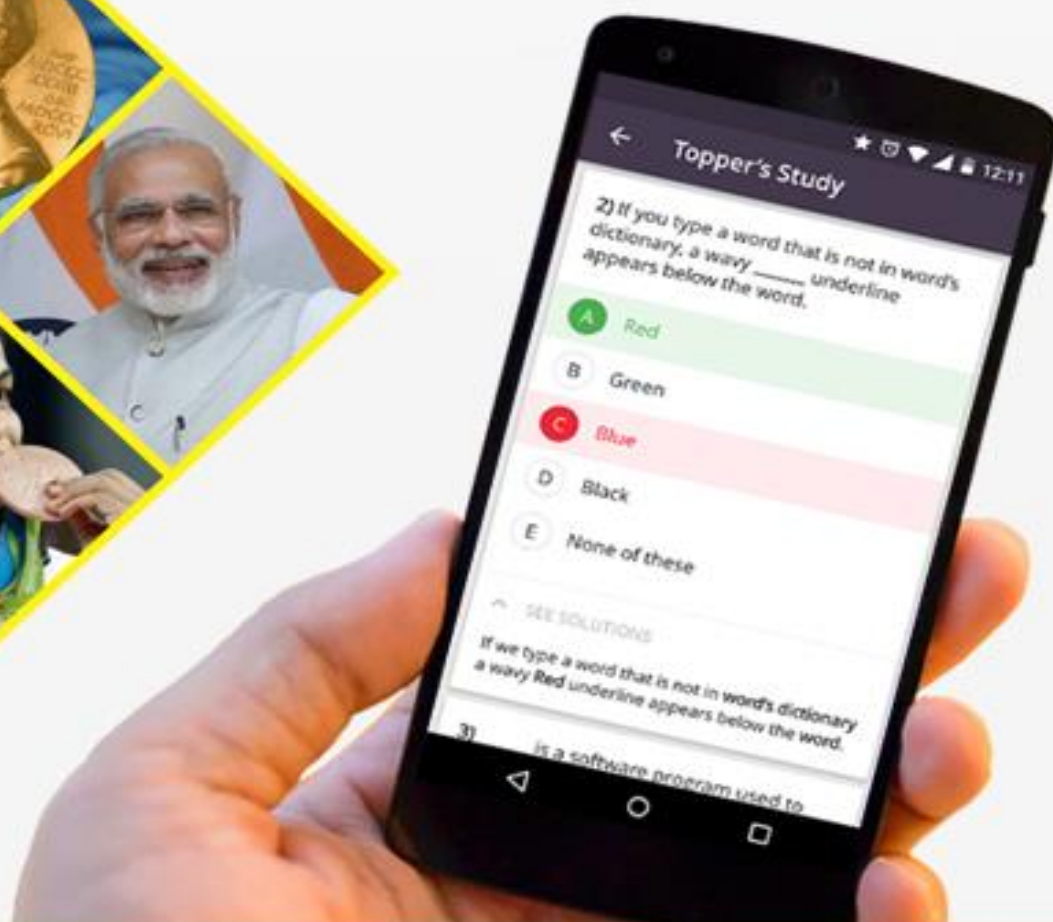


**gradeup**

# GK TORNADO

for **BOM Manipal NIIT Exam**



[www.gradeup.co](http://www.gradeup.co)

# GK Tornado for BOM Manipal/NIIT 2016 Exam

Dear readers,

This GK Digest is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in last 6 months (March – Mid October 2016). The GK Digest is important and relevant for all competitive exams like – BOM Manipal/ NIIT, IBPS PO VI, IBPS Clerk VI, IBPS RRB V, SSC CGL 2016, Insurance and UPSC Exams.

## RBI in News

1. **RBI Keeps interest rate unchanged** - On 4th October 2016, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its third bi-monthly monetary policy review, kept key policy rates unchanged.

### Current Policy & Reserve Rates:

1.Repo Rate	6.25%	(changed)
2.Reverse Repo	5.75%	(changed)
3.CRR(Cash Reserve ratio)	4.00%	(unchanged)
4.SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)	20.75%	(as per rbi website)
5.MSF (Marginal Standing Facility)	6.75%	(changed)
6.Bank Rate	6.75%	(changed)

Below are the basic definitions of the Policy Rates -

**(i) Repo Rate** – It is the rate at which RBI lends money to commercial banks.

**(ii) Reverse Repo rate** – It is the rate at which RBI borrows money from commercial banks.

**(iii) Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)** – The share of net demand and time liabilities (deposits) that banks must maintain as cash balance with the Reserve Bank.

**(iv) Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)** – The share of net demand and time liabilities (deposits) that banks must maintain in safe and liquid assets, such as, government securities, cash and gold.

**(v) Bank Rate** – It is the rate at which the Reserve Bank is ready to buy or rediscount bills of exchange or other commercial papers for long term.

**(vi) Marginal Standing Facility Rate (MSF)** – The rate at which the scheduled banks can borrow funds from the RBI overnight, against the approved government securities is termed as MSF.

**Note: Basis points** – ‘one’ Basis Point is a unit equivalent to 0.01% i.e. 1/100th of a percent.

2. **RBI cancelled certificate of registration of five NBFCs** - The certificates were cancelled in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934.

The NBFCs whose certificate of registration were cancelled includes

- Simco Consultants Private Limited
- Lunkad Securities Ltd
- Rajvir Marketing and Investment Private Limited
- Crystal Investments Limited
- Shri Jaya Investments Agency Limited (formerly known as Arcot Finance & Agency Limited)

3. **Interest subvention scheme announced by RBI for Women Self-Help Groups** – Reserve Bank of India (RBI) directed all commercial and Co-operative banks to provide loans to women self-help groups (SHGs) in rural areas at 7 percent per annum.

Key points –

- ✓ The loans will be provided for the financial year 2016-17 under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in 250 districts.
- ✓ All women self-help groups (SHGs) will be eligible for interest subvention on credit up to three lakh rupees at 7 percent per annum.

- ✓ All banks will be subvented to the extent of difference between the weighted average interest charged and 7%, subject to the maximum limit of 5.5% for 2016-17.
- 4. **RBI launches Sachet portal** to check illegal money collection - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched Sachet portal, [sachet.rbi.org.in](http://sachet.rbi.org.in), to check illegal money collection. The portal will help anyone can obtain information regarding entities that are allowed to accept deposits, lodge complaints and share information regarding illegal acceptance of deposits by unscrupulous entities.
- 5. **RBI constitutes Tarun Ramadorai Committee** on Household Finance - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) constituted a committee to look at various facets of household finance in India. The Committee will be chaired by Tarun Ramadorai, Professor of Financial Economics, University of Oxford.
- 6. **RBI fixes MSS ceiling at Rs30,000 crore for current fiscal year** - Reserve Bank of India (RBI) fixed the ceiling under market stabilisation scheme (MSS), a tool to manage liquidity, at **Rs.30,000 crore** for the current fiscal.
  - **Note:**
    - (i) This ceiling will be reviewed when the outstanding balance reaches the threshold limit of Rs.15,000 crore.
    - (ii) The current MSS outstanding balance is zero.
    - (iii) MSS are securities issued with the objective of providing RBI with a stock of securities with which it can intervene in the market for managing liquidity. These securities are not issued to meet government's expenditure.
- 7. **RBI introduces Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets** - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) issued guidelines called Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A).

**Key points** – The main aim of these guidelines is

- To Strengthen the lenders' ability to deal with stressed assets
  - Put real assets back on track of entities facing genuine difficulties by providing an avenue for reworking financial structure.
  - The RBI has formulated the S4A as an optional framework for the resolution of large stressed accounts.
  - The S4A envisages determination of sustainable debt level of a stressed borrower and bifurcate outstanding debt into sustainable debt and equity/quasi-equity instruments.
  - The sustainable debt and equity/quasi-equity instruments are expected to provide upside to the lenders when the borrower turns around.
8. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released draft guidelines for issuing 'on-tap' universal bank licences. Under the 'on tap' mechanism an application for banking licence can be made at any time subject to certain conditions.

#### **Tap licensing of universal banks in the private sector:**

- Allowing individuals with 10 years of experience in banking and finance to apply for a licence successful track record for at least 10 years are eligible to apply for a licence.
- The initial minimum paid-up voting equity capital required is Rs.500 crore, and thereafter the bank should maintain a minimum net worth of Rs.500 crore at all times.
- Applications will be screened by the RBI to assess the eligibility of applicants with regard to the criteria laid down in the guidelines.
- RBI may apply additional criteria to determine the suitability of applications, in addition to the 'fit and proper' criteria.

#### **RBI Guidelines**

- Minimum capital requirement: The promoters and the promoter group shall hold a minimum of 40% of the paid-up voting equity capital of the bank which shall be locked in for a period of five years from the date of commencement of business of the bank.
  - The promoter group's shareholding shall be brought down to 15% within a period of 12 years from the date of commencement of business of the bank.
9. As per the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)'s annual report 2015-16, India's GDP growth forecast for FY 17 is **7.6 %**.
10. **RBI cuts maturity of masala bonds to three years to raise their appeal** - To make masala bonds more attractive, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reduced the minimum tenure of such bonds that an Indian company can issue offshore to three years from the previously stated five years.
11. **RBI cancelled Certificate of Registration of four Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** - RBI cancelled their certificates in exercise of the powers conferred on it under Section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The NBFCs whose certificate of registration were cancelled include
- M/s Neelanjali Engineering Private Limited
- M/s Novoflex Tradecom Private Limited

M/s Guide Investments and Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd

M/s Enol Ventures Private Limited

- 12. Marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR)** - The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) had proposed a new methodology to calculate Base Rate (Base Rate). It is based on marginal cost of funds methodology. The new methodology is aimed at bringing uniformity among BRs of banks so that they will be more sensitive to any changes in policy rates of the RBI like Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR), Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR), etc.

**Key points -**

- It was effective on 1 April 2016.
- MCLR is the new benchmark lending rate and replaces the base rate for new borrowers
- The MCLR rates are revised every months.
- It is calculated on the marginal cost of borrowing and return on net worth for banks.

**Base Rate**

- It is defined as the minimum interest rate of a bank below which it is not viable to lend.
- It was introduced on 1 July 2010 by the RBI.
- It replaced the benchmark prime lending rate (BPLR), the interest rate which commercial banks charged their most credit worthy customer.

- 13. RBI formed Financial Inclusion Fund with 2000 crore rupees corpus:** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) formed a single Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) with a corpus of 2000 crore rupees. The fund was formed by merging the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) and Financial Inclusion Technology Fund (FITF). This fund will support the developmental and promotional activities covered under the financial inclusion initiatives.
- 14. RBI likely to pay Rs 57,000 crore in dividends to government in 2016-17** - The Reserve Bank of India is likely to pay the government Rs 57,000 crore in dividends in 2016-17, slightly less than the amount it paid in the current fiscal but much higher than that in earlier years.
- **Note:** The government has budgeted Rs 69,897 crore through dividends from state-owned banks, financial entities and RBI, lower than the Rs 73,905 crore it is expected to receive this fiscal.
  - The budget documents do not provide a break-up of the amount expected from banks and RBI.
  - Under Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934 the central bank is mandated to pay balance profits to the government.
- 15. RBI extends deadline to exchange pre-2005 notes to June 30, 2016** - Reserve Bank extended the deadline for exchanging pre-2005 currency notes of various denominations, including Rs 500 and Rs 1,000, by another six months to June 30, 2016 from earlier date December 31, 2015.
- 16. The Reserve Bank of India has extended the timeline for full implementation of the Basel III capital regulations from March 31, 2018 to March 31, 2019.**

## **Banking/Financial/Economy News**

- 1. Monetary Policy Committee** - The Union Government has notified the constitution of the six members Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

**Key points** – The Union Finance Minister has used powers designated under the section **45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act, 1934 to constitute MPC.**

**Composition of MPC**

1. Chairman - Urjit Patel: RBI Governor
2. Member - R Gandhi: Deputy Governor RBI in charge of Monetary Policy
3. Member - Michael Patra: Executive Director of RBI
4. Member - Chetan Ghatge: Professor, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI)
5. Member - Professor Pami Dua: Director, Delhi School of Economics (DSE)

**6. Member - Ravindra H. Dholakia:** Professor Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad

**Note:**

- (i)** The six member MPC has been entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level.
- (ii)** It will help in determining the Monetary Policy which in turn adds value and transparency to monetary policy decisions.
- (iii)** The meetings of the MPC will be held at least 4 times a year and it will publish its decisions after each such meeting.

- 2. Union Government set up Public Debt Management Cell** - The Union Finance Ministry has set up a Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC) with the objective of



deepening bond markets in the country. PDMC will streamline government borrowings and better cash management for deepening bond markets

3. Government pegs inflation target at 4% for 5 years – Government had recently, notified 4 per cent inflation target with a range of plus/minus 2 per cent for the next five years under the monetary policy framework agreement with the Reserve Bank.

**Key points -**

- ✓ "In view of the powers conferred by Section 45ZA of the RBI Act 1934, the central government, in consultation with the RBI, hereby notifies the inflation target beginning from the date of publication of this notification and ending on the **March 31, 2021**,".
- ✓ The notification fixes inflation target at 4 per cent with upper tolerance level of 6 per cent and lower limit of 2 per cent.

4. **NTPC, lists world's first Indian green Masala bond**

and first masala bond by a quasi-sovereign issuer

Note: - NTPC will invest the proceeds of the green Masala bond in the renewable energy market as it seeks to add more wind and solar power projects to its portfolio to support the Indian government's ambition to generate 175GW of renewable energy by 2022.

5. Assam becomes first state to ratify GST Bill - Assam became the first state in the country to ratify the constitution amendment bill on the Goods and Services Tax (GST) as the assembly unanimously passed the bill.
6. Syndicate Bank launched a transformation program called "Project Ananya" that focuses on improved customer service and offering latest in digital banking services.
7. South Indian Bank partnered with SBI Card to launch co-branded credit card. With this partnership both South Indian Bank and SBI Card will launch two variants of credit card on VISA platform, namely South Indian Bank Platinum SBI Card and South Indian Bank SimplySAVE SBI Card.
8. The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has recently tied up with **Union Bank of India** to launch an USSD based \*99# mobile application for their customer.
9. According to the study of Assocham, India ranked the third largest number of technology driven startups in the world.

**Note:**

- According to the report – US and UK has occupied the top two positions.
- Bengaluru ranked first in the largest share of technology startups in the country which is followed by Delhi NCR and Mumbai.

10. Union Cabinet has approved revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income with Cyprus.
11. India has been ranked 35th out of 160 countries in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2016.
12. **Unified Payment Interface launched** - The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has announced that Unified Payments Interface (UPI) application has become operational. The application will allow customers to make easier real-time payments via digital means using smartphones.
13. **Canada's British Columbia becomes first foreign government to issue masala bonds** - Canada's British Columbia province has become the first foreign government to issue of masala bonds, a rupee-denominated bond.

**Note:**

- ✓ It had issued Rs 500 crore rupee denominated overseas bonds (masala bond) on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) and successfully raised \$75 million (about Rs 500 crore).
- ✓ British Columbia's issued masala bond was priced to yield 6.62 % to semi-annually with a three-year tenor in the LSE. By issuing masala bond, it has secured high-quality investor support from across Europe, Asia and America.

14. NPA of commercial banks increased by around 4%: Government - The Union Government has announced that the Non-Performing Assets (NPA) of commercial banks have increased by around 4% in the last one year (March 2015 to March 2016).

**Note:**

- ✓ The NPA of banks was 5.43 percent in March 2015 which has risen to 9.32 percent in March 2016.
- ✓ The high incidences of NPAs are mainly related to power, road, steel, textiles and other sectors.
- ✓ NPA amounts are related to 417 stalled infrastructure projects where public sector banks have invested is over 66478 crore rupees.

15. **Federal bank** becomes the first among the private sector banks to offer Indian Gold Coins. The bank has tied up with MMTC for distribution of Indian Gold Coins (IGC).
16. The Union Cabinet has given its approval for raising foreign shareholding limit from current 5% to 15% in Indian Stock Exchanges.
17. **AIIB approves first loans for projects in four countries** - The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) approved first set of loans totalling US 509 million dollars to finance projects in four countries viz. **Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia and Tajikistan**.

**18. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved a 500 million dollars loan to build a bridge across the Ganga River in Bihar.** The loan funds will be used to build 9.8 km Road Bridge in Bihar on the Ganga River. On completion of the project it will be the India's **longest river bridge.**

**19. India sets up apparel training centre in Kaduna, Nigeria** - India has set up an apparel training centre in **Kaduna, Nigeria** to support textiles industry of the West African country.

- **Note:** This is a first of its kind centre in Nigeria which has been set up by India in partnership with their government.
- The training centre was established under the Cotton Technical Assistance Programme for Africa which is being implemented by the Department of Commerce.
- It aims to support and catalyze the initiative of Nigeria in realising the objectives to rebuild the cotton and textile value chain.

**20. Union Cabinet approves setting up of India Post Payments Bank** - The Union Cabinet on 1 June 2016 approved setting up of the India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts, with **100%** Government of India (GOI) equity.

- **Note:**
  - (i) These banks will be established at an expense of 800 crore rupees and rolled out in the entire country in a phased manner.
  - (ii) The IPPB will obtain banking licence from RBI by March 2017 and by September 2017.

**21. IRDAI proposes to float ecommerce platform for selling insurance policies** - IRDAI has come out with an exposure draft on e-commerce distribution in which it has proposed to allow insurance companies and insurance intermediaries like brokers and agents to distribute insurance policies by floating e-commerce platform called Insurance Self-Network Platform (ISNP).

**22. 56 Indian firms feature in Forbes 'Global 2000'**

- **Reliance Industries** Limited **ranked 1st** in India Firm Category Mukesh Ambani led Reliance Industries Limited ranked **121st Position** which was improved from 142nd Rank in 2015 on the Global List
- **State Bank of India** ranked **149 globally** and **2nd position in India**
- India Largest Private banking Companies ICICI Bank held 266 rank and HDFC held 275 globally

**23. State owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** may be converted into a **Green Bank** to enable it to access funding from overseas banks.

**24.** The provisional estimates of national GDP for 2015-16 released by Central Statistical Office (CSO) is pegged at **- 7.6%.**

**25. No deduction of tax for PF withdrawals of up to Rs 50,000 from June 1** - No tax would be deducted at source for PF withdrawals of up to Rs 50,000 from June

- **Note:** The government has notified raising the threshold limit of PF withdrawal for deduction of tax (TDS) from existing Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000.
- "The Finance Act, 2016 has amended section 192A of Income Tax Act, 1961 to raise the threshold limit of PF withdrawal from Rs 30,000 to Rs 50,000 for Tax Deducted at Source (TDS)," the notification stated.
- According to existing provisions, TDS is deducted at the rate of 10% provided PAN is submitted.
- TDS will be deducted at the rate of 10% provided PAN is submitted.

**26.** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved for a new broad gauge line of length 51 kilometers between **Mau Station of North Eastern Railway and Tarighat Terminal station of East Central Railway.**

**Note:** The estimated cost of this project is Rs. 1,765.92 crore and the expected completion cost is Rs. 2,109.07 crore with five percent of escalation per annum. The project is likely to be completed in the next six years during the 12th and 13th Plan period.

**27.** India has been ranked **141st** out of 163 countries in the 2016 **Global Peace Index (GPI)**, compiled by global think tank Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP).

- **Note:** The list is topped by **Iceland**, followed by **Denmark** and Austria. The GPI 2016 ranks 163 independent states and territories according to their level of peacefulness.

**28. India beats Japan to become world's 3rd largest oil consumer, US stays on top** - India has surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest oil consumer, with its oil demand galloping 8.1% in 2015, according to BP Statistical Review of World Energy.

- **Note:** With demand of 4.1 million barrels per day, India is the third-largest consumer behind US (19.39 million bpd) and China (11.96 million bpd).
- India accounted for 4.5% of world oil consumption in 2015. India's demand growth surpassed China's 6.3% expansion.
- US oil consumption grew 1.6%, which accounts for 19.7% of the total world pie of 95 million bpd in 2015.
- Japan slipped to the fourth spot after its oil usage contracted 3.9% to 4.15 million bpd in 2015. In 2014, it used 4.3 million bpd, ahead of India's 3.84 million bpd.

**29. Microsoft Corporation acquires LinkedIn** for just over **\$26bn**.

**Note:**

- **Jeff Weiner** will remain as chief executive, reporting to Microsoft boss Satya Nadella.
- **Microsoft** is buying the professional networking website **LinkedIn**.

**30. MCB Capital Markets introduces World's first Exchange Traded Fund** focused on India's sovereign bonds - World's first Exchange Traded Fund focused on India's sovereign bonds was launched by the MCB Capital Markets and will be listed in **Mauritius**, providing global investors access to the Indian government securities.

**31. India Gifts 2,000 Bicycles To Girls In Nepal** - India has gifted 2,000 bicycles to poor dalit girls in Nepal to encourage them to enrol in schools and enhance the literacy rate among them.

**32. Flipkart introduced** - No Cost EMI' option to make online shopping affordable for high-end purchases through an attractive financing option of Equated Monthly Installments (EMI) where customers will not bear additional cost.

**33. Axis Bank** launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond to finance climate change solutions around the world at London Stock Exchange (LSE).

**Note:**

- It will play important role in reinforcing India's commitment to produce **175,000 MW** of renewable power by **2022**.
- This is the first green bond of Axis Bank issued within its 5 billion dollars **Medium Term Note (MTN) programme**, which has also has been listed entirely on LSE.
- **What are Green Bonds?**  
Bonds basically are debt instruments which help issuer to get capital while the investors receive fixed income in the form of interest. In case of Green Bonds, the issuer gets capital from the investors only if the investment (capital) is being raised to fund green projects relating to renewable energy or emission reductions etc.

**34. 3 applicants withdraws payments bank license**

Three applicants decided to withdraw payments bank application and announced that they would not be setting up the bank. The applicants are -

- (i) Chola mandalam Investment and Finance Co
- (ii) Sun Pharma promoter Dilip Shanghvi and
- (iii) Tech Mahindra Ltd.

**Note:**

- **Airtel M Commerce Services** become first entity to receive approval from the Reserve Bank of India

(RBI) to start a payments bank. It is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel.

- **Aditya Birla Nuvo** Ltd forms joint venture with **Idea Cellular** for payments bank.
- **FINO PayTech** partner with **ICICI Bank** for payments bank.
- **Reliance Industries** Ltd. (RIL) had a tie-up with **State Bank of India (SBI)** for the payments bank.  
**Note:** Reliance Industries (RIL) and SBI have signed Subscription and Shareholders' Agreement to set up payments bank. As per the agreement, RIL will be the promoter with a **70 per cent** equity contribution in the payments bank and SBI as joint venture will have **30 per cent equity** contribution.
- **Paytm** ties up with **Wipro** for payments bank.
- **Other 3 applicants** are which do not have partnered with any organization till now- **Department of Posts, National Securities Depository Limited, Vodafone m-pesa Limited**
- The Reserve Bank of India granted "in-principle" approval to the **11 applicants** to set up payments banks under the Guidelines for Licensing of Payments Banks issued on November 27, 2014 (Guidelines).

**35. Islamic Development Bank** is all set to open its first branch in India at **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**.

**Note:**

- Islamic Development Bank, founded in 1975
- Headquarters: **Jeddah, Saudi Arabia**.
- The bank has 56 Islamic countries as its members.

**36. World Bank approves \$63 million for Tejaswini**

**Project in Jharkhand** - The World Bank Board approved the 63 million US dollar project, Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women in Jharkhand.

- **Note:** Tejaswini is the first World Bank project in India that is solely focused on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women.
- The project will support adolescent girls and young women between the ages of 14 and 24 to complete their secondary level education. It will also help them to acquire relevant skills for the job market.

**37. Florida's Stonegate Bank** to issue first US credit card for use in Cuba - Florida-based Stonegate Bank issued a new credit card that will allow Americans to use it in Cuba during their visit to the country. The card will help the US visitors to avoid the Cuban 10-percent penalty on the dollar.

**38. International Finance Corporation (IFC)** launched its first Uridashi Masala Bonds (Japanese bonds) to mobilise Rs 30 crore from Japanese retail investors.

**Key points -**

- IFC is the investment group of **World Bank**
- The bonds will be settled in yen and each bond is denominated at Rs 1,00,000.
- It is a **three year bond** which was issued on March 30, 2016 and will mature on March 29, 2019 with an annual payout of 5.36 per cent.
- **Note:** Masala Bonds are rupee-denominated instruments sold only to **offshore investors**, while **Uridashi bonds** are sold to **Japanese household investors**.

**39. DCB Bank launches first Aadhaar enabled ATM in Bengaluru.**

**Note:**

- The "cardless and PIN less" ATM was launched by former Chairman of the Unique Identification Authority of India, Nandan Nilekani.
- The headquarter of DCB bank located in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

**40. RBL Bank has become the first in India to open dedicated branch for startups.** The branch was inaugurated at **Koramangala, Bengaluru**, by Nandan Nilekani, noted entrepreneur and former chairman of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).

**41. Service Tax rate increased to 15% -**

Before 1st June 2016 – only Service Tax was 14% and Swachh Bharat Cess @ 0.5% would be applicable but from 1st June 2016 – a news cess added i.e. **Krishi Kalyan Cess** would also be applicable and then the effective rate of tax would **become 15%**.

**42. Ratings agency Crisil has downgraded its ratings on debt instruments of 8 public sector banks (PSBs).** The eight downgraded banks are - Bank of India , Central Bank of India , Corporation Bank , Dena Bank , IDBI Bank , Indian Overseas Bank , Syndicate Bank and UCO Bank .

**43. India becomes third largest oil consumer -**

According to recently released BP Statistical Review of World Energy **India** has surpassed **Japan** to become the world's third-largest oil consumer.

**Note:**

- With demand of 4.1 million barrels a day (bpd), India is the third-largest consumer behind the **United States** (19.39 million bpd) and **China** (11.96 million bpd).
- Japan slipped to the fourth spot after its oil usage contracted 3.9% to 4.15 million bpd in 2015

**44. Capital Local Area Bank Ltd bank become India's first Small Finance Bank (SFB)**

**Note:** The Jalandhar-based Capital Local Area Bank Ltd (CLABL) becomes the India's first small area finance bank (SFB) by flagging-off its operations on **April 13, 2016**.

**45. Independent investor Sunil Sabharwal has become the first Indian-American to take charge as an Alternate**

Executive Director at International Monetary Fund (IMF).

**46. All rural post offices to connect digitally by March 2017.** The Indian government is digitally connecting all 1,29,323 gramen dak sewak **post offices** in rural areas across the country by **March 2017**.

**47. Dr. R Seetharaman**, Group CEO of Doha Bank, has been honoured with the **2016 Green Economy Visionary Award**.

**Note:** He has been awarded with this award for his contribution in environment-friendly activities and thereby promoting green economy for nearly two decades.

**48. HDFC Bank launches SmartUp for startups -** HDFC Bank has launched **SmartUp**, a dedicated solution for startups to fulfil all their banking needs. It was launched in association with a Mumbai-based start-up accelerator **Zone Startups India (ZSI)**

**49. ICICI Bank launches country's 1st contactless credit card for SMEs -** The bank has partnered with **Jet Airways** for small and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs). The card is powered by '**VISA payWave**' contactless technology.

**50. HDFC bank ranked among the world's ten biggest and most powerful companies in the consumer financial services sector on a Forbes list which is topped by global major American Express.**

**Note:**

- **Ranked 7th**, HDFC is the only Indian company in top-ten in this category, which has got global giants like Capital One, Visa and MasterCard.
- In the overall list of the world's 2,000 largest and most powerful public companies compiled by Forbes, HDFC is **ranked 404th** while it is at tenth position among Indian firms.
- **State Bank of India** was ranked among the top 20 globally in the regional banks category. With a market capitalisation of USD 23.3 billion, **SBI was ranked 149th in the global list**.

**51. Interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF) PPF slashed to 8.1% from 8.7%.**

**52. Indian Overseas Bank became first bank to commence the sale of Indian Gold Coin (IGC) in the domestic market.**

**Note:** The bank has tied up with Metals and **Minerals Trading Corporation (MMTC)** for the sale of IGC of 24 carat purity.

**53. The interest rate on Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) cut to 7.8 per cent from 8.7 per cent.**

**54. Interest rates for the National Small Savings Fund (NSSF) loan to Centre and States for FY 2016-17 has been revised and fixed at 8.8 per cent.**



- 55. Union Cabinet approves setting up of India Post Payments Bank** - The payment banks will be established at an expense of **800 crore rupees** and rolled out in the entire country in a phased manner. The IPPB will obtain banking licence from RBI by **March 2017 and by September 2017**.
- 56. SEBI tightens P-Notes norms to check money laundering** - Market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on 20 May 2016 tightened the norms for investing in **Participatory Notes (P-Notes)**. The norms have been tightened with a view to check money laundering.
- Note:** P-Notes are typically instruments issued by registered **foreign institutional investors** to overseas investors, who wish to invest in Indian markets without registering themselves directly in India to save on time. But, they still need to go through a proper due diligence process.
- 57. IT department launches e-nivaran platform to fast track taxpayer grievances** - The Income Tax (IT) department launched an electronic grievance redressal system **e-nivaran** to fast track taxpayer grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints.
- Note:**
- The **e-nivaran system, also named as Unified Grievance Management System**, seeks to integrate all online and physical complaints gathered by the department.
  - In this regard, a separate and dedicated window for grievance redressal also launched in the **Income Tax Business Application (ITBA)**.
- 58. RBI cancelled Certificate of Registration of four Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** - RBI cancelled their certificates in exercise of the powers conferred on it under **Section 45-IA (6)** of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934. The NBFCs whose certificate of registration were cancelled include
- M/s Neelanjali Engineering Private Limited
  - M/s Novoflex Tradecom Private Limited
  - M/s Guide Investments and Trading Co. Pvt. Ltd
  - M/s Enol Ventures Private Limited
- 59. 100% FDI through Automatic Route permitted in Asset Reconstruction Companies** - The Department

of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) under Union Ministry of Commerce & Industry permitted 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) into asset reconstruction companies (ARCs) through automatic route.

- 60. India ranks 9th in Crony-Capitalism Index** - India is ranked at ninth position in crony-capitalism index released by the **Economist** in the first week of May 2016.

**Note:**

- **Russia topped** the list and followed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.
- India has a crony sector wealth accounting for 3.4 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).
- As per the latest crony-capitalism index the non-crony sector wealth in India amounts to 8.3 per cent of the GDP

- 61. International Monetary Fund (IMF)** retained India's growth rate at **7.5 percent for the year 2016**.

- 62.** According to 2014-15 economic survey, which state of India holds the top position in terms of investment in manufacturing sector – **Odisha**

**Note:** Odisha tops the list in the country by bagging the lion's share at 17% of the total investments in manufacturing sector.

- 63. 2015 IBNS Bank Note of the Year Award - New Zealand's \$5 polymer note** **Note:**

- New Zealand's \$5 polymer note has won the 'IBNS Bank Note of the Year Award' for 2015.

- 64.** National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has entered into a collaboration with **Germany** for the programme 'Soil Protection and Rehabilitation for Food Security – **Germany**

- 65.** National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launched **Unified Payments Interface** for next-generation mobile banking.

**Note:** The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched "Unified Payments Interface (UPI)", which will leverage trends such as increasing smart phone adoption and deeper penetration of mobile data.

- 66. India became the largest** remittances receiving country at USD 72 billion this year followed by China at USD 64 billion, as per the World Bank Report.

### SBI Bank in News –

1. **SBI** became the first domestic bank of India to open a branch in **Myanmar**. It has announced the opening up its foreign branch in Yangon, the capital city of Myanmar. The **Yangon** branch is the 54th foreign branch of the SBI. This branch further extends the

global presence of India's largest lender in 37 countries through 198 offices.

2. **SBI declares Silchar** as its **5th zone** in North East - The State Bank of India (SBI) has declared Silchar as its 5th zone in North East to facilitate banking issues for the customers of the region. The 5th zone will further

help to cater the banking needs of the people of Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur along with the Barak Valley of North east India.

3. **SBI in 'Hall of Shame' of banks funding cluster bomb makers** - State-run banking behemoth SBI has been named in a '**Hall of Shame' list of 158** banking and financial institutions globally that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs. **Note: SBI is the only Indian entity on the list**, which includes global giants like JP Morgan, Barclays, Bank of America and Credit Suisse that invested over **\$28 billion** in seven producers of cluster munitions between June 2012 and April 2016, according to a report by Dutch campaign group PAX.
4. **SBI launches SBI Mingle, a social media banking platform** - State Bank of India (SBI) had launched SBI Mingle, a social media banking platform for Facebook and Twitter users.  
The SBI Mingle will allow SBI's customers to access various banking services via these social platforms.
5. **SBI secures \$625 million from World Bank for solar program** - SBI signed an agreement worth **4,200 crore** rupees (\$625 million) with the World Bank to **support its grid connected rooftop solar photovoltaic (GRPV) programme**.
6. **SBI inks MoU with IIT Bombay to promote startups in financial sector** - SBI signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) at IIT Bombay to promote innovation by start-ups in the financial sector. The SINE is IIT Bombay's technology business incubator to promote innovation by startups in the financial sector.
7. **SBI launches IT Innovation Start-up Fund to assist start-ups** - SBI launched IT Innovation Start-up Fund to support start-ups in the financial technology

(fintech) space. The fund has corpus of 200 crore rupees. It will provide assistance of up to 3 crore rupees to a company registered in India for promoting their business innovations using information technology for banking and related activities.

8. **SBI Bank leads mobile banking chart in India.**  
SBI leads in digital banking in the country in both volume and value terms, handling over 38 per cent mobile banking transactions a month.  
According to RBI - SBI accounted for 38.44 per cent of total mobile banking transactions in terms of volume and 35.97 per cent market share in terms of value in December 2015.
9. **SBI and Spain's CaixaBank** have inked pact to provide loans to Indo-Spanish joint ventures and local enterprises.
10. **State Bank of India (SBI)'s point of sales terminal (PoS) network is now the largest** in the country after it over took its private sector rivals in February. It plans to add another 1 lakh PoS terminals in the current fiscal year ending March 2017.
11. **SBI has tied up with taxi-aggregator Uber** to provide instant vehicle finance to 'driver-partners' on the latter's platform.
12. **SBI among 4 new foreign banks allowed to operate in Myanmar** - The State Bank of India is among four new foreign banks given preliminary approval to open 100 per cent-owned branches in Myanmar, the latest move by the Southeast Asian nation to woo investment to the country long ruled by the military and hit by Western sanctions.  
The four new banks that have been given initial approval by the Central Bank of Myanmar are **Vietnam's Bank for Investment and Development**, Taiwan's **E.SUN Commercial Bank**, South Korea's Shinhan Bank and the **State Bank of India**.

### ICICI Bank in News -

1. **ICICI Bank: First bank to introduce Software Robotics for power banking operations**  
ICICI Bank has successfully deployed 'Software Robotics' for power banking operations. With this, it becomes first bank in the country and among few globally to deploy 'Software Robotics'.
2. **ICICI Bank signs MoU with BRICS's New Development Bank** - ICICI Bank signs MoU with BRICS Grouping-promoted New Development Bank. The First

set of loans involving financial assistance of **USD 811 million**

**Note:** With this ICICI Bank becomes first financial institution in the country to tie up with the BRICS Grouping-promoted NDB

3. India's first contact-less mobile payment solution "**iTap**" has been launched by which bank - **ICICI Bank**
4. ICICI bank launched **iWork@home programme** for its women employees.

5. **ICICI Bank opens its first branch in South Africa - ICICI Bank inaugurated its first full service branch** at Sandton in Johannesburg becoming the first Indian private sector bank to open a branch in the African continent.
6. ICICI Bank has launched 'Smart Vault' first of its kind fully automated digital locker facility in India.
7. ICICI Bank has launched 'ICICI Bank Saral-Rural Housing Loan' Scheme for weaker sections of society. Housing loan will be provided at the ICICI Bank Base Rate (known as I-Base) which is currently at 9.70%.
8. **ICICI Bank launched its first branch in China:** India's largest private sector bank, ICICI bank has launched its first branch in Shanghai, China, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

### New Appointments/ National

1. New Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) – **Alka Sirohi**. She succeeds Deepak Gupta.
2. Chairman of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India – **MS Sahoo**
3. **S Sivakumar** full-time member of 21st Law Commission of India
4. **Junaid Ahmad** appointed as the **World Bank Country Director for India**. He will succeed Onno Ruhl who completed his four-year term recently.
5. New Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) – **Sushil Chandra**. He will replace Rani Singh Nair.
6. New Director General (DG) of counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG) – **Sudhir Pratap Singh**
7. **R. K. Pachnanda** appointed as Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF).
8. New Directors General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) – **OP Singh**
9. New Chief Justice of Kerala High Court - **Justice Mohan M Shantanagoudar**
10. New Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court - **Justice G C Gupta**
11. New Governor of RBI – **Urjit Patel**. He succeeds Raghuram Rajan. He assumes charge as the 24<sup>th</sup> Governor of RBI.
12. New Chancellor of The Energy and Resources Institute (Teri) University – Ashok Chawla.
13. New Governor of Manipur – Najma Heptullah.
14. New Chief Justice of Bombay High Court - Manjula Chellur
15. New Chief Justice of Patna High – Court - Justice Iqbal Ahmed Ansari
16. New Chief Justice of Allahabad High – Court - Justice Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale
17. New Chief Minister of Gujarat - Vijay Rupani. He succeeds Anandiben Patel.
18. New Governor of Punjab - V P Singh Badnore
19. New Governor of Assam - Banwarilal Purohit
20. New Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh – Pema Khandu
21. New MD of SBI – Dinesh Kumar Khara
22. Aishwaryaa R Dhanush appointed as UN Women's Advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India
23. New Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands - Jagdish Mukhi
24. New Chairman of Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) - **Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi**
25. Newly Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India - **N S Vishwanathan**. He replaces HR Khan
26. New CM of Puducherry - **V. Narayanasamy**
27. New Finance Secretary - **Ashok Lavasa**. He replaces Ratan P. Watal
28. New CEO of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) - **Ashok Patnaik**
29. New Chairman of Oil India – **Utpal Bora**
30. New Additional Solicitor General of India - **Atma Ram Nadkarni**
31. New Indian Cricket Team Head Coach – **Anil Kumble**
32. **Shashi Arora** appointed new CEO, MD of **Airtel Payments Bank**
33. New Secretary in the Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs - **Prabhas Kumar Jha**

34. New Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal - **Justice SJ Mukhopadhyaya**.
35. New President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) - **Justice MM Kumar**.
36. New Member appointed in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) - **Bhim Sain Bassi**.
37. **Vice admiral Atul Kumar** Jain takes over as Chief of staff, Eastern Naval Command
38. New Director General (DG)/ Chief Executive Officer (CEP) of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) - **Navin Agarwal**
39. New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)- **Rahul Johri**
40. New Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court - **Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad**.

41. New Navy Chief - Sunil Lanba. He replaces **R.K.Dhowan**
42. New Managing Director of **Facebook India** - **Umang Bedi**
43. New Chief Minister of Assam – **Sarbananda Sonowal**. He replaces **Tarun Gogoi**
44. New Chief Minister of Kerala - **Pinarayi Vijayan**
45. New BCCI President – **Anurag Thakur**. He replaces Shashank Manohar.
46. New Chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security - **Kumar Rajesh Chandra**
47. First Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) - **Vinod Rai**

### Ambassador –

1. New **India's Ambassador to Sweden** - Monika Kapil Mohta
2. New **China's Ambassador** to India - **Luo Zhaohui**
3. New **Ambassador of India** to Austria - Renu Pall
4. New Indian Ambassador to the US - Navtej Sarna

### Appointments/ International

1. **New UN Secretary-General** - Former Portuguese Prime Minister **Antonio Guterres** unanimously selected by the UN Security Council as the next UN Secretary-General. He will succeed Ban Ki-moon on 1 January 2017.
2. World Bank reappoints **Jim Yong Kim** for second term as President
3. First female President of Estonia - **Kersti Kaljulaid**
4. **Abdelilah Bekirane** re-appointed Prime Minister of Morocco
5. New President of Brazil - **Michel Temer**.  
**Note:** Brazil's Senate removed President Dilma Rousseff from office for breaking budgetary laws.
6. New PM of Nepal - **Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda'**
7. New PM of Tunisia – **Youssef Chahed**.
8. New Prime Minister of United Kingdom - **Theresa May**. She succeeded David Cameron
9. Nepal's first woman Chief Justice - **Sushila Karki**
10. New President of Philippines' - **Rodrigo Duterte**
11. New President of Iceland - **Gudni Johannesson**
12. New President of Peru - **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski**
13. **Enda Kenny** re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland.
14. Former India batsman **Lalchand Rajput** appointed Afghanistan cricket coach
15. **Nita Ambani** - first Indian woman to be nominated as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
16. **Shashank Manohar** (India) elected as the first-ever independent Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
17. First women President of **Taiwan** - **Tsai Ing-wen**
18. **Anil Kumble** - re-appointed **ICC Cricket Committee chairman** for a second term
19. New President of Vietnam - **Tran Dai Quang**
20. New Prime Minister of Iceland - **Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson**

## International Meets & Summits

### 1. 8<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit – Goa, India

**Note:**

- The logo for the Summit is a lotus having colours from all the five member countries and a traditional Namaste in the centre.
- The **theme 2016 BRICS Summit** is - **Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.**
- 7<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit 2015 held in the beautiful city of Ufa, Russia
- The ninth BRICS Summit will be hosted by **China** in 2017.

### 2. ASEAN Summit 2016 held in - Vientiane, Laos.

The theme for the 2016 summit was - **Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community.**

**Note:** Laos is a Southeast Asian country. The currency of Laos is **Kip** and **Bounnhang Vorachith** is the Prime Minister of the country.

**Total 10 members** - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, Viet Nam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Cambodia.

### 3. The first edition of IoT India Congress 2016 held in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

### 4. 2016 G20 Summit held in - Hangzhou, China

**Note:**

- ✓ The theme of 2016 G20 Summit was - **Toward an Innovative, Invigorated, Interconnected and Inclusive World Economy.**
- ✓ It was the first ever G20 summit to be hosted in China and the second Asian country to host the Summit. Before China, Seoul, South Korea, hosted the 2010 G20 Summit.
- ✓ The **2017 G20 Summit** will be held in **Hamburg, Germany**, under the leadership of Angela Merkel.
- ✓ **G20 Members:** Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and European Union.

### 5. NATO Summit 2016 held in Warsaw, Poland. The organization comprises of 28 member countries.

### 6. The 2016 BRICS Youth Summit held in Guwahati, Assam.

**The theme** of the 2nd youth summit was **“Youth as bridge for Intra-BRICS Exchanges”.**

### 7. BRICS Women Parliamentarians' Forum meet held in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

### 8. Asia Security Summit (ASS) - is an inter-

governmental security forum held in Singapore. It is attended by heads of ministries and military chiefs of 28 Asia-Pacific states including India.

### 9. International Buddhist conference held in Nepal to remember the Buddha Birthday Anniversary

### 10. First world conference on tourism for development held in Beijing to step up International Cooperation

**Venue:** Beijing, China

**Theme:** “Tourism for Peace and Development”

### 11. World Humanitarian Summit held at Istanbul.

### 12. New fund “Education Cannot Wait” launched at UN World Humanitarian Summit

### 13. The 2016 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit concluded in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

### 14. 4<sup>th</sup> Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) held in - Washington DC, USA

**Note:** The fourth Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) was held in Washington, D.C. on March 31-April 1, 2016.

### 15. The Group of Seven (G-7) summit for the year 2016 is to be held in - Japan

**Note:** The Group of 7 (G7) is a group consisting of **Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom**, and the United States. The next major G7 summit will be held in Japan in 2016.

### 16. 2016 Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held in – New Delhi

### 17. The 2016 Islamic Summit Conference has been concluded in - Turkey

**Note:** The 13th edition of the Islamic Summit Conference has been concluded in Istanbul, Turkey under the theme **“Unity and Solidarity for Justice and Peace”.**

### 18. First-ever North East-ASEAN Business Summit was hosted by which city of India - Imphal

**Note:** The first-ever North East-ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Business Summit 2016 was held at Imphal, Manipur with the focus on road connectivity, trade and tourism.

### 19. 2016 International Conference on the “Zero” was recently hosted by which country – France

**Note:**

- The 2016 International Conference on the “Zero” has recently held at UNESCO headquarters in Paris, France.
- On this occasion, a bronze bust of the ancient Indian mathematician-astronomer Aryabhata has



gifted by India to UNESCO as its tribute to the world of mathematics and science.

20. 2016 Heart of Asia – Istanbul Ministerial Process held in – **India**

**Note:** The 6th edition of Heart of Asia – Istanbul Ministerial Process 2016, a regional conference, **held in New Delhi** on April 26, 2016.

### India's rankings in different indexes

1. **Global Competitiveness Index (GCI) – India rank 39<sup>th</sup>** among the 138 countries.

**Note:**

- The index was released as part of the **World Economic Forum's (WEF)** Global Competitiveness Report for 2016-17.
- **Top 5 Countries:** Switzerland (1st), Singapore (2nd), United States (3rd), Netherlands (4th) and Germany (5th).

2. **Global Hunger Index 2016** - India ranked at **97<sup>th</sup>** position among 118 countries.

3. **2016 World Economic Freedom Index** - India ranks at 112<sup>th</sup>.

**Note:** Top 5 Countries in 2016 WEFI: Hong Kong (1st), Singapore (2nd), New Zealand (3rd), Switzerland (4th), Canada (5th).

4. India ranks **66<sup>th</sup>** in 2016 **Global Innovation Index**

**Note:** Switzerland, Sweden, UK were ranked top 3 countries respectively

5. India has been ranked **77<sup>th</sup>** out of **171** countries on the World Risk Index 2016.

6. **India ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in FDI inflows: UNCTAD report –**

India continues to be among the top ten countries in terms of foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows globally and the fourth in developing Asia, as per the World Investment Report 2016 by the United Nations Conference for Trade and Development (UNCTAD).

**Note:**

- India's FDI inflows have increased to \$44 billion in 2015 as compared to \$35 billion in 2014, and the growth has been across the board, the report said.
- **The list is topped by United States followed by** Hong kong, China, Ireland, Netherlands, Switzerland, Singapore, Brazil and Canada

7. **India ranks 35<sup>th</sup> in 2016 Logistics Performance Index: World Bank Report** - In the recently released bi-annual Logistics Performance Index (LPI) 2016 of World Bank Group, India ranked 35<sup>th</sup> among 160 countries. The index was published in the World Bank bi-annual report 'Connecting to Compete 2016:

**Top 5 countries in 2016 LPI:** Germany (score: 4.23 points), Luxembourg (4.22), Sweden (4.20), Netherlands (4.19) and Singapore (4.14).

8. **India ranks 91<sup>st</sup> in 2016 Networked Readiness Index** – India was placed at 91<sup>st</sup> position in the recently released 2016 Networked Readiness Index (NRI) by the Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF).

- **Top-5 countries** in 2016 NRI: Singapore (1st) Finland (2nd), Sweden (3rd), Norway (4th), United States (5th),

9. **India ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> position as per 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI)** - India has been ranked second position as per 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI) released by London-based business consultancy A T Kearney.

10. **India ranks 70<sup>th</sup> on 2015 Good Country Index** - In recently released 2015 Good Country Index (GCI), India has been placed at 70<sup>th</sup> position in the list of 163 countries. The list has been topped by Sweden as the best country.

Top 5 Countries in 2015 GCI: Sweden, Denmark, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany.

11. **India ranks 105<sup>th</sup> in 2016 Human Capital Index** - India was ranked low at 105<sup>th</sup> position out of 130 countries globally on the 2016 Human Capital Index (HCI), which was recently released in the World Economic Forum (WEF) report. Top 5 Countries in 2016 HCI: Finland (1st position), Norway (2nd), Switzerland (3rd), Japan (4th), Sweden (5th).

12. **India becomes third largest oil consumer** - According to recently released BP Statistical Review of World Energy India has surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest oil consumer. **US is the largest** oil consumer in the world which is followed by **China**.

13. **India ranked at 9<sup>th</sup> position in crony-capitalism** with crony sector wealth accounting for 3.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP). **Russia tops the** list followed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

14. **India tops global slavery index** with 18.35 mn people enslaved.

**15. India ranked at 133 on World Press Freedom Index.**

Finland, retained its top spot for the sixth consecutive year, followed by Netherlands and Norway.

**16. India ranked 118 in World's Happiness Index .**

**Denmark** top spot as the happiest country in the world, displacing Switzerland, according to The World Happiness Report 2016, published by the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), a global initiative for the United Nations.

**17. India ranked 141 in Global Peace Index -**

Iceland was ranked as the world's most peaceful country, followed by Denmark and Austria.

**18. India ranked third in attractiveness index of**

**renewable energy** - India's renewable energy sector has been ranked third in the Renewable Energy Country Attractiveness Index (RECAI) with China at second and the US on top.

**19. India ranks 44 in 2016 Global Connectivity Index -**

In terms of numbers, United States, Singapore and Sweden top the rankings, while India is ranked 44. The report sheds light on various global improvements in the field of **internet connectivity**.

### Important Committees

1. **Pradeep Kumar Sinha committee** - to develop the pan-India road map for trade facilitation
2. **Ratan P Watal committee** - to suggest steps to promote card payments
3. **Amitabh Kant committee** (CEO of NITI Aayog) - to look at easing the policy regime for e-commerce players, including the rules for foreign direct investment (FDI).
4. **Arvind Panagariya committee** - to prepare a road map for elimination of poverty. It has suggested setting up a committee to identify people Below Poverty Line (BPL). It also suggested participation from states in defining the BPL population.
5. **TVSN Prasad committee** - to look into the alternatives to pellet guns.
  - ✓ It suggests that the pellet guns should be used in rarest of rare cases.
  - ✓ It suggests for use of other non-lethal weapons, like chilli grenade shells, for crowd control.
6. **Ak Sinha committee** - to study silt in river Ganga in Bihar.
7. **Justice R.M. Lodha committee** - to oversee the functioning of Medical Council of India (MCI)
8. **NK Singh committee** - to review and give recommendations on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) roadmap for the future.
9. **Sanjay Mitra committee** - to prepare a policy framework for taxi and other transport operators in view of the ban on diesel taxis in the National Capital Region (NCR).
10. **NK Singh committee** - to review the working of the 12-year old Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.
11. **DB Shekatkar Committee** - on defence spending.
12. **T S R Subramanian committee** - New Education Policy.
13. **Lt Gen D B Shekatkar panel** - to relook defence expenditure.
14. **B B Tandon Committee** - to monitor Government Advertisements
15. **Akhilesh Ranjan committee** - recommendations on Taxation of e-commerce

### Current Affairs - National News

1. The crown prince of **Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** will be the chief guest for the 68th Republic Day celebrations on **26 January 2017**.
2. Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved **\$631 million** loan for building India's first coastal industrial corridor between Visakhapatnam (Vizag) and Chennai.
3. Union Cabinet approves setting up of Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at **Jammu**.
4. **First Medipark to be setup in Tamil Nadu** - The Union Cabinet had approved setting up of a **Medical Devices Manufacturing Park (Medipark) at Chengalpattu, Kanchipuram District, Tamil Nadu** through a special purpose Vehicle.

5. Indian Railways **launches Yatri Mitra Sewa** for elderly, differently-abled – Under this initiative, differently-abled and ailing travelers will get facilitate access to wheelchairs, battery operated cars and porter services.
6. The **Women of India Festival 2016** of organic products was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Women & Child Development in New Delhi
7. **Himansh, India's remote, high – altitude station opens in Himalayas -**  
A high altitude glaciological research station in Himalaya called **Himansh** (meaning a slice of ice) began functioning above 13,500 ft (4000 m) in a remote region in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh. Researchers will use this station as a base for undertaking surveys that would digitize the glacier motion and snow cover variations with exceptional precision.
8. The Union Government has launched **National Seismic Programme (NSP)** to trace hydrocarbon resources like oil and natural gas in Mahanadi basin. It was launched by Union Minister of State (MoS) for Petroleum and Natural Gas at Taranga village under Soro block in Balasore district of Odisha.
9. **The International Energy Agency (IAE)** is going to partner with India to implement **its Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) initiative globally for energy savings.**  
**Note:**  
(i) IAE has been impressed with performance of India's UJALA programme in terms of vastly improving access to LED lighting while reducing their cost drastically.  
(ii) **The UJALA scheme** is implemented by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Union Ministry of Power.
10. The National Mission on Bioeconomy has launched in **Shillong, Meghalaya** by the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD). The mission is unique to south-east Asia and India has become one of the few countries to tap bio-resources.
11. The first International Arbitration Centre of India was inaugurated in **Mumbai, Maharashtra** to provide an arbitration platform for Indian business houses to negotiate commercial disputes.
12. Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced that India-Pakistan border will be completely sealed by **December 2018.**
13. **2016 Asian Ministerial Conference** for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) will be held in **New Delhi.** This will be second time India hosting AMCDRR. The conference will be hosted by Union Government in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).
14. India declared itself free from the highly contagious avian influenza (H5N1) or bird flu. The declaration was made by the Department of Animal Husbandry under the Agriculture Ministry.
15. The Union Government has launched a toll free number '**1924**' to registered postal complaints. The service has been launched Department of Posts (DoP). It was launched after Government had introduced Twitter Sewa for redressal of telecom and postal grievances.
16. The Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar has inaugurated the super computer **PARAM ISHAN at IIT Guwahati campus.**  
**Note: PARAM ISHAN is the fastest and most powerful computer in North East, Eastern and Southern region of India outside Bengaluru (Karnataka).**
17. India's first underground museum will be opened in **New Delhi.**  
**Note:**  
✓ It will be opened at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on October 2, 2016.  
✓ The museum showcases a collection of relics associated with each of the past presidents of India along with a range of vestiges reflecting upon the history of India's freedom struggle.
18. The world's tallest girder rail bridge will set up in Manipur.  
**Note:**  
✓ The new tunnel will be 11.55 km long, more than the famous Pir Panjal tunnel on the Banihal-Qazigund line.  
✓ The rail bridge with height of 141m will surpass the existing tallest bridge in Europe which has a height of 139m.
19. First tiger cell of India will set up in Dehradun.  
**Note:**  
✓ The cell will house a database of tigers as well as DNA and stripes samples of the big cats from over 50 tiger reserves.  
✓ It will aid conservation efforts by preventing poaching and providing an update on tiger numbers.
20. National Disaster Response Force Director General, OP Singh laid the foundation stone for a permanent NDRF station at Sudumbare village of Pune.

21. The Union Minister of Urban Development M.Venkaiah Naidu has launched Swachh Suvekshan-2017 project in New Delhi.
22. '70 Saal Azadi Yaad Karo Kurban' for Tiranga Yatra theme song has been composed by \_\_Kesiraju Srinivas.  
**Note:**  
✓ Srinivas popularly known as Ghazal Srinivas.
23. Irom Chanu Sharmila Manipur's 'Iron Lady' ended her 16 - year long fast.
24. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has signed Memorandum of Understanding with IIT-Kharagpur.  
**Note:** IIT-Kharagpur will develop 'Paneled Cement Concrete Pavements' for highways.
25. Manoj Sinha, Twitter Sewa service to address the common man's complaints regarding telecom and postal services. The complaints will be lodge through Twitter handle "@manojsinhabjp". He is Minister of state (Telecom).
26. Indian Railway joined hands with the forest departments of Punjab and Haryana to plant five lakh trees on rail land along tracks.
27. Maneka Gandhi has inaugurated the Uttarakhand's first animal birth control center (ABC) at Dehradun.
28. Tarang, Mobile app has been launched by Union Government to monitor execution of the under construction power transmission projects.  
**Note:** The Union Ministry of Power launched the TARANG Mobile App to Track power transmission projects.
29. Youth Voters' Festival of 2016 held in Nagaland.
30. Sugamya Pustakalaya, an e-Library has been launched by the Union government for divyang.  
**Note:**  
✓ Sugamya Pustakalaya is an online library for Divyang and houses publications across diverse subjects and languages in multiple accessible formats.  
✓ Over 2 lakhs books are available in Accessible formats for people with visual impairment and other print disabilities.
31. A Bronze statue of B R Ambedkar will be installed at the Ambedkar memorial at Indu Mill land in Mumbai. The statue will be called the \_\_\_\_Statue of Equality.
32. The first Children Court of South India has launched in Hyderabad.  
**Note:** This court is a child-friendly court and 6th in India with features like separate waiting rooms for children and a video camera trial for the accused, mandated under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POSCO) Act-2012.
33. Abhinav Bindra has been named as the Chairman of a 5-member National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) review committee.
34. Union Women and Child Development Minister has launched Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) e-box in New Delhi.  
**Note:** POCSO e-box is an online complaint management system for easy and direct reporting of sexual offences against children and timely action against the offenders under the POCSO Act, 2012.
35. The 4th edition of Mother Teresa International Film Festival (MTIFF) 2016 was held in Kolkata.
36. Redefined Engagement with Indian Diaspora Karnataka will host the 15th edition of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBS) 2017 in **Bengaluru**.
37. India's first textile university will set up in Surat, Gujarat.
38. Gujarat has become the first Indian state to distribute two crore LED bulbs under the Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for all (UJALA) scheme.  
**Note:** Gujarat has reached this milestone in just 96 days and over 42 lakh households have already benefitted from the scheme.
39. **The Union Cabinet gave its approval to The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016** to change names of the High Courts based on the nomenclature cities they are located.  
**Note:**  
➤ The Bill facilitates changing of the names of 'Madras High Court as Chennai High Court' and 'Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court' respectively.  
➤ After the enactment of this act, the High Courts of Bombay and Madras will named after the names of the cities in which they were located.
40. Government launched National Green Highways Mission (NGHM), a plantation drive around 1500 km of National Highways. It was launched by the Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari in New Delhi.
41. The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZA) in Darjeeling, West Bengal received a male **snow leopard named Makalu** from London's Dudley Zoological Gardens.
42. Union Cabinet approved 10,000 crore **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)** – The govt. setting up of **Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS)** under Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for extending support to Startups.  
**Note:**



- This 10,000 crore rupees corpus fund will be established in line with the Start up India Action Plan, an initiative of Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) which was unveiled by Union Government in January 2016.
  - The FFS will be used for the contribution of various Alternative Investment Funds (AIF) registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to extend funding support to Startups.
- 43. Aadhaar to be linked with caste, domicile certificates** - Union Government had asked all state governments to link Aadhaar with caste and domicile certificates to be issued to school students. It is the first-of-its-kind initiative to be undertaken by Union Government to issue these certificates to the students within 60 days when they are **studying in Class V or VIII**.
- Note:**
- Aadhaar is a **12-digit number** which acts as a proof of identity and address anywhere in the country.
  - It is considered as the world's largest national identification project.
  - Its objective is to collect the biometric and demographic data of residents, store them in a centralised database.
  - The Aadhaar number is issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
- 44. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena inaugurated Duraippah Stadium** in Jaffna which was renovated by India.
- 45. Lakshadweep** became the first in the country to sign the 24×7 Power For All document. This document envisions for providing 24×7 power supply to all households /homes, commercial and industrial consumers and to Agricultural consumers as per state policy. So far, 22 States have signed the '24×7 Power For All' Documents.
- 46. Guwahati becomes first city in India to have City Animal, declares River Dolphin as mascot** - The Assam state capital on Monday become the first city in the country to have its own City Animal with the Kamrup Metropolitan district administration declaring the Gangetic River Dolphin as the mascot.
- 47. Jawaharlal Nehru Port becomes India's first port to implement** Logistics Data Tagging of Containers - The implementation of the logistics data bank tagging of containers will help importers/exporters track their goods in transit through logistics data bank service.

**48. Railways Ministry launches NIVARAN portal** - The Railways Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu on 30 June 2016 launched NIVARAN portal, an online system for redressal of service related grievance of serving current and former railway employees.

**49. Swachh Yug campaign** to make gram **panchayats along Ganga open defecation free** - It is executed by the **Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation**, in partnership with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

- Its objective is to make all villages along the banks of the Ganga Open Defecation Free (ODF) in 5 States of **Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal**.
- There are 5169 villages along the river Ganga that fall under 1651 Gram Panchayats (GPs), 52 districts, and 5 States.

**50. Union HRD Ministry launches teacher education portal Prashikshak** - It is a teacher education portal, with a vision to strengthen District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and bring quality teachers into the Indian school education system.

**51. India became 35th full member of Missile Technology Control Regime** - India became the 35th full member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). This entry would be mutually beneficial to enhance global non-proliferation norms.

**Note:** Set up in 1987 by G-7 countries, the aim of the MTCR is to restrict the proliferation of missiles, complete rocket systems, unmanned air vehicles and related technology for those systems capable of carrying a 500 kilogram payload for at least 300 kilometres, as well as systems intended for the delivery of weapons of mass destruction.

**52. Union Ministry of Power launched 'URJA'- Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile** application for Urban Power Distribution Sector. It was launched by Union Power minister Piyush Goyal at Cansaulim in South Goa. The aim of the app is to enhance consumer connect with the Urban Power Distribution sector by providing information of IT enabled towns.

**53. Govt. launches Vidyanjali Mobile App for volunteer work at government schools** - Vidyanjali initiative is in line with the Union HRD Ministry's ongoing efforts under Padhe Bharat Badhe Bharat.

**Key Points -**

- Vidyanjali is being launched in pilot phase across 2200 schools in 21 states by HRD Minister.



- Volunteers can easily register for Vidyanjali by logging on to the MyGov website or app @mygovindia.
  - Volunteers, however, cannot supplement the work of teachers by aiding them in the classroom as the Right to Education Act does not permit this sort of teaching.
  - They will only be allowed to help with non-scholastic activities such as reading and theatre.
  - This will also afford an opportunity to NRIs to do something to help the cause of government school education while visiting India.
- 54. Union Government has launched various projects under Namami Gange programme for cleaning of river Ganga and its tributaries from Haridwar, Uttarakand. It was launched by Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti.**
- 55. The Union Government has unveiled National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP), 2016 for adaptation of comprehensive exploration of non-fuel and non-coal mineral resources. It was unveiled by the Union Minister of Steel and Mines Narendra Singh Tomar at National conclave on mines and minerals at Raipur in Chhattisgarh.**
- 56. Microsoft to design app for HRD Ministry's SWAYAM platform** - Under this platform ministry is going to launch 2000 Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) for over three crore students in the year 2016.  
**Note: SWAYAM:** stands for Study Webs of Active-Learning for Young Aspiring Minds. It is the Indian electronic e-education platform which proposes to offer courses from the high school stage to Post-Graduate stage in an interactive electronic platform.
- 57. The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has launched 'MySpeed' mobile application for measuring real time mobile Internet speed that consumers get. This is the first application to be launched under the Digital India initiative, which is directly trying to tackle the issue of poor data speeds.**
- 58. The world's largest Charkha unveiled at the Terminal 3 of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGI) in New Delhi. It was unveiled by the Union Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Minister Kalraj Mishra to remind India's timeless heritage and the values of sustainability and harmony that it stands for. The Charkha made from high-quality Burma teak wood. It weighs four-tones and is 9 feet wide, 17 feet tall and 30 feet long.**
- 59. Champaran Satyagrah Express train** has been introduced to mark 100 years of the historic Champaran Satyagraha launched by Mahatma Gandhi in 1917 - Union Railways Ministry has flagged off **Champaran Satyagrah Express** train at a function in Motihari, Bihar. This train will run between Bapudham, Motihari to Anand Vihar, Delhi.
- 60. The United States has recognised India as a major defence partner which will pave way to bring it closest US allies for defence related trade and technology transfer**
- 61. Dia Mirza named ambassador for Swachh Saathi programme.** Swachh Saathi programme is a youth-based programme of Swachh Bharat Mission. Under it, more than 2000 interns will be enrolled to coordinate around 10000 schools across India. They also will ensure that all students in the schools across India take the pledge for Clean India.
- 62. Union Cabinet gives nod for incorporation of Six new IITs; Upgrades Indian School of Mines to IIT - These six new IITs will come up at following places:** Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh, Palakkad in Kerala, Dharwar in Karnataka, Bhilai in Chhattisgarh, Goa, Jammu in Jammu & Kashmir  
**IMS Dhanbad upgraded to IIT** - The above Amendment is also for conversion of Indian School of Mines (ISM), Dhanbad into an IIT by bringing it into the ambit of the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 and also declaring it as an institute of national importance.  
**NIT at Andhra Pradesh** - The cabinet also gave ex post facto approval to set up NIT, Andhra Pradesh which has been registered as a Society under the Andhra Pradesh Societies Registration Act, 2001. The approval will give a legal entity to the NIT.
- 63. The Union Government launched Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) portal (<http://kvk.icar.gov.in>).** It was launched by Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh in New Delhi. The portal aims to provide information and advisory to the farmers and facilitate online monitoring of the KVK activities.
- 64. Delhi Government has launched 'DVAT M SEWA' mobile app through which city traders can register themselves with the VAT department of the state government.**
- 65. Andhra Pradesh to become First "Open Defaction Free" State to make 100% free from Open Defection**
- 66. Surya Mitra Mobile App** - launched by Union **Ministry of Power** to enhance the employment of trained youth in solar PV technology.
- 67. Sikkim became first Indian state to launch open government data portal to promote transparency**

68. India's first **AYUSH university** will be set up in **Haryana**. The university will be formed by upgrading Shri Krishna Government Ayurvedic College in Kurukshetra and would offer undergraduate and postgraduate courses in all the AYUSH systems
69. **IRCTC Air** Mobile app has been launched by the IRCTC for flight ticket booking. A maximum of 9 passengers can be booked on one PNR through net banking, for only Rs. 10 per PNR.
70. **Ministry of Rural Development signed pact with ISRO for geo-tagging** assets in each gram panchayat. As per the pact, a Gram Rozgar Sahayak or junior engineer will take a photo of an asset created by beneficiaries of the scheme and through a mobile app created by ISRO upload the photo on the Bhuvan web portal run by ISRO's National Remote Sensing Centre.
71. **112**, the single emergency number that will help people to reach immediate services of police, ambulance and fire department will be operational throughout India from **1 January 2017**.
72. Govt. approved establishment of third National Investment and Manufacturing Zone at **Kalinganagar industrial area in Jajpur** (Odisha)
73. Government has enforced the decision of retirement fund body EPFO to almost double the maximum sum assured under its insurance scheme from **3.6 lakh to 6 lakh rupees**.
74. **Sahapedia** is the India's first online interactive heritage portal. The web portal is a collaborative knowledge resource on the arts, culture and heritage of India.
75. **Kochi Airport** becomes the world's first airport to completely operate on solar power.
76. India's first **Metrino Pod** project will come up in **Gurgaon (Gurugram)**  
**Note:** The Union Government has approved India's first Metrino Pod project i.e. Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) network for Gurgaon, Haryana.
77. **"DEEP" (Discovery of Efficient Electricity Price)** web portal has been launched for the acquisition of short-term power by DISCOMs.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ The Union Government has launched the "DEEP" web portal, an e-Bidding & e-Reverse Auction portal, for the acquisition of short-term power by Distribution Companies (DISCOMs). The web portal will ensure the continuous flow of power from seller to the buyer.
78. **Ministry of Human Resource Development** launched the **International Standard Book Number** (ISBN) portal, to facilitate publishers and authors to register for ISBN online.
79. **East Coast Railway**, railway zone has become the largest freight loading railway zone of Indian Railways in FY 2015-16.
80. **Subhash Palekar** popularly known as "**Krishi ka Rishi**" (the "sage of agriculture"), is a famous exponent of natural farming.
81. India & France signed MOU on Jaitapur nuclear reactor. The Jaitapur nuclear reactor located in Maharashtra.
82. **Vidyut Pravah** mobile app launched by Union Government to empower common people to demand 24x7 Power.
83. India's first cash giving app "**CASHe**" launched by the Tslc Pte Ltd, a fin-tech company. This application offers immediate cash loans based on users social profile, merit and earning potential with the support of various algorithms and machine learning.
84. The maximum speed of the India's first semi high-speed train "**Gatimaan Express** is **160 Kmph**  
**Note:** India's fastest train Gatimaan Express "Gatimaan Express" has been flagged off from Hazrat Nizamuddin Railway station to Agra Cantt. Station.
85. **Bedaquiline**, a newly launched vaccine by Health Ministry, for **Tuberculosis** disease.
86. **Antyodaya Expres** is the newly introduced fully unreserved, superfast train in India.  
**Note:**  
 ➤ **Humsafar** is the fully air-conditioned third AC service with an optional service for meals.  
 ➤ **Tejas** will be operating at speeds of 130 kmph and above, it will offer onboard services such as entertainment, local cuisine, Wi-Fi, etc.  
 ➤ **Utkrisht Double-Decker Air-conditioned Yatri (UDAY)** Express will be on busiest routes, which has the potential to increase carrying capacity by almost 40%.
87. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) will be located in **Gurgaon**.
88. **Air India** operated world's longest all-women crew international flight from New Delhi to San Francisco.
89. Prime Minister Narendra Modi selected **Nagepur** village in his Varanasi Constituency of U.P. for development under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY).  
**Note:**  
 ➤ Earlier, Prime Minister had adopted **Jayapur** village in the same Varanasi constituency in the first phase in 2014.

90. Germany will partner with India to develop **Kochi, Bhubaneswar and Coimbatore** as smart cities.
91. **Suryassangyini Chaudhary** become the youngest person to climb the Mt. Kangchenjunga base camp in

Sikkim. She is from Baraut in **Baghpat district, Uttar Pradesh**.

## International

1. **Barack Obama designates first US Marine National Monument in Atlantic Ocean** - The United States President Barack Obama designated the country's first marine national monument, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, in the Atlantic Ocean.
2. France has become the first country in the world to ban disposable plastic cups and plates.
3. World's **first driverless bus** service launched in **French city of Lyon**.
4. For the first time, the UN Charter, the seminal treaty of the United Nations (UN) translated into **Sanskrit Language**.
5. The World Health Organisation certified Sri Lanka a malaria-free nation.  
**Note:** Sri Lanka is the second country in the WHO South-East Asia Region to eliminate malaria after **Maldives**.
6. The United States President Barack Obama designated the country's first marine national monument, Northeast Canyons and Seamounts Marine National Monument, in the **Atlantic Ocean**.
7. World's **first self-driving taxi** service launched in **Singapore**.  
**Note:** With this, Singapore became the first country in the world to launch such service, beating Uber Technologies Inc by mere days to public road tests of a technology that could revolutionize the transport industry.
8. Forbes releases Sixth Annual List of The World's Most Innovative Companies 2016 - The list is topped by **Tesla Motors** for the second consecutive year.  
**Note:**
  - ✓ **Five** major Indian companies including **Asian Paints, Hindustan Unilever, Tata Consultancy Services, Sun Pharma and Larsen & Toubro** have been ranked among other companies in the list.
- ✓ At number 18, **Asian Paints** is the highest-ranked Indian company on the list, featuring on the list for the fourth time in a row.
- ✓ Tesla Motors tops the list for the second consecutive year, followed by Salesforce at the second position in the list.
- ✓ Regeneron Pharmaceuticals grabbed the third spot in the list, followed by Incyte at fourth place and Alexion Pharmaceuticals at fifth place.
9. Forbes releases list of The World's Highest-Paid Actresses 2016
  - ✓ The list is topped **Jennifer Lawrence** with 46 million US dollars in her pocket.
  - ✓ At second position Melissa McCarthy (33 million US dollars) followed by Scarlett Johansson (25 million US dollars) and Jennifer Aniston (21 million US dollars) at third and fourth position respectively.
  - ✓ Indian actress Deepika Padukone is the only newcomer to the World's Highest-Paid Actresses list and the only Indian star to make the cut.
10. India ranked at **7th position** among 10 wealthiest countries - As per the rankings in the report, India is the **seventh richest country** in the world with a total individual wealth of **5.6 trillion US dollars**.
  - ✓ The **United States** is the wealthiest in the world in terms of total individual wealth held at 48900 billion US dollars.
  - ✓ **China** stood second and **Japan** third, with total individual wealth of 17400 billion US dollars and 15100 billion US dollars, respectively.
  - ✓ New World Wealth is a global wealth intelligence and market research company based in Johannesburg, South Africa.
11. **First woman governor of Tokyo** - Former Japanese Defence Minister Yuriko Koike elected as the **first woman governor of Tokyo**, the capital city of Japan
12. India becomes first contributor to UN Trust Fund for sexual abuse victims - The United Nations Department of Field Support (DFS) announced that India provided 100000 US dollar for the Trust Fund in support of victims of sexual exploitation and abuse.

- ✓ With this, India has become the first country in the world to make a contribution to the Trust Fund.
  - ✓ The UN Secretariat had requested voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund when it was established.
13. China has launched first mobile telecom satellite.
- Note:**
- The Tiantong-01 satellite was launched at southwestern China's Xichang Satellite Launch Center with the Long March-3B carrier rocket.
  - It was designed by China Academy of Space Technology and its ground service will be operated by China Telecom.
14. Earl the tropical storm that triggered landslides in Mexico.
15. NITI Aayog has signed agreement to set up web portal on energy data with **US Energy Information Administration**.
- Note:**
- The portal will host data including oil & gas, coal, solar & thermal energy etc.
16. Longest and highest glass-bottomed bridge in the world will open in **China**.
- Note:**
- It is **430 m long** and **6 m wide bridge**, concreted with 99 panes of three-layer transparent glasses and connects two mountain cliffs of Avatar Mountain and stands 300m above ground.
  - 8,000 visitors are allowed to cross the bridge **every day** and a reservation must be made **one day** prior to visiting.
17. Indian has signed pact with Germany on vocational training.
18. The **Bangladesh** accounted for the highest share of tourist arrival in India.
19. World's largest indoor theme park will open in **Dubai**.
19. **Sweden inaugurates world's first electric road** - Sweden inaugurated a test stretch of an electric road. With this, the country has become one of the first countries in the world to conduct tests with electric power for heavy transports on public roads.
20. The world's longest and deepest rail tunnel has recently opened in **Switzerland**. The 57 km (35-mile) twin-bore Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT) will provide a high-speed rail link under the Swiss Alps between Northern and Southern Europe.
21. India organized 1st Yoga Championship in **Egypt** in June 2016.
22. The "Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India" has been organized in the **Hungary**.
23. **Aida Gemanque** (106-year old) woman of **Brazil** became the oldest Olympic torch bearer in the world.
24. **Arktika, the most powerful nuclear icebreaker launched by Russia** - Russia launched the new Project 22220 nuclear icebreaker dubbed 'Arktika'. It was launched from the Baltic Shipyard in St. Petersburg – the second largest city of Russia.
- Note: Project 22220** is the world's largest and most powerful vessel of its kind and it has been built at the Baltic Shipyard of the United Shipbuilding Corporation of Russia.
25. **Norway becomes World's First Country to Ban Deforestation**
26. **Mumbai is India's most expensive city: Mercer survey** - Mumbai (82) is India's most expensive city, followed by New Delhi (130) and Chennai (158), according to the 2016 Cost of Living Survey by Mercer, the New York-based human resource consultancy. Kolkata (194) and Bengaluru (180) are the least expensive Indian cities ranked.
- Note: Globally, Hong Kong topped the list of most expensive cities** for expatriates, pushing Luanda, Angola, to second position. **Zurich and Singapore** remained in third and fourth positions, respectively, whereas Tokyo is in fifth, up six places from last year.
27. **China launches first Dark Sky Reserve in Tibet to limit light pollution** - China launched its first dark sky reserve in Ngari Prefecture, Tibet. The purpose of the dark sky reserve is to limit light pollution and preserve sites for making astronomical observations. It was jointly launched by the China Biodiversity Conservation and Green Development Foundation and the regional government of Tibet.
- About Ngari Prefecture**
- Ngari Prefecture is a prefecture of China's Tibet Autonomous Region.
  - Its capital is Gar County.
  - It includes part of the Aksai Chin area, a disputed region claimed by India but over which China exercises administrative control.
28. **Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La Dialogue** inaugurated in Singapore. It is the 15th Asia Security Summit to openly discuss and debate security matters in the Asia-Pacific region.
29. According to the WHO - **Thailand** becomes first Asian country to eliminate mother-to-child transmission of HIV. The country also gained the tag of becoming an AIDS free generation country.



30. **China** developed World's first **graphene** electronic paper.
31. As per report of World Malaria Report 2015 of WHO, **Europe** has become first in the world to end malaria.
32. **Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd.** become the first to join a global energy productivity campaign "EP100".  
**Note:** The campaign is a brainchild of the "Climate Group", an international non-profit organization, which helps businesses from all over the world to increase their energy productivity and thereby lessen their carbon footprints.
33. India has offered to invest up to 20 billion US dollars in **Iran's** energy industry, subject to provision of concessional rights. The two nations, also discussed developments regarding **Farzad-B gas field**.
34. **Sri Lanka** and **China** to develop the Colombo Port City project.
35. **Nauru** becomes the **189th member** of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.
36. Mossack Fonseca & Co. is in news, is a company from **Panama**. The firm has received worldwide media attention in 2016, when an enormous cache of its documents was provided to news media in the **Panama Papers leak of information on off-shore tax havens**.
37. Iceland Prime Minister **Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson** resigned after his name was revealed in Panama paper leaks.
38. **Philippines** launched world's first mass dengue vaccination, with a French drug Dengvaxia (world's 1st dengue fever vaccine) to combat mosquito-borne disease.
39. The first Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) chair established in **Egypt**.  
**Note:** India will institute its first Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) chair in the Arab world at Ain Shams University (ASU) in Cairo, Egypt.
40. The world's most expensive train station opened **New York**.
41. **China** has announced to set up its own International Maritime Judicial Centre (IMJC)
42. The world's first fully electric-powered double-decker bus launched in **United Kingdom**

### States News

1. **Maharashtra government has launched 'Kaushalya Setu'**, a skill development programme for students - Students of Maharashtra State Board of Secondary & Higher Secondary Education who failed to clear Class X or SSC exam, will be accommodated in skill development courses. The main aim of the initiative to compensate loss of one year of students who have failed matriculation examination by providing skill-oriented training.
2. **Jharkhand** has become the first state in the country to implement **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** in Kerosene Scheme. The scheme is being implemented in four identified districts of the state from 1st of October 2017. These districts are Chatra, Hazaribagh, Khunti and Jamtara.
3. **Rajasthan** has become the **first state in India** to adopt Central Government's **Street Lighting National** Programme (SLNP) in all its urban local bodies (ULB).
4. The world's largest solar power plant with an installed capacity of 648MW was commissioned at **Kamudhi in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu**. The plant was set up on an area of around 5,000 acres by Adani Group at a total cost of Rs 4,550 crore. It was connected to the grid through a sub-station.
5. **Rajasthan** has become the first state in the country **to approve sewage** and waste water policy.
6. India's **first e-court** opened at **Hyderabad** High Court. Hyderabad High Court is the common high court for the states of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana
7. Assam's **Majuli** becomes **first island district** of India - Assam's Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Majuli as the 35th district of Assam. With this, Majuli became India's first island district.  
**Note:** Guinness World Records declare Majuli as the largest river island
8. **Gumthala Garhu near Pehowa** became the **first Wifi hotspot village** in **Haryana** circle under the bulk plan of BSNL for the state.



9. **Gujarat** become the first state to distribute **2 crore LED bulbs** under Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) scheme.
10. South India's first Children's Court inaugurated in **Hyderabad**.
11. Nagaland Government decided to grant 33 percent reservation to women in Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The decision was taken during a cabinet meeting held in Kohima.
12. India's first Water Metro project launched in Kochi, Kerala. It is the first ever Water Metro project in the country.

### First in India (2016)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. India's first Civil Aviation park – <b>Gujarat</b></li> <li>14. India's first Space park – <b>Bengaluru</b></li> <li>15. India's first solar powered ferry – <b>Kerala</b></li> <li>16. India's first IT co-operative UL CyberPark – <b>Kerala</b></li> <li>17. India's first ever Gender Park – <b>Kerala</b></li> <li>18. India's first LCD panel plant - <b>Maharashtra</b></li> <li>19. India's first railway university set up in - <b>Vadodara, Gujarat</b></li> <li>20. India's first underwater restaurant - <b>Ahmedabad</b></li> <li>21. India's first National Organic Farming Research Institute – <b>Sikkim</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>22. India's first Fully Solar – powered educational institute – <b>Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education, Pondicherry</b></li> <li>23. India's first self-cleaning smart toilets have been installed in – <b>Chennai</b></li> <li>24. India's first digital state - <b>Kerala</b></li> <li>25. India's first rail-auto transportation and logistics hub will come up in which state - <b>Walajabad, Chennai, Tamil Nadu</b></li> <li>26. India's first online interactive heritage portal – <b>Sahapedia</b></li> <li>27. First Defence park located in – <b>Ottappalam, Kerala</b></li> </ol> |
|--|--|

### Art & Culture

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Kerala celebrates Harvest Festival <b>Vishu</b></li> <li>2. 'Gudi Padwa' festival celebrated in <b>Maharashtra</b></li> <li>3. <b>Sajibu Cheiraoba</b> festival celebrated in <b>Manipur</b></li> <li>4. <b>Simhastha</b> Kumbh mela 2016 begins in <b>Ujjain</b></li> <li>5. <b>Kerala, Thazhathangady Juma</b> Mosque opens doors to women for the first time</li> <li>6. <b>Traditional Chapchar</b> Kut Festival Celebrated Across <b>Mizoram</b></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. <b>Nagaland</b> Information Commission Rated – “one of the best”</li> <li>8. <b>Honey</b> festival Celebrated in <b>Mangaluru</b></li> <li>9. <b>World Sufi</b> Forum Inaugurated In <b>New Delhi</b></li> <li>10. <b>Arogya</b> Fair held in <b>Goa</b></li> <li>11. <b>Kashmiri</b> Pandits celebrated annual <b>Kheer Bhawani Festival</b></li> <li>12. <b>Andhra Pradesh</b> village, "Mori" to be developed as 'Smart Village'</li> </ol> |
|--|--|

### Important Agreements/ MoU Signed/ Deals: India & Abroad

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. India, Sri Lanka sign MoU to support fishermen in Hambantota district of Sri Lanka.</li> <li>2. India along with 10 other member countries of WHO's South-East Asian Regional Committee decided to set up a dedicated fund aimed at building preparedness for health emergencies in the Sri Lanka.</li> <li>3. <b>India, Greece sign Air Services Agreement under Open Sky Policy</b> - India signed the bilateral Air</li> </ol> | <p>Services Agreement with Greece to allow unlimited points of call for domestic airlines in Greece.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. India, Egypt sign agreement in area of Maritime Transport</li> <li>5. India and the United States signed Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA). The logistics agreement will enable the forces of the two nations to use each other's bases for repair and replenishment of supplies.</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

6. **World Bank to provide \$1 bn for India solar projects** - The World Bank on Thursday committed USD 1 billion (about 625 million or Rs 6,750 crore) to support solar energy programme in India, which is reducing dependence on conventional energy sources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
7. **India & Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a **100 million dollars loan agreement** for irrigation projects, drainage system and water management in **Vennar sub-basin of Cauvery delta in Tamil Nadu**.
8. **Bangladesh & India** signed an agreement for the construction of a 1,320 megawatt (MW) coal fired **power plant near Sundarbans**.
9. Agreement between **India & Tanzania** in the field of Traditional Systems of **Medicine and Homeopathy**
10. Agreement between **India & Mauritius** in the field of **Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation**.
11. India signed agreement with Mozambique for **import of pulses**. The MoU aims to promote the production of Tur (Pigeon Peas) and other pulses in Mozambique by encouraging progressive increase in the trading of these pulses.
12. **Agreement between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC), Bhutan**. Decision in this regard was taken in the Union Cabinet Meeting presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi.
13. **India and Switzerland** have signed an agreement to establish formal cooperation in the fields of skills development and vocational and professional education and training.
14. The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the signing of a Protocol amending the Agreement between **India and Belgium for avoidance of double taxation**.
15. Agreement between Indian Space **Research Organization (ISRO)** and **Canadian Space Agency (CSA)** on cooperation in the field of outer space.
16. Agreement between India and Taiwan for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sector.
17. **The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF)** signed a MoU **with Qatar Investment Authority (QIA)** for facilitating investment in India's infrastructure.
18. India loan agreement of US 12 crore dollars with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in **Odisha**.
19. **World Bank approves \$63 million for Tejaswini Project in Jharkhand** - The World Bank Board approved the 63 million US dollar project, **Tejaswini: Socioeconomic Empowerment of Adolescent Girls and Young Women** in Jharkhand.  
**Note:** Tejaswini is the first World Bank project in India that is solely focused on the welfare of adolescent girls and young women.

## Obituaries / Person Died

### National

1. Reoti Saran Sharma - Hindi and Urdu writer passes away
2. Heisnam Kanhailal - Theatre legend of Manipur passes away
3. Yusuf Arakkal - Noted contemporary artist passes away
4. Nalinidhar Bhattacharyya - Noted Assamese poet, literary critic and author
5. Mahim Bora - Assamese litterateur
6. Sharad Rao - Veteran trade union leader
7. Akhlaqur Rahman Kidwai - Former Governor and a recipient of Padma Vibhushan
8. Sundaram - Tamil scriptwriter and director
9. Kalikho Pul - Former Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh
10. Gurdial Singh - Eminent Punjabi writer and novelist
11. TA Razaq - Malayalam filmmaker-scriptwriter
12. Gobind Tej - Veteran filmmaker and Odia actor
13. K K Sreedharan Nair - Former editor of 'Mathrubhumi'
14. Xerxes Sapur Desai - Founder of Titan (watch)
15. **Joe Antic** - India's Olympic Silver Medalist
16. **Amal Dutta** - former India player and first professional full-time football coach
17. Om Prakash Sonik (also known as Omi) - Noted music director
18. Ramchandra Chintaman Dhare - Eminent Marathi literary scholar
19. KG Subramanyan - Renowned painter
20. Isak Chishi Swu - Naga rebel leader

21. Kavalam Narayana Panicker - Noted Malayalam theatre artist
22. Neil O'Brien - Pioneer of Indian quizzing
23. Guda Anjaiah - Noted Telangana poet and lyricist
24. Prabir Mukherjee - The former Eden Gardens curator
25. **Balu** - Tamil actor-director
26. Jeppiaar - Renowned Educationalist
27. Manimala Devi - Veteran Odia actress
28. Mudrarakshasa - Renowned Hindi writer
29. Achyut Lahkar - Noted Playwright and Actor

30. Inder Malhotra - Veteran journalist
31. Gordie Howe - legendary ice hockey player
32. KK Katyal - Veteran Journalist
33. Sulabha Deshpande - Veteran actor
34. Manohar Aich - India's first Mr Universe
35. V T Thomas – **Cartoonist**
36. **Inder Malhotra** - Veteran journalist and former editor of The Times of India
37. "**M.H.P.Rao**" - Father of Madras Atomic Power Station

### International

1. Bhumibol Adulyadej - King of Thailand, passes away
2. **Shimon Peres**, former Prime Minister of Israel, dies
3. **Edward Albee** - Pulitzer-winning US playwright passes away
4. Lindsay Tuckett – South African, World's oldest cricketer passed away.
5. Islam Karimov - President of Uzbekistan
6. George E. Curry - Legendary journalist George E. Curry, considered the 'dean of black press columnists',
7. Sellapan Ramanathan - Singapore's longest serving president
8. Ahmed Zewail - Chemistry Prof and Nobel Laureate
9. Joao Havelange - Former FIFA president and IOC member
10. Forbes Carlile - Australia's oldest Olympian
11. Braj B Kachru - The Indian-American linguist and Jubilee Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at the University of Illinois
12. Muhammad Ali – Eminent professional boxer
13. William H McNeill – Renowned historian
14. Abdul Sattar Edhi - Eminent Pakistani philanthropist, social activist, ascetic and humanitarian
15. Michel Rocard - Former French Prime Minister
16. Donald Carr - Former England Cricket captain
17. Viktor Korchnoi - Chess Grandmaster
18. **Tony Cozier** - Legendary cricket commentator from West Indies

### New Books & Authors

1. "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" – authored by **Arundhati Roy**
2. "Modi's Midas Touch in Foreign Policy": authored by **Surendra Kumar**
3. "The Sleepwalker's Dream" - authored by **Dhrubajyoti Borah**
4. "Democrats and Dissenters" authored by **Ramachandra Guha**
5. The book "Far and Away: Reporting From the Brink of Change" has been authored by **Andrew Solomon**.
6. The book "Until the Lions: Echoes from the Mahabharata" has been authored by **Karthika Nair**.
7. The book "India Rising: Fresh Hope, New Fears" has been authored by **Ravi Velloor**.
8. The book "R D Burmania: Panchamemoirs" has been authored by **Chaitanya Padukone**.
9. The book "Grassroots Innovation" has been authored by **Anil K. Gupta**.
10. Author of the book "Gulbadan: Portrait of a Rose Princess at the Mughal Court" is **Margaret Rumer Godden**.
11. Author of the book 'What Lies Between Us' is **Nayomi Munaweera**.
12. Author of the book 'The Gospel of Yudas' is **K.R. Meera**.
13. Author of the book 'Police and Counter Insurgency-The Untold Story of Tripura's COIN Campaign' is **Kuldeep Kumar**.
14. Author of the book 'A Book of Light: When a Loved One Has a Different Mind' is **Jerry Pinto**.
15. Author of the book 'The Orphanage of Words' is **Shinie Antony**.
16. Author of the book 'The Ocean of Churn: How the Indian Ocean Shaped Human History' is **Sanjeev Sanyal**.
17. Author of the book 'One Indian Girl' is **Chetan Bhagat**.

18. Author of the book "Theatres of Democracy: Between the Epic and the Everyday – Selected Essays" is \_\_**Shiv Visvanathan**.
19. Author of the book 'book Life In Diplomacy' is \_\_\_\_ **M K Rasgotra**.
20. Author of the book "An Intimate History of Killing: Face to Face Killing in Twentieth Century Warfare" \_\_ **Joanna Bourke**.
21. Author of the autobiography "Chitt-Chete" written in Dogri language is \_\_\_\_ **Padma Sachdev**.
22. Book titled "**Who Moved My Interest Rate?**" authored by **Duvvuri Subbarao**, the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
23. Book titled "**The Unseen Indira Gandhi**" authored by **Dr KP Mathur**
24. Book titled "**A Life in Diplomacy**" written by former Indian diplomat Maharajakrishna Rasgotra.
25. Book titled "**Courage & Commitment: An Autobiography**" by Margaret Alva
26. Book "**MS: A life in Music**" authored by **T.J.S. George**
27. Book titled "**One Part Woman**" authored by Perumal Murugan
28. The book "**Ace against Odds**" is the autobiography of Indian tennis player **.Sania Mirza**
29. Book titled "**Beyond NJ 9842: The Siachen Saga**" authored by **Nitin Gokhale**
30. Book titled "**The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable**" authored by **Amitav Ghosh**
31. Book titled "**Ringside With Vijender**" is authored by **Rudraneil Sengupta**
32. Book titled "**The making of India: The untold story of British Enterprises**" authored by Kartar Lalvani
33. Book titled '**Blood on my Hands: Confessions of Staged Encounter**' authored by **Kishlay Bhattacharjee**
34. Book titled '**Shashi Kapoor - the Householder, the Star**' authored by **Aseem Chhabra**
35. Book titled '**The Kiss of Life**' authored by **Emraan Hashmi**
36. Book titled '**Anything But Khamosh: The Shatrughan Sinha Biography**' authored by **Bharathi S Pradhan**
37. Book titled '**A State in Denial**' authored by **BG Verghese**
38. Book titled '**No Time to Pause**' authored by - **Pavithra Ramesh**
39. Book titled '**Param Vir: A War Diary**' authored by - **Manju Lodha**
40. Book titled '**Hindutva or Hind Swaraj**' authored by - **U.R. Ananthamurthy**
41. Book titled "**Flying in High Winds: A Memoir**" authored by - **K. Mishra**
42. Book titled '**Alphabet Soup for Lovers**' authored by - **Anita Nair**
43. Book titled '**The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler**' authored by - **James Cross Giblin**
44. Book titled '**The Story of Kashmir through the Ages**' authored by - **Arjan Nath Chaku**
45. Book titled "**Framed As a Terrorist: My 14-Year Old Struggle to Prove My Innocence**" authored by - **Mohammad Aamir Khan**
46. Book titled "**Standing Guard— A year in Opposition**"? authored by - **P Chidambaram**
47. Book titled "**Gandhi: An Illustrated Biography**" authored by – **Pramod Kapoor**
48. Book titled "**That Long Silence**" authored by – **Shashi Deshpande**
49. Book titled "**Fixed! Cash and Corruption in Cricket**" authored by - **Shantanu Guha Ray**
50. Book titled "**Standing On An Apple Box**" authored by – **Aishwarya Dhanush**
51. Book titled "**Who was Shivaji?**" authored by - **Govind Pansare**
52. Book titled '**The Z Factor**,' a book written by **Subhash Chandra**

## Awards & Honours

### National

1. The Tamil film "**Visaranai**" has been selected as the **India's official entry to Oscars 2017** (89th Academy Awards) in the Foreign Language Film category.

**Note:** The film has been directed by **Vetrimaran** and is produced by actor **Dhanush's Wunderbar Films**. It is based on **M.Chandrakumar's novel Lock Up**.

2. **Murga has won the first prize** at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival (SBSFF). The short film was

directed by young filmmaker **Katyayan** Shivpuri from Maharashtra.

3. **Mathrubhumi Literary Award 2016** – Eminent writer **C Radhakrishnan** chosen for Mathrubhumi Literary Award 2016 in recognition of his contribution to the field of literature.
4. **24th Ekalabya Award** - Sprinter **Srabani Nanda** won the **24th Ekalabya Award** for the year 2016 in recognition of her sporting excellence.
5. **2016 Sustainable Development Leadership Award** - **Pawan Chamling**, the Chief Minister of Sikkim, conferred the prestigious 2016 Sustainable Development Leadership Award.
6. **Former ISRO** chief **U R Rao** becomes first Indian to be inducted into International Aeronautical Federation (IAF) Hall of Fame
7. **Saraswati Samman for year 2015** - Eminent author **Padma Sachdev** conferred with the prestigious Saraswati Samman for the year 2015 for her autobiography '**Chitt-Chete**' written in **Dogri** language.
8. Wildlife film-maker **Prajna Chowta** conferred **knighthood by France** - Film-maker and elephant researcher Prajna Chowta was recently appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit) by the French Government.
9. Indian-origin **Kiara Nirghin** wins Google Science Fair prize 2016. She won this grand prize of 50000 US dollars scholarship for using orange peel to develop a cheaper super-absorbent material that helps soil retain water.
10. **29th Moortidevi Award** - Noted Telugu writer Prof. Kalakaluri Enoch conferred with Moortidevi Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith for the year 2015 at function in New Delhi. The award was given for his novel **Ananta Jeevanam**.
11. Veteran music director and violinist Uttam Singh named for the **2016 Lata Mangeskar** Award for Lifetime Achievement of the Maharashtra Government.
12. **Vyas Samman award 2015** - Hindi scholar and writer **Sunita Jain** awarded with the prestigious 25th Vyas Samman 2015 for her poetry collection Kshama.
13. **National Sports Award 2016** –  
 (i) **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** - P.V. Sindhu for Badminton, Dipa Karmakar for Gymnastics, Jitu Rai for Shooting and Sakshi Malik for Wrestling.  
**Note:** The award is given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of

sports by a sportsperson over a period of four years.

(ii) **Dronacharya Awards** - Six sports coaches will be honoured with Dronacharya Awards and they are Nagapuri Ramesh for Athletics, Sagar Mal Dhayal for Boxing, Raj Kumar Sharma for Cricket, Bishweshwar Nandi for Gymnastics, S Pradeep Kumar for Swimming (Lifetime) and Mahabir Singh for Wrestling (Lifetime).

✓ Dipa Karmakar's coach Bishweshwar Nandi will receive the award for Gymnastics.

**Note:** The award is conferred on coaches for producing medal winners at prestigious international sports events.

(iii) **Arjuna Awards** - 15 sports person from different discipline of sports were selected for the award and they are **Rajat Chauhan for Archery**, Lalita Babar for Athletics, Sourav Kothari for Billiards & Snooker, Shiva Thapa for Boxing, Ajinkya Rahane for Cricket, Subrata Paul for Football, Rani for Hockey, Raghunath VR for Hockey, Gurpreet Singh for Shooting, Apurvi Chandela for Shooting, Soumyajit Ghosh for Table Tennis, Vinesh for Wrestling, Amit Kumar for Wrestling, Sandeep Singh Mann for Para-Athletics and Virender Singh for Wrestling (Deaf).

(iv) **Dhyan Chand Award 2015** - Athlete Satti Geetha, hockey player Sylvanus Dung Dung and Rower Rajendra Pralhad Shelke.

**Note:** The award is conferred for life time contribution to sports development.

(v) **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy: Punjabi University, Patiala**. The trophy is given to the overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments.

14. **G. Satheesh Reddy**, Indian aerospace scientist, conferred with the **first IEI-IEEE Award** for engineering excellence 2015.

15. **A R Rahman** honoured with Tamil Ratna Award

16. **APJ Abdul Kalam award** - Central Leather Research Institute's (CLRI) Principal Scientist **P Shanmugam** bagged the APJ Abdul Kalam Award for his meritorious services in the Higher Education Department of Tamil Nadu.

17. **Sangeet Martand Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award** - Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma.  
**Note:** The Sursagar Society of Dilli Gharana will confer the annual Sangeet Martand Ustad Chand Khan Lifetime Achievement Award on santoor maestro **Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma**.

18. **Bharat Gaurav Award** - Kolkata's football club East Bengal announced that the 2016 Bharat Gaurav Award,



also known as Pride of India Award, will be conferred on legendary athlete **Milkha Singh**.

19. **Sangita Kalanidhi Award 2016** – Versatile violinist **A. Kanyakumari** chosen for Sangita Kalanidhi Award for the year 2016. The award will be presented by Madras Music Academy.
20. **Mahanayak Samman of West Bengal - Bappi Lahiri**, the renowned music director and singer, was conferred with West Bengal's Mahanayak Samman by Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.
21. **N Chandra, Bollywood** film-maker honoured with the Lifetime Achievement award at the 8th edition of Goa State Film Festival 2016.
22. **Shubha Mudgal** honoured with the 23rd edition of 2016 Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award
23. **Syed Nayeemuddin**, former India football team captain has been conferred with the Mohun Bagan FC's prestigious Mohun Bagan Ratna (jewel) for 2016.
24. **Best Horticulture State' award - Haryana** bagged 'Best Horticulture State' award for the concerted efforts made by the state government to increase the income of the farmers in horticulture.
25. **Thithi wins Best Film Award at first BRICS Film Festival** - Acclaimed Kannada movie Thithi won the Best Film Award at the first BRICS Film Festival, which concluded in New Delhi.
26. **2015 J C Daniel Award** - Veteran award-winning film director **K.G. George** won the prestigious J.C. Daniel Award for his overall contribution to the Malayalam film industry.
27. **Kerala Tourism wins Gold at PATA Awards** - Kerala Tourism won two Gold Gongs at the Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA) Awards. Kerala Tourism bagged the award in recognition of its trend setting marketing initiatives, which have given a boost to the state's profile as a must-visit destination.
28. **51st Jnanpith Award Conferred on Dr. Raghuveer Chaudhari**
  - **Note:** With this, he also became the fourth Gujarati literary artist to receive the prestigious award. The other Gujarati recipients of the award are poet Umashankar Joshi (1967), novelist Pannalal Patel (1985) and poet Rajendra Shah (2001).
29. **Radhika Menon becomes first woman to bag IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea** - Captain Radhika Menon selected for the 2016 International

Maritime Organization (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

➤ **Note:**

(i) She became the first female to receive the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea.

(ii) She is the **first woman captain in the Indian Merchant Navy**.

30. **Zubaida Bai wins UN honour for corporate sustainability initiative** - Zubaida Bai, Indian social entrepreneur, in the fourth week of June 2016 was named among the top 10 Local SDG Pioneers for 2016.
31. **2016 Caine Prize** - South African writer, filmmaker and photographer **Lidudumalingani Mqomboti** won the 17th edition of prestigious Caine Prize 2016 for his short story Memories We Lost.
  - **Note:** The Caine Prize is an annual literature prize awarded to an African writer of a short story published in the English language.
32. **International Indian Film Academy IIFA Awards 2016 presented** - The 17th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016 were presented on 25 June 2016 in Madrid, Spain.
 

**List of 2016 IIFA Awards**

  - (i) Best Film - Bajrangi Bhaijaan
  - (ii) Best Director - Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Bajirao Mastani
  - (iii) Best Actor - Ranveer Singh for Bajirao Mastani
  - (iv) Best Actress - Deepika Padukone for Piku
  - (v) Best Actor in a Supporting Role - Anil Kapoor for Dil Dhadakne Do
  - (vi) Best Actress in a Supporting Role - Priyanka Chopra for Bajirao Mastani
  - (vii) Best Story - Juhi Chaturvedi for Piku
33. **G D Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2015** - IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal conferred with the award.
 

**Note:** Sanjay Mittal is a Professor of computational fluid dynamics in the Department of Aerospace Engineering at IIT-Kanpur. G D Birla Award for Scientific Research was instituted in 1991 by the K. K. Birla Foundation.
34. **Mohun Bagan Ratna Award** - Syed Nayeemuddin has been selected for the Mohun Bagan Ratna award for his overall contribution to the club and the country both as a player and as a coach.
35. **Modi's mother given Nari Jagran Samman 2016 award** - Somabhai Damodar Das Modi, elder brother of Narendra Modi received the award on behalf of his mother Heeraben

36. **Arunachal tiger** reserve bags **biodiversity award**.
37. ISRO ex-chairman UR Rao becomes first Indian in International Astronautical Federation's 'Hall of Fame'.
38. **Kerala bags** LPMT's 'Best Family **Destination**' 2016 **award**.
39. **63rd National Film Awards**. Venue – New Delhi.
  - (i) Best Feature Film - Baahubali – The Beginning
  - (ii) Best Director - Sanjay Leela Bhansali for 'Bajirao Mastani'
  - (iii) Best Actor - Amitabh Bachchan for 'Piku'
  - (iv) Best Actress - Kangana Ranaut for 'Tanu Weds Manu Returns'
  - (v) Gujarat named the Most Film-Friendly State at the 63rd National Film Awards
40. Maharashtra's hailed eminent businessman-politician **Pankaj Parakh** called **The Man With The Golden Shirt** has secured a place in the Guinness World Records (GWR). Gold shirt costs a staggering Rs. 98,35,099.
41. **Andhra Pradesh** agriculture project wins **International Information prize**.
42. Corporation Bank gets "Excellence Award on Empowering MSMEs 2016".
43. **SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring** Service of **Nagaland** bags National award.
44. **MP Tourism** wins 'Best **Indian Destination for Wildlife**' award
45. **Gorakhpur scientist** bags SGD 3mn grant from Singapore's NRF
46. Sikkim CM Chamling honoured with Nepal's literary award.
47. Prime Minister Narendra Modi bestowed with **Saudi Arabia's highest civilian order award** dubbed King Abdulaziz Sash. The honour was named after Abdulaziz Al Saud, the founder of the modern Saudi state.
48. Ranveer Singh honoured as "Maharashtrian of The Year"
49. Chess maestro **Viswanathan Anand** will be honoured with the **Hridaynath Award**
50. Delhi girl Priyadarshini Chatterjee crowned Miss India World 2016
51. **Priyanka Chopra** to be conferred with **Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award** 2016
52. **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** won Global **Indian of the Year 2016 award**
53. Ex-army chief **JJ Singh** gets highest **French civilian honour**
54. **Jammu& Kashmir** born poet and novelist **Padma Sachdev** chosen for the prestigious **Saraswati Samman** for the year 2015 for her autobiography named 'ChittChete' written in Dogri language and published in 2007.
55. Indian documentary 'Undercover Asia: Girls for Sale' wins bronze medal New York Festivals 2016. "Undercover Asia: Girls for Sale" Director – Radhika Chandrasekhar; Producer – Pria Somiah
56. **Manoj Bajpayee** conferred with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award** for Aligarh
57. Jagendra Singh gets press club award for bravery in Journalism
58. **Bihari puraskar prize** of 2015 - 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**'.  
**Note:** The award 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.
59. Doha Bank CEO Dr. R Seetharaman conferred with 2016 Green Economy Visionary Award

### International

**Nobel Prize 2016** - The prizes were announced in different sections, namely Physics, Chemistry, Physiology, Literature, Peace and Economics.

**1. The Nobel Peace Prize 2016 – Juan Manuel Santos (Colombia President)** – The awarded was conferred to Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end, a war that took away the lives of at least 220000 Colombians and displaced nearly six million people.

**2. The Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 - Bob Dylan** won the 2016 Nobel Prize in Literature. He was bestowed with the precious award for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.

**3. The Nobel Prize in Physics 2016 - David J Thouless, F Duncan M Haldane and J Michael Kosterlitz – Awarded for** - theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter.

**4. The Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2016 – Yoshinori Ohsumi. He is a Japanese cell biologist specializing in autophagy.**

**Awarded For** - Ohsumi is bestowed with the prize for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy. He discovered and elucidated mechanisms underlying autophagy, a fundamental process for degrading and recycling cellular components.

**5. The Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences - Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmstrom.**

**Awarded For** - They have developed a contract theory, a comprehensive framework for analysing many diverse issues in contractual design, like performance-based pay for top executives, deductibles and co-pays in insurance and the privatisation of public-sector activities.

**6. The Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2016 - Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir James Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L Feringa.**

**Awarded For** - the design and synthesis of molecular machines.

### Other Awards -

**1. 2016 Right Livelihood Award** – The 2016 Right Livelihood Award widely referred as the Alternative Nobel Prize. The laureates of this year's Right Livelihood Award include -

- Syria Civil Defence (The White Helmets)
- Egypt's Mozn Hassan and Nazra for Feminist Studies
- Russia's Svetlana Gannushkina
- Turkish daily Cumhuriyet

Key points –

- **The White Helmets of Syria** was awarded for their outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement in rescuing civilians from the destruction of the Syrian civil war'.
- **Mozn Hassan and Nazra** for Feminist Studies from Egypt were awarded for asserting the equality and rights of women in circumstances where they are subject to ongoing violence, abuse and discrimination.
- **Russia's Svetlana Gannushkina** was awarded for her decades-long commitment to promoting human rights and justice for refugees and forced migrants, and tolerance among different ethnic groups.
- **The Turkish newspaper, Cumhuriyet** was awarded for their fearless investigative journalism and commitment to freedom of

expression in the face of oppression, censorship, imprisonment and death threats'

**2. Robert De Niro** to be honoured with Chaplin Award by Film Society of Lincoln Center

**3. Adi Godrej conferred** Clinton Global Citizen Award

**4. Aung San Suu Kyi** honoured as **2016 Humanitarian of the Year by Harvard Foundation**

**5. Honorary Academy (Oscar) Award** - Action movie star, writer, director and martial artist Jackie Chan selected for an honorary Academy (Oscar) Award for his extraordinary achievements in the movies.

**6. Mother Teresa** proclaimed a Saint by Pope Francis in a ceremony at the Vatican.

**7. Ramon Magsaysay Award 2016** – Human rights activist **Bezwada Wilson** and Carnatic musician **Thodur Madabusi Krishna** are winners of the Magsaysay Award from India

**The list of winner–**

**(i) Bezwada Wilson (India)** - For 'asserting the inalienable right to life of human dignity'

**(ii) T M Krishna (India)** - For 'ensuring social inclusiveness in culture'

**(iii) Conchita Carpio-Morales (Philippines)** - For 'restoring faith in the rule of law'

**(iv) Dompot Dhuafa (Indonesia)** - For 'expanding the transformative impact of zakat', which in Islam is a form of alms-giving and religious tax

- (v) Vientiane Rescue** (A group from Laos) - For 'volunteering to save lives at risk'
- (vi) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers Building** - For contributing 'to the reconstruction and progress of developing countries' towards the goal of building a world of genuine solidarity
8. **Mister World title** - Rohit Khandelwal won the coveted Mister World 2016 title. The grand finale of Mr World 2016 was held at the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre in Southport, U.K.  
**Note:** With this, Khandelwal has become the first Indian and Asian to win the Mr World title at the competition.
  9. **Knight of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour** - Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon Limited appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour). She was honoured for her contribution to biosciences and research.
  10. **France's Chevalier de L'Ordre Arts et Lettres** - The Minister of Culture and Communication, France, in the selected Kamal Haasan for the Chevalier de l'Ordre des Arts et Lettres (Knight in the National Order Arts and Letters).
  11. **N. Ramachandran**, President of Indian Olympic Association (IOA) awarded with the Olympic Order for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement.
  12. **Google Community Impact Award from Asia** - Advay Ramesh, a Class 10 student from Chennai won the prestigious Google Community Impact Award from Asia, a theme based award part of Google Science Fair 2016.
  13. **BBC World News Komla Dumor Award** - Nigerian journalist Didi Akinyelure won the BBC World Service News Komla Dumor Award for 2016. Akinyelure is the second recipient of the award, which was established to honour Ghanaian BBC World News presenter Komla Dumor.
  14. **Heritage Heroes Award of IUCN** - Indian ecologist and conservation activist **Bibhuti Lahkar** became the first Asian to be awarded the prestigious **Heritage Heroes Award** by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).
  15. **2016 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy - The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) of Malappuram, Kerala** conferred with the 2016 Unesco Confucius Prize for Literacy.  
**Note:**
    - ✓ The award was conferred on the JSS in recognition of its literacy-linked skill development activities among the underprivileged in rural areas.
    - ✓ The award sponsored by China consists of 20000 US dollars, a diploma, and a silver medal. Moreover, a JSS team will be given a free study tour to China.
  16. Former Indian women's cricket team captain **Anjum Chopra** awarded an honorary life membership of the **Marylebone Cricket Club (MCC)**.  
**Note:** With this, Chopra became the first Indian woman cricketer to get the prestigious life membership of MCC.
  17. **Abraham Verghese**, Indian-American physician-author, selected for the prestigious **2015 National Humanities Medal**.  
**Note:** President Barack Obama will award the medals on 22 September 2016 in a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.
  18. **2016 MM Bennetts Award - Novel, Into the Hidden Valley authored by Stuart Blackburn** won the 2016 MM Bennetts Award for Historical Fiction in the UK.  
**Note:** The book published by Speaking Tiger narrates the story of the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh during British India. It also looks into a little-known episode in the colonial history of British India.
  19. **Best Film Award at 19th Shanghai International Film Festival** - Kannada Movie Thithi won two awards - Best Film and Best Script Writers - under the Asia New Talent Awards Category at the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival. **Raam Reddy** is the director of the film.
    - **Note:** In 63rd National Film Awards, it won the National Film Award for **Best Feature Film in Kannada**.
  20. **2016 PEN Pinter Prize** - Canadian poet, novelist and environmental activist Margaret Atwood was conferred with the 2016 PEN Pinter Prize.
    - **Note:**
      - (i) The PEN Pinter Prize is an annual literary award launched in 2009 by English PEN.
      - (ii) It was launched in honour of the late Nobel Literature Prize-winning playwright Harold Pinter.
  21. **President Pranab Mukherjee honoured with highest civilian Award of Ivory Coast** - President Pranab Mukherjee on 14 June 2016 was accorded with Grand Cross National Order of the Republic of Cote D'Ivoire in a simple ceremony at the President's Palace in Abidjan. It is the highest civilian award of Ivory Coast.



**22. 2016 International DUBLIN Literary Award -**

American author Akhil Sharma won the 2016 International DUBLIN Literary Award for his novel **Family Life**.

- **Note:** The book Family Life tells the story of eight-year-old Ajay, whose family move from Delhi to America in 1978.

**23. UN Chief Ban Ki-Moon honoured with Russia's Order of Friendship Award -**

Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree awarding the Order of Friendship to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

**24. A.R Rahman conferred with Japan's Fukuoka prize 2016.****25. Scholastic Asian Book Award -** Indian author Aditi Krishna kumar won**26. Indian-American Rishi Nair wins 28th annual National Geographic Bee Competition.****27. Sunil Bharti Mittal receives this year's Harvard Alumni award.****28. Japan's highest civilian honours -** N. K. Singh former bureaucrat honoured with "The Orders of the Rising Sun", one of Japan's highest civilian honours, as announced by the Govt. of Japan.**29. Man Booker Prize for 2016 -** South Korean author **Han Kang** won the Man Booker Prize for 2016 for her novel '**The Vegetarian**'.**30. A four minute documentary film 'Beti'** which is a non-fiction on girl child education has been invited for a special screening at the 42nd **Seattle International Film Festival (SIFF)**, Washington DC. The movie is directed by **Shivain Arora**.**31. Indian artist, Anjali Chandrashekar wins award at UN poster contest on N-disarmament.****32. Indian Institute Science Professor Sriram Ramaswamy became Royal Society Fellow.****33. India Author Prashar Kulkarni won the Commonwealth Short Story Prize - 2016**, for the Asia region for his politically grounded fiction **Cow and Company**.**34. Singer Angelique Kidjo wins human rights award.****35. Lhakpa becomes first woman to climb Everest seventh time -** Nepalese woman **Lhakpa Sherpa**, breaks own record to climb Everest a seventh time.**36. Swiss government honours Yash Chopra with statue.****37. Indian American Revathi Balakrishnan named as 2016 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year.****38. Priyanka Chopra bags a slot in 10 Millennial Leaders Around the Globe list.****39. Mongolia confers highest honour to two Indians** Award: Lokesh Chandra and Mansura Haider**40. 2016 Nelson Mandela Award -** Pakistan Based Swat Activist Tabassum Adnan conferred with the award.

## Schemes/ Policy launched by State/ Union Govt. of India

**1. Smart Ganga City Scheme in 10 cities -** The scheme was launched by Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti and Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu.**Key points:**

- ✓ The scheme was launched in 10 ten important cities through video conference. These cities are - 1. Haridwar, 2. Rishikesh, 3. Mathura-Vrindavan, 4. Varanasi, 5. Kanpur, 6. Allahabad, 7. Lucknow, 8. Patna, 9. Sahibgunj, 10. Barrackpore. These cities were chosen as part of the Phase-I of the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) for infrastructure development for sewage treatment.

**2. Swadesh Darshan scheme -** The scheme was launched by Union Tourism Ministry with an aim to develop theme based tourist circuits in the country.**Key points:**

- ✓ The Union Government has approved 450 crore for the scheme.
- ✓ The scheme was launched in 5 states for the development of Heritage circuit in Madhya Pradesh and Uttarakhand, Ramayana Circuit in Uttar Pradesh, North East Circuit in Sikkim and Coastal Circuit of Tamil Nadu.

**3. Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana (BKRY) -** The scheme was launched by the Odisha Government for the development of girls in three districts of the state which are - Ganjam, Dhenkanal and Angul. The objective the scheme is to improve Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) and Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in the three districts.



- 4. National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS)** – The scheme was announced by the union government which aims to providing apprenticeship training to over 50 lakh youngsters in order to create more jobs.

**Key points –**

- ✓ The Scheme has an outlay of 10,000 crore rupees with a target of 50 Lakh apprentices to be trained by 2019-20.
- ✓ Central Government will also directly share 25% of the total stipend (maximum of 1,500 rupees per month per apprentice) payable to an apprentice with employers.

- 5. Indian Railway launched Insurance scheme for passengers travelling on e- ticket** – The scheme was launched by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi.

**Key points –**

- ✓ Person booking a train ticket through the IRCTC website will be eligible for the travel insurance and it is optional.
- ✓ To avail the facility, train passengers have to pay 92 paise premium. The insurance cover will not be applicable for children upto 5 years of age and foreign citizens.
- ✓ The facility will be available only for confirmed and RAC ticket passengers. The scheme offers travellers or nominees a compensation of 10 lakh Rupees in the event of death or total disability, 7.5 lakh Rupees for partial disability.
- ✓ Besides it will pay upto 2 lakh Rupees for hospitalisation expenses and 10,000 rupees for transportation of mortal remains from the place of a train accident.

- 6. E-Library 'Sugamya Pustakalaya'** - The Union Government has launched Accessible E-Library 'Sugamya Pustakalaya' for Divyang under Prime Minister's Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan. It was jointly launched by Union Ministers Ravi Shankar Prasad, Prakash Javadekar and Thawar Chand Gehlot at a function in New Delhi.

**Key points –**

- ✓ Sugamya Pustakalaya is an online library for Divyang and houses publications across diverse subjects and languages and multiple accessible formats.
- ✓ In this online library books will available in accessible formats for people with visual impairment and other print disabilities.
- ✓ It will house over 2 lakhs books in diverse languages. It will also integrate libraries across India and the Globe, including the largest international library Bookshare.

- 7. Mission Bhagiratha, safe drinking water scheme launched in Telangana** – The scheme was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was launched by state Government at Komatibanda Village, Gajwel in Medak District of Telangana.

**Key points –**

- ✓ Mission Bhagiratha is a water grid project that aims to provide safe drinking water to all even to remotest places in Telangana.
- ✓ The objective of the scheme is to provide 100 litres of clean drinking water per person in rural households and 150 litres per person in urban households. Under it safe drinking water will be provided to about 25000 rural habitations and 67 urban habitations.

- 8. Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana launched in Odisha** - The Odisha Government had launched Baristha Bunakar Sahayata Yojana, a special assistance scheme for elderly weavers. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on the occasion of the second National Handlooms Day (observed on 7th August). The scheme aims at improving the financial condition of over 8,000 weavers in the state.

- 9. DISHA scheme launched by govt.** - The Union Government has constituted the District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DDCMC) for effective development and coordination of Central Government's programme. It will be known as DISHA.

**Key points -**

- ✓ It will monitor the implementation of 28 schemes and programmes of Union Ministry of Rural Development and other Ministries to promote synergy and convergence for greater impact.
- ✓ The main purpose of the DISHA is to coordinate with Central and State and local Panchayat Governments.
- ✓ It has been created for effective coordination and development of Central Government's programme for infrastructure development or Social and human resource development.

**10. Himayat' programme launched in J & K** – The scheme was launched in Jammu & Kashmir. The govt. had approved nearly 1,600 crore rupees for the implementation of the 'Himayat Programme' in the state.

**Key points –**

- ✓ The programme aims to provide – training in various job-intensive vocational courses over the next three years to youths from both rural and urban areas of J&K.
- ✓ Himayat is a placement linked skill development initiative for training and placement of 1 lakh youths from J&K in next 5 years. 'Himayat' is an Urdu word which means support.

**11. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** – The Union Cabinet allocated **Rs. 12,000 crore** rupees to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY). PMKVY is the flagship outcome-based skill training scheme of the Union Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship. It is skill certification and reward scheme.

**Key points –**

- Objective of the scheme is to enable and mobilize a large number of Indian youth to take up outcome based skill training and become employable and earn their livelihood.
- Under the scheme, trainees who are successfully trained, assessed and certified in skill courses run by affiliated training providers will be provided with monetary reward.

**12. PM Narendra Modi launches Smart city Mission Projects in Pune** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the '**Smart City Mission**' involving **83 projects** from 20 different cities in the country.

**Key points –**

- The Smart City Mission' projects launched included 14 projects of Pune (Maharashtra) and 69 projects from 20 different shortlisted cities in the country to be implemented at a cost of 1,770 crore rupees.
- These projects are related to water supply projects, sewage treatment plants, solid waste management under Swachh Bharat Mission and development of green and open spaces under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT).
- It also includes housing projects for urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and area development and technology based pan-city solutions under Smart Cities Mission.

**13. Prime Minister launched Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana at Ballia** - Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) at Ballia, Uttar Pradesh. It will benefit the poor, especially the women.

**Key points –**

- The scheme aims to provide cooking gas connections to five crore below-poverty-line beneficiaries over the next three years.
- PM Ujjwala Yojana will provide 5 crore LPG connections to BPL Families
- FM had announced about the scheme in his 2016-17.Budget Speech with a budgetary provision of 2000 crore rupees.
- It will be implemented at an estimated cost of **8000 crore rupees** over three years **between April 2016 and March 2019** to cover **5 crore BPL households**.

**14. Interest Subvention Scheme for farmers** - The Union Cabinet has approved the Interest Subvention Scheme for farmers for the year 2016-17. For this purpose Union Government has earmarked a sum of **18,276 Crore Rupees**.

**Key points –**

- The scheme will help farmers getting short term crop loan payable within one year up to 3 lakhs Rupees at only 4% per annum.
- Interest subvention for providing short term crop loan to farmers has been provided to Public Sector, Private Sector, Cooperative, Regional Rural banks and NABARD.
- Union Government will provide interest subvention of 5% per annum to all farmers for short term crop loan up to 1 year for loan upto 3 lakhs rupees for year 2016-17. Thus farmers will have to effectively pay only 4% as interest.

- In case they fail to repay loan in time they would be eligible for interest subvention of 2% as against 5% available above. Union Government will provide an interest subvention of 2% i.e. an effective interest rate of 7% for loans upto 6 months to give relief to small and marginal farmers who borrow at 9% for the post-harvest storage of their produce.

**15. Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY)** - The Union Cabinet has approved proposal of extending the deadline for implementing the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) by a year to **March 31, 2017**.

**Key points**

- With this decision, states shall take over 75% of ailing DISCOM (Power Distribution companies) debt as on 30th September, 2015 by 31st March, 2017 by issuing Bonds.
- It is considered as a significant step in realising the vision of providing 24x7 affordable and environment friendly Power for All.
- This intervention will also lower the interest burden of debt and allow states, which could not join UDAY earlier to put DISCOMs reforms on accelerated path.

**About Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY)**

- The UDAY scheme aims at bringing ailing power discoms to a state of operational efficiency, with state governments taking over up to 75% of their respective debt and issuing sovereign bonds to pay back the lenders.
- So far, **19 states have given** in principle approval to join the scheme, out of which **10 states have signed MoUs with the Union Government**.

**16. Union Cabinet approves National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme** - The Union Cabinet has approved a National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) for providing apprenticeship training to over 50 lakh youngsters in order to create more jobs.

**Key points -**

- The Scheme has an outlay of **10,000 crore rupees** and a target of training 50 lakh apprentices by 2019-20.
- It will be implemented by Director General of Training (DGT) under the aegis of Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE).

**17. Namami Gange projects for cleaning river Ganga launched** - Union Government launched various projects under Namami Gange programme for cleaning of river Ganga and its tributaries from Haridwar, Uttarakhand.

It was launched by Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti.

**Key points -**

- The Namami Gange Programme aims at cleaning the holy river and ensuring its unfettered flow. Union government has allocated Rs. 20,000 crore budget for it.
- Under it, projects such as modernization and redevelopment of Ghats, crematoriums and other development activities will be undertaken.

**18. Union Government launches UJALA Scheme** - The Union Government has launched National LED programme - Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA). It was launched by Union Minister for State (IC) for Power, Coal and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

**Key points -**

- The UJALA scheme is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Union Ministry of Power.
- It is LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP). Under it, 3 crore LED Bulbs will be distributed in Madhya Pradesh in the next 6 months.
- Under it, people of Madhya Pradesh will get subsidised 9W energy efficient LED bulbs by paying just 85 rupees per LED bulb. The scheme will help reduce electricity bills of consumers, contribute to the energy security of India and also help in environment protection.

**19. Andhra Pradesh Government launches Chandranna Bima Yojana** - Andhra Pradesh Government has launched Chandranna Bima Yojana, an insurance scheme for the working class people. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on the occasion of May Day in Vijayawada.

**20. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)** - Agriculture Irrigation Scheme.

**Key points:**

- ✓ Scheme aims at providing irrigation facilities to every village in the country by converging ongoing irrigation schemes implemented by various ministries.
- ✓ Budgetary allocation: 1,000 crore rupees for fiscal year 2015-16.
- ✓ Funding Pattern: Centre- States will be 75: 25 per cent. In case of north-eastern region and hilly states it will be 90:10.

**21. Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana:** It is a small deposit scheme for the girl child.

**Key points of the scheme –**

- ✓ In one family, a maximum of two accounts can be opened for two girl children. The account can be transferred anywhere in India from one Post office/Bank to another.
- ✓ **Age Limit:** The upper age limit of the girl child for opening **this account is 10 years**. The govt. has given a relaxation of one year in the upper age limit for those opening accounts till December 1, 2015.
- ✓ **Documents required** - 1. Birth Certificate of the girl child. 2. Address proof. 3. Identity proof.
- ✓ **Minimum & Maximum deposit:** The minimum deposit under **the scheme is Rs. 1000/-**. The maximum deposit is Rs. **1.5 lakhs**. There is no limit on the number of investments one can make in an account either in a month or in a year.
- ✓ **Interest rate:** The government will announce the interest rate of the scheme every year. However, the government of India has increased the rate of interest from 9.1% (2014-15) to 9.2% (2015-16) for this financial year.
- ✓ **Maturity period:** The maturity period of the **scheme is 21 years** from the date of account opening, though deposits need to be made only for the first 14 years.
- ✓ The minimum lock-in period under the Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana is **11 years**.

**22. Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY):**

- ✓ The scheme aims to impart skill training to youth with focus on first time entrants to the labour market and class 10 and class 12 drop outs.
- ✓ The scheme will be implemented by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC). I
- ✓ It will cover 24 lakh persons and skill training would be based on the National Skill Qualification Framework (NSQF) and industry led standards

**23. Bhagyashree scheme:** It is girl child scheme was launched in Maharashtra. Bollywood actress Bhagyashree is the brand ambassador of the scheme.

**Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ The state government will deposit an amount of 21200 rupees in bank for a girl child born in a Below the Poverty Line (BPL) family.
- ✓ The scheme aims at providing one 1 lakh rupees on maturity after the girl completes 18 years of age.
- ✓ The scheme would be linked to the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme of Union Government.

**24. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA):** Former President of India Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam launched the Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan (RAA) in New Delhi. The abhiyan aims to inculcate a spirit of inquiry, creativity and love for Science and Mathematics in school children. Rashtriya Avishkar Abhiyan is a concept developed by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. RAA is an effort to take forward the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Digital India, 'Make in India' and 'Teach in India'.

**25. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY):** It is a low premium insurance scheme which will link with the Pradhan Mantri Jhan Dhan Yojna.

**Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ **Eligibility:** Minimum **18 years and maximum 50 years** and have bank account are eligible for the scheme. If the account is opened before attaining the age of 50 years, the life cover would remain intact up to the age of 55 years, if premium is paid regularly.
- ✓ Premium - **Rs.330 per year** i.e. less than Rs.1 per day.
- ✓ **Risk coverage - Rs.2 Lakh** in case of death for any reason.
- ✓ The premium paid will be tax-free under section 80C and also the proceeds amount will get tax-exemption u/s 10(10D).

**26. Atal Pension Yojana (APY):** It is a scheme mainly for workers in unorganised sector. The scheme will be administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) and replace the previous government's Swavalamban Yojana NPS Lite.

**Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ The subscribers who will joined the scheme would receive the fixed pension of Rs. 1000 per month, Rs. 2000 per month, Rs. 3000 per month, Rs. 4000 per month, Rs. 5000 per month, at the age of 60 years, depending on their contributions.
- ✓ **Age limit:** minimum **18 years** and maximum age **is 40 years**.
- ✓ A subscriber can contribute for minimum **period of 20 years** or more and pension payment will start at the age of 60 years.
- ✓ The government of India has decided to co-contribute 50% of the subscriber's contribution or Rs. 1000 per annum, whichever is lower, to each eligible subscriber account, for a period of 5 years, i.e., from 2015-16 to 2019-20, who join the NPS before 31st December, 2015 and who are not income tax payers.

**27. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY):** It is an insurance scheme which covers death or disablement of the policyholder caused due to accident or accidental injuries.

**Key points of the scheme:**

- ✓ **Age limit:** Minimum **18 yrs** and maximum **70 years**.
- ✓ The scheme will be a one year cover, renewable from year to year and would be administered through the Public Sector General Insurance Companies in collaboration with Banks.
- ✓ **Risk coverage:** **Rs. 2 Lakh** and for partial disability cover of Rs. 1 Lakh.
- ✓ **Premium:** **Rs.12 per annum**. The premium will be directly auto-debited by the bank from the subscribers' account.

**28. Kisan Vikas Patra – Saving scheme relaunched by government of India.**

**Key points –**

- (i) Money will be doubles in **8 years 4 months (100 months)**.
- (ii) Interest Rate – 7.8%
- (iii) KVP will be available in denominations of **Rs.1,000, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, and Rs. 50,000**.
- (iv) There will be **no upper ceiling** on investment.
- (v) Minimum **lock-in period is 2 years and 6 months**.
- (vi) KVP can be encashed in eight equal monthly installments after the lock-in period.
- (vii) No KYC norms would be applicable at the time of purchase of KVP, PAN details will not be required.

**29. Public Provident Fund (PPF) – Saving scheme.**

**Key points –**

- (i) An individual can open account with **Rs. 100/-** but has to deposit **minimum of Rs. 500/-** in a financial year and **maximum Rs.1.5 lakh**.
- (ii) Maturity period is **15 years** but the same can be extended within one year of maturity for further 5 years and so on.
- (iii) Interest rates - **8.1% per annum** (compounded yearly).
- (iv) Account can be opened by cash/cheque and In case of cheque, the date of realization of cheque in Govt. account shall be date of opening of account.

## Sports News

**Olympics 2016** – The Summer Olympics 2016 Games held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. The **2020 Summer Olympics** will be held in Tokyo, Japan.

**Key points -**

- ✓ Rio became the first South American city to host the Summer Olympics.
- ✓ **Two new sports added** - The two new sports for 2016 Olympic Games were **golf and rugby sevens**.
- ✓ **Mascot** - The official mascot of the 2016 Summer Olympics was Vinicius.
- ✓ The **United States** topped the medal table for the **fifth time** in the past six Summer Olympics, winning 46 gold medals and 121 medals overall. Great Britain and China finished in second and third respectively.
- ✓ **Kimia Alizadeh Zenoorn** became the first **Iranian woman** to win an Olympic medal. She claimed the bronze in the **taekwondo** event in the 57kg category.
- ✓ Jamaican sprinter won gold in 4x100m relay final at the Rio Olympics. With this, Bolt **obtained three sprinting gold medals** in three consecutive Olympics, and finished his Olympic career with a 100% win record in finals.
- ✓ **Andy Murray** of Great Britain won gold in Rio 2016 Olympic Games. He defeated Argentina's Juan Martin Del Potro.
- ✓ **Michael Phelps** won his fourth consecutive 200m individual medley Olympic title. With this, he became the first swimmer ever to win four consecutive golds in the same event.
- ✓ **Men's Word Football Tournament – Brazil** won the gold after defeating Germany in the final.



- ✓ **Judoka Rafaela** Silva won the women's 57kg **judo gold at Rio Olympics**. With this, she won the first gold for the host country Brazil at the Olympic Games Rio 2016.

### India at Rio Olympics 2016 -

- ✓ **Abhinav Bindra** is the flag bearer and leads Indian contingent at the opening ceremony at Rio Olympics 2016.
- ✓ **Sakshi Malik** is the flag bearer and leads Indian contingent at the closing ceremony at Rio Olympics 2016
- ✓ The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) had sent a total of 117 athletes, the nation's largest ever delegation in Summer Olympic history.
- ✓ Indian bagged a total of two medals, one silver and one bronze, in the games, and stood at the 67th place in the medal tally.
- ✓ India had qualified one artistic gymnast into the Olympic competition for the first time since 1964. **Dipa Karmakar** became the first Indian female ever to book an Olympic spot in the apparatus events and all-around event at the Olympic Test Event. She narrowly missed out in the bronze medal, finishing 4th in the finals of the event with a score of 15.066.
- ✓ **Abhinav Bindra** came fourth in the Men's 10m Air Rifle singles event after losing a shootoff for the top 3 to Serhiy Kulish, who finally won the silver.
- ✓ **Lalita Babar** - At the 2016 Summer Olympics, Indian long distance runner **Lalita Babar** scored a time of 9:19.76 in her heat, qualifying to the final. With this, she became the first Indian in 32 years to enter a final in any track event. At the final, she finished 10th with a time of 9:22.74.
- ✓ **Narsingh Yadav** - The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), banned wrestler **Narsingh Yadav** for four years following an appeal by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- ✓ **Amul** is the official sponsor to Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for Rio Olympics 2016

### Medal Winner

- 1. Wrestler Sakshi Malik** won the **bronze medal** in the 58 kg category to become India's first female wrestler to win an Olympic medal.
- 2. Badminton player P V Sindhu** won historic **silver medal** in women's singles badminton event. With this, she became the first Indian woman to clinch a silver medal in Olympics.

### Medal Standings -

Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
<b>1. United States</b>	46	37	38	121
<b>2. Great Britain</b>	27	23	17	67
<b>3. China</b>	26	18	26	70
<b>4. Russia</b>	19	18	19	56
<b>5. Germany</b>	17	10	15	42
<b>67. India</b>	0	1	1	2

**Paralympics 2016 -** The 2016 Summer Paralympic Games held at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

### Key Points -

- ✓ **Devendra Jhajharia**, who became India's first Paralympic gold medallist in Athens 2004, was the **flag-bearer** for the **Indian contingent**.
- Mariyappan Thangavelu wins India's first Gold medal at Rio Paralympic Games  
**Note:** He won the gold in the **Men's High Jump** T-42 event with a leap of 1.89 metres.
  - Javelin thrower **Devendra Jhajharia** wins gold medal at Rio Paralympics 2016.  
**Note:**
    - ✓ He became the first Indian to clinch two gold medals at the Paralympics.
    - ✓ He won first gold medal in Athens 2004.
  - Deepa Malik** (Shot put) becomes first **Indian woman** to win medal at Paralympics.  
**Note:** She clinched **Silver** medal in the **shot put** F-53 event.

### I. Cricket News

### ICC World Cup Cricket Venues:

ODI	Test	T20
1. England – 2019	1. England - 2017	1. India -2016
2. India – 2023	2. India – 2021	2. Australia – 2020

1. MS Dhoni named captain of India's all time Test XI by cricket magazine Wisden.

**Wisden Test XI:** Sunil Gavaskar, Virender Sehwag, Rahul Dravid, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman, Kapil Dev, MS Dhoni (captain, wicketkeeper), Anil Kumble, Javagal Srinath, Zaheer Khan, Bishan Singh Bedi, Mohammad Azharuddin (12th man).

2. Off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** became the fastest Indian and second overall to take 200 wickets, reaching the milestone in his 37th Test.

- 3.
4. India wins historic **500th Test** by 197 runs against New Zealand -

**Man of the Match - Ravinder Jadeja.** He was awarded for his fine all-round performance in which he captured six wickets and scored 92 runs.

- 5.
6. **2016-2017 Duleep Trophy** – India Blue won the title after defeating India Red in the final.

Note:

- ✓ Captain of India Blue – Gautam Gambhir
- ✓ Captain of India Red – Yuvraj Singh
- ✓ Cheteshwar Pujara was named the Player of the Match.
- ✓ Tournament was held in Greater Noida.

7. Veteran Sri Lanka batsman Tillakaratne Dilshan announced his retirement from international cricket.
8. The International Cricket Council (ICC) announced that Muttiah Muralitharan, Karen Rolton, Arthur Morris and George Lohmann will be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

With the announcement, off-spinner Muralitharan becomes the first Sri Lankan player to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

### Tennis –

9. India test team captain Virat Kohli became the first Indian captain to score a double century outside India. Kohli scored 200 runs against West Indies on day two of the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards stadium in North Sound.

10.

11.

12. BCCI appoints Anil Kumble as head coach of Indian Cricket Team.

13. Alastair Cook becomes youngest cricketer to score 10000 Test runs

14. IPL 2016 - **Sunrisers Hyderabad** (SRH) won the ninth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL). In the final clash played at the Chinnaswamy stadium in Bangalore, Sunrisers Hyderabad defeated **Royal Challengers Bangalore** (RCB) by eight runs.

**Note:**

- Player of the match – **Ben Cutting** (Sunrisers Hyderabad)
- Player of the series - **Virat Kohli** (Royal Challengers Bangalore)

15. Former India captain Rahul Dravid and ex-Sri Lanka captain Mahela Jayawardena were on 13 May 2016 appointed to the ICC Cricket Committee for a 3-year term.

16. Shashank Manohar unanimously elected as Independent ICC Chairman

World Cup T-20 2016		
Category	Winner	Runner up
<b>Men's</b>	West Indies	England
<b>Women's</b>	West Indies	Australia
<b>U 19</b>	West Indies	India

US Open Title 2016		
Category	Winner	Runner up
<b>Men's Single</b>	Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland)	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)
<b>Women's Single</b>	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	Karolína Plíšková (Czech Republic)
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	Britain's Jamie Murray and Brazil's Bruno Soares	Pablo Carreno Busta and Guillermo Garcia

**Note:** With this, Murray became the first British man for 44 years to win the US Open doubles title. Soares also became the first Brazilian to win more than one Grand Slam doubles title.

Wimbledon 2016		
Category	Winner	Runner up
<b>Men's Single</b>	Andy Murray (Britain)	Milos Raonic (Canada)
<b>Women's Single</b>	Serena Williams (US)	Angelique Kerber (Germany)
<b>Men's Doubles</b>	French pair of Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut	French pair Julien Benneteau and Édouard Roger-Vasselin
<b>Women's Doubles</b>	US pair of Serena Williams and Venus Williams	Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Yaroslava Shvedova (Kazakhstan)
<b>Mixed Doubles</b>	Henri Kontinen (Finland) and Heather Watson (United Kingdom)	Robert Farah (Colombia) and Anna-Lena Grönefeld (Germany)

**Note:**

- Serena Williams equalled Steffi Graf's open era record of **22 Grand Slam titles**
- Britain's Andy Murray became Wimbledon champion for the second time.

French Open Title - 2016		
Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's single	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Andy Murray
Women's single	Garbine Muguruza (Spain)	Serena Williams
Women's double	C Garcia and K Mladenovic (France)	E Makarova and E Vesnina (Russia)
Men's Doubles	F Lopez and M Lopez (Spain)	M Bryan and B Bryan (the USA)

**Note:**

- It was Djokovic's first French Open title and 12th major title of his career. Other 11 titles include six Grand Slam titles from the Australian Open, three from Wimbledon and two from the US Open. Among men, only Roger Federer (17), Rafael Nadal (14) and Pete Sampras (14) own more.

1. **2016 China Open Men's Singles** - Andy Murray won the 2016 China Open Men's Singles title at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China. He defeated Grigor Dimitrov by 6-4, 7-6.
2. **2016 China Open Women's Singles** - Poland's **Agnieszka Radwanska** won the 2016 China Open Women's Singles at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China. She defeated Johanna Konta 6-4, 6-2 to grab the title.
3. **St Petersburg Open Men's Singles title** - German tennis player **Alexander Zverev** defeated **Stan Wawrinka** to win his first tour title in the St. Petersburg Open final.
4. **Toray Pan Pacific Open trophy** - India's Sania Mirza and her Czech partner Barbora Strycova lifted the women's doubles title in the **Toray Pan Pacific Open trophy** in Tokyo. In the final clash, the Indo-Czech pair defeated the unseeded Chinese pair of Chen Liang and Zhaoxuan Yang 6-1, 6-1.
5. **Connecticut Open doubles title** - Sania Mirza and Monica Niculescu won the title. They defeated the Ukrainian-Taiwanese pair of Kateryna Bondarenko and Chuang Chia-Jung, 7-5, 6-4.
6. India's ace tennis player Sania Mirza topped the ATP Women's Doubles Tennis rankings.
7. **2016 Rogers Cup** - Novak Djokovic defeated Kei Nishikori (Japan) in the final to win the men's single title.
8. **2016 Rogers Cup** - Simona Halep (Romania) defeated Madison Keys (the US) in the final to win the women's single title.
9. Novak Djokovic wins 2016 Mutua Madrid Open in Men's Singles title. He defeated Andy Murray.
10. Andy Murray clings Rome title with victory over Novak Djokovic.
11. Rafael Nadal wins Kei Nishikori in Barcelona Open Tennis to equal Clay court record. Venue: Monte Carlo

12. Rafael Nadal beats Gael Monfils to win ninth Monte Carlo Masters title
13. Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic defeated Sania-Hingis to win Stuttgart Grand Prix tournament in Germany

14. Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka won BNP Paribas Open titles

### Football –

FIFA (Football) World Cup Venue	FIFA U – 17 World Cup Venues
1. Russia – 2018	1. India - 2017
2. Qatar - 2022	

1. **Brazil wins 1st BRICS U-17 football tournament.** In the title clash played at Nehru Stadium of Margo, Goa, Brazil defeated **South Africa** 5-1.
2. India ranks at 137 position in latest FIFA ranking. **Argentina** tops the FIFA World Rankings, followed by **Germany** and **Brazil**
3. **Durand Cup 2016** - Army Green won the title by defeating Neroca FC by 6-5 via penalty shoot outs.
4. Mohun Bagan Football Club conferred the Mohun Bagan Ratna on **Syed Nayeemuddin**, India's only Dronacharya football coach.
5. **Calcutta Football League (CFL) 2016- East Bengal** won the title seventh consecutive in a row. East Bengal after defeating Mohammedan Sporting in the final.
6. Cristiano Ronaldo wins UEFA Best Player in Europe award.
7. **Euro Cup 2016:** Portugal defeated France by 1-0 to win the title.  
Man of the Match: **Pepe** (Portugal)

Young Player of the Tournament: **Renato Sanches**

8. Indian footballer **Gurpreet Singh Sandhu** became the first **Indian** to **play in Europa League**. He was named in **Norwegian club Stabaek FC**'s squad for their Europa League qualifying match against Welsh Premier League side Connah's Quay Nomads FC.
9. Lionel Messi retires from Argentina after Copa America final loss to Chile. Argentina lost 4-2 on penalties to Chile after a 0-0 draw in MetLife Stadium.
10. Chile beat Argentina to win 2016 Copa America Football tournament.
11. Real Madrid wins 2016 European Champions League. They defeated Atletico Madrid.
12. Mohun Bagan beats Aizawl FC 5-0 to lift 14th Federation Cup title.
13. China wins **Uber Cup Badminton tournament** for 14th time. China women defeated South Korea in the final
14. Denmark wins **first Thomas Cup badminton** tournament. Danish team defeated Indonesia in the final.

### Hockey

#### Hockey World Cup venue

Venue	Year
1. India (Men's)	2018
2. England (Women's)	2018

1. **BPCL lifts title of Obaidullah Khan** Heritage Cup Hockey Tournament. In final BPCL defeated Railways by 3-0.
2. MCC Murugappa Gold Cup Hockey Tournament 2016 - **Indian Railways** Hockey Team defeated Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Team by 2 - 1. The final held in Chennai.

3. Argentina Women won 2016 Champions Trophy Hockey title. Argentina defeated Netherlands in the final.
4. **Australia won Hero Hockey Champions Trophy** 2016. Australia defeated India 1-0 in a shoot-out.
5. Lucknow to host **Men's Hockey Junior** World Cup 2016
6. Hockey India recommended Ritu Rani and VR Raghunath for Arjuna Award

### Formula One Motor Race - Grand Prix Titles

1. Winner of Malaysian Grand Prix - Daniel Ricciardo (Australian racing driver)
2. Winner of 2016 Italian Grand Prix - Nico Rosberg (Mercedes driver)
3. Winner of 2016 Belgian Grand Prix - Nico Rosberg (Mercedes driver)
4. Winner of 2016 German Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton (British Formula One racing driver)
5. Winner of 2016 British Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton (British Formula One racing driver)
6. Winner of 2016 Australian Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton
7. Winner of 2016 Europe Grand Prix - Nico Rosberg (Mercedes driver)

### Badminton

1. Saina Nehwal appointed member of International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Athletes' Commission
2. **Brazil Open Grand Prix** - India's mixed doubles pair of **Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy** won the title after defeating Canadian combo of Toby Ng and Rachel Honderich 21-15, 21-16 in straight games at Costa Cavalcante.
3. **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**, India's largest paramilitary force decided to appoint ace badminton player **P V Sindhu as its brand ambassador**.
4. **Winner of Canada Open Grand Prix** Badminton Men's Singles title - B Sai Praneeth defeated Lee Hyun II of Korea
5. **Saina Nehwal lifts Australian Open Super Series** Badminton trophy. Saina defeated Chinese Sun Yu 11-21, 21-14, 21-19 in the final

### Commonwealth Games (CWG)

1. CWG - 2022 – Durban, South Africa.
2. CWG - 2018 – Gold Coast, Australia
- 3.

### Olympics Games Venue

#### ✓ Summer Olympics Games

- (i) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – 2016
- (ii) Tokyo, Japan – 2020

#### ✓ Winter Olympics Games

- (i) Pyeongchang, South Korea – 2018
- (ii) Beijing, China – 2022

### Asian Games Venue –

- ✓ The 2018 Asian Games to be held in – **Jakarta, Indonesia**
- ✓ 2022 Asian Games to be held in – **Hangzhou City of China.**
- ✓ **Note:** Asian Games were held every 4 years. In 2014 Asian Games was held in Incheon, South Korea.

### Other Sports News –

1. Gaganjeet Bhullar (Golf) wins 2016 Shinhan Donghae Open
2. India's **Velavan Senthilkumar** wins U-19 Asian Junior Individual **squash** title in Kuala Lumpur
3. Priyasha Deshmukh wins bronze in World Deaf Shooting Championships held in Russia.
4. Sathiyam Gnanasekaran wins Belgium Open title of Table Tennis
5. Boxer **Neeraj Goyat** retains WBC Asia Welterweight title



6. **2016 Kabaddi World Cup** will be held in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
7. Indian wrestler **Yogeshwar Dutt's bronze medal** from the 2012 London Olympics was **upgraded to silver**.  
**Note:** The medal was upgraded after second-place finisher late Besik Kudukhov of Russia was stripped off his medal for failing a dope test.
8. Thailand's **Thongchai Jaidee** named as the **Hilton Asian Tour Golfer** of the Month for July 2016.
9. **Sakshi Malik** named **brand ambassador** for **Beti Bachao, Beti Pado** campaign in Haryana.
10. Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) nominated the two-time Olympic-medallist wrestler Sushil Kumar for the Padma Bhushan, India's third-highest civilian honour.
11. **Vivek Teja won the World Martial Arts Championships** in Sydney, Australia. He defeated Australian taekwondo Matthew Rose in the final to clinch the title
12. **Dipika Pallikal wins Australian Open Squash 2016 title**. She defeated Mayar Hany of Egypt
13. Nita Ambani becomes first Indian woman International Olympic Committee member
14. **Winner of Fide Women's Grand Prix Chess trophy** - India's Grand Master Harika Dronavalli defeated Olga Girya of Russia to win the title.
15. **Pakistan won 2016 Asia Kabaddi Championship Cup** - Pakistan defeated India by 19 points in the final.
16. **Mark Selby won World Snooker Championship** - In the final match played in Sheffield, Selby from Leicester defeated China's Ding Junhui 18-14.
17. **Dipa Karmakar named World Class Gymnast by International Gymnastics Federation** -
18. **Javeline thrower Annu Rani** sets national record at National Inter-state Athletics Championships held in Hyderabad.
19. **Sameer emerges fastest athlete** of 56th National Inter-state Athletics. Sameer Mon, the veteran sprinter of India, won gold in 100 meter dash in 10.60 seconds at the 56th National Inter-state Senior Athletics Championships in Hyderabad. With this, Sameer, representing Manipur, also became the fastest athlete in the country.
20. India won Silver medal at Archery World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.
21. **USA wins FINA Women Water Polo World League Super Final**. The team defeated Spain 13-9 in the championship match in Shanghai, China.
22. Usain Bolt win the 100m in 9.88 seconds at Racers Grand Prix 2016
23. Dustin Johnson won the US Open golf tournament title
24. Sprinter Dutee Chand qualifies for 2016 Rio Olympics
25. Jitu Rai wins silver in ISSF World Cup
26. Birmingham to host seventh World Carrom Championship
27. Sonia Lather won silver in Women's World Boxing Championships
28. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu becomes first Indian to play in Tippeligaen
29. Pankaj Advani wins 2016 Asian 6-Red snooker title. He defeated top-seeded Malaysian Keen Hoh
30. Para athlete Amit Kumar Saroha wins Gold in 2016 French Open Athletics Championship

### **Joint Military Exercise**

1. **Joint Sea-2016 – China & Russia** conduct naval exercise.
2. **Sino India Cooperation 2016** - Joint tactical exercise between India and China held in Ladakh .
3. **"Yudh Abhyas 2016"** - joint military training exercise between **India and United States** held in Chaubattia in Uttarakhand.
4. **Druzhba-2016 (Friendship-2016)** Russian-Pakistani joint military exercise commenced in Cherat, Pakistan.
5. **PRABAL DOSTYK-16 - India, Kazakhstan** joint bilateral military exercise PRABAL DOSTYK-16 held in Karaganda region of **Kazakhstan**
6. **Maitree'** - Joint Indo-Thailand Military Exercise 'Maitree' held in Krabi, Thailand.
7. **MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise** - India, Japan and United States (US) participates in 2016 MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise near South China Sea.
8. Exercise **RIMPAC 2016**, the Pacific military exercise, began held at Hawaii with 26 nations participating in the war games that will cover the Hawaiian Island and southern California.
9. **Nomadic Elephant 2016** - joint military exercise between **India & Mongolia**
10. **Shaheen Eagle 2016** - joint airforce drill between **Pakistan & China**

11. The Indian Army's battle tank exercise '**Shatrujeet**' was conducted in which district of India – **Bikaner, Rajasthan**
12. **Garuda Shakti 2016** - joint military exercise between **India & Indonesia**
  - **Note:** The **4th edition** of the joint exercise "Garuda Shakti" is conducted between India and Indonesia at **Magelang, Indonesia**.
13. **Exercise FORCE 18** held in **Pune, India** - **India hosts 1st multilateral military exercise with Asian nations**.
14. **Exercise Iron Fist 2016** - is an Indian Air Force Exercise held in Pokhran, Rajasthan. It has been held twice - 2013 and 2016.
15. **2016 Cobra Gold** military exercise- held in Thailand - **Cobra Gold is an Asia-Pacific** military exercise held in Thailand every year. It is the largest Asia-Pacific military exercise held each year, and is among the largest multinational military exercise in which the United States participates.
16. **LAMITYE 2016** – India & Seychelles joint military exercise
  - **Note:** The 7th edition of India, Seychelles joint military exercise LAMITYE 2016 held in Victoria, Seychelles.
17. '**Surya Kiran IX 2016**' - India-Nepal Military Exercise
  - **Note:** The 9th Indo-Nepal Combined Battalion level Military Training Exercise 'Surya Kiran' held at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand.
18. '**Shakti-2016**' – Indo-French military exercise
19. "**Sahayog – Kaijin 2016**" – India & Japan joint Coast Guard Exercise

### Science | Defence | News

1. **Barak-8** - surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) - India and Israel jointly developed most advanced long range surface-to-air missile (LR-SAM) **Barak-8** was successfully test fired off the Odisha coast. The missile was test fired from a mobile launcher at the Integrated Test Range in Chandipur in Balasore district in Odisha.
2. **Akula II** - India has signed agreement with Russia to lease second **Akula-II** class nuclear attack submarine (SSN). The deal is believed to be worth about \$2 billion.
3. **S-400 'Triumf' air defence systems** - India has signed a defence deal worth nearly Rs 39,000 crore with Russia to purchase five state of art S-400 "Triumf" air defence systems.
 

**Note:**

  - **The S-400 Triumf-** NATO names it Growler- is an anti-aircraft weapon system. It has been developed by Russia's Almaz Central Design Bureau.
  - The system uses long range and medium range missiles.
  - The S 400 is the latest of a long range of highly successful air defence systems that have been the biggest threat to western aircraft across the world.
  - The S 400 is a unique system that incorporates four types of missiles. Carried on mobile launchers, these missiles engage targets at the following ranges – 120 km, 200 km, 250 km and 380 km.
4. **INS Tihayu** - Indian Navy has commissioned INS **Tihayu**, a Car Nicobar Class water jet fast attack craft (WJFAC). INS Tihayu is the sixth WJFAC Car Nicobar Class vessel to be commissioned and allotted to the Eastern Fleet of the Indian Navy. It has been built by Kolkata-based shipyard Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
5. Communication satellite **GSAT-18** successfully launched - India successfully launched the communication satellite GSAT-18. The satellite was launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of **Kourou in French Guiana**.
6. **Sarathi** - The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned well-equipped **offshore patrolling (OPV) vessel** named 'Sarathi'. It was commissioned by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar at Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) shipyard at Vasco in south Goa.
7. China successfully launched the world's first quantum satellite.
 

**Note:**

  - It is equipped with security features to prevent **wiretapping** and intercepts.

- **Quantum communication** boasts of **ultra-high security** as a quantum photon can neither be separated nor duplicated.
  - It is hence impossible to **wiretap**, intercept or crack the information transmitted through it.
8. **Airlander 10** is the world's largest aircraft has embarked on its maiden flight at an airfield in Cardington in central England.
- Note:**
- It is 92-metre-long and 43.5m wide can fly at up to 4,880 metres and reach speeds of 148 km per hour. It can also be used for commercial purpose.
  - Airlander 10 is a partly plane and partly airship filled with helium gas.
9. **Indian Navy's Marine Commandos' base INS Karna commissioned** - Indian Navy has commissioned INS Karna, an independent base of Marine Commandos (MARCOS) at Bheemunipatanam Naval Base, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
10. **Varunastra** - Indigenously-built heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo **Varunastra** successfully inducted in the Indian Navy. With this India becomes one of the **eight countries** in the world to have the capability to design and build such anti-submarine **torpedo system**.
11. India has signed a defence deal with United States worth over \$1 billion to purchase four additional **Poseidon-8I (P8I)** long-range maritime surveillance and anti-submarine warfare aircraft.
12. **Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL)** and **US-based Bell Helicopter** have signed a deal to jointly develop the helicopter market in India.
13. The United States (US) Senate (Upper House) approved amendment to **enhance military co-operation with India** as part of National Defence Authorisation Act -2017. Under it, military co-operation with India will be for developing military doctrine, threat analysis, force planning, logistical support and intelligence collection and analysis.
14. **NASA unveils X-57 Hybrid Electric Research Plane** - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) unveiled the iconic X-57 Hybrid Electric Research Plane **nicknamed as Maxwell**.
15. **India's first reusable space shuttle, RLV-TD launched from Sriharikota** - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully launched its maiden indigenous winged Reusable Launch Vehicle (RLV) from Sriharikota spaceport in Andhra Pradesh. It was carried up on a solid rocket motor (SRM). The nine-ton SRM was designed to burn slowly to accommodate the vertical lifting of winged body.
16. **NATO launches biggest ever Joint Military Exercise Anaconda-16 in Poland** - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members and partners on 6 June 2016 launched **Anaconda-16 Exercise**, the biggest ever joint military exercise in Poland.
17. The USA launched the Phase 2 of the European **Phased Adaptive Approach** (EPAA) missile defence system in **Romania**. As part of this, a new ground-based missile defense system will be set up at the US naval support facility in Deveselu, Romania.
18. **NASA's Juno spacecraft** has successfully entered into the **orbit of Jupiter** and started orbiting solar system's most massive planet. The spacecraft was launched by NASA as part of its New Frontiers program in 2011 to study Jupiter's composition, gravity field, magnetic field, and polar magnetosphere.
19. The US Researchers at the **Harvard-Smithsonian Centre for Astrophysics** have discovered a rare triple-star system with a gas giant planet that is similar in size to Jupiter.
20. **Google's** next operating system is '**Android N**'
21. China inducted its **largest indigenously-built transport aircraft named as Y-20**, marking a crucial step in its Air Force history for improving its strategic power projection capability.
22. **China** to launch First Hack **Proof Quantum** Communication Satellite
23. Mars crater named after Nepal quake-hit village **Langtang**
24. World's largest international maritime exercise named **RIMPAC** (Rim of the Pacific) 2016 held in Pacific Ocean at Hawaii, United States. 26 countries participated in RIMPAC 2016 exercise.
25. '**Mana**' is the name of the newly launched knowledge-based artificial intelligence platform of Infosys. Aims to drive automation and bring in innovation amongst businesses.
26. **China recently announced** to have developed the world's first graphene electronic paper which can be used to manufacture state-of-the-art e-readers and wearable smart devices.
27. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully tested the first technology demonstrator of indigenously made reusable launched vehicle RLV-TD from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
28. Indian Railways, PEC sign MoU to set up **Kalpna Chawla Chair on geospatial technology**.

29. **India Post goes** high-tech, geo-tags post offices on mobile app called **BHUVAN**.
30. The Indian Navy commissioned indigenously built highly maneuverable **Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli** at the commissioning ceremony held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
31. **International Defence Expo held in Malaysia.**
32. **INS Tarasa** - Indian Navy launched the fourth and last ship in the series of the Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC). It is being built by Kolkata (West Bengal) based Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers Ltd (GRSE), for the Indian Navy. The WJFACs are ideally suited and used for interception of fast-moving surface craft.
33. A new civilian high-resolution mapping satellite "**Ziyuan III 02**" has been successfully launched by **China**
34. First women fighter pilots to be formally commissioned by the Indian Air Force\_. **Mohana Singh, Bhawana Kanth, Avani Chaturvedi.**
35. **TaihuLight** is the world's most powerful supercomputer, as per the 2016 edition of Top500 list of supercomputers.

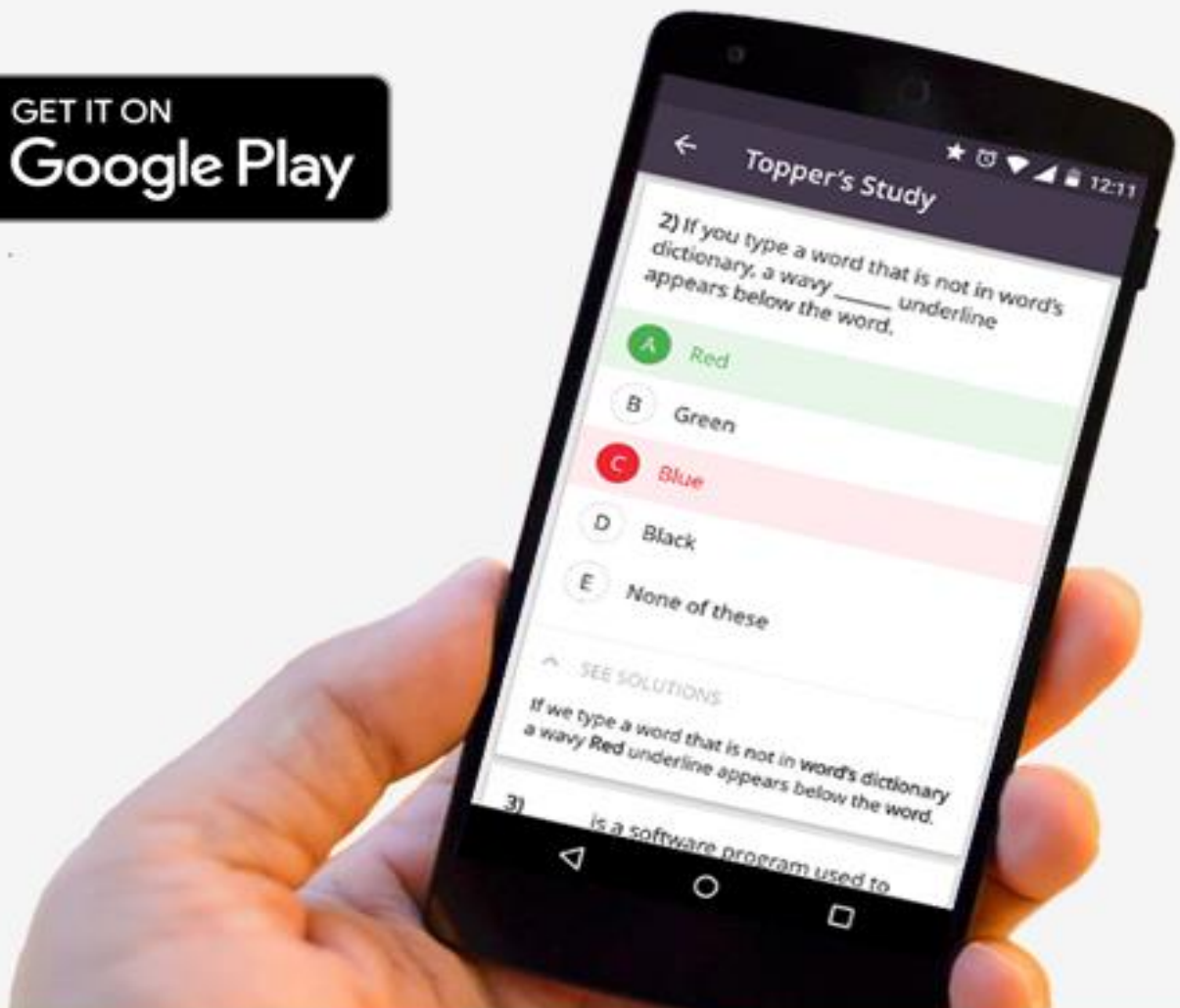
---

# Best wishes for your exams!

**gradeup**

## Download GradeUP from the Google Play Store

Get Daily GK Updates, Resources, Quizzes, Tips and Strategy



[www.gradeup.co](http://www.gradeup.co)