



GK TORNADO

for SBI PO Mains 2016



GK Tornado for SBI PO Mains 2016 Exam

Dear readers,

This GK Digest is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in last 6 months (Feb – July 2016). The GK Digest is important and relevant for all competitive exams like – SBI PO Mains, IBPS PO Mains, RBI Grade B Officer Exam, SSC CGL 2016, Insurance and UPSC Exams.

RBI in News

1. RBI Keeps interest rate unchanged - On 8th June 2016, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in its second bi-monthly monetary policy review, kept key policy rates unchanged.

Note:

- Growth forecast: pegged at **7.6%** for the current fiscal.
- Inflation target: It was kept unchanged at **5% for January 2017** with upward bias.

Current Policy & Reserve Rates:

1.Repo Rate	6.50%	(unchanged)
2.Reverse Repo	6.00%	(unchanged)
3.CRR(Cash Reserve ratio)	4.00%	(unchanged)
4.SLR (Statutory Liquidity Ratio)	21%	(as per rbi website)
5.MSF (Marginal Standing Facility)	7%	(changed)
6.Bank Rate	7%	(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. Govt. initiates process to constitute Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 –

Key points –

- With a view to maintain price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth, the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) has been amended by the Finance Act, 2016 to provide for a statutory and institutionalised framework for a Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). A Committee-based approach will add lot of value and transparency to monetary policy decisions.
- **Out of the six Members of MPC**, three Members will be from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), including the Governor, who will be the **ex-officio Chairperson**, the **Deputy Governor, RBI** and one officer of RBI.
- **The other three Members** of MPC will be appointed by the Central Government, on the recommendations of a Search-cum-Selection Committee, which will be headed by the Cabinet Secretary.

- These three Members of MPC will be experts in the field of economics or banking or finance or Monetary policy and will be appointed for a period of 4 years and shall not be eligible for re-appointment.
 - The Government has decided to bring the provisions of amended RBI Act regarding constitution of MPC into force on 27th June, 2016 so that statutory basis of MPC is made effective.
- 3. 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.

- 4. 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.
- 5.** 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. 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
- 8. 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.

9. RBI imposes Rs 1 crore fines on State Bank of Travancore - Reserve Bank has imposed a penalty of Rs. 1 crore on an SBI associate bank, State Bank of Travancore, for violation of some of its instructions.

10. Deepak Singhal appointed Executive Director of Reserve Bank of India.

11. RBI to issue Rs 1000 banknotes with inset letter 'R' in both the number panels.

12. RBI declared Priority Sector Lending norms for Regional Rural Banks

Key points of the norms:

- Priority Sector Lending (PSL) target was increased to 75 percent of total outstanding from the existing 60 percent.
- The revised target will be effective from 1 January 2016.
- Medium enterprises, social infrastructure and renewable energy were included under PSL category.
- Agri-Loans: Loans to individual farmers, for the purpose of PSL, was increased to 50 lakh rupees from the present 10 lakh rupees against pledge/ hypothecation of agricultural produce (including warehouse receipts) for a period not exceeding 12 months.
- Aggregate limit loan was doubled to 2 crore rupees per borrower in the case of loans, among others, to corporate farmers, farmers' producers organisations/ companies of individual farmers, farmers partnership firms/ co-operatives engaged in agriculture and allied activities.
- Housing Loans: The RBI has lowered the quantum of loans that will qualify as PSL. Against the earlier limit of 25 lakh rupees, loans to individuals up to 20 lakh rupees only are considered as PSL as per revised guidelines.
- Note: As on March 2015, there were 56 RRBs operating in the country with a network of 20059 branches. They cover 644 notified districts in 26 states and the Union Territory of Puducherry.

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. 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.**
- 2. 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.**
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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).
- 6. 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
- 7. State owned Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA) may be converted into a Green Bank** to enable it to access funding from overseas banks.
- 8. The provisional estimates of national GDP for 2015-16 released by Central Statistical Office (CSO) is pegged at - 7.6%.**
- 9. 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.
- 10. 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.
- 11. 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.
- 12. 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.

13. 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**.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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)** Cholamandalam 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).

19. 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.

20. 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.

- 21. 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.
- 22. 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**.
- 23. 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**.
- 24. 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).
- 25. 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. **Krishna Kalyan Cess** would also be applicable and then the effective rate of tax would **become 15%**.
- 26. 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 .
- 27. 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
- 28. 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**.
- 29. Independent investor Sunil Sabharwal** has become the first Indian-American to take charge as an Alternate Executive Director at International Monetary Fund (IMF).
- 30. All rural post offices to connect digitally by March 2017.** The Indian government is digitally connecting all 1,29,323 gramina dak sewak **post offices** in rural areas across the country by **March 2017**.
- 31. 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.
- 32. 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)**
- 33. 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.
- 34. 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**.
- 35. Interest rate on Public Provident Fund (PPF)** PPF slashed to **8.1%** from **8.7%**.

36. 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.

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

38. 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.**

39. 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.**

40. 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.

41. 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).**

42. 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

43. 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.

44. 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

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

46. 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.

47. 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.

48. 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**

49. 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.

50. 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 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. 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.
- 7. SBI and Spain's CaixaBank** have inked pact to provide loans to Indo-Spanish joint ventures and local enterprises.
- 8. 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.
- 9. SBI has tied up with taxi-aggregator Uber** to provide instant vehicle finance to 'driver-partners' on the latter's platform.
- 10. 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**.
- 11. SBI launches FlexiPay Home Loan Scheme for Professionals** - State Bank of India introduced a new home loan scheme 'SBI FlexiPay Home Loan' for young working professionals/executives.
 - **Under the scheme**, borrowers will get higher loan amount compared to their loan eligibility under normal home loan schemes and they will also have the option of step-up monthly repayments.
- 12. SBI opens first branch in South Korea** - India's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) today said it has opened its first branch in **Seoul, South Korea**. **SBI is second Indian bank after Indian Overseas Bank** to have branch in South Korea. SBI already had a representative office in Seoul.
- 13. SBI Launches First Dedicated Branch For Startups InCube** - The State Bank of India, has launched first exclusive startup bank branch – SBI InCube in **Bangalore**. It is a specialised branch to understand and address banking needs of startups.
- 14. SBI Card launches SimplyCLICK credit card** for online shopping - in association with seven partners including Amazon India, BookMyShow and Cleartrip.

ICICI Bank in News –

- 1. 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
2. India's first contact-less mobile payment solution "iTap" has been launched by which bank – **ICICI Bank**
3. ICICI bank launched **iWork@home programme** for its women employees.
4. **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.**
5. **ICICI Bank has launched 'Smart Vault' first of its kind fully automated digital locker facility in India.**
6. **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%.**
7. **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 Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) - **Rajesh Kumar Chaturvedi**
2. Newly Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India - **N S Vishwanathan**. He replaces HR Khan
3. New CM of Puducherry - **V. Narayanasamy**
4. New Finance Secretary - **Ashok Lavasa**. He replaces Ratan P. Watal
5. New CEO of National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID) - **Ashok Patnaik**
6. New Chairman of Oil India – **Utpal Bora**
7. New Additional Solicitor General of India - **Atma Ram Nadkarni**
8. New Indian Cricket Team Head Coach – **Anil Kumble**
9. **Shashi Arora** appointed new CEO, MD of **Airtel Payments Bank**
10. New Secretary in the Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs - **Prabhas Kumar Jha**
11. New Chairperson of the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal - **Justice SJ Mukhopadhaya**.
12. New President of the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) - **Justice MM Kumar**.
13. New Member appointed in Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) - **Bhim Sain Bassi**.
14. **Vice admiral Atul Kumar Jain** takes over as Chief of staff, Eastern Naval Command
15. New Director General (DG)/ Chief Executive Officer (CEP) of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) - **Navin Agarwal**
16. New Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)- **Rahul Johri**
17. New Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court - **Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad**.
18. New Navy Chief - Sunil Lanba. He replaces **R.K.Dhowan**
19. New Managing Director of **Facebook India** - **Umang Bedi**
20. New Chief Minister of Assam – **Sarbananda Sonowal**. He replaces **Tarun Gogoi**
21. New Chief Minister of Kerala - **Pinarayi Vijayan**
22. New BCCI President – **Anurag Thakur**. He replaces Shashank Manohar.
23. New Chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security - **Kumar Rajesh Chandra**
24. First Chairman of the Banks Board Bureau (BBB) - **Vinod Rai**
25. New Director General of Doordarshan - **Supriya Sahu**
26. First woman appointed as chairperson of North Cachar Hills Autonomous Council (NCHAC) in Assam - **Ranu Langthasa**
27. New DG of National Anti-Doping Agency - **Navin Agarwal**

28. Former Delhi Police Commissioner BS Bassi appointed UPSC member
29. New Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry - **Kiran Bedi**
30. New Principal Adviser for Social Sector in NITI Aayog - **Ratan P Watal**
31. New Chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security - Kumar Rajesh Chandra
32. New Director General (DG) of Railways Protection Force (RPF) – **Surendra Kumar Bhagat**
33. New chairperson of National Monument Authority (NMA) - **Susmita Pande**
34. **KV Thomas** – re-nominated as Chairman of Publics Account Committee
35. New chairman of NASSCOM – **C.P. Gurnani**
36. New Femina Miss India World 2016 - **Priyadarshini Chatterjee**
37. New Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) – **Permod Kohli**
38. New Chairman of the 21st Law Commission of India (LCI) - **Balbir Singh Chauhan**

39. New Chairman of Bombay Stock exchange (BSE) - **Sudhakar Rao**
40. NMD & CEO of Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd (MCX) - **Mrugank Paranjape**
41. New Chairperson of National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) - **HL Dattu**
42. New Director of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) - **KN Vyas**
43. New Chief Minister of Arunchal Pradesh – **Kalikh Paul**
44. New Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) - **Atulesh Jindal**
45. New Census Commissioner of India – **Sailesh**. He replaces C Chandramauli

New Four Judges for Supreme Court Appointed

- Justice AM Khanwilkar
- Justice DY Chandrachud
- Justice Ashok Bhushan
- L Nageshwar Rao

Appointments/ International

1. New Prime Minister of United Kingdom - **Theresa May**. She succeeded David Cameron
Note: With this appointment, she became the second women to assume the office of Prime Minister of the UK. The first women prime minister was Margaret Thatcher who was in the office of PM from 1979 to 1990.
2. Nepal's first woman Chief Justice - **Sushila Karki**
3. New President of Philippines' - **Rodrigo Duterte**
4. New President of Iceland - **Gudni Johannesson**
5. New President of Peru - **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski**
6. **Enda Kenny** re-elected as Prime Minister of Ireland.
7. Former India batsman **Lalchand Rajput** appointed Afghanistan cricket coach
8. **Nita Ambani** - first Indian woman to be nominated as a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).
9. **Shashank Manohar** (India) elected as the first-ever independent Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).

10. **Sadiq Khan** becomes first Muslim mayor of London
11. First women President of **Taiwan** - **Tsai Ing-wen**
12. **Anil Kumble** - re-appointed **ICC Cricket Committee chairman** for a second term
13. New President of Vietnam - **Tran Dai Quang**
14. New Prime Minister of Iceland - **Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson**
15. New President of the Central African Republic - **Faustin Archange Touadera**
16. New President of Myanmar - **Htin Kyaw**
17. New Secretary General of the Arab League - **Ahmed Abul Gheit**
18. Indian appointed as the Vice Chancellor of the University of Canberra - **H Deep Saini**
19. First president of BRICS Bank – **KV Kamath**
20. New PM of Ukraine - Volodymyr Groysman

Ambassador Appointed

1. Deep Kumar Upadhyay appointed Nepal's Ambassador to India
2. A V S Ramesh Chandra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania.
3. Somnath Ghosh appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Tajikistan.
4. A V S Ramesh Chandra appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania.
5. Nandini Singla appointed as Ambassador to Portugal
6. LAVA International Announces MS Dhoni As Its Brand Ambassador
7. Ajay Devgn, Kajol to be brand ambassadors of Andhra Pradesh tourism
8. Suresh Babu appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Mongolia
9. Dia Mirza named ambassador for Swachh Saathi programme

International Meets & Summits

1. 8th 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 of India's **BRICS Chairmanship is Building Responsive, Inclusive and Collective Solutions.**

7th BRICS Summit 2015 held in the beautiful city of Ufa, Russia

2. **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.
3. Landmark meeting of SAARC Countries on protection of Children held in Delhi
4. India, US hold first Maritime Security Dialogue and made defence cooperation with one another held in New Delhi.
5. Global conference on women empowerment held in New Delhi.
6. 49th Annual Meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) held at Frankfurt (Germany)
7. International Buddhist conference held in Nepal to remember the Buddha Birthday Anniversary
8. First world conference on tourism for development held in Beijing to step up International Cooperation
Venue: Beijing, China
Theme: "Tourism for Peace and Development"
9. World Humanitarian Summit held at Istanbul.
10. New fund "Education Cannot Wait" launched at UN World Humanitarian Summit
11. The 2016 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit concluded in Tashkent, Uzbekistan

12. 4th 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.

13. 2016 Water Film Festival held in - **New Delhi**

Note: The 2016 Water Film Festival, a part of the India Water Week 2016 celebrations, has started at Water Expo-2016 in New Delhi on April 6, 2016.

14. 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.

15. 2016 Asia Ministerial Conference on Tiger Conservation held in – **New Delhi**

Note:

16. 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**".

17. 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.

18. 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.
19. 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.
20. The 2016 Retreat of the Supreme Court judges was held in which city of India – **Bhopal**
Note: President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated the 4th edition of retreat of Supreme Court Judges 2016 at the National Judicial Academy in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.
21. The Regional Conference of North Eastern States on Child Adoption has been held in which city of India? - **Shillong**
Note:
 - The Regional Conference of North Eastern States on Child Adoption has been held at State Convention Centre in Shillong, Meghalaya.
- The Union Minister for Women & Child Development Maneka Gandhi has inaugurated the conference to familiarize the stakeholders involved in the adoption process in North Eastern States about the provisions relating to adoption under the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and orient them about the provisions of Adoption Guidelines – 2015 as well as the online adoption process through Child Adoption Resource Information and Guidance System (CARINGS).
22. **First Maritime India Summit 2016 (MIS 2016) held in Mumbai** – It is a maiden flagship initiative of Ministry of Shipping, Government of India.
23. 2016 National Tribal Carnival held in – **Delhi**
Note: The first National Tribal Carnival held in Delhi to preserve and promote various facets of the tribal life relating to culture, tradition, customs and their skills and to expose it to the general population with a view to utilizing the potential for overall holistic development of the Scheduled Tribes.

India's rankings in different indexes

1. **India ranks 10th 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**
2. **India ranks 35th 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 35th 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).
3. **India ranks 91st in 2016 Networked Readiness Index** – India was placed at 91st 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),
4. **India ranked 2nd 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.
5. **India ranks 70th on 2015 Good Country Index** - In recently released 2015 Good Country Index (GCI), India has been placed at 70th 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.
6. **India ranks 105th in 2016 Human Capital Index** - India was ranked low at 105th 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).

7. 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**.

8. India ranked at 9th 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.

9. India tops global slavery index with 18.35 mn people enslaved.

10. India ranked at 133 on World Press Freedom

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

11. 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.

12. India ranked 141 in Global Peace Index - Iceland was ranked as the world's most peaceful country, followed by Denmark and Austria.

13. 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.

14. 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**.

India's Growth Forecast projected by different organisation for current fiscal

- IMF forecasted constant growth for India this year at **7.5%**.
- Indian economy to grow at **7.7%** in FY17: **FICCI Survey**.
- Indian Economy to grow at **7.8%** Growth In FY17: **Credit Suisse report**
- India's GDP likely to expand by **7.7%** in FY17: **NCAER**
- India's GDP growth to hike by **7.8%** in 2016-17: Nomura

- Global rating agency Fitch has maintained the Forecast of India's growth at **7.5%**
- **Crisil** Estimates India's GDP Growth at **7.9%**
- India's GDP growth has been projected at **7.7%** in a report released by Rating agency ICRA
- **World Bank projected** India's GDP Growth at **7.6%**
- **Asian Development Bank projected** India's GDP Growth at **7.4%**

Important Committees

1. **P K Sinha committee-** to shortlist the candidates for Reserve Bank of India governor post.
2. **MB Shah committee** – on black money
3. **Arvind Subramanian committee** - to frame a long-term policy on pulses to tackle shortage
4. **Justice R.M. Lodha committee** - to oversee the functioning of Medical Council of India (MCI)
5. **NK Singh committee** - to review and give recommendations on Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) roadmap for the future.
6. **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).

7. **NK Singh committee** - to review the working of the 12-year old Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act.
8. **DB Shekatkar Committee** - on defence spending.
9. **T S R Subramanian committee** - New Education Policy.
10. **Lt Gen D B Shekatkar panel** - to relook defence expenditure.
11. **B BTandon Committee** - to monitor Government Advertisements
12. **Akhilesh Ranjan committee** - recommendations on Taxation of e-commerce

Current Affairs - National News

1. The first direct bus service between Pokhara (Nepal) and New Delhi (India) launched to connect South Asia's two important cities.
2. **Operation 'Sankat Mochan'** to evacuate Indian citizens stranded in **South Sudan's capital Juba**. The operation is being undertaken by Indian Air Force (IAF) and will be headed by Union Minister of State (MoS) for External Affairs General (Retd.) VK Singh.
3. **The Union Cabinet approved the revival of three fertilizers defunct Fertilizer Units in Gorakhpur, Sindri and Barauni**. The three fertilizers units are: (i) Barauni (Bihar) unit of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL), (ii) Urea unit of Fertilizer Corporation India Limited (FCIL) at Sindri (Jharkhand) and (iii) Urea unit of FCIL at Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh).
4. **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.
5. 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.
6. The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park (PNHZA) in Darjeeling, West Bengal received a male **snow leopard named Makalu** from London's Dudley Zoological Gardens.
7. 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.
8. **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).
9. Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena inaugurated **Duraiappah Stadium** in Jaffna which was renovated by India.
10. **Lakshadweep** became the first in the country to sign the 24x7 Power For All document. This document envisions for providing 24x7 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 '24x7 Power For All' Documents.
11. **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.
12. **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.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. PM Modi outlines RAPID, a five-point charter for tax administrators - Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined RAPID, a five-point charter for tax administrators to reform and to expand the net base of the direct tax. He announced it during the inauguration of Rajasva Gyan Sangam in New Delhi.

The Prime Minister outlined the RAPID as

R - Revenue,
A - Accountability,
P - Probity,
I - Information
D - Digitization.

Key points of RAPID

- It will help to focus on digitization, voluntary tax compliance, facilitation for taxpayers, increasing the tax base, upgradation of digital and physical infrastructure for tax administrators etc.
- It seeks to bring reform to India's old and redundant revenue administration.
- It makes the tax system accessible and easier for the tax payers. Besides, it also makes it difficult to the defaulters.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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.

- 22. 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.
- 23. 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.
- 24. 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.
- 25. 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.
- 26.** 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
- 27. 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.
- 28. 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.
- 29. 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.
- 30.** Delhi Government has launched 'DVAT M SEWA' mobile app through which city traders can register themselves with the VAT department of the state government.
- 31.** Andhra Pradesh to become First "Open Defaction Free" State to make 100% free from Open Defection
- 32. Surya Mitra Mobile App** - launched by Union **Ministry of Power** to enhance the employment of trained youth in solar PV technology.
- 33.** Sikkim became first Indian state to launch open government data portal to promote transparency
- 34.** 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
- 35. 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.
- 36. 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.
- 37. 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**.

38. Govt. approved establishment of third National Investment and Manufacturing Zone at **Kalinganagar industrial area in Jajpur** (Odisha)
39. 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**.
40. **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.
41. **Kochi Airport** becomes the world's first airport to completely operate on solar power.
42. 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.
43. "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.
44. **Ministry of Human Resource Development** launched the **International Standard Book Number (ISBN)** portal, to facilitate publishers and authors to register for ISBN online.
45. **East Coast Railway**, railway zone has become the largest freight loading railway zone of Indian Railways in FY 2015-16.
46. **Subhash Palekar** popularly known as "**Krishi ka Rishi**" (the "sage of agriculture"), is a famous exponent of natural farming.
47. India & France signed MOU on Jaitapur nuclear reactor. The Jaitapur nuclear reactor located in Maharashtra.
48. **Vidyut Pravah** mobile app launched by Union Government to empower common people to demand 24x7 Power.
49. 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.
50. 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.
51. **Bedaquiline**, a newly launched vaccine by Health Ministry, for **Tuberculosis** disease.
52. **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%.
53. The International Solar Alliance (ISA) will be located in **Gurgaon**.
Note:
➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the President of France Mr François Hollande, jointly laid the foundation stone of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) Headquarters and inaugurated the interim Secretariat of the ISA in National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE), Gwalpahari, Gurgaon.
54. **Air India** operated world's longest all-women crew international flight from New Delhi to San Francisco.
55. 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.
56. Germany will partner with India to develop **Kochi, Bhubaneswar and Coimbatore** as smart cities.
57. **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. WHO declares India as Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus free** - The World Health Organization (WHO) declared India as Maternal and Neonatal Tetanus free. In this regard, WHO presented certificates to the Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J P Nadda.
- 2. The Peru Government declared Zika health emergency** across the northern half of the country. The emergency was declared after 102 people have been confirmed to be infected with the virus, 34 of which are pregnant women.
- 3. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam** in Herat province in Western Afghanistan.
- 4. 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.
- 5. 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.
- 6. India organized 1st Yoga Championship in Egypt** in June 2016.
- 7. The "Ganges-Danube Cultural Festival of India" has been organized in the Hungary.**
- 8. Aida Gemanque (106-year old) woman of Brazil became the oldest Olympic torch bearer in the world.**
- 9. 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.
- 10. Norway becomes World's First Country to Ban Deforestation**
- 11. 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.

- 12. 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.

- 13. Nepal bans citizens from working in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya.** Nepali nationals killed in Afghanistan were employed as security guards in the Canadian embassy in Kabul. They were killed when militants exploded a bomb in a minibus on 20 June 2016.

- 14. Forbes released World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2016 list** - The world's most powerful woman in the list is **German Chancellor Angela Merkel** who fetched the first spot for the sixth consecutive year.

The top three most powerful in the list are politicians: Germany's Angela Merkel, U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen.

Indian Women in the list

- Four Indians have been named in Forbes list including Arundhati Bhattacharya, Chair-Managing Director of State Bank of India (SBI), who stood at 25th position.
- Chanda Kochhar, MD and CEO of ICICI Bank, was placed at 40th position.
- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, Founder-chair of Biocon Limited, was placed at 77th position.
- Shobhana Bhartia, Chair, HT Media, was placed at 93rd position.

15. **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.
16. 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.
17. As per the recently released report by IT major Dell, Delhi has been listed in the World's 50 'future-ready economies cities'.
Note: Delhi has been ranked **44th among** the world's 50 'future-ready economies cities' that are embracing technology for growth. The list is topped by **San Jose, followed by San Francisco, Singapore, London, Washington DC, etc.**
18. **China** developed World's first **graphene** electronic paper.
19. As per report of World Malaria Report 2015 of WHO, **Europe** has become first in the world to end malaria.
20. **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.
21. 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**.
22. **Sri Lanka** and **China** to develop the Colombo Port City project.
23. **Nauru** becomes the **189th member** of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.
24. 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**.
25. Iceland Prime Minister **Sigmundur Gunnlaugsson** resigned after his name was revealed in Panama paper leaks.
26. **Philippines** launched world's first mass dengue vaccination, with a French drug Dengvaxia (world's 1st dengue fever vaccine) to combat mosquito-borne disease.
27. 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.
28. The world's most expensive train station opened **New York**.
29. **China** has announced to set up its own International Maritime Judicial Centre (IMJC)
30. The world's first fully electric-powered double-decker bus launched in **United Kingdom**

First in India (2016)

1. India's first Civil Aviation park – **Gujarat**
2. India's first Space park – **Bengaluru**
3. India's first solar powered ferry – **Kerala**
4. India's first IT co-operative UL CyberPark – **Kerala**
5. India's first ever Gender Park – **Kerala**
6. India's first LCD panel plant - **Maharashtra**
7. India's first railway university set up in - **Vadodara, Gujarat**
8. India's first underwater restaurant - **Ahmedabad**
9. India's first National Organic Farming Research Institute – **Sikkim**
10. India's first Fully Solar – powered educational institute – **Sri Aurobindo International Centre for Education, Pondicherry**
11. India's first self-cleaning smart toilets have been installed in – **Chennai**
12. India's first digital state - **Kerala**
13. India's first rail-auto transportation and logistics hub will come up in which state - **Walajabad, Chennai, Tamil Nadu**
14. India's first online interactive heritage portal – **Sahapedia**
15. First Defence park located in – **Ottappalam, Kerala**

Art & Culture

1. Kerala celebrates Harvest Festival **Vishu**
2. 'Gudi Padwa' festival celebrated in **Maharashtra**
3. **Sajibu Cheiraoba** festival celebrated in **Manipur**
4. **Simhastha** Kumbh mela 2016 begins in **Ujjain**
5. **Kerala, Thazhathangady Juma** Mosque opens doors to women for the first time
6. **Traditional Chapchar** Kut Festival Celebrated Across **Mizoram**
7. **Nagaland** Information Commission Rated – “one of the best”
8. **Honey** festival Celebrated in **Mangaluru**
9. **World Sufi** Forum Inaugurated In **New Delhi**
10. **Arogya** Fair held in **Goa**
11. **Kashmiri** Pandits celebrated annual **Kheer Bhawani Festival**
12. **Andhra Pradesh** village, "Mori" to be developed as 'Smart Village'

Railway in News

1. The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its approval for Railway projects worth Rs 11,000 crore for improving infrastructure in various states.
2. Manamadurai-Rameswaram rail track to become first green corridor.
3. Railways launch Bharat Darshan Tourist train for pilgrims.
4. High speed Talgo trains from Spain completed trial run between Bareilly-to-Moradabad.
5. Nizamuddin-Mumbai August Kranti Rajdhani Express and Pune-Secunderabad Shatabdi Express are the two catering-enabled trains of the Indian Railways which became the first to have optional catering facility from 9 June 2016, as announced by the Indian Railways.
6. India's first solar train set for trial run in Jodhpur.
7. World's largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant inaugurated in Amritsar
8. Investment: Rs 82 Crore (2012) to Rs. 10,000 Crore
9. India's first semi-high speed train 'Gatimaan Express' flagged off - Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off the Gatimaan Express from Delhi's Hazrat. Nizamuddin station, Gatimaan Express, India's first high speed train, crossed its maiden trip of 188 Kms in 101 minutes
10. Shan-E-Punjab Express Becomes the First Train Fitted with CCTV Surveillance Cameras
11. Union Railway Ministry to set up Rs 1 lakh crore Rashtriya Rail Sanraksha Kosh
12. SRESHTA: Indian Railways To Set Up Special Wing For Research
13. Mumbai to host BRICS Friendship Cities Conclave in April
14. Bajaj Power inked agreement with Indian Railways for Lalitpur- Udaipura rail section electrification project.
15. Suresh Prabhu flags off Champaran Satyagrah Express train in Bihar
16. Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off a new train service between Danapur and Saharsa in Bihar over video-conferencing in New Delhi targeting to connect every region of the country with the rail network.
17. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu along with Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar initiated maiden train between Sonapat – Jind in Chandigarh having distance of 81 km
18. Railway Minister initiated train route between Patna to Ara region having Mainline Electric Multiple Unit based rail system

Power Stations Commissioned in different states

1. BHEL commissions 500 MW thermal power unit in Jharkhand.
2. BHEL commissions 800 MW supercritical thermal unit in Karnataka.
3. BHEL commissions 600 MW thermal power plant in MP.
4. Reliance power is all set to setup a 3,000 MW LNG-based power plant in Bangladesh as its Government of has granted in-principle approval for the first phase of Reliance Power's project in the country.
5. BHEL Commissions 250 Mw Thermal Unit In Maharashtra
6. Kakrapar nuclear plant shut down after coolant system develops leak
7. BHEL commissions 250 Mw unit at Nabinagar plant in Bihar
8. BHEL Commissions Supercritical Thermal Unit In Karnataka
9. BHEL commissions second 270 MW thermal unit in Punjab
10. NTPC starts 250 MW unit in Bihar
11. BHEL commissions 40 MW hydropower generating unit in West Bengal

Important Agreements/ MoU Signed/ Deals: India & Abroad

1. **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.
2. **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.**
3. **Bangladesh & India** signed an agreement for the construction of a 1,320 megawatt (MW) coal fired **power plant near Sundarbans.**
4. Agreement between **India & Tanzania** in the field of Traditional Systems of **Medicine and Homeopathy**
5. Agreement between **India & Mauritius** in the field of **Rural Development and Poverty Alleviation.**
6. 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.
7. **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.
8. **India and Switzerland** have signed an agreement to establish formal cooperation in the fields of skills development and vocational and professional education and training.
9. 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.**
10. Agreement between Indian Space **Research Organization (ISRO) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA)** on cooperation in the field of outer space.
11. Agreement between India and Taiwan for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sector.
12. **The National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) signed a MoU with Qatar Investment Authority (QIA)** for facilitating investment in India's infrastructure.
13. India has joined a group of nearly 40 countries that have signed a Europe-led clampdown on tax evasion and corruption. Under this group countries are committed to automatically exchange information on beneficial ownership between law enforcement agencies and tax authorities of partner countries. This initiative aims to develop a global standard for the automatic exchange of beneficial ownership data.
14. India loan agreement of US 12 crore dollars with the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in **Odisha.**

15. India and Singapore have agreed to enhance the scale of existing bilateral military interaction and decided to expand the interaction between the armed forces.
16. India & Tunisia have signed two Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for co-operation in Information Technology (IT) and promotion of traditional handicrafts.
17. Agreement signed between Indian Army and **Hinduja Grouped IndusInd Bank** on the Defence Salary package.
18. **India & 5 other nations** signed pact on tax info sharing - "As part of continuing efforts to boost transparency by multinational enterprises (MNEs), Canada, Iceland, India, Israel, New Zealand and the People's Republic of China signed the Multilateral

Competent Authority agreement for the automatic exchange of Country-by-Country.

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. Xerxes Sapur Desai - Founder of Titan (watch)
2. **Joe Antic** - India's Olympic Silver Medalist
3. **Amal Dutta** - former India player and first professional full-time football coach
4. Om Prakash Sonik (also known as Omi) - Noted music director
5. Ramchandra Chintaman Dhare - Eminent Marathi literary scholar
6. KG Subramanyan - Renowned painter
7. Isak Chishi Swu - Naga rebel leader
8. Kavalam Narayana Panicker - Noted Malayalam theatre artist
9. Neil O'Brien - Pioneer of Indian quizzing
10. Guda Anjaiah - Noted Telangana poet and lyricist
11. Prabir Mukherjee - The former Eden Gardens curator

12. **Balu** - Tamil actor-director
13. Jeppiaar - Renowned Educationalist
14. Manimala Devi - Veteran Odia actress
15. Mudrarakshasa - Renowned Hindi writer
16. Achyut Lahkar - Noted Playwright and Actor
17. Inder Malhotra - Veteran journalist
18. Gordie Howe - legendary ice hockey player
19. KK Katyal - Veteran Journalist
20. Sulabha Deshpande - Veteran actor
21. Manohar Aich - India's first Mr Universe
22. V T Thomas – **Cartoonist**
23. **Inder Malhotra** - Veteran journalist and former editor of The Times of India
24. **"M.H.P.Rao"** - Father of Madras Atomic Power Station

International

1. Muhammad Ali – Eminent professional boxer
2. William H McNeill – Renowned historian
3. Abdul Sattar Edhi - Eminent Pakistani philanthropist, social activist, ascetic and humanitarian
4. Michel Rocard - Former French Prime Minister

5. Donald Carr - Former England Cricket captain
6. Viktor Korchnoi - Chess Grandmaster
7. **Tony Cozier** - Legendary cricket commentator from West Indies

New Books & Authors

1. Book titled **"Who Moved My Interest Rate?"** authored by **Duvvuri Subbarao**, the former Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
2. Book titled **"The Unseen Indira Gandhi"** authored by **Dr KP Mathur**
3. Book titled **"A Life in Diplomacy"** written by former Indian diplomat Maharajakrishna Rasgotra.
4. Book titled **"Courage & Commitment: An Autobiography"** by Margaret Alva
5. Book **"MS: A life in Music"** authored by **T.J.S. George**
6. Book titled **"One Part Woman"** authored by Perumal Murugan
7. The book **"Ace against Odds"** is the autobiography of Indian tennis player **.Sania Mirza**
8. Book titled **"Beyond NJ 9842: The Siachen Saga"** authored by **Nitin Gokhale**
9. Book titled **"The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable"** authored by **Amitav Ghosh**
10. Book titled **"Ringside With Vijender"** is authored by **Rudraneil Sengupta**
11. Book titled **"The making of India: The untold story of British Enterprises"** authored by Kartar Lalvani
12. Book titled **'Blood on my Hands: Confessions of Staged Encounter'** authored by **Kishlay Bhattacharjee**
13. Book titled **'Shashi Kapoor - the Householder, the Star'** authored by **Aseem Chhabra**
14. Book titled **'The Kiss of Life'** authored by **Emraan Hashmi**
15. Book titled **'Anything But Khamosh: The Shatrughan Sinha Biography'** authored by **Bharathi S Pradhan**
16. Book titled **'A State in Denial'** authored by **BG Verghese**
17. Book titled **'No Time to Pause'** authored by - **Pavithra Ramesh**
18. Book titled **'Param Vir: A War Diary'** authored by - **Manju Lodha**
19. Book titled **'Hindutva or Hind Swaraj'** authored by - **U.R. Ananthamurthy**
20. Book titled **"Flying in High Winds: A Memoir"** authored by - **K. Mishra**
21. Book titled **'Alphabet Soup for Lovers'** authored by - **Anita Nair**
22. Book titled **'The Life and Death of Adolf Hitler'** authored by - **James Cross Giblin**
23. Book titled **'The Story of Kashmir through the Ages'** authored by - **Arjan Nath Chaku**
24. Book titled **"Framed As a Terrorist: My 14-Year Old Struggle to Prove My Innocence"** authored by - **Mohammad Aamir Khan**
25. Book titled **"Standing Guard— A year in Opposition"?** authored by - **P Chidambaram**
26. Book titled **"Gandhi: An Illustrated Biography"** authored by - **Pramod Kapoor**
27. Book titled **"That Long Silence"** authored by - **Shashi Deshpande**
28. Book titled **"Fixed! Cash and Corruption in Cricket"** authored by - **Shantanu Guha Ray**
29. Book titled **"Standing On An Apple Box"** authored by - **Aishwarya Dhanush**
30. Book titled **"Who was Shivaji?"** authored by - **Govind Pansare**
31. Book titled **'The Z Factor,'** a book written by **Subhash Chandra**

Famous Books launched in 2015

1. Book titled **'Life On My Terms: From the Grassroots to the Corridors of Power: an autobiography of Sharad Pawar'**
2. Book titled **'What Happened to Netaji?'** authored by former journalist **Anuj Dhar**
3. Book titled **'Rebooting India: Realizing a Billion Aspirations:'** authored by **Nandan Nilekani and Viral Shah**
4. Book titled **'Interlinking of Indian Rivers'** authored by **Radha Kant Bharati**
5. Book titled **'Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India: Sam Pitroda'**
6. Book titled **'Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights: Salman Rushdie'**
7. Book titled **'The Courage to Act - A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath'** authored by **Ben S. Bernanke**
8. Book titled **'Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India: autobiography of Sam Pitroda written with the help of David Chanoff, an American author.'**

9. Book titled '**Two Years Eight Months and Twenty Eight Nights**' authored by the British Indian novelist **Salman Rushdie**
10. Book titled '**To the Brink and Back: India's 1991 Story**' written by former Union Environment & Forest Minister (**Independent Charge**) **Jairam Ramesh**.
11. Book titled '**Making India Awesome**' written by – **Chetan Bhagat**
12. Book titled '**Green Signals: Ecology, Growth, Democracy in India**' written by **Jairam Ramesh**
13. Book titled '**Uniki**' written by – **CH Vidyasagar Rao, Governor of Maharashtra**.
14. Book titled '**Sourav Ganguly: Cricket, Captaincy and Controversy**' written by Saptarshi Sarkar.
15. Book titled '**Flood of fire**' written by **Amitav Ghosh**.
16. Book titled "**India Central Asia Relations**": The Economic Dimension authored by **Amiya Chandra**.
17. Book titled "**Kashmir: The Vajpayee Years**" – authored by **AS Dulat and Aditya Sinha**.
18. Book titled "**37 Bridges and Other Stories**" – authored by noted Pakistani author **Aamer Hussein**.

Awards & Honours

National

1. **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).
2. **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**.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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*
6. **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.
7. **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.
8. **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
9. **Arunachal tiger** reserve bags **biodiversity award**.
 10. ISRO ex-chairman UR Rao becomes first Indian in International Astronautical Federation's 'Hall of Fame'.
 11. **Kerala bags** LPMI's 'Best Family **Destination**' 2016 **award**.
 12. **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
 13. 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.
 14. **Andhra Pradesh** agriculture project wins **International Information prize**.
 15. Corporation Bank gets "Excellence Award on Empowering MSMEs 2016".
 16. **SMS-based Vehicle Monitoring** Service of **Nagaland** bags National award.
 17. **MP Tourism** wins 'Best **Indian Destination for Wildlife**' award
 18. **Gorakhpur scientist** bags SGD 3mn grant from Singapore's NRF
 19. Sikkim CM Chamling honoured with Nepal's literary award.
 20. 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.
 21. Ranveer Singh honoured as "Maharashtrian of The Year"
 22. Chess maestro **Viswanathan Anand** will be honoured with the **Hridaynath Award**
 23. Delhi girl Priyadarshini Chatterjee crowned Miss India World 2016
 24. **Priyanka Chopra** to be conferred with **Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award** 2016
 25. **Aishwarya Rai Bachchan** won Global **Indian of the Year 2016 award**
 26. Ex-army chief **JJ Singh** gets highest **French civilian honour**
 27. **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.
 28. 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
 29. **Manoj Bajpayee** conferred with the **Dadasaheb Phalke Film Foundation Award** for Aligarh
 30. Jagendra Singh gets press club award for bravery in Journalism
 31. **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.
 32. Doha Bank CEO Dr. R Seetharaman conferred with 2016 Green Economy Visionary Award
 33. V.O.Chidambaranar Port Bags National Award For Excellence In Cost Management
 34. IOC honours IOA chief N Ramachandran with Olympic Order
 35. Distinguished Indian-origin professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya has been conferred with the prestigious Regius
 36. Professorship in Manufacturing by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding contribution in manufacturing.
 37. Tata Power Solar has bagged the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) in the Channel Partner/EPC contractor category at the National Excellence Awards 2016 for rooftop solar power projects.

International

1. **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**.
2. **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.
3. **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.
4. **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.
5. **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
6. **A.R Rahman conferred** with Japan's Fukuoka prize 2016.
7. Scholastic Asian Book Award - Indian author Aditi Krishna kumar won
8. Indian-American Rishi Nair wins 28th annual National Geographic Bee Competition.
9. Sunil Bharti Mittal receives this year's Harvard Alumni award.
10. **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.
11. **Man Booker Prize for 2016** - South Korean author **Han Kang** won the Man Booker Prize for 2016 for her novel **'The Vegetarian'**.
12. 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**.
13. Indian artist, Anjali Chandrashekar wins award at UN poster contest on N-disarmament.
14. Indian Institute Science Professor Sriram Ramaswamy became Royal Society Fellow.
15. India Author **Prashar Kulkarni** won the **Commonwealth Short Story Prize** - 2016, for the Asia region for his politically grounded fiction Cow and Company.
16. **Singer Angelique Kidjo** wins **human rights award**.
17. Lhakpa becomes first woman to climb Everest seventh time - Nepalese woman **Lhakpa Sherpa**, breaks own record to climb Everest a seventh time.
18. Swiss government honours **Yash Chopra** with statue.
19. Indian American Revathi Balakrishnan named as **2016 Texas Elementary Teacher of the Year**.
20. **Priyanka Chopra** bags a slot in **10 Millennial Leaders Around the Globe** list.
21. **Mongolia confers highest honour** to two Indians Award: Lokesh Chandra and Mansura Haider
22. Vedanta sets Guinness World Record for mass plantation
23. JK Rowling receives highest French civilian honour.
24. Mukesh Ambani honored with Othmer Gold Medal for Entrepreneurial Leadership.
25. Jennifer Aniston named as World's Most Beautiful Woman by People magazine
26. **2016 Nelson Mandela Award** - Pakistan Based Swat Activist Tabassum Adnan conferred with the award.
27. Akhil Sharma won the €100,000 Dublin International literary award
28. TCS awarded the Global Top Employer Award
29. Sataparna Mukherjee -teenager of West Bengal selected for NASA Scholarship
30. Armaan Ebrahim won FMSCI Motorsports Man of the Year Trophy
31. Science Journalist Pallava Bagla Bags National Award
32. Ratan Thiyam conferred with META Awards

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

- 1. 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.
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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**.
- 4. 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.

5. **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**.

6. **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).

7. **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.

8. **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.

9. **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.

10. **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.

11. **Sukanya Samridhi 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 Samridhi Yojana is **11 years**.

12. **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

13. **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.

14. **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'.

15. **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).
- 16. 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.
- 17. 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.
- 18. Kisan Vikas Patra – Saving scheme relaunched by government of India.**
- Key points –**
- (i) Money will be doubles in **8 years 4 months (100 months)**. Thus the applicable interest rate **is 8.7%**
 - (ii) KVP will be available in denominations of **Rs.1,000, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, and Rs. 50,000**.
 - (iii) There will be **no upper ceiling** on investment.
 - (iv) Minimum **lock-in period is 2 years and 6 months**.
 - (v) KVP can be encashed in eight equal monthly installments after the lock-in period.
 - (vi) No KYC norms would be applicable at the time of purchase of KVP, PAN details will not be required.
- 19. 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 - **8.70% 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.
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Sports News

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. **Misbah-ul-Haq becomes oldest captain to score Test hundred** – He scored 110 against England at Lord's.
2. BCCI appoints Anil Kumble as head coach of Indian Cricket Team.
3. Alastair Cook becomes youngest cricketer to score 10000 Test runs
4. 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)

5. 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.
6. Shashank Manohar unanimously elected as Independent ICC Chairman
7. PCB appoints Mickey Arthur as Pakistan's head coach.

World Cup T-20 2016

Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's	West Indies	England
Women's	West Indies	Australia
U 19	West Indies	India

Tennis –

Wimbledon 2016

Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's Single	Andy Murray (Britain)	Milos Raonic (Canada)
Women's Single	Serena Williams (US)	Angelique Kerber (Germany)
Men's Doubles	French pair of Pierre-Hugues Herbert and Nicolas Mahut	French pair Julien Benneteau and Édouard Roger-Vasselin
Women's Doubles	US pair of Serena Williams and Venus Williams	Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Yaroslava Shvedova (Kazakhstan)
Mixed Doubles	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.

Miami Open Title - 2016		
Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's single	Novak Djokovic (Serbia)	Kei Nishikori (Japan)
Women's single	Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)	Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)
Women's double	BethanieMattek-Sands (USA) and LucieŠafářová(Czech Republic)	Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Yaroslava Shvedova (Kazakhstan)
Men's Doubles	Pierre Hugues (France) And Herbert Nicolas (France)	Raven Klaasen (South Africa) and Rajeev Ram (US)

Italian Open Title - 2016		
Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's single	Andy Murray	Novak Djokovic
Women's single	Serena Williams	Madison Keys (US)
Women's double	Sania Mirza & Martina Hingis	Elena Vesnina and Ekaterina Makarova

Australian Open Title - 2016		
Category	Winner	Runner up
Men's single	Novak Djokovic	Andy Murray
Women's single	Angelique Kerber (Germany)	Serena Williams
Women's double	Sania Mirza & Martina Hingis	Andrea Hlavackova & Lucie Hradecka

1. **Maria Sharapova** receives two-year suspension for failing drug test. She will remain under suspension for two years, commencing on 26 January 2016.
2. Novak Djokovic wins 2016 Mutua Madrid Open in Men's Singles title. He defeated Andy Murray.
3. Andy Murray clings Rome title with victory over Novak Djokovic.
4. Rafael Nadal wins Kei Nishikori in Barcelona Open Tennis to equal Clay court record. Venue: Monte Carlo
5. Rafael Nadal beats Gael Monfils to win ninth Monte Carlo Masters title
6. Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic defeated Sania-Hingis to win Stuttgart Grand Prix tournament in Germany

- 7. Novak Djokovic and Victoria Azarenka won BNP Paribas Open titles
- 8. Romanian Simona Halep wins women singles of Madrid Open of tennis. She defeated Dominika Cibulkova.

Football –

FIFA (Football) World Cup Venue	FIFA U – 17 World Cup Venues
1. Russia – 2018	1. Chile - 2015
2. Qatar - 2022	2. India – 2017

- 1. **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**
- 2. 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.
- 3. 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.
- 4. Chile beat Argentina to win 2016 Copa America Football tournament.
- 5. Real Madrid wins 2016 European Champions League. They defeated Atletico Madrid.
- 6. Mohun Bagan beats Aizawl FC 5-0 to lift 14th Federation Cup title.
- 7. China wins **Uber Cup Badminton tournament** for 14th time. China women defeated South Korea in the final
- 8. 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. Argentina Women won 2016 Champions Trophy Hockey title. Argentina defeated Netherlands in the final.
- 2. **Australia won Hero Hockey Champions Trophy** 2016. Australia defeated India 1-0 in a shoot-out.
- 3. Lucknow to host **Men's Hockey Junior World Cup** 2016
- 4. Hockey India recommended Ritu Rani and VR Raghunath for Arjuna Award

Formula One Motor Race - Grand Prix Titles

- 1. Winner of 2016 British Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton (British Formula One racing driver)
- 2. Winner of 2016 Australian Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton
- 3. Winner of 2016 Europe Grand Prix - Nico Rosberg (Mercedes driver)
- 4. Winner of 2016 Canada Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton
- 5. Winner of 2016 Monaco Grand Prix - Lewis Hamilton
- 6. Winner of 2016 Russian Grand Prix - Nico Rosberg
- 7. Winner of 2016 Spanish Grand Prix - Max Verstappen (Dutch teenager, Max Verstappen, became Formula One's youngest race winner after winning the Spanish Grand Prix)

Badminton

- 1. Winner of Canada Open Grand Prix Badminton Men's**
Singles title - B Sai Praneeth defeated Lee Hyun II of Korea
- 2. 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

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. Winner of Fide Women's Grand Prix Chess trophy -**
India's Grand Master Harika Dronavalli defeated Olga Girya of Russia to win the title.
- 2. Pakistan won 2016 Asia Kabaddi Championship Cup -** Pakistan defeated India by 19 points in the final.
- 3. Mark Selby won World Snooker Championship -** In the final match played in Sheffield, Selby from Leicester defeated China's Ding Junhui 18-14.
- 4. Dipa Karmakar named World Class Gymnast by International Gymnastics Federation -**
- 5. Javeline thrower Annu Rani** sets national record at National Inter-state Athletics Championships held in Hyderabad.
- 6. 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.
7. India won Silver medal at Archery World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.
- 8. USA wins FINA Women Water Polo World League Super Final.** The team defeated Spain 13-9 in the championship match in Shanghai, China.
9. Usain Bolt win the 100m in 9.88 seconds at Racers Grand Prix 2016
10. Dustin Johnson won the US Open golf tournament title
11. Sprinter Dutee Chand qualifies for 2016 Rio Olympics
12. Jitu Rai wins silver in ISSF World Cup
13. Birmingham to host seventh World Carrom Championship
14. Sonia Lather won silver in Women's World Boxing Championships
15. Gurpreet Singh Sandhu becomes first Indian to play in Tippeligaen
16. Pankaj Advani wins 2016 Asian 6-Red snooker title. He defeated top-seeded Malaysian Keen Hoh
17. Para athlete Amit Kumar Saroha wins Gold in 2016 French Open Athletics Championship

Joint Military Exercise

1. **MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise** - India, Japan and United States (US) participates in 2016 MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise near South China Sea.
2. **Nomadic Elephant 2016** - joint military exercise between **India & Mongolia**
3. **Shaheen Eagle 2016** - joint airforce drill between **Pakistan & China**
4. The Indian Army's battle tank exercise '**Shatrujeet**' was conducted in which district of India – **Bikaner, Rajasthan**
5. **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**.
6. **Exercise FORCE 18** held in **Pune, India - India hosts 1st multilateral military exercise with Asian nations**.
7. **Exercise Iron Fist 2016** - is an Indian Air Force Exercise held in Pokhran, Rajasthan. It has been held twice - 2013 and 2016.
8. **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.
9. **LAMITYE 2016** – India & Seychelles joint military exercise
 - **Note:** The 7th edition of India, Seychelles joint military exercise LAMITYE 2016 held in Victoria, Seychelles.
10. '**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.
11. '**Shakti-2016**' – Indo-French military exercise
12. "**Sahayog – Kaijin 2016**" – India & Japan joint Coast Guard Exercise

Joint Military Exercise Held in 2015

1. **Joint Naval Exercise SLINEX 2015** – India & Sri Lanka
2. **Indra** – Indo-Russia bilateral naval exercise
3. **Malabar Exercise 2015** – India, US & Japan
4. **Mitra Shakti 2015** – India & Sri Lanka
5. **Hand in Hand** – India & China
6. **EKUPERIN 2015** – India – Maldives
7. **AUSINDEX-15** – India – Australia (Bilateral Maritime Ex.)
8. **Indradhanush** – India – UK (Bilateral Air Ex.)
9. **Varuna Exercise 2015** – India – France Naval Exercise.
10. **Surya Kiran VIII** – Indo- Nepal joint military exercise.

Science | Defence | News

1. **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**.
2. **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**.
3. **The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** chaired by Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has given its approval to for the purchase of **145 Ultra-Light Howitzers (ULH) guns from the US**.
 - Note:** As part of this deal, 25 ULH guns will come to India directly from US in a fly away condition. Rest will be assembled in India at the proposed Assembly

- Integration and Test facility (AITF) for the weapon system in partnership with Mahindra and Mahindra Company.
4. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) unveiled indigenous **Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) HTT-40** in Bengaluru. HTT-40 stands for Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40. It is two-seater aircraft designed and developed indigenously by the HAL.
 5. 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.
 6. **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**.
 7. **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.
 8. **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.
 9. 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.
 10. **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.
 11. 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.
 12. **Google's** next operating system is '**Android N**'
 13. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) signed Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IIT-Bombay and Madras to establish a bi-nodal 'Centre of Propulsion Technology' (CoPT) at the two institutions.
 14. 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.
 15. **China** to launch First Hack **Proof Quantum** Communication Satellite
 16. Mars crater named after Nepal quake-hit village **Langtang**
 17. 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.
 18. '**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.
 19. **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.
 20. **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** successfully tested the first technology demonstrator of indigenously made reusable launched vehicle RLV-TD from Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
 21. Indian Railways, PEC sign MoU to set up **Kalpna Chawla Chair on geospatial technology**.
 22. **India Post goes** high-tech, geo-tags post offices on mobile app called **BHUVAN**.
 23. The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated an Intelligent Operations Centre and launched a Mobile App 'Monitor' for transformation of President's Estate into a smart township at a function held at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.
 24. Indigenously developed fecal incontinence management system '**Qora**'
 - To train the next generation of medical technology innovators in India
 - To develop innovative and affordable medical devices to augment unmet clinical needs of India
 25. **Odisha govt** to establish 100 more model schools & Odisha govt constructs 10 lakh pucca houses in two years.
 26. Himachal Pradesh launches artificial propagation programme of mahseer fish for conservation.
 27. Smt. Maneka Sanjay Gandhi inaugurated the e-Archive website and the e-Learning portal of WCD Ministry.

28. India's own submarine assembly workshop inaugurated at **Mazgaon, Mumbai, Maharashtra.**
29. The Indian Navy commissioned indigenously built highly maneuverable **Fast Attack Craft INS Tarmugli** at the commissioning ceremony held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
30. **International Defence Expo held in Malaysia.**
31. **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.
32. The medium range surface-to-air missile (MR-SAM) developed jointly by **India and Israel** successfully test-fired.
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.
36. **Potassium Bromate** a Cancer causing chemical has been banned by Union Government as food additive.
37. **ISRO launches record 20 satellites in a single mission:** Indian Space Research Organisation launched a record of 20 satellites in one single launch, including India's latest earth observation Cartosat-2 Series Satellite, onboard PSLV C-34 from Sriharikota.
Key points -
 - The satellites weighing totally around 560 kg are from US, Canada, Germany and Indonesia as well as one satellite each from Chennai's Sathyabama University and College of Engineering, Pune.
 - They would be injected into a 505 km polar Sun Synchronous Orbit.
38. **China launches Yaogan-30** remote sensing satellite to carry out land surveys.
39. **NASA launches** near-space monitoring balloon from **New Zealand.**
40. **Hyperion spectrometer** is the instrument of NASA on its Earth Observing-1 (EO-1) that helped to measure methane emissions from a single, specific leaking facility on Earth's surface -

Best wishes for your exams!



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