Presidential warrant of appointment of Justice Saran has reached. The new CJ will take oath on February 26. Prior to his present appointment, Justice Saran was officiating as a senior judge of Karnataka High Court.

The post of Orissa Chief Justice was lying vacant ever since Justice D. H. Waghela took oath as the CJ of Bombay High Court on February 15. Justice Pradeep K. Mohanty is currently officiating as Acting CJ since then.

Born on May 11, 1957, Justice Saran graduated from Allahabad University in 1976 and obtained LL.B in 1979.

He was enrolled as an advocate with the UP Bar Council in July 1980 and practiced in Allahabad High Court till he was elevated as a permanent judge of the same High Court on February 14, 2002. He was transferred to Karnataka in the same capacity on February 16 last year.



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari sworn-in as Meghalaya High Court chief justice Feb 24



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari of Lucknow bench of the Allahabad High Court was has been sworn-in as the chief justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

Governor V. Shanmuganathan administered the oath of office to Chief Justice Maheshwari at a ceremony at Raj Bhavan. Chief Minister Mukul Sangma, ministers, judges, legal and civil officials were present on the occasion.

Chief Justice Maheshwari, 57, succeeds Justice Uma Nath Singh who retired as chief justice on January 14. Since then, Justice Sudip Ranjan Singh served as the acting chief justice of the state high court.

Guwahati city to have mass rapid transport by 2021

Feb 21

The Assam government has planned to come up with a mass rapid transit system (MRTS) in the form of metro rail for the city within next five years.

The cabinet had also approved the formation of a special purpose vehicle (SPV), Guwahati Metro Rail Corporation Limited (GMRCL), for implementing the project.

The project is estimated to cost Rs 18,020 crore and has been prepared by RITES Limited, a government of India enterprise. GMRCL will be a wholly-owned company of the government of Assam that will later be converted into a joint venture (50:50) SPV of Central and state governments. The SPV will look after operations and maintenance of the MRTS.

The 203-km metro corridor, to be completed in three phases, forecasts traffic demand up to the year 2045. The train with three car racks will have a carrying capacity up to 975 passengers.



Ottal has been named the best children's film at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival.

Rajesh Pillai, Malayalam filmmaker passes away at 41

Feb 27



Malayalam film director Rajesh Pillai passed away at PVS hospital in Kochi. He was 41. The director who is known for path-breaking Malayalam films such as "Traffic" and "Mili" was suffering from liver cirrhosis. He was hospitalised several times in the last few months. During the final sound mixing for "Vettah", he had also contracted pneumonia and that worsened his health.

Kerala's Muziris Heritage project launched

Feb 27



President Pranab Mukherjee launched country's largest conservation project and Kerala's first green project 'Muziris Heritage project' at a glittering function at the oldest port town, about 50 km from Kochi.

Muziris, the hub of the spice route and the bustling port of the first century BC that drew legions of Arab, Roman, Greek, Chinese and Jewish traders from across the seas, is all set to come alive again through this ambitious project of tourism department of the state government. The Muziris Heritage Project would

open up to Indian and foreign tourists a new destination, bringing economic benefits to the people of the region as well as knowledge and enjoyment for the visitors, he added. The project includes development works of Chennamangalam palaces, Cheraman Parambu, Synagogue and waterfront at North Paravur. It also envisages conservation of archaeological monuments within 125 sq km spread across Thrissur and Ernakulam districts.

Tamil actor Kumarimuthu passes away

Feb 29



Actor - comedian Kumarimuthu died. He was 77. Known for his comic roles, Kumarimuthu starred in nearly 50 films in his career spanning over three-decades. He was best known for his signature laugh. Some of his best films are Idhu Namma Aalu, Sahadevan Mahadevan, Oru Oorla Oru Rajakumari and Marumagan. In his brief stint in politics, Kumarimuthu was a member of Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK).

Bengal village teen bags top Nasa scholarship

March 01



Eighteen-year-old Sataparna Mukherjee, a Class 12 student from a village around 30km

from Kolkata, has been selected by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for its prestigious Goddard Internship Programme under the Goddard Institute for Space Studies (GISS). She is among five scholars chosen from across the world for this programme. Sataparna's paper on Black Hole Theory, and how this could be used to create a 'Time Machine', was hugely appreciated. Under the Goddard Internship Programme, Sataparna will work as an "employee and researcher", where she will be part of its earth science and technology development programme. Nasa is paying her a generous sum as honorarium, apart from bearing all her expenses.

Kerala begins air ambulance facility

March 03

Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy inaugurated an air ambulance facility to cater to patients with urgent medical requirements, including organ transplant. An MoU in this regard was signed between government-run Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology and Kerala Network for Organ Sharing ("Mrithasanjivini").

Speaking on the occasion, Chandy said his government's focus was on improving the facilities in health sector and make available the modern technology to common man. State Health Minister V S Sivakumar said government would bear the expenses for transporting organ through air ambulance and an amount of Rs 5 crore has been earmarked for it. Actual service would start in two months after acquiring the aircraft needed for it, State Minister in charge of airport and Excise K Babu said. Last July, at Chandy's intervention, a Naval aircraft was used to ferry a heart harvested from a brain dead man here to a patient in Kochi.



Kumaravel Prem Kumar bagged silver in long jump at the 7th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships.

Mahendra's

Krishna Saini named DERC chairman

March 05

A 1981 batch Indian Revenue Service officer, Krishna Saini, assumed office of chairman of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC).

He was administered the oaths of secrecy and allegiance to the Constitution by Delhi government's minister for power, Satyendar Jain, at the Delhi Secretariat. The power regulator's chairperson post fell vacant after P.D. Sudhakar, a 1976 batch IAS officer, completed his five-year tenure in January.



While the state government is claiming that the appointment has been made in keeping with the directions of the Delhi high court, there was no clear response on whether the lieutenant-governor's consent had been sought or not.

The Delhi government announcing that "Saini has been appointed as new chairman of DERC on the recommendation of the selection committee constituted under Section 85 of the Electricity Act, 2003."

Saini has 35 years experience of working at various senior level positions in the Government of India. He has worked in the areas of finance, commerce, economics, accounts, law, legislation, adjudication, auditing of financial statements and detection of irregularities. He recently retired as chief commissioner of income tax.

South Indian actor Kalabhavan Mani dead at 45

March 07



Noted South Indian film actor Kalabhavan Mani, known for his award-winning performance in "Vasanthiyum Lakshmiyum Pinne Njanum", passed away. He was 45.

Mani was an auto driver in Chalakkudy and first began his acting career as a mimicry artiste in Kalabhavana, a centre for learning performing arts in Kochi, two decades ago. Mani was also a popular singer and had made albums of folk and religious songs. He had also acted in Tamil and Telugu film industries.

He acted in around 200 films. One of his best known roles was in the film Vasanthiyum, Lakshmiyum, Pinne Njanum for which he won the Kerala State Film Award for Best Actor in 1999 and the Special Jury Award at the National Film Awards.

Sex ratio dips in Gujarat; ranks 22nd in India

March 07

The sex ratio in Gujarat has come down to 919 in 2011 from 920 in 2001 as against significant increase of 10 points in the national average during this period, according to the Socio-Economic Review for 2015-16 tabled in the State Assembly recently.

As against the national figure of 943, the overall sex ratio of Gujarat was 919 in 2011. With 919 females for every 1000 males, Gujarat ranked 22nd among 28 states as per the 2011 Census.

However, rural areas fared comparatively well in improving the ratio than urban centers. "In rural areas of the state, it has increased by 4 points from 945 in 2001 to 949 in 2011; while in urban areas it remained at 880 in both the years,".

As per the Review, there was an increase in sex ratio in the north-south belt of Gujarat except in Mehsana and Surat districts while Saurashtra region showed marginal decrease, except in Surendranagar and Porbandar districts.

In contrast to negative growth in sex ratio for adults, Gujarat has recorded improvement in Child Sex Ratio, which take into account children in the age group of 0 to 6 years, from 2001 to 2011. This is the first time child sex ratio has shown an increasing trend since the formation of Gujarat.

While the Census 2011 suggested a decrease of 8 points at national level, Gujarat registered a growth of 7 points. "National child sex ratio has fallen from 927 in 2001 to 919 in 2011. However, in Gujarat, the child sex ratio has increased from 883 in 2001 to 890 in 2011. For the first time in five decades, Gujarat has recorded an improvement in child sex ratio,".



International Conference on Antimicrobial Resistance was held at New Delhi.



INTERNATIONAL

7th India, Seychelles joint military exercise LAMITYE 2016 begins

Feb 16

The 7th edition of India, Seychelles joint military exercise LAMITYE 2016 has begun in Victoria, Seychelles. The fourteen day exercise has been conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Victoria till February 28, 2016.

This edition of joint military exercise will be concluding phase of the drill. It will be incorporating a tactical exercise to review the standards of interoperability achieved by both the contingents. Representation: Indian Army contingent will comprise an infantry platoon and representatives from the Special Forces.



U.S., Cuba sign civil aviation accord in Havana

Feb 17



Cuba and the United States signed an agreement that will pave the way for regularly scheduled flights between the two countries in Havana, the same day Cuba's foreign trade minister was in Washington speaking at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Cuba's Ambassador to the United States José Cabañas said not only was the Cuban business delegation accompanying Rodrigo Malmierca, minister of foreign trade and foreign investment, the largest he could recall, but also was probably the first time ever that a Cuban minister was in Washington at the same

time a U.S. secretary was in Havana.

First 'Silk Road' train arrives in Iran from China

Feb 17

The first freight train to resurrect the ancient Silk Road route arrived in Iran from China. It took just 14 days for the 32-container train loaded with Chinese goods to complete the 5,900 mile (9,500km) journey from China's eastern Zhejiang province through Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan.

It's 30 days shorter than the sea voyage from Shanghai to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas. There will be a train every month and more frequently if necessary. The railway will not stop in Tehran, Aqayi said as they are "planning to extend the railway to Europe in the future" with transits generating more income for Iran.



World Bank offers US\$150 million in financing to Zika-affected countries

Feb 19



The World Bank said it is making US\$150 million in financing immediately available to help combat the Zika virus outbreak in affected Latin American and Caribbean countries. The multilateral lender said in a statement that it stands ready to increase its support if needed, and the initial amount is based on current demands from the affected countries and assessments from teams of experts sent there.

The World Bank also released initial projections for the economic impact of the largely mosquito-borne virus, saying it expects it to reduce the region's

2016 economic output by US\$3.5 billion, or 0.06 percent of gross domestic product.

The bank estimates that governments in the region would lose a combined US\$420 million in fiscal revenues this year due to the virus. Mexico and Cuba would take the worst hits by dollar value this year, reducing their GDP by US\$744 million and US\$664 million, respectively, as it expects the virus to cause a drop-off in Caribbean tourism.



Serena Williams has been ranked no.1 according to WTA rankings.

Mahendra's

Nepal declares energy emergency to end power crisis

Feb 20

The Nepalese government has declared an energy emergency in the country targeting an end to the ongoing power crisis within the next two years.



It is the third time that the government has declared energy emergency in the last eight years -- the previous declarations have ended in disappointment. Nepal is currently facing load-shedding of 13 hours a day.

The cabinet endorsed "The National Energy Crisis Reduction and Electricity Development Decade plan" which aims to make available 1,850 MW of electricity during the dry season in the next two years.

The government is confident that it will end the load-shedding in the country completely during the period as the peak hour power demand during the period is expected to remain at 1,550 MW. The country's installed hydropower energy capacity currently stands at 780 MW in peak hour which drops to 300 MW during the dry season.

Christine Lagarde gets second term as IMF chief

Feb 20



The International Monetary Fund (IMF) announced that it selected Christine Lagarde to serve as its leader for a second five-year term. Lagarde, the sole candidate nominated for

the post of the IMF chief, will start the second term from June 5.

The IMF said in the announcement that the decision was taken by consensus among its executive board. The IMF praised Lagarde's leadership during her first term. "Lagarde strengthened the fund's ability to support its members with policy advice, capacity building, and financing.

She has also played a critical role in revitalising the fund's relations with its global membership, including its emerging market and developing members," Aleksei Mozhin, dean of the IMF's board. Lagarde, a former French finance minister, took over as head of the IMF in 2011 following Dominique Strauss-Kahn's resignation amid scandal. She is the first woman to lead the international organisation.



FICCI has said that Indian economy would grow at 7.4 percent during 2015-16.

Britain's greatest pilot Eric 'Winkle' Brown passes away

Feb 21

The Royal Navy's most decorated pilot, Capt Eric "Winkle" Brown, has died at the age of 97. Captain Eric "Winkle" Brown, who has died aged 97, flew 487



different types of aircraft, made 2,407 deck landings at sea and 2,721 take-offs, world records unlikely ever to be broken. He became the first person to successfully take off and land a jet on a carrier when he guided a de Havilland Sea Vampire onto the Royal navy ship Ocean in 1945. During World War Two, Capt Brown, who was born in Leith in 1919, flew fighter aircraft and witnessed the liberation of Bergen Belsen concentration camp.

Amar Singh appointed Kuala Lumpur's Commissioner of Police

Feb 23



An Indian-origin Sikh officer Amar Singh has been appointed as Kuala Lumpur's commissioner of police. It was the highest police rank achieved by a Sikh in Malaysia. He succeeded Tajuddin Mohamed, who will be moved to federal headquarters as the deputy director of commercial CID on 14 March 2016.

At the time of this appointment, Amar Singh was holding the position of deputy director of CID. The highest police rank achieved by a Sikh before this appointment was a senior assistant commissioner-I. Santokh Singh was the one who became police chief of Selangor state.

His father and maternal grandfather were both policemen. His father Ishar Singh relocated to Malaysia from Punjab in 1938 and joined the Federated Malay States Police in 1939. His maternal grandfather, Bachan Singh has joined the police force in the early 1900s and served as a constable.

Pakistan parliament becomes first in world to run entirely on solar power

Feb 23



Pakistan parliament has become the first in the world to completely run on solar power, a venture supported by China with USD 55 million funding. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a simple ceremony switched on solar-powered building of the parliament in capital Islamabad.

The project to run parliament on solar power was launched last year when Chinese President Xi Jinping visited and addressed the parliament. China provided over USD 55 million to carry out the project.

According to speaker National Assembly, Ayaz Sadiq, the parliament solar panels will generate 80 MW power. He said 62 MW will be sufficient for parliament while 18 MW will be given to national grid.

Pakistan's parliament has become the first in the world to run entirely on solar power. There are also some parliaments like the Israeli Knesset which are partly run on solar power.

Veteran Pakistani actor Habib-ur-Rehman dies

Feb 25

Veteran Pakistani actor and director Habib-ur-Rehman died after a prolonged illness. He was 85. Habib was a popular actor of Urdu and Punjabi



language movies. Born in 1931 in Patiala, Habib had a post-graduation degrees in Urdu, English and Persian. He worked in more than 600 Urdu and Punjabi language films.

Considered to be an illustrious romantic hero, he started his film career in 1956 with debutant movie 'Lakht-e-jigar' as a side hero along Santosh Kumar and Noor Jehan.

His first super hit movie was 'Zeher-e-Ishq' with Musarrat Nazeer and this movie bought him under the spotlight of stardom. He won the Nigar award as a best actor for Luqman's movie 'Admi' and Shabab Kiranvi's 'Surraiya'. He also won worldwide recognition for his heartfelt performance in the historical movie 'Devdaas' paired with Shamim Ara and Nayyar Sultana. To honour his services, the Pakistani government had awarded him with the Presidential Pride accolade.

Haiti interim president appoints prime minister

Feb 26



Haiti's provisional president has appointed reputable economist Fritz Jean as the new prime minister, in a step forward for the impoverished Caribbean nation that is trying to quickly hold a

delayed presidential election.

Anthony Barbier, a top official at President Jocelerme Privert's palace, said the president had signed an executive order appointing Jean, a former central bank governor.

Jean's job will include helping create a balanced election council supported by Haiti's fractious rival political parties, a key step needed to hold the election set for April 2016.

UAE-Britain space agencies sign agreement

Feb 26

The UAE Space Agency has signed a significant memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the UK Space Agency, aiming to facilitate collaboration between the two countries in the short and long terms.

The MoU was signed in London during a visit this week by a high-level delegation, including Khalifa Al Romaithi, chairman of the United Arab Emirates Space Agency, and by Mohammed Nasser Al Ahbabi, director general of the agency.

The MoU covers collaboration in various aspects of space exploration, including space science, technology, applications, policy, law, regulation and human capital development in the space field and related areas.

In addition to this, the MoU encourages the establishment of joint working groups to examine and define proposals for joint programs in the areas decided upon by the two agencies, which supports the space programmes in both countries.

It also covers the promotion of educational activities in space science and technology as well as the promotion of the use of products and services developed under the two agencies programmes.



RBI has extended the currency swap arrangement to SAARC nations for upto USD 2 billion.

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U. S. Air Force tests long-range ballistic missile

Feb 26



The U.S. Air Force successfully tested its unarmed ballistic missile, part of its ongoing effort to demonstrate the accuracy and effectiveness of

America's aging ground-based missiles.

The intercontinental missile blasted out and shot skyward before travelling 4,200 miles in about 30 minutes, landing on target in the ocean near the Kwajalein atoll in the Marshall Islands in the South Pacific.

The Minuteman III missiles, which date to the 1970s, have a range of 6,000 miles and travel at speeds of up to 15,000 miles per hour. Another unarmed Minuteman III missile was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

About four missile tests are conducted each year and the tests are publicly announced and closely monitored by other countries.

German passport most powerful in world, Afghan least: Report

Feb 27



The Afghan passport has been identified as the least powerful in the world for the restrictions the countrymen face in

terms of visa-free travel, an index by a London-based consulting firm showed. The index found Germans held the most powerful passports in the world for third year in row in 2016.

A number of the European nations and the US, Japan and Canada closely follow Germany as the top nations holding the most powerful passports in the world.

The countries listed below Afghanistan were South Sudan and Palestinian territories, according to the index -- South Sudan being the youngest sovereign state in the world and Palestinian territories less diplomatically recognised by countries in the West.

The index update by Henley & Partners attempts to quantify the power of passports based on the judgements in the world by the amount of visa-free travel they entitle their owner to.

The update comes as the United Arab Emirates (UAE) imposed restrictions on Afghan nationals' visit who

were heading towards Dubai for business and tourism. The demand by Afghans for passports has increased last year with the deteriorating security situation across the country, forcing many Afghans to travel abroad, specifically to the Western countries by risking their lives and travelling through dangerous routes.

Hashim Thaci elected as President of Kosovo

Feb 29

Foreign Minister Hashim Thaci was on elected as president of Kosovo by the Members of Parliament amid the protests. He was a guerrilla



leader during a conflict that led to Kosovo, a mainly ethnic Albanian province declaring independence from Serbia. He had also served as prime minister fell out with many opposition groups after helping to negotiate with Serbia a deal that gave more autonomy to minority Serbs of Kosovo.

Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2008. It has been recognised by the US and many EU countries. This self-declared independence was not recognized by Serbia and many other countries around the world. Kosovo and Serbia reached a landmark agreement to normalise their relations in April 2013. Nato peacekeepers have been in Kosovo since 1999.

UN Chief appoints Israeli-Arab orchestra as advocate for cultural understanding

March 01

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has appointed the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra as the United Nations Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding.

Ban made the announcement together with the orchestra's co-founder Daniel Barenboim in Geneva.

Argentinian-Israeli pianist and conductor Daniel Barenboim considered one of the greatest classical musicians of his time co-founded the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra with the late Palestinian scholar Edward Said in 1999. The orchestra brings together musicians from Israel, Palestine and other Arab countries to promote peace and religious understanding.

"The orchestra's every performance is a testimony to the power of music to break down barriers, to promote cultural understanding and to build bridges between communities," said Ban.



H. L. Dattu has been selected as the next Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission.

Nepal appoints new Consul General in Kolkata

March 02

Nepal appointed Ek Narayan Aryal as the country's Consul General in Kolkata. A meeting of the council of ministers, presided over by Prime Minister Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, took the decision in this regard. Gobinda Bahadur Karki was appointed as Consul General to Lhasa and Kamal Bhattarai as Consul General to Hong Kong.



Eric Schmidt of Alphabet to head Pentagon's innovation board

March 03



Eric Schmidt, executive chairman of Alphabet the parent company of Google has been picked by Pentagon to head a new advisory board on defence innovation.

Pentagon press secretary Peter Cook announced in Washington DC that Defence Secretary Ash Carter met Schmidt during the annual RSA Security Conference in San Francisco.

Schmidt will be the chairman of the first Department of Defense Innovation Advisory Board and will work with Carter to select up to 12 members of the board.

The Pentagon expected the board to advise on areas that are familiar to Silicon Valley companies, such as rapid prototyping, iterative product development, complex data analysis in business decision making, the use of mobile and cloud applications, and organisational information sharing.

Namibian inaugurated Chinese-built road

March 03

Namibian President Hage Geingob has officially inaugurated the northern main road MR 129 built by a Chinese company. Stretching over 98km, the road links Omafo in the Ohangwena Region and Outapi in the Omusati Region. Construction of the road by China Gezhouba Group Corporation began on May 15, 2013, with a total cost of 80 million U.S. dollars. The MR 129 is an economic corridor that connects the northern regions such as Kunene, Omusati, Ohangwena, Kavango West, Kavango East and Zambezi. President Geingob, when inaugurating the road, said access to public services is the right of every Namibian. He also said the government has made a commitment to the people to build 1,480 km of bitumen standard roads during the next five years.



World's longest non-stop scheduled commercial flight landed in Auckland

March 03



An Emirates Airbus A380 jet has made what is believed to be the world's longest non-stop scheduled commercial flight by distance. The plane had covered a distance of about 14,200 kilometers when it touched down in Auckland in New Zealand.

It took around the 17 hours and 15 minutes mark, although the return could be a few minutes longer. The new non-stop Emirates route between Auckland and Dubai reportedly reduces the current travel time by three hours.

The Airbus 380 is a double-decker passenger plane that registers as the world's largest passenger plane, but it was only used on the inaugural flight for the route. The plane that will be used by Emirates regularly on the daily world's longest non-stop commercial flight will be the Boeing 777-200LR.



K. N. Vyas has taken over as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

Mahendra's

Andrew Holness sworn in as Jamaican PM

March 04

Jamaica's new prime minister, Andrew Holness, has been sworn in after a narrow general election win and vowed to increase growth and cut taxes in a reversal of the previous government's austerity program.



Holness has been criticised for promising to trim taxes even as Jamaica struggles with a debt-to-GDP ratio of about 125, but he argued economic growth would plug the gap. Holness' Jamaican Labour party replaced the People's National party after winning 32 of 63 parliamentary seats in elections a week earlier, with some constituencies decided by just a handful of votes.

The tight race reflected divisions about the country's economic direction. Economic growth had improved in recent years under a strict austerity plan with the International Monetary Fund. The former government was credited with helping inflation shrink to a 50-year low. But unemployment still hovers around 13% on the island of 2.7 million, hitting 38% for young people.

Holness has promised some 250,000 jobs and said he envisioned Jamaica becoming a centre for finance and technology in the Caribbean. The top three global ratings agencies – Standard & Poor's, Fitch and Moody's – have all upgraded Jamaica's sovereign debt in recent months and predicted the new government would maintain the country's agreement with the IMF.

Sher Bahadur Deuba elected Nepali Congress president

March 08



Three-time Nepal prime minister Sher Bahadur Deuba has been elected the new president of Nepali Congress, the country's largest democratic party, in a run-off poll, succeeding late premier Sushil Koirala.

Deuba, 69, was elected the Nepali Congress chief during the 13th National General Convention.

Deuba is 8th president of the party since its inception. He was the prime minister of Nepal from 1995 to 1997, from 2001 to 2002, and from 2004 to 2005.

Iran Revolutionary Guards conduct ballistic missile test

March 08

Iran test-fired several ballistic missiles from silos across the country, the official website of the Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said, defying recent U.S. sanctions on its missile program. The test was intended "to show Iran's deterrent power and also the Islamic Republic's ability to confront any threat against the (Islamic) Revolution, the state and the sovereignty of the country".



The test came two months after the United States sanctioned businesses and individuals linked to Iran's missile program over a test of the medium-range Emad missile carried out in October 2015.

The United Nations said that test, which took place after Iran reached a nuclear deal with world powers in July, violated Security Council Resolution 1929 which barred Iran from undertaking any work on nuclear-capable ballistic missiles.

Nepal officially becomes member of Asia Cooperation Dialogue

March 10



ASIA COOPERATION DIALOGUE

Nepal has officially become a member of the Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD), a senior official said. The 14th Ministerial Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue being held in Bangkok, Thailand unanimously endorsed Nepal as the 34th member of Asia Cooperation Dialogue, said Bharat Kumar Regmi, a senior official at the Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Kamal Thapa thanked the ACD for accepting Nepal as a new member. While delivering a speech at the meeting, Thapa reiterated full commitment to the principles, values and objectives of the ACD. He also assured that Nepal will continue to engage in its activities and programs with sincerity and dedication. The ACD currently has 34 members.



Justice Dinesh Maheshwari has been sworn-in as the chief justice of the Meghalaya High Court.

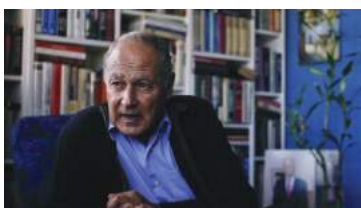
The regional forum, established in June 2002, is the only official dialog and cooperation mechanism in Asia at a continental level. The Nepalese government has expressed hope that the country's association with the ACD will help Nepal expand relations in the international arena, a spokesman at the Nepalese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

Nepal's engagement with the ACD will help further enhance its cooperation with ACD member states on various fields such as economy, tourism, commerce, foreign direct investment and foreign employment among others.

Egypt's ex-foreign minister appointed as Arab League chief

March 11

Egyptian former foreign minister Ahmed Abul-Gheit was appointed as the new secretary general of the Arab League.



In an emergency meeting in Cairo, the Arab League council unanimously agreed to appoint Abul-Gheit as the

new chief to replace outgoing secretary-general Nabil Al-Araby, 80, who declined a second five-year term, Xinhua reported.

According to Article 12 of the Arab League Pact, the secretary general is to be appointed upon the vote of two-thirds of the member states, currently 21 after the suspension of Syria's membership over its crisis.

Abul-Gheit served as Egypt's foreign minister from 2004 until 2011 under former long-time leader Hosni Mubarak who was ousted by mass protests in February 2011.

Egypt's nomination of Abul-Gheit for the post was initially rejected by Qatar and Sudan, and a four-member committee of the foreign ministers of Egypt, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates was formed earlier on Thursday to discuss the objections.

The outgoing Arab League chief Al-Araby said that he "recommended the Arab League council to update the body's pact to cope with the regional changes".

Founded in Cairo in 1945, the Arab League is a regional organisation of Arab states with the main goal of drawing closer inter-Arab relations and coordinating Arab positions on regional and international issues.

Seoul, US conduct largest-ever military landing drill

March 12

South Korea and the US carried out their largest-ever landing drill in the port city of Pohang. The landing drill involved 17,200 soldiers, including 12,200 American marine and navy troops, Yonhap News Agency reported.

Several key US vessels, including the USS Bonhomme Richard and amphibious dock landing ship USS Ashland, were a part of the Amphibious Operations (AMPHOPS), which also simulated the destruction of major enemy installations. Australia and New Zealand also participated in the drill.



The two countries are among the 17 nations that are currently stationing military forces under the flag of the UN Command, which backed South Korea in the 1950-1953 Korean War that ended in an armistice but was never followed up by a definitive peace treaty. This is the first time that New Zealand has dispatched troops to Pohang, and Australia's deployment is their largest so far.

13th meeting of Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development held in Dubai

March 14



The 13th meeting of Broadband Commission for Sustainable Development was held in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The meeting was held to promote the power of broadband networks and services for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

It brought the leaders from the public, private and social sectors together to seek the solutions to achieving education, equity and employment for all. The Broadband

The Assam Cabinet has approved the setting up of Metro Rail Corporation for its capital city.



Mahendra's

Commission also discussed among other issues like how to innovate in education through technology.

The full meeting of the Commission revisited the issue of new broadband targets to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The meeting set the ground for new concrete, measurable broadband targets to be agreed for the next full meeting of the Commission in September 2016 at the New York meeting.

The Dubai meeting of the Commission was held at the invitation of Broadband Commissioner Sunny Varkey, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, in the context of the Global Education and Skills Forum, and right after the joint ITU/UNESCO Policy Forum during UNESCO Mobile Learning Week.

The Broadband Commission works to ensure that no one is left behind by leaving no one off-line.

In 2015, 44 percent world population remains offline, including 36 percent of LDC population while there are 200 million fewer girls and women online than boys and men.

Palestinian teacher Hanan Al-Hroub wins \$1 million global teaching prize

March 14



A Palestinian teacher from the West Bank has won a \$1 million award for her innovative approach of using play to counter violent behaviour.

Hanan Al Hroub, who grew up in a Palestinian refugee camp in Bethlehem and now teaches at a high school in the West Bank, was awarded the Global Teacher award at a ceremony in Dubai.

Wearing a traditional Palestinian dress and black veil, Hroub was hailed by world leaders at the ceremony for the Nobel-style award, set

up two years ago by the Dubai-based Varkey Foundation.

Detailed in her book "We Play and Learn", Hroub's approach has "led to a decline in violent behaviour in schools where this is usually a frequent occurrence," the foundation said in a statement.

Cuba, U.S. firms sign direct telephone traffic deal

March 15

Cuban and U.S. telecom firms have signed an agreement to establish direct international voice traffic, basically in incoming and outgoing calls. Cuba's state telecommunications company Etecsa signed the interconnection accord with New York-based Verizon Partner Solutions, a division of Verizon Communications Inc.

The deal paves the way for direct telephone communication between the two countries, but Etecsa said in a statement the service won't be available until "the period of implementation and technical testing both operators are undertaking is complete." It did not provide a date.



One of the four big U.S. telecom firms, along with AT&T, Sprint and T-Mobile, Verizon in September 2015 became the first U.S.-based wireless company to offer travelers roaming service in Cuba, the company said on its website.

This latest deal is the third of its kind signed between Cuba and the United States since Havana and Washington announced in December 2014 their decision to restore diplomatic ties after half a century of animosity.

In February 2015, Etecsa signed a similar accord with IDT Domestic Telecom, and in November it signed a roaming agreement with Sprint. U.S. President Barack Obama is set to travel to Cuba for a visit, the first by a sitting U.S. head of state since 1928.



C. K. Khanna is principal advisor to the supervisory committee for the ICC World T20 matches.



PNB declares United Breweries Holdings 'wilful defaulter' Feb 16



Punjab National Bank (PNB) has declared Vijay Mallya-led United Breweries (Holdings), Kingfisher Airlines BSE 3.03 % and Vijay Mallya as 'wilful defaulter', and bank's

chairman Usha Ananthasubramanian said it will explore all legal routes to seek recovery of loans.

The company has said it plans legal action against Punjab National Bank (PNB). "The company is in consultation with its legal counsels to challenge the decision by taking appropriate legal action that may be required in this regard," United Breweries said in a notice sent to stock exchanges in response to PNB's decision.

The bank has an exposure of around Rs 710 crore towards the now grounded Kingfisher Airlines. "When people have the wherewithal to pay, they must pay. PNB has invoked all the recovery mechanisms such as recovery suit in the debt recovery tribunal (DRT) and other legal powers under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (SARFAESI) Act.

Last year, State Bank of India (SBI) and United Bank of India (UBI) had declared Mallya, Kingfisher Airlines and its holding company United Breweries as wilful defaulters. Kingfisher Airlines has an outstanding exposure of around Rs 7,000 crore towards 11 state-run banks.

Tata Teleservices subsidiary mRUPEE tied-up with IRCTC Feb 16



mRUPEE, a subsidiary of Tata Teleservices, announced that it has tied up with Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) to provide an additional payment gateway.

Indian Railways carries more than 23 million passengers a day and the association will allow users one-tap payments for rail ticket bookings via mRUPEE wallet for a significant number of travellers.

About mRUPEE

mRUPEE, a subsidiary of Tata Teleservices, is a service that allows the consumers to do various transactions through their mobile phone. It converts customers' mobile phones into a mobile wallet and allows them to send money to their family & friends' bank accounts, shop online and make payments of bills & services.

BAE Systems Down-Selects Mahindra for Proposed Ultra Lightweight Howitzer Assembly, Integration and Test Feb 17



India and the United States are in discussions for a Foreign Military Sale (FMS) of 145 M777A2 LW155 howitzers for the Indian Army.

BAE Systems looks forward to working with Mahindra in the coming weeks to finalize details of this AIT facility and to negotiate the terms of its contractual arrangement.

In 2015, the Company developed and submitted a US Government-supported proposal offering a higher degree of indigenization on the M777 weapon system.

The highlight of this is the commitment to establish AIT capabilities in India in partnership with a domestic Indian company.

The selection follows a detailed assessment of Mahindra's ability to fulfil the requirements and provide the best value to the M777 India programme, and in the future, grow its capability as a strategic partner for BAE Systems in India.



Austria is the world's most livable city, according to Mercer's 2016 Quality of Life Survey.

Mahendra's

India, Sweden ink MoU on technical cooperation

Feb 18



India and Sweden signed an agreement for technical cooperation in railways and other areas. The agreement was signed between the Indian Railways and the Swedish ministries of railways and enterprise and innovation.

The main objectives of the MoU is to develop cooperation in railways and achieve concrete results with regard to bilateral trade, investment and research and technology transfer.

The areas identified for cooperation include benchmark railway projects, exchange of knowledge, training and education and sustainable solutions among others. The agreement's time frame is five years, extendable by another five years with mutual consent.

Apple to set up Technology Development Centre in Hyderabad

Feb 18



Apple Inc. announced setting up of a Technology Development Centre (TDC) in Hyderabad, Telangana.

For Apple, it will be the first TDC outside the USA. With this announcement, Apple joined other big technology firms like Microsoft, Google and Facebook that focused on Hyderabad to expand their operations in Asia.

The centre will be set up at an estimated investment of 25 million US dollars and occupy 250000 square feet in Tishman Speyer's WaveRock facility. The proposed TDC is of strategic value as, at present, Apple Inc. is the world's largest mobile technology company and India is the world's fastest-growing smart phone market.

BHEL commissioned 270 MW unit of GVK power plant in Punjab

Feb 19



State-run equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) commissioned a 270 MW generation unit at the Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Project of private producer GVK Power & Infra in Punjab. Thermal sets of 270 MW rating are in-house improvisations of the 210/250 MW sets supplied by the company earlier, which currently form the backbone of the Indian power sector and have been performing much above the national average as well as international benchmarks.

All the operational sets of 210-270 MW class in Punjab have been supplied, erected and commissioned by BHEL, i.e., six units of 210 MW at Ropar, 2 units of 210 MW and 2 units of 250 MW at Bhatinda, besides 270 MW Unit at Goindwal Sahib.

BHEL has earlier commissioned four hydro sets of 82.5 MW each at the Alaknanda Hydro Power Project in Uttarakhand by the same developer.

Union Cabinet approved Trade Facilitation Agreement

Feb 19



Union Cabinet approved Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO). It approved the Notification of Commitments, its ratification and acceptance of the Instrument of Acceptance of Protocol of TFA to the WTO Secretariat. India is the 71st country to give nod to the agreement that seeks to ease customs procedures to boost commerce.

As per the Trade Facilitation Agreement adopted by the WTO on 27 November 2014 in Geneva, Switzerland, the TFA shall enter into force for the notified members (107 countries) upon acceptance by two-third WTO Members.

The TFA contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit.

India decided against signing WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement

It also sets out measures for effective cooperation between customs and other appropriate authorities on trade facilitation and customs compliance issues.

These objectives are in consonance with India's "Ease of Doing Business" initiative.



India is third in terms of number of billionaires, according to Hurun Global Rich List 2016.

National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF)

Besides, Union Cabinet also approved the constitution of the National Committee on Trade Facilitation (NCTF). NCTF will facilitate both domestic coordination and implementation of the provisions of the Agreement and it will be set up under the Joint Chair of Secretary, Department of Revenue and Secretary, Department of Commerce.

Jharkhand signs MoUs for Rs 62,000 crore

Feb 19



The BJP-led government in Jharkhand signed memoranda of understanding (MoUs) worth Rs 62,000 crore. Adani Group signed an MoU with the Jharkhand government for a total investment of Rs 50,000 crore. Of the Rs 50,000 crore, an investment of Rs 15,000 crore was proposed in setting up two thermal power plants. The rest would be invested to set up a unit that would produce coal-based methane fertiliser.

Further, the Vedanta group would invest Rs 2,000 crore in setting up a steel plant. The Jharkhand industry department has also received 11 letters of intent from various companies, committing an investment of Rs 10,000 crore in setting up units in the chemical, IT, textile and construction sectors. These MoUs were exchanged in the presence of Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das at a Make in India Week function in Mumbai. The state government also released a new industrial and investment promotion policy to ensure ease of doing business.

Amazon launched Tatkal initiative for small businesses

Feb 19

E-commerce giant Amazon launched Amazon Tatkal, an initiative that enables small and medium businesses (SMBs) to go online and sell products on Amazon. Amazon Tatkal offers registration, imaging and cataloguing services as well as basic seller training, all in about 60 minutes.



Starting with New Delhi, Amazon Tatkal will gradually pass throughout the nation, engaging with thousands of entrepreneurs, artisans, manufacturers and sellers and help them sell online on the spot.

Key highlights of Amazon Tatkal

- ✎ Amazon Tatkal is a specially designed studio-on-wheels offering a suite of launch services including registration, imaging and cataloguing services, as well as basic seller training mechanisms.
- ✎ It will enable thousands of interested sellers to start selling on Amazon in real time and experience the benefits of launching an online business.
- ✎ Amazon Tatkal will visit seller-dense pockets across multiple cities in the country and engage with local businesses over the next several months.

PIB clears India Post's Rs 800 crore proposal for payments bank

Feb 21



The Public Investment Board has approved the Rs 800-crore proposal from India Post for setting up a payments bank and it will be placed before the Cabinet within a month for final approval. PIB, under the Finance Ministry, whets the investment proposals by state-run entities.

The pilot for the payments bank is set to start from January 2017 and the full-fledged operations may start by March.

As many as 40 international financial conglomerates including World Bank and Barclays have shown interest to partner the postal department for setting up the bank.

The Reserve Bank has granted payments bank permit to the department, which is already into providing financial services and has 1.55 lakh branches across the country. As per the RBI guidelines, a payments bank can offer limited services such as demand deposits and remittances.

They will not be allowed to undertake lending activities and will initially be restricted to holding a maximum balance of Rs 1 lakh per individual customer. They will be allowed to issue ATM or debit cards as other prepaid payment instruments but not credit cards.



56 Indians have been included in the Forbes inaugural '30 under 30 Asia' list.

Mahendra's

R. Com gets CCI go-ahead to acquire Sistema's MTS

Feb 21

Reliance Communications (RCom) said fair trade regulator CCI has given nod to its deal to acquire Russian conglomerate Sistema's Indian telecom unit, Sistema Shyam Teleservices Ltd (SSTL) that operates under the MTS brand. In November, India's leading telecom operator RCom announced acquisition of Sistema's Indian telecom unit in an all-stock deal that will create an operator with 118 million subscribers.



According to the deal, SSTL will hold about 10% stake in RCom and pay off its existing debt before closing the deal. SSTL offers mobile telephony services under the MTS brand across nine telecom circles in the country. The deal will give RCom access to spectrum or airwaves in the 850 Mhz band that can be used for 4G services which it plans to start by the year-end.

India set to seal major power deal in Bangladesh, beating China

Feb 22



State-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) is poised to seal a contract to build a \$1.6 billion power plant in Bangladesh, beating out a Chinese competitor in the latest commercial tussle between the region's two dominant powers.

After China's recent success in pushing development projects in Sri Lanka, a breakthrough in Bangladesh would be welcome news for Indian officials who have long fretted over Beijing's encroachment on to territory it considers its own back yard.

India believes Bangladesh is a part of a "String of Pearls" China is building across the Indian Ocean that stretches from Gwadar port in Pakistan to Djibouti on the African coast where it is building a naval base.

After years of negotiations, BHEL will sign a contract to build a 1,320-megawatt (MW) thermal power station in Khulna in southern Bangladesh on Feb. 28.

China's Harbin Electric International Company Ltd, which has power projects in Iran, Turkey and Indonesia among others, lost the bid on technical grounds.



Atanu Chakraborty is new chief of Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH).

The Indian government's external lending arm, the Exim Bank, has backed up BHEL's offer with nearly 70 percent funding of the project's costs at a soft interest rate of around 1 percent above Libor, the leading global benchmark for pricing transactions. It would be the biggest foreign project by an Indian power firm, eclipsing a plant already built in Rwanda and a planned one in Sri Lanka.

CII signs MoU with Dubai exports to boost trade

Feb 22



Aiming to strengthen India-UAE economic ties, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has signed an MoU with Dubai Exports to boost trade and explore business opportunities.

CII, a non-government organisation, has signed an memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Dubai Exports, which works with other Dubai Government Departments to simplify the export process. It develops long-term growth strategies to expand businesses and maximise the opportunities given by Dubai's unique position as a natural trade gateway between the East and West.

The MoU pledged to maintain frequent and regular contact with each other for mutual exchange of non-confidential, economic and trade information and to suggest and recommend partners for economic and trade cooperation and explore opportunities for business between members of both parties.

It will also organise exchange of visits for business cooperation and provide each other with necessary support in terms of organizing conferences, mounting business delegations and other activities.

CII and Dubai Exports within the limits of their competence will aspire to make coordinated efforts in solving and reducing the impediments caused due to regulatory mechanisms like taxation, customs procedures, visas etc.

20 cities to launch smart city projects by June 25 this year

Feb 22

Minister of Urban Development M. Venkaiah Naidu today asked the first batch of 20 cities selected in the first round of competition to launch respective smart city projects by 25th of June this year marking the one year of launch of the Mission by Prime Minister last year. He addressed a workshop 'India Smart City Mission:Next Steps'.



Naidu asserted that the Smart City Competition was completely city neutral neither favouring nor discriminating against any participant city.

Elaborating on this, he said that the evaluating criteria including implementation framework, result orientation, citizen participation, smartness of solutions, city vision and strategy, processes followed etc do not favour or go against any city.

Referring to the top 20 ranked cities, Naidu noted that 'lesser known Davanagere in Karnataka and Solpaur in Maharashtra scored higher than the well known New Delhi Municipal Council. Little known Kakinada in Andhra Pradesh did much better than the mighty Chennai in terms of ranks. I see no reason why Bhagalpur in Bihar, Ranchi in Jharkhand and Dehradun in Uttarakhand could not do what Belagavi in Karnataka did in coming out with a sound vision and a credible strategy to realise it and making it to the top 20".

Naidu urged the 23 cities participating in the Fast Track competition like Warangal, Chandigarh, Lucknow, Bhagalpur, Dehradun etc., to improve their proposals by learning from the experience of the first batch of 20 cities and asked the top 20 cities to get going by operationalizing Special Purpose Vehicles and launching smart city projects.

RBI extends currency swap arrangement with SAARC nations

Feb 23

In order to enhance economic cooperation and strengthen financial stability, RBI has extended the \$2 billion currency swap arrangement to SAARC nations till mid-November 2017.

The Reserve Bank, in a notification has said that it has decided to extend the SAARC Currency Swap Arrangement till November 14, 2017. Under the arrangement, RBI is to offer swap arrangement up to an overall amount of \$2 billion both in foreign currency and Indian rupee.

The SAARC Swap Arrangement was offered by the RBI to SAARC nations on November 15, 2012. The facility will be available to all SAARC member countries — Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

The swap amount available to various member central banks has been arrived at broadly based on two months import cover subject to a floor of \$100 million and a maximum of \$400 million per country.

No surcharge, service charge on card and digital payments

Feb 25

With an aim to discourage cash transactions, the Cabinet has approved withdrawal of surcharge, service charge and convenience fee on card and digital payments. The Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi also approved mandating payments beyond a prescribed threshold only through a card or digital mode. The move primarily discourages transactions in cash by providing access to financial payment services to citizens to pay through cards and digital means and shifting payment ecosystem from cash dominated to non-cash or

Exhibition on the "Coin and Currency of India" organized

Feb 22

The Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, inaugurated an exhibition on the "Coin and Currency of India" in the Great Hall of North Block. The Exhibition was organised by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance. It is for the first time that such an exhibition has been organised in this historic Hall. This Exhibition depicts how money has changed in appearance and substance and evolved from barter to coins to the present day bank notes and e-money. The exhibition depicts the many names of money, some of which have gone into oblivion and some are in use even today. The Exhibition presents a brief history of the Great Hall as well.



Speaking on the occasion, the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that this exhibition would help in knowing the history of evolution of currency in the country. He congratulated the Department for its innovative initiative and hoped that this Great Hall will also be used for multiple purpose in future as well which in turn would help in restoring its old grandeur.

According to Finance Secretary Ratan P. Watal, this initiative is a part of the PM's call for a Swachh Bharat, as this initiative would also help in keeping our office environment clean.



33% sub-quota has been allocated for women under all reserved categories in the 2016 Railway Budget.



Mahendra's

less cash payments. Among other measures aimed at reducing cash transactions include rationalisation of Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on card transactions and a differentiated MDR framework for some key segments.

Creation of necessary assurance mechanisms for quick resolution of fraudulent transactions and reviewing the payments ecosystem in the country have also been approved. Several short-term (to be implemented within one year) and medium-term measures (two years) for implementation by the government ministries, departments and organisations were approved.



Chabahar Port: Govt gives nod to \$150-million credit to Iran

Feb 25



The Union Cabinet gave approval to shipping ministry's proposal for provision and operationalisation of credit of \$150 million from EXIM Bank for development of Chabahar Port in Iran. The Chabahar Port lies outside the Persian Gulf in Iran and will help in expanding maritime commerce in the region.

India is negotiating this project to facilitate the growing trade and investment with Iran and other countries in the region, notably Afghanistan and also to provide opportunities to Indian companies to penetrate and enhance their footprint in the region. An MoU was signed between India and Iran in 2015.

EPFO tightens norms for withdrawal of Provident Fund

Feb 26

Retirement fund body EPFO has tightened norms on withdrawal of provident fund as well investment of such amount in Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana for its over five crore subscribers. As per the earlier norms, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) subscribers were allowed to claim 90 per cent of their accumulations in their PF account at the age of 54 years and their claims were settled just one year before their retirement.



In another change, EPFO has made it mandatory to wait till attaining the age of 57 for claiming PF withdrawal for transferring that to the Life Insurance Corporation of India for investment in Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana. Earlier norms used to allow subscribers to claim 90 per cent of their accumulations for investing in the scheme after attaining the age of 55 years. The EPFO has also amended the scheme for appointment of upto Joint Secretary level officers by its apex decision making body the Central Board of Trustees' (CBT). Earlier the EPFO had to seek Labour Ministry approval of any appointment with pay scale of higher than Rs 14,300 to Rs 18,300 pay band. Earlier EPFO has launched new simplified form for subscribers who have activated their Universal Account Number to apply directly for settling such claims. This amendment to scheme will remove any legal hassle for settling such claims through new simplified forms.

Top telecom companies partner for 5G technology

Feb 26

Leading global telecom operators including China Mobile, Vodafone, Bharti Airtel and SoftBank have joined hands to launch five-year programme GTI 2.0, which aims to advance existing 4G technology and industrialization of 5G technologies.

GTI 2.0, a five-year strategic plan and mission, aims to continue to promote the global development of existing 4G technologies, TD-LTE and FD-LTE, encourage their convergence and to foster a cross-industry innovative and a synergistic 5G ecosystem.

In India, Bharti Airtel has launched 4G service on both the technologies. Reliance Jio Infocomm too has spectrum to deliver 4G services using both these technology but it is yet to launch its services. Aircel and State-run BSNL have launched 4G service on small scale using TD LTE (telecommunication) technology.

Founded in 2011, GTI is platform of 122 operator members and 103 industrial partners. By the end of December 2015, there were 76 TD-LTE commercial networks in 43 countries.



EXIM Bank will provide \$150 billion credit for the development of Chabahar Port in Iran.

RBI revises SDR norms; asks banks to higher provisions of 15%

Feb 26

The Reserve Bank of India asked banks going in for strategic debt restructuring (SDR) scheme to make sufficient provisions to the tune of 15 per cent of the loans value, to tide over possible loss in the value of the equity they acquire in lieu of debt and residual loans.

The RBI said it is possible that the lenders, after invoking SDR in an account, may not be able to sell their stake to new promoters within the 18 month period, thus revoking the 'stand-still' benefit, which may result in sharp deterioration in the classification of their remaining loan exposures from what prevailed on the 'reference date'.

The required provision should be made in equal installments over the four quarters and it shall be reversed only when all the outstanding loans in the account perform satisfactorily during the 'specified period' after transfer of ownership control to new promoters. The central bank said the asset classification benefit will be available to the lenders provided they divest a minimum of 26 per cent of the shares of the acquired company to the new promoters within the stipulated time line of 18 months and the new promoters take over management control.

Delhi airport bags three international awards

March 01

Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has received three international awards, including for best airport by size in the Asia Pacific region. These awards have been given by the Airports Council International - ACI for 2015.



Delhi airport has retained the world's number one position for the second consecutive year in 25 to 40 Million Passengers Per Annum category. The two other awards are for best airport by size & region Asia Pacific and second best airport by region. The management of Delhi Airport is done by Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL). According to DIAL CEO Prabhakar Rao, sustained efforts are being made to provide best possible services to passengers.

Public Provident Fund withdrawal exempted from tax: Govt

March 01

Government made it clear that Public Provident Fund will not be taxed on withdrawal. Revenue Secretary Hasmukh Adhia



said in a statement that only the interest that accrues on contributions to Employee Provident Fund made after 1st of April this year will be taxed while principal will continue to remain tax exempt.

Mr Adhia elaborated that 40 percent of the interest accrued on contributions made after 1st April will be tax exempted and remaining 60 percent will be taxed. The Revenue Secretary also clarified that this is not a revenue mobilisation exercise and this 60 percent will also be tax exempted if it is invested in a pension annuity scheme.

He said the Budget proposal to tax 60 per cent tax withdrawal will affect less than one fifth of employees with high salaries. He said small salaried employees with income up to 15,000 rupees per month will be kept out of purview of proposed taxation of EPF.

The Revenue Secretary said National Pension System has been made tax friendly. He said 40 percent of the corpus that an investor can withdraw on maturity will be made tax free.

RBI allows banks to expand capital base to meet Basel III norms

March 02

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has allowed banks to beef up its capital adequacy by including certain items such as property value, foreign exchange for calculation of its Tier-I capital.



The new norms revealed by the regulator suggest that banks can now include the value of the property while calculating its Tier-I or core capital base. But not the entire value of the property would be included; instead only 45 per cent of the property value would be counted.

Analysts with a credit rating agency said considering revalued assets (real estate) as part of common equity may only serve the purpose of regulatory capital requirement. That hardly improves the credit profile of banks. The asset has to be ready (available) to absorb loss in times of need.

According to RBI sources, this move would help in unlocking Rs 30,000-35,000 crore of capital for PSBs and up to Rs 5,000 crore for private banks. According



Maldives Cabinet has approved avoidance of double taxation with India for income from air transport.

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to new Basel-III norms, which kick in from March 2019, Indian banks need to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of nine per cent, in addition to a capital conservation buffer, which would be in the form of common equity at 2.5 per cent of the risk weighted assets. In other words, banks' minimum CAR must be 11.5 per cent, which is higher than the 9.62 per cent banks are required to currently maintain.

IFC launches Masala Bonds to tap Japanese households

March 02

International Finance Corporation (IFC) launched its first Uridashi Masala Bonds (Japanese bonds) to mobilise Rs 30 crore from Japanese retail investors. The proceeds will be used for promoting private sector development in India.



The three-year bond builds on IFC's pioneering Masala Bond programme, which has raised the equivalent of USD 1.7 billion from international investors so far.

The bonds will be settled in yen and each bond is denominated at Rs 1,00,000, the IFC said, adding that the bonds will be issued on March 30, 2016 and mature on March 29, 2019 with an annual payout of 5.36 per cent. Masala Bonds are rupee-denominated instruments sold only to offshore investors, while Uridashi bonds are sold to Japanese household investors.

IFC has played a prominent role in developing capital markets in the country, rolling out a USD 3 billion worth of rupee-denominated Masala Bonds over the past two years. The largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets, IFC has issued bonds in various maturities to establish a sound benchmark for rupee bond prices.

India at 90th rank in terms of energy security, access: WEF

March 02



India has been ranked at the 90th place in a list of 126 countries compiled by World Economic Forum (WEF) on the basis of their ability

to deliver secure, affordable and sustainable energy, which was topped by Switzerland.

The latest Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report, explored the energy architecture of 126 countries based on their ability to provide energy access across



Reliance Industries has emerged as the top company in terms of CSR expenditure.

three dimensions of the "energy triangle" - affordability, environmental sustainability, security and access. The list was topped by Switzerland followed by Norway and Sweden in the second and third place, respectively. Others in the top 10 include France (4th), Denmark (5th), Austria (6th), Spain (7th), Colombia (8th), New Zealand (9th) and Uruguay (10th).

IMF projects 7.3% GDP growth rate for India this fiscal

March 03

The International Monetary Fund has projected a robust growth rate of 7.3 per cent for the country this fiscal, picking up to 7.5 per cent next year. The multilateral lending agency welcomed recent measures aimed at increasing public infrastructure spending, rationalising subsidies, creating more flexible labour and product markets as well as enhancing financial inclusion. The agency's projections are lower than the government's estimate of 7.6 per cent growth in 2015-16 while Reserve Bank sees economy expanding by 7.4 per cent this fiscal.



Five Indian women among Forbes World's Billionaires List

March 03

Five Indian women have made it to the Forbes list of world's richest people in the world, which saw 190 women billionaires – a little over 10 per cent of the total count.

Globally the number of women in the coveted rich list declined from last year. Of the total 1,810 billionaires this year, 190 are women, down from 197 in 2015. Moreover, women still account for just a small percentage – a little over 10 per cent of the total richie rich population.

Among the Indian women on the list Savitri Jindal and family was ranked at the 453rd place on the list with a net worth of USD 3.5 billion. On Jindal, Forbes said, in the past five years, matriarch Savitri Jindal's fortune has declined by close to USD 10 billion due to a downward slide in shares of her O P Jindal group companies.

Indu Jain who chairs media conglomerate Bennett, Coleman & Co, was placed at the 549 rank globally. Others on the list include, Smita Crishna-Godrej ranked 810 on the list with a net worth of USD 2.2 billion. Leena Tiwari was placed at 1067 position with a net wealth of USD 1.7 billion.

PepsiCo inks sponsor-ship pact with BCCI

March 03

PepsiCo has inked a four-year ground sponsorship agreement with the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI). The four-year ground sponsorship deal is for all domestic and international matches played by team India (except IPL). The company will be the official refreshment partner, official snacks partner and official sports drink partner with its brand Gatorade. Last year, PepsiCo had pulled out of the title sponsorship deal for the Indian Premier League. D Shivakumar, Chairman and CEO, PepsiCo India, said that the deal will enable the company to leverage its portfolio across beverages and foods through scale campaigns and innovative consumer engagement programmes. The deal will give the brand prominence through in-stadia branding and on-ground advertising through the year.

Technovations ties-up with BRICS Chambers for Skill India

March 04

Indian start-up Technovations Services has collaborated with BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BRICS CCI) for Skill India -- to enhance skills and employability of educated youth in the country. According to the statement, the IT skills training company will provide a skill development platform to engineering and management students to get trained and work on tools and technologies being used in the industry, and get prepared for working in a competitive professional environment.



Indian-American investor Sunil Sabharwal occupies key IMF position

March 04



Independent investor Sunil Sabharwal has become the first Indian-American to occupy a key administration post at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), three weeks after he was confirmed by the Senate. Sabharwal, who was confirmed by the US Senate after a long waiting, assumed the position as Alternate Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund. Given that the US commands more than 16.81 per cent of the total IMF voting share; this is one of the most powerful position in the International Monetary Fund.

US President Barack Obama nominated him for the post in April 2014 and then re-nominated Sabharwal in March 2015. Sabharwal served as board chairman of Ogone, a European e-commerce payment services firm, from 2011-13 and advised Warburg Pincus on its acquisition of easycash, a German network services company, subsequently becoming a board adviser there from 2006-2009.

Government to digitally connect all Post Offices in rural areas by March 2017

March 05

Government will digitally connect all Post Offices in rural areas by March 2017. In a written reply to the Rajya Sabha, Communications and IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad said that Government has approved the Department of Posts' IT Modernisation Project with the objective of modernisation, digitisation and networking of about 1,55,000 Post Offices. The Minister said, the Rural Information and Communication Technology project is in its implementation phase and the objective of this project is to digitise all the rural Post Offices through a hand-held computing device, connecting them with the help of SIM card based network.



SBI granted operating licence by Myanmar

March 05

Myanmar has granted operating licences to four Asian banks, bringing the number of foreign banks allowed to conduct business in the previously isolated country to 13. Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam, State Bank of India, Taiwan's Sun Commercial Bank and South Korea's Shinhan Bank were granted preliminary licenses. The approval gives the banks 12 months to demonstrate they can fulfill business plans laid out in their application to Myanmar's government before they will be granted permanent licenses. The decision is just the second time Myanmar has granted licenses for foreign banks to open since a semi-civilian government took over in 2011. An earlier round in late 2014 saw licenses granted to nine foreign banks, also all from Asian countries. Myanmar is home to 24 private local banks and four state owned banks. Myanmar has pursued far-reaching reforms since the end a half-century of harsh military rule in 2011 in the hope of reversing isolation that saw the country become one of Asia's poorest.



Nissan motors of Japan has named Rohit Sharma as its new global ambassador.

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Environment Ministry releases new categorisation of industries March 05



The Government released a new categorization of industries based on their pollution load. Releasing the new categorization, Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Prakash Javadekar, said, "The new category of White industries which is practically non-polluting will not require Environmental Clearance (EC) and Consent and will help in getting finance from lending institutions.

The exercise of Re-categorization was being carried out for last one year. This is a landmark decision to give a fair picture of the industries".

The following criteria on 'Range of Pollution Index' for the purpose of categorization of industrial sectors is finalized.

Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above - Red category

Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 41 to 59

Orange category

Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 21 to 40

Green category

Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score incl & upto 20

White category

The salient features of the 'Re-categorization' exercise are as follows:

Due importance has been given to relative pollution potential of the industrial sectors based on scientific criteria. Further, wherever possible, splitting of the industrial sectors is also considered based on the use of raw materials, manufacturing process adopted and in-turn pollutants expected to be generated.

The Red category of industrial sectors would be 60.

The Orange category of industrial sectors would be 83.

The Green category of industrial sectors would be 63.

Newly-introduced White category contains 36 industrial sectors which are practically non-polluting.

There shall be no necessity of obtaining the Consent to Operate" for White category of industries. An intimation to concerned SPCB / PCC shall suffice.

No Red category of industries shall normally be permitted in the ecologically fragile area / protected area.

China hikes defence budget by 7.6 per cent March 05



China has increased its defence budget by 7.6 per cent to USD 146 billion for this year, citing militarisation of the Asia-Pacific, especially the disputed South China Sea, and deepening tensions with the US.

The increase is the lowest in defence spending in six years in the wake of economic slowdown. China's GDP growth last year declined to the lowest in 26 years to 6.9 per cent.

According to a budget report to the national legislature annual session, the government plans to raise the 2016 defence budget by 7.6 per cent to 954 billion yuan (about USD 146 billion). The new increase, lower than last year's 10.1 per cent, widens the gap further with the Indian defence budget which stood around USD 40 billion.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who presented a word report to this year's inaugural session, proposed a 6.5 per cent target for the GDP this year. It would, however, break a multi-year run of double-digit increases in China's defence budget, and mark the slowest growth in six years.

The raise will make the world's second largest economy the second largest defence spender, both next to the US.

Obama proposed a SD 534-billion defense budget package for the 2016 fiscal year, about 3.6 times China's budget this year. This year's new increase will do little to close that gap.



Veteran Pakistan actor Habib-ur-Rehman died in Lahore.

RBI to share FDI-related information with IB, RAW

March 08



The Reserve Bank of India will share Foreign Direct Investment-related information with the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), to check unaccounted money from entering the country.

The decision was taken during a recent meeting of a government group, headed by the revenue secretary, to check economic crime. The move comes after the cabinet secretariat expressed concern over companies in tax havens investing in the country. The cabinet secretariat suggested the Central Economic Intelligence Bureau maintain a database of such entities and investments, a move which was later rejected.

During the meeting of “the Working Group on Intelligence Apparatus”, representatives of IB felt it is important to have the information. It was decided that RBI should share with IB and cabinet secretariat, information on FDI which actually enters the country. The move assumes significance as the government expects rise in FDI inflow to the country owing to its attempts to liberalise trade and promote ease of doing business. The FDI comes either through automatic route (which gets recorded by RBI) or through Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) an inter-ministerial body under the

Department of Economic Affairs, which is responsible for processing of FDI proposals and making recommendations for government approval.

“Mahila e-Haat”, an online marketing platform for women launched

March 08



In a path-breaking initiative, the Minister of Women and Child Development, Maneka Sanjay Gandhi launched “Mahila e-Haat”, an online marketing platform for women. Mahila e-Haat is a unique online platform where participants can display their products. It is an initiative for women across the country as a part of ‘Digital India’ and ‘Stand Up India’ initiatives of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Speaking on the occasion, Maneka Gandhi said that this initiative can prove to be a game changer since it will provide access to markets to thousands of women who make products and are spread all over the country but have little access to markets. The initiative is unique since this is the first time that the government will help women to sell products online, the Minister added. Congratulating Rahstriya Mahila Kosh and all those involved in creating the portal, Maneka Gandhi said that it is web page based and has unlimited reach and can, therefore become catalyst in creating a new generation of business women.

Fitch lowers India's FY 2017 growth forecast to 7.7%

March 08



Fitch Ratings lowered India's economic growth forecast for next fiscal to 7.7 per cent, but maintained the GDP projection for current fiscal at 7.5 per cent.

Fitch, in December, forecast an 8 per cent GDP growth in 2016-17 supported by the government's beefed-up capex spending and gradual implementation of a broad-based structural reform agenda.

In its latest Global Economic Outlook (GEO), Fitch said gradual recovery in 2016-17 and 2017-18 would be supported by higher real disposable income, assuming a normal monsoon after two years of below-average rainfall and a substantial wage increase for central government employees.

“Growth is expected to gradually accelerate to 7.7 per cent in FY'17 and 7.9 per cent in FY'18. This implies minor downward revisions from the December GEO but leaves India at the top of the global growth ladder.”

Fitch said it expects another 0.25 per cent cut in monetary policy, as the government has decided to stick to the fiscal deficit roadmap for next fiscal.



Rajendra Singh has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of Coast Guard.

Mahendra's

Delhi, Dhaka to sign \$2 billion loan deal

March 08

Bangladesh's Economic Relations Division (ERD) senior secretary Mohammad Mejbahuddin and the Indian Exim Bank chairman and managing director sign the agreement.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed on the fresh soft loan during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Dhaka in June 2015. A report on the final agreement has been sent to the prime minister. All the terms and conditions tagged with the fresh credit will be like those for \$1 billion India lent Bangladesh in 2010.

As many as 15 development projects were undertaken with the previous Line of Credit (LOC) and seven of them have already been completed. The \$2 billion credit carries one percent interest rate and 0.5 percent commitment fee. The repayment period will be 20 years with a grace period of five years.



Tata Motors announces strategic partnership for Indian FICV program

March 08

The home-grown auto major Tata Motors announced a tri-partite partnership with Bharat Forge and US-based General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) to bid for India's Rs 50,000-crore future infantry combat vehicle (FICV) project.

Tata Motors will lead the consortium with Bharat Forge as a partner while General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) will bring in its much-proven expertise in-combat vehicle platforms.

The Rs 50,000-crore FICV project is spread over 25 years and other Indian firms, including L&T and Mahindra, are in the fray for the project. Other firms reported to be in the running include L&T, M&M, Bharat Forge, Pipavav Defence, Punj Lloyd and the Ordnance Factory Board.



Indian Railways appoints Ernst Young as its consultant

March 09



Initiating a large-scale significant exercise to identify and leverage pan-India advertising opportunities at Railway Stations and Trains, Indian Railways has appointed Ernst Young in India as Consultant to undertake this job on its behalf. EY is a global leader in its Assurance, Tax, Transaction and Advisory services. The Railway PSU - RITES, the consulting wing for Indian Railways, awarded the mandate to EY following a multi-party bid.

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has always been emphasizing on increasing revenues through non-fare box route especially through advertising.

Initial estimates have indicated an advertising potential on Railways in excess of Rs. 5000/- Crores over the next few years. EY has been assigned the job for tapping the advertising potential of Indian Railways assets including fleet of trains spread in a wide network of about 7000 railway stations across India. EY with its specialized offering Marketing and Advertising Risk Services (MARS), will help the Indian Railways to identify assets across its stations for the purpose of advertising and will also develop a pricing strategy to evaluate them for advertisers. The firm has commenced its exercise.

Anand Mahindra conferred France's Knight of the Legion of Honour

March 09

Chairman and Managing Director of Mahindra & Mahindra Group Anand G Mahindra was conferred with the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour). The honour was conferred upon by François Richier, Ambassador of France to India, at the Residence of France in New Delhi.

Anand Mahindra was chosen for the highest French civilian distinction in recognition of his outstanding national and international achievements and initiatives at the helm of the Mahindra Group.



GTI 2.0 is a five year program to advance 4G technology and industrialization of 5G technologies.

About National Order of the Legion of Honour

- ✎ The National Order of the Legion of Honour (Ordre national de la Légion d'honneur) is a French order established by Napoleon Bonaparte on 19 May 1802.
- ✎ The Order is the highest decoration in France and is divided into five degrees of increasing distinction: Chevalier (Knight), Officier (Officer), Commandeur (Commander), Grand Officier (Grand Officer) and Grand' Croix (Grand Cross).
- ✎ The order's motto is Honour and Fatherland.
- ✎ The Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur is France's premier award to recognise eminent accomplishments of service to France. It is bestowed on both citizens of France as well as foreigners.
- ✎ In the past, personalities such as Pandit Ravi Shankar, Amitabh Bachchan, Manish Arora and JRD Tata were honoured with the prestigious award.

Cabinet gives green light to Rs. 8,000-cr rural LPG scheme

March 10

The Cabinet approved a Rs. 8,000 crore scheme to provide cooking gas (LPG) connections free of cost to women members of poor households.

The Cabinet, headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana with an outlay of Rs. 8,000 crore for three years, Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said. The scheme aims to provide on a war footing LPG connections to women members of below poverty line (BPL) families.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, in his Budget for 2016-17, had announced the plan, saying the poor do not have access to cooking gas.

"Women of India have faced the curse of smoke during the process of cooking. According to experts, having an open fire in the kitchen is like burning 400 cigarettes an hour. The time has come to remedy this situation," he said in his Budget speech.

He had stated that the government has decided to embark on a massive mission to provide LPG connections in names of women members of poor households. "I have set aside a sum of Rs. 2,000 crore in this year's Budget to meet the initial cost of providing these LPG connections. This will benefit about 1 crore 50 lakh households below the poverty line in 2016-17," he had said.

"The Scheme will be continued for at least two more years to cover a total of 5 crore BPL households. This will ensure universal coverage of cooking gas in the country." The move is aimed at empowering women and protecting their health, he stressed.



ICICI Bank Launches Credit-Linked Subsidy Scheme Under 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana'

March 10



ICICI Bank announced the launch of a credit-linked subsidy scheme for home loans under the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana'. Under this scheme, individuals including women borrowers from the economically weaker section and low income group will be able to acquire and construct the first brick-and-mortar (pucca) house of the family by paying significantly lower Equated Monthly Instalments (EMIs).

ICICI Bank has signed an MoU with National Housing Bank (NHB), a Central Nodal Agency for the scheme, to facilitate the credit-linked subsidy to the eligible borrowers. According to the scheme, an eligible customer will get

the subsidy at 6.5% per annum on a maximum amount of Rs. 6 lakh or the loan amount, whichever is lower, for a maximum tenure of 15 years. The subsidy is computed on the Net Present Value method.

Talking about the scheme, Rajiv Sabharwal, Executive Director, ICICI Bank said, "ICICI Bank is committed to support the Government's vision to provide housing for all by 2022. In line with this commitment, we have launched



Bangladeshi cricketer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza is National Goodwill Ambassador for Youth by UNDP.

Mahendra's

the credit-linked subsidy scheme of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana which reduces the EMI of the borrowers from the economically weaker section and low income groups. We believe that this scheme will empower a larger section of customers including women borrowers to realise the dream of owning their first home.”

Key highlights of the scheme:

- ✎ Loan amount: Loan as per eligibility of customer. No maximum limit on loan amount
- ✎ Loan tenure : Up to 30 years based on the guidelines of the Bank
- ✎ Maximum tenure for subsidy computation: As per guidelines of the scheme, 15 years or the tenure of the loan, whichever is lower

The scheme is available to those without a brick-and-mortar (pucca) house, with families comprising husband, wife and unmarried children. Interested customers can apply for the scheme at branches of ICICI Bank which offer this facility.

India to be among the 10 largest members of IMF

March 12



The government will invest Rs 69,575 crore towards increasing India's quota in the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that will provide increased voting rights at the multilateral funding agency.

With the implementation of the long-pending quota reforms, four emerging nations — India, Brazil, China and Russia — would be, for the first time, among the 10 largest members of IMF.

In the supplementary demand of grants moved by finance minister Arun Jaitley in Parliament on Friday, the government has sought a grant of Rs 69,575.47 crore towards subscription to IMF for quota increase.

Currently, India has voting rights of 2.34 per cent at the IMF, which has 188 members. In terms of quota, India has a share of 2.44 per cent. Others in the top 10 largest members are the US, Japan, France, Germany, Italy and the UK.

Under the quota reforms, more than 6 per cent of quota shares would shift to dynamic emerging markets and developing countries. It would also mark the shift in shares from over-represented to under-represented IMF members.

IMF and India to Set-Up a SARTTAC in Delhi

March 12

The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley and Ms. Christine Lagarde, Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF) signed a Memorandum of Understanding here today to establish a capacity development center in the national capital.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms Lagarde said “I would like to thank Prime Minister Modi, Finance Minister Jaitley and the Indian Government for offering to host the center and for their substantial financial commitment. This will be the First center that fully integrates training and technical assistance and is a model for our future capacity development work. I would also like to express my appreciation to the other member countries for joining with India, the IMF, and partners like Australia and the Republic of Korea, in making this exciting initiative happen.”



The South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC) is expected to become the focal point for planning, coordinating, and implementing the IMF's capacity development activities in the region on a wide range of areas, including macroeconomic and fiscal management, monetary operations, financial sector regulation and supervision, and macroeconomic statistics. The Center will help address existing training needs and respond to the demand for IMF training in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, while bringing the region's training volume on par with those of other regions.



Haiti has appointed economist Fritz Jean as its new prime minister.

Union Cabinet approved Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy

March 11



The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP).

The decision will enhance domestic oil and gas production, bring substantial investment in the sector and generate sizable employment. The policy also targets the enhancement of transparency and reduction of administrative discretion.

Four main components of the policy are:

- ✎ Uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon
- ✎ The uniform licence will enable the contractor to explore conventional as well as unconventional oil and gas resources including CBM, shale gas/oil, tight gas and gas hydrates under a single license.
- ✎ An open acreage policy
- ✎ The concept of Open Acreage Policy will enable Exploration & Production (E&P) companies choose the blocks from the designated area.
- ✎ Easy to administer revenue sharing model

India to Supply Diesel Locomotive to Myanmar Railways

March 11



India will supply 18 Meter Gauge 1350 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives to Myanmar to augment locomotive fleet of Myanmar Railways to meet increasing demand for passenger and freight traffic.

A contract to this effect was signed on 4th March, 2016 at Naypyitaw, Myanmar by Mr. S. B. Malik, Director Technical, RITES Ltd. (a Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways) and Mr. U Thurein Win, Managing Director, Myanmar Railways in presence of Mr. U Nyan Tun Aung, Honble Minister of Rail Transportation, Myanmar and Mr. Gautam Mukhopadhyaya, Ambassador of India to Myanmar. The supply contract of locomotives is a vital project being funded under an existing line of credit extended to Myanmar by Government of India. These locomotives will be manufactured by Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi with several modern features like microprocessor controls, fuel-efficient engine and ergonomic cab design etc.

Rajeev Mehrotra, Chairman and Managing Director said that RITES is making all efforts to augment export of rolling stock manufactured at Railway Production Units. Response from South East Asian markets is very encouraging.

Bangladesh's bank governor resigns on \$81 million cyber theft

March 15

In Bangladesh, the Reserve Bank Governor Atiur Rahman has resigned following a \$ 80 million cyber theft from the Bank's Reserve Fund Account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Atiur Rahman who has been the Reserve Bank Governor for the second term resigned during a meeting with the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Unknown hackers breached the computer systems of Bangladesh Bank on Feb 4 and wire-transferred around \$ 80 million from the Bank's Reserve Fund with the Federal Reserve Bank of New York to accounts of several casinos in Philippines and Sri Lanka. Experts say this is the biggest known bank theft in modern times.



The Governor put in his papers amidst severe criticism by the Finance Minister AMA Muhith that the Finance Ministry was kept in the dark about such a serious issue for almost a month after the cyber crime. The Finance Minister himself learnt about the bank cyber theft from Phillipine media reports that the country's authorities were investigating a money laundering incident involving Bangladeshi funds. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during a cabinet meeting said the country's image has been tarnished by the cyber theft involving the central bank and blamed evil forces for the same.



The UAE Space Agency has signed an MoU with the Space Agency of UK.

Agra	Plot 817/1 Kaveri House Adjacent Khandari Crossing Bypass,nh-02, Agra. Ph.: 9235253430/9236455136	Bangalore	178/5, Lakshmi Chambers, 8th "f" Main, 3rd Block, Jaynagar, Bengaluru. Ph.: 9538712808
Ahmedabad	304/305 3rd Floor Swapnil Fifth Building Opp-jain Upashray, Bus Stand Commerce 6 Road Navrangpura, Ahmedabad. Ph.: 9228202732, 9227575027	Bareilly	JJ Mall, Above Vishal MegaMart, Civil Lines, Near Ayub Khan Chauraha, Bareilly, 243001. Ph.: 9235253431/32
Ajmer	Asha Grand, Above Yes Bank, 2nd Floor, Near Bank of Baroda, Vaishali Nagar, Ajmer-305 001 Rajasthan. Ph.: 9261503888	Basti	In Front Of Gandhi Kala Bhawan, fuwara Chowk, basti. Ph.: 7706008031
Aligarh	2nd Floor- Manglam Complex, In Front Of Allahabad Bank Samad Road- Aligarh. Ph.: 9235253428	Bhagalpur	2nd Floor Above Uco Bank, Central Jail Road, Tilkamanjhi, Bhagalpur. Ph.: 9204465247, 9204363221
Allahabad	124c/c Ashirwad Bhawan Tej Bahadur Sapru Marg Marg, Near Lok Seva Ayog Gate No - 2 Civil Lines, Allahabad. Ph.: 9208205947, 9235253403	Bhilai	35,36.37, Triveni Commercial complex above ICICI bank Nehru Nagar (East), Bhilai-Durg-490020. Ph.: 8878783345, 8878790089.
Alwar	15 & 16, Ganpati Complex, Scheme II, Lajpat Nagar, (Near Ambedkar Circle) Alwar 301 001, Ph.: 9521177944, 9521177937	Bhopal-lalghati	lind Floor, Prime Tower, 51/2, 52/2 Vijay Nagar, Lalghati, Bairagarh Road, Bhopal. Ph.: 7581800959, 9229174902
Ambala	169/2 Rai Market Above Idbi Bank Ambala Cant, Ambala. Ph.: 7206424816, 9253058711	Bhopal-mp Nagar	Narula Complex Plot No-131 Zone-2 MP Nagar Bhopal. Ph.: 7581800958, 9229174901/02
Ambikapur	2nd Floor, M. G Road, In Front of Government P.G College, Above Axis Bank, Ambikapur- 497 001, Chhattisgarh, Ph.: 7566221693	Bhubaneswar	1st & 2nd Floor, City Mart Complex, Plot No. 10 (P) & 12(P), Opposite- Fire station Square, Barmunda, Bhubaneshwar, Odisha. Ph.: 9237026745/ 9237081352
Amritsar	I & III floor, 62, City Center, JT Road, JK Orchid, Amritsar, Punjab. Ph.: 9646606160, 9646523964	Bijnor	Kothi Anta Ghar Compound, 2nd Floor, Above Kotak Mahindra Bank & Union Bank Of India, Shakti Judgi Road, Bijnor. Ph.: 7706008027
Asansol	Shaw Bhawan, Holding No. 8(118), G.T Road (East) Murgasol, Asansol Distt- Bardhaman, Ph.: 7076880723	Bilaspur	2nd Floor, Office No. A-231, 232, 233, Narayan Plaza, Link Road, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), Ph.: 8878817515
Azamgarh	Goyal Bhawan, Infront Of Kali Ji Mandir, Pandey Bazar, Azamgarh. Ph.: 9208242842	Bulandshahr	1st Floor, Above "easy Day",opposite D.a.v. College, Shivpuri, bulandshahr. Ph.: 7706008030
Badaun	66 Civil Lines Badaun Tower Opposite Pandit Ji Petrol Pump, Badaun-243 601 U.P., Ph.: 9627671787	Chandigarh	SCO 26-27, 2nd Floor, near Passport Office, sector 34-A, Chandigarh, Pin Code- 160022. Ph.: 9256002024
Bahraich	RP Tower 120/3 Digiha Tiraha Gonda Road Above Vmart Bahraich. Ph.: 9208249852	Chennai	Sun Plaza, 3rd Floor, Room No. C,D,E, New No. 39, Old No. 19 G.N. Chetty Road, Chennai. Ph.: 9962995808, 9962995809, 8939777224
Bahrampur	Saraswati Plaza, 1st Floor, Shergodo Bangla Street, Pani Tank Road, Near Dena Bank, Baharampur- 760 001, Ph.: 9078907945	Coimbatore	Aishwaria Commercial Centre, Flat No. 14 1st Floor, Door No. 196/4, Thiruvankataswamy Road, West, R.S. Puram, Coimbatore. Ph.: 8110967668
Balasore	388/2012, 3rd Floor, Police Line Square, O.T Road, Balasore- 756001, Ph.: 9583185223, 9583185233	Cuttack	Rashmi Plaza, liird Floor,near Aruno Daya Market, Above Karnataka Bank, Link Road, Cuttack. Ph.: 7894013095
Ballia	Mahendra Educatiobal Privte Limited,1st Floor, above Vidya Kendra (book Stall),opposit Kutcheri, Civil Line Ballia. Ph.: 9208243152	Darbhanga	Vikram Chambers Top Floor Mirzapur, Main Road Near Malechh Mardani Temple, above Andhara Bank Darbhanga. Ph.: 9204303818
Banda	1st and 2nd Floor, Tulsi Swaroop Corporate Park, Bangalipura, Near Head Post Office Civil Lines, Banda 210 001, Uttar Pradesh, Ph.: 9554334847	Dehradun	148 1st Floor Opp Velocity Gym, East Cannal Road, Near Sarve Chowk, Dehradun. Ph.: 9208175710, 9236510116

Delhi (Janakpuri)	A-1/32 Near Vikaspuri Road Red Light Opp Metro Pillar No-625 Janakpuri. Ph.: 9213353334, 9212069515
Delhi (Kingsway)	Near Gtb Metro Station Gate No.3, Shop No. 92/94, 2nd Floor Mall Road, Kingsway Camp Delhi. Ph.: 9268108497, 9268561517
Delhi (Laxmi Nagar)	209-212, Roots Tower, 2nd Floor District Centre Near Nirmar Vihar Metro Station, Laxminagar, Delhi. Ph.: 9268693952, 9268209355
Delhi (Mukherjee Nagar-SSC)	42-44 A, Manu Shri Building, 3rd Floor Commercial Complex, Near Batra Cinema, Mukherjee Nagar Ph: 9250057753
Delhi (Munirka)	D-211, Laxman Plaza Building, Munirka, New Delhi-67. Ph.: 9210092245
Delhi (Rohini)	C 9/63, Sector 8, Opp. Fire Station, Rohini, Delhi. Ph.: 9250239674
Deoria	MEPL (Raghaw Nagar)near Renuka Hotel, Above IDBI Bank, Oppsite SBI Main Branch, Deoria. Ph.:9208248122
Dhanbad	2nd Floor, Sam Tower, Infront BOI, (Bank More) Chauhara, Dhanbad. Ph.: 9204979723
Durgapur	2nd Floor, Pinnacle Building, Beside The Citi Residency, Near Junction mall, Durgapur 713216, Burdwan, West Bengal. Mob No: 7076856390
Ernakulam	Vetteel Chambers, Above Corporation Bank, Near Petrol Pump, M.G. Road, Ravipuram, Ernakulam. Ph.: 9645415987
Etah	Ashu Guest House, Near Indrapuri Gate-1, railway Road, Etah. Ph.: 9208237386
Faizabad	G.S. Tower, Diagonally In Front Of Jagat Hospital, Near Agrasen Chowk,naka, Raebareli Road,faizabad. Ph.: 9208175803, 9235253421
Faridabad	5 R/5, N.i.t., Above Aastha Eye & Lasik Laser Centre, Opposite Punjab National Bank Zonal Office, Near Neelam Petrol Pump, Faridabad. Ph.: 9643396140
Farrukhabad	SB Complex, 1st Floor, Above Bajaj Allianz Office, Near Anand Petrol Pump, Lalbagh, Farrukhabad. Ph.: 7706008029
Fatehpur	1st Floor Rama Shyama, Civil Lines, Fatehpur 212601 Uttar Pradesh, Ph.: 8960148140
Firozabad	1st Floor, Ratan Bihar Building ,suhag Nagar Chauraha, above Pnb Bank, Firozabad. Ph.: 9219071844, 9208235736
Gaya	2 Floor Zion Complex Opposite Fire Station Swaraj Puri Road, Near Mahavir School Gaya. Ph.: 9234211469, 9204311416
Ghaziabad	1st, 2nd And 3rd Floor, Arundeept Tower, D-45, Rdc (raj Nagar Disstt. Centre), Near New Ghaziabad Railway Station Ghaziabad. Ph.: 9250055517, 9212229752/24

Ghaziipur	Second Floor, Shubhra Complex, Adjacent To SBI Life Office, Mahuabagh, Ghaziipur. Ph.: 9208244539
Gonda	461/529 Malviya Nagar, Above NaraIn Suzuki Showroom, Lbs Chauraha , Gonda. Ph.: 9208051488, 9208250778
Gorakhpur	Narayan Tower, 2nd Floor Gandhi Gali Gole Ghar, Gorakhpur. Ph.: 9208205892, 9235253400
Gurgaon	56/9, Saket Commerical Complex,2nd floor ,New Railway Road Near Bhatnagar Hospital, Bhim Nagar Chawk, Gurgaon-122001 Ph: 9643396139
Guwahati	1st Floor Adams Plaza Christian Basti GS Road Guwahati -781005 Contact:8134935078
Gwalior	03 Opposite G.D.A Office , Above Patrika Buliding, 2ndfloor, Khedapati Road, Gwalior. Ph.: 9200377275, 9229174910
Haldwani	Second Floor- Shiv Niwas, Infront Of Bhoatia Padoo Police Chowki, Near Shriram Hospital, Nainital Road, Haldwani. Ph.: 9208256021
Hardoi	Opposite Income Tax Office, Nagheta Road, Hardoi. Ph.: 9208248208
Haridwar	2nd Floor, Above Aptech Computer, Goel Motor Building, Ranipur Modh, haridwar. Ph.: 7706008034
Hisar	Red Square Market Scf-2 ,ground Floor Near Canara Bank, Hisar. Ph.: 9253860062, 9253678050
Hoshangabad	1st Floor, House No. 01, Above Indian Overseas Bank, Anandnagar, Hoshangabad, Madhya Pradesh, Ph.: 8358831338
Hyderabad (Ameerpet)	Sai Surya Tata Tower 2nd Floor Above South Indian Bank Opposite Maitrivanam Building Ameerpet, Hyderabad. Ph.: 9247332729/9247749865
Hyderabad (Dilsukh Nagar)	16-11-741/1/a/a/2-3,above Raymond Showroom, Besides Vasan Eye Hospital,moosaram Bagh, Dilsukh Nagar, Hyderabad. Ph.: 7032410704
Indore (Bhawar Kuan)	1st Floor, Above I.C.I.C.I. Bank,opposite Yamaha Showroom, Anjani Plaza, Bhawarkuan Road, Indore. Ph.:7581800953, 7581800954
Indore-(Sapna Sangeeta RD)	91/47 2nd Floor Oasis Point, Sapna Sangeeta Road, Sneh Nagar Indore. Ph.: 7581800951, 7581800952
Jabalpur	1230 Bhawani Plaza, 3rd Floor Near 4 Th Brige Napier Town, Jabalpur. Ph.: 9200343764, 922917490405
Jaipur	2nd Floor , 202 Ganga Height Tonk Road, Lal Kothi Opp. Apex Mall, Jaipur. Ph.: 9261601713/9261518894
Jammu	Canal Road, Near Irrigation Department Jammu. Ph.: 9419305561, 9796610845

Jamshedpur	3RD Floor, P M Mall, Tank Road, Opposite Sheetla Mandir Sakchi, Jamshedpur 831001 Ph.: 9570693932
Jaunpur	25-husainabad, Near Td College Road, Above Tejas Colour Lab, Jaunpur. Ph.: 9208244355
Jhalandhar	3RD Floor Sco -179, Green Park, Opp. Gate No - 6 Bus Stand, Main Road Jalandhar 144001, Punjab Ph.: 8557088164
Jhansi	B.K.D Road Near Kunj Bihari Mandir, First Floor, Above State Bank Of India, Jhansi. Ph.: 9208175778, 9235253424
Jodhpur	1st Nap Plot 206-207, Manjika Hatha Paota, Jodhpur, Ph.: 9636512855
Kanpur (Kakadev)	117/n1, Bhadouria Building Raniganj, Kakadev, Kanpur. Ph.: 9208206019, 9235253484
Kanpur (Kidwainagar)	128/566 K-block Kidwai Nagar, Old Veeta Building, near Delhi Public School Kidwai Nagar, Kanpur. Ph.: 9208175776, 9235253482
Kanpur (Mall Road)	419/1 Agrawal Building, D Mall , Near Obc Bank Mall Road, Kanpur. (only For Females Candidate). Ph.: 9236757143, 9236720133
Karnal	Shakti Colony, H.No 111, in front of Mahila Ashram, DAV College Road, Karnal-132 001, Haryana, Ph.: 8930175568
Kolkata	120 Lenin Sarani, Sunidhi Building ,fifth Floor, above Punjab National Bank, near Moulali Crossing Kolkata. Ph.: 9230141497, 9230482308
Kurukshetra	Scf 38 Mainmarket,sector- 13 Near Bank Of Baroda, Kurukshetra. Ph.: 9253678053
Lakhimpur	Hotel K Continental, Ground Floor, Near Bus Stand Lakhimpur. Ph.: 9208251562
Lucknow (Alambagh Po)	Plot No-KBC-3, Sector-B, Kanpur Road Scheme, Opp Phinix Mall, Alambagh, Lucknow. Ph.: 9235253521
Lucknow (Alambagh SSC)	IIIrd Floor, Above Bata Showroom, Near Allahabad Bank, Opp. Vishal Mega Mart, Ramnagar, Alambagh. Ph.: 9235253534, 9235253466
Lucknow (Bhootnath)	Krishna Bazar 3rd Floor, Bhootnath Market, Indra Nagar. Ph.: 9208175813, 9235253528
Lucknow (Gomti Nagar)	Laxmi Vardhan Complex, 3rd Floor,patrakarpuram Chauraha Gomtinagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9208175804, 9235253548
Lucknow (Mahanagar PO)	B- 54 Above Central Bank Of India, Bhatia Complex, Kapoorthala, Mahanagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9208175746, 9235253443
Lucknow (Mahanagar SSC)	B- 54 Above Central Bank Of India, Bhatia Complex, Kapoorthala, Mahanagar, Lucknow. Ph.: 9235253468, 9235253469

Lucknow (Purania)	B-62,63 Sector H 1st Floor Twins Tower Infront Of United Bank, Purania. Ph.: 9235253517, 9235253538
Lucknow (Rajajipuram)	S-268 E-block, Awasthi Complex Above Syndicate Bank, Rajajipuram, Lucknow Ph.: 9235253425
Ludhiana	2 K Tower, 2nd Floor, Link Road, Near Preet Palace, Ludhiana. Ph.: 9217298163, 9256002028, 9217298163
Mainpuri	Opposite Punjabi Colony Gate, Station Road, Mainpuri. Ph.: 9258405374, 9208241450
Mathura	2054 Chowki Bagh Bahadur, State Bank Circle Mathura. Ph.: 9219039272, 9208235067
Meerut	3 Floor , Star Plaza, Near Bachcha Park, Meerut. Ph.: 9219684062, 9235253448
Mirzapur	Infront Of Kb College, Musaffarganj, Mirzapur. Ph.: 9208243884
Moradabad	Opposite Cross Road Mall, Near Lasa Mart,civil Lines, Moradabad. Ph.: 9208205948, 9235253442
Mumbai	1st & 3rd Floor, Pp Manglas Chambers, Opp. Ashok Cinema, Station Road,thane (west) Mumbai. Ph.: 9221944071
Muzaffarnagar	IInd Floor, Prakash Chowk, Civil Lines House, Muzaffarnagar. Ph.: 7706008032
Muzaffarpur	Opposite City Life Mall ,near Jubba Sahini Park, club Road Mithanpura Muzaffarpur (bihar). Ph.: 9204873141, 9204303515, 9204355614
Nagpur	Plot No-15 Hill Road Opposite Nit Complex, Near Maruti Suzuki Service Center, Gandhinagar, Near Ramnagar, Nagpur. Ph.: 9209863375, 9272273686
Nagpur-2	1st FLOOR, Kheara No. 83/2, More Bhawan, Vidarabha Hindi Sahitya Sammelan, Jhansi Rani Square, Buldi, Nagpur-140012. Ph.: 9168558073
Nasik	Basement and Ground Floor, Office No. 4, R Square Building, Thatte Nagar Road, Opp. BYK College, Off College Road, Nasik 422005, Ph.: 9168512624, 9168511626
Noida	101-102, K 4, Ocean Heights, Sector 18, Noida. Ph.: 9953948834
Orai	Danik Aaj Karyalaya Building, Infront Of Jdc Bank, Rani Laxmi Bai Chauraha, Kermer Road, Orai. Ph.: 9208158768, 9208237457
Patiala	SCO 136, Chotti Baradan, Patiala 147001, Ph.: 9780859720, 9780859721
Patna (Boaring Road)	Krishna Shiv Enclave, Roop Bhawan Campus, East Boring Canal Road, Near Panchmukhi Hanuman Mandir, Patna. Ph.: 9204855316, 9204855301

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



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ATP Argentina Open: Dominic Thiem wins the title

Feb 16



Young Austrian tennis player Dominic Thiem won the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Buenos Aires tournament, defeating Spaniard Nicolas

Almagro. The World No.19 who knocked out fifth seed Rafael Nadal of Spain won 7-6 (2), 3-6 and 7-6 (4) after two hours and 28 minutes on Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club's clay.

The 22-year-old has obtained his first title in 2016 and the fourth in his career after winning in Gstaad (Switzerland), Umag (Croatia) and Nice (France) on the same surface in 2015. With this victory, Thiem put a stop to Spain's reign in the tournament as Spaniards had been winning the tournament for the past seven years. Thiem is currently the youngest player in the top 20 of the world rankings.

ICC Cricket for Good and UNICEF launched Team Swachh clinics in partnership with BCCI

Feb 16

The International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket for Good and United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with BCCI launched the Team Swachh clinics during the ICC WT20 Host City Tour. The clinics were launched at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.



The step was taken to promote a nationwide initiative that aims to build a social movement for sanitation and toilet use there by leading to an open-defecation-free India. After Dharamshala, the ICC World T20 Host City Tour will visit each of the venues that will host matches of the showpiece event.

South Asian Games: India finish on top with 308 medals

Feb 17

India remained dominated on the final day of the South Asian Games as they ended the tournament as champions for the 12th consecutive time after bagging a total of 308 medals.

Sri Lanka finished the tournament at the second spot with 186 medals ahead of Pakistan, which held on to the third spot with a final tally of 106 medals.

On the final day, Pakistan and India evenly shared the four gold medals between themselves in the judo competition at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Sports Hall.

Nepal was the only other country to come away with a gold, won by Phupu Lhamu Khatri in the women's U-63kg category.

The hosts clinched nine gold medals in total, along with three silver on the final day. Pakistan's two golds were their only top finishes in the discipline, but they also leave with two silver medals and eight bronze.

Sachin Tendulkar's autobiography enters Limca Book of Records

Feb 19

He might have bid adieu to cricket but Sachin

Tendulkar continues to make records with his autobiography 'Playing It My Way' entering the Limca Book of Records for being the best-selling adult hardback across both fiction and non-fiction categories.



The book, published by Hachette India, was released on November 6, 2014 and has broken all records for an adult hardback across both fiction and non-fiction categories with 1,50,289 copies confirmed on order subscriptions.

The book's orders, on day one, already saw it pulling ahead of both pre-order and lifetime sales of the world's top adult hardbacks Dan Brown's Inferno, Walter Issacson's Steve Jobs and JK Rowling's Casual Vacancy.

Boria Majumdar was the co-author of Tendulkar's autobiography. It also holds the record in retail value terms having logged up Rs. 13.51 crore with its cover price being Rs. 899.



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

India beat China 3-2 in Asian badminton

Feb 19

India defeated China 3-2 in the men's category of the Badminton Asia Team Championships at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium. Kidambi Srikanth, Ajay Jayaram and H.S. Prannoy won their respective singles matches to give the hosts victory. India lost the two doubles matches. India's men's and women's teams have already made it to the quarter-finals of the tournament.

In the first singles match, World No.9 Srikanth outclassed China's Houwei Tian 21-11, 21-17. In the second singles World No. 25 Jayaram stunned No.11 China's Zhengming Wang 22-20, 15-21, 21-18. The match between the Jayaram-Wang saw a neck-to-neck clash as the match had excitement right till the end. But the Indian held his nerves to come out victorious against an opponent who is ranked far above him. India had a disappointing start to the doubles match. As the team ended up on the losing side in both the matches.



Indian Women Cricket Team won three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka

Feb 20



The Indian women cricket team won the three-match ODI series against Sri Lanka, 3-0. In the third and final match played in Ranchi, India defeated the Sri Lankan team by seven wickets. Medium-pacer Deepti Sharma grabbed six wickets haul before Veda Krishnamurthy scored a half-century after India posted a comfortable seven-wicket win over Sri Lanka in the third and final ODI.

Deepti Sharma, who played a pivotal role in steadying her side's innings, was adjudged the Player of the Match. India had already won the three-match series after defeating the tourists Sri Lanka by six wickets in the second match at the same venue on 17 February 2016.

Cuevas outlasts Pella for title; Schiavone triumphs

Feb 21

Uruguay's Pablo Cuevas won his fourth career ATP title defeating Argentina's Guido Pella 6-4, 6-7(5), 6-4 in the Rio Open final. Cuevas smashed a forehand winner on the final point, the only break point either player managed in the last two sets, to claim the crown after two hours and 16 minutes at the clay court event. The final was interrupted by rain in the opening set.

In the WTA singles final, former French Open champion Francesca Schiavone, who turns 36 in June, won her first title since 2013, defeating Shelby Rogers of the United States 2-6, 6-2, 6-2. The Italian former World No. 4, now ranked at 132, came back from a set and a break down to defeat her 23-year-old opponent and claim her seventh career title. Schiavone is the third Italian winner on the WTA Tour this year after Roberta Vinci in St. Petersburg and Sara Errani in Dubai.



FC Dnipro Reserves clinched 2016 Sait Nagjee Trophy

Feb 22



FC Dnipro Reserves clinched 2016 Sait Nagjee Trophy Ukraine's FC Dnipro Reserves has won the 2016 Sait Nagjee International Club Football Tournament by defeating Brazilian FC Atletico Paranaense by 3-0 goals, in summit clash played at the EMS Corporation stadium at Kozhikode (Kerala). With this victory, Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk became first European team to win this prestigious Football tournament held in India.

While the first goal for Dnipro came in the 41st minute, the second and third goals were scored in the 61st and 85th minute in the second half. A total of eight clubs from Latin America, Germany and Europe had locked horns in the tournament lasted for about three weeks. This is for the first time the Nagjee cup is won by a European team.



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

Teams Participated

Team	Country
FC Dnipro Reserves	Ukraine
1860 Munchen II	Germany
Argentina U23	Argentina
Atletico Paranaense Reserves	Brazil
Volyn Lutsk	Ukraine
Rapid Bucuresti	Romania
Shamrock Rovers	Republic of Ireland
Watford Reserves	England

Prem Kumar bags silver medal at Asian Indoor Athletics

Feb 22

India's Kumaravel Prem Kumar bagged a silver in long jump at Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Doha. Prem Kumar cleared a creditable 7.92m in his final attempt to win the silver. Zhang Yaoguang of China won the gold with a best effort of 7.99m.



Another Indian, Ankit Sharma could manage only 7.66m with four fouls which marred his chance to win a medal. Om Prakash Singh Karhana added a bronze in shot put by clearing a distance of 18.77m. Four of his attempts turned out to be fouls.

With this, the Indians signed off their campaign in Doha with 1 gold, 3 silver and 3 bronze medals. Meanwhile, Ranchi has been confirmed by the continental body as host city of 2017 Asian Athletics (Outdoor) Championships.

Lalita Babar named Sports Person of the Year

Feb 23



Long-distance runner Lalita Babar was named as the Sports Person of the Year in the India Sports Awards 2015.

The Indian Sports Award were given away at the conclusion of day one of 'Turf 2015-16', organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) with the support of the Sports Ministry.

Babar qualified for Rio Olympics recently in the 3000m steeplechase event and is the current Indian national record holder.

She also won a bronze medal in 2014 Incheon Asian Games and is the current Asian champion.

Besides Babar, gymnast Dipa Karmakar was named as the Breakthrough Sports Person of the Year while Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India was conferred with the Best National Sports Federation recognition.

Hockey legend Balbir Singh has been conferred with the Lifetime Achievement award.

The recipients of the award in different categories are:

BEST COMPANY PROMOTING SPORTS

(Public Sector)

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC)

BEST COMPANY PROMOTING

Sports (Private Sector)

YES Bank Pvt Ltd.

BEST PROFESSIONAL SERVICES COMPANY

Technology Frontiers (India) Pvt Ltd.

Best NGO Promoting Sports:

STAIRS.

BEST SPORTS START-UP

HotFut Sports Infrastructure Pvt Ltd.

BEST NATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATION

Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India.

SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Lalita Babar (Athletics)

BREAKTHROUGH SPORTS PERSON OF THE YEAR

Dipa Karmakar (Gymnastics)

COACH OR SUPPORT STAFF OF THE YEAR

Kuldeep Handoo (Wushu)

BEST STATE

Gujarat



Dr Sunita Jain has been selected for Vyas Samman 2015 for her Poetry collection 'Kshama'.

Djokovich, Serena remain on top in the ATP rankings

23 Feb



Tennis player Novak Djokovic of Serbia have maintained the top position in Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings in men's category. Spain's David Ferrer came in at eighth place. Kei Nishikori of Japan have come to sixth place with a jump of one place.

Woman tennis player Serena Williams of the US have maintained first place in Women's Tennis Association (WTA) rankings with 9245 points. Agniska Radwanska of Poland has got third place. Germany's Angelique Kerber, has beaten Simona Halep for the second place. Simona is now ranked fourth.

The top 10 male players:

1. Novak Djokovic (Serbia) 16 790
2. Andy Murray (Scotland) 8855
3. Roger Federer (Switzerland) 8795
4. Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland) 5870
5. Rafael Nadal (Spain) 4880
6. Kei Nishikori (Japan) 4,235
7. Thomas Berdych (Czech Republic) 3990
8. David Ferrer (Spain) 3915
9. Jo-Wilfried Tsonga (France) 2950
10. Richard Gaskvet (France) 2760

The top 10 female players:

1. Serena Williams (US) 9245
2. Angelique Kerber (Germany) 5700
3. Agniska Radwanska (Poland) 5210
4. Simona Halep (Romania) 4745
5. law. Muguruja (Spain) 4642
6. Maria Sharapova (Russia) 3672
7. Belinda Benkik (Switzerland) 3505
8. Petra Kvitova (Czech Republic) 3478
9. Flavia Pennetta (Italy) 3422
10. Roberta Vinci (Italy) 3325

Khanna named principal advisor to committee scanning WC ties

Feb 23

Senior BCCI vice-president and top DDCA official C.K. Khanna has been appointed as principal advisor of the Supervisory Committee constituted by Justice Mukul Mudgal for the ICC World T20 matches at the Feroz Shah Kotla stadium.



A 12-member committee comprising DDCA officials will be monitored by a five-man committee consisting of Justice Mudgal, Amrit Mathur (Board Representative), M.V. Sridhar (Tournament Director), Sunil Valson (former cricketer and GMR representative) and Suresh Chopra (veteran DDCA official). The Feroz Shah Kotla stadium will be hosting four matches during the World Cup T20, which is starting with a clash between Hong Kong and Zimbabwe on March 8 at Nagpur.

Virat Kohli, Sania Mirza, Saina Nehwal in Forbes' Asia list

Feb 25



Tennis star Sania Mirza, Indian batting mainstay Virat Kohli and top-seeded badminton player Saina Nehwal lead the pack of over 50 Indians in Forbes' inaugural list of top "promising young leaders and game changers" under the age of 30 in Asia.

The Forbes '30 under 30 Asia' list includes 300 "young and driven entrepreneurs and game-changers" from countries including India, Indonesia, China, Hong Kong, Singapore, Japan, Pakistan, Vietnam and Australia who are contributing to their industries in a significant way.

As many as 56 Indians feature in the list with 27-year old Kohli, Mirza and Nehwal and 26-year old actress Shraddha Kapoor leading the pack.

With 10 categories in total, the Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia list highlights inspiring young leaders in various fields covering consumer technology, enterprise technology, arts, healthcare and science, media, social entrepreneurship, finance, industry and retail. The entertainment and sports category also includes 27-year old Arunima Sinha, who is the first female and first Indian amputee to climb Mt Everest in 2013 and 28-year old Chaitanya Tamhane who is the writer and director of the critically acclaimed movie 'Court'.



'Make in India Week' was held at Mumbai.

Mahendra's

Asia Cup 2016: Yuvraj Singh brings up 1000 runs in T20Is

Feb 25



India's veteran batsman Yuvraj Singh notched up a new feat as he completed 1000 runs in T20Is. Yuvraj brought up his 1000 runs while facing Bangladesh in the first T20I of the Asia Cup in Mirpur, Dhaka. In this process, the 2011 ICC World Cup winning hero became the fourth Indian batsman and 24th in the world to get past 1000 runs in T20Is. Yuvraj trails the likes of Virat Kohli, Suresh Raina and Rohit Sharma in the number of runs scored in T20Is.

Yuvraj alongside opening batsman Rohit Sharma steadied the Indian ship to some extent, as the side lost three quick wickets. Yuvraj scored 15 runs off 16 deliveries. He was out, when Shakib Al Hasan tempted him to go for a biggie, and the Punjab batsman did not get the elevation he needed. He held on straight to the fielder. This was Yuvraj's 47th match in T20Is for India and he has 1008 runs.

Cricketer Rohit named Nissan's global bassador

Feb 25



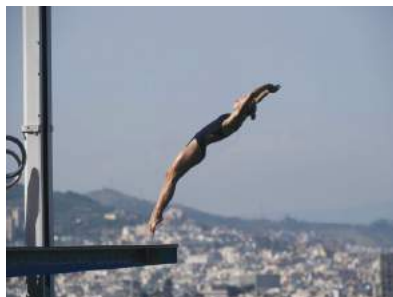
Japanese car manufacturer Nissan has named Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma as their new global ambassador. In its partnership with the International Cricket Council (ICC), Nissan also named West Indies all-rounder Andre Russell and New Zealand women's team captain Suzie Bates as its ambassadors.

In addition to an advertising campaign, the ambassadors will be active on social media across the World T20, supporting fan focused initiatives of Nissan.

Rohit, Russell and Bates join South African pacers Dale Steyn and Kagiso Rabada in the Nissan cricket family, who were recently announced as ambassadors in their home country. Nissan's eight-year sponsorship deal with ICC comprises all tournaments for the period 2016 to 2023.

China Dominates Another FINA Diving World Cup Stop

Feb 26



China's team confirmed their strength in diving by winning six out of the eight gold medals up for grabs at the Diving World Cup, which came to a close in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. China's first gold in the competition came on the first day of the event, when Chen Ruolin and Liu Huixia won the Women's synchronized 10 meters platform. The second gold was in the women's synchronized 3 meters springboard. Shi Tingmao and Wu Minxia earned the medal.

On the last day of the competition, China's Qiu Bo won the men's 10 meters platform followed by his teammate Chen Aisen. Third place went to David Dinsmore from the United States. There were only two male categories where the gold medal escaped China. The men's synchronized 3 meters springboard was won by Germans Stephan Feck and Patrick Hausding.

Mashrafe Bin Mortaza appointed UNDP Ambassador

Feb 26



Bangladeshi cricketer Mashrafe Bin Mortaza was appointed as National Goodwill Ambassador for Youth by the United National Development Programme (UNDP).

In this regard, UNDP Bangladesh Resident Representative Robert Watkins presented Mashrafe Mortaza with a certificate of his official appointment in Dhaka. With this appointment, Mortaza also became the first personality to be appointed as a goodwill ambassador for youth development in Bangladesh.

In his new role, Mortaza, who is leading the national cricket team both in ODIs and T20 formats, will advocate for youth employment in Bangladesh and help in country's efforts in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The appointment is part of the UN's efforts to rope in prominent individuals from the worlds of arts, sciences, entertainment, sport, etc. as goodwill ambassadors to promote and realise the ideals enshrined in its Charter.



The youngest IFS officer to be appointed as Ambassador Biraja Prasad, passed away.

Gianni Infantino Crowned New FIFA President

Feb 27



World football's governing body elected the Swiss-Italian lawyer Gianni Infantino, in Zurich after he defeated nearest rival Bahrain's Sheikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa in the second round of voting.

Infantino, 45, succeeds Sepp Blatter, who stepped down last year with the organization mired in allegations of corruption and wrongdoing.

General secretary of European governing body UEFA, Infantino won the first round of voting but without the necessary two-third majority to secure an immediate victory.

He received 88 of the 207 votes with Sheikh Salman three behind on 85. Prince Ali gained 27 and Jerome Champagne, a former French diplomat who had previously worked for FIFA.

However, in the second round of voting, Infantino secured 115 votes — 27 ahead of Salman — to claim victory.

Infantino takes over at a time where FIFA is enduring one of the most difficult periods in its 112-year history.

Blatter, who won a fifth term in office last May before laying down his mandate on June 2, has since been banned from all football-related activities.

Walkers create record, seven better Olympic qualification time

Feb 27

Uttarakhand's Gurmeet Singh turned out to be the winner as a record number of seven Indian 20km race walkers bettered the Rio Olympics qualifying standards on a fast Jaipur course in the National Championships.

While the Rio Olympics qualifying time was set at 1 hour and 24 minutes, Gurmeet clocked 1:21:24.57 to clinch the gold on the first day of the National Championships.

Tamil Nadu's K Ganapathi and Haryana's Sandeep Kumar finished second and third in 1:21:51.43 and 1:21:56.81 respectively.

National record holder K. T. Irfan (1:22:14.02) of Kerala, Manish Singh (1:22:18.89) of Uttarakhand, Devender Singh (1:22:40.60) of Haryana and Neeraj (1:23:34.02), also of Haryana, were the other four outside of a podium finish but who still went past the Rio Games qualifying time. Ganapathi, Irfan, Devender and Neeraj were the four race walkers who crossed the Rio Games qualifying standard while Gurmeet, Sandeep and Manish have done so last year.



Stan Wawrinka claims Dubai Tennis Championship crown

Feb 29



World number four Stan Wawrinka overcame the spirited challenge of Marcos Baghdatis to win the Dubai Tennis Championship.

The Swiss triumphed 6-4 7-6 (15-13) for his ninth straight final win and his second title of the season. The French Open champion, 30, saved five set points in a tense tie-break and won when a Baghdatis return went wide on a fourth match point. It was Wawrinka's first time playing the tournament in eight years. He had reached the final when Nick Kyrgios retired from their semi-final with a back injury.

Rozle Prezelj elected Chairman of IAAF Athletes' Commission

Feb 29

Slovenian high-jumper Rozle Prezelj was elected the Chairman of the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) Athletes' Commission in Monaco. Prezelj took over as Chairman of the commission from Frank Fredericks with immediate effect. Born on 26 September 1979, Prezelj represented Slovenia at the 2004, 2008 and 2012 Summer Olympics. His best result was at the 2008 Olympics where he finished 12th in high jump. A European under-23 champion in 2001, he set a national record



The first Mega Food Park of Madhya Pradesh was inaugurated in Khargone district.

of 2.32m in 2012 before retiring in 2014. The International Association of Athletics Federations is the international governing body for the sport of athletics. It was founded on 17 July 1912 as the International Amateur Athletics Federation by representatives from 17 national athletics federations at the organization's first congress in Stockholm, Sweden. Since October 1993, it has been headquartered in Monaco. The organization retained the word amateur in its name until its 2001 congress, at which it changed its name to International Association of Athletics Federations.

Armaan bags top award at FMSCI ceremony

March 01



Indian racing driver Armaan Ebrahim was awarded with the Motorsports Man of the Year trophy at a gala award ceremony organised by The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI).

B.I. Chandhok received the Lifetime Achievement award for his immense contribution to the field of motorsports in the country. Other 99 drivers were awarded across eight different Championships in the ceremony.

Armaan walked away with the glittering 'Raymond Gautam Singhanian Rolling Trophy' and a cash prize of Rs 2,00,000 for his performance in the Lamborghini Blancpain Super Trofeo Asia Series.

Armaan along with his partner Dilantha put up a good show in the Asia Series - winning the Fuji main race and qualifying the World Series.

The Lifetime Achievement award was given to B.I. Chandhok. An avid racer and a founder of FMSCI, Chandhok has served the motorsports fraternity in various roles and the gathering saluted the man for his lifelong achievements.

Rajasthan to host Lagori National championships 2016

March 01

Rajasthan has got the bid to host the popular National Lagori Championship 2016. The championship is to be held in May this year in Pushkar.

National General Secretary of the Indian Lagori Federation Prahlad Gurav told that he has spread its roots in 30 countries, and the sixth edition of Lagori National Championship will be held in Pushkar near Ajmer during 7th-9th May 2016.

Lagori Federation has also proposed a World Cup to held in Mumbai in December this year. It was earlier proposed to be held in Mumbai in June, but for some reasons it has been postponed until December.



Brendon McCullum has become the first cricketer to play 100 continuous Tests since debut.

Recognized by School Games Federation of India, 24 men's and women's teams will take part in the game in this year's national championship.

Rahul Dravid will mentor Daredevils in IPL 9

March 02

Rahul Dravid, the former India captain and current India A and Under-19 coach, will mentor the Delhi Daredevils side in the ninth edition of the Indian Premier League



(IPL), the team announced. The franchise also appointed Paddy Upton as head coach, to replace Gary Kirsten.

The announcement marks the return of Dravid-Upton combination which did well for the now suspended Rajasthan Royals. Dravid had also captained the Royals to the last four stage twice in the IPL.

Martin Crowe: Ex-New Zealand captain dies of cancer at 53

March 03



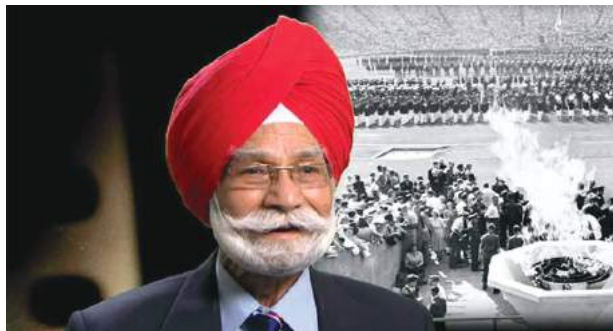
Former New Zealand cricket captain Martin Crowe died after a long battle with cancer. He was 53. Widely regarded as New Zealand's finest batsman, Crowe played 77 Tests from 1982-1995 and scored 5,444 runs at an average of 45.36.

The elegant right-hander also scored 4,704 runs at an average of 38.55 in One-Day Internationals. Crowe was initially diagnosed with follicular lymphoma in 2012 but the disease went into remission.

Cricket Wellington, one of the three first class teams Crowe played for in New Zealand, described him as "a genius, true legend of the game", while former Indian leg spinner Anil Kumble called him a cricketing icon.

Sikh hockey legend Balbir Singh honoured in Canada

March 04



An Indian-origin Sikh hockey player was honoured in the Canadian province of British Columbia (BC).

Assistant deputy speaker of the B.C. Legislature, MLA Raj Chouhan, honoured 92-year-old Indian field hockey legend Balbir Singh in the House.

Balbir Singh has won three Olympic Gold medals in field hockey. The first in 1948 in London, winning India's first gold medal as a sovereign nation. He won the second gold in Helsinki. He led his team in scoring, including setting an Olympic / Guinness Record in the final when he scored five goals. Singh was named one of 16 Iconic Olympians by the International Olympic Committee along with Jesse Owens and Australian track and field star Cathy Freeman in 2012. He was the only South Asian and field hockey player on the list.

Jitu wins gold at shoot-ing World Cup

March 04



India's Jitu Rai beat a strong field to win gold in the men's 50m pistol event shooting World Cup.

Jitu scored 191.3 points in the final round. Former World and Olympic champion Pang Wei of China took second place with 186.5. Olympic medallist Wang Zhiwei, also of China, finished third with a final round score of 165.8.

India's Prakash Nanjappa shot 549 in the qualification round to be placed 17th. Jitu reached the final by finishing third at the end of the 60 shot qualifying series with a score of 562.

Wei led the field of eight top qualifiers with a score of 564, while Wang followed him in second place with 563. Former World Champion Tomoyuki Matsuda of Japan was also expected to be a threat in the final given his recent form in the Asian Shooting qualifiers in Delhi.

Jitu did not start as strongly as he would have wanted to in the final. However, the Indian army shooter maintained a top three position throughout.

Wei, who was also having a strong consistent show, finally conceded the lead to Jitu after below par shots in his 13th and 14th attempts. The following two shots also saw a similar pattern for Pang and from then on, it was Jitu all the way as both Chinese challengers had a tame end to the 20-shot final.

Tomoyuki Matsuda was eliminated in fifth place after briefly lying in the top three.

India win Asia Cup title for sixth time

March 07



India clinched the Asia Cup trophy for a record sixth time after beating hosts Bangladesh by eight wickets. Chasing a target of 121 in a match reduced to 15-over a side, Dhawan came good when it mattered the most as he hit nine fours and a six adding 94 runs with Virat Kohli (41 not out) with India winning with seven balls to spare.

In the last two overs, India required 19 runs. If the partisan 25,000 supporters harboured any hopes of a comeback, Mahendra Singh Dhoni (20 not out in 6 balls) dashed it with a lethal six over deep mid-wicket off Al-Amin and another terrific blow over deep extra cover before finishing the match with another six.



Ashok Chawla is the new chairman of TERI Board.

Mahendra's

Olympic champ Kenny wins sprint title at cycling worlds

March 07

Olympic champion Jason Kenny won the men's sprint title at the track cycling world championships.

Kenny, who looks to defend his individual and team sprint titles at the Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, edged Australian Matthew Glaetzer in a third-race decider at the Lee Valley VeloPark where he became an Olympic champion in 2012.

Defending champion Bauge was sixth, finishing his competition without a medal. In the omnium event, Colombian Fernando Gaviria made a successful defense after the sixth and final event, the points race and collected 191 points to win.



Zhong becomes China's first individual cycling world champion

March 07



Zhong Tianshi became China's first world champion in an individual cycling event after beating teammate Lin Junhong in the women's sprint at the Track World Championships.

The 25-year-old was a comfortable winner in both of the final rides, taking the best-of-three series 2-0 to improve upon the bronze she won in the event 12 months ago.

Defending champion, Germany's Kristina Vogel, winner of the women's keirin title, beat Australian Anna Meares 2-0 in the bronze medal ride.

She also won the silver with teammate Gong Jinjie in the women's team sprint, after being downgraded from gold for an illegal change, handing the title to Russia.

Pro-Kabaddi League: Patna Pirates Defeat U Mumba, Clinch Maiden Title

March 07

Patna Pirates recorded a maiden title triumph as they once again stamped their authority in the tournament with a 31-28 victory over U Mumba in the final of Star Sports Pro Kabaddi.

The third season of the tournament ended on a high note, thanks to the splendid performance of Patna team which continued their dream winning sequence. The match ended in favour of Patna Pirates after a thrilling 40-minute play. Rohit Kumar of Patna Pirates was awarded Best Raider and Mohit Chhillar of U Mumba the Best Defender of the Match. Rishank Devadiga of U Mumba finished a dream season as the most successful raider with 106 points. The final in the Capital, attended by over 10000 spectators, was a fitting tribute to over a month of enthralling action of Pro Kabaddi. With the players, franchises and audiences hungry for more of the indigenous sport, the wait until June 2016 will be a long one.



American Shiffrin clinches slalom gold in World Cup skiing

March 08



Mikaela Shiffrin from the United States won the slalom competition of the Women's Alpine Skiing World Cup in Jasna in the Northern Slovakia.

Shiffrin finished 2.36 seconds ahead of Wendy Holdener from Switzerland in second place. Slovakia's Veronika Velez-Zuzulova was third, 2.77 seconds behind the winner. It has been the first Alpine Skiing World Cup in Slovakia after 30 years attended by 17,000 visitors.

Golfer Adam Scott won 2016 WGC-Cadillac Championship

March 08

Australian golfer Adam Scott won the 2016 WGC-Cadillac Championship at Doral, Florida, US. Scott recovered from two double bogeys in his first five holes with six birdies the rest of the round to prevail by one stroke over United States' Bubba Watson. The victory was Scott's second consecutive win on the PGA Tour, having won The Honda Classic in February 2016.



Thisara Perera is the fourth bowler to pick up a hat-trick in T20's.

About Adam Scott

- ✎ Australian professional golfer, Adam Derek Scott plays mainly on the PGA Tour.
- ✎ He was the World No. 1 ranked golfer from mid-May to August 2014.
- ✎ He has won 29 professional tournaments around the world.
- ✎ His biggest win to date was the 2013 Masters Tournament, his first major championship and the first Masters won by an Australian in its 77-year history.



About WGC-Cadillac Championship

- ✎ The WGC-Cadillac Championship is a professional golf tournament, one of the four annual World Golf Championships.
- ✎ It is sanctioned and organized by the International Federation of PGA Tours and the prize money is official money on both the PGA Tour and the European Tour.
- ✎ The 2016 WGC-Cadillac Championship was played on the TPC Blue Monster course at Trump National Doral in Doral, Florida.
- ✎ The 2016 WGC-Cadillac Championship was the 17th WGC-Cadillac Championship tournament and the first of the World Golf Championships events in 2016.

Finland's Tampere to host 2018 U-20 athletics worlds

March 11

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) decided at its 203rd council meeting that the Finnish city of Tampere, the sole bidder, will host the 2018 under-20 world championships.

The IAAF council fully endorsed the bid, which will bring the IAAF event to the third biggest Finnish city, with the country's capital Helsinki having twice staged the athletics worlds.

Also during the council meeting, IAAF awarded the 2018 IAAF world half marathon championship to Spanish city Valencia.

The IAAF council also decided on Thursday that the world indoor tour will be expanded to five meetings in 2017 with the addition of Dusseldorf, Germany, plus one additional meeting in 2018. The World Relays Nassau will be held on April 22-23, 2017, while the Continental Cup Ostrava will be on September 7-8, 2018.

Services beat Maharashtra 2-1 to win Santosh Trophy

March 14

Riding on Arjun Tudu's double strike, Services retained the Santosh Trophy National Football Championships title after beating hosts Maharashtra 2-1 in the summit.

Tudu, a national camper for the SAFF Cup last year, scored twice in the space of 11 minutes (26th and 37th) to help Services clinch their fifth title overall at the

SEC Railway Stadium. Mohammed Shabaz had given Maharashtra the lead in the 15th minute.

Services took away Rs 5 lakh for winning the tournament while Maharashtra got Rs 3 lakh for finishing runners-up. It was Maharashtra who surged ahead in the 15th minute.

Rohit Sharma completes hatrick at ESPN Cricinfo Awards

March 14

Flamboyant opener Rohit Sharma won the prestigious Maruti Suzuki ESPN Cricinfo award for the third year in a row with recently-retired Black Caps legend Brendon McCullum winning the newly constituted 'Captain of the Year' award.



The awards were given for stand out performances across three formats for the year 2015. Rohit, who has won the award for his ODI double hundreds in 2013 and 2014, has won it this time for playing the 'T20 Innings of the Year'.

Rohit's innings of 106 against South Africa at Dharamsala, has been rated as the best batting effort after voting from an eminent jury panel comprising former international captains like Ian Chappell, Courtney Walsh, John Wright, Mahela Jayawardene.

"This is an award that has been constituted this year but we will be continuing with it from now on," ESPN Cricinfo editor Sambit Bal said.



UAE has appointed women ministers to the newly created portfolios for happiness and tolerance, and youth affairs.

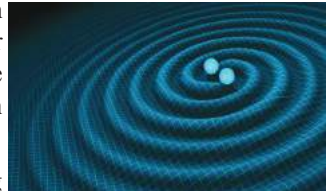
✎ *Mahendra's*



Government gives in-principle approval for LIGO-India project

Feb 18

Days after the discovery of gravitational waves, the government gave an “in-principle approval” for establishing a state-of-the-art LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) project in the country. The LIGO-India project will establish a state-of-the-art gravitational wave observatory in India in collaboration with the LIGO Laboratory in the US, run by Caltech and MIT.



The project will bring unprecedented opportunities for scientists and engineers to dig deeper into the realm of gravitational wave and take global leadership in this new astronomical frontier.

LIGO-India will also bring considerable opportunities in cutting edge technology for the Indian industry which will be engaged in the construction of an 8 km-long beam tube at ultra-high vacuum on a levelled terrain. Indian scientists too played a crucial role in the recent discovery.

Japan launches satellite to study black holes

Feb 20



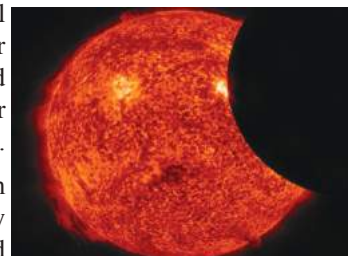
Japan successfully launched a jointly developed space observation satellite tasked with studying mysterious black holes. The ASTRO-H satellite, developed in collaboration between the agency, NASA and other groups, is set to orbit at an altitude of about 580km and observe X-rays emanating mainly from black holes and galaxy clusters. The satellite was carried out by the country’s mainstay H-IIA rocket, which soared towards the heavens from the Tanegashima Space Center in southern Japan under mostly clear late afternoon skies.

Longest - lasting solar eclipse discovered

Feb 21

Scientists have discovered, a sun disappears in every 69 years, in a near total solar eclipse that lasts for three and a half years in an unnamed binary star system nearly 10,000 light years from the Earth. Astronomers have discovered an unnamed pair of stars that sets a new record for both the longest duration stellar eclipse (3.5 years) and longest period between eclipses (69 years) in a binary system.

The newly discovered system known as TYC 2505-672-1 sets a new record for both the longest duration stellar eclipse and the longest period between eclipses in a binary system. The previous record holder was Epsilon Aurigae, a giant star that is eclipsed by its companion every 27 years for periods ranging from 640 to 730 days.



TYC-2505-672-1 is so distant that the amount of data the astronomers could extract from the images was limited. However, they were able to estimate the surface temperature of the companion star and found that it is about 2,000 degrees celsius hotter than the surface of the sun. In order to produce the 69-year interval between eclipses, the astronomers calculate that they must be orbiting at an extremely large distance - about 20 astronomical units- which is approximately the distance between the Sun and Uranus. Discovery of the system’s extraordinary properties was made by a team of astronomers from Vanderbilt and Harvard University with other colleagues.

Mysterious ‘Fast Radio Burst’ Pinpointed for First Time

Feb 26

Powerful transient radio flashes in the universe pop off randomly and appear to defy explanation, but astronomers have made a breakthrough in pinpointing the exact source of one of these fast radio bursts, known simply as “FRBs.”

Only a handful of FRBs have ever been positively identified by looking back through the data archives of radio telescopes. They may be extremely short lived, but they are so powerful that, for the briefest of moments, come from a



Retail inflation in January was at 17-month high led mainly by a sharp acceleration in Food prices.



phenomenon that can generate more energy than our sun can pump out for 10,000 years.

As dazzling as these events are, their apparently random nature (they seem to be generated well beyond our galaxy and appear anywhere in the sky) and extremely short (millisecond) burst makes follow-up observations nigh-on impossible. However, astronomers using the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) radio telescopes in eastern Australia and the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan's Subaru telescope in Hawaii, announced a breakthrough.

Usually, FRBs are found months or even years after they've been detected by radio telescopes. By analyzing radio archives, the FRB signals can be teased out. Unfortunately, this method leaves no room for follow-up observations of the region of sky the signal was detected, leaving their origin a mystery.

To rectify this, the international team set up an early warning system so that as soon as a signal is received, other observatories are alerted and are able to quickly zoom in on the region of sky where the FRB was detected.

China Announces Plans To Launch International Space Station's 'one year crew' returns to Earth

Second Space Lab Tiangong-2

Feb 29

March 02



China will send its second orbiting space lab Tiangong-2 into space in the third quarter of this year, which is expected to dock with a cargo ship scheduled to be launched in the first half of next year.

As part of the country's space lab program, China also plans to launch the Shenzhou-11 spacecraft, which will carry two astronauts on board, in the fourth quarter of this year to dock with Tiangong-2.

After its first test flight in the Wenchang satellite launch center in south China's Hainan Province, the Long March-7 rocket will put the cargo ship Tianzhou-1, which literally means "heavenly vessel," into space in the first half of 2017 to dock with Tiangong-2 and conduct experiments.

China aims to have a permanent, manned and functional space station by 2022. By 2020, construction on China's first orbiting space station will be concluded. The Tiangong-1, the first space lab, was launched in September 2011. During its first two years, the Tiangong-1 has completed two dockings with the core module.

US astronaut Scott Kelly and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Kornienko returned to Earth after spending almost a year in space in a ground-breaking experiment foreshadowing a potential manned mission to Mars. Kelly and Kornienko, who both spent 340 days in space, returned with Russia's Sergei Volkov, who was stationed at the ISS for over five months.



The "one-year crew" mission saw Kelly break the record for the longest single stay in space by a US astronaut, while Kornienko is now fifth on the list for lengthiest mission by a Russian cosmonaut.

The pair's near year-long stay in space -- which started on March 27 last year -- was the longest by any astronauts aboard the ISS and seen as a vital chance to measure the effects of a prolonged period in space on the human body.

China's lunar probe sets record for longest stay

March 02



Chang'e-3, China's first lunar lander, has been operating on the moon for over two years, the longest time for an active probe. The probe has exceeded its operational life of one year and has been in service for 15 extra months since landing on the moon on Dec 14, 2013.



Dhirendra H. Waghela of the Bombay High Court was sworn-in as the new Chief Justice of the Orissa.

Mahendra's

The State Administration for Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND) announced on Feb. 18 that Chang'e-3 had woken automatically after hibernating for the lunar night, and had entered its 28th lunar day. Its astronomical telescope and other surveying devices are still working well, SASTIND said.

Lunar rover Yutu, which hitched a ride with Chang'e-3, was designed to operate for six months.

China has shared the data collected by Chang'e-3 probe with the world, helping scientists understand more about the moon and space.

China Plans Mission to land a probe on Mars in 2021

March 05



China plans to land a probe on Mars in 2021 to coincide with the 100th anniversary of founding of the ruling-Communist Party of China and a decade after its first failed mission in 2011, after which India, US, Russia and EU stole the march.

China is likely to launch a Mars probe in 2020. After months of flying, the probe is expected to land in Mars at the 100th anniversary of the CPC.

If successful, it will be a present from people working in the aerospace field. The probe is expected to reach Mars in 2021 after a flight of seven to ten months.

In November 2015, China unveiled a model of its orbiter and landing rover at the China International Industry Fair in Shanghai.

China's earlier mission to send a probe to the Red Planet in a joint mission with Russia failed in 2011.

So far, only the US, the former Soviet Union, the European Space Agency and India have successfully carried out Mars exploration missions.

Europe, Russia embark on search for life on Mars

March 12



Europe and Russia are set to launch an unmanned spacecraft to smell Mars' atmosphere for gassy evidence that life once existed on the Red Planet, or may do so still.

ExoMars 2016, the first of a two-phase Mars exploration, will see an orbiter hoisted from Kazakhstan at 0931 GMT Monday on a Russian Proton rocket.

With its suite of high-tech instruments, the Trace Gas Orbiter or TGO, should arrive at the Red Planet on October 19 after a journey of 496 million kilometres (308 million miles).

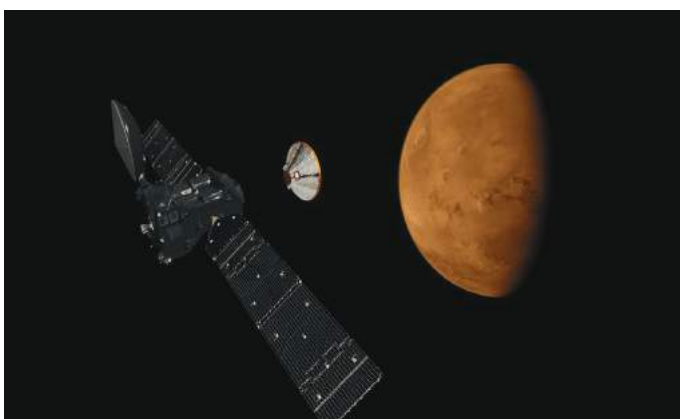
New ExoMars mission to find alien life on way to Red Planet

March 15

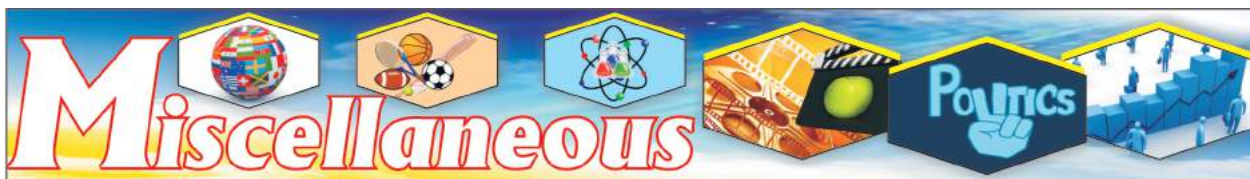
A new era of Mars exploration for Europe began as a new mission jointly developed by the European Space Agency (ESA) and the Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) blasted into the sky on a Russian Proton rocket to find if Red Planet has traces of alien life.

Named "ExoMars 2016", the first phase of the ESA-Roscosmos mission lifted off from Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on a Russian Proton rocket at around 3 p.m., marking the start of a seven-month journey to the Red Planet.

The mission will have the Trace Gas Orbiter (TGO) and Schiaparelli -- an entry, descent and landing demonstrator. TGO will make a detailed inventory of Mars' atmospheric gases, with particular interest in rare gases like methane, which implies that there is an active, current source.



Chief Justice of USA Justice Antonin Scalia has died.



Command Hospital (Eastern Command), Kolkata gets Raksha Mantri's Trophy for Best Service Hospital

Feb 19

The Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar presented the Raksha Mantri's Trophy and citation for the Best and Second Best Service Hospital in the Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS). The trophy for the Best Service Hospital went to Command Hospital (Eastern Command), Kolkata, which was received by its Commandant Major General TS Ahluwalia. The trophy for the Second Best Hospital was presented to INHS Asvini, Mumbai, which was received by its Commandant Surgeon Rear Admiral AA Pawar.



The Raksha Mantri's Trophy was instituted in 1989 to create a healthy competition among the Command Hospitals of the Army and its equivalent hospitals in the Navy and Air Force. The Best and Second Best Hospital are adjudged on the basis of a number of objective criteria by a Committee headed by Director General Health Services (Armed Forces). The Joint Secretary (O/N), Ministry of Defence is also a member of the Committee.

Bollywood lyricist Sameer Anjaan enters Guinness

Feb 20



Everybody wants to make and break records! The Guinness Book of World Records which gathers world records from around the world has also made a record of being the most stolen book from the public libraries.

Sameer Anjaan who is known for writing songs for Bollywood films has reserved a place in the Guinness World Records for composing an incredible 3,524 number of different songs. His musical career began in the year 1983 and since then, he has contributed in 650 Bollywood movies.

Bees can help boost food security of two billion small farmers at no cost: FAO

Feb 20

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) brought to light the publication of a new study that quantifies how much crop yields depend on the work of bees that unknowingly fertilize plants as they move from flower to flower. The FAO also stated that bees may have a pivotal role to play in improving the production of some two billion smallholder farmers worldwide and ensuring the food security and nutrition of the world's growing population.



The paper, published in the magazine Science, makes the case that ecological intensification, or boosting farm outputs by tapping the power of natural processes, is one of the sustainable pathways toward greater food supplies.

Malayalam film wins Crystal Bear at Berlinale

Feb 22



National Award-winning Malayalam film *Ottaal* was adjudged the Best Film by children's jury at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival and has been honoured with the Crystal Bear award in the Generation Kplus section. Directed by Jayaraj Rajasekharan Nair, *Ottaal* is an adaptation of a short story by Russian writer Anton Chekhov and narrates the story of an old fisherman and his grandson.

The official site of the festival describes *Ottaal*, which means a trap, as an "exceptional movie" tugging at the heart strings "with its irresistible images of nature, laid-back music and amazingly gifted actors".



24th National Homoeopathic Congress 'Homeo-Vision 2016' was inaugurated at Nagpur.

Mahendra's

The Indian film was picked as the best by members of the children's jury in Generation Kplus. The jury included Fabian Behrendt, Mathilda Fastabend, Felix Fuentes-Hare, Julian Leisle, Lilia Channary Noack, Mette Maren Schmahl, Fritz Schneider-Reuter, Moritz Süßenbach, Sophie Tischmann, Tamino Köhne, Irma Weiche. The Berlin International Film Festival brings forward an array of films from every genre. And it also has a special section dedicated to films for young audiences in Generation. The fest was held from February 11-21. Ottaal won two National Awards for Best Screenplay and Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation and the Kerala State Film Award for Best Film. It was screened at the Mumbai Film Festival and the International Film Festival of Kerala.

Nicole Kidman wins best actress prize at WhatsOnStage awards

Feb 22

Nicole Kidman has won best actress in a play honours at London's WhatsOnStage Awards for her depiction of a real-life scientific heroine in "Photograph 51." Kidman played Rosalind Franklin, one



of the team that discovered the double helix structure of DNA, in Anne Ziegler's drama, which also was named best new play. Benedict Cumberbatch was named best actor in a play for "Hamlet," which was also named best revival. Judi Dench was named best supporting actress for "The Winter's Tale." Musical performance prizes went to Imelda Staunton for "Gypsy" and Matt Henry for "Kinky Boots." The awards are sponsored by website whatsonstage.com and decided by public vote.

Lucy Liu honoured by Harvard University

Feb 22



Actress Lucy Liu has been named as Harvard University's Artist of the Year. The Harvard Foundation presented her with the

honour at the Cultural Rhythms Festival for contributions to the performing arts and humanitarian work as UNICEF Ambassador.

S Allen Counter, director of the Harvard Foundation, said in a statement. "The students and faculty of the Harvard Foundation are delighted to present the distinguished and much-admired television and film star Lucy Liu with the 2016 Artist of the Year award.

Mukesh Ambani richest Indian, net worth jumps 30% to \$26 billion Feb 24

Industrialist Mukesh Ambani remains India's richest person with a sharp surge of 30 per cent in his net worth to \$26 billion, pushing his global rank to

21st on a worldwide rich list topped by Bill Gates. The total number of billionaires from India has risen to 111, consolidating the country's third position after China and the US, according to Hurun Global Rich List 2016, a ranking of the US dollar billionaires currently found in the world.

Bill Gates, retained the top spot with a fortune of \$80 billion. In the overall list, Gates was followed by Warren Buffett with a net worth of \$68 billion further followed by Amancio Ortega with \$64 billion net worth in the third place. Jeff Bezos, with \$50 billion and Carlos Slim Helu with \$53 billion made it to the top five billionaires in the world. The world's billionaires grew by 99 to 2,188 individuals, which is a new world record and which is 50 per cent more than 2013.

Meanwhile, India consolidated its position in the third place with 111 billionaires, 14 more than last year. Sector-wise, manufacturing, pharma and tech were the sectors that minted most number of billionaires with 22, 20 and 15 super rich people, respectively. In terms of cities, Mumbai was home to most of the Indian billionaires.

'Baahubali' nominated for Saturn Awards in five categories

Feb 27

The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films has nominated India's mega-budget film "Baahubali: The Beginning" for the 42nd Saturn Awards under five categories.



"Baahubali: The Beginning", the first of a two-part epic drama, was directed by the S.S.Rajamouli and produced by Shobu Yarlagadda and Prasad Devineni of Arka Mediaworks.

The awards ceremony will take place in June in Burbank.

"Baahubali: The Beginning" has been nominated under the categories Best Fantasy Film, Best Film Music (MM Keeravani), Best Film Production Design (Sabu Cyril), Best Supporting Actress (Tamannaah Bhatia) and Best Film Costume Design (Rama Rajamouli and Prashanti Tipirneni).



Famous Malayalam Poet and Jnanpith-winner O N V Kurup passed away.

Randeep Hooda honoured with achievement award in Australia March 01



Bollywood actor Randeep Hooda was felicitated by Melbourne based South Asian community members at a function. On the occasion, the 39-year-old “Main Aur Charles” actor, also shared his memories of the time he spent as an international student in the country. The members of a non profit organization South Asian Public Affairs Council (SAPAC) honoured the visiting actor with an achievement award for making his mark in the film industry.

Receiving the award, Hooda said he got his first break in the Bollywood industry because of his Australian accent. The actor who made his debut as an NRI from Australia in Mira Nair’s film “Monsoon Wedding” in 2001, said he was very happy to be back in the country after 15 years.

Bill Gates richest man in world, Mukesh Ambani at 36th: Forbes

March 02



Microsoft’s co-founder Bill Gates continued his reign as the world’s richest person with a net worth of \$75 billion, according to Forbes’ annual ranking of billionaires, with Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani leading the pack of 84 Indian billionaires in 2016.

Forbes’ 2016 list of the World’s Billionaires includes 1,810 billionaires, down from a record 1,826 a year ago. Their aggregate net worth is \$6.48 trillion, \$570 billion less than last year. Gates remains the richest person in the world with a net worth of \$75 billion, despite being \$4.2 billion poorer than a year ago. He has been number one for 3 years in a row and topped the list 17 out of 22 years.

Forbes said Ambani, 58, has retained his position as India’s richest person despite shares of his oil and gas giant Reliance Industries taking a hit due to lower oil prices. He is ranked 36th on the list with a net worth of \$20.6 billion

London No 1. Mumbai Ranked 17th On the list of world’s most expensive cities March 04



London has been ranked as the world’s most expensive city to live and work in, ahead of New York and Hong Kong, according to a UK study that puts Mumbai at 17th.

The only India city on the list of top 20, Mumbai is ranked 17th ahead only of Berlin, Johannesburg and Rio de Janeiro by the UK real estate firm Savills survey.

It compares the total annual cost of renting both residential and office accommodation per person in some of the world’s leading cities.

London is 18 per cent more expensive than it was five years ago, and has been ranked at the top of the index since 2014.

The cost of living in the British capital comes to more than double the cost of other English-speaking cities such as Sydney, Los Angeles and Chicago.

Savills puts together its study as an indicator for companies of the cost of doing business in different world cities.



DEITY and M/s. Canbank Venture Capital Fund Ltd Launched Electronics Development Fund in Mumbai.

Mahendra's

Nancy Reagan, former first lady, dies at the age of 94

March 07



Former first lady Nancy Reagan, known for her influence and devotion to President Ronald Reagan during his eight years in the White House and his decades outside it, died at age 94.

As first lady, Reagan famously spearheaded the 1980s “Just Say No” campaign against drug abuse, speaking at schools around the country over several years and urging the United Nations to improve drug education. Although she earned scorn for her decision to expensively renovate the White House during a recession, she came to be revered for her work on social causes, particularly in the Republican party and among conservatives in general.

Renowned Dogri poetess and writer Padma conferred with Sachdev Krutitava Samagra Samman

March 07

Renowned Dogri poetess and writer Padma Sachdev was 6 March 2016 was awarded Krutitava Smagra Samman for the year 2015.

The award was given by Bharatiya’s Bhasha Parishad in Kolkata for her outstanding contribution in literature and great service to Dogri Language.

She was presented with the award by the West Bengal Governor Keshari Nath Tripathi. The Award carries an amount of one lakh rupees, a shawl and citation.

About Padma Sachdev

- ✎ She writes both in her mother tongue Dogri and the national language Hindi
- ✎ She has to her credit six collections of Dogri poetry, eight books of Hindi prose including two novels.

- ✎ She also writes an occasional article in Hindi for newspapers and journals.
- ✎ She won the Sahitya Akademi Award at the young age of thirty for her first collection of Dogri poetry title Mere Kavita, Mere Geet (1969)
- ✎ She also has won Soviet Land Nehru Award, Hindi Academy Puraskar, U.P. Hindi Academy Puaskar, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Puraskar, Joshua Poetry Award, and the Jammu & Kashmir Government’s Robe of Honour.

Her collection of Dogri poetry

- ✎ Meri Kavita, Mere Geet (1969)
- ✎ Tawi Te Chanhaan (1976)
- ✎ Nehriyan Galiyan (1982)
- ✎ Pota Pota Nimbal (1987)
- ✎ Uttarbaihni (1992)
- ✎ Tainthiyaan (1999)

Myanmar's parliament elects Suu Kyi confidant Htin Kyaw as president

March 15



Myanmar's parliament elected a close friend and confidant of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi as president, making Htin Kyaw the first head of state who does not hail from a military background since the 1960s.

Suu Kyi led her National League for Democracy (NLD) to a landslide election win in November, but a constitution drafted by the former junta bars her from the top office.

She has vowed to run the country anyway through a proxy, and the NLD nominated Htin Kyaw for the role. He runs a charity founded by Suu Kyi and has been a trusted member of her inner circle since the mid-1990s. He is not a lawmaker.



The President of India, presented the Infosys Prizes for the year 2015 in New Delhi.



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Railway Budget 2016-17



Theme of the Budget

- ✎ **Overcoming challenges – Reorganize, Restructure Rejuvenate Indian Railways: ‘Chalo, Milkar Kuch Naya Karen’**
- ✎ Three pillars of the strategy i.e. Nav Arjan – New revenues, Nav Manak – New norms, Nav Sanrachna – New Structures.

Financial Performance

- ✎ **2015-16-** Savings of Rs. 8,720 crore neutralizing most of the revenue shortfall, expected OR 90%;
- ✎ **2016-17-** Targeted Operating Ratio (OR) - 92%, restrict growth of Ordinary Working Expenses by 11.6% after building in immediate impact of 7th PC, reductions planned in diesel and electricity consumption, Revenue generation targeted at Rs. 1,84,820 crore.

The Way Ahead

Improving quality of travel

For the unreserved passenger –

- ✎ Antyodaya Express unreserved, superfast service.
- ✎ Deen Dayalu coaches – unreserved coaches with potable water and higher number of mobile charging points.

For the reserved passenger –

- ✎ **Humsafar** - fully air-conditioned third AC service with an optional service for meals
- ✎ **Tejas** - will showcase the future of train travel in India. Will operate at speeds of 130 kmph and above. Will offer onboard services such as entertainment, local cuisine, Wi-Fi, etc. through one service provider for ensuring accountability and improved customer satisfaction
- ✎ **Humsafar and Tejas** to ensure cost recovery through tariff and non-tariff measures
- ✎ **UDAY** - overnight double-decker, Utkrisht Double-Decker Air-conditioned Yatri Express on the busiest routes, has the potential to increase carrying capacity by almost 40%.

Ticketing: Sale of tickets through hand held terminals; e- ticketing facility to foreign debit/credit cards; bar coded tickets, scanners and access control on a pilot basis. Expansion of **Vikalp** – train on demand to provide choice of accommodation in specific trains to wait listed passengers.

Cleanliness - ‘Clean my Coach’ service through SMS, ranking of A1 and A stations based on periodic third party audit and passenger feedback; waste segregation and recycling centres; ‘Awareness campaigns’; additional 30,000 bio-toilets; providing portable structures with biotoilets at all platforms of select stations for senior citizens, Divyang and women travellers.

Catering and stalls at stations - IRCTC to manage catering services in a phased manner; explore possibility of making catering services optional, adding 10 more IRCTC operated base kitchens; to build local ownership and empowerment, weightage will be given to district domicile holders for commercial licenses at stations.

Stoppages: convert all operational halts into commercial halts for the benefit of the common man.

Rail Mitra Sewa: expanding Sarathi Seva in Konkan Railway to help the old and disabled passengers, strengthening the existing services for enabling passengers to book battery operated cars, porter services, etc. on a paid basis in addition to the existing pick up and drop, and wheel chair services.

Measures for Divyang: all stations under redevelopment accessible by Divyang; to provide at least one Divyang friendly toilet at each platform in A1 class stations during the next financial year and also ensure availability of wheelchairs in sufficient numbers at these stations.

Travel Insurance to passengers - to offer optional travel insurance for rail journeys at the time of booking.

Hourly booking of retiring rooms - will be handed over to IRCTC.

Janani sewa: children’s menu items on trains, baby foods, hot milk and hot water would be made available.

SMART (Specially Modified Aesthetic Refreshing Travel) Coaches - design and layout of our coaches to



Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis has won the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy to win 40 matches in a row.

ensure higher carrying capacity and provision of new amenities including automatic doors, bar-code readers, bio-vacuum toilets, water-level indicators, accessible dustbins, ergonomic seating, improved aesthetics, vending machines, entertainment screens, LED lit boards for advertising, PA system.

Undertaking Navarambh – a new beginning

- ✎ **Navinikaran** - Structural Interventions Organisational Restructuring- proposed to reorganize the Railway Board along business lines and suitably empower Chairman, Railway Board. As a first step, cross functional directorates to be set up in Railway Board to focus on areas like non-fare revenues, speed enhancement, motive power and information technology.
- ✎ **Sashaktikaran** – Improving our planning practices
To set up a Railway Planning & Investment Organisation for drafting medium (5 years) and long (10 years) term corporate plans; identify projects which fulfill the corporate goal. Prepare a National Rail Plan to harmonise and integrate the rail network with other modes of transport.
- ✎ **Aekikaran** – Consolidation: Forming a holding company of companies owned by IR.
- ✎ **Shodh aur vikas** - Investing in the future: to set up a R&D organization, a Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology & Holistic Advancement, SRESTHA. RDSO will now focus only on day to day issues while SRESTHA would drive long term research.
- ✎ **Vishleshan** – Analyzing data: a dedicated, cross functional team called Special Unit for Transportation Research and Analytics (SUTRA) would be set up for carrying out detailed analytics leading to optimized investment decisions and operations
- ✎ **Navrachna** – Innovation: by setting aside a sum of Rs. 50 crore for providing innovation grants to employees, startups and small businesses.

Avataran - Seven Missions for the transformation of IR

- ✎ Missions will be headed by a Mission Director reporting directly to the Chairman, Railway Board and heading a cross functional team empowered to take all relevant decisions for a timely targeted delivery.
- ✎ Mission 25 Tonne for 25 tonne axle load, Mission Zero Accident for safety, Mission PACE (Procurement and Consumption Efficiency), Mission Raftaar for higher speeds, Mission Hundred for commissioning 100 sidings/ freight terminals, Mission beyond book-keeping for accounting reforms, Mission Capacity

Utilisation to prepare a blueprint for making use of the capacity created once DFC is commissioned.

Tourism

- ✎ Partnering with State Governments for operating tourist circuit trains; recent upgradation of National Rail Museum, promotion of tourism through Railway museums and UNESCO world heritage Railways.
- ✎ To spread awareness about our National Animal, the Tiger, complete packages including train journey, safaris and accommodation to cover the wildlife circuit comprising Kanha, Pench and Bandhavgarh will be offered.

Budget Estimates 2016-17:

- ✎ The intention to improve revenues and ensure appropriate investments which can continue the road-map of decongestion and enhance line-capacity enhancement as detailed in 2015-16. The focus is on enhanced CAPEX with a mix of various sources of funding in order to ensure that the projects are given assured funding.
- ✎ Gross Traffic Receipts kept at Rs 1,84,820 crore . Passenger earnings growth has been pegged at 12.4 % and earnings target budgeted at Rs. 51,012 crore. The freight traffic is pegged at incremental traffic of 50 million tonnes, anticipating a healthier growth in the core sector of economy. Goods earnings is accordingly proposed at Rs. 1, 17,933 crore. Other coaching and sundries projected at Rs. 6,185 crore and Rs. 9,590.3 crore respectively.
- ✎ OWE provides for the implementation of the 7th CPC.
- ✎ Pension outgo budgeted at Rs 45,500 crore in 2016-17.
- ✎ Higher staff cost and pension liability impacts the internal resource position of the Railways. Accordingly, appropriation to DRF from revenue placed at Rs 3,200 crore and that from Production Units at Rs 200 crore. A withdrawal of Rs 3,160 crore from DRF on net basis proposed though the gross expenditure to be met from DRF in the Annual Plan estimated at Rs 7,160 crore. Rs 5,750 crore proposed to be appropriated to the Capital fund. With a draw-down of Rs 1,250 crore from previous balances in the fund, plan requirement of Rs 7,000 crore for repayment of principal component of lease charges to IRFC met.
- ✎ Railways are preparing a Plan size of Rs. 1,21,000 crore in 2016-17.



Noted Music director Rajamani died.



Economic Survey 2015-16

The Economic Survey 2015-16, presented in the Parliament on Feb 26, 2016 by the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, states that the social infrastructure scenario in the country reflects gaps in access to education, health and housing amenities. Inclusive growth in India requires bridging gaps in educational outcomes and improved health attainments across the population.

As India capitalizes on the 'demographic dividend,' Economic Survey 2015-16 states that increasing investment in human capital is a key requirement to improve productivity of the population says the Economic Survey. The Economic Survey 2015-16 states that the total expenditure on Social Services including Education, Health, Social Security, Nutrition, Welfare of SC/ST/OBC etc. during 2014-15 (RE) was 7 % of GDP while it was 6.5% during 2013-14.

Following are the highlights of Economic Survey 2015-16, tabled in Parliament:

1. GDP growth next fiscal to be between 7-7.75%
2. Growth this fiscal to be 7.6%, long-term potential at 8-10% if exports grow rapidly.
3. India haven of stability amidst gloomy global landscape.
4. Crude oil prices to be about USD 35 a barrel next fiscal, as against USD 45 this year.
5. Projects retail inflation at 4.5-5% for 2016-17.
6. Low inflation takes hold, price stability has increased.
7. Pay Commission implementation not to destabilise prices.
8. Proposes widening of tax net from 5.5% of earning individuals to more than 20%
9. Challenging external environment to cast shadow on economic policies.
10. 3.9% fiscal deficit target achievable this year, coming year to be challenging.



11. Subsidy bill to be below 2% of GDP next fiscal.
12. Concerned over delay in GST Bill.
13. Balance sheets of corporate, banks remain stressed; need 4Rs: Recognition, Recapitalisation, Resolution and Reform.
14. PSU banks' capital need at Rs 1.8 lakh crore by FY19.
15. Current account deficit at 1-1.5%, forex reserves at USD 351.5 bn in mid-Feb.
16. Services sector growth in 2015-16 seen at 9.2%
17. Suggests revival of domestic demand as foreign capital outflow likely.
18. Sees good performance by industrial, infrastructure, corporate sectors due to recent reform.
19. More investment in health, education; focus on agriculture.
20. Government tax revenues to be higher than budgeted.
21. Exports slowdown to continue; pick up in next fiscal.
22. India should resist protectionist measures in trade.
23. Suggests reform package for fertiliser sector.



Gemini Arabians have won the maiden edition of Masters Champions League (MCL).



General Budget 2016-17

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented the General Budget 2016-17 in Lok Sabha on February 29, 2016.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented India's national budget for 2016-17 in the Lok Sabha, saying the country was a bright spot of the global economy today, while outlining his nine focus areas in which rural development took the top slot.

Key Features of Budget 2016-2017

INTRODUCTION

- ✎ Growth of Economy accelerated to 7.6% in 2015-16.
- ✎ India hailed as a 'bright spot' amidst a slowing global economy by IMF.
- ✎ Robust growth achieved despite very unfavourable global conditions and two consecutive years shortfall in monsoon by 13%
- ✎ Foreign exchange reserves touched highest ever level of about 350 billion US dollars.
- ✎ Despite increased devolution to States by 55% as a result of the 14th Finance Commission award, plan expenditure increased at RE stage in 2015-16 – in contrast to earlier years.

CHALLENGES IN 2016-17

- ✎ Risks of further global slowdown and turbulence.
- ✎ Additional fiscal burden due to 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations and OROP.

ROADMAP & PRIORITIES

- ✎ 'Transform India' to have a significant impact on economy and lives of people.
- ✎ **Government to focus on –**
 - ❖ ensuring macro-economic stability and prudent fiscal management.
 - ❖ boosting on domestic demand
 - ❖ continuing with the pace of economic reforms and policy initiatives to change the lives of our people for the better.
- ✎ Focus on enhancing expenditure in priority areas of - farm and rural sector, social sector, infrastructure sector employment generation and recapitalisation of the banks.

✎ Focus on Vulnerable sections through:

- ❖ Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
- ❖ New health insurance scheme to protect against hospitalisation expenditure
- ❖ facility of cooking gas connection for BPL families
- ✎ Continue with the ongoing reform programme and ensure passage of the Goods and Service Tax bill and Insolvency and Bankruptcy law

✎ Undertake important reforms by:

- ❖ giving a statutory backing to AADHAR platform to ensure benefits reach the deserving.
- ❖ freeing the transport sector from constraints and restrictions
- ❖ incentivising gas discovery and exploration by providing calibrated marketing freedom
- ❖ enactment of a comprehensive law to deal with resolution of financial firms
- ❖ provide legal framework for dispute resolution and re-negotiations in PPP projects and public utility contracts
- ❖ undertake important banking sector reforms and public listing of general insurance companies undertake significant changes in FDI policy.

AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS' WELFARE

- ✎ Allocation for Agriculture and Farmers' welfare is ₹35,984 crore
- ✎ 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana' to be implemented in mission mode. 28.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation.
- ✎ Implementation of 89 irrigation projects under AIBP, which are languishing for a long time, will be fast tracked
- ✎ A dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus of about ₹20,000 crore



The Revenant won the Best Film Award at the 69th British Academy Films Awards (BAFTAs).

- ✎ Programme for sustainable management of ground water resources with an estimated cost of ₹6,000 crore will be implemented through multilateral funding
- ✎ 5 lakh farm ponds and dug wells in rain fed areas and 10 lakh compost pits for production of organic manure will be taken up under MGNREGA
- ✎ Soil Health Card scheme will cover all 14 crore farm holdings by March 2017.
- ✎ 2,000 model retail outlets of Fertilizer companies will be provided with soil and seed testing facilities during the next three years
- ✎ Promote organic farming through 'Parmparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' and 'Organic Value Chain Development in North East Region'.
- ✎ Unified Agricultural Marketing ePlatform to provide a common e-market platform for wholesale markets
- ✎ Allocation under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana increased to ₹19,000 crore. Will connect remaining 65,000 eligible habitations by 2019.
- ✎ To reduce the burden of loan repayment on farmers, a provision of ₹15,000 crore has been made in the BE 2016-17 towards interest subvention
- ✎ Allocation under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana ₹5,500 crore.
- ✎ ₹850 crore for four dairying projects - 'Pashudhan Sanjivani', 'Nakul Swasthya Patra', 'E-Pashudhan Haat' and National Genomic Centre for indigenous breeds

RURAL SECTOR

- ✎ Allocation for rural sector - ₹87,765 crore.
- ✎ ₹2.87 lakh crore will be given as Grant in Aid to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission
- ✎ Every block under drought and rural distress will be taken up as an intensive Block under the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission
- ✎ A sum of ₹38,500 crore allocated for MGNREGS.
- ✎ 300 Rurban Clusters will be developed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission
- ✎ 100% village electrification by 1st May, 2018.
- ✎ A new Digital Literacy Mission Scheme for rural India to cover around 6 crore additional household within the next 3 years.

- ✎ National Land Record Modernisation Programme has been revamped.
- ✎ New scheme Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan proposed with allocation of ₹655 crore.

SOCIAL SECTOR INCLUDING HEALTH CARE

- ✎ Allocation for social sector including education and health care – ₹1,51,581 crore.
- ✎ ₹2,000 crore allocated for initial cost of providing LPG connections to BPL families.
- ✎ New health protection scheme will provide health cover up to ₹One lakh per family. For senior citizens an additional top-up package up to ₹30,000 will be provided.
- ✎ 3,000 Stores under Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana will be opened during 2016-17.
- ✎ 'National Dialysis Services Programme' to be started under National Health Mission through PPP mode
- ✎ "Stand Up India Scheme" to facilitate at least two projects per bank branch. This will benefit at least 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs.
- ✎ National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub to be set up in partnership with industry associations
- ✎ Allocation of ₹100 crore each for celebrating the Birth Centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay and the 350th Birth Anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.

EDUCATION, SKILLS AND JOB CREATION

- ✎ 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened
- ✎ Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to increasing focus on quality of education
- ✎ Regulatory architecture to be provided to ten public and ten private institutions to emerge as world-class Teaching and Research Institutions
- ✎ Higher Education Financing Agency to be set-up with initial capital base of ₹1000 Crores
- ✎ Digital Depository for School Leaving Certificates, College Degrees, Academic Awards and Mark sheets to be set-up .

SKILL DEVELOPMENT

- ✎ Allocation for skill development – ₹1804. crore.
- ✎ 1500 Multi Skill Training Institutes to be set-up.
- ✎ National Board for Skill Development Certification to be setup in partnership with the industry and academia



West Indies won their maiden U-19 Cricket World Cup by defeating India by five wickets.

- ✎ Entrepreneurship Education and Training through Massive Open Online Courses

JOB CREATION

- ✎ GoI will pay contribution of 8.33% for of all new employees enrolling in EPFO for the first three years of their employment. Budget provision of ₹1000 crore for this scheme.
- ✎ Deduction under Section 80JJAA of the Income Tax Act will be available to all assesses who are subject to statutory audit under the Act
- ✎ 100 Model Career Centres to operational by the end of 2016-17 under National Career Service.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND INVESTMENT

- ✎ Total investment in the road sector, including PMGSY allocation, would be ₹97,000 crore during 2016-17.
- ✎ India's highest ever kilometres of new highways were awarded in 2015. To approve nearly 10,000 kms of National Highways in 2016-17.
- ✎ Allocation of ₹55,000 crore in the Budget for Roads. Additional ₹15,000 crore to be raised by NHAI through bonds.
- ✎ Total outlay for infrastructure - ₹2,21,246 crore.
- ✎ Amendments to be made in Motor Vehicles Act to open up the road transport sector in the passenger segment
- ✎ Comprehensive plan, spanning next 15 to 20 years, to augment the investment in nuclear power generation to be drawn up.
- ✎ **Steps to re-vitalise PPPs:**
 - ❖ Public Utility (Resolution of Disputes) Bill will be introduced during 2016-17
 - ❖ Guidelines for renegotiation of PPP Concession Agreements will be issued
 - ❖ New credit rating system for infrastructure projects to be introduced
- ✎ Reforms in FDI policy in the areas of Insurance and Pension, Asset Reconstruction Companies, Stock Exchanges.
- ✎ 100% FDI to be allowed through FIPB route in marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India.
- ✎ A new policy for management of Government investment in Public Sector Enterprises, including disinvestment and strategic sale, approved.

FINANCIAL SECTOR REFORMS

- ✎ A comprehensive Code on Resolution of Financial Firms to be introduced.
- ✎ Statutory basis for a Monetary Policy framework and a Monetary Policy Committee through the Finance Bill 2016.
- ✎ A Financial Data Management Centre to be set up.
- ✎ RBI to facilitate retail participation in Government securities.
- ✎ New derivative products will be developed by SEBI in the Commodity Derivatives market.
- ✎ Amendments in the SARFAESI Act 2002 to enable the sponsor of an ARC to hold up to 100% stake in the ARC and permit non institutional investors to invest in Securitization Receipts.
- ✎ Comprehensive Central Legislation to be brought to deal with the menace of illicit deposit taking schemes.
- ✎ Increasing members and benches of the Securities Appellate Tribunal.
- ✎ Allocation of ₹25,000 crore towards recapitalisation of Public Sector Banks.
- ✎ Target of amount sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana increased to ₹1,80,000 crore.
- ✎ General Insurance Companies owned by the Government to be listed in the stock exchanges.

GOVERNANCE AND EASE OF DOING BUSINESS

- ✎ A Task Force has been constituted for rationalisation of human resources in various Ministries.
- ✎ Comprehensive review and rationalisation of Autonomous Bodies.
- ✎ Bill for Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services by using the Aadhar framework to be introduced.
- ✎ Introduce DBT on pilot basis for fertilizer.
- ✎ Automation facilities will be provided in 3 lakh fair price shops by March 2017.
- ✎ Amendments in Companies Act to improve enabling environment for start-ups.
- ✎ Price Stabilisation Fund with a corpus of ₹900 crore to help maintain stable prices of Pulses.
- ✎ "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" programme will be launched to link States and Districts in an annual programme that connects people through exchanges in areas of language, trade, culture, travel and tourism.



The first Mega Food Park in the State was inaugurated at Ranchi, Jharkhand.

FISCAL DISCIPLINE

- ✎ Fiscal deficit in RE 2015-16 and BE 2016-17 retained at 3.9% and 3.5%.
- ✎ Revenue Deficit target from 2.8% to 2.5% in RE 2015-16
- ✎ Total expenditure projected at ₹19.78 lakh crore
- ✎ Plan expenditure pegged at ₹5.50 lakh crore under Plan, increase of 15.3%
- ✎ Non-Plan expenditure kept at ₹14.28 lakh crores
- ✎ Special emphasis to sectors such as agriculture, irrigation, social sector including health, women and child development, welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities, infrastructure.

RELIEF TO SMALL TAX PAYERS

- ✎ Raise the ceiling of tax rebate under section 87A from ₹2000 to ₹5000 to lessen tax burden on individuals with income upto ₹5 laks.
- ✎ Increase the limit of deduction of rent paid under section 80GG from ₹24000 per annum to ₹60000, to provide relief to those who live in rented houses.

BOOST EMPLOYMENT AND GROWTH

- ✎ Increase the turnover limit under Presumptive taxation scheme under section 44AD of the Income Tax Act to ₹2 crores to bring big relief to a large number of assessee in the MSME category.
- ✎ Extend the presumptive taxation scheme with profit deemed to be 50%, to professionals with gross receipts up to ₹50 lakh.

Phasing out deduction under Income Tax:

- ❖ Accelerated depreciation wherever provided in IT Act will be limited to maximum 40% from 1.4.2017
- ❖ Benefit of deductions for Research would be limited to 150% from 1.4.2017 and 100% from 1.4.2020
- ❖ Benefit of section 10AA to new SEZ units will be available to those units which commence activity before 31.3.2020.
- ❖ The weighted deduction under section 35CCD for skill development will continue up to 1.4.2020

Corporate Tax rate proposals:

- ❖ New manufacturing companies incorporated on or after 1.3.2016 to be given an option to be taxed at 25% + surcharge and cess provided they do not claim profit linked or investment linked deductions and do not avail of investment allowance and accelerated depreciation.

- ❖ Lower the corporate tax rate for the next financial year for relatively small enterprises i.e companies with turnover not exceeding ₹5 crore (in the financial year ending March 2015), to 29% plus surcharge and cess.
- ✎ 100% deduction of profits for 3 out of 5 years for startups setup during April, 2016 to March, 2019. MAT will apply in such cases.
- ✎ 10% rate of tax on income from worldwide exploitation of patents developed and registered in India by a resident.
- ✎ Complete pass through of income-tax to securitization trusts including trusts of ARCs. Securitisation trusts required to deduct tax at source.
- ✎ Commitment to implement General Anti Avoidance Rules (GAAR) from 1.4.2017.
- ✎ Basic custom and excise duty on refrigerated containers reduced to 5% and 6%.

MAKE IN INDIA

- ✎ Changes in customs and excise duty rates on certain inputs to reduce costs and improve competitiveness of domestic industry in sectors like Information technology hardware, capital goods, defence production, textiles, mineral fuels & mineral oils, chemicals & petrochemicals, paper, paperboard & newsprint, Maintenance repair and overhauling [MRO] of aircrafts and ship repair.

MOVING TOWARDS A PENSIONED SOCIETY

- ✎ Withdrawal up to 40% of the corpus at the time of retirement to be tax exempt in the case of National Pension Scheme (NPS). Annuity fund which goes to legal heir will not be taxable.
- ✎ In case of superannuation funds and recognized provident funds, including EPF, the same norm of 40% of corpus to be tax free will apply in respect of corpus created out of contributions made on or from 1.4.2016.
- ✎ Limit for contribution of employer in recognized Provident and Superannuation Fund of ₹1.5 lakh per annum for taking tax benefit. Exemption from service tax for Annuity services provided by NPS and Services provided by EPFO to employees.
- ✎ Reduce service tax on Single premium Annuity (Insurance) Policies from 3.5% to 1.4% of the premium paid in certain cases.



A member from PML-N Sheikh Ansar Aziz has been elected as the first-ever mayor of Islamabad.

PROMOTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- ✎ 100% deduction for profits to an undertaking in housing project for flats upto 30 sq. metres in four metro cities and 60 sq. metres in other cities, approved during June 2016 to March 2019 and completed in three years. MAT to apply.
- ✎ Deduction for additional interest of ₹50,000 per annum for loans up to ₹35 lakh sanctioned in 2016-17 for first time home buyers, where house cost does not exceed ₹50 lakh.
- ✎ Exemption from service tax on construction of affordable houses up to 60 square metres under any scheme of the Central or State Government including PPP Schemes.
- ✎ Extend excise duty exemption, presently available to Concrete Mix manufactured at site for use in construction work to Ready Mix Concrete.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION FOR AGRICULTURE, RURAL ECONOMY AND CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

- ✎ Additional tax at the rate of 10% of gross amount of dividend will be payable by the recipients receiving dividend in excess of ₹10 lakh per annum.
- ✎ Surcharge to be raised from 12% to 15% on persons, other than companies, firms and cooperative societies having income above ₹1 crore.
- ✎ Tax to be deducted at source at the rate of 1 % on purchase of luxury cars exceeding value of ₹10 lakh and purchase of goods and services in cash exceeding ₹2 lakh.
- ✎ Securities Transaction tax in case of 'Options' is proposed to be increased from .017% to .05%.
- ✎ Equalization levy of 6% of gross amount for payment made to non-residents exceeding ₹1 lakh a year in case of B2B transactions.
- ✎ Krishi Kalyan Cess, @ 0.5% on all taxable services, w.e.f. 1 June 2016. Proceeds would be exclusively used for financing initiatives for improvement of agriculture and welfare of farmers. Input tax credit of this cess will be available for payment of this cess.
- ✎ Infrastructure cess, of 1% on small petrol, LPG, CNG cars, 2.5% on diesel cars of certain capacity and 4% on other higher engine capacity vehicles and SUVs. No credit of this cess will be available nor

credit of any other tax or duty be utilized for paying this cess.

- ✎ Excise duty of '1% without input tax credit or 12.5% with input tax credit' on articles of jewellery [excluding silver jewellery, other than studded with diamonds and some other precious stones], with a higher exemption and eligibility limits of ₹6 crores and ₹12 crores respectively.
- ✎ Excise on readymade garments with retail price of ₹1000 or more raised to 2% without input tax credit or 12.5% with input tax credit.
- ✎ 'Clean Energy Cess' levied on coal, lignite and peat renamed to 'Clean Environment Cess' and rate increased from ₹200 per tonne to ₹400 per tonne.
- ✎ Excise duties on various tobacco products other than beedi raised by about 10 to 15%.
- ✎ Assignment of right to use the spectrum and its transfers has been deducted as a service leviable to service tax and not sale of intangible goods.

PROVIDING CERTAINTY IN TAXATION

- ✎ Committed to providing a stable and predictable taxation regime and reduce black money.
- ✎ Domestic taxpayers can declare undisclosed income or such income represented in the form of any asset by paying tax at 30%, and surcharge at 7.5% and penalty at 7.5%, which is a total of 45% of the undisclosed income. Declarants will have immunity from prosecution.
- ✎ Surcharge levied at 7.5% of undisclosed income will be called Krishi Kalyan surcharge to be used for agriculture and rural economy.
- ✎ New Dispute Resolution Scheme to be introduced. No penalty in respect of cases with disputed tax up to ₹10 lakh. Cases with disputed tax exceeding ₹10 lakh to be subjected to 25% of the minimum of the imposable penalty. Any pending appeal against a penalty order can also be settled by paying 25% of the minimum of the imposable penalty and tax interest on quantum addition.
- ✎ One-time scheme of Dispute Resolution for ongoing cases under retrospective amendment.
- ✎ Penalty rates to be 50% of tax in case of underreporting of income and 200% of tax where there is misreporting of facts.



Ministry of Railways has signed an MoU on Technical Cooperation in Rail Sector with Sweden.



88th Annual Academy Awards

'Spotlight' film won the Best Picture award at the 88th annual Academy Awards (Oscar Awards) held in Los Angeles on 28 February 2016.

'Spotlight', an American investigative journalism drama directed by Tom McCarthy, created quite a flutter in the 88th Academy Awards as it took the most prestigious Best Picture award by pipping 'The Revenant', which was considered the pre-award favourite.

- The movie is based on The Boston Globe's 'Spotlight' team's investigations into cases of widespread and systemic child sex abuse in the Boston area by numerous Roman Catholic priests.

Leonardo DiCaprio finally won his first Oscar as he won the coveted 'Best Actor Award' at the 88th Academy Awards on 28 February 2016.

This was his first-ever Oscar after being nominated six times. He won this award for "The Revenant" film.

The Revenant is an American biographical movie set in 1823 Montana and South Dakota.

- Leonardo DiCaprio won his 'Best Actor' Oscar for his portrayal of the character of Hugh Glass in this film. The film also won the Best Director award for Director Alejandro González Iñárritu. This was the second consecutive Best Director award for Iñárritu. Best Actress award was won by Brie Larson for her role in 'Room'.

'**Mad Max: Fury Road**' emerged as the most successful film in the award Oscar award ceremony 2016. It won six out of ten nominations.

- The awards won by the film however didn't include major awards and it won Best Film Editing, Best Makeup and Hair Styling, Best Production Design, Best Costume Design, Best Sound Editing and Best Sound Mixing.

List of winners at Sunday's 88th annual Academy Awards presented by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

Best Picture	"Spotlight"
Best Actor	Leonardo DiCaprio
Best Actress	Brie Larson
Best Director	Alejandro G. Iñárritu
Supporting Actor	Mark Rylance, "Bridge of Spies."
Supporting Actress	Alicia Vikander, "The Danish Girl."
Adapted Screenplay	"The Big Short."
Original Screenplay	"Spotlight."
Animated Feature Film	"Inside Out."
Production Design	"Mad Max: Fury Road."
Cinematography	"The Revenant."
Sound Mixing	"Mad Max: Fury Road."
Sound Editing	"Mad Max: Fury Road."
Original Score	"The Hateful Eight"
Original Song	"Writings on the Wall."
Costume Design	"Mad Max: Fury Road."
Documentary Feature	"Amy."
Documentary (short subject)	"A Girl in the River: The Price of Forgiveness."
Film Editing	"Mad Max: Fury Road."
Makeup and Hairstyling	"Mad Max: Fury Road."
Animated Short Film	"Bear Story."
Visual Effects	"Ex Machina."
Foreign Language Film	"Son of Saul."
Live Action Short	"Stutterer."



Non-Tax Receipt Portal has been developed by the Office of Controller General of Accounts (CGA).

Sukanya Samriddhi Account



The practice of female foeticide, driven by the archaic and flawed mindset of having preference for a male child, has attained genocidal proportions in India. The country recorded a child sex-ratio of 914 in the 2011 census – the lowest ever since attaining Independence.

The situation was described as an “emergency” in a report published in the same year by the United Nations. The report attributed much of the declining numbers to illegal abortions throughout the country.

The Central Government launched the “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” scheme in January 2015 with the aim of bringing about an overall positive change in the mindsets of the people and to end discrimination against the girl child. Through this scheme, the government would sensitise the citizens of this country towards the concerns of the girl child and women, thereby leading to the larger goal of gender equality.

Along with the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao scheme, the government also launched the “Sukanya Samriddhi Account” programme.

Despite being a small savings scheme, the Sukanya Samriddhi Account has the potential to have a phenomenal impact on the lives and self esteem of young girls in the country. The scheme aims to ensure a bright future for the girl children by facilitating their education and marriage expenses. Under the scheme, a parent or legal guardian can open an account in the name of the girl child until she attains the age of ten years. As per the government notification on the Scheme, the account can be opened in any post office branch and designated public sector banks.

The rate of interest for the scheme is an attractive 9.2 per cent which will be compounded annually. The minimum deposit that needs to be made every year is Rs 1,000, and the maximum amount that can be deposited in a year is Rs 1,50,000. There is no limit on the number of deposits either in a month or in a financial year.

The account will be valid for 21 years from the date of opening. The account will also automatically close if the girl child gets married before the completion of the tenure of 21 years. Deposits can be made up to 14 years from the date of opening of the account. After this period the account will only earn interest as per applicable rates.

In case the required minimum annual deposit of Rs 1,000 is not made by a parent or a guardian, the account will cease to be active. In such a situation, the account can be easily reactivated by paying a penalty of Rs 50 per year along with the minimum amount required for deposit for that year.

Tax exemption is one of the greatest advantages of the Sukanya Samriddhi Account programme. The deposits made to the account, and also the proceeds and maturity amount would be fully exempted from tax under section 80C of the Income Tax Act.

The account can be prematurely closed only under two circumstances. In case of the unfortunate death of the girl child (account holder).

The second condition under which the account can be prematurely closed is when the competent authorities feel and confirm that it is not possible for the depositor to carry forward the account. There is no third condition under which the account can be closed.

The process of opening an account under the scheme is quite simple and only three documents are required for it. These documents are: 1) Certificate of birth of the girl child – provided by the hospital where the child is born or even a certificate provided by a government official. 2) Address proof of the parents. 3) Identity proof of the parents or legal guardian – Any of the documents mentioned in point 2 above, or documents like PAN card or matriculation certificate would be valid as an identity proof for opening the account. An account once opened can also be transferred anywhere in India.

The role of legal guardian in the scheme would only come into picture wherein both the parents of the girl child are dead, or are not capable of opening or running the account.

It is important to mention here that the girl child in whose name the account has been opened can operate the account on her after she attains the age of 10 years, if she wishes to do so.

Despite being a small investment scheme, an initiative like the Sukanya Samriddhi Account is the need of the hour and will go a long way towards protecting the future of and providing financial security to the girl child.



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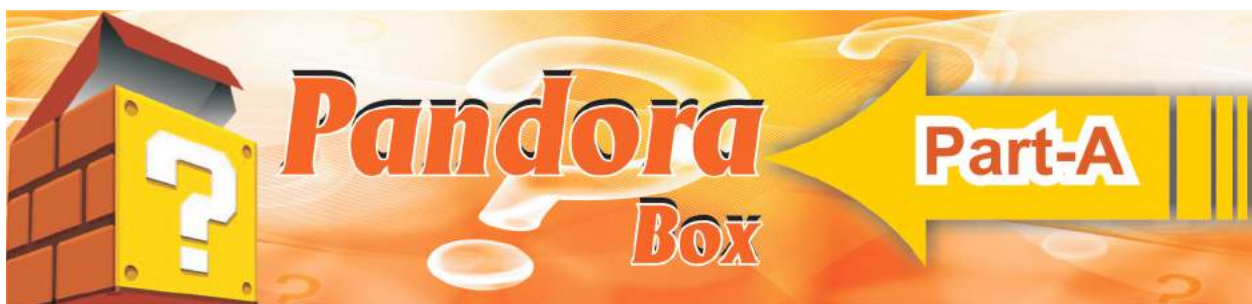
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- Q.1.** Which Indian has been unanimously elected as the Chairperson of the Governing Council of IFAD for a period of two years?
- (1) Rajeev Topno
 - (2) Sanjeev Single
 - (3) Dinesh Sharma
 - (4) Rajeev Mehrishi
 - (5) S. Jaishankar
- Q.2.** Who has been appointed as the Chairman of newly constituted Banks Board Bureau?
- (1) Vinod Rai
 - (2) Shashi Kant Sharma
 - (3) S. Mohan
 - (4) A. S. Parmar
 - (5) A. K. Sachdeva
- Q.3.** Which actress has won the Best Actress Oscar Award for "Room"?
- (1) Janet Gaynor
 - (2) Helen Hayes
 - (3) Jennifer Jones
 - (4) Brie Larson
 - (5) Angelina Jolie
- Q.4.** Who has become the first Asian to win the award for best sound for documentary "India's Daughter" at the coveted Motion Picture Sound Editors' 63rd annual Golden Reel Awards?
- (1) Arun Nambiar
 - (2) Resul Pookutty
 - (3) Nihar Ranjan
 - (4) Bishwadeep Chatterjee
 - (5) Ganesh Gangadharan
- Q.5.** South Indian ----- Kumarimuthu has died.
- (1) Director
 - (2) Musician
 - (3) Writer
 - (4) Singer
 - (5) Actor
- Q.6.** ----- tennis Player Stan Wawrinka defeated Marcos Baghdatis to win the Dubai Tennis Championship.
- (1) French
 - (2) German
 - (3) Swiss
 - (4) Spanish
 - (5) Norwegian
- Q.7.** What is the theme of the Union Budget 2016-17?
- (1) 'Transform India'
 - (2) 'Transition India'
 - (3) 'Turning India'
 - (4) 'Training India'
 - (5) 'Tuning India'
- Q.8.** What amount of cover per family will be provided in the New Health Protection Scheme announced in the Budget 2016-17?
- (1) Rs. 1.0 Lakh
 - (2) Rs. 1.5 Lakh
 - (3) Rs. 2.0 Lakh
 - (4) Rs. 2.5 Lakh
 - (5) Rs. 3.0 Lakh
- Q.9.** What is the corpus of the Price Stabilisation Fund to support market interventions?
- (1) Rs.600 crore
 - (2) Rs.700 crore
 - (3) Rs.800 crore
 - (4) Rs.900 crore
 - (5) Rs.1000 crore
- Q.10.** What is the fiscal deficit target for the financial year 2016-17?
- (1) 3.9% of GDP
 - (2) 3.5% of GDP
 - (3) 4.9% of GDP
 - (4) 4.5% of GDP
 - (5) 4.3% of GDP
- Q.11.** Which airport has received three international awards from the Airports Council International - ACI for 2015?
- (1) Lok Nayak Jayaprakash International Airport
 - (2) Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport
 - (3) Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar International Airport
 - (4) Indira Gandhi International Airport
 - (5) Chennai International Airport
- Q.12.** Which of the following statement is true regarding taxation on EPF w.e.f. 1 April 2016?
- (1) EPF will be taxed on withdrawal only
 - (2) Taxable EPF interest will be 60 per cent of withdrawal
 - (3) PPF withdrawals will be taxed @ 10%
 - (4) only contributions made after April 1, 2016 will be taxed
 - (5) EEE scheme for PPF has been discontinued



LAMITYE 2016, is the 7th joint military training exercise between the India and Seychelles.

Q.13. Who has been appointed as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Eastern Naval Command?

- (1) Sunil Lanba
- (2) Girish Luthra
- (3) Bimal Verma
- (4) Karambir Singh
- (5) HCS Bisht

Q.14. Oscar-winning actor George Kennedy died. Kennedy won Oscar award for his work in 1967 film-

- (1) Naked Gun
- (2) Airport
- (3) Cool Hand Luke
- (4) Charade
- (5) Earthquake

Q.15. Who has clinched his maiden title by winning the 1st All India Open Invitational Snooker Championship 2016?

- (1) Aditya Mehta
- (2) Rahul Sachdev
- (3) Manan Chandra
- (4) Manish Jain
- (5) Yasin Merchant

Q.16. Who has been awarded with the Motorsports Man of the Year trophy by The Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India (FMSCI) ?

- (1) B.I. Chandhok
- (2) Sunny Bhagnani
- (3) Arish Daver
- (4) Aman Bhui
- (5) Armaan Ebrahim

Q.17. Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the first Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. This will focus on-

- (1) Border disputes with China
- (2) Asian integration
- (3) Kashmir issue with Pakistan
- (4) Maritime issue with Sri Lanka
- (5) Territorial dispute with Bangladesh

Q.18. Which organisation has appointed the 'West-Eastern Divan Orchestra' as its Global Advocate for Cultural Understanding?

- (1) United Nations
- (2) ASEAN
- (3) APEC
- (4) NAFTA
- (5) EU

Q.19. Which state will host the popular National Lagori Championship 2016?

- (1) Karnataka
- (2) Maharashtra
- (3) Rajasthan
- (4) Madhya Pradesh
- (5) Chhattisgarh

Q.20. What is the rank of Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani in Forbes' Billionaires List 2016?

- (1) 30th
- (2) 32nd
- (3) 35th
- (4) 36th
- (5) 38th

Q.21. Which one of the following is the new service dedicated to the Nation by Indian Railways?

- (1) Printing of names on reserved railway tickets
- (2) Printing of ID proof number on reserved railway tickets
- (3) Printing of barcodes on unreserved railway tickets
- (4) Printing of photo on reserved railway tickets
- (5) Printing of halt station names on reserved railway tickets

Q.22. For Higher Education Quality Improvement Project in which among the following states India has signed Financing Agreement with World Bank for US \$300 Million?

- (1) Madhya Pradesh
- (2) Chhattisgarh
- (3) Uttarakhand
- (4) Rajasthan
- (5) Uttar Pradesh

Q.23. Which country has topped the list of 126 countries compiled by WEF on the basis of their ability to deliver secure, affordable and sustainable energy?

- (1) India
- (2) Sweden
- (3) Switzerland
- (4) Norway
- (5) France

Q.24. Which organisation has launched its first Uridashi Masala Bonds (Japanese bonds) to mobilize Rs 30 crore from Japanese retail investors, to be used for promoting private sector development in India?

- (1) International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)
- (2) International Finance Corporation (IFC)
- (3) International Monetary Fund (IMF)
- (4) International Development Agency (IDA)
- (5) Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)

Q.25. Who has won the national award for "Outstanding Efforts in the Field of Science and Technology Communication on Electronic Medium"?

- (1) N. Murugan
- (2) V.P. Singh,
- (3) Tarun Jain
- (4) Pallava Bagla
- (5) Vineeta Singhal



India test-fired its indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile, from Chandipur.

Q.26. What is the India's projected GDP growth by Japanese financial services firm Nomura for 2016-17?

- (1) 7.6 per cent
- (2) 7.8 per cent
- (3) 8.0 per cent
- (4) 7.4 per cent
- (5) 7.2 per cent

Q.27. Actor and athlete Lee Reherman had Died. He belonged to:

- (1) France (2) UK
- (3) Germany (4) Italy
- (5) USA

Q.28. Moody's had downgraded its outlook of which Indian neighbours' credit rating from stable to negative?

- (1) Myanmar (2) Sri Lanka
- (3) China (4) Pakistan
- (5) Bangladesh

Q.29. Who has been appointed as the Nepal's Consul General in Kolkata?

- (1) Krishna Prasad Dhakal
- (2) Ek Narayan Aryal
- (3) Dhundiraj Pokhrel
- (4) Ram Bahadur Karki
- (5) Tirtha Raj Wagle

Q.30. What is the projected growth rate of India as per the latest IMF report in 2015-16?

- (1) 7.2% (2) 7.3%
- (3) 7.4% (4) 7.5%
- (5) 7.6%

Q.31. Recently, which state became the first state in India to launch Air Ambulance service?

- (1) Karnataka
- (2) Andhra Pradesh
- (3) Maharashtra
- (4) Kerala
- (5) Uttar Pradesh

Q.32. The Union cabinet has apprised MOU and MOC's with which of the following countries in the field of railways?

- (1) Japan and South Korea
- (2) Japan and China
- (3) Russia and Japan
- (4) Russia and South Korea
- (5) South Korea and China

Q.33. Eminent poet has been chosen for the 25th Bihari Puraskar 2015?

- (1) K.N. Vyas
- (2) Gorakhnath Singh
- (3) Sriram Vats
- (4) Dr Bhagwati Lal Vyas
- (5) S.S. Tuli

Q.34. Who has been selected by Pentagon as the head of a new advisory board on defence innovation?

- (1) Sergey Brinn
- (2) Eric Schmidt
- (3) Mark Zuckerberg
- (4) Sabeer Bhatia
- (5) Jeff Bezos

Q.35. Jamaican Usain Bolt, World No.1 tennis player Novak Djokovic, and which Ballon d'Or winner has been nominated for the Laureus Sportsman of the Year?

- (1) Cristiano Ronaldo
- (2) Zinedine Zidane
- (3) Lionel Messi
- (4) Neymar Jr.
- (5) Wayne Rooney

Q.36. Who among the following has been included in the Forbes list of world's richest persons?

- (1) Savitri Jindal
- (2) Indu Jain
- (3) Smita Crishna
- (4) Leena Tewarl
- (5) All of these

Q.37. The first U.S.-India Workshop on Traditional Medicine began in

- (1) Mumbai
- (2) New Delhi
- (3) Bangalore
- (4) Lucknow
- (5) Hyderabad

Q.38. Which former New Zealand cricketer passed away recently at the age of 53?

- (1) Russel Crowe
- (2) Martin Crowe
- (3) Brendon Mccullum
- (4) Sir Richard Hadlee
- (5) None of these

Q.39. Namibian President Hage Geingob has officially inaugurated the northern main road built by a Chinese company.

- (1) MR 129 (2) MR130
- (3) MR 131 (4) MR 132
- (5) MR 133

Q.40. Which of the following Banks launched a new critical illness policy SUD Life "AAROGYAM"?

- (1) Bank of India, United Bank of India
- (2) Bank of India, Union Bank of India
- (3) Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India
- (4) Punjab National Bank, Bank of Baroda
- (5) Bank of Baroda, State Bank of India

Q.41. Which of the following will be the official partner of BCCI for the next four years?

- (1) PepsiCo (2) Coca-Cola
- (3) Intex (4) Vivo
- (5) Oppo



SBI has launched a dedicated Japan Desk to attract foreign investment worth \$30 billion from Japan.

Q.42. First Indo-American to be appointed as USA's Alternate Governor in IMF?

- (1) Sunil Sabharwal
- (2) Aditya Sabharwal
- (3) Balbir Singh
- (4) Rajendra Singh
- (5) None of these

Q.43. What amount has been proposed to be invested in "Setu Bharatam" project which was launched recently by the Prime Minister?

- (1) 20,000 crore
- (2) 30,000 crore
- (3) 60,000 crore
- (4) 50,000 crore
- (5) None of these

Q.44. To which of the following fields did P.A. Sangma belonged ?

- (1) Literature (2) Politics
- (3) Sport (4) Music
- (5) None of these

Q.45. Who of the following was recently appointed as the Prime minister of Jamaica?

- (1) Andrew Holness
- (2) William Kilson
- (3) Parent Aellen
- (4) O.J. Simpson
- (5) None of these

Q.46. According to UK real estate firm Savills survey, which of the following is the World's most expensive city. (In terms of Living and working) ?

- (1) Mumbai
- (2) London
- (3) New Hampshire
- (4) Atwerp
- (5) None of these

Q.47. Which of the following skill training company tied up with BRICS Chamber of Commerce and Industry for Skill India?

- (1) Infosys
- (2) Wipro
- (3) Technovations Services
- (4) Tata Communications
- (5) None of these

Q.48. Which of the following awards was conferred to the IAF 119 Helicopter of Indian air force by President Pranab Mukherjee?

- (1) President's Colours
- (2) President's Standard
- (3) President's Pride
- (4) President's height
- (5) None of these

Q.49. Which of the following hockey player of Indian origin has been honored by the British Columbia?

- (1) Balbir Singh
- (2) Daljit Singh
- (3) Sukhbir Sidhu
- (4) Gaganjit Singh
- (5) None of these

Q.50. Who of the following was the Founder of the National Film Archive of India(NFAI) ?

- (1) O. P. Nayyar
- (2) S. K. Sehgal
- (3) P. K. Nair
- (4) J. P. Dadda
- (5) None of these

Q.51. Who was selected for the 67th Dada Saheb Phalke award ?

- (1) Manoj Kumar
- (2) Jitendra Kumar
- (3) Dharmendra Kumar
- (4) Amitabh Bachchan
- (5) None of these

Q.52. Who has won the World Cup men's gold medal in the 50m pistol event recently?

- (1) Neetu Kumar
- (2) Abhinav Bindra
- (3) Jitu Rai
- (4) Rajyavardhan S. Rathore
- (5) None of these

Q.53. India and US agreed on a joint collaboration in standardisation and improving quality of AYUSH products. The highlights of the discussions was focussed on which virus?

- (1) HIV
- (2) Ebola
- (3) Zika
- (4) Cancer
- (5) Dengue

Q.54. Indian Government is planning to digitally connect all Post Offices in rural areas by which date?

- (1) March 2017
- (2) April 2017
- (3) March 2016
- (4) April 2016
- (5) April 2022

Q.55. Recently Pat Conroy died in South Carolina, he was a famous_____

- (1) Cricketer
- (2) Artist
- (3) Social worker
- (4) Poet
- (5) Writer

Q.56. IMF is going to introduce the Chinese Yuan in its Basket from which date?

- (1) 1 April 2016
- (2) 1 June 2016
- (3) 1 August 2016
- (4) 1 October 2016
- (5) 1 December 2016

Q.57. Who has been appointed as new chairman of Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC) ?

- (1) P.D.Sudhakar
- (2) Krishna Saini
- (3) Satyendar Jain
- (4) K.Srinivasan
- (5) R.Radhakrishnan



Asif Kapadia has bagged a Grammy Award for his film "Amy".

Q.58. The Advertising Club Madras conferred its Distinguished Service Award to which person?

- (1) V.Narayanan
- (2) S.R.Aiyar
- (3) Srinivasan K. Swamy
- (4) C.K.Ranganathan
- (5) N.Murali

Q.59. Which Indian Bank granted the operating licence by Myanmar?

- (1) SBI
- (2) PNB
- (3) BOB
- (4) Axis
- (5) Dena Bank

Q.60. Which of the following was the first Indian-American to be on the bench of the US Courts of Appeal for the District of Columbia Circuit?

- (1) R.Radhakrishnan
- (2) P.D.Sudhakar
- (3) Vimal Rai
- (4) Sri Srinivasan
- (5) Debendu Ghosh

Q.61. According to new categorization of industries, green category of industries have a pollution index in the range of ____

- (1) Score upto 20
- (2) 21 to 40
- (3) 41 to 60
- (4) 61 to 80
- (5) 81 above

Q.62. China is planning to launch its Probe on Mars by which year?

- (1) 2019
- (2) 2020
- (3) 2021
- (4) 2022
- (5) 2023

Q.63. According to Socio-Economic Review for 2015-16, Sex Ratio of Gujarat in 2011 was ____

- (1) 918
- (2) 919
- (3) 920
- (4) 921
- (5) 922

Q.64. Recently, which former US first lady passed away in Los Angeles?

- (1) Nancy Reagan
- (2) Martha Custis
- (3) Abigail Adams
- (4) Jefferson Martha
- (5) Rachel Jackson

Q.65. Which department has set up a dedicated structure for delivery and monitoring of Tax Payer Services?

- (1) TARC
- (2) CBEC
- (3) CBDT
- (4) Import-Export
- (5) Vigilance

Q.66. Kalabhavan Mani died recently, he was related to which field?

- (1) Dancing
- (2) Politics
- (3) Social Activist

(4) Acting and Singing
(5) Singing

Q.67. Which foundation has launched the Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM) ?

- (1) ASSOCHAM
- (2) NASSCOM
- (3) FORD
- (4) Green Peace
- (5) PAANI

Q.68. Who became China's first world champion in an individual cycling event?

- (1) Li Ching
- (2) Junta Mao
- (3) Lian Hi
- (4) Lin Junhong
- (5) Zhong Tianshi

Q.69. Who among the following has won the men's sprint title at the Track Cycling World Championships?

- (1) Jason Kenny
- (2) Ratan Rai
- (3) Usain Mark
- (4) Antony louis
- (5) Vikrant Singh

Q.70. What is the name of joint training exercise which is conducted as part of military diplomacy between Indian and Indonesian Army alternatively in India and Indonesia respectively?

- (1) Surya Kiran
- (2) Sahyog
- (3) Lamitye
- (4) Kaijin
- (5) Garuda Shakti

ANSWER PART - A

Q.1.(3)	Q.2.(1)	Q.3.(4)	Q.4.(2)	Q.5.(5)	Q.6.(3)	Q.7.(1)	Q.8.(1)	Q.9.(4)	Q.10.(2)
Q.11.(4)	Q.12.(2)	Q.13.(5)	Q.14.(3)	Q.15.(2)	Q.16.(5)	Q.17.(2)	Q.18.(1)	Q.19.(3)	Q.20.(4)
Q.21.(3)	Q.22.(1)	Q.23.(3)	Q.24.(2)	Q.25.(4)	Q.26.(2)	Q.27.(5)	Q.28.(3)	Q.29.(2)	Q.30.(2)
Q.31.(4)	Q.32.(3)	Q.33.(4)	Q.34.(2)	Q.35.(3)	Q.36.(5)	Q.37.(2)	Q.38.(2)	Q.39.(1)	Q.40.(2)
Q.41.(1)	Q.42.(1)	Q.43.(4)	Q.44.(2)	Q.45.(1)	Q.46.(2)	Q.47.(3)	Q.48.(2)	Q.49.(1)	Q.50.(3)
Q.51.(1)	Q.52.(3)	Q.53.(4)	Q.54.(1)	Q.55.(5)	Q.56.(4)	Q.57.(2)	Q.58.(3)	Q.59.(1)	Q.60.(4)
Q.61.(2)	Q.62.(2)	Q.63.(2)	Q.64.(1)	Q.65.(3)	Q.66.(4)	Q.67.(2)	Q.68.(5)	Q.69.(1)	Q.70.(5)



Piruz Khambatta of Rasna has been named as ambassador of the government's 'Make in India' initiative.



- Q.71.** Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated Integrated Operations Control Room (IOCR) at ----- headquarters in New Delhi.
- (1) Army (2) Air Force
(3) Navy (4)BSF
(5) ITBP
- Q.72.** The Afghan passport has been identified as the least powerful in the world. Passport of which country is the most powerful passport in the world?
- (1) India (2) Germany
(3) USA (4) UK
(5) France
- Q.73.** Gianni Infantino has been elected as the President of World football's governing body (FIFA) replacing Sepp Blatter. Gianni Infantino belongs to:-
- (1) France (2) Brazil
(3) Switzerland (4) Spain
(5) Italy
- Q.74.** From where the President Pranab Mukherjee has launched country's largest conservation project and Kerala's first green project which is also the oldest port town?
- (1) Muziris
(2) Goa
(3) Tuticorin
(4) Chennapatnam
(5) Calicut
- Q.75.** Which bollywood actor has been awarded with the Master Dinanath Mangeskar Award?
- (1) Ranbir Kapoor
(2) Arbj Khan
(3) Ranveer Singh
(4) Salman Khan
(5) Akshay Kumar
- Q.76.** ----- Filmmaker Rajesh Pillai had died.
- (1) Tamil
(2) Malyalam
(3) Telugu
(4) Kannad
(5) Bengali
- Q.77.** In how many categories, India's mega-budget film "Baahubali: The Beginning" has been nominated by the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films?
- (1) Three (2) Four
(3) Five (4) Six
(5) Seven
- Q.78.** Who has won a record number of seven Indian 20km race walkers at the National Championships held at Jaipur?
- (1) Ram Singh Yadav
(2) Gurmeet Singh
(3) Anil Kumar Prakash
(4) Abdul Najeeb Qureshi
(5) Merlin K Joseph
- Q.79.** According to the Economic Survey 2015-16, what per cent of earning people are paying tax in India?
- (1) 3.5 per cent
(2) 4.5 per cent
(3) 5.5 per cent
(4) 6.5 per cent
(5) 7.5 per cent
- Q.80.** Who among the following has been appointed as the Director General (DG) of Coast Guard becoming the first officer from within to be promoted as its Chief?
- (1) Sushil Kumar
(2) S. Padmanabhan
(3) Arun Prakash
(4) Rajendra Singh
(5) Sureesh Mehta
- Q.81.** What is the name of the five-year program launched by leading global telecom operators to advance existing 4G technology and industrialization of 5G technologies?
- (1) MTI 2.0
(2) ATI 3.0
(3) GTI 2.0
(4) DTI 2.0
(5) FTI 2.0
- Q.82.** Bangladeshi cricketer ----- was appointed as National Goodwill Ambassador for Youth by the United National Development Programme (UNDP).
- (1) Shakib Al Hasan
(2) Mashrafe Bin Mortaza
(3) Tamin Iqbal
(4) Nasir Hussain
(5) Taskin Ahmed
- Q.83.** Which country has appointed economist Fritz Jean as its new prime minister?
- (1) Cuba
(2) Columbia
(3) Panama
(4) Costa Rica
(5) Haiti



Former UN secretary general from Ghana during 1992 to 1996 Boutros-Ghali, died recently.

Q.84. The UAE Space Agency has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Space Agency of -----, aiming to facilitate collaboration between the two countries.

- (1) UK (2) India
(3) Israel (4) China
(5) France

Q.85. The five biggest commercial banks of which country has announced that they will no longer charge fees on domestic currency transfers through cellphone, including inter-bank transactions?

- (1) USA
(2) Switzerland
(3) France
(4) China
(5) Australia

Q.86. Dr Sunita Jain was selected for Vyas Samman 2015 for her Poetry collection 'Kshama'. Vyas Samman is given by:-

- (1) Sahitya Academy Foundation
(2) Bhasha Literature Foundation
(3) K. K. Birla Foundation
(4) Hindu Literature Foundation
(5) Indu-Katha Foundation

Q.87. The Air Force of which country has successfully tested its Intercontinental ballistic missile. This was the 15th test since January 2011?

- (1) Japan (2) China
(3) France (4) India
(5) USA

Q.88. Who among the following inaugurated the second edition of 'film preservation & restoration workshop India 2016'?

- (1) Javed Akhtar
(2) Amitabh Bachchan
(3) Hritik Roshan
(4) Naseeruddin Shah
(5) Om Puri

Q.89. India ranks first in milk production. India accounts for ---- of world production.

- (1) 15.5 per cent
(2) 16.5 per cent
(3) 17.5 per cent
(4) 18.5 per cent
(5) 19.5 per cent

Q.90. Where was the UN's first global assessment of pollinators report was released according to which about 20,000 species of Bees and other pollinators face increasing risks to their survival?

- (1) Berlin (2) Oslo
(3) Paris (4) Rome
(5) London

Q.91. What will be the growth in Indian economy during 2016-17 according to Economic Survey 2015-16?

- (1) Less than 7 per cent
(2) More than 8 per cent
(3) More than 7 per cent
(4) More than 6 per cent
(5) Slightly less than 8 per cent

Q.92. Which company has emerged as the top company in terms of corporate social responsibility (CSR) expenditure?

- (1) Reliance Industries
(2) ONGC
(3) Infosys
(4) TCS
(5) Tata Steels

Q.93. What is the rank of India in terms of number of billionaires, according to Hurun Global Rich List 2016?

- (1) Second (2) Third
(3) Fourth (4) Fifth
(5) Sixth

Q.94. How many Indians have been included in the Forbes inaugural '30 under 30 Asia' list?

- (1) 51 (2) 53
(3) 54 (4) 56
(5) 58

Q.95. Who has been appointed as Director General of the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons (DGH)?

- (1) Kaushik Chatterjee
(2) Giovanni Bisgani
(3) Atanu Chakraborty
(4) U. D. Choubey
(5) Sarthak Behuria

Q.96. How much sub-quota has been allocated for women under all reserved categories in the 2016 Railway Budget?

- (1) 25% (2) 27%
(3) 30% (4) 33%
(5) 35%

Q.97. Consider the following tariffs imposed on purchase transactions:

- (A) Surcharge
(B) Education Cess
(C) Service Charge
(D) Swachh Bharat Cess
(E) Convenience Fee

Which of the above tariffs have been withdrawn to discourage cash transactions?

- (1) Only A, B and C
(2) Only B, C and D
(3) Only C, D and E
(4) Only A, D and E
(5) Only A, C and E

Q.98. How much credit has been approved from EXIM Bank for development of Chabahar Port in Iran?

- (1) \$ 110 million
(2) \$ 120 million
(3) \$ 125 million
(4) \$ 150 million
(5) \$ 175 million



The EPFO has increased the interest rate on provident fund by 0.05% for 2015-16.

- Q.99.** Cabinet has approved the signing of an Agreement between India and ----- for the avoidance of double taxation of income from international air transport.
- (1) Maldives
 - (2) Mauritius
 - (3) Sri Lanka
 - (4) Fiji
 - (5) Philippines
- Q.100.** Which Indian batsman has not yet completed 1000 runs in T20 Internationals?
- (1) Yuvraj Singh
 - (2) Suresh Raina
 - (3) Mahendra Singh Dhoni
 - (4) Virat Kohli
 - (5) Rohit Sharma
- Q.101.** Nissan motors has named Indian cricketer Rohit Sharma as its new global ambassador. Nissan motors belongs to which of the following countries?
- (1) Japan
 - (2) South Korea
 - (3) Germany
 - (4) France
 - (5) Switzerland
- Q.102.** Veteran Pakistan ----- Habib-ur-Rehman died in Lahore.
- (1) Journalist
 - (2) Cricketer
 - (3) Hockey Player
 - (4) Actor
 - (5) Author
- Q.103.** Which organization has said that Indian economy would grow at 7.4 percent during 2015-16, which is lower than 7.6 percent as projected in advance estimates by Central Statistics Office?
- (1) ASSOCHAM
 - (2) NASSCOM
 - (3) FICCI
 - (4) AIMA
 - (5) ITPO
- Q.104.** Till what date the RBI has extended the currency swap arrangement to SAARC nations for overall amount of upto USD 2 billion both in foreign currency and Indian rupee?
- (1) August 14, 2017
 - (2) September 14, 2017
 - (3) October 14, 2017
 - (4) November 14, 2017
 - (5) December 14, 2017
- Q.105.** Who has been selected as the next Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission?
- (1) R. M. Lodha
 - (2) H. L. Dattu
 - (3) P. Sathasivam
 - (4) Altamas Kabir
 - (5) K.G. Balakrishnan
- Q.106.** Who has taken over as the Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC)?
- (1) Madhu Dikshit
 - (2) Mohan Rao
 - (3) Dr. Girish Sahni
 - (4) R. Chidambaram
 - (5) K. N. Vyas
- Q.107.** Justice Dinesh Maheshwari has been sworn-in as the chief justice of the ----- High Court.
- (1) Meghalaya
 - (2) Gauhati
 - (3) Gujarat
 - (4) Jharkhand
 - (5) Delhi
- Q.108.** The Cabinet of which north-eastern state has approved the setting up of Metro Rail Corporation for its capital city?
- (1) Meghalaya
 - (2) Nagaland
 - (3) Manipur
 - (4) Assam
 - (5) Arunachal Pradesh
- Q.109.** Who has been appointed as principal advisor to the supervisory committee for the ICC World T20 matches to be held at the Ferozeshah Kotla stadium?
- (1) Shashank Manohar
 - (2) Zaheer Abbas
 - (3) C. K. Khanna
 - (4) David Richardson
 - (5) Haroon Lorgat
- Q.110.** Australia has replaced India at the top of the world's test rankings with a 2-0 test series victory over-----.
- (1) South Africa
 - (2) New Zealand
 - (3) England
 - (4) West Indies
 - (5) Sri Lanka
- Q.111.** Which city is the world's most livable city, according to Mercer's 2016 Quality of Life Survey?
- (1) Vienna, Austria
 - (2) Zurich, Switzerland
 - (3) Auckland, New Zealand
 - (4) Munich, Germany
 - (5) Vancouver, Canada
- Q.112.** National Automotive Testing and R & D infrastructure project (NATRiP) has been inaugurated at International Centre for Automotive Technology (ICAT) at -----.
- (1) Ambala, Haryana
 - (2) Bhiwani, Haryana
 - (3) Faridabad, Haryana
 - (4) Gurgaon, Haryana
 - (5) Rohtak, Haryana
- Q.113.** The Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, inaugurated an exhibition on the "Coin and Currency of India" in the Great Hall of North Block in New Delhi. Which Ministry except the ministry of finance is located in North Block?
- (1) The Prime Minister's office
 - (2) Ministry of External Affairs
 - (3) Ministry of Defense
 - (4) Ministry of home affairs
 - (5) Ministry of Agriculture



Noted Malayalam novelist and short story writer Akbar Kakkattil passed away.

Q.114. Who has become the highest ranked sikh police officer in Malaysia after being appointed as Police Commissioner of Kuala Lumpur?

- (1) Amar Singh
- (2) Ikhnoor Singh,
- (3) Sandeep Singh Dhaliwal
- (4) Amitoj Singh
- (5) Navjot Singh

Q.115. The parliament of which country has become the first in the world to completely run on solar power?

- (1) China
- (2) France
- (3) Pakistan
- (4) Switzerland
- (5) Spain

Q.116. Which country has become the world's largest importer of arms?

- (1) China
- (2) India
- (3) Brazil
- (4) Russia
- (5) Israel

Q.117. Which university has honoured the actress Lucy Liu as University's Artist of the Year?

- (1) Harvard
- (2) Cambridge
- (3) Oxford
- (4) Stanford
- (5) MIT

Q.118. Lalita Babar has been named as the Sports Person of the Year in the India

Sports Awards 2015. To which sports she is associated?

- (1) Sprinter
- (2) Derby
- (3) Steeplechase
- (4) Marymoor
- (5) Keirin

Q.119. Which Indian film has been named the best children's film at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival and honoured with the Crystal Bear award in the 'Generation KPlus' section?

- (1) Rasam
- (2) Mili
- (3) Haram
- (4) Fireman
- (5) Ottal

Q.120. India's Kumaravel Prem Kumar bagged silver in long jump at the 7th Asian Indoor Athletics Championships. This event was held at-

- (1) Glasgow, Scotland
- (2) Beijing, China
- (3) Doha, Qatar
- (4) Seoul, South Korea
- (5) Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Q.121. In which city the international conference on Anti-microbial Resistance was inaugurated by the Health Minister J. P. Nadda?

- (1) Chennai
- (2) New Delhi
- (3) Bangluru
- (4) Hyderabad
- (5) Nagpur

Q.122. Which women tennis player has been ranked no.1 according to WTA rankings?

- (1) Venus Williams
- (2) Martina Hingis
- (3) Martina Navratilova
- (4) Serena Williams
- (5) Maria Sharapova

Q.123. From which place the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, has launched the National Urban Mission?

- (1) Korba, Chhattisgarh
- (2) Bastar, Chhattisgarh
- (3) Dantewada, Chhattisgarh
- (4) Rajnandgaon, Chhattisgarh
- (5) Koriya, Chhattisgarh

Q.124. Investment proposal for how much amount from India Post, has been approved by the Public Investment Board for setting up of an investment bank?

- (1) Rs. 500-crore
- (2) Rs. 800-crore
- (3) Rs. 900-crore
- (4) Rs. 950-crore
- (5) Rs. 1000-crore

Q.125. Who has taken charge as the Chairman-cum Managing Director of Kolkata-based National Insurance Company?

- (1) K. Sanath Kumar
- (2) D. K. Mehrotra
- (3) A. K. Roy
- (4) G. Srinivasan
- (5) Milind A. Kharat

ANSWER PART - B

- Q.71.(4) Q.72.(2) Q.73.(3) Q.74.(1) Q.75.(3) Q.76.(2) Q.77.(3) Q.78.(2) Q.79.(3) Q.80.(4)
 Q.81.(3) Q.82.(2) Q.83.(5) Q.84.(1) Q.85.(4) Q.86.(3) Q.87.(4) Q.88.(4) Q.89.(4) Q.90.(2)
 Q.91.(3) Q.92.(1) Q.93.(2) Q.94.(4) Q.95.(3) Q.96.(4) Q.97.(5) Q.98.(4) Q.99.(1) Q.100.(3)
 Q.101.(1) Q.102.(4) Q.103.(3) Q.104.(4) Q.105.(2) Q.106.(5) Q.107.(1) Q.108.(4) Q.109.(3) Q.110.(2)
 Q.111.(1) Q.112.(4) Q.113.(4) Q.114.(1) Q.115.(3) Q.116.(2) Q.117.(1) Q.118.(3) Q.119.(5) Q.120.(3)
 Q.121.(2) Q.122.(4) Q.123.(4) Q.124.(4) Q.125.(1)



Indian Railways has won the 36th National Chess Championship for the first time at Bhubaneswar.



Q.126. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Government has unveiled the second National Capital Goods Policy in the country.
- (B) This policy envisages creation of 21 million additional jobs by 2025.
- (C) The policy aims to increase the share of capital goods in total manufacturing to 20 per cent by 2025.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B
- (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C
- (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.127. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The railways will set up five multi-modal logistic parks in the country.
- (B) These logistics hubs will be set up at a cost of around Rs 5000 crore.
- (C) The logistics hubs, will be set up in Gujarat, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra.

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.128. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Union Cabinet has amended the Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2011.
- (B) Union Cabinet has amended the Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1980.
- (C) This will enable the Election Commission to carry out limited delimitation of Assembly and Parliamentary Constituencies in the Cooch Behar District of West Bengal.

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.129. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The central government has approved the construction of six railway lines and a railway bridge.
- (B) The total cost of the approved projects has been estimated at over Rs.10,700 crore.
- (C) The work of bridge construction will be completed by 2019-20.

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.130. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Cabinet has approved the signing of a collaborative agreement between the Ministry AYUSH and WHO.
- (B) It involves exchange programs between AYUSH and WHO for capacity building.
- (C) It will facilitate implementation of WHO Traditional Medicine Strategy 2014-2023 in the context of AYUSH systems.

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.131. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Rohit Sharma won the Maruti Suzuki ESPN Cricinfo award for the third year in a row.
- (B) Brendon McCullum has won the 'Captain of the Year' award.
- (C) The awards were given for stand out performances in T20 cricket.

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



BAE Systems would supply 145 M777 howitzers, ultra-light weight artillery guns with strike range of 25 kms.

Q.132. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Fourth edition of India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR) was conducted in the Nicobar Sea.
- (B) Indian Navy ships Saryu and Bitra participated in the exercise.
- (C) Myanmar is the third country with which India has signed a formal agreement for maritime coordinated patrols.

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.133. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The government cleared eight highway projects worth Rs 6000 crore.
- (B) All the eight projects, will be undertaken on the newly-conceived hybrid annuity model.
- (C) The total length of the projects is around 350 km.

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.134. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The government had accorded general approval under section 2 of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, for creation of critical public utility infrastructure in 60 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts.
- (B) Critical public utility infrastructure should be done by government departments, not involving more than 5.00 hectares of forest land.
- (C) The approval was valid upto December 31, 2015.

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:

- (A) Prime Minister has launched National Rurban Mission from Kurubhat village in Rajnandgaon in Chhattisgarh.
- (B) This scheme has been named after Deen Dayal Upadhyaya.
- (C) This scheme would complement the Smart Cities initiative by creating Smart Villages.

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) "Swachh Parayatan Mobile App" has been launched by Dr. Mahesh Sharma.
- (B) Dr. Mahesh Sharma is the Minister of State (I/C) for Health and Family Welfare.
- (C) 25 Adarsh Smarak Monuments have been identified for inclusion in the app.

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.137. Consider the following statements:

- (A) According to WHO, India is home to 13 out of 20 most polluted cities in the world.
- (B) Indian citizens had a higher exposure to average particulate matter than their Chinese counterparts.
- (C) India's NAQI network, with 39 operating stations, compares poorly with the 1,500 stations in China.

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) According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) India has again emerged as the world's largest buyer of weapons in the world.
- (B) During the period 2011-15 India's imports were twice than China and Pakistan.
- (C) Saudi Arabia, China, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Australia are the next four biggest global importers.

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.139. Consider the following statements:

- (A) A 3-day International Conference on Combating Antimicrobial Resistance was held in New Delhi.
- (B) AMR has emerged as the biggest public health challenge faced by the world.
- (C) Mission Indradhanush, aims at full immunization coverage by 2019.

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.140. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The fifth edition of exercise IBSAMAR was held in Goa.
- (B) IBSAMAR exercise was initiated in 2009.
- (C) IBSAMAR is joint military exercise among Brazil, India, South Africa and Russia.

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) Goverdhan Mehta has been conferred with Germany's prestigious Cross of the Order of Merit.
- (B) Goverdhan Mehta is a Hyderabad-based professor in Chemical Sciences.
- (C) It is the only honour that may be awarded in all fields of endeavour.

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.142. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Patna Pirates won the final match of Star Sports Pro Kabaddi.
- (B) Rohit Kumar of U Mumba was awarded Best Raider of the Match.
- (C) Mohit Chillar of Patna Pirates was awarded Best Defender of the Match.

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) Resul Pookutty has become the first Asian to win the award for best costume at 63rd annual Golden Reel Awards.
- (B) He has won this award for documentary "India's Daughter".
- (C) The documentary "India's Daughter", is directed by Leslee Udwin.

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.144. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India clinched the Asia Cup trophy for a record sixth time.
- (B) India defeated Bangladesh by eight wickets to win this cup.
- (C) The final match of the Aisa cup 2016 was played in Sri Lanka.

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) Jitu Rai won gold in the men's 50m pistol event shooting World Cup.
- (B) Former World and Olympic champion Pang Wei of China got second place.
- (C) Jitu Rai is an Indian army shooter who maintained his top three position throughout the games.

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) The first 'Raisina Dialogue' was organized in New Delhi.
- (B) This was hosted by the Lok Sabha Speaker of India.
- (C) The conference is attended by speakers from 40 countries.

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.147. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Rahul Dravid, will mentor the Delhi Daredevils side in the ninth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL).
- (B) He is the current India A and Under-19 coach.
- (C) The Delhi Daredevils appointed Paddy Upton as its head coach.

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.148. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Prime Minister, launched "Setu Bharatam" programme for safe and seamless travel on National Highways.
- (B) This is an ambitious programme with an investment of Rs. 50,000 crore to build bridges.
- (C) The programme aims at making all national highways Railway Level Crossing free by 2020.

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



WHO will collaborate in the area of Traditional Medicine with Ministry of AYUSH.

Q.149. Consider the following statements:

- (A) President Pranab Mukherjee presented President's Standard to 119 Helicopter Unit.
- (B) He presented President's Colours to 28 Equipment Depot of the Indian Air Force.
- (C) The unit has been a part of Operation Falcon along China's border in Arunachal Pradesh.

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.150. Consider the following statements:

- (A) FICCI has launched the Indian Public Library Movement (IPLM).
- (B) Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has provided a \$4.78 million grant to provide support towards repositioning of the libraries across India.
- (C) The IPLM movement will start by reaching out to a million library users at 300 district-level libraries.

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.151. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Germany will support the 'Smart Cities' programme of Government of India.
- (B) Germany will take up projects in Bhubaneswar, Kochi and Pune.
- (C) It was decided during the second meeting of the Indo-German working group on urban development.

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.152. Consider the following statements:

- (A) GARUDA SHAKTI is joint military exercise between Indian and Russian Army.
- (B) It is held alternatively in participating countries.
- (C) Its first edition was conducted in the year 2012 in India.

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.153. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The President of India, conferred the 'Nari Shakti Puraskar-2015' on the occasion of International Women's Day.
- (B) The awards are given every year by the Ministry of Human Resource Development.
- (C) This award can be given to institutions and individuals for exceptional contribution towards empowerment of women.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All except B (5) None of these

Q.154. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Government has signed a 'Raptor MoU' on conservation of birds of prey in Africa and Eurasia.
- (B) The 'Raptor MoU' extends its coverage to 76 species of birds of prey.
- (C) 46 out of 76 species including vultures, falcons, eagles, owls, hawks, kites, harriers, etc. also occur in 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.155. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India and the US have launched the Fulbright-Kalam Climate Fellowship.
- (B) This will enable up to 12 Indian researchers to work with US host institutions for a period of 6-12 months.
- (C) The fellowship will be operated by the binational US-India Business Council (UBIC).

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.156. Consider the following statements:

- (A) IRNSS-1F is fifth dedicated navigation satellite of India.
- (B) This will provide accurate position information service to users in India and the region extending up to 1,500 km from the border.
- (C) IRNSS-1G would be the last satellite in the IRNSS series.

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) Indian racing driver Armaan Ebrahim was awarded with the Motorsports Man of the Year trophy.
- (B) B.I. Chandhok received the Lifetime Achievement award for his immense contribution to the field of motorsports.
- (C) Armaan received a Trophy and a cash prize of Rs 2,00,000.

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.158. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Justice Dinesh Maheshwari has been sworn-in as the chief justice of the Meghalaya High Court.
- (B) Governor V. Shanmuganathan administered the oath of office to Chief Justice Maheshwari.
- (C) Agatha Sangma is Chief Minister of Meghalaya.

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.159. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Assam government has planned metro rail for the Guwahati.
- (B) The project will be implemented through a special purpose vehicle (SPV).
- (C) The 203-km metro corridor, will be completed in three phases.

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.160. Consider the following statements:

- (A) President has launched country's largest conservation project called 'Muziris Heritage project'.
- (B) 'Muziris Heritage project' is first green project of Karnataka.
- (C) 'Muziris Heritage project' also envisages conservation of archaeological monuments.

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) Sataparna Mukherjee, a student from Chennai, has been selected for Goddard Internship Programme.
- (B) Goddard Internship Programme is run by NASA.

- (C) Sataparna will be a part of earth science and technology development programme of NASA.

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. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Kerala has inaugurated an air ambulance facility for patients with urgent medical requirements.
- (B) This is joint effort of Rajiv Gandhi Academy for Aviation Technology and Kerala Network for Organ Sharing ("Mrithasanjivini").
- (C) Chief Minister of Kerala is Oommen Chandy.

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.163. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India's veteran batsman Yuvraj Singh has completed 1000 runs in T20Is.
- (B) Yuvraj has become the fourth Indian batsman to do so.
- (C) Yuvraj is 25th in the world to get past 1000 runs in T20Is.

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.164. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The sex ratio in Gujarat has come down to 911 in 2011 from 920 in 2001.
- (B) National average sex ratio during the same period has increased by 10 points.
- (C) Gujarat has been ranked 20th among 28 states in terms of sex ratio as per the 2011 Census.

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.165. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Lalita Babar was named as the Sports Person of the Year in the India Sports Awards 2015.
- (B) She is a long-distance steppelchase runner.
- (C) Dipa Karmakar was named as the Breakthrough Sports Person of the 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



Cabinet approved signing of an MoU with Singapore in the field of Urban Planning and Governance.



Q.166. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Royal Navy's most decorated pilot, Capt Eric "Winkle" Brown, has died.
- (B) He flew a record 487 different types of aircrafts.
- (C) He was first person to take off and land a jet on a carrier ship Ocean in 1945.

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.167. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Amar Singh has been appointed as Kuala Lumpur's commissioner of police.
- (B) This is the highest police rank achieved by a Sikh in Malaysia.
- (C) Kuala Lumpur is the capital city of Vietnam.

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.168. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Pakistan parliament has become the first in the world to completely run on solar power.
- (B) This venture was supported by Japan with USD 55 million funding.
- (C) The solar-powered parliament building is located in the capital city of Karachi

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.169. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Veteran Pakistani actor and director Habib-ur-Rehman has died.
- (B) He started his film career in 1956 with debutant movie 'Lakht-e-jigar'.
- (C) He won the Nigar award as a best actor for Luqman's movie 'Admi' and Shabab Kiran-vi's 'Surraiya'.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.170. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Haiti's provisional president has appointed Fritz Jean as the new prime minister.
- (B) Haiti is an impoverished Polynesian nation that is trying to quickly hold a delayed presidential election.
- (C) Fritz Jean is a reputable economist.

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.171. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The UAE Space Agency has signed a significant memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the UK Space Agency, to facilitate collaboration between the two countries in the short and long terms.
- (B) The MoU covers collaboration in various aspects of space exploration, including space science, technology, applications, policy, law, regulation and human capital development in the space field and related areas.
- (C) The MoU encourages the establishment of joint working groups in the areas supporting the space programmes in both the countries.

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.172. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Russian Air Force successfully tested its Minuteman III intercontinental ballistic missile.
- (B) Minuteman III missile has a range of 6,000 miles and can travel at speeds of up to 15,000 miles per hour.
- (C) These missiles are known as Minuteman III missiles.

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



Cabinet has approved MoU between India and various countries in Agriculture and Allied activities.

Q.173. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Afghan passport has been identified as the least powerful in the world.
- (B) The Germany had the most powerful passports in the world for third year in row in 2016.
- (C) Pakistan is second-worst, with travel permitted to 29 countries.

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.174. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Hashim Thaci has been elected as president of Kosovo.
- (B) He was a guerrilla leader during a conflict that led to Kosovo, declaring independence from Serbia
- (C) Kosovo unilaterally declared independence from Serbia in 2010.

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.175. Consider the following statements:

- (A) World Wildlife Day is observed on 5 March every year.
- (B) The theme of 2016 observation was "The future of wildlife is in our hands".
- (C) The United Nations in 2013 decided to proclaim 5 March as World Wildlife Day.

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.176. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Namibia has inaugurated the northern main road MR 129 built by a Chinese company.
- (B) Hage Geingob is the President of Namibia.
- (C) 98km long road connects Omafo and Outapi in Namibia.

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.177. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Andrew Holness, has been sworn in as new prime minister of Jamaica.

(B) Holness has promised some 250,000 jobs in the Jamaica.

(C) Unemployment rate is 13% on the island of 2.7 million, hitting 38% for young people.

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.178. Consider the following statements:

(A) LAMITYE is a joint military exercise between India and Seychelles.

(B) The 7th edition of LAMITYE 2016 was held in Victoria, Seychelles.

(C) China was an observer country in this exercise.

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.179. Consider the following statements:

(A) The first freight train to resurrect the ancient Silk Road route arrived in Iran from China.

(B) It took just 14 days for the 32-container train loaded with Chinese goods to complete the 5,900 mile (9,500km) journey.

(C) It's 10 days shorter than the sea voyage from Shanghai to the Iranian port of Bandar Abbas.

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.180. Consider the following statements:

(A) The World Bank is making US\$500 million fund immediately available to help combat the Zika virus outbreak in affected Latin American and Caribbean countries.

(B) The World Bank expects it to reduce the region's 2016 economic output by US\$3.5 billion, or 0.06 percent of gross domestic product due to Zika virus.

(C) Mexico and Cuba would take the worst hits by dollar value because the virus would cause a drop-off in Caribbean tourism.

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



According to Moody's Investors Service, Indian Economy will grow at 7.5% during 2016 and 2017.



Q.181. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Punjab National Bank (PNB) has declared Kingfisher Airlines and Vijay Mallya as 'wilful defaulter'.
- (B) The bank has an exposure of around Rs 710 crore towards the Kingfisher Airlines.
- (C) Kingfisher Airlines has an outstanding exposure of around Rs 7,000 crore towards 11 state-run banks.

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.182. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Apple Inc. has announced setting up of a Technology Development Centre (TDC) in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh.
- (B) For Apple, it is the first TDC outside the USA.
- (C) With this announcement, Apple joined other big technology firms like Microsoft, Google and Facebook that focused on Hyderabad to expand their operations in Asia.

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.183. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Union Cabinet has approved Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) of the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- (B) India is the 31st country to give nod to the agreement.
- (C) The TFA shall enter into force for the notified members (107 countries) upon acceptance by two-third WTO Members.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.184. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Public Investment Board has approved the Rs 800-crore proposal from India Post for setting up a payments bank.
- (B) PIB, under the Finance Ministry, whets the investment proposals by state-run entities.

- (C) As per the RBI guidelines, a payments bank is not allowed to undertake lending activities but can issue credit cards.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and B (2) Only B and C
- (3) Only A and C (4) All A, B and C
- (5) None of these

Q.185. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) has signed an MoU with Dubai Exports to boost trade and explore business opportunities in UAE.
- (B) CII is, a non-government organization.
- (C) CII and Dubai Exports will solve and reduce the impediments due to regulatory mechanisms.

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.186. Consider the following statements:

- (A) RBI has extended the \$2 billion currency swap arrangement to SAARC nations till mid-November 2017.
- (B) RBI will offer swap arrangement up to an overall amount of \$2 billion both in foreign currency and Indian rupee.
- (C) The SAARC Swap Arrangement was offered by the RBI to SAARC nations on November 15, 2010.

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.187. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Cabinet has approved withdrawal of surcharge, service charge and convenience fee on card and digital payments.
- (B) The Cabinet also approved mandating payments beyond a prescribed threshold only through a card or digital mode.
- (C) The move also rationalises Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on card transactions.

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.188. Consider the following statements:

- (A) A credit of \$150 million from EXIM Bank has been operationalised for development of Chabahar Port in Iran.



Report on Identification of 100 Mineral Exploration Blocks was launched in New Delhi.

(B) The Chabahar Port lies outside the Gulf of Oman in Iran.

(C) This will provide Indian companies an opportunity to penetrate and enhance their footprint in the gulf region.

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.189. Consider the following statements:

(A) EPFO has made it mandatory to wait till the age of 55 for claiming PF withdrawal.

(B) Appointment of upto Joint Secretary level officers in EPFO will be done by Central Board of Trustees' (CBT).

(C) Retirement fund body EPFO has more than five crore subscribers.

Which of the statements given above is/are false?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
(4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.190. Consider the following statements:

(A) GTI 2.0 is a five-year programme to advance existing 4G technology and industrialization of 5G technologies.

(B) TD-LTE and FD-LTE are the two types of 5G technologies.

(C) Founded in 2011, GTI is a platform of 122 operator members and 103 industrial partners.

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.191. Consider the following statements:

(A) Public Provident Fund will not be taxed on withdrawal.

(B) Only the interest that accrues on contributions to Employee Provident Fund made after 1st of April this year will be taxed.

(C) 60 percent of the interest accrued on contributions made after 1st April will be tax exempted and remaining 40 percent will be taxed.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A and C (2) Only A and B
(3) Only A and C (4) All A, B and C
(5) None of these

Q.192. Consider the following statements:

(A) Banks can now include the value of the property while calculating its Tier-I or core capital base.

(B) Only 45 per cent of the property value would be counted while calculating Tier-I or core capital base.

(C) According to new Basel-III norms, which kick in from March 2020, Indian banks need to maintain a minimum capital adequacy ratio (CAR) of nine per cent.

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.193. Consider the following statements:

(A) International Monetary Fund (IMF) has launched its first Uridashi Masala Bonds (Japanese bonds) to mobilise Rs 30 crore from Japanese retail investors.

(B) The proceeds from pioneering Masala Bond programme will be used for promoting private sector development in India.

(C) Uridashi Bonds are rupee-denominated instruments sold only to offshore investors, while Masala bonds are sold to Japanese household investors.

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.194. Consider the following statements:

(A) India has been ranked at the 90th place in a list of 126 countries compiled by World Economic Forum (WEF).

(B) France is at the top of this list.

(C) The latest Global Energy Architecture Performance Index Report, explored the energy architecture of 126 countries based on their ability to provide energy access.

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.195. Consider the following statements:

(A) Five Indian women have made it to the Forbes list of world's richest people in the world.

(B) The proportion of women billionaires is little over 10 per cent of the total count.

(C) Among the Indian women on the list Savitri Jindal and family was ranked at the 453rd place on the list.

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



LIGO-India mega science proposal is for research on Gravitational waves.

Q.196. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Sunil Sabharwal has become the first Indian-American to occupy a key administration post at the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- (B) Sabharwal, has assumed the position as Executive Director of the International Monetary Fund.
- (C) Sabharwal served as board chairman of Ogone, a European e-commerce payment services firm, from 2011-13.

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.197. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Government will digitally connect all Post Offices in rural areas by March 2019.
- (B) The Government has approved the IT Modernisation Project for modernisation, digitisation and networking of about 1,55,000 Post Offices.
- (C) This project aims to digitise all the rural Post Offices through a hand-held computing device, connecting them with the help of SIM card based network.

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.198. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Myanmar has granted operating licences to five Asian banks.
- (B) From India the PNB has been given operating licence by Myanmar.
- (C) Number of foreign banks allowed to conduct business in Myanmar is now 13.

Which of the statements given above is/are true?

- (1) Only A (2) Only B (3) Only C
- (4) All A, B and C (5) None of these

Q.199. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Government has released a new categorization of industries based on their pollution load.
- (B) White industries will not require Environmental Clearance (EC) and Consent.
- (C) Industrial Sectors having Pollution Index score of 60 and above will come under Red category.

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.200. Consider the following statements:

- (A) China has increased its defence budget by 6.7 per cent to USD 146 billion for this year.
- (B) China's GDP growth last year declined to the lowest in 26 years to 6.9 per cent.
- (C) China is the world's second largest economy the second largest defence spender, both next to the US.

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.201. Consider the following statements:

- (A) To reduce grievances of tax payers, the revenue department has set up a dedicated structure for delivery and monitoring of taxpayer services.
- (B) Two separate Directorates — Directorate of Tax Payer Services I and Directorate of Tax Payer Services II — have been set up.
- (C) This initiative has been taken by the Central Board of Excise and Customs.

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.202. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Smt Maneka Sanjay Gandhi is the Minister of Commerce and Trade Development.
- (B) She has launched "Mahila e-Haat", an online marketing platform for women.
- (C) This is the first time that the government will help women to sell products online.

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.203. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Fitch Ratings India's economic growth forecast for next fiscal is 8.0 per cent.
- (B) Fitch has maintained the GDP projection for current fiscal at 7.5 per cent.
- (C) As regards global growth, Fitch forecast of economic expansion was at 2.3 per cent in 2016.

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.204. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Tata Motors has announced a tri-partite partnership to bid for future infantry combat vehicle (FICV) project.
- (B) Tata Motors has partnered with Bharat Forge and US-based General Dynamics Land Systems (GDLS) for the project.
- (C) The Rs. 50,000-crore FICV project is spread over 15 years.

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.205. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Antyodaya Express is new unreserved, superfast service.
- (B) Deen Dayalu coaches are unreserved coaches with potable water and higher number of mobile charging points.
- (C) Humsafar is fully air-conditioned third AC service with an optional service for meals.

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.206. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Children's menu items on trains, baby foods, hot milk and hot water would be made available through Shishu Seva.
- (B) Humsafar and Tejas trains have been launched to ensure cost recovery through tariff and non-tariff measures.
- (C) Rail Mitra Sewa will expand Sarathi Seva in Konkan Railway to help the old and disabled passengers.

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.207. Consider the following statements regarding SMART coaches announced in Rail Budget 2016-17:

- (A) Higher carrying capacity
- (B) Provision of new amenities
- (C) LED lit boards for advertising
- (D) Broad connectivity

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.208. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Avataraan is a group of Seven Missions for the transformation of Indian Railways.

- (B) Mission 25 Tonne has been launched for 25 tonne axle load.

- (C) Mission PACE has been launched for passengers comfort.

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.209. Consider the following statements:

- (A) 'AYUSH' systems will be launched in all Railway hospitals during 2016-17.

- (B) Gang men will be provided with devices called 'Rakshak' for intimating them about approaching trains.

- (C) Loco pilots will be provided with toilets and air-conditioned cabs.

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.210. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Railway would open its organisation to 100 students across Engineering and MBA schools for 2-6 months' internships each year.

- (B) All new light provisions will be LED luminaire and all Railway stations to be covered with LED luminaire in next 2 to 3 years.

- (C) Railway will promote tourism through Railway museums and UNESCO world heritage Railways.

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.211. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Gross Traffic Receipts of Railways during 2016-17 have been kept at Rs 1,84,820 crore.

- (B) Passenger earnings growth has been pegged at 12.4 %.

- (C) The freight traffic is pegged at incremental traffic of 100 million tonnes.

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.212. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Railway has budgeted pension outgo at Rs 45,500 crore in 2016-17.

- (B) Higher staff cost and pension liability impacts the internal resource position of the Railways.



Former West Indies batsman Andy Ganteaume died.

(C) Railways are preparing a Plan size of Rs. 1,21,000 crore in 2016-17.

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.213. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Inflation has declined by over 10 percentage points since late 2013
(B) Current Account Deficit down from a peak of 6.7% of GDP (in Q3, 2012-13) to an estimated 1% in 2014-15.
(C) Real GDP has been growing at 8.2% since 2013-14.

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.214. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Foodgrain output in 2014-15 is 257.07 million tons.
(B) This exceeds the average production of last 5 years by 15 million tons.
(C) Inflation is likely to remain in the 5-5.5% range in the current fiscal.

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.215. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The direct fiscal cost of all the subsidies is roughly Rs. 378,000 crore.
(B) This is equal to 4.2 percent of 2011-12 GDP.
(C) 41% of PDS kerosene is lost as leakage and 59% is consumed by poor.

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.216. Consider the following statements:

- (A) India has thousands of agricultural markets.
(B) APMCs levy multiple fees of substantial magnitude that are non-transparent.
(C) The Model APMC Act, 2003 could benefit from drawing upon the 'Karnataka Model'.

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.217. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Infrastructure and agriculture cess to be levied from current fiscal.

(B) Excise duty has been raised from 20 to 30 per cent on tobacco products other than beedis.

(C) 1 per cent service charge will be payable on purchase of luxury cars over Rs. 10 lakh.

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.218. Consider the following statements:

- (A) 5% high capacity tax has been imposed for SUVs from current fiscal.
(B) Companies with revenue less than Rs 5 crore will be taxed at 29% plus surcharge.
(C) Limited tax compliance window will be made available from Jun 1-Sep 30 for declaring undisclosed income at 45% incl. surcharge and penalties.

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.219. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Excise duty of 1 per cent has been imposed on all articles of jewellery.
(B) 0.5 per cent Krishi Kalyan Cess to be levied on all goods and services.
(C) Pollution cess of 1 per cent will be imposed on small petrol, LPG and CNG cars.

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.220. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Dividend in excess of Rs. 10 lakh per annum to be taxed at additional 5 per cent.
(B) No changes have been made to existing income tax slabs.
(C) Rs. 5,000 crore has been allocated for new EPF (Employees' Provident Fund) scheme.

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.221. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Govt. will pay EPF contribution of 8.33% for all new employees for first five years
(B) Deduction for rent paid will be raised from Rs 40,000 to Rs 80,000 to benefit those living in rented houses.
(C) Additional exemption of Rs. 50,000 will be available for housing loans up to Rs. 35 lakh, provided cost of house is not above Rs. 50 lakh.



Manish Arora has been awarded with the France's 'Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur'.

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.222. Consider the following statements:

- (A) 15 per cent surcharge will be applicable on income above Rs. 1 crore.
(B) Rs. 38,500 crore has been allocated for Mahtma Gandhi NREGA for 2016-17.
(C) Rs. 9,500 crore has been allocated for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

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.223. Consider the following statements:

- (A) LPG connections will be provided under the name of senior-most women members of family.
(B) Rs 2000 crore allocated for 5 years to provide LPG connections to BPL families.
(C) 300 urban clusters would be set up under Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission.

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.224. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Rs. 9,000 crore for has been allocated for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.
(B) A new health protection scheme has been introduced for health cover upto 1.5 lakh per family.
(C) National Dialysis Service Program would provide dialysis service at all district hospitals.

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.225. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Rs. 1,700 crore has been allocated for 1500 multi-skill development centres.
(B) 62 new navodaya vidyalayas has been proposed to be opened to provide quality education.
(C) Digital literacy scheme will be launched to cover 6 crore additional rural households.

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.226. Consider the following statements:

- (A) 3 crore youth will be provided skills in the next 3 years under the PM Kaushal Vikas Yojna.

(B) National Skill Development Mission has imparted training to 76 lakh youth till date.

(C) The budget has proposed to set up 1000 Multi-skill training institutes.

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.227. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Budget this year has allocated Rs. 3000 crore for nuclear power generation.
(B) Rs. 27,000 crore has been proposed be spent on roadways.
(C) 65 eligible habitats will be connected via 2.23 lakh kms of road.

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.228. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Total allocation for road construction, including PMGSY is Rs 100,000 crore.
(B) India's highest-ever production of motor vehicles was recorded in 2015.
(C) 100 per cent FDI will be allowed in marketing of food products produced and marketed in India.

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.229. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Dept. of Disinvestment will be renamed as Dept. of Investment and Public Asset Management.
(B) MAT will be applicable for startups that qualify for 100 per cent tax exemption.
(C) Indirect tax proposals would result in loss of Rs.20,670 crore.

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.230. Consider the following statements:

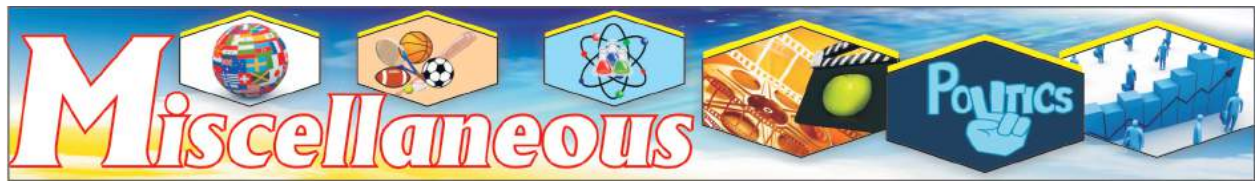
- (A) Dedicated irrigation fund will be set up at NABARD with a corpus of Rs.20,000 cr.
(B) Rs. 35,000 crore has been allocated towards recapitalisation of public sector banks.
(C) Target of disbursement under MUDRA scheme has been increased to 1,80,000 crore.

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



'Apple' and 'UnionPay' have launched contact-less payment system in China.



Q.231. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Command Hospital (Eastern Command), Kolkata has won Raksha Mantri's Trophy and citation for the Best Service Hospital.
- (B) INHS Asvini, Mumbai has won Raksha Mantri's trophy and citation for the Second Best Hospital.
- (C) The Raksha Mantri's Trophy was instituted in 1989 to create a healthy competition among the Command Hospitals.

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.232. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Malayalam film Ottaal was adjudged the Best Film by children's jury at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival.
- (B) The film has won the Golden Bear award in the Generation Kplus section.
- (C) This film was Directed by Jayaraj Rajasekharan Nair.

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.233. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Nicole Kidman has won the best actress in a play honours at London's WhatsOnStage Awards.
- (B) She has won this award for the movie "Photograph 51."
- (C) Benedict Cumberbatch was named best actor in a play for "Hamlet".

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.234. Which university has honoured actress Lucy Liu as Artist of the Year 2016 for contributions to the performing arts and humanitarian work as UNICEF Ambassador?

- (1) University of Leeds (2) Harvard University
- (3) California University (4) Oxford University
- (5) University of Cambridge

Q.235. Consider the following statements regarding Hurun Global Rich List 2016:

- (A) Industrialist Mukesh Ambani is the richest person of India with his net worth to \$26 billion.
- (B) Worldwide rich list is topped by Bill Gates.
- (C) The total number of billionaires from India has risen to 111, making India third after China and the US.

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.236. Consider the following statements:

- (A) The Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films has nominated India's mega-budget film "Baahubali: The Beginning" for the 42nd Saturn Awards under five categories.
- (B) "Baahubali: The Beginning", the first of a two-part epic drama, has been directed by the S.S.Rajamouli.
- (C) The film has been produced by Zee Mediaworks.

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.237. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Bill Gates continue to be the world's richest person with a net worth of \$75 billion.
- (B) Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani leading the pack of 84 Indian billionaires in 2016.
- (C) Forbes' 2016 list of the World's Billionaires includes 1,810 billionaires, down from a record 1,826 a year ago.



Jharkhand has signed an MoU with Adani Group to set up a 1600 MW thermal power plant.

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.238. Consider the following statements:

- (A) London has been ranked as the world's most expensive city to live and work.
(B) Mumbai has been ranked 17th in this list.
(C) The other Indian city on the list of top 20 is New Delhi.

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.239. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Former first lady of US Nancy Reagan has died.
(B) She was wife of President Ronald Reagan.

(C) As first lady, Reagan famously spearheaded the 1980s "Just Say No" campaign against drug abuse.

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.240. Consider the following statements:

- (A) Padma Sachdev has been awarded Krutitava Smagra Samman for the year 2015.
(B) She is a Renowned Maithili poetess and writer.
(C) The award was given by Bharatiya's Bhasha Parishad in Kolkata.

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

ANSWER PART - C

Q.126.(2) Q.127.(4) Q.128.(3) Q.129.(4) Q.130.(5) Q.131.(1) Q.132.(2) Q.133.(3) Q.134.(4) Q.135.(2)
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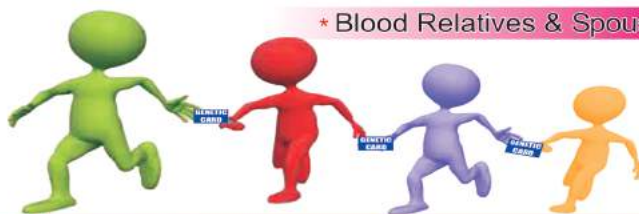
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