

CURRENT AFFAIRS



JANUARY 2016

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Current Affairs January 2016

This is a guide to provide you a precise summary and big collection of Multiple Choice Questions (MCQs) covering national and international current affairs for the month of **January 2016**. This guide helps you in preparation for Indian competitive examinations like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade etc.

Audience

Aspirants who are preparing for different competitive exams like Bank PO, Banking, Railway, IAS, PCS, UPSC, CAT, GATE, CDS, NDA, MCA, MBA, Engineering, IBPS, Clerical Grade, Officer Grade etc.

Even though you are not preparing for any exams but you are willing to have news encapsulated in a roll which you can walk through within 30 minutes, then we have put all the major points for the whole month in precise and interesting way.

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Appointments

News 1 – D.K. Hota to be the new CMD of defence PSU BEML Ltd

01-Jan: Dr D.K. Hota is set to be the new CMD of defense PSU, BEML Ltd. This position goes vacant on 1st July, 2016 post the superannuation of P. Dwarakanth. His name was recommended by the Public Enterprises Selection Board. Mr. Hota is currently the Director (HR) of this Bengaluru-based Rs. 3,000-crore mining equipment and rail coaches company. He has been on deputation at BEML from oil marketing major, HPCL for the last two years.



News 2 – Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited Appoints Atul Sobti as CMD

01-Jan: State-owned power equipment maker, Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) appointed Mr. Atul Sobti as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) for a period of five years. He has been working with BHEL as a Board Director, where he headed two crucial portfolios of Power and Finance.



News 3 – Shekhar Saran takes over charge as CMD of CMPDI

01-Jan: The new Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Ranchi-based Central Mine Planning & Design Institute Ltd (CMPDI), Mr. Shekhar Saran has assumed charge. Before joining CMPDI, Mr. Saran has worked as the Director (Technical) of CMPDI. He is a mining engineer and also holds an MBA. He began his career in the coal industry from South Eastern Coalfields Ltd (SECL) in 1981.



News 4 – Akshay Kothari named as Country Manager (India) for LinkedIn

03-Jan: Mr. Akshay Kothari has been appointed as the Country Manager for India by the Professional Networking Platform, LinkedIn. He will replace Nishant Rao. Mr Kothari will report to Olivier Legrand. He joined LinkedIn in 2013 after the company, Pulse, which he had co-founded, was acquired by LinkedIn. Mr. Kothari also played a very vital role in increasing the number of members publishing on LinkedIn from 1,000 to nearly 2 Million in the last two years.



News 5 – Abidali Z Neemuchwala appointed as the new CEO of WIPRO

04-Jan: WIPRO announced that they have appointed Mr. Abidali Z Neemuchwala as the new CEO. Mr. Abidali was elevated from COO to CEO and succeeds T.K. Kurien, who has now been made the Executive Vice-Chairman. Both these changes will be effective from February 1, 2016. Mr. Neemuchwala will also join the board as an Executive Director.



News 6 – Radha Krishna Mathur sworn in as the Chief Information Commissioner of India

04-Jan: Former Defence Secretary, Mr. Radha Krishna Mathur took oath as the eighth Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India for a tenure of three years. He took the oath from the President, Pranab Mukherjee. Mr. Mathur was appointed in place of Vijai Sharma and is a retired IAS officer of the Tripura cadre.



News 7 – Filippo Grandi is the new UN High Commissioner for Refugees

04-Jan: Mr. Filippo Grandi has been appointed as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees for a term of five years. He will succeed Mr. António Guterres. The challenges for the new commissioner stand tall with the up rise in the number of migrants last year. Mr. Grandi, who is from Italy, formerly was the head of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and prior to that he worked for the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) as a Deputy Special Representative.



News 8 – Mary Barra becomes the Chairman of Board of Directors of GM

05-Jan: Ms. Mary Barra was unanimously elected as the Chairman of General Motors (GM) Board of Directors. She will continue to function as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO). She was the first female CEO of any major automaker. Ms. Barra succeeds Theodore (Tim) Solso. She began her career with GM in 1980.



News 9 – IAMAI announced Freecharge CEO Kunal Shah as its Chairman

05-Jan: Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), declared Mr. Kunal Shah as its new chairman. He will succeed Nishant Rao. Mr. Kunal Shah is the founder and CEO of Freecharge. IAMAI also named Mr. Vishwas Patel, CEO of CCAvenues as its new treasurer. The association was established in year 2004 and represents nearly 200 companies from digital and online industry.



News 10 – Odisha Government Appoints Sam Pitroda as their Technical Advisor

06-Jan: Mr. Sam Pitroda was appointed as the Technology Advisor to the Odisha Government for development of Telecom, Electronics, IT, ITES sectors of the state. Mr. Pitroda will be given a cabinet rank in the state and will work for the Vision 2036 of the Odisha government.



News 11 – Government appoints AB Khare as CMD of Madras Fertilizers

07-Jan: The Union Government has appointed Mr. AB Khare as the Chairman and Managing Director of their state-run Madras Fertilizers for a term of five-years. His name was recommended by the Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB). Mr. Khare will succeed I. Vijay Kumar. Before joining Madras Fertilizers, Khare was working with state-owned fertilizer firm, Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers as a Chief General Manager (Commercial).



News 12 – 105th Indian Science Congress Elects Dr. Achyuta Samanta as their General President

07-Jan: Dr. Achyuta Samanta was elected as the General President of the 105th Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). He has set up institutions like Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneswar.



News 13 – Pavan Kapoor is India's new Envoy to Israel

07-Jan: Mr. Pavan Kapoor has been appointed as India's ambassador to Israel. He will succeed Jaideep Sarkar. Mr. Kapoor is currently India's High Commissioner in Maputo, which is the capital of Mozambique. India's relation with Israel recently is blooming after President Pranab Mukherjee had visited Tel Aviv in October last year, becoming the first Indian Head of State to visit the Jewish nation.



News 14 – Sailesh is the new Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India

07-Jan: 1985 batch IAS officer of Assam-Meghalaya cadre, Sailesh was appointed as the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India by the Appointments Committee of Cabinet for a period till July 28, 2017. He will replace C. Chandramouli. Sailesh is presently the Additional Secretary in the Home Ministry. The Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner is responsible for conducting the decennial Census.



News 15 – Amitabh Kant appointed as NITI Aayog CEO

07-Jan: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of the 1980 batch IAS officer of Kerala cadre, Amitabh Kant as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog. Kant will join the office of CEO in March 2016. He is currently the Secretary in the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion in the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry. He is also one of the driving forces behind the Union Government's two major campaigns – Make in India and Start Up India.



News 16 – Urjit Patel re-appointed as RBI Deputy Governor for Three Years

08-Jan: The Government has re-appointed Dr. Urjit R Patel as the Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in-charge of the monetary policy department, for a three-year term. The other three Deputy Governors are HR Khan, R Gandhi and SS Mundra. Mr. Urjit Patel made news after he headed a committee that paved the way for the proposed monetary policy committee.



News 17 – Devender Kumar Sikri sworn in as the Chairman of Competition Commission of India

11-Jan: Mr. Devender Kumar Sikri was sworn in as the Chairman of Competition Commission of India (CCI). He succeeded Ashok Chawla. Mr. Sikri is a 1975 batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the Gujarat cadre. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Union Government. Its duty is to eliminate practices having adverse effects on competition and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.



News 18 – Flipkart promotes Binny Bansal as its new CEO

11-Jan: Flipkart, one of the largest e-commerce companies in the country, announced the promotion of the current Chief Operating Officer, Binny Bansal to the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO), while Sachin Bansal, who was the CEO earlier, will now be the Executive Chairman for the company.



News 19 – Airbus Appoints Ashish Saraf as the Group’s Vice President

11-Jan: Airbus Group appointed Mr. Ashish Saraf as Vice-President - Industry Development, Strategic Partnerships and Offsets. He will look into the Group's existing Make in India initiatives.



News 20 – R Shivakumar appointed as the Chairman of ASSOCHAM Karnataka

11-Jan: Mr. R. Shivakumar has been appointed as the Chairman of ASSOCHAM Karnataka Regional Council, which is the new regional outfit of ASSOCHAM, New Delhi. Mr. Shivakumar is the Chairman of Kumar Group of companies, Bengaluru. Similarly, S Babu was appointed as the Co-Chairman of ASSOCHAM Karnataka. Mr. Babu is the Chairman of Ashwin Precision Products.



News 21 – Dinesh Sharma of India is Elected to the Board of Directors of China-backed AIIB

17-Jan: Mr. Dinesh Sharma, Additional Secretary for Ministry of Finance, was elected to the 12-member board of directors of the China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). It will be the first Board of Directors of AIIB. The inaugural meeting of the board of the governors of the AIIB approved by-laws, rules and codes of conduct for the bank. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is the designated governor of the AIIB from India.



AIIB was formally launched by the Chinese President Xi Jinping. It holds an authorized capital of 100 billion US dollars and subscribed capital of 50 billion US dollars. It will invest in sectors including transportation, energy, logistics and urban construction as well as education and healthcare.

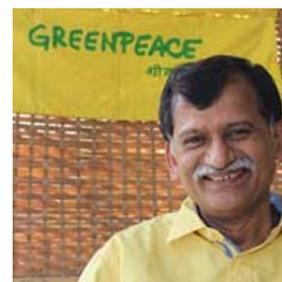
News 22 – Tata Motors Appoints Mr. Guenter Butschek as Chief Executive Officer & Managing Director

18-Jan: Tata Motors has appointed Mr. Guenter Butschek as nChief Executive Officer & Managing Director. Mr Butschek will lead all operations of Tata Motors in India and in international markets including South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and South Africa. Mr Butschek joins Tata Motors after his last assignment at Airbus Group, where he served as the Chief Operating Officer at Airbus and Member of the Group Executive Committee.



News 23 – Dr. Ravi Chellam appointed as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India

19-Jan: Veteran Environmentalist and Conservationist, Dr. Ravi Chellam was appointed as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India, a Non-Government Organization (NGO). A wildlife biologist and conservation scientist by training, Ravi will anchor the NGO, which has been facing a series of challenges from a variety of government agencies, and renew the organization's focus on campaigns for a clean and safe future.



News 24 – HaloSource hires Tamal Chaudhuri as India head

19-Jan: HaloSource Inc., a clean water technology solutions company, has appointed Tamal Chaudhuri as the General Manager to head India Operations. HaloSource has a long-standing relationship with Eureka Forbes. Prior to joining HaloSource, Mr Chaudhuri was working with A.O. Smith India Water Products Pvt Ltd.



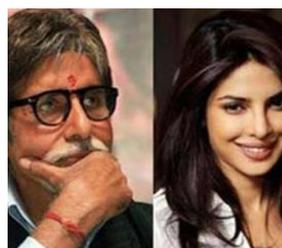
News 25 – Mamta Binani Nominated President of ICSI

19-Jan: Mamta Binani has been elected as the President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2016. She took charge on January 19. She is the first Company Secretary to be conferred the 'Bharat Nirman Awards' in 2010. She was the Chairperson of the Eastern India Regional Council of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India in 2010. She was also the first CS to be conferred the 'Bharat Nirman Awards' in 2010.



News 26 – Priyanka Chopra and Amitabh Bachchan named as 'Incredible India' brand Ambassadors

21-Jan: Amitabh Bachchan and Priyanka Chopra have been chosen as the brand ambassadors for the government's 'Incredible India' campaign. The duo will replace Amir Khan, who had promoted Indian tourism for a decade as the brand ambassador. There are also reports that the Indian Government is considering a famous female personality as the mascot for their 'Atithi Devo Bhava' series, which is also a part of the 'Incredible India' campaign.



News 27 – IRS officer Atulesh Jindal appointed the new Chairman of CBDT

22-Jan: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of senior revenue service officer, Atulesh Jindal as chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He will succeed A K Jain. A 1978 batch Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer, Mr Jindal is currently working as member (revenue) in the CBDT.



News 28 – BJP Re-elects Amit Shah as its President

25-Jan: Amit Shah was elected as the President of the BJP for a second term. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Union ministers and chief ministers of BJP-ruled states proposed his name for the party president's post during the nomination process. Shah is considered to be a close aide of PM Narendra Modi and he has also served as the home minister of Gujarat, when Modi was its chief minister.



News 29 – Twitter Named Leslie Berland as their Chief Marketing Officer

26-Jan: Twitter Inc. has appointed Leslie Berland as their Chief Marketing Officer (CMO). Before her appointment, CFO Anthony Noto was taking care of marketing operations. Before joining Twitter, Ms. Berland was working at American Express (AmEx) as an Executive Vice-President of global advertising, marketing and digital partnerships.



News 30 – Government Appoints Gurdeep Singh as CMD of NTPC

28-Jan: The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC), headed by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, appointed Gurdeep Singh as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of NTPC Ltd for a period of five years from the date of assumption of charge of the post. He will succeed Arup Roy Choudhury. Mr. Singh is currently serving as the Managing Director of Gujarat State Electricity Company Limited (GESC).



News 31 – Supreme Court Appoints Justice Sanjay Mishra as the Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh

28-Jan: Supreme Court approved the appointment of Justice Sanjay Mishra as the Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh. The apex court bench comprising Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Prafulla C Pant recalled the earlier appointment of Justice Virendra Singh as the Lokayukta.



Awards

News 1 – Cancer Research Expert Harpal Singh Kumar honored with Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II

01-Jan: Indian-origin cancer research expert, Harpal Singh Kumar was given Knighthood by Queen Elizabeth II. He was rewarded for his services to cancer research and being "hugely influential in promoting research into the prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of cancer, and cancer care." His name appeared in the annual New Year's Honors list that includes a few of other Indian-origin individuals:



| Awards | Recipient | Reason |
|---|--|--|
| Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) | Samir Desai, founder-CEO of Funding Circle | For his work in the field of financial inclusion |
| Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE) | Raminder Singh Ranger, Chairman of Sun Mark Ltd | For services to business and community cohesion |
| Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) | Kala Patel, Managing Director of Kiddycare Ltd Nurseries | For services to childcare business |
| Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) | Daljit Lally, Deputy Chief Executive of Northumberland Country Council | For services to integrated care received |

News 2 – DAVA Project Bags eASIA Award 2015 Under Trade Facilitation Category

02-Jan: The eAsia Award 2015 was given to the Drug Authentication and Verification Application (DAVA) project of the Department of Commerce under Trade Facilitation category. This award was declared by Asia Pacific Council for Trade Facilitation (APCTF) and Tehran based (Iran) Electronic Business. This award is managed by AFACT, which aims to develop and promote the trade facilitation, electronic business policies and activities in the Asia Pacific region. The project DAVA was launched by the Union Government in June 2015.



News 3 – Sanjay Subrahmanyam awarded with “2015 Sangita Kalanidhi”

02-Jan: Sanjay Subrahmanyam, classical south Indian vocalist will receive the esteemed 2015 Sangita Kalanidhi award of The Music Academy this year. The highly regarded award was imparted upon him by renowned mathematician, Manjul Bhargava at the 89th annual conference of the Madras Music Academy in Chennai. He became the seventh artist to be conferred with this award before 50 years of age.



The list of recipients of awards in other various categories are:

| Award | Winner |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Sangita Kala Acharya award | Vocalist Mysore Nagamani Srinath |
| Sangita Kala Acharya award | Percussionist T.H. Subashchandran |
| T.T.K. awards | Nagaswaram artiste Seshampatti Sivalingam |
| T.T.K. awards | Veena artiste Kamala Aswathama |
| ‘Musicologist’ award | Gowri Kuppusamy |
| Pappa Venkatramaiah award for Violin | M.S. Mani |
| Natya Kala Acharya | Dancer Alarmel Valli |

News 4 – Kate Atkinson Won Costa Novel Prize 2015

04-Jan: British writer Kate Atkinson has won the Costa Novel Prize for the second time in three years for her novel “A God in Ruins”. She won the same award for Life After Life in 2013 and Behind the Scenes at the Museum in 1995. It is the only major UK book prize that is open solely to authors resident in the UK.



Other winners are:

| Award | Winner |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Costa First Novel Award | Andrew Michael Hurley for The Loney |
| Costa Biography Award | Andrea Wulf for The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander Von Humboldt, The Lost Hero of Science |
| Costa Poetry Award | Don Paterson for 40 Sonnets |
| Costa Children’s Book Award | Frances Hardinge for The Lie Tree |

News 5 – Dr. Raghuram Rajan awarded Global and Asia-Pacific Central Bank Governor of the Year

07-Jan: The Reserve Bank of India Governor, Dr. Raghuram Rajan has been conferred with the Central Banker of the Year Award (Global and Asia Pacific) for 2016 by The Banker, a monthly publication of the Financial Times Group focusing on banking. The Central Banker of the Year 2016 awards celebrate the officials that have best managed to stimulate growth and stabilize their economy. In recognition of the Reserve Bank of India’s (RBI) contribution to the Indian economy past year, The Banker has awarded Raghuram Rajan with the title of Global and Asia-Pacific Central Bank Governor of the Year.



News 6 – Balkrishna Garg receives second Harikrishna Devsare Bal sahitya Award

08-Jan: Balkrishna Garg, Veteran Hindi poet, received the 2015 Harikrishna Devsare Bal sahitya Award in New Delhi. He was given the award for his Baa Geet, a collection of poems for children. This award consists of a cash prize of 75000 rupees, a shawl and a citation. It is awarded in the memory of late Harikrishna Devsare, who was a renowned Hindi writer known for his work in the field of children literature.



News 7 – The 73rd Annual Golden Globe Awards announced

11-Jan: The 73rd Annual Golden Globe Awards were announced in California. These annual awards are given to honor the best in Motion Pictures and Television series every year.



List of winners of the 73rd annual Golden Globe Awards:

MOTION PICTURES:

| Category | Film | Name |
|----------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Picture, Drama | The Revenant | |
| Picture, Musical or Comedy | The Martian | |
| Actor, Drama: | The Revenant | Leonardo DiCaprio, |
| Actress, Drama: | Room | Brie Larson, |
| Director | The Revenant | Alejandro Inarritu, |
| Actor, Musical or Comedy | The Martian | Matt Damon |
| Actress, Musical or Comedy | Joy | Jennifer Lawrence |
| Supporting Actor | Creed | Sylvester Stallone, |
| Supporting Actress, | Steve Jobs | Kate Winslet |

| | | |
|------------------|-------------|--|
| Foreign Language | Son of Saul | |
| Animated Film | Inside Out | |

TELEVISION:

| Category | Film | Name |
|----------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| Series, Drama | Mr. Robot | |
| Actor, Drama | Mad Men | Jon Hamm |
| Actress, Drama | Empire | Taraji P. Henson |
| Series, Comedy | Mozart in the Jungle | |
| Actor, Musical or Comedy | Mozart in the Jungle | Gael Garcia Bernal |
| Actress, Musical or Comedy | Crazy Ex-Girlfriend | Rachel Bloom, |
| Movie or Limited Series | Wolf Hall | |
| Cecil B. DeMille Award | | Denzel Washington |

News 8 – Lionel Messi Conferred with Ballon d'Or Award 2015

11-Jan: Argentine footballer, Lionel Messi won the Ballon d'Or Trophy for the fifth time overall. He received 41.33 percent votes. Cristiano Ronaldo stood second with 27.76 percent votes and Neymar stood third with 7.86 percent votes.



Winners of 2015:

- FIFA Ballon d'Or: Lionel Messi.
- FIFA Women's World Player of the Year: Carli Lloyd.
- FIFA Puskas Award: Wendell Lira.
- FIFA World Coach of the Year (Men's): Luis Enrique.
- FIFA World Coach of the Year (Women's): Jill Ellis.
- FIFA FIFPro World XI: Neuer, Silva, Marcelo, Ramos, Alves, Iniesta, Modric, Pogba, Messi, Neymar, Ronaldo.
- FIFA Fair Play Award: All football organizations supporting refugees.

News 9 – Employees Provident Fund Organization bagged the National Award on e-Governance 2015-16.

12-Jan: The **National Award on e-Governance 2015-16** was given to The Employees' Provident Fund Organization for launching the Universal Account Number (UAN). The award was given in the 'innovative use of technology in e-governance' category. As a result, EPFO will receive a cash prize of INR 200000.

National Awards for e-Governance



News 10 – Mohammedan Sporting Club honors Amitabh Bachchan

12-Jan: Mohammedan Sporting Club of Kolkata bestowed actor Amitabh Bachchan with honorary life membership of the club. Sultan Ahmed, President of this club, handed over the club's life membership to Mr. Bachchan. This club is one of the oldest and leading football clubs in India.



News 11 – David Beckham awarded with Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award by UNICEF.

12-Jan: UNICEF presented David Beckham with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award. The award was presented at the sixth biennial UNICEF Ball in Los Angeles as an honor for his work to save and improve the lives of children across the globe. Beckham is a Goodwill Ambassador of UNICEF since 2005. He launched 7: The David Beckham UNICEF Fund, in 2015, to raise funds and rally for the change for children. The award is named after Danny Kaye, American actor and singer and the first ambassador-at-large of the UNICEF.



News 12 – Subhashini Vasanth awarded Neerja Bhanot Award

13-Jan: Subhashini Vasanth was awarded the Neerja Bhanot Award. She is a Bengaluru-based activist and the award was given to her for her efforts to help people in distress and for empowering widows of martyrs and their families throughout the nation. She started "**Vasantharatna Foundation**" in the memory of her late husband Col Vasanth V. This Neerja Bhanot Award is given to an Indian woman every year, who has faced social injustice and helps to empower other women in similar conditions. The award carries a cash prize of Rs 1.5 lakhs, a citation and a trophy.



News 13 – Arison Tamfu awarded with the Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize 2015

14-Jan: Arison Tamfu, editor for the Cameroon Journal, won the Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize. He was awarded the prize for her critical investigative report related to the UN Climate change negotiations titled "Africa's billions might be buried forever".



News 14 – PM Modi felicitates the recipients of the Times Now Amazing Indians Awards 2016

14-Jan: Prime Minister Narendra Modi felicitated the awardees of Times Now Amazing Indians Awards 2016. The awardees were extraordinary achievers, but ordinary people whose work shaped many lives across the globe in different ways.



List of Awardees:

| Name | Category | Achievement |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| Late Kallen Pokkudan | The Eco Saviours | Known as Mangrove Man of India for preserving the wetlands and the eco system |
| S Ramakrishnan | Unstoppable Indians | For work done for welfare of people with physical & mental impairments |
| Sunita Aralikal | Stree Shakthi | For her work championing cause of women empowerment, girl child adoption |
| Popatrao Pawar | The Grass Roots Soldiers | He brought along wings of change in his village Hiware Bazaar in Maharashtra as a Sarpanch. |
| Timothy | Indian at Heart | Dedicated to find shelter for homeless kids |
| Chintakindi Mallesham | Incredible Innovators | Devised the electronic Laxmi ASU Machine to put an end to agony of weavers |
| Malavath Purna | Young Indians, Big Achievements | She became the youngest female (13 Years) climber in the world to scale Mt. Everest |
| Damini Sen | Young Indians, Big Achievements | Born without Arms in Raipur and holds a world record of largest number of drawing made by Toes in an hour. |
| Murugan S | Ordinary Indians, Extraordinary Achievement | For rescuing and rehabilitating thousands of street children by being an auto rickshaw driver. |

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|--------------------|--|
| Mathews Mathew | K | Energising India | For devising a solar mosquito trapper cum destroyer to Mosquitoes. |
| Yashraj Khaitan | | Global Indians | An alumnus of university of Berkeley, he returned to India to address the challenges of power supply in the remote corners of the country. |
| Ruma Roka | | Educators of India | A teacher, Mentor & an interpreter who is breaking the language barrier and proving the hearing impaired can also learn and grow. |

News 15 – Marat Safin inducted into International Tennis Hall of Fame

14-Jan: Former World No.1 tennis player, Marat Safin joined the International Tennis Hall of Fame. The official ceremony to induct Safin has been scheduled for 16 July 2016. He was the World No 1 player for a total of 9 weeks between November 2000 and April 2001. He is a two time Grand-Slam champion, dual Davis Cup champion and won a total of 15 ATP titles in men's singles category.



News 16 – The 61st Filmfare Awards 2015 presented in Mumbai

15-Jan: Bollywood's most prestigious award, the 61st Filmfare Awards 2015, was presented on 15 January 2016. The hosts for the award show were Shah Rukh Khan and Kapil Sharma.



Recipients of the Awards:

- **Best Actor:** Ranveer Singh for Bajirao Mastani.
- **Best Actress:** Deepika Padukone for Piku.
- **Best Film:** Bajirao Mastani.
- **Best Director:** Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Bajirao Mastani.
- **Lifetime Achievement:** Moushumi Chatterjee.
- **Best Debutant Director:** Neeraj Ghaywan for Masaan.
- **Best Debutant Actor:** Sooraj Pancholi for Hero.
- **Best Debutant Actress:** Bhumi Pednekar for Dum Laga Ke Haisha.
- **Best Film (Critics Category):** Piku.
- **Best Actor (Male Critics Category):** Amitabh Bachchan for Piku.
- **Best Actor (Female Critics Category):** Kangana Ranaut for Tanu Weds Manu Returns.
- **Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Critics Category):** Priyanka Chopra for Bajirao Mastani.
- **Best Singer (Male and Female):** Arijit Singh for Sooraj Dooba Hai from Roy and Shreya Ghoshal for Deewani Mastani from Bajirao Mastani.

News 17 – Dr. Jancy James awarded with Prof. MV Pylee Award

15-Jan: Dr. Jancy James has been selected for the Prof. MV Pylee Award. The award is given to individuals, who have excelled in teaching and research, as an acknowledgement of their contribution to academic community. This award carries an amount of 1 lakh rupees along with a citation. Dr Jancy James is the first woman Vice Chancellor of the Central University of Kerala, a recognized author, literary critic, researcher and translator.



News 18 – Anuradha Roy won 2016 DSC Prize for her novel “Sleeping on Jupiter”

16-Jan: Anuradha Roy has won the prestigious DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016 for her novel, Sleeping on Jupiter, at the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka. The novel deals with the subject of violence against women. Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe presented the award, which carried a cash award of \$50,000 and a trophy to Anuradha Roy. The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature is an established international literary prize that awards the best work in South Asian fiction writing each year.



News 19 – 21st Critics' Choice Awards presented in California

17-Jan: The 21st Critics' Choice Awards were handed out in California to honor the best in film and television. The well-known American actor-director, TJ Miller hosted the program. These awards, presented by the “The Broadcast Film Critics Association” and “Broadcast Television Journalists Association”, honor the finest achievements in drama and television filmmaking.



The main recipients of the Critics' Choice Awards 2016 –

DRAMA:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| BEST PICTURE: | Spotlight | |
| BEST ACTOR: | Leonardo DiCaprio | The Revenant |
| BEST ACTRESS: | Brie Larson | Room |
| BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR: | Sylvester Stallone – Creed | Creed |
| BEST SUPPORTING ACTRESS: | Alicia Vikander | The Danish Girl |
| BEST YOUNG ACTOR/ACTRESS: | Jacob Tremblay | Room |
| BEST ACTING ENSEMBLE: | Spotlight | |

| | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| BEST DIRECTOR: | George Miller | Mad Max: Fury Road |
| BEST ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY: | Josh Singer and Tom McCarthy | Spotlight |
| BEST ADAPTED SCREENPLAY: | Charles Randolph and Adam McKay | The Big Short |
| BEST ANIMATED FEATURE: | Inside Out | |
| BEST ACTION MOVIE: | Mad Max: Fury Road | |
| BEST ACTOR IN AN ACTION MOVIE: | Tom Hardy | Mad Max: Fury Road |
| BEST ACTRESS IN AN ACTION MOVIE: | Charlize Theron | Mad Max: Fury Road |
| BEST COMEDY: | The Big Short | |
| BEST ACTOR IN A COMEDY: | Christian Bale | The Big Short |
| BEST ACTRESS IN A COMEDY: | Amy Schumer | Trainwreck |
| BEST SCI-FI/HORROR MOVIE: | Ex Machina | |
| BEST FOREIGN LANGUAGE FILM: | Son of Saul | |
| BEST DOCUMENTARY FEATURE: | Amy | |

The main recipients of the Critics' Choice Awards 2016 –

TELEVISION:

| Category | Winner | Name of the Show | Channel |
|--|----------------|---------------------|-------------|
| BEST ACTOR IN A COMEDY SERIES | Jeffrey Tambor | Transparent | Amazon |
| BEST ACTOR IN A DRAMA SERIES | Rami Malek | Mr. Robot | USA |
| BEST ACTOR IN A MOVIE MADE FOR TELEVISION OR LIMITED SERIES | Idris Elba | Luther | BBC America |
| BEST ACTRESS IN A COMEDY SERIES | Rachel Bloom | Crazy Ex-Girlfriend | The CW |
| BEST ACTRESS IN A DRAMA SERIES | Carrie Coon | The Leftovers | HBO |
| BEST ACTRESS IN A MOVIE MADE FOR TELEVISION OR LIMITED SERIES | Kirsten Dunst | Fargo | FX Networks |

| | | | |
|--|--------------|------------------------------------|---------|
| BEST COMEDY SERIES | | Master of None | Netflix |
| BEST DRAMA SERIES | | Mr. Robot | USA |
| BEST ANIMATION SERIES | | BoJack Horseman | Netflix |
| BEST REALITY SHOW - COMPETITION | | The Voice | NBC |
| BEST REALITY SHOW HOST | James Lipton | Inside the Actors Studio | Bravo |
| BEST TALK SHOW | | Last Week Tonight with John Oliver | HBO |

News 20 – Writer Ankita Anand Awarded with the Prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2015

18-Jan: Journalist and writer, Ankita Anand was awarded with the prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for 2015 in Asia and the Pacific amateur category. She was selected for the award for her article titled “Stirrings Beneath the Peepul” published in the journal, The Equator Linel. The article was a sensitive portrayal of life for young women facing the threat of the diktat of Khap Panchayats in Haryana. Lorenzo Natali Media Prize 2015 was launched under the motto “Today’s stories can change our tomorrow”.



News 21 – Rahul Thakkar won an Oscar Award for Technical Achievement

20-Jan: Rahul Thakkar has been declared as one of the winners of the Scientific and Technical Awards given by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, popularly called Oscar Awards. Mr. Rahul Thakkar was born in UK and brought up in India. He won the award along with Richard Chuang in the category of groundbreaking design of the DreamWorks Animation Media Review System.



News 22 – National e-Governance Awards conferred on the conclusion day of their 19th National e-Governance Conference

22-Jan: The 19th National e-governance Conference concluded in Nagpur. The title of the conference was **Transforming India**. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis gave away the National Awards for e-Governance. The awards were given for exemplary implementation of e-Governance initiatives. There were 18 winners who were awarded in 12 major categories.



List of Major Recipients:

| Category | Gold | Silver |
|---|---|---|
| Excellence in Government Process Re-engineering | Shri Alex Paul Menon, District Collector, Balrampur, Chhatisgarh, who is the project-head of 'Chhatisgarh online school monitoring system (COSMOS) Balrampur | The Social Justice Department of Madhya Pradesh for the project 'SAMAGRA Portal' – which is an initiative to implement integrated social security programs. |
| Outstanding performance in Citizen-Centric Service Delivery | Department of Women & Child Development, Government of West Bengal for its online tracking system for missing children (Track Child) | |
| Innovative Use of Technology in e-Governance | EPFO, (Employment Provident Fund Organization), Delhi under Ministry of Labour and Employment for its successful implementation of universal account number programme | Delhi Police for its lost report application |

News 23 – National Bravery Awards 2015 presented to 25 Children

25-Jan: The National Bravery Awards were presented to 25 children (3 girls and 22 boys) by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

The main recipients are:

- **Bharat Award** - Late Master Gaurav Kawduji Sahastrabuddhe.
- **Geeta Chopra Award** - Km. Shivampet Ruchitha.
- **Sanjay Chopra Award** - Master Arjun Singh.
- **Bapu Gaidhani Awards** - Master Ramdinthara, Rakeshbhai Shanabhai Patel and Master Aromal S.M.



News 24 – Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards – 2015 Announced

25-Jan: The President of India has approved the conferment of Jeevan Raksha Padak Series of Awards – 2015 on 50 persons, which include Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 03 persons, Uttam Jeevan Raksha Padak to 09 people and Jeevan Raksha Padak to 38 persons of which 09 awards are posthumous.

The recipients of Sarvottam Jeevan Raksha Padak are:

- Shri Ullas Unnikrishnan (**Posthumous**), Kerala.



- Shri Munna alias Ramdars Sisodiya (**Posthumous**), Madhya Pradesh.
- Shri Ankit Kumar Mishra (**Posthumous**), Uttar Pradesh.

News 25 – Rod Laver awarded with Companion of the order of Australia

26-Jan: Rodney George Laver was awarded with the country's highest honor, Companion of the Order of Australia on the occasion of Australia Day. Rod Laver's 200 singles titles are the most in tennis history. He won 11 Grand Slam singles titles, and is the only player to twice achieve the calendar-year Grand Slam—in 1962 and 1969. He also won eight 'Pro Slam' titles.



News 26 – Defence Minister gave “Rakshamantri Awards for Excellence” for 2012-13 and 2013-14

27-Jan: The Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence for the years 2012-13 and 2013-14 was presented by the Defence Minister, Manohar Parrikar in New Delhi to recognize the exemplary performance of the Ordnance Factories and the nine Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs).



These awards were given in three major categories:

- Institutional Awards
- Best Performing Division, Factory, Shipyard Awards and
- Group and Individual Awards.

The List of prominent awardees for the year 2013-14 under –

INSTITUTIONAL AWARDS:

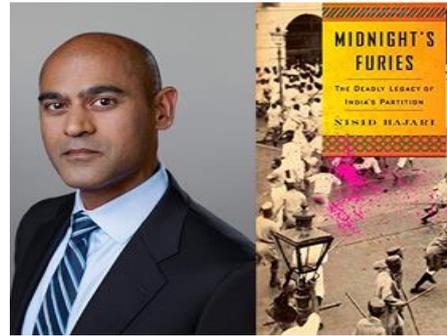
- Excellence in performance: BEL
- Best performance in Exports: BEL

DIVISION /FACTORY /SHIPYARD AWARDS:

- Best Performing Division of DPSUs: HAL, Avionics Division, Hyderabad.
- Best Performing Factory of OFB: Ordnance Equipment Factory, Kanpur.
- Best Performing Shipyard: GRSE, Kolkata.

News 27 – 2016 William E. Colby Award Presented to Nisid Hajari for Best Military Book

27-Jan: Nisid Hajari won the 2016 William E. Colby Award for his book, "Midnight's Furies: The Deadly Legacy of India's Partition." Now in its 17th year, the Colby prize is awarded annually by Norwich University to a first-time author in recognition of a work of fiction or non-fiction that has made a major contribution to the understanding of military history, intelligence operations or international affairs. "Midnight's Furies" covers the 1947 partition of India and the violence that surrounded that event. Hajari oversees Asia coverage for Bloomberg View, which is the editorial page of Bloomberg News.



News 28 – David Warner won Allan Border Medal 2016

28-Jan: David Warner won the prestigious Allan Border Medal for 2016. Warner won the medal after he got 240 votes. The 2015 winner and skipper Steve Smith got 219 and fast bowler Mitchell Starc was third with 183 votes.



The recipients of other awards are:

| Awards | Winners |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Test Player of the Year | David Warner |
| One Day International Player of the Year | Glenn Maxwell |
| Bradman Young Cricketer of the Year | Alex Ross |
| State Player of the Year | Adam Voges (Western Australia) |
| Women's International Cricketer of the Year (Belinda Clark Award) | Ellyse Perry |

News 29 – Indian Human Rights Activist Henri Tiphagne Wins Amnesty International Human Rights Award 2016

28-Jan: Indian human rights activist, Henri Tiphagne won the 8th Human Rights Award by Amnesty International Germany. He has been awarded for his exceptional commitment to human rights. Henri Tiphagne is the founder of the human rights organization, People's Watch. The Human Rights Award is presented by Amnesty Germany every two years.



Deaths

News 1 – Ex-Chief Justice of India Sarosh Homi Kapadia Died

05-Jan: The 38th Chief Justice of India, Sarosh Homi Kapadia, passed away. He was 68. Kapadia is survived by his wife, a son and a daughter. He delivered some milestone rulings, like in the Vodafone case and the quashing of the appointment of Chief Vigilance Commissioner, P J Thomas during the UPA regime as the Chief Justice of India.



News 2 – Noted Gujarati Writer Labhshankar Thakar Dead

06-Jan: Noted Gujarati writer and poet, Labhshankar Thakar passed away in Ahmedabad. He was 80 years old. Thakar was a modernist author of Gujarati literature with influence of existentialism challenging traditional literature styles. He had received several awards like Sahitya Akadami Award (1991) for his poetry, Sahitya Gaurav Puraskar (2002) etc. He was also an Ayurvedic Practitioner as well.



News 3 – J&K Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Passes Away

07-Jan: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Mufti Mohammad Sayeed died in New Delhi at the age of 79. He was the second Chief Minister of J&K to die in office. The state government had declared seven days mourning. He was the first Muslim Home Minister of India. His daughter 56-year-old Mehbooba is expected to take over as the first woman Chief Minister of J&K with PDP leaders throwing their weight behind her. But this will require the approval of BJP.



News 4 – American Singer Otis Clay Died

08-Jan: American Rhythm and blues singer, Otis Clay, died at the age of 73 in Chicago, Illinois. Clay was a one-time Grammy nominee and also one of the 2013 inductees to the Blues Hall of Fame.



News 5 – Popular Hindi Writer Ravindra Kalia Passes Away

09-Jan: Ravindra Kalia, Noted Hindi Writer and Journalist, passed away at the age of 78 in New Delhi. He was famous for his works like Nau Saal Choti Patni and Ghalib Chuti Sharab. He also served as the Editor of several literary magazines. Mr Kalia had been honoured with several awards like Uttar Pradesh (UP) Premchand Memorial Award, UP Sahitya Bhushan Award, Punjab Government's Shiromani award, UP Lohia Award etc.



News 6 – First Female Formula One driver, Maria Teresa de Filippis, passed away

09-Jan: The first woman to compete in a world championship Formula One grand prix, Maria Teresa de Filippis, passed away. She was 89. Ms. De Filippis participated in five World Championship Grands Prix. However, she scored no championship points. Although she remained largely unsuccessful in her Formula One racing career, she will be remembered as a pioneer in motor racing, a sport dominated by men.



News 7 – Singer David Bowie died

10-Jan: David Bowie passed away due to throat cancer at the age of 69. Bowie was a singer, songwriter and producer. His death comes just two days after he released his 25th and final album '★' (Blackstar). He was one of the most influential men in rock. He won two Grammy awards and had nine albums go platinum in the UK.



News 8 – Lieutenant General J.F.R. Jacob passed away

13-Jan: Lieutenant General J.F.R. Jacob (retired) died at the age of 92 after prolonged illness. He was promoted to the post of Major General in 1967 and was then appointed the Chief of Staff of the Eastern Command, which defeated the Pakistan Army during 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War. He was one of the war heroes of that War. Post retirement from the Indian Army, he served as the Governor of Punjab and Goa.



News 9 – Popular stage actor Brian Bedford died

13-Jan: Actor Brian Bedford, the British stage veteran, passed away at the age of 80 due to cancer. He was battling this life threatening ailment for close to two years. Mr. Bedford acted on the stage and in films. He will be best known as a classical actor particularly in plays by Shakespeare and Molière. He came into the limelight with the voice of Disney's Robin Hood, which got him a lot of accolades as well.



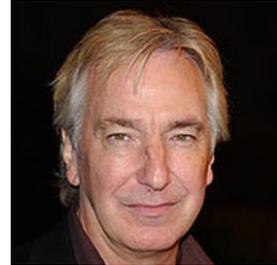
News 10 – Actor Rajesh Vivek Upadhyay of Lagaan fame died

14-Jan: Actor Rajesh Vivek Upadhyay best known for his roles in films like Lagaan and Swades, passed away. He was 66. His milestone performances include his role of Ved Vyasa in the popular TV series Mahabharat, in the series Bharat Ek Khoj and in the TV Serial Aghori, which is his horror best.



News 11 – British Actor and Theatre Legend Alan Rickman passed away

14-Jan: Actor Alan Rickman, best known for his roles in films like Harry Potter, Die Hard and Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves, died aged 69 after suffering from Cancer. Rickman was popular for playing a variety of roles on stage and screen. He has 68 film credits to his name. He won 16 various awards including an Emmy, Golden Globe, and BAFTA.



News 12 – Muslim Personal Law Board Spokesman Mohammed Abdul Rahim Qureshi passes away

15-Jan: The Assistant General Secretary and Spokesman of All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), Mohammed Abdul Rahim Qureshi, passed away at the age of 81. He was also the president of Tameer-e-Millat. Qureshi had been a member of AIMPLB since 1971.



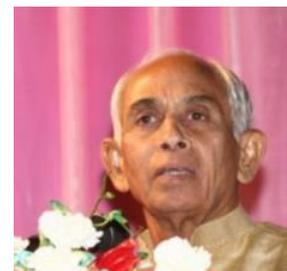
News 13 – Distinguished Filmmaker Lakshman Rao Mohite popularly known as Geethapriya passed away

17-Jan: Popular Kannada lyricist and film-maker Lakshman Rao Mohite died at the age of 84 due to cardiac arrest. His pen-name was Geethapriya. He composed lyrics for over 250 Kannada songs and directed 40 films including one Hindi film. He was honored by the Karnataka Government with the Puttanna Kanagal Award in 1986. In addition, he also received the Dr. B. Saroja Devi National Award and Sandesha Awards.



News 14 – Former Sikkim Governor Ventrpragada Rama Rao passed away

17-Jan: BJP Veteran and former Sikkim Governor Ventrpragada Rama Rao passed away in Hyderabad at the age of 81. He worked as the Governor of Sikkim from 2002 to 2007. He also served as a senate member of the Osmania University. After resigning from office, he returned to state politics and then turned passive due to his old age. He is survived by a son and his wife.



News 15 – The Eagles' Guitarist Glenn Frey dead

18-Jan: The founding member and guitarist of The Eagles, Glenn Lewis Frey passed away in New York at the age of 67 due to complications arising from Rheumatoid Arthritis, Acute Ulcerative Colitis and Pneumonia. He played guitar for the band and was also one of the primary singers of the band. Hotel California, one of the albums of the Eagles, is ranked 37th in Rolling Stone's list of The 500 Greatest Albums of All Time. The Eagles were inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1998.



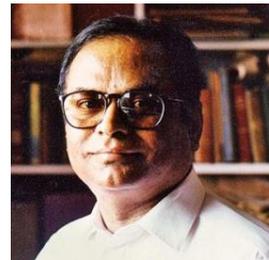
News 16 – Senior BJP Leader Daulatrao Aher passed away

19-Jan: Senior BJP leader, Dr. Daulatrao Aher died in Nashik at the age of 74. An ENT surgeon, Dr. Aher was a member of the 13th Lok Sabha of India from Nashik constituency during 1989-1991 and was elected MLA from Nashik for three terms. He also served as the state health minister.



News 17 – Journalist Aroon Tikekar dies

19-Jan: Veteran journalist and author, Aroon Tikekar died in Mumbai at the age of 72 due to breathing related complications. Tikekar had written over 20 books. He worked for various newspapers like Times of India, as senior assistant editor for Maharashtra Times, Editor of Loksatta etc. He also received several literary and journalism awards.



News 18 – Oscar Nominated Italian Film Director Ettore Scola died

19-Jan: Oscar nominated Italian film director, Ettore Scola passed away in Rome at the age of 84. He was a leading figure in the Italian Cinema. He directed some of the world's greatest actors including Sophia Loren, Marcello Mastroianni, Fanny Ardant and Jack Lemmon. He directed 41 films.



News 19 – Legendary Indian dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai died

21-Jan: Legendary dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai died in Ahmedabad at the age of 97. She was passionate about Bharatnatyam and Kathakali dance forms. Apart from that, she was also a poet, writer and environmentalist. She was the founder director of the Darpana Academy of Performing Art. Her autobiography is titled Mrinalini Sarabhai: The Voice of the Heart. She was a recipient of the Padma Bhushan and Padma Shree as well.



News 20 – Social Activist Nirmala Gajwani passed away

21-Jan: Social Activist and Former Deputy Speaker of Gujarat Assembly, Nirmala Gajwani passed away at the age of 87. She was popularly known as Dadi Gajwani and was the first lady Deputy Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly. She was a reputed social worker and one of the leading lights of the Sindhi community.



News 21 – Tabla Maestro Shankar Ghosh passed away

22-Jan: Distinguished Tabla player, Pandit Shankar Ghosh died at the age of 80 in Kolkata following a prolonged illness. Pandit Shankar Ghosh followed the Farukhabad Gharana of Hindustani classical music and was awarded the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in the year 2000. He was also awarded the ITC Sangeet Research Academy award and the Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan award as well.



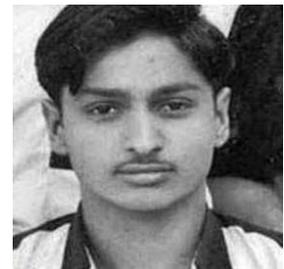
News 22 – Popular Malayalam film actress Kalpana Ranjani passed away

25-Jan: Noted Malayalam film actress, Kalpana Ranjani passed away in Hyderabad at the age of 51. She made her film debut as a child artiste in 1983 and went on to act in more than 300 south Indian movies. Known for her comedy acting, she won the Best Supporting Actress award for her performance in the film Thanichalla Njan at the 60th National Film Awards.



News 23 – Former Captain of the Indian Basketball Team Ranbir Chopra passed away

25-Jan: Ranbir Chopra, former captain of the Indian basketball team, passed away in Kapurthala, Punjab at the age of 86. He was the captain of the champion Indian basketball team in the first Asian Games in 1951. He also won the national title in 1951 in Ludhiana as part of the Punjab team. He also became the coach of the Indian team in 1962.



News 24 – Politician and freedom fighter Maheswar Baug passed away

28-Jan: Politician and freedom fighter, Maheswar Baug died in Balasore, Odisha at the age of 85. He was twice elected to the State Assembly from Basta constituency in Balasore district in 1961 and 1977 and was the minister for works and health during the Chief Ministership of Nilamani Routray in 1977.



News 1 – Paytm Procures Shifu for \$8Mn to Deepen Customer Experience

04-Jan: Paytm, the mobile wallet and e-commerce platform, has bought Shifu for \$8 million (about Rs 53.2 crores). Shifu explores the smartphone usage patterns of users and makes personalized and relevant recommendations to them. Paytm aims to leverage the tech infrastructure of Shifu to enrich the customer experience it offers to its users. Paytm has a user base of more than 100 million people. In November, Paytm acquired home service marketplace Near.in as well.



News 2 – Nokia Gains Control of Alcatel-Lucent After a Deal of 15.6 billion Euros

04-Jan: In a deal worth 15.6 billion euros, Nokia Corporation has acquired the French telecom equipment company, Alcatel-Lucent after completing the regulatory formalities. The deal was already approved by European Commission and now by the French stock market regulator, Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). Nokia, now, holds 79.32 percent of outstanding Alcatel-Lucent shares and at least 78.97 percent of voting rights. Rajeev Suri is the President and CEO of this company.



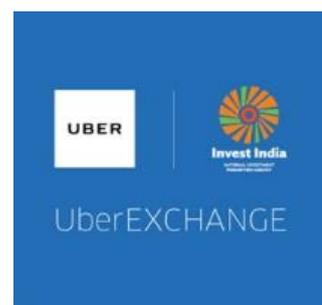
News 3 – Reliance Capital-Goldman Sachs Deal Cleared by CCI

05-Jan: The Competition Commission of India (CCI) has approved the Reliance Capital Asset Management's proposed acquisition of Goldman Sachs' mutual fund business in India for 243 crore rupees. The deal was approved by CCI after it was convinced that it may not have an adverse impact on competition in the country. SEBI is yet to approve the deal. RCAM will acquire all 12 onshore mutual fund schemes of Goldman Sachs Asset Management India with total asset under management of 7132 crore rupees. The deal would also make Reliance MF, the exclusive fund manager for the Government's ambitious Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) Exchange.



News 4 – Uber launches 'uberEXCHANGE', start-up mentorship program

06-Jan: Uber, in partnership with Invest India, announced a new start-up mentorship program called 'uberEXCHANGE'. In this, it will host a series of six leadership talks by senior Uber executives. This program will address issues like fund-raising, product design, engineering and how to scale up a business. The top 10 start-ups will also travel to San Francisco, where they will meet global investors, fellow entrepreneurs and the team at Uber. The Chief Executive of this company is Mr. Travis Kalanick.



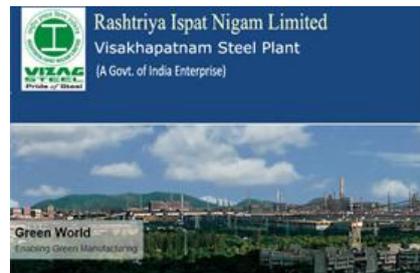
News 5 – Quikr buys online real estate portal Commonfloor.com in a \$200 Mn all-stock deal

07-Jan: The first major consolidation story of 2016 has been the acquisition of real estate portal, Commonfloor.com by Quikr for a \$200-Mn all-stock deal stitched by Tiger Global, main investor in both Quikr and CommonFloor. Quikr is an Indian classified advertising platform founded by Pranay Chulet. Whereas, CommonFloor.com is an Indian real estate portal founded by Sumit Jain, Lalit Mangal and Vikas Malpani.



News 6 – RINL inked MoU with Andhra Pradesh Government for an Investment of 38500 Crore Rupees

11-Jan: Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh government. It includes expansion capacity of Vizag steel to 7.3 million tonnes per annum. The cost of this project is around 38500 crore rupees.



News 7 – Defence Acquisition Council approves significant changes in the Defence Procurement Procedure

12-Jan: The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved major changes in the new Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016. This DPP 2016 aims to enhance private sector participation and speed up procurement process. It will give a big push to the Make in India initiative.



News 8 – Jet Airways and Bangkok Airways enter into Loyalty Program Pact

15-Jan: Jet Airways and Bangkok Airways have signed a Loyalty Program Pact. This will benefit the frequent flyers of these two airlines, wherein they can redeem their reward points, while travelling on each other's network.

The programs involved are:

- **JetPrivilege** – The loyalty and rewards management program and frequent flyer program of Jet Airways.
- **FlyerBonus** – the loyalty scheme of Bangkok Airways.



News 9 – Flipkart ties-up with Mahindra for KUV100 online bookings

18-Jan: Flipkart has entered into an exclusive arrangement with Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd. Now, consumers can book their KUV100 SUV on Flipkart from January 18th, 2016.



News10 – BSE launches Algorithm Trading Test Facility

18-Jan: Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) Ltd has launched algorithm trading test facility for investors on its derivatives and equity platform. This new service is free-of-cost for market participant. It was launched in partnership with Mumbai based Symphony Fintech Solutions Pvt. Ltd. Algorithmic trading refers to transaction orders created by using radical mathematical models that involve automated execution of trade.



News 11 – SEBI Published Narayan Murthy-panel report on Alternative Investment Policy

20-Jan: The 21-member Alternative Investment Policy Advisory Committee (AIPAC) constituted by the SEBI in March 2015 under the chairmanship of N R Narayan Murthy, has proposed creating a favorable tax environment for investors, tweaking of safe harbor rules, unlocking domestic pools of capital, enabling onshore fund management in India and reforming the AIF regulatory regime. All the alternate forms of investments (like venture capital, hedge funds, private equity funds) are categorized as alternative investments. The traditional investments include investments in FD, debt, equity etc.



The highlights of the recommendations are:

- Introduction of Securities Transaction Tax (STT) for private equity and venture capital investments.
- The exempt income of AIFs should not suffer tax withholding of 10 per cent.
- Investment gains of AIFs should be deemed to be 'capital gains' in nature.

News 12 – BEPS rules to be implemented from 1 April 2016 in India

21-Jan: The government has decided to implement Base Erosion and Profit Shifting norms announced by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) beginning 1st April, 2016. The new guidelines make country-by-country reporting mandatory for Indian multinationals. BEPS refers to tax planning strategies that help to have a check on gaps and mismatches in tax rules. It will reveal artificial shift of profits to low or no-tax locations.



News 13 – India's first Social Digital Wallet Udio launched by TranServ

21-Jan: TranServ has launched the country's first Social Digital Wallet named Udio. It wants to create a highly social, community-driven P2P (peer to peer) digital transactions platform via its secure and seamless payment structure. Extending and replicating social behaviors, Udio enables squaring of dues a hassle free task. Thus, sharing bills at restaurant or paying a pool cab becomes easy.



News 14 – US-based KBACE Technologies acquired by Cognizant

27-Jan: Cognizant Technology Solutions have acquired KBACE Technologies Inc., a US-based global consulting and technology services company. It specializes in cloud strategy, implementation and integration. The terms of this transaction were not disclosed though.



News 1 – Snowflake Corals Poses Threat to Marine Ecology

05-Jan: Snowflake Corals, which, as per the scientists, are an invasive species, could pose a serious threat to the marine ecology of the region. Scuba divers of a local NGO, Friends of Marine Life (FML), reported numerous colonies of the corals off the coast of Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari.



News 2 – India to leapfrog to BS-VI norms from April 1, 2020

06-Jan: The Union Government has decided to skip Bharat Stage (BS) V altogether and implement stricter emission norms of Bharat Stage (BS) VI from April 1, 2020. At present, BS-IV auto fuels are being supplied in the whole of northern India covering J&K, Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Delhi, parts of Rajasthan and western UP. The rest of the country has BS-III grade fuel.



News 3 – Ministry of Environment holds first National Stakeholder Consultation on the BIOFIN initiative

14-Jan: The Environment Ministry started a two-day National Stakeholder Consultation Meeting on Biodiversity Finance Initiative. This meeting had been organized to understand the BIOFIN project and to seek professional inputs from experts of various fields in strengthening the biodiversity conservation efforts in the country in the context of India's 12 National Biodiversity Targets developed in line with 20 Global Aichi Biodiversity targets.



A global high level panel set up by the Convention on Biological Diversity has estimated that USD 150-440 billion need to be invested annually in biodiversity for effective implementation of Aichi Global Biodiversity targets. BIOFIN is a global partnership seeking to address the biodiversity finance challenge in a comprehensive manner. It helps in building a sound business case for increased investment in the management of ecosystems and biodiversity.

News 4 – World Bank to extend assistance of 20 Million US dollars for rebuilding Indira Gandhi Zoological Park

17-Jan: The World Bank will be funding USD 20 million to help reconstruct the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP), which got devastated during cyclone Hudhud. First of its kind, the World Bank has embraced the zoo as a novel initiative for its eco-development. This assistance is a share of the 370 million US dollar Andhra Pradesh Disaster Recovery Project for which the World Bank is extending assistance of 250 million US dollars from 2015-2020.



News 5 – Oxfam published report titled – An Economy for the 1%

18-Jan: Oxfam published a report titled “An Economy for the 1%”. The new Oxfam report explains the vast and growing gap between rich and poor. The report calls for an immediate action to cope with a trend showing that 1% of people own more wealth than the other 99% combined. As per this report, the wealth of the poorest 50% dropped by 41% between 2010 and 2015, whereas, the wealth of the richest 62 people increased by \$500bn (£350bn) to \$1.76tn for the same period. Oxfam, an international confederation of 17 organizations, stands for Oxford Committee for Famine Relief founded in Britain in 1942 with an aim to reduce poverty and injustice.



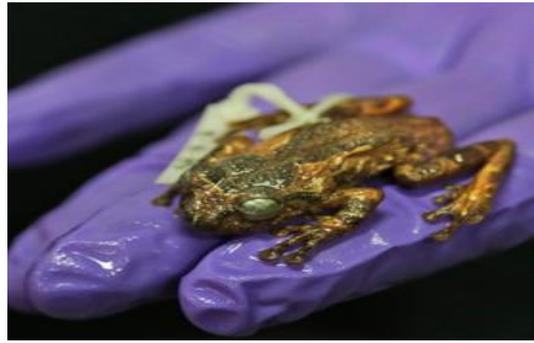
News 6 – UNWTO published World Tourism Barometer

18-Jan: The United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) published the World Tourism Barometer. As per their report, International tourist arrivals grew by 4.4% in 2015 to reach a total of 1,184 million in 2015. Some 50 million more tourists (overnight visitors) travelled to international destinations around the world last year as compared to 2014. 2015 marks the 6th consecutive year of above-average growth, with international arrivals increasing by 4% or more every year since the post-crisis year of 2010. Based on the current trend and this outlook, UNWTO projects international tourist arrivals to grow by 4% worldwide in 2016.



News 7 – New Tree Frog Genus discovered in NE India

20-Jan: The frogman of India, Professor Sathyabhama Das Biju along with his team of researchers discovered a new genus of tree hole-breeding frogs in the forests of India's northeast and China. The tadpoles of these frogs feed on their mother's eggs. The genus has been named Frankixalus after Professor Franky Bossuyt.



News 8 – New bird species named Himalayan Forest Thrush discovered in India

21-Jan: Scientists have discovered a new bird species called Himalayan Forest Thrush in northeastern India and China. The new species was christened as *Zoothera Salimalii* as its scientific name after famous Indian ornithologist, Salim Ali. New bird species are rarely discovered nowadays. The Himalayan Forest Thrush is only the fourth new bird species described from India since 1949. In the last 15 years, on an average, approximately five new species have been discovered annually, mainly in South America.



News 9 – Snow Leopard marked for the first time in North Sikkim

27-Jan: Wild Snow leopards have been photographed for the first time in Sikkim. World Wide Fund-India have captured the first evidence of the Snow Leopard inhabiting the high mountains of northern Sikkim. The snow leopard is a Schedule I animal under the Wildlife Protection Act of India and is listed as endangered by the IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species.



News 1 – Iran’s leading banks will soon open branches in India

01-Jan: Two major Iranian private sector banks, Pasargan Bank and Parsian Bank of Iran will set up branches in New Delhi and Mumbai. It will help energize commercial tie-ups between New Delhi and Tehran. This decision was amongst a slew of commercial measures taken by the first India-Iran Joint Commission meeting. India will emerge as a major beneficiary of the normalization of banking channels between the two sides, since it just begun settling more than \$6.5 billion energy-related pending payment with Iran. Currently, both Pasargan and Parsian conduct their transactions through the state-owned UCO Bank.



News 2 – RBI asked the scheduled commercial banks to open branches in villages with more than 5000 people.

01-Jan: The Reserve Bank of India has asked the Scheduled Commercial Banks to open brick and mortar branches in villages with a population of more than 5000, which currently have no banking facilities. The Central Bank has asked banks to submit a roadmap on the number of branches they will be opening by 31 March 2017. Banks will have to submit the roadmap by end of January 2016. Opening of the branches in such villages will enable banks to provide quality financial services and timely support to Banking Correspondent (BC).



News 3 – RBI penalizes State Bank of Travancore with 1 crore rupees

04-Jan: The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) penalized State Bank of Travancore with 1 crore rupees for violation of its instructions related to reporting of data to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC). This CRILC was set up by RBI to collect, store, and disseminate data on all borrowers' credit exposures. All the banks need to report all such information about all borrowers having aggregate fund-based and non-fund-based exposure of 5 crore rupees and above.



News 4 – Andhra Bank launched Immediate Payment Service

06-Jan: Andhra Bank in association with National Payments Corporation of India, has launched Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) across all its branches. It is an instant payment system with all the standards and integrity maintained for security. IMPS enables an instant, 24X7, interbank electronic fund transfer through mobile, internet and ATM with a maximum cap of transaction for 2 lakh rupees and charged at the rate of five rupees per transaction.



News 5 – SBI opens India’s first of its kind dedicated branch to start-ups - “SBI InCube”

14-Jan: State Bank of India (SBI) has launched and inaugurated its first branch dedicated to start ups called SBI InCube in Bangalore. The branch aims to be a one-stop shop for the financial service requirements of startups in the country. While Startup InCube will help the Startups in areas like employee account maintenance and setting up a company, they will not offer loans to these startups. The bank also announced the launch of a new wealth management service, SBI Exclusif, in order to provide the fast-growing affluent segment access to a dedicated relationship manager and a team of investment experts.



News 6 – RBI instructs banks to stop circulation of Rs 1000 notes without security thread

20-Jan: The RBI has given clear instructions to all the banks not to issue notes of Rs 1000 denomination without the security thread and to provide exchange value to the customer, who approaches them with such a note, if it is otherwise genuine. The notes were printed by Currency Note Press, Nashik, on the paper (without security thread) supplied by Security Paper Mill (Hoshangabad). The total number of such notes with public may not be more than 500 pieces.



News 7 – Deposits in Jan Dhan accounts cross Rs. 30,000 Crores

22-Jan: The deposits in accounts under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) have crossed the Rs. 30,000 crore mark. As per the latest data, 20.38 crore bank accounts were opened under the PMJDY and deposits worth Rs. 30,638.29 crores (which is about \$4.5 billion).

Other facts:

- Accounts with no balance in them: about 32% at the end of December.
- Accounts seeded with Aadhaar Card: 8.74 Cr accounts.
- Accounts with RuPay card: 17.14 Crore.



News 8 – Government releases Commemorative Coin of 150 rupees & Circulation Coin of 10 rupees on Lala Lajpat Rai

28-Jan: The Indian Government has released a commemorative coin of 150 rupees and a circulation coin of 10 rupees on Lala Lajpat Rai. The Commemorative Coin of Rs 150 is made of Quaternary alloy with diameter of 44 mm and weight of 35 grams and the Circulation coin of Rs 10 is made of bi-metallic material with diameter of 27 mm and weight of 7.71 grams. Ministry of Culture has celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai from 28th January 2015 to 28th January 2016. The State Government of Punjab has been sanctioned an amount of Rs 5 crores for construction of an Auditorium and Rs 3 crores for installation of Astroturf Flooring in Hockey Stadium at Lalaji's Birth Place.



Important Days

News 1 – World Braille Day Observed on 4th January

04-Jan: Like every year, 4th of January was observed across the world as the World Braille Day to honor the birth anniversary of Louis Braille. He is credited with inventing the Braille language which helps blind people to read as well as write. NGOs and various organizations work together on this day to raise awareness about the indifference towards blind people and to help them be equal with the rest of the people.



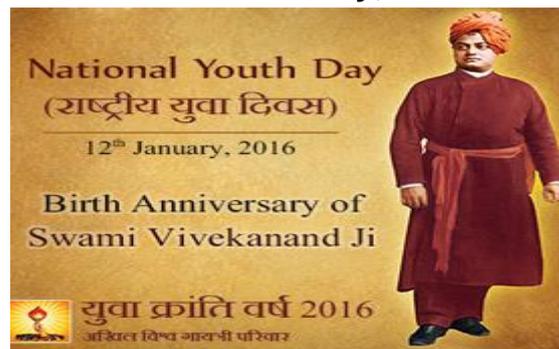
News 2 – World Hindi Day Celebrated on 10th January

10-Jan: The 11th World Hindi Day was celebrated on the 10th of January 2016. The main objective of this day is to promote the use of Hindi language across the globe.



News 3 – 12th January Celebrated as the National Youth Day; marks the Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda

12-Jan: The 12th of January was observed as the National Youth Day across India. It also marks the 153rd birth anniversary of India's foremost social reformer and philosopher, Swami Vivekananda. He is a role model for the Indian youth. Every year this day is celebrated as the National Youth Day since the 12th of January, 1985 in recognition of Swami Vivekananda's ideals and teachings.



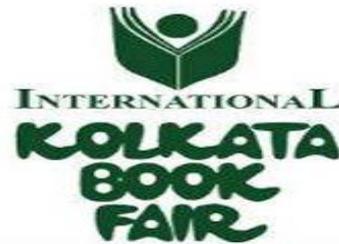
News 4 – The 68th National Army Day celebrated by Indian Army on 15th January

15-Jan: The National Army Day is celebrated every year on the 15th January. India this year celebrated the 68th Army Day. This day is celebrated to memorialize the day, when Lieutenant General (later Field Marshal) K M Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army from General Sir Francis Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief on 15 January 1949. On this occasion, General Dalbir Singh, Chief of the Army Staff, awarded fifteen Sena Medals (including five posthumously) for individual acts of Gallantry and thirteen COAS Unit Citations to mark the occasion.



News 5 – International Kolkata Book Fair held from Jan 27 till 7th Feb

18-Jan: The 40th edition of the International Kolkata Book Fair – the world's largest non-trade fair started on Jan 27. Kolkata's love affair with books is known all over. The organizers will also organize a 'heritage walk' that takes the visitors through the 39-year-old journey of this fair. A mobile app has also been developed to guide the visitors with the location of the book stalls.

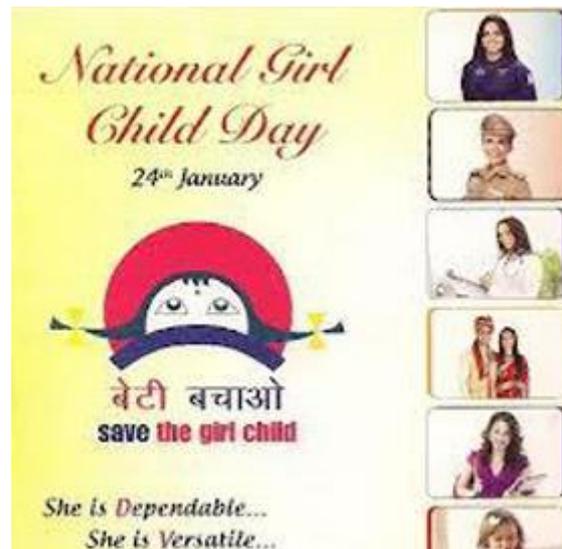


News 6 – The 9th National Girl Child Day celebrated on 24th January

24-Jan: The 9th National Girl Child Day was observed on the 24th January, 2016 to spread awareness against the inequalities faced by the girl child. It was initiated by the Government in 2008.

The main objectives are:

- It is celebrated to increase the awareness of the people.
- Offer new opportunities to the girl child in the society.
- Remove all the inequalities faced by the girl child.
- To work towards improving the child sex ratio.



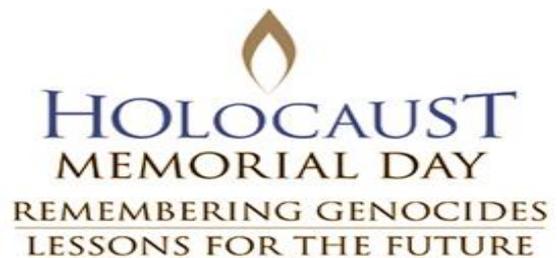
News 7 – The 6th National Voters' Day observed with theme Inclusive and Qualitative Participation

25-Jan: The 25th January, 2016 was celebrated as the 6th National Voters' Day (NVD) throughout the country by the Election Commission of India. The theme was 'Inclusive and Qualitative Participation'. The occasion also marked the release of a book titled "Belief in the Ballot" written by Chief Election Commissioner Dr. Nasim Zaidi. Our President, Pranab Mukherjee gave away Awards for the Best Electoral Practices to Chief Electoral Officers, District Electoral Officers, SPs and the other Officers who were involved in election management.



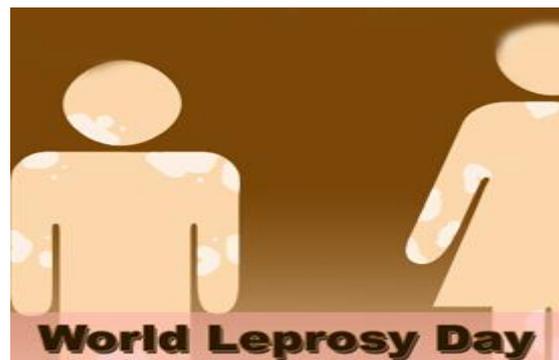
News 8 – The International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust

27-Jan: The International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust was observed on 27th January 2016 across the world. On January 27 each year, the United Nations (UN) remembers the Holocaust that affected many people of Jewish origin during World War II. The theme for the year 2016 was "The Holocaust and Human Dignity".



News 9 – The 30th of January celebrated as Anti-Leprosy Day

30-Jan: Anti-Leprosy Day was celebrated on 30th of January 2016 throughout the nation. Every year, this Anti-Leprosy Day is observed on January 30 to coincide with the Martyrdom Day of Mahatma Gandhi. The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee, in his Anti-Leprosy Day message said that we should make every possible effort to spread awareness about leprosy, its treatment, care and rehabilitation of its patients.



News 1 – Gemologists in Sri Lanka Find the World's Largest Blue Star Sapphire

04-Jan: The world's largest Blue Star Sapphire was discovered in a mine in August 2015 near Ratnapura city in the South of Sri Lanka. The stone that weighs 1404.49 carats is worth at least 100 million US dollars. However, it may fetch up to 165 million US dollars in the auction. The current owner of the sapphire has named it as The Star of Adam. It has been certified by the Gemology Institute of Colombo, Sri Lanka.



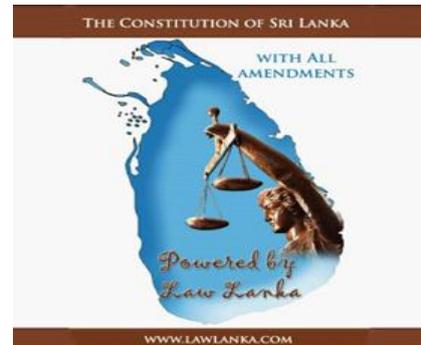
News 2 – Paul Kaba Thieba Appointed as the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso

07-Jan: President Roch Marc Christian Kabore appointed Economist, Paul Kaba Thieba as the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso. Mr Thieba has worked for many years with the West African Central Bank, BCEAO, in the Ivory Coast. The president has urged the government to improve access to water, healthcare and education.



News 3 – Sri Lanka Began the Process to Form a New Constitution

09-Jan: Sri Lanka has begun the process to formulate a new constitution. In this regard, Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Ranil Wickremesinghe presented a resolution in the Parliament to set up a Constitutional Assembly.



News 4 – Nepal Elected as Unicef's Executive Board Member for Three Years

10-Jan: Nepal was elected to the UNICEF's executive board for the term of 2016-2018. It will represent the group of Asia-Pacific countries. Mr. Durga Prasad Bhattarai, Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), was also unanimously elected Vice-President to the Bureau of the Executive Board of the UNICEF.



News 5 – Conference of Quadrilateral Coordination Group on Afghan Peace & Reconciliation held in Islamabad

11-Jan: Islamabad hosted the Conference of Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) on Afghan Peace and Reconciliation. Participants in this conference were representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the US. The purpose of this conference was to explore ways to create consensus for talks between the Taliban and Afghanistan's Government.



News 6 – USA Signs Joint Action Plan with Jordan On Cooperation to Counter Nuclear Smuggling

11-Jan: United States of America signed a Joint Action Plan (JAP) with Jordan to combat nuclear and radiological smuggling. The Secretary of State, John Kerry and Jordan's Foreign Minister, Nasser Judeh signed this agreement in Washington. The United States of America has similar agreements with 13 other countries as well.



News 7 – Taiwan Elected Tsai Ing-Wen as Their First Female President

16-Jan: Tsai Ing-Wen was elected as Taiwan's first female president. She leads the Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) that wants independence from China.



News 8 – French President Francois Hollande Announced Economic Emergency

18-Jan: French President Francois Hollande declared a state of economic and social emergency to redefine the country's economic and social model. He has set out a €2bn (£1.5bn) job creation plan in an attempt to tackle this emergency. The government will provide subsidies to firms with fewer than 250 employees, if they hire a young or unemployed person for six months or more. About 500,000 vocational training schemes to be created by the government. Currently, the unemployment rate for France is 10.6%.



News 9 – World Economic Forum Meeting Begins in Davos, Switzerland

19-Jan: The World Economic Forum (WEF) meeting, an annual event, has started in Davos, Switzerland. The 4-day conference will be attended by leaders from about 40 countries and more than 2,500 business people. The following were the eight key themes for the WEF:

- The rise of the ROBOTS (rise of automation and intelligent machines)
- Terrorism and the migration crisis
- Market turmoil
- Climate Change
- Europe (Eurozone Debt problems)
- Inequality (Concentration of wealth)
- Medicine
- Cybercrime and Civil Liberties



News 10 – Pavel Filip Appointed as the Prime Minister by Moldovan Parliament

20-Jan: Pavel Filip has been appointed as the third Prime Minister of Moldova in less than a year. The political instability of Moldova is mainly due to the 1 Billion fraud in the banking industry. Chiril Gaburici (June 2015) and Valeriu Strelet (October 2015) were the other two prime ministers. The IMF, which is in talks with Moldova about new funding, has urged a clean-up of the financial sector.



News 11 – Marcelo Rebelo De Sousa Won a Resounding Victory in the Presidential Election of Portugal

24-Jan: Center Right Candidate, Marcelo Rebelo De Sousa won the Presidential election of Portugal with a thumping victory after securing more than 52 percent of the votes. He will succeed President Anibal Cavaco Silva. Socialist Antonio Sampaio da Nova received 23 percent of the votes and Left Bloc candidate, Marisa Matias had 10 percent.



News 12 – First Ministerial Meeting of Arab-India Cooperation Forum Conducted in Manama

24-Jan: The first Ministerial Meeting of Arab-India Cooperation Forum was held in Manama, Bahrain. The two sides discussed regional and global issues of mutual concern, including the Palestinian issue, developments in the Arab region and in South Asia, counterterrorism, Security Council reforms, and nuclear disarmament as well. They stressed the importance of cooperation between them in order to enhance confidence among regional countries and resolving conflicts.



News 13 – UNICEF Launched a New Funding Appeal for Children in Humanitarian Emergencies

24-Jan: UNICEF has announced the launch of an appeal of 2.8 billion U.S. dollars to reach 43 million children in humanitarian emergencies worldwide. For the first time ever, the largest portion of this appeal, 25%, will go for their education. UNICEF has set a target to educate 8.2 million children in crises in 2016 as compared to 4.9 million in the beginning of 2015. Among such children, more than 5 million will be Syrian children.



News 14 – IMF approves Major Quota and Governance Reforms

27-Jan: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the 2010 Quota and Governance Reforms.

Key Reforms:

- Brazil, China, India, and Russia will be among the 10 largest members of the IMF. Others include the United States, Japan, France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom.
- India's voting rights has been increased to 2.6 percent from the current 2.3 percent and China's voting rights increased to six percent from 3.8.
- The permanent capital resource of IMF was doubled to 659 billion US dollars.
- Henceforth, the IMF's Board will consist entirely of elected Executive Directors.



News 15 – India and Armenia Sign Protocol Amending the India-Armenia Double Taxation Avoidance Convention

27-Jan: A Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention was signed by the Government of India and the Government of Armenia. This Protocol amends the Article on Exchange of Information for tax purposes to bring it in line with the updated provisions in the OECD Model. The Protocol will enable the two countries to exchange information related to financial and banking transactions under the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention, and thereby facilitate them in addressing tax evasion. It is also expected to further strengthen the efforts of Government of India in curbing the generation of black money.



News 16 – Japan Unveiled its First Stealth Fighter Aircraft X-2

28-Jan: Japan unveiled its first indigenously built stealth fighter aircraft, X-2. It is expected to undergo its first test-flight in February 2016. Developed by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, it measures 14.2 meters (47 feet) long and 9.1 meters wide. Japan has reportedly spent about 39.4 billion yen (\$332 million) to develop the aircraft.



News 17 – Iran, Airbus signed deal to buy 118 Airbus Planes Worth \$27 Billion

29-Jan: Iran purchased 118 Airbus jets worth \$27 billion at list prices, including a dozen A380 superjumbos. The agreement includes 21 A320CEO family, 24 A320NEO family, 27 A330CEO family, 18 A330NEO (-900), 16 A350-1000 and 12 A380. The agreements were signed in the presence of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and French President Francois Hollande.



Miscellaneous

- The National Aluminum Company (NALCO) announced to develop and promote Bhubaneswar as a **floral hub and make the city green**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** increased the upper age limit for recruitment in government services.
- The conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Arab League Foreign Ministers was held in **Cairo, Egypt**.
- 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was inaugurated in **New Delhi**.
- 11th World Hindi Day was observed on **10th January 2016**.
- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the WTA Brisbane Tennis trophy by defeating **German Angelique Kerber and Andrea Petkovic in the finals**.
- **Stanislas Wawrinka** won the Chennai Open title by defeating **Borna Coric of Croatia**.
- DRDO successfully test fired the new Penetration-Cum Blast (PCB) and Thermobaric (TB) Ammunition tank, which was specially designed for **Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT)**.
- "**MARU BHARAT SARU BHARAT**" authored by - Jain Acharya Ratnasundersuriswarji Maharaj released by PM Narendra Modi.
- Former New Zealand Captain, **Stephen Fleming** was appointed as the Chief Coach of the new Pune franchise of the Indian Premier League Twenty20 cricket tournament 2016.
- Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on 13th January 2016 laid foundation stones of 342 km-long seven National Highway projects worth 3000 crore rupees in Simga tehsil in Raipur.
- The Ardh Kumbh mela was formally inaugurated on 13th January 2016 Haridwar.
- President Pranab Mukherjee gave assent to the Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2015, raising the ceiling of the impost from 25 rupees to 200 rupees per quintal.
- South Korean President Park Geun-hye called upon the international community to impose harshest possible sanctions on North Korea over its latest nuclear test.
- To reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of claim for the full sum insured, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal of Crop Insurance Scheme.
- Activist Subhashini Vasanth honoured with Neerja Bhanot Award.
- Union Government announced National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) to make Visakhapatnam as a pharmaceutical hub.

- Edward Monser, President of Emerson, and Punit Renjen, CEO of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (Deloitte Global) were appointed as the Vice Chairs of U.S.-India Business Council.
- Vishakhapatnam hosted the 22nd edition of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit-cum-Sunrise Andhra Pradesh Investment Summit.
- Odisha Government declared to bring Plus II education under the Mass Education department from existing Higher Education department from next academic year.
- Bihar government decided to impose 13.5% tax on luxury items to garner additional revenue for carrying development work.
- Border Security Force launched Operation Cold to contain infiltration from Pakistan along the international border in Rajasthan.
- Kerala was declared as the first state in the country to have achieved 100 percent primary education.
- Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off a new train service between Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Kazipet named Anandwan Express.
- The Jharkhand Government on 13th January 2016 decided to set up fast track courts for speedy trial of cases pertaining to witchcraft incidents in five districts: Ranchi, Chaibasa, Khunti, Palamau and Simdega.
- On 13th January 2016, Telangana government issued a ban order on the sale and use of Chinese manja in order to prevent harm to birds and others on the eve of Makar Sankranti or Pongal.
- **Madhya Pradesh** won the Union Government's prestigious **Krishi Karman Award** for the **4th Consecutive year** on 13th January 2016.
- According to the scientists in Germany, the next ice age may have been delayed by over 50 thousand years because of the greenhouse gases put in the atmosphere by humans.
- Union Cabinet approved to have a membership of Ocean Energy Systems so that it can have access to and develop technologies related to energy from ocean renewable resources.
- Madhya Pradesh signed four MOUs with **Singapore** on 14th January 2016, which includes a 1000MW wind energy plant.
- The US Citizenship and Immigration Services increased the H-1B and L-1 petition fee by 4000 and 4500 US dollars respectively.
- The country which has the largest diaspora in the world in 2015 – India with 16 million.
- **Jharkhand** government adds drinking water crisis in local disasters list.
- Two cricket players Ajit Chandila and Hiken Shah were handed over life-time and 5-year ban, respectively, by the BCCI for their involvement in match-fixing.

- Guenter Butschek, former Chief Operating Officer of Airbus, was appointed as the CEO & MD of Tata Motors.
- Goa Legislative Assembly approved reclassification of coconut tree as palm.
- Kenyan athlete, Gideon Kipketer, won the 2016 Mumbai Marathon in the men's category.
- Gopi T and Kheta Ram qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics by finishing second and third, respectively, among the Indian runners in the Mumbai Marathon.
- The indigenously developed light combat aircraft, **Tejas**, flew for the first time in the international air space and reached the Sakhir Airbase in Bahrain.
- **Zinnia** became the first ever grown flower in the space.
- General Electric Co. agreed to sell its home-appliances business to China's Qingdao Haier Co. for 5.4 billion US dollars.
- Noted Punjabi folk singer, Manpreet Akhtar died on 17th January 2016 due to brain hemorrhage in Patiala.
- The Mosquito borne Zika Virus was first time recorded in United States of America in the third week of January 2016.
- **Jalgaon's Vijay Choudhary** defeated Vikrant Jadhav of Mumbai to retain Maharashtra Kesri title in the 59th Maharashtra Kesri Wrestling Championship.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named as the captain of Rising Pune Supergiants for IPL 2016 season.
- South African Premier League footballer, Mondli Cele, died after the car in which he was travelling, plunged into a river near eastern city of Pietermaritzburg.
- Yasutaro Koide, the world's oldest man, as per the Guinness World Records, died at an age of 112 on 19 January 2016.
- **Pakistan** reported highest stillbirths' rate among the 186 countries surveyed by medical journal, The Lancet.
- Mindtree acquired Magnet 360 on 18 January 2016.
- ReNew Power, a Clean energy firm, commissioned 40 MW wind project in Karnataka.
- BHEL commissioned a 660 MW supercritical thermal power unit in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- According to the World Tourism Barometer, international tourist arrivals grew by 4.4% in 2015 to reach a total of 1.2 billion.
- According to an Oxfam report, 62 individuals had the same wealth as 3.6 billion people, the bottom half of humanity in 2015.
- International Renewable Energy Agency published the report titled Renewable Energy Benefits: Measuring the Economics.
- The 6th assembly session of the International Renewable Energy Agency was held in Abu Dhabi in the UAE.
- The World Economic Forum published the 'Future of Jobs' report.

- Shimla banned sale of eatable in open places to contain outbreak of jaundice.
- China's economy grew 6.9% in 2015, the slowest in 25 years.
- The state that celebrated its 46th statehood day on 25 January 2016 – **Himachal Pradesh.**
- India Railways inaugurated India's first high speed public Wi-Fi service on 22nd January 2016 at - **Mumbai Central station.**
- For the Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards, the certificates are signed by the - **Union Home Minister.**
- The company that has launched India's first social mobile wallet Udio is – **TranServ.**
- Maharashtra's first Solar Power operated Mini-Water Supply Plant was commissioned in – **Hingna village of Mouda Taluka in Nagpur district.**
- A team of Indo-German geologists and paleontologists may have found fossils of a 135-million-year old herbivorous dinosaur, possibly the oldest such fossil found in this century, in the region of– **Kutch, Gujarat.**
- ONGC received environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for drilling 45 developed wells in - **Krishna Godavari Basin.**
- The player from Hong Kong, who won 11Even Sports 2015 ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals in the girls' category is - **Zhu Chengzhu.**
- The player who was declared as the Man of the Series in the five-match ODI series played between Indian and Australia, which concluded on 23 January 2016 in Sydney is – **Rohit Sharma.**
- The Brisbane Heat batsman, who was named as the Big Bash League's player of the tournament is - **Chris Lynn.**
- An Indian-origin Muslim cleric, who has been conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Leicester in recognition of his work for his local community is - **Muhammad Shahid Raza.**
- The 42-crore rupees' project sanctioned under the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Program and funded by World Bank is being implemented in exceedingly vulnerable seaside pockets of – **Kendrapara district of Odisha.**
- Facebook will construct its first data center facility at - **Ireland's Clonee village.**
- Taking forward the strategic relationship between the two countries to the next level, India will build a satellite tracking and imaging center in - **Southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.**
- The 5-day annual summit of World Economic Forum (WEF) came to a close on 23rd January 2016 in – **Davos.**
- What refers to tax planning strategies that would exploit the gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations? – **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BESP)**

- The country that became the latest country to lift nuclear sanctions on Iran on 22nd January 2016 – **Japan**
- The purpose for which Union Government notified stricter green norms on Sugar industry – **To reduce water pollution.**
- The number of districts in which the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme will be covered in the year 2016 – **61.**
- This Dubai-based radio channel was appointed as the official audio rights partner of the ICC for next eight years – **Channel 2 Group.**
- The rank of India in Best Countries Report released at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos – **22.**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 21st January 2016 permitted banks to sell India Gold Coins (IGC) with Ashok Chakra minted by - **Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC)**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 21st January 2016 has asked banks to provide loans of up to 3 lakh rupees at 7% interest rate during 2015-16 to Women Self-Help Group (SHG) under the scheme - **Aajeevika Scheme.**
- Senior revenue service officer, Atulesh Jindal on 21st January 2016 was appointed the chairman of - **Central Board of Direct Taxes.**
- The hotel that won the award of the world's best hotel at the Travellers' Choice award organized by TripAdvisor is - **Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.**
- A new bird species named Himalayan Forest Thrush was discovered in North-Eastern India. This species has been given the scientific name of – **Zoothera Salimalii.**
- The Chhattisgarh Government signed a share-holding agreement with a few Central Government-run corporations for the second phase of - **Jagdapur-Raoghat Railway Project.**
- As per the NTI 2016 Nuclear Security Index, India's rank in terms of nuclear safety among the 24 states with one kilogram or more of weapons-usable nuclear materials in the world was – **21.**
- The country which was adjudged as the safest in terms of nuclear safety by the NTI in its Nuclear Security Index 2016 – **Australia.**
- The agency with which the National Remote Sensing Centre signed an MoU for monitoring mining activity using satellites – **Indian Bureau of Mines.**
- The stock exchange which launched an Algorithm Trading Test Environment in partnership with Symphony Fintech Solutions – **Bombay Stock Exchange.**
- The marketing agency with which the Indian Olympic Association signed a 2-year marketing deal - **Infinity Optimal Solutions.**
- The National Highway that will be converted into six-lane in Bihar and Jharkhand as per a decision of the CCEA on 20 January 2016 – **NH-2.**

- He took over as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India – **Ravi Chellam**.
- The Union Government on 20th January 2016 signed the Financing Agreement with a financial institution for - **Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project**.
- He was an Italian film director who passed away and was known for his most acclaimed film A Special Day – **Ettore Scola**.
- The Central Statistics Office revised GDP growth rate for FY 2014-15 from 7.3 percent to 7.2 percent.
- The Central Statistics Office revised GDP growth rate for FY 2013-14 from 6.9 percent to 6.6 percent.
- Ashok K Roopnwal was appointed as the head of a one-man judicial commission by the Union Government to probe Rohith Vemula suicide incident in the University of Hyderabad.
- Donald Kaberuka was appointed as African Union’s High Representative for the peace fund.
- Union Government inked an 80 million US dollar loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue improving infrastructure in Agartala and Aizwal.
- Department of Religious Affairs of **Eritrea** issued a law that makes it mandatory for men to marry at least two wives.
- The fourth International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) was held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia.
- Union Cabinet approved a proposal for raising 17 more India reserve battalions in Jammu and Kashmir and Left-wing extremism affected states.
- The parliament of **Denmark** voted on a proposal to confiscate asylum seekers’ personal possessions in order to pay their upkeep.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) permitted banks to sell India Gold Coins (IGC) with Ashok Chakra minted by Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC).
- Senior revenue service officer Atulesh Jindal was appointed the chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes.
- Mahamana Express was flagged off to run between Varanasi and New Delhi on 21 January 2016.
- Uttar Pradesh completely banned the use of polythene with effect from 21 January 2016.
- According to data released by UNCTAD, the Foreign Direct Investment in India doubled in 2015 to reach 59 billion US dollars.
- The rate of interest proposed by the Provident Fund panel that will be given on Provident Fund account 8.95%.
- Ratan Tata announced to invest in FirstCry.com, a start-up company related to baby kits.

- The Sri Lankan wicketkeeper, Kusal Perera, faced a 4-year ban by the International Cricket Council for doping.
- **Delhi Acers** won the 2016 Premier Badminton League.
- Jalgaon's Vijay Choudhary defeated Vikrant Jadhav of Mumbai to retain Maharashtra Kesri title in 59th Maharashtra Kesri Wrestling Championship.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named as the captain of Rising Pune Supergiants for IPL 2016 season.

News 1 – Government inked a credit agreement of USD 50 million with the World Bank under IDA for Nai Manzil Scheme

01-Jan: The World Bank has signed a Financing Agreement for IDA credit of US\$ 50 million (equivalent) for the “Nai Manzil - Education and Skills Training for Minorities”. The project size is 100 Million USD. The balance amount of USD 50 Million will be funded from the Union Budget. Minority BPL (below poverty line) youth in the age group of 17-35 years will be the main beneficiaries of the project. This project takes an integrated and all-inclusive approach towards education and skill development of the minority youth, to address the high dropout and unemployment rate among them.



News 2 – Ex-post facto approval for signing of MoU among BRICS countries on BRICS Network University

01-Jan: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS countries on BRICS Network University. The MoU will help in developing pro-active cooperation among the BRICS nations for the purpose of enhancement of scientific research, higher education, information exchange, analysis and implementation of best practices, joint research programs.



News 3 – Kamlesh Chandra panel constituted by the Government to study wage structure of Gramin Dak Sevaks

02-Jan: A one-man panel comprising of Kamlesh Chandra, Retired Member of the Postal Services Board, was formed by the Government. This committee was constituted to examine the wage structure and service conditions of Gramin Dak Sevaks in the Department of Posts (DoP). The Gramin Dak sSvak Committee will be assisted by T.Q. Mohammad, who will act as Secretary to the Committee. This committee will review the existing facilities, the service discharge benefit scheme and other social security benefits of Gramin Dak Sevaks. Apart from that, it will also examine and suggest any changes in the method of minimum qualification for



engagement as GDS considering the proposed induction of technology in the Rural Post Offices.

News 4 – Eight states to implement DBT in kerosene from April 1

02-Jan: After the successful implementation of DBT in LPG, the government is going to roll out DBT in kerosene in 26 districts across eight states — Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. This scheme will be implemented from April 1, 2016. Under this scheme, the users will buy the cooking fuel at the market rate and get the subsidy money directly in their bank accounts. The amount of cash subsidy that would be paid to the consumer directly into their account will be the difference between the current public distribution system (PDS) price of about Rs 12 and the market rate of Rs 43 per liter. This move will help curtail subsidy outgo for kerosene, which in 2014-15 was Rs 24,799 crores. The Centre has allocated 8.6 million kiloliters of PDS kerosene to states for FY16. These states will be given 75% of subsidy savings during the first two years, 50% in the third year and 25% in the fourth year.



News 5 – Fifteen states agreed to join Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY)

03-Jan: Mr. Piyush Goyal, Minister of State (Independent Charge) Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy said that Fifteen States, which include Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Punjab and Maharashtra, have agreed to join the UDAY Scheme. As per this scheme, the state governments are to take over 75% of the short-term liabilities of their respective discoms and issue bonds against them.



News 6 – NABARD, NRSC signed MoU for monitoring Watershed Projects

03-Jan: The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC). The MOU was signed for web-based monitoring of Indo-German Watershed Development projects. This web-based monitoring of Indo-German Watershed Development projects will happen in three states – Gujarat, Rajasthan and Telangana. As per the MOU, NRSC will create a separate page for NABARD on Bhuvan web-portal. NRSC will develop customized software tool and mobile application for real



time monitoring, online comparison and visualization with respect to activities implemented in the projects.

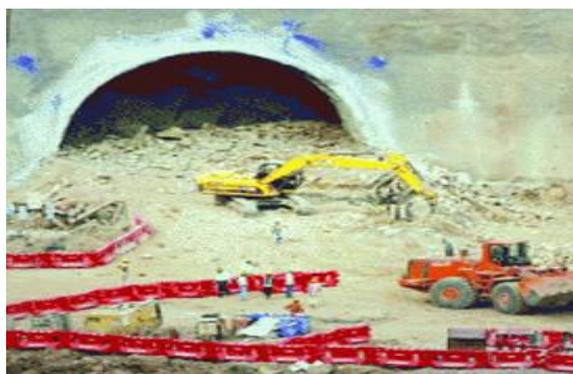
News 7 – First power project under TBCB incentive regime commissioned by Sterlite Grid

03-Jan: The transmission project of Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) has been commissioned ahead of schedule, since the implementation of tariff-based competitive bidding (TBCB) scheme. RAPP is constructed by Sterlite Grid. RAPP Transmission Project was completed at an estimated cost of 275 crore rupees. It will benefit the states of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana.



News 8 – IRB Infra gets Rs 10,050 crore rupees' project to construct Zojila Pass tunnel project

04-Jan: IRB Infrastructure Developers Ltd will build the Rs 10,050 crore Zojila Pass tunnel road project in Jammu and Kashmir, making it the country's biggest road project by cost. Once completed, the tunnel will also be the longest, 14.08 km, in South East Asia. Presently, Chenani-Nashri tunnel at 9 km is the country's longest road tunnel. It will provide all-weather connectivity between the Jammu and Kashmir regions with Leh Ladakh. Zojila is situated at an altitude of 11000 ft.



News 9 – PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the 103rd Indian Science Congress in Mysuru.

04-Jan: Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 103rd Indian Science Congress (ISC) at University of Mysore campus in Karnataka on 3rd of January, 2016. The theme of this five-day event this year was "Science & Technology for Indigenous Development in India". The Prime Minister also presented 28 awards, including six gold medals to Nobel Laureates, ISCA Best Oral Presenter, ISCA Best Poster, ISCA Young Scientists, C V Raman Birth Centenary Award. Science and Technology and Earth Sciences Minister Dr Harsh Vardhan unveiled the Indian Science Congress Mega Expo "Pride of India-Frontier Science and Technologies".



News 10 – Central Government set to launch River Information System for Inland Waterways

04-Jan: The Union Ministry of Shipping is planning to launch the River Information System for Inland Waterways in the country, which will help improve navigation for Inland Waterways. The government is set to expand the network across the country through the National Waterways Bill, 2015. The bill is already passed by the Lok Sabha and currently pending with the Rajya Sabha. The Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI), a statutory body under the aegis of Union Ministry of Shipping is implementing the RIS in India. The first phase of the program will cover 145-km stretch of National Waterways 1 (Phase I- Haldia to Farakka) on the Ganges River.



News 11 – Gujarat government asked to make Gujarat State Cooperative Tribunal serviceable by the SC

05-Jan: The Supreme Court (SC) bench headed by the Chief Justice of India, TS Thakur asked the Gujarat government to make the Gujarat State Cooperative Tribunal functional by hiring people against the vacant posts. As per the directions of the Supreme Court, the tribunal cannot be allowed to remain non-functional.



News 12 – India-Nepal Bus Service resumes after a gap of 27 years

05-Jan: Friendship bus service between India and Nepal resumed after it was suspended 27 years ago in the wake of the Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty much to the delight of the people on either side of the border. The bus service runs between Kanchanpur in Nepal to Anand Vihar ISBT in New Delhi. Kanchanpur borders Banbasa in Champavat district of Uttarakhand.



News13 – Cabinet approves MOU between India-Singapore on civil aviation

06-Jan The Union Cabinet has approved a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed between India and Singapore to establish mutual co-operation in the field of civil aviation.



The salient features of this MoU include:

- Master-planning and design.
- Traffic and Commercial development
- Cargo handling and Management
- Training
- Maintenance, repair and overhaul
- Service quality improvement
- Operation and management and any other areas with mutual consent.

News 14 – Union Cabinet approves Stand Up India Scheme

06-Jan: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the “Stand Up India Scheme” to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch. It is expected to benefit at least 2.5 lakh borrowers. The expected date of reaching the target of at least 2.5 lakh approvals is 36 months from the launch of the Scheme. It provides for



refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of 10000 crore rupees. The scheme facilitates bank loans repayable up to 7 years and between 10 lakh rupees – 100 lakh rupees for greenfield enterprises in nonfarm sector set up by such SC, ST and Women borrowers. It will create credit guarantee mechanism through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).

News 15 – Women to constitute 33% of constables in Para-Military Force

06-Jan: The Government has approved 33% reservation for women at the constable rank in two major central paramilitary forces CRPF and CISF and also setting a 15% quota in the border forces BSF, SSB and ITBP effective immediately. Out of 9 lakh troops in all these forces combined, women constitute a mere 20,000.



News 16 – Cabinet approves creation of a Credit Guarantee Fund for MUDRA loans

06-Jan: The Union Cabinet has given its approval for the creation of a Credit Guarantee Fund for Micro Units Development Refinance Agency (MUDRA) loans and to convert MUDRA Ltd. into MUDRA Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Bank as a wholly owned subsidiary of SIDBI. The Fund is expected to guarantee more than Rs 1,00,000 crores worth loans to micro and small units in the first instance. The Credit Guarantee Fund for MUDRA Units (CGFMU) has been established for guaranteeing loans sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana with effect from 8 April 2015. The RBI has allocated Rs 20,000 crores and the first tranche of Rs 5000 crores has been received by MUDRA as refinance.



News 17 – “Watan Ko Jano”, An initiative which aims to connect youth from J&K with Rest of India

07-Jan: Watan Ko Jano is an initiative carried out by the Ministry of Home Affairs along with the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Government. It came in highlight after more than 240 youth from J&K in the age-group of 15 to 24 met Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. It is a Youth Exchange Program that aims at exposing the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to the vibrant development and vitality of the culture and people residing in other states. A similar group of 250 such youngsters had participated in the Watan Ko Jano tour and met Home Minister Rajnath Singh on 29th December, 2015.



News 18 – Cabinet okays ‘Sampoorna Arogya Keralam’ medical care project

07-Jan: The Kerala State Cabinet has approved plans to implement the ‘Sampoorna Arogya Keralam’ project announced in the 2015-16 State budget. With this, 42 lakh families with an annual income of less than Rs. 3 lakhs will be the beneficiaries. Sampoorna Arogya Kerala Trust, headed by the Chief minister, will monitor and implement the project. The corpus fund set up is Rs 20 crores. The beneficiaries will get up to Rs 2 Lakhs through a Smart Card.



News 19 – Overseas Indian Affairs Ministry merged with MEA

07-Jan: The government has merged the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with the Ministry of External Affairs. The merger of the two ministries was done in order to avoid duplication of work and to improve efficiency. The merger is expected to increase efficiency in MEA's emergency work abroad.



News 20 – Atal Mission Plans for Punjab and Uttarakhand for 2015-16 approved by the Union Government

07-Jan: The Union Government approved the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) for Punjab and Uttarakhand for the year 2015-16. Punjab Government will invest 720 crore rupees in improving basic urban infrastructure in 16 cities, whereas Uttarakhand will spend 267 crore rupees in 6 cities under the action plan. With this, the government has approved city level Service Level Improvement Plans (SLIPs) for 469 cities and towns in 20 States with a total project expenditure of 20137 crore rupees out of which central assistance will be about 10000 crore rupees.



News 21 – Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurates implementation of E-enabled Track Management System

07-Jan: Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu on 11 January 2016 inaugurated:

- Implementation of E-enabled Track Management System (TMS).
- Mobile Application of TMS on Indian Railways.



With the implementation of E-enabled Track Management System (TMS), various activities of Track Inspection, Monitoring and Maintenance came on IT platform. The TMS Mobile Application is developed to use the Track Management System on mobiles and tablets and thus it is very useful for senior management and for officials on the move.

News 22 – Parliament suggested to enact a separate law by the Supreme Court for Child Rape

07-Jan: Supreme Court advised the Parliament to enact a separate law in order to deal with child rape cases. The suggestion was given in response to a writ petition filed by the Supreme Court Women Lawyers Association (SCWLA). The bench was headed by Justice Dipak Misra



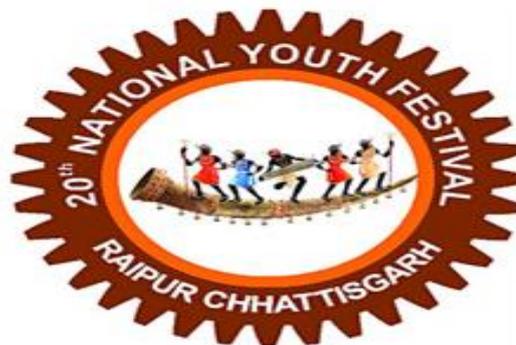
News 23 – Asian Development Bank gives loan worth \$840-Million towards corridor between Vizag, Chennai

07-Jan: Teresa Kho, Country Director – India, ADB said that the Asian Development Bank will grant a \$625 million loan to the proposed \$840 million Visakhapatnam-Chennai Industrial Corridor. The industrial corridor will have four nodes: Visakhapatnam, Kakinada, Gannavaram-Kankipadu, and Yerpedu-Srikalahasti.



News 24 – 20th National Youth Festival inaugurated by Nitin Gadkari in Naya Raipur

12-Jan: The 20th National Youth Festival was inaugurated by the Union Minister Nitin Gadkari at Rajyostav Sthal in Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh. The festival was celebrated to mark the National Youth Day. Chhattisgarh was chosen as the partner state for the 20th National Youth Festival, with the theme India Youth for Skill, Development and Harmony.



News 25 – Union Cabinet approves MoU between India and Maldives for co-operation in Health Sector

13-Jan: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives on co-operation in the field of Health.



Highlights of the MoU are –

- Management of healthcare sector and public health services.
- Assistance in development of human resources.
- Assistance in setting up of health care facilities.
- Procurement of generic and essential drugs.

- Medical and health research development.
- Health promotion and disease prevention.
- Telemedicine

News 26 – NHAI signed MoU with ISRO and NECTAR to monitor National Highways

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



News 27 – 2nd Liquid Chemical Berth of Mumbai Port Trust inaugurated

13-Jan: Union Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Mumbai Port Trust's second liquid chemical berth at Pir Pau, Mumbai. Now, the cargo handling capacity of the Port will increase by 2.5 MMT (Million Metric Tonnes) per annum. The project is built at an expense of 127 crore rupees and is designed to handle 55000 DWT (deadweight tonnes) vessels carrying liquid bulk chemicals and POL products.



News 28 – Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana approved by the Union Cabinet to boost the farming sector

13-Jan: The Union Cabinet approved 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme)' to boost the farming sector. The Scheme is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme.

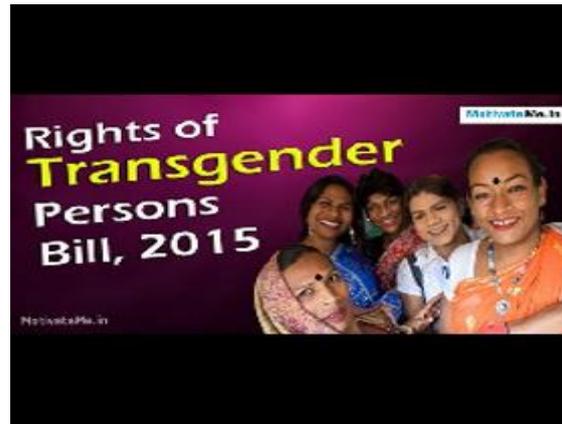
Key benefits under this new Scheme:

- Farmers will have to pay a uniform premium of 2% for all kharif crops and 1.5% for all rabi crops.
- For annual commercial and horticultural crops, farmers will have to pay a premium of 5%.
- The remaining share of the premium will continue to be borne equally by the Centre and the respective state governments.
- There will be no upper limit on government subsidy and even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the government.



News 29 – Draft for the Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015 released

14-Jan: The Union Government released The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015, which recommends reservation benefits for transgenders. The Draft Bill was prepared by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.



Highlights of the Bill:

- Creation of welfare boards at the Centre and State level for the community.
- Transgender Rights Courts.
- Two per cent reservation in government jobs.
- Prohibits discrimination in employment.
- Provisions for pensions and unemployment allowances for members of the community.
- Transgender students will be able to avail scholarship, entitlements, fee-waiver, free textbooks, free hostel accommodation and other facilities at subsidized rates.

News 30 – Government Launches Mobile Health Services to Support Public Health Infrastructure

15-Jan: The Union Government announced the launch of four mobile health (m-Health) services - Kilkari, Mobile Academy, M-Cessation and TB Missed Call initiative.



- Kilkari is an audio-based mobile service that delivers weekly audio messages to families about pregnancy, child birth and child care. Mobile Academy is a mobile-based application aimed at providing training services to 9 million ASHAs.
- M-Cessation is an IT-enabled tool to help tobacco users to quit tobacco.
- TB Missed Call initiative is a dedicated toll free number 1800-11-6666. It will provide round the clock counselling and treatment support services for TB patients.

News 31 – India's Grid-linked solar generation capacity crosses 5,000 MW mark

15-Jan: India's grid-connected solar power generation capacity has reached the 5,129.81 MW mark, with Rajasthan on top (1,264.35 MW) followed by Gujarat (1,024.15 MW) and Madhya Pradesh (678.58 MW). The Government has an aspiring plan to have 175 GW of power generation capacity from renewable sources which includes 100 GW from solar and 60 GW from wind, by 2022.



News 32 – First 'Mahila Squad' Commissioned for High-Altitude Posts of India-China Border

15-Jan: The first "Mahila" squad commissioned into the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in Panchkula deployed in high-altitude posts along the India-China border. The squad consists of freshly-trained contingent of 500 women, in the rank of a constable. These 'Mahila' contingents would be posted by March 2016 at about 20 forward locations of the ITBP. The force led by Director General Krishna Chaudhary plans to have women personnel make up at least 40% of its strength at these forward posts.



News 33 – Start-up India initiative launched by PM Narendra Modi

16-Jan: Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Start-up India initiative to boost startup biome in the nation in New Delhi. The Prime Minister also declared the Start-up India, Stand-up India Action Plan. The plan highlighted the initiatives and schemes being undertaken by the Government to address various aspects relating to developing a conducive Start-up ecosystem in the country.



The main highlights of Start-up India, Stand-up India Action Plan –

- A separate fund of 10000 crore rupees' corpus (2500 crore rupees a year for four years) will be created for development and growth of innovation driven enterprises.
- The Atal Innovation Mission was declared under which, 35 new incubators, 7 new research parks, 31 innovation centers would be set up.
- 500 sector specific incubators, including 5 new Bio clusters will be established across the country.

- An innovation program to be started in 5 lakh schools throughout the country to foster innovation among 10 lakh children.
- The first three years would be tax-free for the Start-Ups including a moratorium on labor inspections for as many years.

News 34 – NITI Aayog teams up with IDFC for Enterprise Survey of Manufacturing Firms

16-Jan: The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog declared that it is joining hands with the IDFC Bank Ltd to conduct an enterprise survey of manufacturing firms. The primary objective of this Survey is to assess the **Business Regulatory Environment** in each State and UT and identify policy and regulatory hurdles faced by businesses in the States/UTs. The Survey will bring out a comprehensive analysis and report on State-level performance.



News 35 – Government to introduce new category of award – Most Film Friendly State/UT under National Film Awards

17-Jan: As part of the Government's effort to promote the Indian film industry and India's "Soft Power" it has been decided to institute a new award category under the National Film Awards titled "The Most Film Friendly State/UT". This award will be conferred for the first time at the 63rd National Film Awards to be held on 3rd May 2016. The award will be conferred by the Hon'ble President of India. The government also decided to establish a Film Facilitation Office to provide single window clearance to film makers and promote India as a Filming Destination.



News 36 – Ministry of Shipping initiates Project Green Port under Swachh Bharat Mission

19-Jan: Ministry of Shipping has started 'Project Green Ports', which will help in making the Major Ports across India cleaner and greener. 'Project Green Ports' will have two verticals - one is 'Green Ports Initiatives' related to environmental issues and second is 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan'. The Green Port Initiatives includes twelve initiatives, while the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan has 20 activities with certain time-line to promote cleanliness at the port premises.



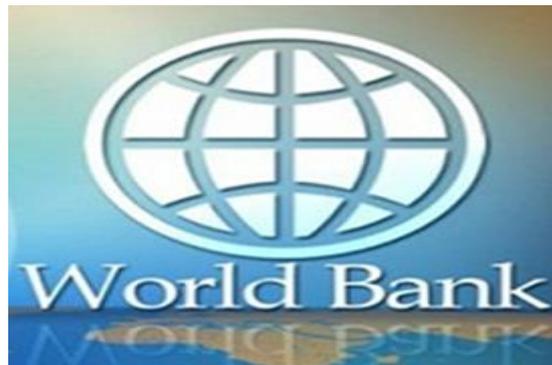
News 37 – India signs Financing Agreement with World Bank for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project

20-Jan: The Financing Agreement for World Bank (IDA) assistance of US\$ 250 million for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project was signed between Government of India and the World Bank.

This project has five components, which include –

- Improving Flood Risk Management
- Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Competitiveness
- Augmenting Connectivity
- Contingent Emergency Response
- Implementation Support

It is a loan for an implementation period of 5 years. Government of Bihar is the implementing agency.



News 38 – Government clears Policy on Promotion of City Compost

20-Jan: The Union Cabinet has given its approval for a Policy on Promotion of City Compost. Under this policy, a provision has been made for Market development assistance of Rs 1500 per tonne of city compost for scaling up production and consumption of the product. Market development assistance would lower MRP of city compost for farmers. Compost from city garbage would not only provide carbon and primary/secondary nutrients to soil, but also help in keeping the city clean. Eco-Mark standard for City Compost would ensure that environment friendly quality product reaches the farmers.



News 39 – CCEA approves setting up of over 5000 MW of Grid-connected Solar PV Power Projects

20-Jan: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) gave its nod for setting up over 5000 MW of Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Projects on build, own and operate basis. The work will be implemented by Solar Power Developers (SPDs) with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under Batch-IV of Phase-II of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM). The total investments expected under this scheme is about Rs 30,000 crores.



News 40 – Infrastructure Status granted to Shipyard Industry by the Union Government

20-Jan: The Central Government approved Infrastructure Status to the Shipyard Industry. It will help to ease the financial stress of the industry, since they would now be eligible to avail flexible long-term funding at lower costs equivalent to the economic life of their assets. More benefits such as relaxed ECB norms, issuance of infrastructure bonds, benefits under Income Tax Act, 1961 etc., would also be available.



News 41 – Government approved six-lanes for NH-2 in Bihar and Jharkhand

20-Jan: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for development of the six lanes for the Aurangabad – Bihar/Jharkhand Border – BarwaAdda section on National Highway-2 in Bihar and Jharkhand. The work will be under the National Highways Development Project (NHDP) Phase-V. The approval is in BOT (Toll) mode on Design, Build, Finance, Operate and Transfer (BOT/DBFOT) basis. The cost is estimated to be Rs.4918.48 crores including the cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities. The total length of this road will be approximately 222 KM.



News 42 – Cabinet approves amendments in Power Tariff Policy

20-Jan: The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for amendments in the Tariff Policy. The amendments are also aimed at achieving the objectives of Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) with the focus on 4 Es: Electricity for all, Efficiency to ensure affordable tariffs, Environment for a sustainable future, Ease of doing business to attract investments and ensure financial viability.



The key amendments include:

- 24X7 supply will be ensured to all consumers and State Governments and regulators will devise a power supply trajectory to achieve this.
- Reduce power cost to consumers through expansion of existing power plants.

- Swachh Bharat Mission to get a big boost with procurement of 100% power produced from Waste-to-Energy plants.

News 43 – Indian Bureau of Mines signs MOU with National Remote Sensing Center

21-Jan: Indian Bureau of Mines (IBM) has inked a MoU with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) for monitoring mining activity through satellite technology. NRSC is expected to carry out a pilot project to demonstrate the use of satellite imagery in monitoring mining activity changes over a period of time in select mine groups at two IBM locations. The latest project, named Sudoor Drishti, is part of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's digital India drive.



News 44 – ONGC gets environmental permission for 53000 crore rupees KG basin project

22-Jan: The Ministry of Environment and Forests Oil gave Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) clearance for drilling 45 developed wells in the Krishna Godavari (KG) basin in Andhra Pradesh. The total cost of the project is estimated at 53000 crore rupees. The proposed development drilling and further, development of fields will help produce of 51.33 billion cubic meters of gas over a period of 16 years and 26.71 million cubic meters of oil in 12 years. However, the ministry has asked ONGC to obtain Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearance and approval from Directorate General of Shipping for commencement of drilling.



News 45 – India Submits its first Biennial Update Report to UNFCCC

22-Jan: India submitted its first Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), towards fulfillment of the reporting obligation under the Convention. As per this report, India emitted 2,136.84 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent greenhouse gases in 2010. About 12% of emissions were offset by carbon sink action of forests and croplands, considering which the national GHG emissions are arrived at a total of 1,884.31 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent. As on 13th January 2016, 23 countries other than India have submitted their BURs. China is yet to submit its BUR.



News 46 – MSDE, DoT sign MoU to develop and implement National Action Plan for Skill Development in Telecom Sector

22-Jan: The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Department of Telecommunication (DoT) to develop and implement National Action Plan for Skill Development in Telecom Sector. MSDE and DoT together have agreed to make concerted joint efforts towards skill development by facilitating mobilization of financial support for various activities. PSUs under DOT will be advised to utilize at least 20 percent of their CSR funds for skilling purposes. As per the Skill Gap Study, the Telecommunications Sector in India is expected to show a strong growth of around 15% between 2013-17.



News 47 – Environment Ministry notified stricter standards for Sugar Industry

22-Jan: The Government has notified stricter environment standards for sugar industries so as to minimize water pollution. The revised standards will lead to improved operational performance of sugar industries through implementation of wastewater discharge standards and waste water conservation and pollution control management protocol. The standards have been recommended by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) after consultations with industries and other stakeholders, as well as seeking comments from general public. Wastewater has now been limited to 200 liters per tonne of cane crushed against the earlier limit of 400 liters. The final treated effluent discharge has been restricted to 100 liters per tonne of cane crushed.



News 48 – India-France signed 16 agreements

24-Jan: India and France signed 16 agreements at the India-France Business Summit in Chandigarh that covered urban development, water and waste treatment, urban transport and solar energy.

The highlights of the agreements include –

- 9 different French companies signed MOUs with Engineering Projects India for urban sector development



- MoU with French Development Agency and the respective state governments for development of smart city in Nagpur, Chandigarh and Puducherry.
- An agreement was signed between Airbus Group and Mahindra to manufacture helicopters under the 'Make in India' initiative.

News 49 – Union Government has announced Sahaj Scheme for online reservation of LPG cylinders

25-Jan: The Central Government launched Sahaj Scheme for booking of LPG cylinders online. The booking can be done through the incorporated web portal www.mylpg.in which is available in 13 languages. The government has an ambitious target to add 10 crore new LPG connections by December 2018 to the existing 16.5 crore connections. With the help of the new facility, people will be able to book the cylinder around the clock. Earlier in January 2016, the Government dedicated the year 2016 as the "Year of the Consumers".



News 50 – Union Cabinet gave approval to increase in Authorized Share Capital of NSFDC

27-Jan: The Union Cabinet gave its approval for enhancement of Authorized Share Capital of the National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC), a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) working under the aegis of the Union Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment from Rs. 1000 crores to Rs. 1200 crores. This enhancement of share capital would expand the ambit of NSFDC coverage and increase disbursement of funds to larger sections of the economically deprived scheduled caste population. The target of NSFDC for the year 2015-16 is to cover 63,000 beneficiaries.



News 51 – Hybrid Annuity model for implementing highway projects: CCEA

27-Jan: The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approved the Hybrid Annuity Model as one of the modes of delivery for implementing the Highway Projects. The main object of this approval is to revive highway projects in the country by making one more mode of delivery of highway projects. An important feature of the Hybrid Annuity



Model for highways development is the rational approach adopted for allocation of risks between the PPP partners.

News 52 – Government declared 1st batch of 20 smart cities from 11 States and Delhi

28-Jan: The Government announced the 20 winners of the Smart City Challenge competition for financing during this financial year. Smart City Mission is based on the 'bottom up' approach with the involvement of citizens. 3 cities from Madhya Pradesh, two each from Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan and one each from the remaining five made it to the winning list. 20 winning cities and towns have proposed a total investment of Rs. 50,802 crores over five years with all the cities proposing Public-Private-Partnership.



The List of 20 smart cities is as follows:

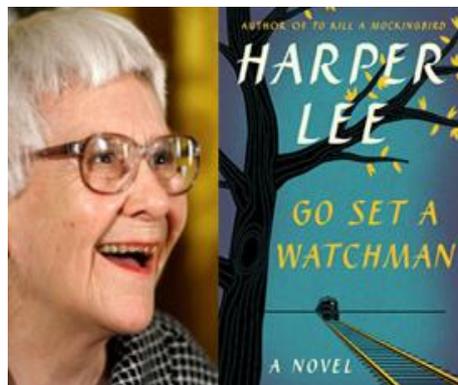
| Rank | City | State |
|------|---------------|----------------|
| 1 | Bhubaneswar | Odisha |
| 2 | Pune | Maharashtra |
| 3 | Jaipur | Rajasthan |
| 4 | Surat | Gujarat |
| 5 | Kochi | Kerala |
| 6 | Ahmedabad | Gujarat |
| 7 | Jabalpur | Madhya Pradesh |
| 8 | Visakhapatnam | Andhra Pradesh |
| 9 | Solapur | Maharashtra |
| 10 | Davanagere | Karnataka |
| 11 | Indore | Madhya Pradesh |

| | | |
|----|-----------------------------|----------------|
| 12 | New Delhi Municipal Council | Delhi |
| 13 | Combattore | Tamil Nadu |
| 14 | Kakinada | Andhra Pradesh |
| 15 | Belagavi | Karnataka |
| 16 | Udaipur | Rajasthan |
| 17 | Guwahati | Assam |
| 18 | Chennai | Tamil Nadu |
| 19 | Ludhiana | Punjab |
| 20 | Bhopal | Madhya Pradesh |

New Books

News 1 – Harper Lee's 'Go Set a Watchman' topped 2015 US Bestseller List

06 Jan: Harper Lee's second novel "Go Set a Watchman" topped the US bestseller list in 2015, selling 1.6 million copies. The 89-year-old writer is now confined to a nursing home. The second and third bestsellers were Jeff Kinney's "Diary of Wimpy Kid" series and British author EL James' mommy-porn erotica "Grey: Fifty Shades of Grey as Told by Christian." The fourth book in the list was nail-biting thriller "The Girl on the Train" written by Paula Hawkins.



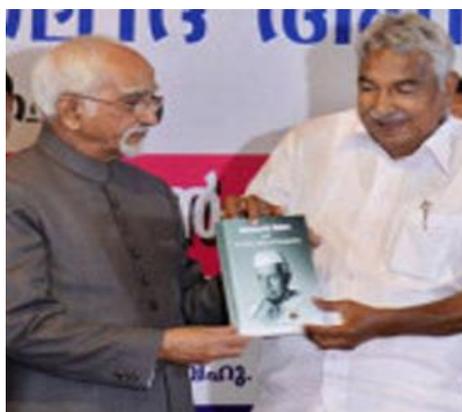
News 2 – "MARU BHARAT SARU BHARAT" written by Jain Acharya Maharaj released

10 Jan: "MARU BHARAT SARU BHARAT", a book authored by Jain Acharya Ratnasundersurisarji Maharaj was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mumbai. This book is available in four languages: English, Hindi, Gujarati and Marathi. The name of the English version of this book is "My India, Nobel India".



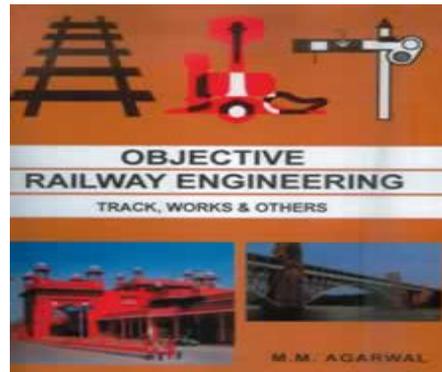
News 3 – Jawaharlal Nehru and The Indian Polity in Perspective: book released by Hamid Ansari

12 Jan: The Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari released the book titled "Jawaharlal Nehru and The Indian Polity in Perspective" at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. The book was edited by Prof P J Alexander along with contributions from eminent people like Justice K T Thomas, Dr Rajan Kurukkal, Dr B Vivekanandan and M G Radhakrishnan. This book throws light on the role of Jawaharlal Nehru's contribution in the politics of modern India. It was published by – T M Varghese Foundation.



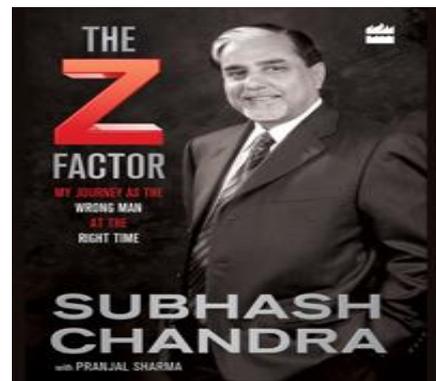
News 4 – Book authored by MM Agarwal, titled Objective Railway Engineering-Track, Works & Others released

14 Jan: A book titled Objective Railway Engineering – Track, Works & Others authored by a popular Civil Engineer MM Agarwal was released. This book, originally written in 2007, is the 3rd revised and enlarged edition. The book now contains 37 updated chapters and thus covers the entire spectrum of Railway Engineering.



News 5 – PM Narendra Modi releases "The Z Factor" a book written by Shri Subhash Chandra

20 Jan: The Prime Minister Narendra Modi released a book in New Delhi titled The Z Factor: My Journey as the Wrong Man at the Right Time written by promoter of Essel/ Zee Group Subhash Chandra. This book is his autobiography and contains the true story of a self-made businessman.



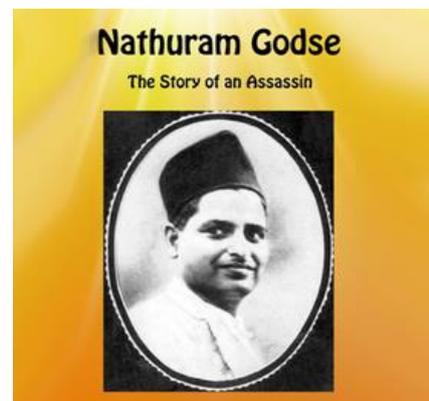
News 6 – The Turbulent Years, Volume II of memoirs of President Pranab Mukherjee released

28 Jan: The second volume of memoirs of President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee titled "The Turbulent Years – 1980-1996" was released. The first volume "The Dramatic Decade- The Indira Gandhi Years" was released on December 11, 2014. The book recollects crucial events of his political life, which includes Indira Gandhi's assassination, Babri Masjid demolition, operation Blue Star and his ouster from the Rajiv Gandhi's Cabinet.



News 7 – Book written by Anup Ashok Sardesai "Nathuram Godse - The Story of an Assassin" released

30 Jan: The book written by Anup Ashok Sardesai "Nathuram Godse - The Story of an Assassin" was released at the government-owned Ravindra Bhavan in Margao by BJP leader and the Bhavan's Chairman Damodar Naik. This book tells the story of Nathuram Vinayakrao Godse, India's most hated criminal.



Persons In News

News 1 – Pakistani Singer Adnan Sami becomes an Indian Citizen

01 Jan: Pakistani Singer Adnan Sami has been given Indian citizenship under Section 6 (I) of the Indian Citizenship Act, 1955 under the category "Citizenship by Naturalization." He has been staying in India since 2011. He will have to fill a citizenship form at the Home Ministry's office in Delhi and pay Rs 13,700 as fee for the process.



News 2 – Arunima Sinha ascended Mount Aconcagua in Argentina

02 Jan: Arunima Sinha, who had lost her left leg in a train accident in 2011, conquered Mt Aconcagua in Argentina, also known as second Everest. Aconcagua, with a height of 6,960.8 meters, is the highest peak outside Asia. With this, she has set a world record as first female amputee to climb 5 mountains in the world. She has plans to complete the goal of Mission 7 Summits. Arunima with her determination and great attitude had climbed Mount Everest in 2013, immediately two years after she lost her leg in the train accident.



News 3 – Sachin Tendulkar is the brand ambassador for Novo Nordisk's diabetes campaign

04 Jan: Danish pharmaceutical company, Novo Nordisk has roped in Sachin Tendulkar as the brand ambassador for its disease awareness campaign 'Changing Diabetes' initiated in India. In India 69.2 million people have diabetes and by 2035, it is estimated that 123.5 million people will have diabetes. Novo Nordisk is a leading global insulin maker. It is currently providing free diabetes treatment and education to 4,000 children, who have been suffering from Type-2 diabetes, in India.



News 4 – Indra Nooyi, "Most Generous Graduate" of Yale School of Management

12 Jan: The prestigious Yale School of Management will name its deanship in honor of PepsiCo's CEO, Indra Nooyi as she has gifted an undisclosed amount to the school, where she graduated from in year 1980. The school did not disclose the amount gifted by Nooyi, but said it has made her the "Most Generous Graduate" of Yale School of Management in terms of lifetime giving to the school. She is also the first woman to endow the deanship at a top business school.



News 5 – Sachin Tendulkar launches railway police safety drive

14 Jan: Cricketing Legend, Sachin Tendulkar launched two safety and awareness initiatives by the Mumbai Railway Police.

The two initiatives are:

- SAMEEP (Safety Alert Messages Exclusively for Passengers): As part of this initiative, text messages would be sent to passengers about important developments or interruptions, safety advisories, updates about women's security and accurate information about developments to dismiss any anecdote.
- B-SAFE: It is an awareness campaign to educate the people about various precautions they should take for safe commuting.



News 6 – Anajit Singh quits as chairman of Max Financial Services Ltd

15 Jan: Anajit Singh resigned as the Chairman of Max Financial Services Ltd, but will be the chairman emeritus and a permanent invitee to the boards and committees of all Max Group companies. Singh will also be the Chairman Emeritus and a permanent invitee to the boards and committees of all Max Group companies. After the vertical split of Max India Ltd, the new three listed corporate entities are:

- Max Financial Services Ltd: will handle the life insurance vertical.
- Max India Ltd: will manage investments in health and related businesses such as Max Healthcare, Max Bupa and Antara Senior Living.
- Max Ventures and Industries Ltd: will handle the investment in the manufacturing business, Max Specialty Films.



News 7 – IPS officer Aparna Kumar scaled Mount Vinson Massif

27 Jan: Uttar Pradesh cadre IPS officer, Aparna Kumar became India's first civil servant to scale Mount Vinson Massif, the highest peak in the Antarctica. She has now scaled 5 of the 7 summits considered the most challenging for mountains in the world. She is currently posted as the DIG Telecom in Lucknow.



News 1 – Nati folk dance of Kullu district enters Guinness Book of World Records

01-Jan: The famous Nati folk dance of Kullu district in the state of Himachal Pradesh was listed in the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest folk dance in the world. The dance was listed in the Guinness Book of world records in terms of number of participants after 9892 women participated in the folk dance. This event was organized during the International Dussehra festival and phrased as Pride of Kullu. It was dedicated to the girl child.



News 2 – 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas held in New Delhi

09-Jan: The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) was held on 9 January 2016 in New Delhi. It was the first limited edition of the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas. Going forward, it will be conducted as a biannual event. As a result, the next Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas conference will be held in 2017.



14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

News 3 – 88th Annual Conference of Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan inaugurated by the President

10-Jan: The President of India, Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 88th annual conference of Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan in Ranchi, Jharkhand. In this conference, delegates from all over the country attend to hold thematic discussions, meet Bengali authors, novelists, and poets, attend literary sessions, exchange thoughts with scholars of the other languages.



News 4 – International Kite festival started in Ahmedabad

10-Jan: The 28th edition of International Kite Festival started in Ahmedabad. This event was inaugurated on the 10th January, 2016 by the Gujarat Chief Minister, Anandiben Patel at the Sabarmati River front. This festival of Gujarat marks Uttarayan, i.e., the day when winter begins to turn into summer, according to the Indian calendar. It is a five-day annual event.



News 5 – CII Partnership Summit 2016 held in Vishakhapatnam

10-Jan: The 22nd edition of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit -cum-Sunrise Andhra Pradesh Investment Summit was held in Vishakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. As many as 1500 delegates, 350 them from abroad, participated in this summit. At the end of the summit, it was announced that MoUs entailing an investment of Rs. 4.78 lakh crore were signed during the three days.



News 6 – Constro 2016 focuses on 'Smart City' concept

12-Jan: Constro Exhibition-2016 was held in Pune from January 14-17. The main focus of the exhibition was Smart City concept. It was the 14th edition of the bi-annual event and organized by the Pune Construction Engineering Research Foundation (PCERF).



News 1 – The much talked about Odd-Even Scheme of Delhi Government kicks off

01-Jan: The much awaited Odd-Even Scheme of the Delhi Government was launched on a decent note with volume of cars on the roads coming down significantly. It was the first such intervention in the country to combat spiraling air pollution. This ambitious vehicular restriction pilot plan was in force till January 15. Under this scheme, private cars having odd registration numbers will be allowed to ply on odd dates and those with even numbers on even dates. Violation of the Scheme will attract a penalty of Rs 2,000 under relevant sections of the Motor Vehicles Act. Under the experiment, 25 categories of people are being given exemptions including the VIPs.



News 2 – Telangana becomes first state to agree to take e-motor insurance policies

02-Jan: Telangana became the first state to implement e-Vahan Bima Scheme with the aim to dematerialize motor insurance documents. It is an electronic motor insurance policy issued in a digital form with Quick Response (QR) code to scan for verification of policy details. An SMS-based verification was also installed. The initiative was a joint effort by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) of India, Department of Information Technology, police and transport departments of the state.



News 3 – Ganga Gram Yojana launched in Uttar Pradesh

05-Jan: Union Minister Uma Bharti launched Ganga Gram Yojana at Village Puth in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh (UP). There are 1600 villages of Uttar Pradesh alongside the banks of river Ganga, which will be developed under this scheme, where sewage treatment and construction of toilets in every household will be done. About 200 villages have been selected in the first stage. The budget is Rs 1 crore for every village. These villages will be developed under the Sicheval model, where cooperation of the villagers has been implored for the water management and waste disposal.



News 4 – Gender education made compulsory at graduate level in Telangana, becomes the first state to do so

10-Jan: Telangana became the first Indian State to implement compulsory gender education at the graduate level. This state introduced a bilingual textbook titled, Towards a World of Equals on a pilot basis. Quite a few Indian writers have also contributed their share in this book, which will be taught over the period of 14 weeks in a semester at the rate of two classes per week.



News 5 – BHEL announced 520 MW Vizag thermal power plant in Andhra Pradesh

11-Jan: Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) announced that it has commissioned the first unit of the 2x520 MW Vizag thermal power project. The project is owned by Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPC). The project was severely affected by cyclone Hudhud in 2014 while it was under construction. Restoration work was carried out by BHEL and the first unit has been commissioned successfully.



News 6 – Kerala becomes the first State to achieve 100% primary education

12-Jan: Vice President of India, Hamid Ansari on 12th January 2016 declared that Kerala becomes the first state in the country to achieve 100% primary education. Kerala's success is a result of various initiatives undertaken by the Kerala Literacy Mission. Key programs like Athulyam Scheme (address educational needs of illiterate adults) and Mission 676 (address education to school drop outs between 15 to 50 years) contributed significantly.



News 7 – World Bank praises Aadhar, which helps save 1 billion dollars annually for India

14-Jan: The World Bank heaped praise on India. As according to the World Bank Chief Economist, Kaushik Basu, the usage of Aadhar card has helped in saving 1 billion US dollars annually. It was published in the bank's publication, World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends. The World Bank emphasized that digital technologies can promote inclusion, efficiency and innovation.



News 8 – Government of India and World Bank sign a loan agreement for Neeranchal National Watershed Project

14-Jan: The Government of India signed a loan agreement with World Bank in New Delhi for the Neeranchal National Watershed Project. This project is to be implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development over a six-year period (2016-21) will support the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana in hydrology and water management, agricultural production systems, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation. The Neeranchal project was approved by the cabinet in October 2015 with a total budget outlay of Rs.2142 crores with the Government share of Rs.1071 crores and the rest 50% by the World Bank. Out of all the 28 states, nine states including Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan and Telangana will benefit more from the project due to implementation of large number of watershed schemes in these states.



News 9 – The Centre approves 791 crore rupees to drought affected Telangana under NDRF

14-Jan: The decision to provide Rs. 791 crores as drought assistance for Telangana from the Central Government was taken at the meeting of the High Level Committee (HLC) of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) chaired by the Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh. The committee approved the assistance after examining the proposal based on the report of the Central Team that visited the state. The Government of Telangana on 25th November 2015 had declared 231 mandals as drought hit.



News 10 – Madhya Pradesh and Singapore inked four MoUs

14-Jan: The Government of Madhya Pradesh inked four MOUs with Singapore during the four day Singapore visit of Chief Minister, Shivraj Chouhan.

The four MOUs signed were:

- MOU on Clean Energy for setting up a 1000MW wind energy plant in the western part of the state.
- MOU on Urban Planning.
- MOU on capacity building and skill training.
- MoU on food processing.



Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was awarded with Lee Kuan Yew Exchange Fellowship for his contribution in development and international harmony making him the fourth Indian to receive this fellowship.

News 11 – Sikkim Becomes India's First Organic State

14-Jan: Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state by executing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land. The proud feat was not an overnight result but a gradual process when in 2003, the state government decided to make Sikkim an organic farming state through a declaration in the legislative assembly. The entry and sale of chemical inputs for farmland was banned that made the farmer leaving with no option but to go organic. Then the agricultural land was gradually converted to certified organic land by applying organic practices and principles as per the guidelines laid down in National Program for Organic Production. This has thus helped in building the soil health and sustainable increased crop production. It has also given a boost to the tourism industry.



News 12 – ReNew Power started 40 MW wind power project in Karnataka

18-Jan: ReNew Power Ventures declared the commissioning of 40MW wind power project in Karnataka increasing the wind capacity commissioned by ReNew Power to 693MW till date. The Chairman and CEO of ReNew Power Ventures is Sumant Sinha. The company has 20 operational wind projects located in 5 States.



News 13 – Commission for Backward Classes reconstituted by the AP Government

18-Jan: AP Government reconstituted the Commission for Backward Classes, which will be a two-member commission with Justice KL Manjunath, (Retd.) as its chairman for a term of three years and Member Secretary, APCBC as the other member. Since 24th September, 2011, this Commission was not constituted.



News 14 – Bihar Cabinet permitted 35% reservation for women in government jobs

19-Jan: The Bihar Cabinet gave a green signal to 35% reservation for women in state government jobs including reserved and unreserved category. It will help boost women empowerment in the impoverished region.



News 15 – Central Government sanctioned 50000 crore rupees for infrastructure projects in Tamil Nadu

19-Jan: The Central Government sanctioned Rs. 33,000 crores for infrastructure projects including construction of Rail-Over-Bridges (ROB), upgradation of state highways into National Highways and major bridges in Tamil Nadu. An additional amount of Rs 17000 crores would be sanctioned after consulting with the state government.



News 16 – Maharashtra Government inks MOU with Tata Trust for skill training of youth

19-Jan: The Maharashtra State Government and Tata Trust inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) related to skill training program for the youth in the state under the Kushal Maharashtra, Rojgaryukt Maharashtra initiative. This program will help set up skill development and vocational training centers in 10 districts of the state. It will further help improve the infrastructure in Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs), since virtual classrooms would also be set up in 100 such ITIs.



News 17 – MoU between India and UK in the field of Public Administration and Governance Reforms

20-Jan: The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in November, 2015 between India, and United Kingdom for Cooperation in Public Administration and Governance Reforms. The form of co-operation under the MoU will be in areas like sharing good governance practices in public administration, User led service design, reducing bureaucracy in service delivery, Public Grievance Redress Mechanism, Local Government Reforms, Reforms towards strengthening of social security, Collaboration



between Government and Industry on staff management, Mechanisms for public engagement, Crisis and Disaster Management and Digital transformation of Government.

News 18 – Nai Manzil Scheme launched in Jammu and Kashmir

20-Jan: The 'Nai Manzil' scheme has been launched, for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir. This scheme was launched for girls in Srinagar in three institutions. The institutions are Skill Development Centre, University of Kashmir and two Madarsas (Madarsa Shahi-i-Hamdani in Pampore and Madarsa Imam Sadique in Shadipur, Bandipora). Under this scheme, girls from minority communities will be imparted a three-month skill development training in seven identified sectors relevant to the region. These include training in saffron processing, food processing, embroidery, computers IT (both software and hardware), Tourism/hospitality, electronics and plumbing. Trainees will also be given stipend of Rs.4500/-for the course.



News 19 – DMRC signed interim agreement for light metro projects with KRTL

21-Jan: The Delhi Metro Rail Corporation (DMRC) inked an interim consultancy pact with Kerala Rapid Transit Ltd (KRTL), a SPV set up to execute the mass rapid transport system, for the Rs. 6,728-crore 'light metro' in Thiruvananthapuram and Kozhikode. Under the agreement, DMRC will prepare the tender documents for procurement of rolling stock, land acquisition survey, estimates for the flyovers, identification of major utilities and utility shifting plans.



दिल्ली मेट्रो रेल कॉर्पोरेशन लिमिटेड
Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Limited

News 20 – Giriputrika Kalyana Pathakam Scheme for tribal people launched by the AP Government

22-Jan: The Andhra Pradesh Government announced the launch of Giriputrika Kalyana Pathakam Scheme to support the tribal women in their quest for livelihood. This scheme is designed to provide a one-time financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 to each tribal woman who gets married. The amount will be disbursed through District Tribal Welfare Office directly to the bank accounts of the beneficiaries.



News 21 – Google and Raitel launched free public Wi-Fi service at Mumbai Central Station

22-Jan: Google India and RailTel (the telecom arm of Indian Railways) launched free Public Wi-Fi service, called RailWire WiFi, for passengers at the Mumbai Central Station. Mumbai Central has thus become the first railway station in India to have free high-speed Wi-Fi Internet facility. Passengers can avail this facility after successful authentication by entering a four digit OTP (One Time Password) sent to their smart phone via SMS. The government aims to provide free WiFi at 100 of the busiest railway stations in the initial phase and further extend to 400 stations across the country.



News 22 – PM Narendra Modi declassifies 100 secret Netaji files

23-Jan: Prime Minister Narendra Modi declassified 100 secret files relating to Subhas Chandra Bose on his 119th birth anniversary. Digital copies of these files were made and put on digital display at the National Archives of India (NAI). The NAI plans to release digital copies of 25 declassified files on Bose in the public domain every month.



News 23 – Ranchi: India's largest flag with the tallest flagpole hoisted

23-Jan: The largest Indian national flag on the tallest mast was hoisted at the historical Pahari Mandir in Ranchi, Jharkhand by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar. The flag is 66 feet in height, 99 feet in width and hoisted on a 293 feet-tall pole. The earliest tallest flag pole was in Faridabad. Also present were the Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das and other important leaders of the state.



News 24 – First in Maharashtra, Solar Power operated Mini-Water Supply Plant commissioned

24-Jan: Maharashtra's first Solar Power operated Mini-Water Supply Plant was commissioned in Hingna village of Mouda Taluka in Nagpur district. Rite Water Solutions has installed the unit on an experimental basis under the supervision of the Zilla Parishad authorities. The main objective of the plant is to facilitate villagers to get pure water supply for a very low cost,



which can easily be borne by the Gram Panchayat. The unit runs on solar power of 1800 Watt panels and produces 10000 Litres of purified water every day.

News 25 – Government rolls out National Job Portal for Persons with Disabilities

27-Jan: The Government has launched an exclusive job portal for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs). The PwDs can avail the different facilities such as self-employment loan, education loan, skill training link to scholarships and information about jobs in a single window platform through this National Job Portal. The Government has a target for skilling five lakh persons in next 3 years. The skill training will be provided by a network of 200 clusters of "Training Partners" with financial assistance of government. The portal was developed by the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation (NHFD).



News 26 – Madhya Pradesh imposes ban on polythene from January 2017

27-Jan: The Madhya Pradesh government will enforce a ban on polythene across the state from January 2017. As per the decision, the ban on polythene will be strictly enforced at tourist destinations and holy cities Ujjain, Amarkantak, Pachmarhi, Maheshwar, Khajuraho, Omkareshwar and Orchha from September 2016. The government has also asked the officials to draw out a plan in order to develop a new green field city between Bhopal and Indore.



News 27 – MITRA app launched by Puducherry Government for women, child and elderly safety

28-Jan: A mobile application, coined as Mitra (Mobile Initiated Tracking and Rescue application), for protection of women, children and elderly at the time of distress was launched by Lt Governor of Puducherry AK Singh in the presence of the Chief Minister N Rangasamy. This Mitra facility has been developed by Puducherry Police department in association with National Informatics Centre.



News 1 – Forbes released the list of achievers under 30 for the year 2016; 45 Indian and Indian-origin people figured

04-Jan: Forbes released the 2016 – 30 Under 30 List. The annual report features 600 men and women, who achieved extraordinary professional success before they reached the age of 30 years. Forty-five Indians and Indian-origin people have made it to Forbes' annual list. Following are a few of their names:



- Ritesh Agarwal, OYO Rooms CEO
- Karishma Shah, Alphabet's Google X
- Divya Nettimi, Viking Global Investors
- Nisha Chittal, MSNBC
- Ashish Patel, NowThis Media
- Saagar Govil, CEO of Cemtrex

News 2 – UN launches new dataset titled “Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision”

12-Jan: The UN launched the new dataset titled “Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision”. It was released at the UN DESA (UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs) headquarters in New York. The dataset evaluated trends in migration flows across the world, both country and region wise, between 2000 and 2015.



Key highlights of the dataset:

- The number of international migrants reached 244 million in 2015, which is 41% more than that of 2000. About 172 million or 72% of these are of working age.
- Around 20 million out of 244 million are refugees
- India has the largest diaspora in the world, followed by Mexico and Russia. In 2015, 16 million people from India migrated to other parts of the world.

News 3 – Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2015-2016 launched by INSEAD

19-Jan: Global Business School, INSEAD, released the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2015-16 in Davos, Switzerland. The theme of this report was Talent Attraction and International Mobility. Out of the 109 countries surveyed, the top ranked countries were – Switzerland (1), Singapore (2), Luxembourg (3), the USA (4) and Denmark (5). Similarly, the bottom rankers were – Mali (105), Tanzania (106), Ethiopia (107), Burkina Faso (108) and Madagascar (109). India slipped 11 places to rank 89th in the GTCI 2015-16 as compared to 2014-15.



News 4 – Health Ministry releases results for 1st Phase of NFHS-4 Survey

19-Jan: The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare released today the results from the first phase of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-4), 2015-16. These are available on Ministry's website, www.mohfw.gov.in. The 1st Phase included **13 States** of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Tripura, Uttarakhand, West Bengal and **2 Union Territories (UTs)** of Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Puducherry.



Key Findings of Phase-1 of NFHS-4 Survey –

- The Infant Mortality rate is 51 deaths per 1000 live births, which ranges from a low of 10 in Andaman and Nicobar Islands to a high of 51 deaths per 1000 live births in Madhya Pradesh.
- The total fertility rates (TFR) or the average number of children per woman, range from 1.2 in Sikkim to 3.4 in Bihar.

News 5 – UNESCAP published World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016 report

19-Jan: The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) published World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2016 report. The report highlights that the world economy tripped in 2015 and only a marginal development is projected for 2016-17. As per the report, the world economy is projected to grow by 2.9 percent in 2016 and 3.2 percent in 2017 whereas South Asia region is estimated to be the world's fastest-growing region. India, with a growth rate at 7.3% and 7.5%, will be the fastest growing economy in the world in 2016 and 2017 respectively.



News 6 – 2015 declared as Earth’s warmest year since 1880 by NOAA

20-Jan: According to a report released by NASA and NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), 2015 was the Earth’s warmest since modern record keeping began in 1880. 15 of the top 16 warmest years have occurred since 2000. El Niño was a major driver of the heat this year. Similarly, the change also was largely driven by increased carbon dioxide and other human-made emissions into the atmosphere.



News 7– India ranked 22nd among world's best countries

21-Jan: The inaugural Best Countries report, released on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual meeting is topped by Germany. India is placed 22nd in the list. The other countries in the top five are Canada (2), the UK (3), the US (4) and Sweden (5). China is ranked 17th in the list. This report was prepared by the US News and World Report and New York-based brand consultancy BAV Consulting and Wharton School of Business on the basis of sustainability, adventure, cultural influence, entrepreneurship and economic influence.



News 8 – Umaid Bhawan Palace of Jodhpur named the world's best hotel of 2016

21-Jan: Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur was awarded the world's best hotel at the Travellers' Choice award organized by TripAdvisor. The winner was decided on the basis of the reviews and opinions collected in a single year from TripAdvisor travelers' worldwide. Umaid Bhawan Palace is named after Maharaja Umaid Singh. The Palace has 347 rooms.



News 9 – UN Report: India to be the fastest growing economy in 2016

22-Jan: According to a United Nation’s world economic report (World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016), India will be the world's fastest growing large economy at 7.3 percent in 2016, improving further to 7.5 percent in 2017. These calculations are made on a calendar year basis, but extrapolated for the financial year. India's economy accounts for over 70 per cent of the GDP in all of South Asia.



News 10 – Sri Lanka tops South Asia Region in 2015 HDI

23-Jan: The Global Human Development Report (HDR) 2015 released by the UN Development Program (UNDP) has ranked Sri Lanka 73rd with an HDI value of 0.757. The report includes Iran in the South Asia Region apart from India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh and Maldives.



The other countries are ranked as follows:

- Iran: 69th
- Maldives: 104th
- India: 130th
- Pakistan: 147th

News 11 – NTI releases 2016 Nuclear Security Index

24-Jan: Nuclear Threat Initiative (NTI), a non-profit, non-partisan organization released the 2016 Nuclear Security Index. The theme is Building a Framework for Assurance, Accountability, and Action.



In the "theft ranking":

- As in 2012 and 2014, Australia takes the top spot among the 24 states with weapons-usable nuclear materials.
- Japan is the most improved state.
- France, the United States, and the United Kingdom score the highest among nuclear-armed states.
- The United States, India, Russia, and the United Kingdom are the most improved nuclear-armed states.
- Sweden earns the first place ranking among states with less than one kilogram of or no weapons-usable nuclear materials. Djibouti is the most improved of those states.

Finland ranks first among the 45 states that have nuclear facilities, such as power plants or research reactors, in need of protection against sabotage.

Resignations

News 1 – Laxmi Ratan Shukla of Bengal announced his retirement

01-Jan: Former captain of the Bengal Ranji Trophy team, Laxmi Ratan Shukla, announced his plans to retire from all forms of cricket. The veteran all-rounder played 137 First Class matches and accumulated 6217 runs and bagged 144 wickets. He also played 3 ODIs for the national team.



News 2 – South African Test Cricket Team Captain Hashim Amla resigned

06-Jan: South African Cricketer, Hashim Amla resigned as Test Captain. AB de Villiers will be the new Captain for the remaining two Tests. Amla was named Graeme Smith's replacement as captain in mid-2014. He led the team to four wins, six draws and four defeats in 14 Tests.



News 3 – Pakistan Cricketer Imran Farhat announced retirement from International Cricket

27-Jan: Pakistani batsman Imran Farhat announced his retirement from international cricket after he received No-Objection Certificate from Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB). Imran Farhat will now be able to play the Masters Champions League (MCL), a 20-20 Cricket League played by retired international cricket players.



News 4 – Olympic diving gold medalist Matthew Mitcham announced retirement

28-Jan: Australian Olympic diving gold medalist, Matthew Mitcham, announced his retirement from the sport. Mitcham won the 10m platform at the 2008 Beijing Games, and also claimed gold in the 10m synchro platform at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.



News 1 – Ashwin becomes the no.1 Test Bowler

01-Jan: Ravichandran Ashwin became the No. 1 Test bowler in the ICC rankings. Ashwin climbed the No. 1 spot after he took 62 wickets in nine Tests this year including 31 scalps in the four matches against South Africa. He also became the first Indian bowler after Bishen Singh Bedi since 1973 to achieve the milestone of finishing the year on top. He started the year in 15th position. South African fast bowler Dale Steyn was ranked No. two followed by Stuart Broad of England. As a double delight, Ashwin also ended the year as top-ranked Test all-rounder.



News 2 – Virat Kohli named 'BCCI Cricketer of the Year'

01-Jan: BCCI has announced Virat Kohli as the 'Cricketer of the Year', while Mithali Raj was awarded with the M.A. Chidambaram Trophy for the Best Women's Cricketer. Mithali became the first Indian woman and second overall to complete 5,000 runs in ODI format. Virat Kohli will be presented with the Polly Umrigar Award, given to the cricketer of the year. In addition to the above awards, former wicketkeeper Syed Kirmani will be presented the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award and Karnataka all-rounder Robin Uthappa with the Madhavrao Scindia Award for scoring the maximum runs in the Ranji Trophy this season.



News 3 – Magnus Carlsen wins Qatar Masters

01-Jan: World Chess Champion, Magnus Carlsen of Norway became victorious at the Qatar Masters Open chess tournament, which is considered to be one of the strongest Open in history. He won the title on a tie-breaker against Yu Yangyi of China after both the players finished with seven points. Surya Shekhar Ganguly was the best-placed Indian, at 10th.



News 4 – India won the 2015 SAFF championships

03-Jan: India after defeating Afghanistan 2-1 in the final, lifted the South Asian Football Federation Cup (SAFF) Championships title for the record 7th time. The final was played at the Trivandrum International Stadium of Kerala. Indian has been the most successful team winning the championships 7 out of 11 times. The SAFF Championship is the biennial football competition of the men's national football teams. It is also called as South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup.



News 5 – ONGC wins 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri Hockey tournament

05-Jan: Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) defeated Indian Railways in the final match of 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri Hockey tournament. This game was played at the Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi.

Awards Conferred:

- Top scorer: Diwakar Ram (ONGC)
- Player of the tournament: Simrandeep Singh (Railways)
- Upcoming player of the tournament: Ajit Pandey (Railways)
- Outstanding performance in a match: Vivek Sharma (IOC)



News 6 – Australia withdraws out of 2016 U-19 World Cup in Bangladesh citing safety concerns

05-Jan: Australia pulled out of the 2016 Under-19 World Cup Tournament in Bangladesh due to security reasons. The tournament was scheduled from 22nd January to 14th February 2016. Ireland has replaced Australia in the tournament. 2016 U-19 World Cup is the eleventh edition of the tournament. The Head of Security for Cricket Australia is Sean Carroll.



News 7 – Wayne Rooney declared 2015 England Player of the Year

05-Jan: Wayne Rooney was voted 2015 England Player of the Year for the fourth time overall and second time in succession. Rooney has now scored 51 goals for England breaking Bobby Charlton's record of 49. He received 37 percent of the votes. Jack Butland was voted the Under-21s Player of the Year. Both the players will be presented with their awards prior to England's friendly against Germany in Berlin on March 26.



News 8 – Apurvi Chandela wins gold at Swedish Grand Prix; sets a world record

06-Jan: Indian shooter Apurvi Chandela won gold in the women's 10-meter air rifle event at the Swedish Cup Grand Prix. Chandela shot 211.2 in the event held. In this process, she set a world record to surpass the feat of the Chinese Olympic gold medalist, Yi Siling, who held the record with 211. The silver and bronze went to Swedish shooters Astrid Steffensen (207.6) and Stine Nielsen (185.0) respectively. Chandela has already qualified for the Rio Olympics 2016.



News 9 – Miguel Tabuena won Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month

07-Jan: Miguel Tabuena of Philippines was voted as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Month for December 2015. Tabuena won the award ahead of Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai and India's Himmat Rai. He picked up his first win at the 2015 Philippine Open and became the first Filipino to win his National Open since 2008.



News 10 – Roger Federer loses to Milos Raonic in the Brisbane International Tennis men's singles trophy

10-Jan: Canadian tennis player, Milos Raonic, won the 2016 Brisbane International Tennis men's singles trophy by defeating Roger Federer in the final match held at Brisbane in Australia.



The winners for other categories in the tournament:

- Women's Singles: Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)
- Men's Doubles: Henri Kontinen (Finland) & John Peers (Australia)
- Women's Doubles: Sania Mirza (India) & Martina Hingis (Switzerland)

News 11 – Rene Holten Poulsen declared Denmark's sports person of the year

10-Jan: Rene Holten Poulsen was awarded as Denmark's sports person of the year 2015. He is a professional kayaker and medalist at the Olympics, World Championships and European Championships. The 27-year-old has won a total of six medals in international championships in 2015, including two World Cup medals, three European Championship medals and one European Games bronze medal.



News 12 – Stanislas Wawrinka wins his third consecutive Chennai Open title

10-Jan: Stanislas Wawrinka won his third consecutive Chennai Open title. In the finals, he defeated Borna Coric of Croatia. The winner received an award money of 75700 US dollars. For eight years, the Swiss player has been travelling to Chennai to participate in this event. He continues to profess that it is the love of his fans that keeps bringing him back. Nonetheless, for the Chennai Open, Wawrinka is the undisputed king.



News 13 – Ronaldinho declared as Brand Ambassador of Nagjee International Club Football Tournament

11-Jan: Former Brazilian Footballer Ronaldinho was announced as the Brand Ambassador of the Nagjee International Club Football Tournament, which will be held at the Corporation Stadium in Kozhikode from 5th to 21st February 2016. Nagjee International Club Football Tournament, earlier known as Sait Nagjee Trophy, is being revived and resumed after a gap of 21 years. Seven teams from across Europe and South America will participate along with an Indian club team.



News 14 – MoneyGram announced as Event Partner for ICC

11-Jan: The ICC announced MoneyGram (a leading global provider of money transfer services) as its event partner for the next eight-years for all their ICC events from 2016-2023. This deal will cover close to 17 tournaments, including six major features, which have two ICC World Twenty20 tournaments, two editions of the ICC Champions Trophy and two ICC Cricket World Cups.



News 15 – FIFA Secretary General Jerome Valcke sacked

13-Jan: The FIFA Emergency Committee dismissed Secretary General Jerome Valcke with immediate effect. Markus Kattner continues to serve as the acting Secretary General. Mr Valcke was suspended for his alleged involvement in a scheme to profit from the sale of World Cup tickets.



News 16 – Sania-Martina wins 2016 WTA Apia International Sydney Title

15-Jan: Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the 2016 WTA Apia International Sydney title of Tennis in the women's doubles category. It was their 11th title altogether since 2015. The pair defeated French pair Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic in the finals making it the 30th win in-a-row for the two.



News 17 – Viktor Troicki conquered Grigor Dimitrov to win 2016 WTA Apia International Sydney title

16-Jan: Viktor Troicki beat Grigor Dimitrov in a thrilling final to win his second straight Apia International Sydney title. He is now the fourth player in the Open era to defend the Sydney International title. Viktor Troicki is a professional tennis player from Serbia. The 2016 Apia International Sydney was a joint 2016 ATP World Tour and 2016 WTA Tour tennis tournament.



News 18 – Delhi Acers beat Mumbai Rockets to seal Premier Badminton League title

17-Jan: Delhi Acers clinched a thrilling victory over Mumbai Rockets by 4-3 in the final clash to win the Premier Badminton League (PBL) title held at the Siri Fort Sports Complex in New Delhi. The Premier Badminton League, earlier known as Indian Badminton League (IBL), is a franchise league which is managed and commercially owned by the Badminton Association of India. The brand ambassador of this league is Akshay Kumar.



News 19 – Ronnie O'Sullivan outclasses Barry Hawkins to win sixth Snooker Masters title

17-Jan: Ronnie O'Sullivan eased to his sixth Snooker Masters title after he outclassed Barry Hawkins 10-1 in the final at the Alexandra Palace in London equaling the record set by Stephen Hendry. Ronnie O'Sullivan is an English professional snooker player. He was nicknamed "The Rocket" because of his swift playing style.



News 20 – Indian driver Jehan Daruvala won Lady Wigram Trophy motor race at Ruapuna

17-Jan: Jehan Daruvala, Sahara Force India Academy racer, won the Lady Wigram Trophy race, the main event of the first round of the Toyota Racing Series at Ruapuna raceway in Christchurch. It was Daruvala's maiden victory in Formula cars since making the switch from karting in 2015. Earlier he had won Rookie of the Year at the Formula Renault 2.0 NEC series championships in the Netherlands in August 2015.



News 21 – Uttar Pradesh defeats Baroda to win the 2014-2015 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy

20-Jan: Uttar Pradesh defeated Baroda by 38 runs in the final to win its maiden Syed Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy with nine straight wins in the tournament. The Captains for the two teams were Suresh Raina and Irfan Pathan respectively. Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy is a Twenty20 cricket domestic championship, organized by Board of Control for Cricket (BCCI).



News 22 – Indian Olympic Association inked 2-year marketing deal with Infinity Optimal Solutions

21-Jan: Keeping in view the upcoming Rio Olympics, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) made a 2 year commercial and marketing deal with Infinity Optimal Solutions (IOS) to the tune of about Rs 12 Crores. Henceforth, IOS will now manage sponsorship and public relations for the IOA for all the major national and international events. The IOS, which manages some of country's top sportspersons like Suresh Raina, Saina Nehwal, Sushil Kumar has been in the field of sports and entertainment for about 10 years.



News 23 – ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals won by Izumo Takuto and Zhu Chengzhu

24-Jan: Izumo Takuto of Japan and Zhu Chengzhu of Hong Kong won the finals in the boys' and girls' categories, respectively, in the 11Even Sports 2015 ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals. The finals were held at the Abhay Prashal Stadium, Indore, Madhya Pradesh. The winners received 3800 USD as prize money.



News 24 – PV Sindhu won her second Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold Badminton title

24-Jan: PV Sindhu clinched the Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold title after defeating Scotland's Kristy Gilmour in straight games in the final in Penang. She had earlier won the title in 2013. She also completed a hat trick at the Macau Open Grand Prix Gold in November last year.



News 25 – India won the Blind T20 Asia Cup after defeating Pakistan

24-Jan: India won the inaugural T20 Asia cup cricket for Blind after defeating Pakistan in the final clash played at Jawaharlal Nehru stadium of Kochi. India scored 208 runs in 20 overs and Pakistan was later restricted to 164 runs in 18.2 overs. This match was played at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kochi. Pakistan came into this match unbeaten, so far in the event, with six points. Whereas, India came in standing second with four points.



News 26 – 12th Sub-Junior National Snooker championship title won by Ishika Shah

26-Jan: Ishika Shah defeated Anushi Seth by 50-2, 50-33 to win the 12th Sub-Junior National Snooker championship title. Doyel Day retained the sub-junior billiards title. This billiards and snooker championship was held as a part of the 20-day long National Billiards & Snooker Championship 2016 that began on 12th January 2016 in Indore, Madhya Pradesh.



News 27 – Adam Lewis to head Independent Review Panel set up by Tennis Governing Bodies

27-Jan: Tennis's governing bodies announced an Independent Review Panel (IRP) headed by Adam Lewis to safeguard integrity of the game. The governing bodies include: Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), Women's Tennis Association (WTA), International Tennis Federation (ITF) and the Grand Slam Board.



Independent Review Panel will:

- Review and report on the appropriateness and effectiveness of the Tennis Anti-Corruption Program (TACP).
- Take into account public commentary regarding the processes, procedures and resources.
- Make recommendations for change.

News 28 – Sania Mirza, Martina Hingis lift 2016 Australian Open women's doubles tennis title

29-Jan: Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis lifted the 2016 Australian Open title of tennis in the women's doubles category after they defeated Czech duo Andrea Hlavackova and Lucie Hradecka and took their unbeaten run to 36. It was their maiden Australian Open title and the third successive Grand Slam doubles title of this pair.



News 29 – Sri Lanka appointed Graham Xavier Ford as the head coach

29-Jan: Graham Xavier Ford was appointed as the head coach of the Sri Lankan cricket team for his second stint. He succeeded Marvan Atapattu, who has resigned from the post. At the time of his appointment, he was the head coach of the Surrey County Cricket Club. He is a qualified rugby union referee and worked as director of cricket at Kent County Cricket Club, and as coach of Dolphins Cricket team.



News 30 – Angelique Kerber stuns Serena Williams to win 2016 Australian Open women’s singles tennis title

30-Jan: Angelique Kerber of Germany defeated the World No. 1 ranked Serena Williams of USA to win the 2016 Australian Open women’s singles tennis title at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne, Australia. It was her maiden grand slam title. This win lifts the German to the 2nd spot in the rankings. The defending champion, Serena Williams, is short of one title from moving into a tie with Steffi Graf of Germany as the winner of highest major singles titles with 22.



News 4 – Bill Gates along with Illumina & Jeff Bezos launched startup GRAIL to develop blood-based cancer tests

10-Jan: Illumina, which is one of the world’s largest DNA sequencing company, announced the launch of the startup named GRAIL to develop blood-based cancer tests. The company was launched in association with Bill Gates and Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos.



News 5 – China begins the test of first Tibetan language search engine: Cloud Tibet

11-Jan: China announced that it has begun testing the country’s first Tibet language search engine named Cloud Tibet. The search engine will be released by mid-2016. Once released, it will serve around 1.2 million users. This project was started in April, 2013. A team of close to 150 people from a Tibetan language research center in Hainan Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, which is in the Qinghai Province, Northwest China, led the project.

Tibetan Language Search Engine in Tibet



News 6 – Indian-American professor develops Galacto-Seismic method to detect Dark Matter

11-Jan: Indian-American Sukanya Chakrabarti, along with her team of international scientists, devised a new method, galactoseismology. This new technology helps to detect dwarf galaxies dominated by dark matter. This dark matter is a kind of hypothetical matter that makes up about 85 percent of the mass of this universe. They are one of the greatest mysteries in modern astrophysics.



News 7 – NASA launched SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket with Jason-3 Ocean-monitoring satellite

17-Jan: NASA has launched the SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket from California's Vandenberg Air Force Base. It carried along with it the ocean monitoring satellite Jason-3 on board and successfully inserted it in the desired orbit. The Jason-3 satellite, the fourth mission in the US-European series, will be used to study the topography of the ocean floor in order to understand effects of climate change or human-induced changes on the ocean.



News 8 – Second largest black hole in the Milky Way discovered by Japanese astronomers

17-Jan: A team of Japanese astronomers discovered a mysterious gas cloud named "**CO-0.40-0.22**" just 200 light years away from the center of the Milky Way and this may be the first detection of an intermediate mass black hole (IMBH). Astronomer Tomoharu Oka at Keio University in Japan led the research, which has been published in the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*.



News 9 – ISRO and Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research Inked MoU on cooperation in the area of outer space

20-Jan: The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes. The MoU will enable pursuing potential interest areas in both cooperative and commercial mode, namely:



- Use of data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites by KISR for initiating a few research and application projects.
- Training and
- Building and launching of remote sensing and communication satellites on commercial terms.

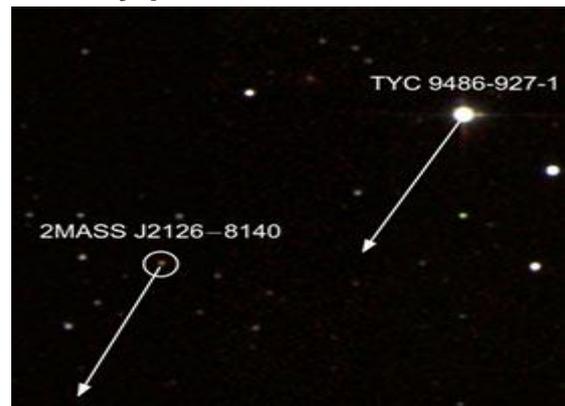
News 10 – PSLV-C31 Successfully Launches India's Fifth Navigation Satellite IRNSS-1E

20-Jan: ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C31, successfully launched the 1425 kg IRNSS-1E, the fifth satellite in the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS) from Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It was the 32nd consecutive successful mission of PSLV and the 11th in its 'XL' configuration. IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 kms around the Indian mainland. IRNSS would provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Services (SPS) - provided to all users - and Restricted Services (RS), provided to authorized users.



News 11 – Scientists have discovered a lonely planet 2MASS J2126 and its distant star TYC 9486-927-1

26-Jan: A team of scientists from UK, USA and Australia have found a lonely planet designated as 2MASS J2126 in a huge orbit around its star TYC 9486-927-1. The discovery was published in Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. This planet 2MASS J2126 is about 1 trillion (1 million million) kilometers from its parent star, or about 7000 times the distance from the Earth to the Sun. It takes roughly 900000 years for this planet to complete one revolution of the parent star. The mass of 2MASS J2126 would be between 11.6 to 15 times the mass of Jupiter.



News 12 – Arianespace Launches Intelsat 29e to Orbit

27-Jan: The world's leading satellite service provider, Intelsat announced that Intelsat 29e was successfully launched from French Guiana aboard an Ariane 5 vehicle. This Intelsat 29e is the first of the Intelsat EpicNG high throughput satellites. It will help provide customers with superior connections at a lower cost.



Various Committees

News 1 – Shyam Benegal to head the panel to revamp Censor Board

02-Jan: The government has constituted a committee headed by eminent film-maker Shyam Benegal to look into the revamp of the Censor Board and submit its report within two months. The recommendations of this committee were expected to provide a holistic framework for those certifying films. The panel includes filmmaker Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, adman Piyush Pandey, film critic Bhawana Somaaya, National Film Development Council MD Nina Lath Gupta and Joint Secretary (Films) Sanjay Murthy.



News 2 – Drastic reforms proposed by the Lodha panel for BCCI

03-Jan: The Supreme Court-appointed Lodha Committee submitted its report in which it recommended sweeping reforms like –

- A bar on ministers from occupying positions.
- Putting a cap on the age and tenure of the office-bearers and
- Legalizing betting.

The committee was a three-member panel, headed by Justice (Retd) R M Lodha.



News 3 – PMO sets up Arvind Panagariya panel to fast-track Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor

11-Jan: The Union Government formed a high level committee headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman, Arvind Panagariya to hasten the Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Corridor meant for bullet trains between the two cities. The estimated project cost is Rs 90000 crore.

The members of the committee are –

- Amitabh Kant, Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion.
- AK Mittal, Railway Board Chairman.
- Shantikanta Das, Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary.
- S Jaishankar, Foreign Secretary.



News 4 – Kamal Haasan & Gautam Ghosh join Shyam Benegal Panel on functioning of CBFC

14-Jan: Actor Kamal Hassan and Director Gautam Ghosh were included in the Shyam Benegal Panel set up by the government to revamp the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The inclusion was done to give representation to more regions of the country. The government had formed this panel on January 1 to take a look at the functioning of this board that has been the epicenter of several controversies in the past months.



News 5 – Draft report of R V Easwar Committee to simplify the provisions of Income-tax Act, 1961 published

18-Jan: A ten-member Committee which was constituted on 27th October, 2015 under the Chairmanship of Justice R.V Easwar (retd.) former Judge, Delhi High court has given their draft recommendations, which contain 27 suggestions for amendments under the Income-tax Act and 8 recommendations for reform through administrative instructions.

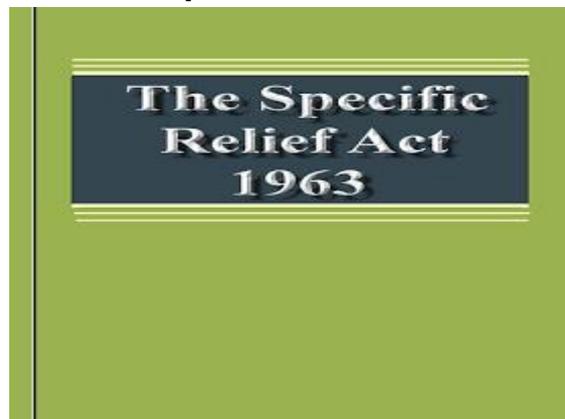


Key recommendations of the draft report:

- Tax deduction at source (TDS) rates for individuals and Hindu undivided families (HUFs) to be brought down to 5 percent as against the present 10 percent.
- Timely refund with interest and provision for payment of higher interest in case of late refund.

News 6 – Expert Committee Setup to Review the Specific Relief Act, 1963

28-Jan: The Legislative Department in the Ministry of Law & Justice has constituted an expert committee to review the Specific Relief Act, 1963. This Specific Relief Act, 1963 provides for the law relating to certain kind of specific relief. The review of this Act will also ensure ease of doing business. The Specific Relief Act has not been amended since its inception. The Committee will have 5-members besides the Chairman. It will examine the Act and submit its report within three months.



News 7 – Supreme Court directs government to set up panels to fix salaries of nurses in private hospitals

29-Jan: The Supreme Court (SC) asked the Union Government to set up a panel within four weeks to examine the living conditions and salary structure of nurses employed in private hospitals and nursing homes. A three-judge Bench led by Justice Anil R. Dave directed the government while hearing a petition filed by the Trained Nurses Association of India. The court ordered that the guidelines should be formulated within six months.

