

GK for MBA Entrance

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CURRENT GK 2016

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Awards & Honours

Delhi international airport received three international awards, including for best airport by size in the Asia Pacific region. These awards were given by the **Airports Council International (ACI)** for 2015. Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) is managed by Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) — is a three-way joint venture led by GMR group. Delhi airport retained the world's number 1 position for the second consecutive year in 25-40 Million Passengers Per Annum (MPPA) category. The two other awards were for best airport by size & region — Asia Pacific (25-40 MPPA) and second best airport by region (Asia Pacific).

Eminent poet Dr Bhagwati Lal Vyas was chosen for the 2015 **Bihari Puraskar** for his anthology of Rajasthani poems 'Katha Sun Aawe Hai Sabad'. Instituted by the K K Birla Foundation in 1991, Bihari Puraskar is given annually for an outstanding literary work in Hindi or Rajasthani published during last 10 years by a Rajasthani writer. Apart from original residents of Rajasthan, it is open to those living in the state for the last seven years or more. The award carries a cash prize of Rs one lakh, a citation and a plaque.

Three British professors, Richard Morris, Tim Bliss and Graham Collingridge, won the **Brain Prize**, dubbed as "the Nobel Prize of neuroscience", for discovering the secrets of how memories are formed in the brain. It is bestowed upon one or more scientists who have distinguished themselves by an outstanding contribution to European neuroscience and who are still active in research.

Veteran actor Manoj Kumar, best known for his patriotic films *Purab Aur Paschim*, *Upkar* and *Kranti*, was selected for the **Dadasaheb Phalke award 2015** for his contribution to the film industry. The actor became the 47th recipient of the award, the highest recognition in Indian cinema, which consists of a golden lotus, a cash prize of Rs 10 lakhs and a shawl. He initially started as a romantic hero following his debut in 1960 with *Kanch Ki Gudia* but later shifted focus to acting and directing films with patriotic themes so much so that fans started calling him 'Bharat Kumar'. Kumar won National Award for *Upkaar* and was honoured with the Padma Shri in 1992.

Renowned Dogri poetess and writer Padma Sachdev was awarded the prestigious **Krutitava Smagra Samman** for the year 2015 for her outstanding contribution in literature and great service to Dogri Language.

Veteran playwright and director Ratan Thiyam was selected for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award 2016 at the **Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META)**.

Charutar Arogya Mandal Chairman Dr Amrita Patel was decorated with the **Mahindra Samridhi India Agri Lifetime Achievement Aear-Krishi Shiromani Samman**. Dr Patel is a former Chairman of National Dairy Development Board (NDDB). Dr Patel had played a pivotal role in the implementation of Operation Flood, the largest developmental programme in the world . The programme helped to promote, finance and deliver a variety of supporting services to a national cooperative dairy structure that transformed the lives of millions of marginalised and small farmers and milk producers. The Mahindra Samridhi India Agri Awards were instituted by Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, Farm Equipment Sector .The lifetime achievement award is presented to a renowned personality in the agri space whose contribution is recognized at national and international levels. The awards are a platform to share best practices in agriculture for a larger community benefit.

British mathematician Andrew Wiles was named as the winner of the **Abel Prize for 2016** for his contributions to mathematical sciences. The Abel prize has been awarded annually since 2003 in memory of the Norwegian mathematics genius Niels Henrik Abel.

The Assassin bagged 8 awards in different categories in the 2016 **Asian film Awards**. It is a 2015 martial arts film based on story of highly trained female assassin and is directed by Taiwanese director Hou Hsiao-Hsien.

Reputed Telugu playback singer P. Susheela Mohan created a new world record for singing highest number of songs, and was recognized by the **Guinness Book of World Records** for singing most number of songs in Indian languages.

P.R. Sreejesh and Deepika walked away with the Player of the Year honours at the second **Hockey India Annual Awards** ceremony for 2015. Late Capt. Shankar Laxman was posthumously chosen for the Lifetime Achievement Award, which carried a purse of Rs. 30 lakh. Capt. Laxman, a goalkeeper, was part of the Olympic medal-winning teams of 1956 (Melbourne, gold), 1960 (Rome, silver), and 1964 (Tokyo, gold). Total prize money handed out was in excess of Rs. 2 crore, including a sum of Rs.1 lakh each given to members of the women's team that qualified for Rio 2016.

Tikka Shatrughit Singh, the royal scion of Kapurthala's Ahluwalia dynasty, was conferred with the prestigious **Knight of the Legion of Honour** for his "extraordinary work in the exchanging the French lifestyle and Indian culture with each other." French ambassador to India Francois Richier bestowed the honour on the 54-year-old Singh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred 2014-15 **Krishi Karman Awards** to various states. Winner of Krishi Karman Awards 2014-15 for total food grain production:-

- **Madhya Pradesh:** For production greater than 10 million tonnes in Category I States.
- **Himachal Pradesh and Odisha:** For production between 1 and 10 million tonnes in Category II States.
- **Arunachal Pradesh and Meghalaya:** For production less than 1 million tonnes in Category III States.

Winner of Krishi Karman Awards 2014-15 for Individual Crops:-

- **Haryana, Assam:** Rice.
- **Rajasthan:** Wheat.
- **Chhattisgarh:** Pulses.
- **West Bengal:** Oil Seeds.

The 63rd **National Film Awards** (2015) were announced on 28 March 2016. Some of the awards are as under:-

- **Best Feature Film :** Baahubali-The Beginning (Tamil, Telugu) directed by S. S. Rajamouli
- **Best Popular film providing wholesome entertainment :** Bajrangi Bhaijaan (Hindi) directed by Kabir Khan.
- **Best Actor:** Amitabh Bachchan (Piku).
- **Best Actress:** Kangana Ranaut (Tanu Weds Manu Returns).
- **Best Direction:** Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Bajirao Mastani).

- **Best Film on Social Issues:** Niranayakam (Malayalam) directed by V. K. Prakash.
- **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration:** Nanak Shah Fakir (Punjabi) directed by Sartaj Singh Panu.

An Indian-origin student was awarded the inaugural **Noor Inayat Khan Prize** consisting of 1,000 pounds for a dissertation which was in "keeping with the spirit" of the famous World War II heroine. Geetakshi Arora of SOAS South Asia Institute won the first Noor Inayat Khan Prize. The prize which consists of 1,000 pounds and a certificate -- is for a dissertation which is in keeping with the spirit of Noor Inayat Khan, a descendant of Tipu Sultan.

Union urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Parliamentary Affairs Minister M Venkaiah Naidu was conferred with the **Skoch Lifetime Achievement Award** for his contributions to inclusive growth and towards poverty alleviation in India.

In a first, Panagarh airbase was renamed as Air Force Station Arjan Singh after the former Indian Air Force chief, on the occasion of 97th birthday of **Arjan Singh**, Marshal of the Indian Air Force. Panagarh, approximately 150 kms from Kolkata, is located in Burdwan district. The airbase in Panagarh was constructed in 1944 during the Second World War. Air Force Station, Panagarh, post the Second World War, played a significant role in the 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. Singh was the IAF chief from August 1964-69. He was the first Indian Air Chief to be elevated to the rank of Air Chief Marshal on January 16, 1966.

Mother Teresa was posthumously conferred with the UK's prestigious **Founders Award** this year which is given to recognise and reward exemplary achievements of people within the global Asian community.

Actress Aishwarya Rai Bachchan won the '**Global Indian of the Year**' award. Besides Aishwarya, noted tennis player Sania Mirza was also honoured at the NRI of the Year Award 2016. Altogether 17 individuals were given the awards under different categories like — entrepreneur, professional, academics, arts & culture, philanthropy, special jury award, global icon of the year and India's global icon award. The NRI of the Year Award recognises outstanding achievements of the Indian diaspora globally.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred Saudi Arabia's highest civilian honour- the **King Abdulaziz Sash**.

Former army chief Gen. (ret'd) JJ Singh was conferred with the highest French civilian distinction, **Officer of the Legion of Honour**. Singh was chosen for the honour in recognition of his "stellar role" in modernising the Indian Army and initiating robust exchanges between the Indian and French armies leading to "unprecedented" levels of cooperation and inter- operability and creation of enduring ties and promotion of mutual understanding between the two countries. 'Officier de l'Ordre national de la Legion d'Honneur' is the highest civilian award given by the French Republic for outstanding service to France, regardless of the nationality of the recipients. Singh was commissioned into the 9th Maratha Light Infantry in August 1964. In January 2005, he assumed the office of Chief of Army Staff. In 2007, he also held the appointment of Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee of the three forces. After his retirement in September 2007, Singh served as the Governor of Arunachal Pradesh from 2008 to 2013.

Author and poet Padma Sachdev's autobiography 'Chitt-Chete', written in Dogri language, was selected for the prestigious **Saraswati Samman** for 2015. Published in 2007, the book masterfully links the personal trials and tribulations of the author with issues concerning society, nation and the world at large. Instituted by the K K Birla Foundation in 1991, Saraswati Samman is given annually for an outstanding literary work in any Indian language mentioned in the Schedule VIII of the Constitution.

Investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova of Azerbaijan was chosen for the prestigious 2016 **UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize**. Guillermo Cano Isaza was a Colombian journalist who was assassinated in December 1986. The prize honours a person, organization or institution for outstanding contribution to the defence and promotion of freedom of press anywhere in the world, especially achieved in the face of danger.

K Ashok Kumar, a research food engineer scholar from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur won the prestigious 2016 **International Plant Nutrition Scholar Award (IPNSA)**, for his research on nutrition management of rice-chickpea production system in laterite soil. The award is given by the US-based International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) and carries a cash prize of US 2,000 dollars and a recognition certificate.

Pakistani women's rights activist from Swat valley Tabassum Adnan won the prestigious 2016 **Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Award**.

Pulitzer Prizes, which honour extraordinary work in US journalism, drama, literature and other areas, were announced in April 2016. The winners are as under:-

Journalism

- Public Service - Associated Press
- Breaking News Reporting - *Los Angeles Times* Staff
- Investigative Reporting - Leonora LaPeter Anton and Anthony Cormier of the *Tampa Bay Times* and Michael Braga of the *Sarasota Herald-Tribune*
- Explanatory Reporting - T. Christian Miller of ProPublica and Ken Armstrong of The Marshall Project
- Local Reporting - Michael LaForgia, Cara Fitzpatrick and Lisa Gartner of the *Tampa Bay Times*
- National Reporting - *The Washington Post* Staff
- International Reporting - Alissa J. Rubin of *The New York Times*
- Feature Writing - Kathryn Schulz of *The New Yorker*
- Commentary - Farah Stockman of *The Boston Globe*
- Criticism - Emily Nussbaum of *The New Yorker*
- Editorial Writing - John Hackworth and Brian Gleason of Sun Newspapers, Charlotte Harbor, FL
- Editorial Cartooning - Jack Ohman *The Sacramento Bee*
- Breaking News Photography - Mauricio Lima, Sergey Ponomarev, Tyler Hicks and Daniel Etter of *The New York Times*

Letters, Drama and Music

- Fiction - *The Sympathizer* by Viet Thanh Nguyen (Grove Press)
- Drama - *Hamilton* by Lin-Manuel Miranda
- History - *Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America* by T.J. Stiles (Alfred A. Knopf)
- Biography - *Barbarian Days: A Surfing Life* by William Finnegan (Penguin Press)
- Poetry - *Ozone Journal* by Peter Balakian (University of Chicago Press)
- Nonfiction - *Black Flags: The Rise of ISIS* by Joby Warrick (Doubleday)
- Music - *In for a Penny, In for a Pound* by Henry Threadgill (Pi Recordings)

President Pranab Mukherjee nominated six eminent personalities from different fields to **Rajya Sabha** following a recommendation of the Union government.

- Subramanian Swamy joined the BJP in 2013. He was one of the petitioners in the 2G spectrum case, which led to the decline of the Congress. He is currently pursuing the National Herald case against Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi.
- Cricketer-turned-politician Navjot Singh Sidhu was sulking ever since Arun Jaitley was given a ticket from Amritsar Lok Sabha constituency in the 2014 general elections. With Assembly elections due in Punjab next year, the BJP nominated him to the Upper House despite opposition from party leaders in Punjab.
- Journalist Swapan Dasgupta was nominated to the Rajya Sabha for using his prowess in building an amicable image of Prime Minister Narendra Modi through the media since 2011.
- Malayalam actor Suresh Gopi was nominated to the Upper House due to his enormous fan following down south. His nomination is expected to go down well with members of his community and help the BJP spread its wings in Tamil Nadu and Kerala.
- Narendra Jadhav was a part of the NAC and planning commission in the UPA government, now he is assisting PM Narendra Modi as a policy advisor.

Indian puglist Mary Kom was named a women icon by the Modi government. A move likely to bolster BJP's support in the north east.

Madhya Pradesh Tourism (MPT) received the "**Best Indian Destination for Wildlife**" award by the Lonely Planet Group. Madhya Pradesh has 25 wild life sanctuaries including nine National Parks. Among them Kanha, Bandhavgarh and Pench are ideal habitat for tigers. Madhya Pradesh has launched number of programmes for the conservation of flora and fauna because of which Kanha and Pench were regarded as the most beautiful national parks in Asia while Bandhavgarh and Pench are known world over because of tiger reserves.

Indian author Parashar Kulkarni won the regional **Commonwealth Short Story Prize** for 2016 for the Asia region. He was bestowed with this award for his politically grounded, funny fiction story 'Cow and Company' about four men in search of a cow.

An Indian-American journalist was felicitated by U.S. President Barack Obama and the First Lady Michelle as she and her colleagues were presented with a prestigious award during the annual White House Correspondents Dinner. Neela Banerjee and three of her colleagues from Inside Climate News — John Cushman Jr, David Hasemyer and Lisa Song — were presented with the prestigious **Edgar A Poe award**. The annual award by the White House Correspondents Association (WHCA) honours journalistic work of national or regional significance.

President of India Pranab Mukherjee presented the 15th Set of **FIEO "Niryat Shree" and "Niryat Bandhu" Awards** to companies from various sectors of exports besides service providers, banks, various facilitating agencies promoting exports during the Golden Jubilee Celebration of Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) at New Delhi. He also unveiled the brand new FIEO Logo representing growth, vibrancy, innovation and entrepreneurship. Among the awardees Reliance Industry was adjudged as the top foreign exchange earner and leading exporter of last 50 years. In IT Services, TCS bagged the Gold Award. Exporters from engineering, chemicals, textiles, agro & processed sector, etc. were also given Gold/Silver/Bronze awards. Amongst the supporting institutions, State Bank of India got the Gold award followed by Canara Bank and Punjab National

Bank. Federation of Indian Export Organisations (FIEO) was set up in 1965 has completed 50 years of its service to the exporting community.

Three Indian names were on the list of fifty scientists elected as **Fellows of The Royal Society**, a premier scientific academy of the U.K. and the Commonwealth. Physicist Sriram Ramaswamy, Director of TIFR Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences, Hyderabad; biochemist Ramanujan Hegde, MRC Laboratory of Microbiology, U.K. and applied mathematician Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan, Harvard University earned the top honour.

The President of India Pranab Mukherjee conferred the **Florence Nightingale Awards** to 35 nurses from across the country on the occasion of International Nurses Day (May 12). Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India instituted the National Florence Nightingale Awards in 1973 as a mark of recognition for the meritorious services of nurses. Florence Nightingale, founder of modern nursing, was born on 12th May, 1820 and hence this day is celebrated as International Nurses Day all over the world.

US President Barack Obama honoured an Indian-American elementary teacher Revathi Balakrishnan from Texas at the White House, for her excellent work in the field of education as part of the '**National Teacher of the Year Programme**'.

President Pranab Mukherjee conferred 63rd **National Film Awards** for the year 2015 in various categories at New Delhi. Legendry actor Manoj Kumar was conferred 2015 Dada Saheb Phalke Award, highest official recognition (award) in Indian cinema. Baahubali: The Beginning (Tamil, Telugu film) directed by S. S. Rajamouli was bestowed with the Best feature film award. Bajrangi Bhaijaan (Hindi) directed by Kabir Khan was awarded as the Best Popular film providing wholesome entertainment. Other awards:-

- **Best Actor:** Amitabh Bachchan (Piku).
- **Best Actress:** Kangana Ranaut (Tanu Weds Manu Returns).
- **Best Direction:** Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Bajirao Mastani).
- **Best Film on Social Issues:** Niranayakam (Malayalam) directed by V. K. Prakash.
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Samuthirakani for the film Visaranai (Tamil).
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Tanvi Azmi for the film Bajirao Mastani (Hindi).
- **Best Children's Film:** Duronto (Hindi) directed by Soumendra Padhi.
- **Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director:** Neeraj Ghaywan for the film Masaan (Hindi).
- **Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration:** Nanak Shah Fakir (Punjabi) directed by Sartaj Singh Pannu.

Two noted Indian scholars Lokesh Chandra and Mansura Haider were honoured with the "**North Star**", Mongolia's highest award, for their contribution to the development of friendly relations between India and Mongolia and promotion of Mongolian studies.

Director Yash Chopra, who shot most of his romantic dramas in the lush mountains of Switzerland, was honoured with a **special statue** by the government. This statue, made of bronze, is installed at the heart of Interlaken, inside the Kursaal area, near the Congress Centre which is a prime, popular spot with tourists.

An Andhra Pradesh project to collect very specific climate data from farms and give farmers personalised information through SMS won the **World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) 2016 prize** in the e-Agriculture category. The Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (CDAC) in Hyderabad developed the project, which is having a pilot run in Anantpur district. A total of 18 prizes were awarded in categories ranging from international cooperation to information ethics. The prize in the e-Agriculture category was the only one won by an Indian organisation.

Rupa Iyer, an Indian-American biotechnologist was awarded **Distinguished Leadership in Teaching Excellence Award**, University of Houston's highest teaching award, for her sustained and significant contributions in the field of education.

Former ISRO Chairman and space scientist Prof Udipi Ramachandra Rao became the first Indian to be given the **'Hall of Fame' Award** by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), for his outstanding contribution to the progress of astronautics.

Bharti Enterprises founder and Chairman Sunil Bharti Mittal received this year's **Harvard Business School Alumni Achievement Award**. The award, presented annually since 1968, is the highest honour the Harvard Business School confers on its alumni who have contributed significantly to their companies and communities while upholding the highest standards and values.

Pakke Tiger Reserve in East Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh received the **'India Biodiversity Award 2016'** in one of its four categories. The Hornbill Nest Adoption Programme of the Pakke Tiger Reserve in East Kameng district was awarded the prize under the category, "conservation of threatened species".

Routes 2 Roots, a Delhi-based Non-profit organization (NGO), was awarded the prestigious **Inter-cultural Innovation Award 2016**, for its unique Student Exchange Program, which allowed children in schools from India and Pakistan to connect with each other.

South Korean author, Han Kang, won the 2016 **Man Booker International Prize** for her novel 'The Vegetarian', thus becoming the first South Korean to win this prestigious literary prize.

Bioengineer Frances Arnold from United States won the prestigious 2016 **Millennium Technology Prize**, thus becoming the first female to be awarded with this prestigious biennial award in its 12-year history.

Indian American professor Dr. Rakesh K. Jain will be presented the 2015 **National Medal of Science of the United States** for his individual achievement and leadership in advancing the field of science and technology.

Sikkim Chief Minister **Pawan Chamling** was conferred with the Yug Kavi Siddhicharan Award, one of the Nepal's prestigious literary award.

Indian author Aditi Krishnakumar won the prestigious 2016 **Scholastic Asian Book Award** for her 32,000-word manuscript titled 'Codex: The Lost Treasure Of The Indus'.

Arnab De, an Indian-American scientist, received the prestigious **Springer Theses Award** in recognition for his outstanding research in which he developed transgenic mice to study a critical tumour-suppressor called A20.

Arnab De's thesis was nominated by New York's Columbia University. The thesis prize is awarded by Springer, a leading global publisher of renowned scientific journals and books, to recognise outstanding PhD research.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with **Amir Amanullah Khan Award**, the highest civilian honour of Afghanistan.

Legendary Oscar winning Indian music composer A.R. Rahman was awarded Japan's **Fukuoka prize for 2016** for his outstanding contribution towards creating, preserving and showcasing South Asian traditional fusion music. The Fukuoka Prize is an award established by the city of Fukuoka and the Yokatopia Foundation to honour the outstanding work of individuals or organizations in preserving or creating Asian culture. There are three prize categories: Grand Prize, Academic Prize, and Arts and Culture Prize. Last year, noted Indian Historian Ramchandra Guha was conferred with Fukuoka Prize in academic category.

Dr. R Seetharaman, Group CEO of Doha Bank, was honored with the 2016 **Green Economy Visionary Award** for his contribution in environment-friendly activities and promoting green economy for nearly two decades.

Indian American author Akhil Sharma won the prestigious 2016 **International Dublin Literary Award** for his semi-autobiographical novel "Family Life." The International Dublin Literary Award is an annual international literary award awarded for a novel written in English or translated into English. The aim of the award is to promote excellence in world literature and is solely sponsored by the Ireland's capital city Dublin.

President Pranab Mukherjee was presented **National Order of the Republic of Ivory Coast**, the highest civilian award of the West African country.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was honored with Russia's **Order of Friendship** for his special merits in strengthening peace, friendship, cooperation and mutual understanding between people.

Canadian poet, novelist and environmental activist Margaret Atwood was awarded the 2016 **PEN Pinter Prize**. The third novelist to win the prestigious award, the judges praised Atwood's political activism, calling the author an 'exemplary public intellectual'. The PEN Pinter Prize was established in 2009 by English PEN, founding centre of the worldwide writers' association and freedom of expression charity, in memory of Nobel-Laureate playwright Harold Pinter. The prize is awarded annually to a writer of outstanding literary merit. This year, for the first time, the prize was open to writers from the Republic of Ireland and the Commonwealth, as well as from the UK.

Eminent Indian-origin professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya was awarded the prestigious **Regius Professorship in Manufacturing** by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding contribution in manufacturing. Through his career, he has advised the UK government on manufacturing, innovation, and technology, including former Prime Ministers Margaret Thatcher and Tony Blair.

Kannada film *Thithi* won the best film and best script writers award at the **Asia New Talent Awards** in the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival. Directed by debutante filmmaker Raam Reddy, *Thithi*, was the only film from India that was selected and screened in the festival.

Zubaida Bai, the founder of 'ayzh', a for-profit social venture providing health and livelihood solutions to impoverished women worldwide, was named among 10 "champions and pioneers" by UN chief Ban Ki-moon under the world's largest **corporate sustainability initiative** that calls on companies to align with universal principles of human rights, environment and anti-corruption.

The twenty-fifth **G. D. Birla Award for Scientific Research** for 2015 was awarded to Prof. Sanjay Mittal from the Department of Aerospace Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. Prof. Mittal's significant contributions have been in the area of Bluff Body Flows — flows past blunt bodies associated with large unsteady separation and leading to large fluid forces. The G.D.Birla Award was instituted in 1991 by the K.K.Birla Foundation.

The 17th **International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016** were presented in Madrid, Spain. The main awards are as under:-

Award	Winner
Best Film	Bajrangi Bhaijaan
Best Director	Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Bajirao Mastani
Best Actor in a Leading Role	Ranveer Singh for Bajirao Mastani
Best Actress in a Leading Role	Deepika Padukone for Piku
Best Male Debut	Vicky Kaushal for Masaan
Best Female Debut	Bhumi Pednekar for Dum Laga Ke Haisha
Best Story	Juhi Chaturvedi for Piku
IIFA Award for Woman of the Year	Priyanka Chopra
Best Music Direction	Amaal Mallik, Meet Bros Anjjan, Ankit Tiwari for Roy
Best Lyrics	Varun Grover for Moh Moh Ke Dhaage from Dum Laga Ke Haisha

Mohun Bagan announced to honour country's only Dronacharya football coach Syed Nayeemuddin with the **Mohun Bagan Ratna**. Nayeemuddin was chosen for the prestigious award for his overall contribution to the club and the country both as a player and as a coach.

South African writer and filmmaker, Lidudumalingani, won the prestigious **Caine Prize** for his short story, Memories We Lost. The prize, launched in 2000, is awarded annually to an African writer of a short story published in English. The winning story, set in the Eastern Cape, explores how traditional beliefs are used to tackle schizophrenia.

Radhika Menon will become the first woman in the world to receive the Award for **Exceptional Bravery at Sea for 2016**, from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), for saving the lives of seven fishermen. The Awards ceremony is set to take place at IMO Headquarters in London, in November this year. The annual Award was established by IMO to provide international recognition for those who, at the risk of losing their own life and perform acts of exceptional bravery.

Cookbook author and food blogger Nimi Sunilkumar won the **Gourmand World Cookbook Award** for 2015-16 for her cookbook "4 o'clock Temptations of Kerala".

Gujarati novelist, poet and critic Dr. Raghuveer Chaudhari was conferred the 51st **Jnanpith Award** by President Pranab Mukherjee. Dr. Chaudhari has also written columns for various newspapers such as Sandesh, Janmabhumi, Nirikshaka and Divya Bhaskar.

Renowned violinist **Avasarala Kanyakumari** from south India was selected for the prestigious 2016 Sangita Kalanidhi Award, thus becoming the first female violinist chosen in the history of this prestigious award.

The Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) conferred its **Lifetime Achievement Award** on Mr. Srinivasan K.Swamy. Popularly known as Sundar, Mr. Swamy is a veteran of almost four decades in the advertising industry and Chairman of R.K. Swamy Hansa, a diversified marketing communications group. The AAAI's Lifetime Award, instituted in 1988, is the highest recognition bestowed on an individual in India for outstanding contribution to the advertising industry.

Bezwada Wilson, a renowned campaigner against manual scavenging, and Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna from Chennai were named for the prestigious **Magsaysay Award**. They are among the total six awardees selected for the 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Award. The other four are : Conchita Carpio Morales (Philippines), Dompot Dhuafa (Indonesia), Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Japan) and Vientiane Rescue (Laos).

Renowned Music Director and singer Bapi Lahiri was honoured with **Mahanayak award** by the West Bengal Government.

Kerala Tourism struck gold at the **Pacific Asia Travel Association awards** in recognition of its trend setting marketing initiatives, which have boosted the state's profile as a must-visit destination. The two gold gongs for 'Marketing Media' were in the categories of 'Travel Advertisement Broadcast Media' and 'E-Newsletter', which were clinched by the successful 'Visit Kerala' television commercial campaign and the popular Kerala Tourism E-Newsletter, respectively.

Kudsi Erguner, musician, player of the ney (reed flute), musicologist, and composer was designated as the **UNESCO Artist for Peace 2016**.

West Bengal was selected for the **All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project Award 2015**. The state was selected for the award for its achievement in four key areas that include scientific research for seeds.

Translator and artist Anita Gopalan was awarded the 2016 **PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant** for her English translation of Hindi novel "*Simsim*" by Geet Chaturvedi. Ms. Gopalan, who is based in Bengaluru, is the second Indian translator to be selected for the grant. PEN America is a renowned literary organisation of the United States.

Hindustani classical singer Shubha Mudgal was selected for the **Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award** for her outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill. The award carries a citation and cash award of Rs 10 lakh. The award is given on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the late Prime Minister. This will be the 23rd edition of the award. Congress president Sonia Gandhi has been presenting the award ever since it was constituted.

Haryana won the **Best Horticulture State** award of the Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) for its concerted efforts made to increase the income of the farmers in horticulture. Odisha won the 'Best Horticulture State' award in recognition of its efforts towards development of agriculture and bringing rural prosperity.

Assam-based ecologist and conservation activist Bibhuti Lahkar won the prestigious '**Heritage Heroes Award**' of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), thus becoming the first Asian to win this prestigious environmental award.

Kiran Mazumdar Shaw, Chairperson and Managing Director of Biocon Limited was appointed '**Knight of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour**' for her contribution to biosciences and research.

India-born innovator and scientist Ramesh Raskar won the prestigious 2016 **Lemelson-MIT Prize** for his co-invention of an ultra-fast imaging camera that can see around corners, low-cost eye-care solutions.

Stuart Blackburn was presented the **MM Bennetts Award** for his novel "Into the Hidden Valley". Published by Speaking Tiger, the book tells the story of the Apatani tribe of Arunachal Pradesh during British India.

Bezwada Wilson, a renowned campaigner against manual scavenging, and Carnatic singer T.M. Krishna from Chennai were named for the prestigious **Magsaysay Award**. Born into a Dalit family in Karnataka, Mr. Wilson, 50, is the national convener of the Safai Karmachari Andolan. The award committee was impressed with his work which focussed on "asserting the inalienable right to a life of human dignity." Under the category 'Emergent Leadership,' Mr. Krishna was chosen for the award for bringing "social inclusiveness in culture." The award committee hailed him for "showing that music can indeed be a deeply transformative force in personal lives and society itself." The other four awardees are:

- **Conchita Carpio Morales (Philippines):** for restoring faith in the rule of law.
- **Dompot Dhuafa (Indonesia):** for expanding the transformative impact of zakat.
- **Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers (Japan):** for building a world of genuine solidarity.

Vientiane Rescue (Laos): for volunteering to save lives at risk. Indian-American physician-author Abraham Verghese, whose work has emphasized empathy in medicine, was selected for the prestigious 2015 **National Humanities Medal**.

BJP leader Subramanian Swamy was honoured with **Tamil Ratna** award by a body of Tamil diaspora in New York for fighting corruption and working for more transparency in the functioning of the government.

Cricketers Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma were conferred with the **Arjuna Award** for their contributions to cricket.

Two Indian forest officials were selected for the 2016 **Clark R. Bavin Wildlife Law Enforcement Awards** that honour individuals engaging in exemplary law enforcement actions to protect wildlife. Range officer Sanjay Dutta of Belakoba Forest Range Jalpaiguri in West Bengal and Assistant Conservator Ritesh Sarothiya of Madhya Pradesh State Forest Service were selected as winners of the Bavin Awards.

Writer Meghna Pant was nominated for the Kumaon Literary Festival's **FON (Fellows of Nature) South Asia Short Story Award** in Nature writing for her short story "People of the Sun." The annual travelling literary festival gives this award in partnership with the French Institute of India and Wildlife Trust of India to "revive nature writing and bring the spotlight on critical environment issues like climate change through this form of literature."

Indian-born researcher Dinesh Bharadia won the prestigious 2016 **Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar Award** for his contribution to radio waves.

Telugu author and eminent scholar Prof Kolakaluri Enoch was honoured with the 29th **Moortidevi Award 2015** for his novel Ananta Jeevanam. Prof Enoch's work Ananta Jeevanam is a novel that portrays the struggle of a weak, downtrodden and common man from Rayalseema in the face of a cyclone.

Tamil film "Visaranai" was selected as India's official entry to **Oscars 2017** (89th Academy Awards) in the Foreign Language Film category. The film has been directed by Vetrimaran and is based on M.Chandrakumar's novel 'Lock Up'.

The White Helmets, a Syrian civil organisation of emergency responders in rebel-held areas, won the **Right Livelihood Award**. Also known as the Syria Civil Defence, the group was honoured "for their outstanding bravery, compassion and humanitarian engagement in rescuing civilians from the destruction of the Syrian civil war. Russian activist Svetlana Gannushkina, who has championed the rights of refugees for decades, Egypt's feminist leader Mozn Hassan, and *Cumhuriyet*, a leading independent newspaper in Turkey, also shared the prize with the White Helmets. Swedish-German philatelist Jakob von Uexkull founded the donor-funded prize in 1980 after the Nobel Foundation refused to create awards honouring efforts in the fields of the environment and international development.

Film-maker and elephant researcher Prajna Chowta was appointed **Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit)** by the French government in recognition of a life devoted to caring for wild Asian elephants.

A 16-year-old Indian-origin South African teen, Kiara Nirghin, won a \$50,000 scholarship, the grand prize at the annual **Google Science Fair** for her work using orange peel to develop a cheaper "super-absorbent material" that helps soil retain water.

History writer Nayanjot Lahiri won the prestigious 2016 **John F. Richards Prize** for her book Ashoka in Ancient India.

Noted music director and violinist Uttam Singh was named for 2016 **Lata Mangeshkar Award for Lifetime Achievement** by the Maharashtra government.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **Nobel Prize in Chemistry** 2016 to Jean-Pierre Sauvage (University of Strasbourg, France), Sir J. Fraser Stoddart (Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, USA) and Bernard L. Feringa (University of Groningen, the Netherlands) "*for the design and synthesis of molecular machines*".

The **Nobel Prize in Literature** 2016 was awarded to Bob Dylan "for having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition". Dylan is the first American to win the Nobel prize for literature since Toni Morrison in 1993. He was born as Robert Allen Zimmerman on May 24, 1941 in Duluth, Minnesota. Best known for his early hits such as Blowin' in the Wind and Like a Rolling Stone, Dylan was a key member of the Sixties alternative folk movement, but shocked his contemporaries by becoming one of the first folk musicians to "go electric" in 1965. Dylan's music and lyrics spoke to a generation of people during the tumultuous 1960s and helped galvanize the civil rights movement. His influence continues to permeate through rock, pop and folk music today. Dylan has to his credit 11 Grammy Awards, Golden Globe Award and Academy Award (Oscar). The Pulitzer Prize jury had awarded him a special citation in 2008 for his profound impact on popular music and American culture.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **Nobel Prize in Physics** 2016 with one half to David J. Thouless (University of Washington, Seattle, WA, USA) and the other half to F. Duncan M. Haldane (Princeton

University, NJ, USA) and J. Michael Kosterlitz (Brown University, Providence, RI, USA) *“for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter”*

Yoshinori Ohsumi of Japan won the 2016 **Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine** for his pioneering work on autophagy, thus becoming the 23rd Japanese national to win a Nobel prize and overall the sixth Japanese medicine Nobel laureate.

Sikkim Chief Minister Pawan Chamling was honoured with prestigious **Sustainable Development Leadership Award** of the The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in recognition of his vision and leadership in environment and sustainable development that made Sikkim India’s first into a fully organic state.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the **Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel** 2016 to Oliver Hart (Harvard University, Cambridge, USA) and Bengt Holmström (Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, USA) *“for their contributions to contract theory”*

Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri, from Maharashtra, won the first prize at the **Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival** for his work *Murga*.

Non-banking financial company **Altico Capital India** appointed former HSBC India chairperson Naina Lal Kidwai as an independent non-executive director. Altico Capital is a foreign owned and controlled NBFCs with a net worth Rs 2,000 crore and is well capitalized to capture loan growth opportunities being presented due to the capital constraints in the banking system.

Flipkart launched its own digital wallet Flipkart Money that can be used for Flipkart only transactions. The launch of Flipkart Money is an opportunity for Flipkart to tap the growing market and compete with rivals like PayTM and MobiKwik.

ICICI Bank announced the launch of a work-from-home programme to prevent women employees from dropping out of its workforce. The company has deployed face recognition technology to facilitate women to work from home and provide access to the bank's core banking servers under. The programme iWork@ home will enable almost every non-customer facing task to be done from home. The platform is designed not only to recognise the employees face; it also logs her out if she leaves her seat or if another face appears within range of the camera. The technology has been developed by ICICI Bank in collaboration with IIT Delhi. Chanda Kochhar, Managing Director and CEO, ICICI Bank said that an internal survey showed that women leave the organisation largely do so on account of childcare, maternity, or because of long commuting.

Drug major **Lupin** announced the completion of the acquisition of privately held US-based GAVIS Pharmaceuticals LLC and Novel Laboratories (GAVIS). Lupin had announced the acquisition in July, 2015. The acquisition enhances the company's scale in the US generic market and also broadens its pipeline in dermatology, controlled substance products and other high-value and niche generics.

Vineet Taneja resigned as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **Micromax Informatics Ltd.** Taneja's departure was the second high-profile exit from the company with a span of one year. Micromax Informatics Ltd. is India's second-largest phone manufacturer and the 10th largest mobile phone player in the world.

Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates continued his reign as the world's richest person with a net worth of \$75 billion, according to Forbes' annual ranking of billionaires, with Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani leading the pack of 84 Indian billionaires in 2016 and ranked 36th in the list. Forbes' 2016 list of the World's Billionaires includes 1,810 billionaires, down from a record 1,826 a year ago. Their aggregate net worth is \$6.48 trillion, \$570 billion less than last year. Occupying the second spot on the list is Spanish billionaire Amancio Ortega, founder of clothing retail giant Zara and the richest man in Europe. On the third spot is billionaire philanthropist and Berkshire Hathaway CEO Warren Buffett.

Tata Power Renewable Energy Limited (TPREL), an arm of Tata Power, inked a share purchase agreement with Indo Rama Renewables Limited (IRRL) to acquire 30 MW wind farm. The acquisition of 30 MW operational wind farm will enhance and increase the company's clean energy footprint.

Yes Bank inked a pact with the India Brazil Chamber of Commerce for cooperation in knowledge sharing, consultancy, skill and technology. The core sectors covered in the MoU will be sports, media and entertainment with special focus on IT, infrastructure, broadcast driven business opportunities. The MoU also seeks for building ground for innovative business integrations for businesses from India and Brazil.

Bharti Airtel Ltd., India's largest mobile phone operator, announced the acquisition of Videocon Telecommunications Ltd's entire spectrum for 4428 crore rupees.

NTT DATA Inc. and **Dell Inc.** announced that they entered into a definitive agreement for NTT DATA to acquire Dell Services, an IT services provider recognized for its depth in vertical industries and for its offerings around infrastructure services, cloud services, application services, and business process outsourcing. The agreement reflects NTT DATA's continued focus on expanding its brand and leadership position globally. NTT DATA is a leading IT services provider and global innovation partner with 80,000 professionals based in over 40 countries.

The **Hinduja** brothers emerged as the richest Asian-origin entrepreneurs in Britain for the fourth consecutive year with an estimated personal fortune of 16.5 billion pounds. The India-born brothers GP Hinduja and SP Hinduja topped the "Asian Rich List 2016". The Asian Rich List assesses the total wealth of Britain's top 101 richest Asians and is compiled by UK-based publishing house Asian Media and Market.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched the first phase of Fiber Grid project to provide broadband connectivity at cheap rate. Andhra Pradesh government signed an MoU with **Cisco** as part of the inauguration of India's first statewide broadband project 'AP FiberNet' in Visakhapatnam.

ICICI Bank launched a contactless mobile payment solution through which its customers will be able to make payments by waving their cell phones near a contact-less merchant terminal. This solution is based on Near Field Communication technology and will enable the bank's customers to make secure contactless payments at retail stores using smart phones.

Pharmaceutical giant **Pfizer** appointed S Sridhar as its Managing Director (MD) with immediate effect for a period of five years. Pfizer Inc. is an American global pharmaceutical corporation headquartered in New York City.

Tata Consultancy Services, a leading global IT services, consulting and business solutions organization, announced a three year partnership with the Virgin Money London Marathon to enhance the digital experience delivered to marathon participants. Under the terms of the partnership, TCS will become the race's Official Technology Partner for the 2016, 2017 and 2018 events. First established in 1981, and part of the World Marathon Majors, the Virgin Money London Marathon is considered one of the world's foremost marathons.

TIME magazine released its second annual 30 Most Influential People on the Internet list. The list was topped by entrepreneur Kanye West. India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi stood at 15th in the list.

Tokyo-based **Yokohama Rubber Co** announced to acquire off-highway-tyre manufacturer Alliance Tire Group (ATG) for \$1,179 million to expand its commercial tyre business. ATG (an Israel based company) sells radial and bias tyres in 120 countries with a focus on the North American and European markets.

DCB Bank launched an Aadhaar-based ATM usage facility wherein a customer can transact using his biometric details instead of the PIN, thus becoming the first bank to launch an Aadhaar based ATM.

E-commerce marketplace **Flipkart Ltd** acquired payments start-up PhonePe Internet Pvt. Ltd, which was launched last December by former Flipkart executives Sameer Nigam, Rahul Chari and Burzin Engineer. PhonePe is Flipkart's third major acquisition in payments, after it bought payments start-up NGPay in 2014, and FX Mart Pvt. Ltd. in August 2015.

Forbes released Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen 2016 list which features eight Indian women business leaders. Reliance Industries Director Nita Ambani and State Bank of India Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya have been ranked top two in Forbes' Asia 50 Power Businesswomen 2016 list.

Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, the CEO of **Go Air** was promoted as its Managing Director. Prock-Schauer, former CEO of Jet Airways and Airberlin, is leading Go Air's move of an IPO later this year. He is also steering its first major round of growth with an order of 72 Airbus A320 Neo planes, the upgraded version of the most popular airliner in the world. Go Air currently has 19 A320s in its fleet. Go Airlines (India) Ltd. is the aviation foray of the Wadia Group and it operates its services under the brand GoAir.

With the health ministry maintaining its firm anti-tobacco stand, one of the oldest cigarette manufacturers **Golden Tobacco Company** was the first to implement the new and larger health warnings. Golden Tobacco Company, the manufacturer of Panama and Golden Gold Flake cigarettes, have started carrying 85% pictorial health warnings on both sides of its tobacco product packets bearing April 2016 as the manufacture date. This assumes significance as many cigarette manufacturers have opposed the government's move to impose 85% increase on the size of pictorial warning on all tobacco products. Not succumbing to the pressure, the health ministry has maintained all products leaving factory from April 1 will have to carry the warning.

National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM) announced the appointment of Mr. CP Gurnani as its Chairman for 2016-2017. Mr. Gurnani will take on the new role as Chairman of NASSCOM effective 6 April 2016. He succeeds Mr. BVR Mohan Reddy, who served as Chairman of NASSCOM for 2015-16. Mr. Gurnani is part of NASSCOM's Executive Council and is the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Tech Mahindra. As Chairman of the Executive Council, Mr. Gurnani will lead and assist NASSCOM in catalyzing the growth of the Indian technology and services industry and enabling the fulfillment of its future goals and aspirations.

Japanese electronics giant **Panasonic** appointed senior executive Manish Sharma to its global executive council, inducting an Indian onto the coveted decision-making body of the \$80-billion company for the first time ever. Sharma's induction into the global role comes along with an elevation in his role at the Indian subsidiary too. He has been appointed as the president and CEO of Panasonic's India and South Asia operations. He was earlier MD of Indian operations.

Pfizer Inc. announced that the merger agreement between Pfizer and Allergan plc was terminated by mutual agreement of the companies. The decision to scrap the 160 billion US dollar agreement was driven by the actions announced by the US Treasury to curb corporate inversions.

Tata Communications was recognized as a 2016 Best Employer in India by Aon Hewitt, the global talent, retirement and health solutions business of Aon plc. The Aon Best Employers program measures and recognises employer excellence worldwide.

Delhi has been recognised as one of the 50 future-ready cities around the world that are embracing technology to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing and globalised future, according to a report by IT major **Dell**. Delhi is ranked 44th on the list which is topped by San Jose, followed by San Francisco. The 'Future-Ready Economies Model' scores large, high-growth global metropolitan areas based on attributes that enable people and organisations to access new tools and ideas that deliver better connectivity, better economic performance and a greater ability to attract talent. The cities positioned in the list were evaluated along three dimensions — human capital, infrastructure and commerce.

Experian, the global information services company, launched a fraud detection mechanism named the Hunter Fraud Score, which measures the probability of fraud in a credit application across banking and insurance

industries. Experian had launched the Hunter Fraud Management Services for the life insurance sector in India in March 2016.

Infosys cofounder S Gopalakrishnan launched a new app '*Itihaasa*' (history) that chronicles the "fascinating journey" of the Indian IT Industry since the 1950s. '*Itihaasa*' is one of the largest chronicles of its kind with 600 videos featuring 44 technology stalwarts. The app follows the installation of the country's first modern computer in 1955 to crystal gazing on Indian IT in 2040.

JK Tyre and Industries Ltd announced the completion of the acquisition of tyre, tube and flap maker Cavendish Industries, a unit of Kesoram Industries Ltd, for 2195 crore rupees. Kesoram Industries is a B.K. Birla Group company.

Automobile giant **Mahindra & Mahindra** became the first Indian company to join a global energy campaign led by an international non-profit group that will work with the world's most influential businesses in setting commitments to double their energy productivity. By signing up to 'EP100' campaign led by 'The Climate Group', the world's largest manufacturer of tractors has committed to doubling their energy productivity by 2030, a core requirement for any business signing on to the campaign.

Panasonic along with US-based sustainable energy provider AES would install a joint project of 10 MW energy storage array at Jhajjar, Haryana. Both the firms entered into an agreement to set up a battery-based energy storage project at Panasonic's Techno park manufacturing facility at Jhajjar

Reliance Defence signed an agreement with three Ukrainian state-owned firms — Ukroboronprom, Spetstechno Exports and Antonov — to collaborate on a range of military products including transport aircraft, armoured vehicles, maritime gas turbines and unmanned aerial vehicles.

A US grand jury slapped a \$940 million fine on two **Tata** group firms Tata Consultancy Services and Tata America International Corp in a trade secret lawsuit filed against them by Epic Systems. The jury asked the Tata firms to pay \$240 million to Epic Systems for ripping off its software and also asked to pay \$700 million in punitive damages.

Future Group's Chief Executive Kishore Biyani was appointed Managing Director (MD) of **Bharti Retail**, a move which is a part of a restructuring plan to execute the merger of Future Group with Bharti Retail, as was announced in 2015.

Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion (DIPP) started the process for issuance of Unique Business Identification Number (UBIN) to enable budding entrepreneurs set up their business without any delays. The move is seen as a major step towards boosting ease of doing business and the start-up India initiative of the government.

The trade body of Indian IT firms NASSCOM signed an MoU with **Facebook** to build a product design initiative to engage the country's young entrepreneurs into becoming problem solvers and solution builders. The initiative is likely to propel innovative thinking and approaches to build solutions in key sectors where technology can play a transformational role. This is a joint initiative to catalyse the innovation ecosystem and to help design thinking.

Google acquired a business technology startup founded by an Indian-origin entrepreneur as part of its plans to scale training offerings for Google Apps to its customers and customers' users. Varun Malhotra is the founder and CEO of Toronto-based Synergyse, which was launched in 2013 with an aim to teach users how to use Google Apps.

The government approved the proposal of **Infosys** to set up an IT/ITeS special economic zone in Bengaluru in an area spread over 4 hectares. SEZs are export hubs that contribute about 23 per cent to the country's total

exports. Exports from such zones in 2014-15 stood at Rs 4,63,770 crore compared with Rs 4,94,077 crore in 2013-14.

Forbes magazine released the list of Money Masters: the Most Powerful People in the Financial World. The list comprising of 40 most powerful people in the financial world, has been topped by Stephen Schwarzman of Blackstone Group followed by David Tepper of Appaloosa Management and Jamie Dimon of JP Morgan Chase & Co. The only Indian who finds mention in the list is Uday Kotak, the CEO of the **Kotak Mahindra Bank**, who is ranked 33rd in the list with a net worth of 7.1 billion dollars.

KPMG's offshore arm in India announced the appointment of Sameer Chadha as partner and CEO. Chadha joins KPMG Global Services (KGS) from Barclays Shared Services, where he was the chief executive officer.

Mrugank Paranjape took charge as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of **Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX)**, country's largest commodity exchange. He will have tenure of 3 years.

Mukesh Ambani-owned **Reliance Jio Infocomm** launched its digital wallet service, JioMoney Wallet, for Indian consumers, following the introduction of 4G services to the public through an employee-driven invite system. JioMoney, available on Google Play Store and Apple App Store, is the second application from Reliance Jio to go live after messaging app Jio Chat. The wallet service will give Reliance Jio access to the Rs 350 crore and growing mobile wallet market in India.

The government of Bangladesh granted in-principle approval for the first phase of **Reliance Power's** project in Bangladesh. The first phase of 750 MW power plant will be set up at Meghnaghat (Narayanganj district), around 40 km South-East of Dhaka. This will be the largest foreign direct investment in Bangladesh with a potential investment of over US\$1.3 billion. Reliance Power Limited, a part of the Reliance Group, is India's leading private sector power generation and coal resources company. The company has the largest portfolio of power projects in the private sector, based on coal, gas, hydro and renewable energy, with an operating portfolio of 5,945 megawatts.

A jury in San Francisco cleared **Google** of copyright infringement in a case brought by Oracle over Google's use of Java in Android. Oracle was seeking damages of up to \$9 billion US dollars.

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

State-owned major, **National Aluminium Company Limited** (Nalco) and Iranian Mines & Mining Industries Development Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly explore the possibility of setting up an aluminium smelter in Iran .

State-run power producer **NTPC** signed a joint venture agreement (JVA) with state-run miner Coal India Limited (CIL) to revive plants of the Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited (FCIL). The agreement will pave the way for NTPC to foray into fertilizer sector and revive existing fertilizer plants of FCIL.

Mobile app for transportation **Ola** signed an MoU with National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) established under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment to focus on building a sustainable framework by supporting entrepreneurship, skill development training and self-defence courses for Safai Karamcharis and Scavengers.

Strides Shasun received tentative approval from the US health regulator for Efavirenz tablets used in treating human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. The US market for Efavirenz tablets is around \$150 million; the company will manufacture the product at its oral dosage facility in Bengaluru.

Internet search engine **Google** and Tata Trusts' joint initiative Internet Saathi was launched in Kolkata, West Bengal. The initiative aims at reducing the digital gender gap in rural areas of India. Internet Saathi aims at empowering women and their communities by providing basic training on the usage and benefits of the internet. Google helps in training the Saathi's and provides data enabled devices along with the training material. In the last ten months, the initiative has been active in villages across five states in India, namely Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

India jumped 13 positions from last year to rank second among 30 developing countries this year on ease of doing business, according to a study topped by China. According to 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which ranks top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide, a pickup in GDP growth and better clarity regarding FDI regulations have helped India achieve a second ranking. India's retail sector expanded at a compound annual growth rate of 8.8 per cent between 2013 and 2015, with annual sales crossing the USD 1 trillion mark, according to A T Kearney, a London-based business consultancy. India also became the world's fastest growing economy. As Indian consumers become more comfortable with shopping online, venture capital and private equity firms have boosted investment in the sector providing further momentum, the report said. The GRDI analyses 25 macroeconomic and retail-specific variables to help retailers devise successful global strategies to identify emerging market investment opportunities.

E-ticketing startup **Kyazoonga** raised an undisclosed amount of funding from Ratan Tata, Chairman Emeritus of Tata Sons. The funds will be deployed by the startup for market expansion, to enter geographies like United States, West Asia, Pakistan and the Caribbean Islands. Started in 2007, Kyazoonga looks at partnering with sports franchises, music concerts, promoters and event organisers. According to Founder Neetu Bhatia the company sold more than 25 million tickets last year.

Technology giant **Microsoft** announced to acquire professional networking platform LinkedIn in an all-cash transaction valued at \$26.2 billion. The transaction is expected to close this calendar year. Jeff Weiner will remain CEO of LinkedIn, reporting to Mr. Nadella. In India, LinkedIn has about 650 employees and R&D operations in Bengaluru. LinkedIn started out in the living room of co-founder Hoffman in 2002 and was officially launched on May 5 in 2003. LinkedIn has seen 19 per cent growth year-on-year to more than 433 million members worldwide while quarterly member page views rose 34 per cent to over 45 billion. Over 92 million users came from Asia and the Pacific region.

Stonegate Bank, based in Florida, became the first US bank to issue credit cards for use in Cuba by Americans. It is the first U.S. bank to support credit card transactions in Cuba since the thaw in relations between Washington and Havana.

Power producer **Tata Power Co. Ltd** announced to acquire renewable energy company Welspun Renewables Energy Pvt. Ltd in a bid to grow its clean energy portfolio to 2.3 gigawatts (GW). Tata Power said in a notice to the exchanges that the acquisition is being made at an enterprise value of Rs.9,249 crore. Welspun Renewables, a part of the \$3 billion Welspun Group, has about 1,140 megawatts (MW) of solar and wind power assets across eight states in India. Of this, about 990 MW is in solar projects and about 150 MW in wind projects. Tata Power, one of the largest integrated power companies in India, is targeting doubling its total generation capacity across thermal, renewable and hydropower to 18 GW or 18,000 MW by 2022 from 9 GW now.

The founder chairman of **Bharti Enterprises** Sunil Mittal was elected as the chairman of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), thus becoming the 51st chairman of the ICC and the third Indian business leader to be elected as the chief of the ICC in its near 100-year history.

Boeing and Tata Advanced Systems rolled out new facility in Hyderabad for its joint venture named TATA Boeing Aerospace Limited (TBAL). The joint venture has been established to co-produce Boeing AH-64 Apache helicopter fuselages and other aero structures, as well as to pursue integrated systems in aerospace.

Mr. Sujoy Bose, at present, Director and Global Co-Head, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation(IFC), Washington DC, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of **National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd.** Mr Sujoy Bose has extensive international experience in the infrastructure sector including experience in raising funds from international investors. The Government established the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) with the aim to attract investment from both domestic and international sources for infrastructure development in commercially viable projects.

Nestle SA named Ulf Mark Schneider as its next chief executive in a surprise choice, as the Swiss food giant underlined a shift towards health and wellness by poaching the boss of German healthcare group Fresenius. Schneider will replace Nestle's long-standing CEO Paul Bulcke. Nestle's appointment of Schneider, a U.S.-German dual citizen, marks the company's first external hire for the CEO job in nearly a century.

State-run banking behemoth **SBI** was named in a 'Hall of Shame' list of 158 banking and financial institutions globally that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs. State Bank of India (SBI) is the only Indian entity on the list, which includes global giants like JP Morgan, Barclays, Bank of America and Credit Suisse that invested over \$28 billion in seven producers of cluster munitions between June 2012 and April 2016, according to a report by Dutch campaign group PAX.

Japanese conglomerate **SoftBank** announced Ken Miyauchi, head of the group's Japanese telecommunications operations, as president and chief operating officer, thus replacing Nikesh Arora from this post.

Suzuki Motor Corp appointed Toshihiro Suzuki, son of Chairman Osamu Suzuki, as its next chief executive officer with immediate effect, as the Japanese automaker attempts to recover from a vehicle testing scandal. The appointment came after Osamu Suzuki decline the CEO position to take responsibility for the automaker's use of incorrect testing methods when calculating vehicle mileage.

Technology services provider **Tech Mahindra Ltd** (TechM) acquired UK-based digital transformation firm The BIO Agency Ltd, strengthening an important focus area for the company. The acquisition will augment Tech Mahindra's digital portfolio, enabling it to offer digital strategy, service design and customer experience services. The company said in a statement the acquisition will allow it to "engage with its clients at the start of the journey" and help design customer experience for their businesses.

Xerxes Sapur Desai, the man who founded **Titan Co. Ltd** and made it an internationally renowned Indian watch brand, passed away. A graduate of Bombay and Oxford Universities, Desai played a key role in introducing India to its first quartz watch in the late 80s when he set up Titan Co. Ltd (part of Tata Sons), after enduring years of resistance from state-owned and now defunct HMT Watches.

Online healthcare start-up **1mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd** announced to acquire diagnostic labs aggregator Medd (HolaMed Healthcare Technologies Pvt. Ltd) in a move aimed at boosting its diagnostic footprint. Medd was co-founded by Indian Institute of Technology Bombay graduates Arpit Kothari and Anurag Mundhada and Carnegie

Mellon graduate Era Dwivedi in 2015. 1mg operates an online marketplace for medicines, besides facilitating medical appointments and diagnostic test bookings. The e-diagnostic service of 1mg is currently available across 23 cities, powered by tie-ups with certified laboratories

Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail (ABFRL) announced to acquire global clothing brand 'Forever 21' in the Indian market for USD 26 million. Forever 21 has a network of more than 700 stores worldwide. Its India operations reported a turnover of Rs 262 crore in 2015-16.

India's largest dairy brand, **Amul**, announced that it will sponsor Indian contingent for Rio 2016 Olympic Games slated to be held in Brazil this August. Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (GCCMMF), which markets milk and milk products under Amul brand, will pay Rs 1 crore to the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for the sponsorship.

Google announced a deal to buy Moodstocks, a French startup behind technology that helps smartphones recognise whatever they are aimed at. Moodstocks caught the US technology giant's eye for its work in computer vision and machine learning, as well for accomplishments in enabling smartphones or other mobile devices to recognise images and objects.

Country's largest two-wheeler maker **Hero MotoCorp Ltd.** (HMCL) inked a wage settlement pact with its permanent workers at Gurgaon Plant, entailing an hike of Rs.12,500 spread over three years.

IDFC Bank announced to acquire micro-lender Grama Vidiyal in an all-cash deal as it seeks to expand its customer base and gain access to loan portfolios that enjoy priority sector status. Headquartered in Tiruchirapalli in Tamil Nadu, Grama Vidiyal Micro Finance, which started operations in 1997, has a loan book of about Rs.1,502 crore and 1.2 million customers primarily in its home State, Puducherry and Kerala and in parts of Karnataka and Maharashtra.

India's largest lender **State Bank of India** (SBI) launched SBI Mingle, a social media banking platform for Facebook and Twitter users, on the occasion of 61st State Bank Day (observed on 1st July). The SBI Mingle will allow SBI's customers to access various banking services via these social platforms.

The **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India** (TRAI) launched MySpeed mobile application for measuring real time mobile Internet speed of consumers. The idea behind the app is that customers should know about the experience of their as well as other networks in order to select the best mobile operator in their locality. This is the first application to be launched under the Digital India initiative which is directly trying to tackle the issue of poor data speeds.

Ayurveda company **Dabur India** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Research and Development Organization's (DRDO) Defense Institute of High Altitude Research (DIHAR) to promote sustainable cultivation of rare medicinal plants in the most difficult terrain in the world, Ladakh. The initiative will focus on development of a self-sustainable system by creation of a value chain for the targeted endangered species and sustainable management of bio-resources by implying scientific agronomy practices and thereby ensuring biodiversity conservation.

In a setback to New Delhi over annulment of the deal between Antrix Corporation, the commercial arm of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), and Bengaluru-based startup **Devas Multimedia**, the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) tribunal at the Hague has held the Indian government liable to pay compensation to the tune of 40 per cent of investment made by foreign investors of Devas Multimedia. The 2005 deal, for the manufacture and launch of two satellites to utilise the S-band or space band spectrum available to the country, was cancelled in 2011.

Flipkart Ltd announced the acquisition of online retail portal Jabong through its fashion subsidiary Myntra. Jabong is one of India's major fashion multi-brand e-store with over 1,500 retail brands. This acquisition is a continuation of the group's journey to transform commerce in India. Jabong, which is owned by Global Fashion Group, has been on the lookout for a buyer for the last few months. According to a report, Jabong is the only loss-making outfit in GFG's portfolio of ten companies in the January-June 2015 period. Jabong also registered slowest revenue growth of 26.5 per cent y-o-y in the six months to June, 2015 among the ten companies.

HDFC Bank became the first Indian company to issue rupee-denominated bonds "masala bonds" on London Stock Exchange (LSE). The bond will help HDFC, India's biggest mortgage lender (home finance company) to diversify its borrowing profile and access global investors.

Seven Indian companies made it to the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue. **Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** ranked highest at 161st among Indian firms, while another state-run firm Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) moved out of the rankings for 2016. Private gems and jewellery major Rajesh Exports made its debut at 423rd position. Among the seven Indian companies, four are from the public sector while Reliance Industries (RIL) is the top-ranked among private sector firms, followed by Tata Motors and Rajesh Exports. Among state-run majors, IOC is followed by banking behemoth State Bank of India, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum. IOC is ranked 161st with revenue of \$54.7 billion (down from 119th last year), while RIL is now at 215th (down from 158th). Bharat Petroleum slipped from 280th to 358th this year and Hindustan Petroleum is at 367th, down from 327th. The overall list was topped by Walmart with revenue of \$482,130 million, followed by State Grid (revenue of \$329,601 million) and China National Petroleum (\$299,271 million) at the second and third place respectively. Others in the global top 10 companies include Sinopec Group (4th, \$294,344 million), Royal Dutch Shell (5th, \$272,156 million), Exxon Mobil (6th, \$246,204 million), Volkswagen (7th, \$236,600 million), Toyota Motor (8th, \$236,592 million), Apple (9th, \$233,715 million) and BP (10th, \$225,982 million). The world's 500 largest companies generated \$27.6 trillion in revenues and \$1.5 trillion in profits in 2015.

Japan's **Softbank**, a multinational telecommunications and Internet corporation, announced to acquire ARM Holdings, the U.K. based semiconductor firm, in a deal worth more than 32 billion US dollar.

Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and US-based Bell Helicopter agreed to jointly develop the helicopter market in India, including potential production and assembly, training, maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO), research and development (R&D) and technology sharing. The agreement covers both commercial and government (including military) rotary wing markets in the light utility and reconnaissance segments.

Russia's anti-monopoly watchdog announced that **Google** would have to pay a 438 million rouble (\$6.8 million) fine for pre-installing applications on mobile devices running its Android operating system.

The Board of Directors at **Hero Moto Corp Ltd** reappointed Pawan Munjal as the Chairman, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the company for a period of five years with effect from 1st of October, 2016.

Former RBI Deputy Governor Anand Sinha was appointed to the Board of **IDFC Bank** as an Additional Director in the category of Independent Director on the board.

Online legal documentation startup **LegalDesk.com** announced the launch of its electronic signing feature, eSignDesk, which allows people to sign documents from remote places. Built on the Aadhaar platform, eSign is an initiative of the Government of India and meant to save money and time for citizens. Users need to have a registered mobile number associated with the Aadhaar card. The service will be available through the website

www.eSignDesk.com and will be offered free of charge to the first 1,000 users. Documents signed electronically using it will be legally valid in the country.

Anant Maheshwari was named as the President of **Microsoft India** by the parent company Microsoft Inc. Maheshwari will succeed Bhaskar Pramanik, who retires in March 2017.

Deepak Iyer was appointed as Managing Director of **Mondelez International's** India Business. Mondelez International, styled Mondelēz, is an American multinational confectionery, food, and beverage company.

Japanese automobile maker **Isuzu** announced top level changes in its Indian operations with Hiroshi Nakagawa taking over as the Chairman of Isuzu Motors India (IMI) with immediate effect.

South Korea's **LG Electronics Inc** announced its partnering with Amazon.com Inc on smart-home services, enabling the US company's services such as the Alexa virtual assistant on some of the electronics maker's devices.

Microsoft, Google and Salesforce officially adopted the EU-US Privacy Shield framework. This will enable them to receive personal data from the European Union (EU) in compliance with the new standards.

In the biggest consolidation deal in the telecom sector, **Reliance Communications Ltd** of the Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group announced to merge its mobile phone services business with smaller rival Aircel. The RCom-Aircel combination will create a telecom operator ranked fourth by customer base and revenues and number three operator by revenues in 12 important circles. RCom and Maxis Communications Berhad (MCB) of Malaysia, which owns Aircel, will hold 50 per cent each in the merged entity with equal representation on the board and committees. The merged company will be one of India's largest private sector companies, with an asset base of over Rs 65,000 crore and net worth of Rs 35,000 crore (\$5.2 billion).

Religare Enterprises Limited (REL) appointed Sunil Godhwani as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

Reliance Industries Limited launched the Reliance Jio Service offering free voice calls and zero roaming charges for its customers as a part of Jio Welcome Offer. The Jio Welcome Offer will be effective from 5 September 2016 up to 31 December 2016.

Media firm **Sony Pictures Networks India** (SPN) signed a definitive agreement to acquire Ten Sports Network from Zee Entertainment Enterprises for \$385 million.

Mobile phone manufacturer **Gionee** signed a memorandum of understanding with the Haryana Government to set up its first manufacturing unit in Faridabad, Haryana, with an initial investment of Rs 500 crore. Gionee had entered the Indian market in 2013 and had already reached a turnover of Rs 3,250 crore by end of 2015. The company plans to almost triple its turnover by end of 2016.

Google launched its latest mobile chat application, Allo, along with Google Assistant that can be used in online conversations with friends.

State owned **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** was granted prestigious membership of Asia-Pacific Aerospace Quality Group (APAQG) under category 'Full Member with voting rights', thus making India the seventh nation to join the APAQG under the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG). Other nations of APAQG are South Korea, China, Indonesia, Singapore, Taiwan and Japan. The IAQG is an international non-profit cooperative global organisation that brings aviation, defence and space companies together to deliver more value at all levels of supply chain.

Infosys launched Skava Commerce, a modern, mobile-first and modular e-commerce platform that delivers engaging omni-channel experiences.

Larsen & Toubro (L&T) landed a 99.7-million dollar (around 660 crore rupees) contract from Vietnam Border Guard to design, construct and supply high-speed patrol vessels.

Indian test skipper Virat Kohli was appointed as Brand Ambassador of state-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**.

The Union Cabinet approved the sub-leasing of 330.10 acres of land at Chengalpattu by **HLL Lifecare Ltd**, a mini-ratna, for setting up a medical devices manufacturing park (Medipark). The Medipark, which will be India's first medical technology manufacturing cluster, aims to produce low-cost diagnostic devices and ensure delivery of affordable healthcare. The move, which is in line with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Make in India initiative, is expected to generate direct employment for around 3,000 people once it is fully functional.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs gave its approval to an acquisition by **ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL)**, the overseas investment arm of ONGC, for 11 per cent stake in JSC Vankorneft from Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft), Russia's national oil company. OVL will be paying \$930 million for acquiring 11 per cent stake in Vankorneft. Rosneft operates the Vankor fields with Vankorneft, its wholly-owned subsidiary.

Indian **pharmaceutical companies** ranked at the rear end in the recently conducted 2016 Biopharmaceutical Competitiveness & Investment (BCI) Survey. India ranked at number 19 out of 28 countries that were considered in the survey. While US took the lead, with its pharma companies ranked as the most competitive with a 89 points score, UK and Switzerland followed after it. India, along with China, Colombia, Argentina, Turkey, Russia, and Brazil were labelled as trailing markets, based on their overall score, while Saudi Arabia, Mexico and South Africa, the survey found, were "catching their stride". This is the third edition of the BCI Survey, a global executive opinion survey and index of economies' biomedical investment-attractiveness created by Pugatch Consilium, commissioned by PhRMA.

India is seeking greater market access for the domestic **pharmaceuticals sector** in the Japanese market as India's share in the Japanese drug market continued to be below par, as per a recent announcement by Union Commerce Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

In a major deal for India's private defence industry, Anil Ambani-led **Reliance Group** and Rafale maker Dassault Aviation announced a joint venture (JV) that will be a "key player" in execution of offset contract worth about Rs 22,000 crore as part of the fighter jet deal. The announcement of the JV, Dassault Reliance Aerospace, comes within days of India and France on September 23 signing an agreement for 36 Rafale fighter jets at a value of euro 7.87 billion, or about Rs 59,000 crore. The agreement includes a 50 per cent offset obligation, the largest-ever offset contract in the history of India.

Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) tied-up with Uber under which its credit cardholders will get a cash-back of up to 25 percent for hailing cabs from the app across six countries, including India, where the cardholders will get a 20 percent cash-back on all Uber rides.

Committees / Schemes / Policies

The **Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Bill, 2016** was introduced by Minister of Finance, Mr. Arun Jaitley, in Lok Sabha on March 3, 2016. The Bill intends to provide for targeted delivery of subsidies and services to individuals residing in India by assigning them unique identity numbers, called Aadhaar numbers. Every resident shall be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number. A resident is a person who has resided in India for 182 days, in the one year preceding the date of application for enrolment for Aadhaar.

The Rajya Sabha passed a landmark **Real Estate Bill** with a promise to secure the interests of homebuyers and developers in equal measure and remove corruption and inefficiency from the sector. The Bill, which was amended to reflect the "views and suggestions of various stakeholders and political parties," won approval from legislators across the political spectrum. Real estate contributes nine per cent to the national GDP and the Bill's passage was seen as crucial to ensuring better regulatory oversight and orderly growth in the industry.

The **Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016** was introduced by Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Rajnath Singh, in Lok Sabha on March 9, 2016. The Bill seeks to amend the Enemy Property Act, 1968 and the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971. It will replace the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016. The central government had designated some properties belonging to nationals of Pakistan and China as 'enemy properties' during the 1962, 1965 and 1971 conflicts. It vested these properties in the 'Custodian of Enemy Property for India', an office instituted under the central government. The 1968 Act regulates these enemy properties, and lists the powers of the Custodian. The amendments include that once an enemy property is vested in the Custodian, it shall continue to be vested in him as enemy property irrespective of whether the enemy, enemy subject or enemy firm has ceased to be an enemy due to reasons such as death etc. The new bill also ensures that the law of succession does not apply to enemy property; that there cannot be transfer of any property vested in the Custodian by an enemy or enemy subject or enemy firm and that the Custodian shall preserve the enemy property till it is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act. The amendments are aimed at plugging the loopholes in the Act to ensure that the enemy properties that have been vested in the Custodian remain so and they do not revert back to the enemy subject or enemy firm.

The **Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015**, a bill that would enhance compensation for air travellers in case of death, injury, lost baggage or even inordinate delay in flights was passed by the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday. It was cleared by the Lok Sabha in December last year. Since the Rajya Sabha has made changes, the revised bill would again go to the Lower House. Once the legislation is implemented, Indian airlines would be required to pay compensation amount that is equivalent to the rates paid by their global counterparts. The legislation would allow the government to revise the liability limits of airlines in line with the Montreal Convention, which was acceded to by India in May 2009.

The Government of India constituted a committee to consider Scheduled Tribe status **to six Communities of Assam**. The committee will be headed by Special Secretary (Internal Security) Ministry of Home Affairs, Mahesh Kumar Singla. The committee will recommend the modalities for granting of Scheduled Tribe status to six Communities namely Koch Rajbongshi, Moran, Matak, Tai Ahom, Chutia and Adivasi (Tea Tribes) in Assam. The Committee will submit its report by 31 May 2016.

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan announced inclusion of widow marriage under the state government's **Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana**. The announcement made on International Women's Day in Bhopal aims at promoting marriage of widows.

Delhi became the first state in the country to launch the **Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine** as a public health programme for school children.

The Haryana Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the **Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in services and admission in educational institutions) Bill, 2016**. The bill seeks to provide reservation in services and admission in educational institutions to persons belonging to backward classes including Jats and five other castes (Jat Sikhs, Ror, Bishnoi and Tyagi).

The Centre notified the new Aadhaar Act which gives the numbers assigned by it a statutory backing for transfer of subsidies and benefits to people eligible for them. **The Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, benefits and services) Act, 2016** will provide for "efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services, the expenditure for which is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India, to individuals residing in India through assigning of unique identity numbers to such individuals", said the notification. However, those individuals to whom Aadhaar number has not been assigned, the Act said that they "shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service". The Aadhaar number will not be a proof of citizenship or domicile.

The Punjab Cabinet approved the Bill on **The Punjab Settlement of Agricultural Indebtedness 2016**. The proposed legislation provides for a framework for expeditious determination and settlement of non-institutional agricultural debt. It establishes district-level agricultural debt settlement forums and a state-level agricultural debt settlement tribunal to help farmers reconcile and settle their non-institutional debts.

Haryana launched **Project Salamati in Chandigarh**, which seeks to maintain a healthy balance between the births of children by using injectable contraceptive. With this launch, Haryana became the first State in the country to launch injectable contraceptive as part of a government initiative.

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu dedicated the **Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme** to people. It is aimed at linking Godavari and Krishna rivers and providing water to the parched Rayalaseema region in the state, in West Godavari district. Naidu termed the occasion as historic for the country as well as for Andhra as Godavari and Krishna rivers would be linked by diverting surplus water to Prakasam barrage on Krishna river at Vijayawada.

The Government of Mizoram and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a MoU on Capacity Enhancement on Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development in the State.

In a landmark judgment, the Maharashtra legislature became the first state in India to pass a law that could mean the end for social discrimination in the state. The Maharashtra legislature unanimously passed the **Maharashtra Prohibition of People from Social Boycott (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Bill, 2016** to end the menace social boycott practiced by extra-judicial institutions like caste and community panchayats.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on cooperation in preventing and combating of **Human Trafficking**. The MoU will strengthen the bonds of friendship between the two countries and increase the bilateral cooperation on the issues

of prevention, rescue, recovery and repatriation related to human trafficking especially women and children expeditiously.

- The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP).
- The benefit will be given with effect from 1st July, 2014.
- Pension will be re-fixed for pre 1.7.2014 pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension drawn by the retirees in the year 2013. Those drawing pensions above the average will be protected.
- The benefit would also be extended to family pensioners including war widows and disabled pensioners.
- In future, the pension would be re-fixed every 5 year.

Constitution of Judicial Committee headed by **Justice L. Narasimha Reddy**, Retd. Chief Justice of Patna High Court on 14.12.2015 which will give its report in six months on the references made by the Government of India.

The implementation of **OROP** will result in enhanced pension for the pensioners/family pensioners of Defence Forces. Financial implications on account of grant of OROP including Pre-Matured Retirees (PMR) cases would be Rs. 10925.11 crore for payment of arrears and annual financial implication would be Rs. 7488.7 crore.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed on 15th February, 2016 between India and Sweden on Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to Implementation of the **National Hydrology Project**. It will be a central sector scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 3679.7674 crore. This includes Rs.3,640 crore for National Hydrology Project (NHP) and Rs. 39.7674 crore for National Water Informatics Centre (NWIC) to be taken up in two stages. The NHP will help in gathering Hydro-meteorological data which will be stored and analysed on a real time basis and can be seamlessly accessed by any user at the State/District/village level. The project envisages to cover the entire country as the earlier hydrology projects covered only 13 States.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to replace the existing **policy on crude oil import** by Oil PSUs and vest the oil PSUs with the power to evolve their own policies. This will provide a more efficient, flexible and dynamic policy for crude procurement, eventually benefiting the consumers. This measure, which is in keeping with the principle of Minimum Government Maximum Governance, will increase the operational and commercial flexibility of the oil companies and enable them to adopt the most effective procurement practices for import of crude oil.

Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis launched **Mission Drinking Water**. The mission was launched in the backdrop of recurring droughts and severe water crisis in Marathwada and Vidarbha region of the state.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Insurance Authority of United Arab Emirates. The MoU provides for enhanced cooperation between the two authorities in the field of **insurance supervision** by providing a framework for co-operation such as channels of communication. It will also result in increasing mutual understanding through the exchange of regulatory and relevant supervisory information including confidential information to enforce or ensure compliance with their respective laws and regulations.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Bhutan** on technical cooperation in the field of capacity building, benchmarking and bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering.

Rajya Sabha passed the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016** to include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Castes (SC) from 4 states - Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala and West Bengal.

The bill also carries provisions for exclusion of certain communities from Odisha and removal of area restriction in respect of certain communities. With this, both the houses of parliament passed the bill.

NITI Aayog in collaboration with Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (SCE) and Temasek Foundation, Singapore organized an Urban Management Programme for Capacity Building of officials of State Governments and ULBs in implementing the Urban Rejuvenation Mission.

The Union Government launched **Sahapedia.org**, India's first online interactive portal on the cultural heritage of the country. Sahapedia is a collection of resources on the diverse heritage of India. It is non-profit society, led by former TCS chairman S. Ramadorai, who is the head of the National Skill Development Agency.

The Government merged **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA)**, launched by the UPA government, with the Khelo India programme for development of sports. Khelo India is based on Gujarat's model of Khel Mahakumbh, in which schools and colleges from different parts of the country participate in about 27 disciplines.

Union Minister for State for Power, Coal and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal launched National LED programme - **Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)** in Madhya Pradesh. The scheme, which aims at distributing 3 crore LED Bulbs in the next 6 months in the State, is being implemented by Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a joint venture of PSUs under the Union Ministry of Power.

The Union Cabinet approved the **National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy** that will lay the future roadmap for intellectual property in India. The Policy recognises the abundance of creative and innovative energies that flow in India, and the need to tap into and channelise these energies towards a better and brighter future for all. The National IPR Policy is a vision document that aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies. It sets in place an institutional mechanism for implementation, monitoring and review. It aims to incorporate and adapt global best practices to the Indian scenario. This policy shall weave in the strengths of the Government, research and development organizations, educational institutions, corporate entities including MSMEs, start-ups and other stakeholders in the creation of an innovation-conducive environment, which stimulates creativity and innovation across sectors, as also facilitates a stable, transparent and service-oriented IPR administration in the country. The Policy recognizes that India has a well-established TRIPS-compliant legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPRs, which meets its international obligations while utilizing the flexibilities provided in the international regime to address its developmental concerns.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Inter-Governmental Agreement between **India and Mauritius** on cooperation in cooperatives and related fields. The Agreement between the two countries will be for a duration of five years after which it will be automatically extended for another five years. The Agreement provides for promoting cooperation through short and medium term programmes within the framework of the joint activities mentioned in the Agreement. A work plan will be drawn up by mutual Agreement between the two parties to give effect to the objectives of this Agreement.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to move a Resolution in both the Houses of Parliament for adoption of the recommendations of the **Railway Convention Committee (2014)**'s recommendations that for the year 2014-15 and 2015-16, the rate of dividend to the General Revenue be determined at 5% and 4% respectively on the entire capital (excluding dividend free capital) invested in Railways from the General Revenues.

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) for the cooperation in Information and

Communication Technology enabled **Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS)** and other related technical matters. The MoC would cover 162 high malnutrition burden districts of eight States namely Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for allowing **flexibility in utilisation of domestic coal** for reducing the cost of power generation. The objective of the proposal is to allow flexibility in optimal use of domestic coal in efficient Generating Stations resulting in reduction in the cost of electricity generation and reduce the power purchase cost of State Distribution companies. Such flexibility will be able to leverage coal to electricity conversion, efficiency of equipments as well as transportation cost optimization. This would create new thrust in promoting efficiency, optimum utilization of natural resources as well as overall economic benefit in the power sector in the country. This will result in coal transportation cost reduction as well as savings in energy used for transportation and may also result in removal of congestion of Railways network. This will also be a more environment friendly arrangement as less coal will be used to produce more power and also the distance for transportation of coal would be optimized. This proposal is also in line with the UDAY scheme of Government of India which also envisages liberally allowing of coal swaps from inefficient plants to efficient plants and from plants situated away from coal mines to pit head to minimize cost of coal transportation thus leading to reduction in cost of power.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for adoption of **United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics**. The adoption of the United Nations Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics will bring professional independence, impartiality, accountability and transparency in methods of collection, compilation and dissemination of official statistics, besides adopting international standards. The adoption will also pave way for devising a National Policy on Official Statistics for improving systems, procedures and institutions consistent with these principles.

The Parliament passed the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code Bill, 2016**. It was first passed in Lok Sabha and later in Rajya Sabha in the month of May, 2016. The code seeks to ensure time-bound settlement of insolvency, faster turnaround of businesses and create a unified database of serial defaulters.

The Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the Amendment to **The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961** for incorporation of six new IITs at Tirupati (AP), Palakkad (Kerala), Dharwar (Karnataka), Bhilai (Chhattisgarh), Goa, Jammu (J&K) and conversion of ISM, Dhanbad to an IIT under the Institutes of Technology Act, 1961.

The Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the MOU between **India and Japan** for promoting sustainable, stable and low-carbon thermal power development in India. The signing of the MOU will help India to address issues and barriers in promoting sustainable, stable and low-carbon thermal power development that have been identified through the preceding Pre-Primary Study and the on-going cooperation towards Energy Efficient Renovation & Modernization as well as new power development, by means of diagnostic activities to support Renovation and Modernization (R&M) materialization and implementation, knowledge and technology exchange activities to support Clean Coal Technology (CCT) for thermal power plants such as Ultra Super Critical (USC) and other environmental technologies, all of which will be conducive to overall power development for India as well as to facilitate relevant policy implementation.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for financial **restructuring of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL)**. The Cabinet, amongst other things, approved waiver of GoI loan of Rs. 1916.14 crores (as on 31.03.2015). This Cabinet approval will facilitate de-registration of HFCL from BIFR by making its net worth positive.

The Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the proposal for undertaking **cadre review of the Indian Postal Service**. The cadre review will enable the Department of Posts to meet the functional requirements and strengthening the cadre structure both in the headquarters and in the field on the basis of functional requirement, which will provide more avenues to earn review and respond effectively to the customer needs, reduce the existing stagnation and improve the career prospects of Indian Postal Service officers.

The Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India and the Ministry of Tourism, Government of Maldives for strengthening cooperation in the field of tourism. The **Memorandum of Understanding with Maldives** will be instrumental in increasing arrival from this important source market. In recent years, Maldives has emerged as an important tourism generating market for India.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for introduction of two Bills in the Parliament for certain amendments in the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950 so as to modify the list of Scheduled Tribes in respect of five States, namely, Assam, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Tamil Nadu, Tripura and identification of new communities in the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel launched the **Smart Village** programme to improve public facilities in villages. The programme, conceptualized on the lines of Smart Cities initiative of the Union Government, will select 300 villages and make them self-reliant, clean and hygienic. These villages will get 80 lakh to 2 crore rupees cash assistance from the State government to implement the programme.

In a bid to identify and work on the thrust areas having direct impact on the lives of the people, the Shimla district administration initiated **PEHAL**, a vision document for implementing programmes under its canopy with key sectors, which includes Primary Education, (PRERNA), educating people on rights of forests, health and sanitation, anti drug campaign, livelihood and women empowerment.

The Odisha Government decided to launch **Green Passage Scheme** for orphan students. The scheme will ensure that the orphan students get free of cost higher education in the state.

In a move that will help mothers who are travelling, the Railways launched a facility to provide baby food at stations. Named **Janani Sewa**, the Railways will ensure availability of essential items like hot milk and water at stations under the scheme. The facility is being introduced at over 25 stations, including New Delhi, Mumbai Central, Howrah, Chennai, Nagpur, Pune, Surat, Lucknow and Moradabad. Besides baby food, the Railways also launched menu items like burgers for children between 5-12 years of age group.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding between **Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre** in India and India Taipei Association in Taipei, Taiwan for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sector. The MoU provides for cooperation in the fields of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Aquaculture and Food Processing, Genetic Resources as well as Environmental Sustainability.

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of **Air Services Agreement** between India-Taipei Association in Taipei (India's representative office in Taiwan) and Taipei Economic and Cultural Center in India (Taiwan's representative office in India). The Air Services Agreement signifies an important landmark in the civil aviation relations between India and Taiwan, and has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges between the two parties.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the Agreement on Labour Co-operation between **India and Saudi Arabia**. The Agreement was signed in Riyadh on 2-3 April, 2016 during the visit of the Prime Minister to Saudi Arabia. The Agreement would benefit the Indian emigrant workers, especially in the unskilled, semi-skilled and skilled categories of workers who are working in Saudi Arabia without consideration of caste, creed, religion or gender.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Qatar** for cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of qualifications. The MoU will facilitate workforce mobility, skill development and placement of youth in overseas jobs in Qatar.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **United States of America and India** to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking. With the approval, India will benefit from the expertise of the US Institutions in the field of wildlife conservation and management of wildlife areas and in combating illegal trade of wildlife and their derivatives.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India (DGCA) and the French Civil Aviation** to implement Technical Cooperation Programme for promotion and implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The Technical Cooperation programme will be beneficial for enhancement of skills and expertise of DGCA's officers. This MoU is also beneficial for implementation of the cooperation between the two parties for imparting training of engineers, technicians, managers etc.

The Union Cabinet approved the implementation of the recommendations of **7th Central Pay Commission (CPC)** on pay and pensionary benefits. It will come into effect from 01.01.2016. In the past, the employees had to wait for 19 months for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations at the time of 5th CPC, and for 32 months at the time of implementation of 6th CPC. However, this time, 7th CPC recommendations are being implemented within 6 months from the due date. The Cabinet also decided that arrears of pay and pensionary benefits will be paid during the current financial year (2016-17) itself, unlike in the past when parts of arrears were paid in the next financial year. The recommendations will benefit over 1 crore employees. This includes over 47 lakh central government employees and 53 lakh pensioners, of which 14 lakh employees and 18 lakh pensioners are from the defence forces.

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Tanzania** for bilateral cooperation in water resources management and development. The areas of enhanced cooperation include techniques in water harvesting, surface and groundwater management and development and aquifer recharge. Collaboration and sharing of expertise on the areas mutually agreed will benefit the country in techniques in water harvesting, water conservation, surface and groundwater management and development, and aquifer recharge.

The Union Cabinet approved the **National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP)**. The NMEP primarily aims at accelerating the exploration activity in the country through enhanced participation of the private sector. There is a

need for comprehensive mineral exploration of the country to uncover its full mineral potential so as to put the nation's mineral resources (non-fuel and non-coal) to best use and thereby maximize sectoral contribution to the Indian economy. The policy emphasizes on making available baseline geoscientific data of world standards in the public domain, quality research in a public-private partnership, special initiatives for search of deep-seated and concealed deposits, quick aerogeophysical surveys of the country, and creation of a dedicated geoscience database etc.

The Union Cabinet gave approval for a special package for employment generation and promotion of exports in **Textile and Apparel sector**. The move comes in the backdrop of the package of reforms announced by the Government for generation of one crore jobs in the textile and apparel industry over next 3 years. The package includes a slew of measures which are labour friendly and would promote employment generation, economies of scale and boost exports. The steps will lead to a cumulative increase of US\$ 30 bn. in exports and investment of Rs. 74,000 crores over next 3 years. The majority of new jobs are likely to go to women since the garment industry employs nearly 70% women workforce. Thus, the package would help in social transformation through women empowerment.

The Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Protocol amending the Agreement between **India and Belgium** for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income. The amendment in the Protocol will broaden the scope of the existing framework of exchange of tax related information between the two countries, which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance. The Protocol will also revise the existing treaty provisions on mutual assistance in collection of taxes.

Odisha launched a new scheme **Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana (KSSY)** with an aim to provide education loan at 1 percent interest to students for pursuing higher studies. The State government dedicated this scheme to former Chief Minister Biju Patnaik on his Birth Centenary.

The Union Cabinet approved the **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** with an outlay of Rs.12000 crore to impart skilling to one crore people over the next four years (2016-2020). PMKVY will impart fresh training to 60 lakh youths and certify skills of 40 lakh persons acquired non-formally under the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). The target allocation between fresh trainings and RPL will be flexible and interchangeable depending on functional and operational requirements.

The Union Cabinet approved the **Interest Subvention Scheme** for farmers for the year 2016-17. The Government has earmarked a sum of Rs. 18,276 Crore for this purpose. This will help farmers getting short term crop loan payable within one year up to Rs. 3 lakhs at only 4% per annum.

The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Mauritius**. The MoU will help to establish a framework for cooperation between the National Development Unit, Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Mauritius and the Ministry of Rural Development of the Republic of India in the sphere of rural development. The MoU will encourage cooperation in the field of rural development and capacity building on the basis of equality and mutual benefit between both countries.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce **The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016** in Parliament. The High Courts (Alteration of Names) Bill, 2016 will facilitate the changing of the names of 'Bombay High Court as Mumbai High Court' and 'Madras High Court as Chennai High Court' respectively.

The Union Cabinet approved a **National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme**. The Scheme has an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore with a target of 50 lakh apprentices to be trained by 2019-20. The Scheme would be implemented by Director General of Training (DGT) under Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE). It provides for incentivizing employers to engage apprentices. 25% of the total stipend payable to an apprentice would be shared with employers directly by Government of India. It is for the first time a scheme has been designed to offer financial incentives to employers to engage apprentices. In addition, it also supports basic training, which is an essential component of apprenticeship training. 50% of the total expenditure incurred on providing basic training would be supported by Government of India. The Scheme will catalyze the entire apprenticeship ecosystem in the country and it will offer a win-win situation for all stakeholders. It is expected to become one of the most powerful skill-delivery vehicle in the country.

The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Tanzania** in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy. The MoU will provide structured frame work for the cooperation between the two countries for the promotion and propagation of Indian Traditional Systems of Medicine & Homeopathy in Tanzania.

India and Kenya inked seven agreements to enhance cooperation and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Haryana Government launched the **Pashudhan Bima Yojan**. The Yojna, started in accordance to the recommendations made in Swaminathan Report, is aimed at providing insurance cover to cattle breeders in the state at different premium rates for different animals.

The Union Government approved nearly 1600 crore rupees for Jammu and Kashmir under skill development initiative '**Himayat**'. The allocated fund will be invested in training 1.24 lakh local youths in vocational courses.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for introducing amendments to the **Benami Transactions (Prohibition) (Amendment) Bill, 2015** in Parliament. The amendments aim to strengthen the Bill in terms of legal and administrative procedure so as to overcome the practical difficulties which may arise in the implementation of the provisions of the Bill when it becomes an Act.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post-facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and the State Secretariat for Education, Research and Innovation of the Swiss Confederation for cooperation in skill development. The MoU, signed in June 2016, broadly focuses on capacity building and exchange of best practices in the area of **skill development**. The MoU envisions the establishment of Joint Working Group (JWG) to create, monitor and review the implementation framework for the MoU. The MoU will establish a framework for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in the area of skill development and will formalise and deepen this partnership.

The Union Cabinet approved signing of the **Air Services Agreement** between India and Mozambique.

The Union Cabinet approved **The Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Bill 2016**. Through this Bill the Government has evolved a mechanism for their social, economic and educational empowerment. The Bill will benefit a large number of transgender persons, mitigate the stigma, discrimination and abuse against this marginalized section and bring them into the mainstream of society. It will lead to greater inclusiveness and will make the transgender persons productive members of the society.

The Union Cabinet approved the incorporation of **Sagarmala Development Company (SDC)** under the Companies Act, 2013. SDC will be under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping. It will provide equity support to the project Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) and funding support to the residual projects under the Sagarmala Programme.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and South Africa** for cooperation in the field of Tourism. The main objective of the MoU is to expand bilateral cooperation in the tourism sector

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 by introducing the **Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016** in Parliament. The maternity benefit Act 1961 protects the employment of women during the time of her maternity and entitles her of a 'maternity benefit' - i.e. full paid absence from work - to take care for her child. The act is applicable to all establishments employing 10 or more persons. The amendments will help 1.8 million (approx.) women workforce in organised sector. The amendments to Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 are as follows:

- ❖ Increase Maternity Benefit from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for two surviving children and 12 weeks for more than two children.
- ❖ 12 weeks Maternity Benefit to a 'Commissioning mother' and 'Adopting mother'.
- ❖ Facilitate 'Work from home'.
- ❖ Mandatory provision of Creche in respect of establishment having 50 or more employees.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for amendments to Section 44 and consequential amendments of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013 by introducing the **Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2016** in the Parliament. The approved amendments will address concerns and apprehensions expressed by different categories of public servants and addresses the difficulties being faced in implementing the provision of section 44 of the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act, 2013.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for amendment of Section 64 and section 65 and consequential amendment of section 115 of the Factories Act, 1948 by introducing the **Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2016** in the Parliament. The approved amendments will give boost to the manufacturing sector and facilitate ease of doing business with an aim to enhance employment opportunities. These amendments relate to increase in overtime hours from the existing 50 hours per quarter to 100 hours (Section 64) and existing 75 hours per quarter to 125 hours (Section 65).

Union Cabinet on 3 August 2016 gave its approval to **Motor Vehicle (Amendment) Bill, 2016** that seeks to improve road safety in the country

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Yaad Karo Kurban** celebrations at birthplace of freedom fighter Chandra Shekhar Azad at Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh. It is a 15-day programme aimed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement and 70 years of Independence.

The Union Cabinet approved the signing and ratification of the Extradition Treaty between **India and Afghanistan**. The treaty would provide a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to the Afghanistan.

The Union Cabinet approved the extension of contract between Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and the **International Seabed Authority (ISA)** for exploration of Polymetallic Nodules for a further period of 5 years (2017-22). The earlier contract is expiring on 24th March 2017. By extending the contract, India's exclusive rights for exploration of Polymetallic Nodules in the allotted Area in the Central Indian Ocean Basin will continue and would open up new opportunities for resources of commercial and strategic value in area beyond national jurisdiction. Polymetallic nodules (also known as manganese nodules) are potato-shaped, largely porous nodules found in abundance carpeting the sea floor of world oceans in deep sea. Besides manganese and iron, they contain nickel, copper, cobalt, lead, molybdenum, cadmium, vanadium, titanium, of which nickel, cobalt and copper are considered to be of economic and strategic importance.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of the Technical Arrangement between **India and Switzerland** on the identification and return of Swiss and Indian Nationals and its implementation.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post-facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Kenya** on cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management (NHPDM). The MoU was signed on 11th July, 2016 at Nairobi during the visit of the Prime Minister of India. Under the MoU, both the sides will collaborate on all matters relating to housing and human settlements through various strategies including training of personnel, exchange visits, expos/exhibitions, conferences and workshops.

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

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the **Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY) 2003** launched on 14th July, 2003 and Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY) 2014 launched on 14th August, 2014. The Cabinet also granted approval for expenditure incurred on subsidy amount released to LIC during the period of 2003-04 to 2014-15 for VPBY, 2003 and approval to incur expenditure on VPBY, 2003 and 2014 from the financial year 2015-16 onwards. The Schemes are implemented through Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India, and the difference between the actual yield earned by LIC on the funds invested under the Scheme and the assured return committed by the Government is paid as subsidy to LIC.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Undertaking between **India and Korea** Mutual Recognition of Certificates. Signing of the Undertaking will pave way for recognition of maritime education and training, certificates of competency, endorsements, training documentary evidence and medical fitness certificates for seafarers issued by the Government of the other country.

The Union Cabinet approved the **River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Authorities Order, 2016**. The Order lays down a new institutional structure for policy and implementation in fast track manner and empowers National Mission for Clean Ganga to discharge its functions in an independent and accountable manner.

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to enhancement of Pension for Freedom Fighters and for the spouses (widows/widowers), eligible daughters and dependent parents of deceased Freedom Fighters, under the **Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme (SSPS), 1980**.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the proposal of Ministry of Shipping to enact **Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill 2016** and to repeal five archaic admiralty statutes. The Bill consolidates

the existing laws relating to admiralty jurisdiction of courts, admiralty proceedings on maritime claims, arrest of vessels and related issues. Admiralty jurisdiction is related to the powers of the High Courts in respect of claims associated with transport by sea and navigable waterways.

The Union Government approved projects worth 500 crore rupees for integrated development of tourism in Jammu and Kashmir under **Swadesh Darshan scheme**.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Hungary** on cooperation in the field of water management. The MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of water management, on the basis of equality and mutual benefits. This will encourage the development of bilateral relations between public and private organizations concerning water resources of both the countries.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and the Russian Federation** on Expansion of Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation. The MoU would expand more Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation between India and Russian Federation.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and the African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO)** for capacity building programmes in the field of rural development.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for the signing of MoU between **India and European Union** in the field of water resources. The MoU envisages strengthening the technological, scientific and management capabilities of India and the European Union in the field of water management on the basis of equality, reciprocity and mutual benefit. It provides technical exchange on water issues, including on integrated water resource management plans within river basins and through study visits.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to introduce official amendments to the **HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014**. The HIV and AIDS Bill, 2014 was drafted to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV. The provisions of the Bill seek to address HIV-related discrimination, strengthen the existing programme by bringing in legal accountability and establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances. The Bill seeks to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS, prohibits discrimination against persons with HIV and AIDS, provides for informed consent and confidentiality with regard to their treatment, places obligations on establishments to safeguard rights of persons living with HIV and create mechanisms for redressing complaints. The Bill also aims to enhance access to health care services by ensuring informed consent and confidentiality for HIV-related testing, treatment and clinical research.

India Inc. formally adopted the United Nations' (UN) agenda for the world's sustainable development and the 17 goals identified for its implementation in Mumbai. The **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** are the continuum of the 8 Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which were under implementation from January 2000 to December 2015. These 17 SDGs are being implemented from January 2016 to December 2030.

Jalandhar-based **Capital Local Area Bank (CLAB)** is set to become India's first small area finance bank (SFB) by flagging-off its operations in April 2016. CLAB is the first among the 10 applicants to get final licence from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The lender is currently active as local area bank. The small bank will launch operations under a new name — Capital Small Finance Bank Limited. RBI had given its nod for setting up small finance banks in November 2014. Apart from CLAB, the others who have received RBI's approval to start SFB include Au Financiers, and eight microfinance institutions, including Janalakshmi Financial Services.

India Post selected Deloitte to advise it on setting up a payments bank. The **Public Investment Board (PIB)** already approved the 800-crore rupees proposal of India Post. India Post payments bank will largely target unbanked and under-banked customers in rural, semi-rural and remote areas, with a focus on providing simple deposit products and money remittance services.

India and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) agreed to set up a regional capacity development centre in New Delhi for member countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka and the IMF. A memorandum of understanding (MoU) to set up the **South Asia Regional Training and Technical Assistance Center (SARTTAC)** was signed by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley and IMF managing director Christine Lagarde. The SARTTAC is expected to become the focal point for planning, coordinating, and implementing the IMF's capacity development activities in the region on a wide range of areas, including macroeconomic and fiscal management, monetary operations, financial sector regulation and supervision, and macroeconomic statistics. The Center will help address existing training needs and respond to the demand for IMF training in India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, while bringing the region's training volume on par with those of other regions.

RISES (Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways) signed a contract to supply 18 Meter Gauge 1350 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives to Myanmar Railways, which will help Myanmar to meet increasing demand for passenger and freight traffic.

The Centre decided to remove the criteria of minimum capacity utilisation for Single Super Phosphate (SSP) units that are eligible for subsidy, under the **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)** Scheme. This will enable small units to avail the subsidy and result in cheaper fertilisers being available to farmers.

The Union Cabinet approved the **Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP)**. Four main facets of this policy are:

- ❖ uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon
- ❖ an open acreage policy
- ❖ easy to administer revenue sharing model
- ❖ marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced.

The decision will enhance domestic oil & gas production, bring substantial investment in the sector and generate sizable employment. The policy is also aimed at enhancing transparency and reducing administrative discretion.

Indian Railways appointed **Ernst & Young (EY)** as a consultant to discover the advertising potential in trains and railway stations. EY will identify assets and formulate a pricing strategy for advertising across 7,000 railway stations in the country. This is the first time in the country that a large-scale project to identify and leverage pan-India advertising opportunities has been initiated.

Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced the withdrawal of the budget proposal on taxing **Employees Provident Fund**, following a backlash in and outside Parliament. The proposal had sought to make up to 60 per cent of savers' corpus withdrawn from the EPF tax-free if invested in annuity, according to the statement Mr. Jaitley made in the Lok Sabha. The period return on the annuity was to be taxable. The withdrawal decision, however, was taken after MPs pointed out that the tax would "force people to invest in annuity product even if they are not willing to do so."

International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, launched its first **Uridashi Masala Bond**, mobilising Rs.300 million (\$4.3 million) directly from Japanese household investors to promote private sector development in India. The three-year bond builds on IFC's pioneering Masala bond programme, which has raised the equivalent of \$1.7 billion from international investors for investment in India. Masala bonds are rupee-denominated instruments sold only to offshore investors, while Uridashi bonds are sold to Japanese household investors. Proceeds from IFC's Uridashi Masala bonds will be used to support private sector investment in India.

The Reserve Bank of India released a draft of the directions to put in place the regulatory framework to allow a new kind of **Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC)**, which could act as an account aggregator. At present, persons holding financial assets, such as, savings bank deposits, fixed deposits, mutual funds, insurance policies, do not get a consolidated view of their financial asset holdings, especially when the entities fall under the purview of different financial sector regulators. Account Aggregators would fill this gap by collecting and providing the information of customers' financial assets in a consolidated, organised and retrievable manner to the customer or any other person as per the instructions of the customer. The investors will be able to avail the service of an Account Aggregator purely at their option. The Reserve Bank will regulate and supervise the activity of account aggregation with a view to ensuring that the services provided and the terms at which these are provided conform to prescribed standards.

Finance minister Arun Jaitley presented the **Union Budget for 2016-17** on February 29. Union Budget 2016 came at a time when there was an additional financial burden to due the implementation of 7th Pay Commission Report and OROP (One Rank One Pension). But Finance minister, Arun Jaitley managed to continue the good track record by adhering to FRBM (Financial Responsibility and Budget Management) policies. Highlights:—

- ❖ Fiscal deficit in RE 2015-16 and BE 2016-17 retained at 3.9% and 3.5%.; Revenue Deficit target from 2.8% to 2.5% in RE 2015-16; Total expenditure projected at `19.78 lakh crore; Plan expenditure pegged at `5.50 lakh crore under Plan, increase of 15.3%; Non-Plan expenditure kept at `14.28 lakh crores
- ❖ Special emphasis to sectors such as agriculture, irrigation (allocation for Agriculture and Farmers' welfare is Rs 35,984 crore), social sector including health, women and child development welfare of

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities, infrastructure (allocation for social sector including education and health care – Rs 1,51,581 crore)

- ❖ Allocation for rural sector - Rs 87,765 crore.
- ❖ Government to infuse 250 billion rupees capital into state-run banks in 2016/17; will find resources for additional capital for banks if required
- ❖ Committed to providing a stable and predictable taxation regime and reduce black money; domestic taxpayers can declare undisclosed income or such income represented in the form of any asset by paying tax at 30%, and surcharge at 7.5% and penalty at 7.5%, which is a total of 45% of the undisclosed income.
- ❖ Allocation for skill development – Rs 1804 Crore
- ❖ Total investment in the road sector would be Rs 97,000 crore during 2016-17.
- ❖ A comprehensive Code on Resolution of Financial Firms to be introduced.

At the **13th European Union – India summit** held in Brussels, Werner Hoyer, the President of the European Investment Bank, announced that the world’s largest multilateral public bank would strengthen engagement to support long-term investment in India. President Werner Hoyer confirmed the European Investment Bank’s firm commitment to supporting long-term investment crucial for environmentally sustainable social and economic development in India and announced the opening of a Regional Representation for South Asia in New Delhi by the end of the year. The summit also provided an opportunity for the European Investment Bank’s largest ever financing in India, a EUR 450 million (Rs.33 billion) investment for the first metro line in Lucknow, capital of Uttar Pradesh.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) notified **Guidelines for 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Business to Business (B2B)** e-commerce. The government allowed 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in online retail of goods and services under the so-called “marketplace model” through the automatic route, seeking to legitimize existing businesses of e-commerce companies operating in India. It also notified new rules which could potentially end the discount wars, much to the disappointment of consumers. This is because the rules now prohibit marketplaces from offering discounts and capping total sales originating from a group company or one vendor at 25%. So far, India has allowed 100% foreign investment in business-to-business (B2B) e-commerce but none in retail e-commerce—i.e., business-to-consumer, or B2C. Even so, Indian e-commerce companies such as Flipkart and Snapdeal have been following the marketplace model—which was not defined—and attracting large foreign investments.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) signed a **Special Currency Swap Agreement** with the Central Bank of Sri Lanka. Under the arrangement, the Central Bank of Sri Lanka can draw up to 700 million US dollars for a maximum period of three months. This special arrangement is in addition to the existing Framework on Currency Swap Arrangement for the SAARC Member Countries.

The Central Board of Direct Taxes signed 11 unilateral APAs in March end. With this signing, India has entered into 59 bilateral and/or unilateral APAs. The **Advance Pricing Agreement (APA)** programme was introduced by the Finance Act, 2012 to provide a predictable and non-adversarial tax regime and to reduce litigation in the Indian

transfer pricing regime. The agreements cover a range of international transactions, including corporate guarantees, royalty, software development services, IT enabled services and trading.

The US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate USD 848 million (Rs. 5,681 crore) in funding to **develop solar parks** across India. Through the agreement, USAID will align the technical resources of two of its programs to support ADB's investments in the development of solar parks and renewable energy transmission infrastructure in states at the forefront of India's efforts to promote clean energy. The collaboration will initially focus on the state of Rajasthan. The Government of India's target for renewable energy is 175 giga-watts of installed capacity by 2022. In support of this, the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) launched a solar parks scheme to attract investment from project developers by reducing risks, streamlining the permitting process, bringing down cost through economies of scale, and modernizing infrastructure to allow easier integration of renewable energy into the grid.

The Reserve Bank of India issued revised **Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs)**. This revised Framework will supersede RBI's earlier Guidelines on Rehabilitation of Sick Micro and Small Enterprises. It shall be applicable to MSMEs having loan limits up to 25 crore rupees including accounts under consortium or multiple banking arrangement (MBA).

The Union Ministry of Finance notified interest rates on various **Small Saving Schemes** for the period between April 2016 and June 2016.

- ❖ The revised interest rates were recalculated with reference to the G-Sec yields of equivalent maturity for the months December 2015 to February 2016.
- ❖ Since 2012-13, interest rates on small savings scheme were revised annually.
- ❖ The practice was based on the recommendations of the Shyamala Gopinath Committee.
- ❖ As per the earlier practise, the revised rates for the coming financial year used to be announced in March every year.
- ❖ However, to ensure that the interest rates under Small Savings Schemes are more dynamically related to the current market rates the Government notified for quarterly revision in February 2016.
- ❖ The quarterly revision of interest rates will enable the Banks to move their interest rates in line with current money market rates.
- ❖ As per the notification, the interest rates, beginning from April 2016, will be reset every quarter based on the G-Sec yields of the previous three months.
- ❖ The Government imposed anti-dumping duty of up to 44.7 percent on import of plastic-processing machines for five years. It will be implemented on the imports from Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The Chinese telecom giant, Huawei, released its third **Global Connectivity Index report** during the Global Analyst Summit 2016 in Shenzhen, China. The report sheds light on various global improvements in the field of connectivity. In terms of numbers, the US, Singapore and Sweden top the ranking while India is ranked 44. The

report, which measures the progress of 50 nations in investment and deployment of Information and Communications Technology (ICT), sees broadband connectivity and speeds improved enormously last year.

India, with a GCI score of 30, ranks 44 and is seen as starter in the world of ICT deployment. The Huawei Global Connectivity Index 2016 notes initiatives like 'Digital India' are driving growth and improved broadband penetration. The report says such initiative will enable last-mile connectivity, connecting many people for the first time, and enables a whole new opportunity for the telecom operators.

In what could further depress Indian exports, the World Trade Organization (WTO) cut its earlier forecast for **global trade growth** in 2016 to 2.8 per cent, from the previous one of 3.9 per cent. A slowing Chinese economy, worsening financial market volatility and rising exposure of countries with large foreign debts is primarily blamed for the sluggish growth, as last year. The Geneva-based body, a multilateral regulator for international trade, predicted gross domestic product (GDP) growth in developed economies, especially the US and the European Union, will ease - mainly due to poor business and consumer confidence. Volatility in trade will also be a factor for the financial instability looming over Asian countries.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to Recommendations on Fiscal Deficit Targets and Additional Fiscal Deficit to States during **Fourteenth Finance Commission (FFC)** award period 2015-20. FFC has adopted the fiscal deficit threshold limit of 3 per cent of Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for the States. Further, FFC has provided a year-to-year flexibility for additional fiscal deficit to States. FFC, taking into account the development needs and the current macro- economic requirement, provided additional headroom to a maximum of 0.5 per cent over and above the normal limit of 3 per cent in any given year to the States that have a favourable debt-GSDP ratio and interest payments-revenue receipts ratio in the previous two years. However, the flexibility in availing the additional fiscal deficit will be available to State if there is no revenue deficit in the year in which borrowing limits are to be fixed and immediately preceding year.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for increasing the framework agreement between **Exim Bank of India and a consortium of Iranian banks lead by Central Bank of Iran** for financing the purchase of goods and services from India to Rs.3000 crore from Rs. 900 crore. This will be done by utilising the Export Development Fund (EDF). The proposal will promote the country's exports with Iran. It will also deepen India's relationship with Iran as a strategic partner.

The Union Cabinet approved the modifications in the policy for liberalisation of administratively allotted **spectrum** where market determined prices were not available. This will facilitate optimal utilisation of spectrum by introducing new technologies, sharing and trading of spectrum. This decision was taken on the basis of the recommendations of the sector regulator, TRAI and approximately and a sum of Rs.1300 crore is likely to accrue by this process.

A **UNIDO report** ranked India sixth among the world's 10 largest manufacturing countries, up by three positions. India previously held the 9th rank. The Yearbook, published by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), found that in India, the Manufacturing Value Added (MVA) grew by 7.6% in 2015 compared to the previous year. It also said that the quarterly index of industrial production (IIP) shows 1% growth of manufacturing output in the fourth quarter of 2015 compared to the same period of the previous year. China tops the list of 10-top industrial producers followed by the US, Japan, Germany and Korea. Indonesia was placed at the bottom of the list.

The Government extended the safeguard duty on import of some steel products by two years i.e till March 2018. In this regard, the **Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)** issued a notification mentioning that safeguard duty will be reduced to 10% in stages till 2008 from current 20%. The main intention of this move is to protect domestic industry from onslaught of cheap steel supplies (imports) from China amid a global glut. The

safeguard duty is tariff barrier imposed by government on the commodities to ensure that imports in excessive quantities do not harm the domestic industry.

Bharti Airtel, India's largest carrier, received its payment bank licence from RBI that it had applied for in partnership with Kotak Mahindra Bank, a development that will help the companies reach out to more customers while advancing the government's financial inclusion drive, and generate additional revenue. Bharti Airtel and Kotak Mahindra had applied for the licence through its wholly owned subsidiary AMSL (Airtel M Commerce Services Limited), which launched Airtel Money back in 2011 and was the first mobile-based pre-paid payment instrument service in the country. Telcos like Bharti Airtel and Vodafone India diversifying into the payments banking business could significantly lower their subscriber churn as those opting for mobile money services are unlikely to leave in a hurry. For Kotak, the new payments bank will help it break new grounds among the unbanked and expand its reach in the huge rural market. Payments banks can, typically, accept deposits, convey remittances and make payments to recipients, making them ideal for migrant workers who often need to send cash home. They, however, cannot do any lending.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released first **Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement 2016-17**. One of the key announcements under the policy was reduction in the repo rate at which RBI lends to the financial system. Following are the highlights of RBI's first bi-monthly monetary policy statement, 2016-17:

- Repo rate cut by 0.25% to 6.50%
- Reverse repo hiked by 0.25% to 6%
- Cash reserve ratio or CRR unchanged at 4%
- Minimum daily cash maintenance by banks with RBI cut by 5%
- MSF rate cut by 0.75% to lower banks' borrowing cost
- Policy to remain accommodative going forward
- Pegs 2016-17 growth forecast at 7.6%
- Expects inflation at around 5%
- Cut in small savings rate, MCLR introduction to improve monetary policy transmission
- Government adhering to fiscal consolidation path will help lower inflation
- 7th Pay Commission award to put upward pressure of up to 1.5% on inflation
- Proposes custodian banks; banks focusing on wholesale and long term financing

India and Germany's Development Bank KfW signed an agreement to provide loan assistance of 500 million Euro (about 3750 crore rupees) for the modern and sustainable **metro system for Nagpur city**. This is the first German assistance to Metro project in the country.

Three months after the State Bank of India opened its first branch dedicated to serving the needs of start-ups in Bengaluru, private sector bank **RBL Bank (formerly Ratnakar Bank)**, launched an exclusive branch for start-ups in Koramangala. With this, RBL Bank becomes the first private sector bank to open a dedicated branch for start-ups. The branch will assist entrepreneurs in setting up new companies/enterprises and offer a host of banking products, including foreign exchange services, remittances, cash management and a range of value-added services through its affiliates and partners.

National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) announced that it collaborated with the German government for a special programme on 'soil protection and rehabilitation for food security'. As part of the

collaboration, Nabard is anchoring two major programmes—soil conservation and rehabilitation of degraded land for food security in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh and innovation of watershed development for rehabilitation of degraded soils and climate change adaptation in five states (Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan). The programme is part of the German government's recently introduced special initiative 'One World, No Hunger' on addressing the food security needs of countries. India is the only country in Asia chosen for this initiative.

India may surpass China this year in attracting foreign direct investment (FDI), as the gap in inflows between the two has been narrowing with the reforms being implemented by India, according to Japanese financial services firm Nomura. The trend of rising inflows to India and moderating inflows to China are likely driven by a mix of pull and push factors like divergent growth outlooks, ongoing FDI liberalisation and economic reforms in India, compared to rising labour costs in China, the report added. It also said rising FDI inflows not only provide a stable source of financing the current account deficit (CAD), but also bring in technical know-how, which can boost India's productivity growth in the near future.

The Department of Disinvestment has been renamed as Department of Investment and Public Asset Management or '**Dipam**', a decision aimed at proper management of Centre's investments in equity including its disinvestment in central public sector undertakings. The new department has been mandated to advise the government in the matters of financial restructuring of central public sector enterprises and for attracting investment through capital markets and will work under Finance Ministry.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to bring "**sugar**" under the purview of imposing stock holding limits on dealers of sugar, keeping in view the recent upward trend in sugar prices. The Government noticed that in spite of sufficient availability of sugar stocks with the Sugar Mills, the wholesale and retail prices showed a spurt.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for expansion of **India - Chile Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA)** between India and Chile. Under the proposed expanded PTA, 86% of India's exports to Chile will get covered with concessions, which is likely to result in doubling of our exports in the near future. Bilateral trade between India and Chile during 2014-15 stood at US \$ 3.65 billion with exports at US \$ 0.57 billion and imports at US\$ 3.08 billion respectively. India has friendly relations with Chile. Chile has been cooperating with India at the International fora and expansion of India Chile PTA will enhance the trade and economic relations between the two countries.

The central government set up a panel to suggest ways to **double farm incomes by 2022**, as promised by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The task of the inter-ministerial committee will be to prepare a blueprint to transition farm policies from being production oriented to based on incomes or value addition. The committee will look into ways to examine the potential of Indian agriculture and where investments are required, and will identify segments with potential for growth. The committee will be headed by Ashok Dalwai, Additional secretary at the Union Agriculture Ministry.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing the **Paris Agreement** adopted at the 21st Conference of Parties held in Paris in December 2015. The Paris Agreement on climate change is a milestone in global climate cooperation. It is meant to enhance the implementation of the Convention and recognizes the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances. The Paris Agreement acknowledges the development imperatives of developing countries. The Agreement recognizes the developing countries' right to development and their efforts to harmonize development with environment, while protecting the interests of the most vulnerable. India had advocated a strong and durable climate agreement based on the principles and provisions of the Convention. The Paris Agreement addresses all the important concerns and expectations of India.

India was ranked **133 out of 180 countries in the 2016 World Press Freedom Index** that was released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF). The index was topped by Finland followed by the Netherlands, Norway, Denmark and New Zealand at second, third, fourth and fifth position respectively. At the bottom of the index was Eritrea at 180th rank.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), Abu Dhabi** for mutual co-operation and technical assistance between the two regulators. The MoU will promote further development of economic links and cooperation between the two signatories and will help create conditions for development of securities markets in the two countries. It would also contribute towards strengthening the information sharing framework between the two regulators.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February, 2016 between **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of United Arab Emirates (UAE)** on co-operation concerning currency swap agreement. The MoU commits that RBI and Central Bank of UAE will consider signing a bilateral Currency Swap Agreement on mutually agreed terms and conditions, after undertaking technical deliberations, subject to the concurrence of respective Governments. The MoU will further strengthen the close economic relationship and cooperation between India and United Arab Emirates. The swap agreement is also expected to facilitate invoicing of bilateral trade in local currencies.

India and other 5 countries viz. Canada, Iceland, Israel, New Zealand and China signed OECD's (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement in Beijing (China). The multilateral agreement aims at boosting **automatic exchange of information on tax issues** and developing new tools to tackle the **tax evasion**.

Telecom service providers heaved a sigh of relief after the Supreme Court struck down a compensation policy for call drops levied by the **Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Trai)**. In October, Trai ordered operators to pay Re 1 for every call drop to the user, with a maximum of three per day. The regulation was to come into effect from January 1. It said telecom companies cannot be punished by Trai in the name of protecting consumer interests, and dismissed the conclusion that the firms alone were to blame for call drops and were thus deficient in service. Holding that Trai has failed to explain the reasons for fixing Rs one compensation for each call drop and a cap on three call drops per day, the court said the regulation is based on mere guess-work.

India is ranked **ninth in crony-capitalism** with crony sector wealth accounting for 3.4 per cent of the gross domestic product (GDP), according to a new study by The Economist. In India, the non-crony sector wealth amounts to 8.3 per cent of the GDP, as per the latest crony-capitalism index. In 2014 rankings too, India stood at the ninth place. Using data from a list of the world's billionaires and their worth published by Forbes, each individual is labelled as crony or not based on the source of their wealth. Germany is cleanest, where just a sliver of the country's billionaires derive their wealth from crony sectors. Russia fares worst in the index, wealth from the country's crony sectors amounts to 18 per cent of its GDP. Russia tops the list followed by Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore.

ICICI Bank launched the country's first contactless business credit card in association with Jet Airways for small and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) and their employees. Christened 'Jet Airways ICICI Bank Business Advantage Card', this co-branded credit card will help customers to save on their business expenses. It will also provide

customers opportunities to earn JPMiles on both spends as well as repayments of credit card on a list of business expense categories, including travel, dining, office stationery, online advertising and vendor payments.

The **Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)** signed an MoU with SAARC Development Fund (SDF) for mutual cooperation and collaboration. The MoU was signed by SIDBI Deputy Managing Director A K Kapur and SDF CEO Sunil Motiwal. The MoU envisages SDF and SIDBI to work together in co-funding of projects in Indian MSMEs on risk sharing basis in identified sectors. The MoU also focuses on the development of suitable financial products for SME financing for MSMEs of other Saarc states. The MoU further deals with technology transfer and making available software to MFIs regarding loan tracking systems in other SAARC states.

An **Electronic Maintenance Management System (e-MMS)**, hailed by the Indian Air Force as one of the biggest automated military maintenance systems in the world and an important milestone in IAF history, was inaugurated by the Chief of Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha at the Air Force Station in Pune. Though the project has several layers of operation, the IAF would opt for online management of its maintenance systems through a web-based application. The project would comprise configuration management systems, fleet planning and management, maintenance repair and an overhaul.

The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will shortly issue banknotes of Rs 1000 denominations with inset letter 'R' in both the number panels. The banknotes will also have on the obverse, all the other security features, including ascending size of numerals, bleed lines and enlarged identification mark. The banknotes bearing signature of RBI Governor Raghuram G Rajan, will also have the year of printing '2016' printed on the reverse.

Private sector lender **ICICI Bank** became the first financial institution in the country to tie up with the BRICS Grouping-promoted New Development Bank (NDB) for a partnership in bond issuances, co-financing, treasury management and human resources.

As part of the pact, the two lenders -- NDB's first president is **ICICI Bank veteran KV Kamath** -- will look at each other as "preferred partners". Kamath said NDB's mandate includes partnering with local development banks in member-countries and this MoU will help it leverage the deep market access and insight of ICICI Bank in the country's financial markets. The agreement will help NDB in exploring rupee-denominated bonds in the domestic and international markets and make both the lenders collaborate to fund development projects in the country. ICICI Bank and NDB will also leverage a mutually beneficial partnership in other areas such as treasury risk management, account and cash management services and human resource development. Headquartered in Shanghai, the NDB began operations with an initial capital of USD 100 billion last year as a multilateral development bank promoted by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for **National Capital Goods Policy**. This is first ever policy for Capital Goods sector with a clear objective of increasing production of capital goods from Rs.2,30,000 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.7,50,000 crore in 2025 and raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million. The policy envisages increasing exports from the current 27 percent to 40 percent of production. It will increase the share of domestic production in India's demand from 60 percent to 80 percent thus making India a net exporter of capital goods. The policy also aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs. The Policy will help in realising the vision of 'Building India as the World class hub for Capital Goods'. It will also play a pivotal role in overall manufacturing as the pillar of strength to the vision of 'Make in India'.

Top state-run lender **SBI proposed merger of** its five associate banks and newly created Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with itself and sought government's approval for the same -- a major bid to consolidate the public sector banking space. SBI is seeking "in principle sanction" of the Central Government to enter into negotiation with the subsidiary banks (State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore) and Bharatiya Mahila Bank Limited to acquire their businesses, including assets and liabilities.

Union Government gave its final approval for setting up of **National Investment & Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ)** in Kalinganagar, Odisha. Rs. 4241 Cr will be invested in the NIMZ. 1st phase to be completed by 2020 with an investment Rs. 3816 Cr. It will create employment opportunity for 1.5 lakh people and develop Odisha as a manufacturing hub.

Saudi Arabia's Islamic Development Bank (IDB) announced to open its first branch in India at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, as part of the MoU signed between IDB and India's EXIM Bank during Prime Minister Narendra Modi visit to United Arab Emirates (UAE) signed in April 2016.

The Government of India, the Government of Karnataka and the World Bank signed a US\$ 100 million loan agreement for the **Karnataka Urban Water Supply Modernization Project (KUWSMP)** to support the efforts of Hubballi-Dharwad, the second largest urban center in Karnataka, to become one of the first Indian cities to provide citywide, continuous, piped water supply to its residents. The project will help bring clean water to one million citizens of Hubballi-Dharwad, including 160,000 people who live in slums and currently depend upon public standposts or private vendors for water. The project will finance physical investments in the water supply system for the twin cities, and support city authorities in strengthening systems and procedures required to sustainably close the current water service delivery gaps.

The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi)** tightened norms for participatory notes (P-notes or PNs) as part of its efforts to curb money laundering through this route. The Sebi board approved the proposal to increase disclosure requirements for issuance of P-notes, which would enable the regulator to know the beneficial owners of these instruments at any point of time. P-notes are derivative instruments issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas investors to enable them to trade in Indian stocks without having to register with the regulator. At present, P-note subscribers are not required to take prior permission of the P-note issuer for transferring it to another investor offshore. This would enable the regulator to know the complete transfer trail of P-notes on a monthly basis. The regulator mandated all Pnote issuers to capture the details of all intermediate transfers during the month and report the same. The proposed changes come in the wake of the concerns raised by the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) on black money on the identification of beneficial owners and on the transferability of P-notes. The regulator also mandated that P-note issuers would have to follow the Indian know-your client (KYC) and anti- money laundering norms instead of the norms prevalent in the jurisdiction of the end beneficial owner or of the P-note issuer, an attempt to bring uniformity in KYC norms. Besides, Sebi said that P-note issuers would have to identify the beneficial owners in the subscriber entities, who hold in excess of the threshold that is 25 per cent in case of a company and 15 per cent in case of partnership firms and trusts.

The Income Tax department launched a special electronic grievance redressal system called '**e-nivaran**' in order to fast track taxpayer grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints. The facility acts to integrate all online and physical complaints gathered by the department at this platform which will be monitored by the Assessing Officer of the case upto the supervisory officers in a paperless environment.

Union Minister of Road Transport & Highways and Shipping Nitin Gadkari launched three initiatives for best practices in road transport sector. These three innovative IT initiatives are: INFRACON, ePACE and up-Scaled INAM PRO.

- ❖ **ePACE** (Projects Appraisal & Continuing Enhancements) is an online integrated Management Information System that brings projects from all wings of the Ministry under a common platform, ensuring their effective and real time tracking. More than 2000 projects being executed by multiple agencies are currently listed on the portal and it is possible to get any information about their real time status, fund utilization etc. The portal can be freely accessed by anybody, and information regarding projects in any particular state can be found at the click of a button. ePACE as a platform is amenable to be used for monitoring projects pertaining to any ministry in the country and can improve governance of such projects.
- ❖ **INFRACON** is the National Portal for Infrastructure Consultancy Firms and Key Personnel. This portal acts as a kind of bridge between consultancy firms working in the road engineering and construction sector and domain experts and key personnel who are deployed both for project preparation and supervision. The portal hosts the credentials of consultancy firms and key personnel and has linkages to Aadhar and Digi-locker for data validation and purity. 474 consultancy firms and 2387 key personnel under various categories are already registered with the portal.
- ❖ **INAM PRO** has been developed as a web-based application for Infrastructure and Material Providers. It is a kind of a web based market place that brings together the material providers and the prospective buyers on a common platform. The platform facilitates contractors and cement buyers engaged in executing central/state funded roads and highways and bridge construction projects to place cement orders online with the registered cement companies offering cement at competitive rates in the vicinity of project execution locations.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for setting up the **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** as a Public Limited Company under the Department of Posts, with 100% Government of India (GOI) equity. The total expenditure involved in this project is Rs 800 Crore. All citizens, especially 40% of the country's population that is outside the ambit of formal banking in the country will benefit from this project. The project will be rolled out in the entire country in a phased manner. The IPPB will obtain banking licence from RBI by March 2017 and by September 2017, its services will be available across the country through 650 payments bank branches, linked post offices and alternative channels riding on modern technology including mobiles, ATMs, PoS/ m-PoS devices etc and simple digital payments. The proposal will further the cause of financial inclusion by providing basic banking, payments and remittance services and facilitate financial services like insurance, mutual funds, pensions and access to credit in tie-up with third party financial providers with special focus on rural areas and the unbanked and under-banked segments. It will generate new employment opportunities for skilled banking professionals and will generate opportunities for propagating financial literacy across the country. It will create the largest bank in the world in terms of accessibility and in time, will encourage the move towards a less cash economy.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Qatar** for strengthening cooperation in the field of Tourism. The main objectives of the MoU are:

- a) To create favourable conditions for long-term co-operation in the field of tourism for the mutual benefits.

- b) To exchange expertise, publications, information/data and statistics related to tourism.
- c) To encourage cooperation through the exchange of programmes, propaganda and advertising materials, publications, films, promotion and marketing of their tourism products via media etc.
- d) To exchange visits of Tour Operators / Media /Opinion Makers for promotion of two way tourism.
- e) To encourage co-operation between tourism sectors, tour operators, travel agents and other tourism private sector's firms and bureaus in the two countries. Qatar is an emerging tourism source markets for India (India received approximately 6313 tourists from Qatar in 2015). Qatar is a potential market for India in terms of Medical tourism and provides vast opportunity for India in this field. The signing of MoU with Qatar will be instrumental in increasing arrival from this emerging source market.

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for the **Civil Aviation Policy**. This is the first time since Independence that an integrated Civil Aviation Policy has been brought out by the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The Policy aims at:

- ❖ India to become 3rd largest civil aviation market by 2022 from 9th
- ❖ Domestic ticketing to grow from 8 crore in 2015 to 30 crore by 2022
- ❖ Airports having scheduled commercial flights to increase from 77 in 2016 to 127 by 2019
- ❖ Cargo volumes to increase by 4 times to 10 million tonnes by 2027
- ❖ Taking flying to masses – Enabling Indians to fly at Rs. 2,500 per hour under Regional Connectivity Scheme at unserved airports
- ❖ Requirement of 5 years of domestic flying for starting international operations removed
- ❖ Flexible and liberalized 'open skies' and 'code share' agreements
- ❖ Incentives to MRO sector to develop as hub for South Asia
- ❖ Ensuring availability of quality certified 3.3 lakh skilled personnel by 2025
- ❖ Development of green-field airports and heliports
- ❖ Enhancing ease of doing business through deregulation, simplified procedures and e-governance
- ❖ Promoting 'Make In India' in Civil Aviation Sector

In order to further strengthen the lenders' ability to deal with stressed assets and to put real assets back on track by providing an avenue for reworking the financial structure of entities facing genuine difficulties, the Reserve Bank of India issued guidelines on a '**Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets**'. Resolution of large borrowal accounts which are facing severe financial difficulties may, inter-alia, require co-ordinated deep financial restructuring which often involves a substantial write-down of debt and/or making large provisions. Often such high write-downs act as a disincentive to lenders to effect a sustainable change in the liability structure of borrows facing stress. Accordingly, the Reserve Bank, after due consultation with lenders, has formulated the 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets' (S4A) as an optional framework for the resolution of large stressed accounts. The S4A envisages determination of the sustainable debt level for a stressed borrower, and

bifurcation of the outstanding debt into sustainable debt and equity/quasi-equity instruments which are expected to provide upside to the lenders when the borrower turns around.

Axis Bank raised \$500 million at the London Stock Exchange after it launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond to finance climate change solutions around the world. Axis Bank said the proceeds of the bond will be invested in green energy, transportation and infrastructure projects, reinforcing India's commitment to produce 175,000 MW of renewable power by 2022.

The RBI released its second **bi-monthly monetary policy** for year 2016-17. Following are the highlights:

- ❖ Repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent, Reverse Repo at 6% * Cash reserve ratio or CRR unchanged at 4%
- ❖ Monetary policy to remain accommodative
- ❖ Pegs growth forecast at 7.6% for the current fiscal
- ❖ Inflation target kept unchanged at 5% for January 2017 with upward bias
- ❖ Interest rate transmission critical for growth revival
- ❖ Timely capital infusion in PSU banks to aid credit flow
- ❖ Public investment gaining strength, continuing weakness in private investment is a concern.

The **New Development Bank** of the BRICS countries is set to issue its first yuan-denominated bonds with plans to release more bonds in local currencies including in Indian Rupee. The Shanghai-based bank founded by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and headed by eminent Indian banker M V Kamath plans to finance sustainable development projects in the emerging markets and developing countries. The bank's first five-year yuan-denominated bonds, also referred as green bonds, will be issued after receiving a rating from international ratings agencies as well as getting authorities' approval.

India surpassed Japan to become the **world's third-largest oil consumer**, with its oil demand galloping 8.1% in 2015, according to BP Statistical Review of World Energy. With demand of 4.1 million barrels per day, India is the third-largest consumer behind US (19.39 million bpd) and China (11.96 million bpd). India accounted for 4.5% of world oil consumption in 2015. India's demand growth surpassed China's 6.3% expansion. US oil consumption grew 1.6%, which accounts for 19.7% of the total world pie of 95 million bpd in 2015. The review shows that global demand for primary energy grew only 1% in 2015, which is significantly slower than the 10-year average.

The World Bank in its report on **global economic prospects** has cut global growth forecast to 2.4% in 2016 and at 2.8% in 2017. The growth rate was lower than its earlier forecast of 2.9% and 3.1% respectively, mainly on account of a slower than expected recovery in advanced economies. According to the report, developing economies are forecast to expand by 3.5 per cent in 2016, 0.6 percentage point lower than its January's projection; advanced economies are expected to grow 1.7 per cent this year, 0.5 lower than its January's forecast.

Telangana government ordered to set up a Pharma City on 12500 acres of land in the districts of Rangareddy and Mahabubnagar.

The Union Cabinet approved the establishment of "**Fund of Funds for Startups**" (FFS) at Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) for contribution to various Alternative Investment Funds (AIF), registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) which would extend funding support to Startups. This is in line with the Start up India Action Plan unveiled by Government in January 2016. The corpus of FFS is Rs.10,000 crore which shall be built up over the 14th and 15th Finance Commission cycles subject to progress of the scheme and availability of funds. An amount of Rs.500 crore has already been provided to the corpus of FFS in 2015-16 and Rs.600 crore earmarked in the 2016-17. The Fund is expected to generate employment for 18 lakh persons on full deployment.

Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia and Tajikistan will get the first set of loans totaling \$509 million from China sponsored **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** in which India is a founding member. The Beijing based AIIB will disburse \$509 million to finance four projects in the four countries.

- ❖ Bangladesh: US 165 million dollars loan for a Power Distribution System Upgrade and Expansion Project.
- ❖ Indonesia: US 216.5 million dollars loan for a National Slum Upgrading Project. It is expected to be co-financed with the World Bank.
- ❖ Pakistan: US 100 million dollars loan for Shorkot-Khanewal Section of National Motorway M-4. It will be co-financed with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID).
- ❖ Tajikistan: US 27.5 million dollars loan for the Dushanbe-Uzbekistan Border Road Improvement Project. It will be co-financed with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

India is the second largest shareholder in the bank after China. The bank, which supports infrastructure development and regional connectivity in Asia, is targeting lending of approximately \$1.2 billion in 2016.

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

To support start-ups in the financial technology (fintech) space, **State Bank of India** set up a Rs 200-crore fund, named 'IT Innovation Start -up Fund'. It will consider assistance of up to Rs 3 crore to a company registered in India for promoting their business innovations using information technology for banking and related activities.

The Union Cabinet approved the **merger of five associate banks** — State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Mysore and State Bank of Hyderabad as well as Bharatiya Mahila Bank with State Bank of India. The merger will create Rs 37-lakh crore banking behemoth with over 50 crore customers and will increase SBI's market share from present 17% to 22.5-23%.

Britain voted to leave the European Union to take greater control of its economy and its borders, shattering the stability of the continental unity forged after World War II. The decision launches what will be years of negotiations over trade, business and political links with the E.U., which will shrink to a 27-nation bloc. The U.K. is the first major country to decide to leave the bloc, which evolved from the ashes of the war as the region's leaders sought to build links and avert future hostility. UK's exit from the EU will affect the flow of FDI (Foreign Direct

Investment) in India over the short-medium term and the long term periods. In short-medium term period FDI may decrease temporarily and potentially led to financial instability and a legal regime overhaul. In the long-term FDI may fall. Many Indian information technology (IT) companies based in the UK with large work forces that offer services to Europe Union member countries will be hit.

The government announced, what it termed, a “**radical liberalisation**” of the **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** regime by easing norms for a host of important sectors including defence, civil aviation and pharmaceuticals, opening them up for complete foreign ownership.

- ❖ The decision on FDI reforms also included paving the way for companies such as Apple Inc to immediately set shop in India. However, the government has tightened rules for such companies producing items with cutting-edge and state-of-art technology -- by giving them only a three-year blanket exemption from the 30 per cent local sourcing norm over and above the five years where the 30 per cent procurement requirement would have to be met as an average of five years’ total value of the goods purchased. This is to ensure that they manufacture in India rather than making profits through just trading activities.
- ❖ In defence, foreign investment beyond 49 per cent (and upto 100 per cent) has been permitted through the government approval route, in cases resulting in access to modern technology in the country. The condition of access to ‘state-of-art’ technology in the country has been done away with, as many foreign investors had complained about the ambiguity regarding that term.
- ❖ The decisions included permitting 100 per cent FDI under government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufactured or produced in India, bringing into effect the proposal made in the Budget 2016-17.
- ❖ To promote the development of pharmaceutical sector, the government has permitted up to 74 per cent FDI under automatic route in existing pharmaceutical ventures. It added that the government approval route will continue beyond 74 per cent FDI and upto 100 per cent in such brown-field pharma.
- ❖ The government has permitted 100 per cent FDI in India-based airlines. However, a foreign carrier can only own upto 49 per cent stake in the venture, and the rest can come from a private investors including those based overseas. This is expected to bring in more funds into domestic airlines. To boost airport development and modernisation, 100 per cent FDI in existing airport projects has been allowed without government permission, from 74 per cent permitted so far. The move comes close on the heels of the new civil aviation policy that relaxed norms for domestic carriers to fly abroad.

India and South Korea launched a platform “**Korea Plus**” to promote and facilitate investments from the east Asian country. It is a special initiative to promote and facilitate Korean investments in India. Korea Plus comprises a representative each from the South Korean ministry of industry, trade and energy and korea trade investment and promotion agency (KOTRA). Besides, it includes three officials from Invest India. The mandate of Korea Plus covers the entire investment spectrum including supporting Korean enterprises entering the Indian market for the first time, looking into issues faced by Korean companies doing business in India and policy advocacy to the Indian government on their behalf.

CSIR - Centre Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CSIR-CIMFR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Coal Supplying companies and Power Utilities for quality analysis of coal being supplied to power utilities by coal companies. The collaboration will enhance energy efficient use of coal by power sector. As a part of this MoU, CSIR-CIMFR would make use of its knowledge based support in maintaining the quality of coal at national level for the entire power sector. It is estimated that about 300 million metric tons of coal samples would be analyzed for quality per year. The contract value of the project is around Rs 250 crore per annum at minimum.

The Reserve Bank of India announced the **"Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018"**. The Vision-2018 aims at building best of class payment and settlement systems for a 'less-cash' India. The broad contours of Vision-2018 revolve around 5 Cs – coverage, convenience, confidence, convergence and cost. To achieve these, Vision-2018 will focus on four strategic initiatives such as responsive regulation, robust infrastructure, effective supervision and customer centricity. With increasing use of technology-based innovative payment products, the strategic initiatives under Vision-2018 are expected to reduce paper-based instruments significantly and lead to accelerated growth in mobile banking and other modes of electronic payments.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Rs. 7290.62 crore for the ongoing 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in **Bhutan**. The total cost escalation for the project, at this stage, is Rs.3512.82 crore. The Project will provide surplus power to India and thus augment power availability in the country and would enable project works to proceed smoothly without interruption.

The Union Cabinet approved a long-term contract by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Mozambique** for import of pulses either through the private channels or Government-to-Government (G2G) sales through State Agencies nominated by the two countries. The MoU aims at promoting the production of Pigeon Peas/Tur and other pulses in Mozambique by encouraging progressive increase in the trading of these pulses. The MOU includes targets for exports of Tur and other pulses from Mozambique to India for five financial years and aims at doubling the trade from 100,000 tonnes in 2016-17 to 200,000 tonnes in 2020-21. The MoU will augment domestic availability of pulses in India and thereby stabilise its prices.

The Union Cabinet gave its 'in-principle' approval for setting up a Major port at Enayam near Colachel in **Tamil Nadu**. At present, there are only a few ports in India that have sufficient draft and can match global cargo handling efficiencies. Currently, all of India's trans-shipment traffic gets handled in Colombo, Singapore and other international ports. Indian port industry loses out upto Rs 1,500 Crores of revenues each year. Establishing this Major port at Enayam will not only act as a major gateway container port for Indian cargo that is presently trans-shipped outside the country, but also become a trans-shipment hub for the global East-West trade route. Enayam will also reduce the logistics cost for exporters and importers in South India who currently depend on trans-shipment in Colombo or other ports thus incurring additional port handling charges.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Mozambique** on Drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and related matters. The MoU is aimed to enhance mutual cooperation between the two countries in combating illicit trafficking in Narcotic drugs, Psychotropic substances and their precursors through exchange of information, expertise and capacity building.

State Bank of India (SBI) and the World Bank inked agreements for a \$625 million (around Rs 4,200 crore) facility to support grid-connected rooftop solar programme (GRPV) in the country. This will help SBI in financing GRPV projects at competitive rates, and will catalyse the market and support the government to faster achieve its

target to generate 40 gigawatt (Gw) of electricity from the widespread installation of rooftop solar photo-voltaic panels. The eligible beneficiaries under the facility would be developers, aggregators and end-users, who wish to set up solar PV projects, mainly on commercial, industrial and institutional rooftops. Through this initiative, at least 400 megawatt (Mw) solar capacity will be created across the country.

Energy-to-telecom conglomerate **Reliance Industries** and India's largest lender SBI signed shareholders agreements to set up small deposit-taking institutions, called payments bank. RIL-SBI combine was among the 11 entities that were in August last year given licence by the RBI to start a payments bank. Payments banks can accept deposits (initially up to Rs 1 lakh per individual), offer Internet banking, facilitate money transfers and sell insurance and mutual funds by piggy-backing on existing retail or other networks. Besides, they can issue ATM/debit cards, but not credit cards. However, they are not allowed to lend. Instead, they must invest 75 per cent of deposits in short-term government bonds and provide a physical network of access points, one quarter of which must be in rural areas.

The Reserve Bank of India set up an inter-regulatory Working Group to study the entire gamut of regulatory issues relating to **Financial Technology and Digital Banking in India**. The Working Group has been set up in view of the growing significance of Fintech innovations, and their interactions with the financial sector as well as financial sector entities. The Group will review and appropriately reorient the regulatory framework, and respond to the dynamics of the rapidly evolving Fintech scenario. The Working Group is headed by Sudarshan Sen, Executive Director of RBI, and has 12 members

India improved its ranking in the World Bank Group's bi-annual "**Logistics Performance Index 2016**", jumping from 54th in 2014 to 35th in 2016. In the latest ranking, India jumped 19 positions and went past countries like New Zealand, Thailand, Saudi Arabia, Iceland, Latvia and Indonesia who were ahead of it in the index. The World Bank studies policy regulation as well as supply chain performance outcomes across six sub-indices of the Logistics Performance Index and ranks countries based on their performance in all the indices. It is a perception survey based on the feedback of operators on the ground as they are the people who can best assess the aspects of logistics performance. Among the six sub-indices of the Logistics Performance Index, India improved the most on "the efficiency of customs and border management clearance", jumping from 65 in 2014 to 38 in 2016.

India was ranked low at 105th position globally on a worldwide **Human Capital Index** released by Geneva-based World Economic Forum (WEF), which measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth and was topped by Finland. India was much below China's 71st position while Bangladesh, Bhutan and Sri Lanka were also placed higher on the index. Pakistan ranked further lower at 118th place. Giving India 105th rank out of the total 130 countries included in the index, WEF said the country optimised just 57 per cent of its human capital endowment. India was ranked 100th last year out of total 124 countries included in the 2015 index. On positive side, India got better rankings on quality of education system (39th), staff training (46th) and ease of finding skilled employees (45th) indicators. The report also showed that India had the largest share in the "global distribution of tertiary degree holders" at nearly 78 million while it was second largest after China on global distribution of recent graduates in STEM subjects (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) at about 2.5 million. Finland, Norway and Switzerland held the top three positions, utilizing around 85 per cent of their human capital.

India set up an apparel training centre in **Kaduna, Nigeria** to support textiles industry of the West African country. This is a first of its kind centre in Nigeria which has been set up by India in partnership with their government.

In the **Networked Readiness Index 2016**, India was ranked at the 91st position out of 139 countries. The ranking came as a shock because the flagship project Digital India had supposedly raised the digital drive of the country. Singapore topped the rankings followed by Finland and Sweden. Among BRICS (association of five major emerging national economies), Russia was ranked the highest and India was ranked the lowest. Comparing India's position last year with this year's, India came down for the fourth consecutive year in a row. It was ranked 89th in 2015, 83rd in 2014 and 68th in 2013. Networked Readiness Index (NRI) or Technology Readiness is released by World Economic Forum annually as a part of Global Information Technology Report (GITR). The index basically measures the impact of information and communication technology (ICT) on a country and also calculates how much a country has used the ICT to grow.

The State Bank of India (SBI) signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE) at **IIT Bombay** to promote innovation by start-ups in the financial sector.

India and South Africa inked three Memoranda of Understanding and one Programme of Cooperation to take their "partnership in progress" one more step forward. The three Memoranda of Understanding are in the fields of ICT (Information and Communications Technology); Tourism and Grassroots Innovation in Science and Technology (S & T).

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for raising foreign shareholding limit from **5% to 15%** in Indian Stock Exchanges for a stock exchange, a depository, a banking company, an insurance company, a commodity derivative exchange. The Cabinet also approved the proposal to allow foreign portfolio investors to acquire shares through initial allotment, besides secondary market, in the stock exchanges. The move will help in enhancing global competitiveness of Indian stock exchanges by accelerating/facilitating the adoption of latest technology and global best practices which will lead to overall growth and development of the Indian Capital Market.

The Union Cabinet approved abolition of existing "**Guidelines for establishing Joint Venture Companies by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs)**". These guidelines which were notified in February, 2012 will not be required for separate JV by the DPSUs. The Guidelines issued by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) and Ministry of Finance (MoF) from time to time, which are uniformly applicable to all Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) will be applicable for the DPSUs to set up JV companies now. This will meet the goal of indigenization / self-reliance in this sector. The abolition of the existing JV Guidelines will provide a level playing field between DPSUs and the private sector. It will allow DPSUs to forge partnerships in an innovative manner enhancing self-reliance in defence and provide for enhanced accountability / autonomy of DPSUs in ensuring that the process of JV formation is effectively managed by them, so as to secure best outcomes in the interest of national security.

The Union Cabinet chaired approved Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between **India and Cambodia**. The Treaty seeks to promote and protect investments from either country in the territory of the other country with the objective of increasing bilateral investment flows. The Treaty encourages each country to create favourable conditions for investors of the other country to make investments in its territory and to admit investments in accordance with its laws.

The Government of India announced that the amount estimated for implementing **National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP)** in the next five years is about Rs.2116 crore. This is proposed to be funded from the regular annual budget of the Geological Survey of India, an attached office of Ministry of Mines, and additional grants including funds from National Mineral Exploration Trust and budgetary support by the Central Government.

Central bank governors and finance heads from the **G20 group** of some of the world's biggest economies ended a two-day meeting in China with a fresh pledge to use "all policy tools" to promote growth. They pledged to try to boost global economic growth and confront uncertainty about protectionism in the wake of the UK's referendum vote to leave the European Union.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the installation of **Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPS)** of 1980 MW capacity through a Joint Venture Company, Neyveli Uttar Pradesh Power Limited (NUPPL). The project will be implemented at an estimated cost of 17237.8 crore rupees.

The **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)** signed seven Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers, pertaining to various sectors of economy like banking, Information Technology and Automotives.

The Union Cabinet approved the **Policy for award of waterfront and associated land** to port dependent industries in major ports and its operationalization. The Policy will result in uniformity and transparency in the procedure for awarding captive facilities. It will enable optimal utilization of capacities in major ports and increase revenue to the Major Port Authority. The ambit of the Policy includes creation of new assets as well as utilization of currently unutilized existing assets such as vacant berths. The Policy will be applicable to all the Major Ports.

India was ranked at a low **110 of 149 nations** with regard to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, according to a new index topped by Sweden that shows all countries face major challenges in achieving these ambitious goals. The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and the Bertelsmann Stiftung launched a new Sustainable Development Goal Index and Dashboard to provide a report card for tracking Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) progress and ensuring accountability. The index collected available data for 149 countries to assess where each country stands in 2016 with regard to achieving the SDGs. It ranks countries based on their performance across the 17 global goals, a set of ambitious objectives across the three dimensions of sustainable development economic development, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, underpinned by good governance.

Consequent to India's ratification of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation(TFA) in April 2016, the **National Committee on Trade Facilitation(NCTF)** has been constituted. The establishment of the Committee is part of the mandatory, institutional arrangement of the TFA. This prime, inter - ministerial body on trade facilitation will be chaired by the Cabinet Secretary. The defined objective behind setting up the NCTF is to have a national level body that will facilitate domestic co-ordination and implementation of TFA provisions. It will play the lead role in developing the pan-India road map for trade facilitation. It will be instrumental in synergizing the various trade facilitation perspectives across the country and will also focus on an outreach programme for sensitization of all stakeholders about TFA.

The government announced to set up a committee to look into all issues including foreign direct investment norms pertaining to the fast growing **e-commerce industry** in the country. The committee would suggest ways to further promote the growth of the sector. The committee will be headed by the NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant. The other members in the panel includes officials from commerce and industry ministry and department of electronics and IT among others.

In a move that would reduce litigation in cases of disputes arising over compensation to workers, the Lok Sabha passed the **Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2016** that would raise the cap on amount of compensation to be taken up by high courts. Section 30 of the Employees' Compensation Act 1923 provides for appeal in high courts whenever the disputed amount of compensation is more than Rs 300. The bill seeks to raise

this to Rs 10,000, which may be further increased through a notification later. The bill also provides for increase in penalty for contravention of the Act to Rs 50,000 from the current Rs 5000 that may be later raised to Rs 1 lakh.

The Parliament passed **The Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014** after it was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha by approving all the amendments made by Rajya Sabha earlier. The bill now will go to states (15 out of total 29 states) for approval.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to amend regulation for foreign investment in the **Non- Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)**. The amendment in the existing Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by the Person Resident Outside India) regulations on Non- Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs) will enable inflow of foreign investment in "Other Financial Services" on automatic route provided such services are regulated by any financial sector regulators (RBI, SEBI, PFRDA etc.) / Government Agencies. Foreign investment in "Other Financial Services", which are not regulated by any regulators / Government Agency, can be made on approval route.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement between **India and Croatia** on Economic Cooperation. India and Croatia had earlier signed an Agreement on trade and economic cooperation in September, 1994 with an aim to promote and develop bilateral trade and economic relations. Signing of the new Agreement between India and Croatia would be a step in continuity as the existing Agreement expired in November, 2009. India's bilateral trade with Croatia during 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15 were US\$ 152.01million, US\$ 148.86 million and US\$ 205.04 million respectively. The average bilateral trade growth was 17.44% during the last three years.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of new Air Services Agreement (ASA) between **India and Lao** People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR). The Agreement is expected to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries bringing it in tune with the developments in the civil aviation sector.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up a committee to look at the various facets of **household finance in India** and to benchmark the country's position vis-à-vis both peer countries and advanced countries. The committee will benchmark the current depth of household financial markets in India vis-a-vis those in other major world markets and identify areas of priority for growth and change and characterise and evaluate households' demands in financial markets for assets such as pensions as well as liabilities such as home loans over the coming decade. The panel will consider whether, how, and why the financial allocations of Indian households deviate from desirable financial allocation and behaviour, such as why a large portion of household allocation goes to gold. The committee will evaluate the design of new systems and the redesign of existing systems of incentives and regulations to encourage and enable better participation by Indian households in formal financial markets. The committee will be chaired by **Tarun Ramadorai**, professor of Financial Economics, University of Oxford, and will have representation from all financial sector regulators in India.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) launched **Sachet portal**, sachet.rbi.org.in, to check illegal money collection. The portal will help anyone can obtain information regarding entities that are allowed to accept deposits, lodge complaints and share information regarding illegal acceptance of deposits by unscrupulous entities.

The Union Cabinet approved the exchange of tariff concessions, on Margin of Preference (MoP) basis, under the Fourth Round of Negotiations under the **Asia Pacific Trade Agreement** and related amendments. The Asia Pacific Trade Agreement or APTA (formerly the Bangkok Agreement) is an initiative under the United Nations

Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP) for trade expansion through exchange of tariff concessions among developing country members of the Asia Pacific Region. The current membership of APTA consists of six countries or Participating States (PSs), namely, Bangladesh, China, India, Lao PDR, Republic of Korea, and Sri Lanka. Since this is a preferential trade agreement, the basket of items as well as extent of tariff concessions are enlarged during the trade negotiating rounds which are launched from time to time. The Cabinet approved India's offer 28.01% of dutiable national tariff lines with an average MoP of 33.45%. This will deepen the concessions being offered under this Agreement.

The Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-second Amendment) Bill, 2016, for introduction of Goods and Services tax in the country was accorded assent by the President on 8th September, 2016, and the same has been notified as the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. The Union Cabinet approved setting up of GST Council and setting up its Secretariat. The Cabinet also decided to provide for adequate funds for meeting the recurring and non-recurring expenses of the GST Council Secretariat, the entire cost for which shall be borne by the Central Government. The GST Council Secretariat shall be manned by officers taken on deputation from both the Central and State Governments.

The Union Cabinet approved the creation of the **Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA)** to give a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions. The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorised capital of Rs.2,000 crore. The Government equity would be Rs.1,000 crore. The HEFA would be formed as a SPV within a PSU Bank/ Government-owned-NBFC (Promoter). It would leverage the equity to raise up to Rs. 20,000 crore for funding projects for infrastructure and development of world class Labs in IITs/IIMs/NITs and such other institutions. The HEFA would also mobilise CSR funds from PSUs/Corporates, which would in turn be released for promoting research and innovation in these institutions on grant basis.

The Union Government issued fresh flexi-fund guidelines for **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)**. The guidelines would give more freedom to states in spending money under the CSS to meet local developmental requirements. Under the new norms, flexi-funds in each CSS have been increased from the current 10 percent to 25 percent for states and 30 percent for Union Territories. Now, the states can use the fund to undertake mitigation or restoration activities in case of natural calamities, or to satisfy local requirements in areas affected by internal security disturbances. The guidelines said that state governments will have to constitute a state-level sanctioning committee to avail of the flexi-fund facility. The flexi-fund facility is not for CSS which emanate from legislation, like MNREGA. Based on the recommendations of the sub-group of chief ministers and consultations with stakeholders, Niti Aayog had issued instructions for rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The Income Tax department launched a special electronic grievance redressal system called '**e-nivaran**' in order to fast track taxpayer grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints. It acts to integrate all online and physical complaints gathered by the department at this platform which will be monitored by the Assessing Officer of the case upto the supervisory officers in a paperless environment.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **cancelled the certificate** of registration of five non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), thus disabling them from transacting the business of a non-banking financial institution. These companies are : M/s Simco Consultants Pvt. Ltd., M/s Lunkad Securities Ltd, M/s Rajvir Marketing and Investment Pvt. Ltd. , M/s Crystal Investments Limited and M/s Shri Jaya Investments Agency Limited.

The Ministry of Railways rolled out its **insurance scheme for passengers**, under which they can buy a premium of 92 paise while booking a ticket to get an insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakh. The new facility will be available

to all passengers, excluding those travelling by suburban trains, while booking online irrespective of the class. For the time being only those booking e-tickets will be able to avail of it. The cover will not be applicable for children upto 5 years of age and foreign citizens. It will be for passengers holding tickets such as confirmed, RAC and wait-listed.

To protect consumers from **Ponzi frauds**, the Centre issued model guidelines for states to regulate direct selling and multi-level marketing businesses while prohibiting pyramid structures as well as money circulation schemes. In the guidelines, the government has clearly defined legitimate direct selling and differentiates it from pyramid and money circulation schemes to help investigating agencies identify fraudulent players.

Canada's British Columbia became the first foreign government issuer of masala bonds, with the province successfully raising Rs.5 billion through a rupee-denominated bond on the London Stock Exchange. Masala Bonds are rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers, aimed at investments into India's infra needs.

India inked on a preliminary pact with Greece for **bilateral Air Services Agreement** (under the 'open sky' policy) that proposes to allow unlimited points of call for domestic airlines in the European nation. Seeking to improve international air connectivity for Indian carriers, the government has been entering into air services pacts with many countries besides making efforts to re-negotiate existing agreements.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to ratify the **Paris Agreement (on Climate Change)** on 2nd October 2016, the day of Gandhi Jayanti. Paris Agreement was adopted by 185 nations last year on 12th December 2015 and India signed the Paris Agreement in New York early this year on 22nd April 2016. A total of 191 countries have signed to the Paris Agreement so far. As per the provisions of the Paris Agreement, the treaty will come into force as and when 55 countries contributing to 55 % of total global emission ratify the agreement. So far, 61 countries have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance or approval accounting in total for 47.79% of the total global greenhouse gas emissions. India's decision to ratify the agreement will take the number of cumulative level of emission of countries that have ratified the agreement so far to 51.89%. With the gathering momentum and willingness expressed by several other countries to ratify the agreement before the end of this year, it is expected that the Agreement will enter into force soon and give a thrust to the global actions to address climate change. With its decision to ratify the Agreement, India will be one of the key countries that will be instrumental in bringing the Paris Agreement into force. Given the critical role that India played in securing international consensus on Paris Agreement, today's decision will further underline India's responsive leadership in the community of nations committed to global cause of environmental protection and climate justice.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the field of **Industrial Property Cooperation** between Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), Ministry of Law, Government of Singapore. The MoU will enhance bilateral cooperation activities in the arena of Industrial Property Rights of Patents, Trademarks and Industrial Designs. It is intended to give a boost to innovation, creativity and technological advancement in both regions.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for closure of **Hindustan Cables Limited (HCL), Kolkata**. HCL was established in the year 1952 to cater to the needs of Government-owned telecom companies BSNL and MTNL for manufacture of telecom cables. The company is a BIFR referred company since 2002.

The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its approval for signing and ratification of Agreement between **India and Samoa** for the exchange of information with respect to Taxes. The

Agreement will stimulate the flow of exchange of information between India and Samoa for tax purposes which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance. There is no financial implications at present. Only in the event of extraordinary costs exceeding USD 500, the same will be borne by India. India has similar provisions in other such tax information exchange agreement.

The Union Cabinet approved the proposals of Ministry of Finance on certain landmark budgetary reforms relating to (i) the merger of Railway budget with the General budget, (ii) the advancement of the date of Budget presentation from the last day of February and (iii) the merger of the Plan and the Non-Plan classification in the Budget and Accounts. All these changes will be put into effect simultaneously from the **Budget 2017-18**.

The Union Cabinet, gave its approval for provision of a **direct communication link** through a dedicated submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Mainland (Chennai) and Port Blair & five other islands viz. Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Havelock, Kamorta and Great Nicobar. The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 1102.38 crore including operational expenses for 5 years. The project is likely to be completed by December 2018. The approval would equip Andaman & Nicobar Islands (ANI) with appropriate bandwidth and telecom connectivity for implementation of e-Governance initiatives; establishment of enterprises & e-commerce facilities. It will also enable the provision of adequate support to educational institutes for knowledge sharing, availability of job opportunities and fulfill the vision of Digital India.

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to extend subsidy support of Rs. 1,250 crore to **Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)** from Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF), as compensation for deficit incurred by BSNL in operating the Rural Wire-line connections installed prior to 1st April, 2002.

The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) was amended by the Finance Act, 2016, to provide for a statutory and institutionalised framework for a Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), for maintaining price stability, while keeping in mind the objective of growth. The Monetary Policy Committee would be entrusted with the task of fixing the benchmark policy rate (repo rate) required to contain inflation within the specified target level. A Committee-based approach for determining the Monetary Policy will add lot of value and transparency to monetary policy decisions. Composition of MPC :

- ❖ **Urjit Patel:** RBI Governor (Chairperson).
- ❖ **R Gandhi:** Deputy Governor RBI in charge of Monetary Policy (Member).
- ❖ **Michael Patra:** Executive Director of RBI (Member).
- ❖ **Chetan Ghate:** Professor, Indian Statistical Institute (ISI) (Member).
- ❖ **Professor Pami Dua:** Director, Delhi School of Economics (DSE) (Member).
- ❖ **Ravindra H. Dholakia:** Professor Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad (Member).

India jumped 16 ranks to settle at the **39th spot on the global competitiveness index** prepared by the World Economic Forum, that lists 138 countries. This is the second year in a row that India has jumped 16 spots. In the year 2015-16, India was ranked at the 55th place. The WEF ranking comes in as a major boost for Prime Minister Narendra Modi given his repeated push for economic reforms in the country. Switzerland was ranked as number one followed by, Singapore (2nd), United States (3rd), Netherlands (4th) and Germany (5th).

India slipped by 10 positions and ranked **112th amongst 159 countries** and territories included in the Economic Freedom of the World: 2016 Annual Report, released worldwide by Centre for Civil Society in conjunction with Canada's Fraser Institute. Neighboring countries- Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka ranked 78th, 108th and 111th respectively in the report gaining an edge over India. On the other hand, China, Bangladesh and Pakistan staggeringly lagged behind India positioned at 113th, 121st and 133th ranks respectively. Hong Kong again emerged at the first position this year.

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on General Cooperation with New Development Bank (NDB) through the **BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism** by Government of India. The proposal will enhance trade and economic relations among the BRICS countries. There is no financial implication involved with signing of the MoU. The participating institutions from the BRICS nations will be benefitted by this MoU (five banks from the BRIC nations had established the BRICS Interbank Co-operation Mechanism to enhance trade and economic relations amongst the BRIC countries, and enterprises).

The Finance Ministry set up a **Public Debt Management Cell (PDMC)** with a view to streamline government borrowings and better cash management with the overall objective of deepening bond markets. The PDMC, to be housed at the RBI's Delhi office, is an interim arrangement and will be upgraded to a statutory Public Debt Management Agency (PDMA) in "about two years". The interim arrangement will allow separation of debt management functions from RBI to PDMA in a gradual and seamless manner, without causing market disruptions.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the entities that had been granted a **payments bank (PB)** licence would need to take specific approval for the products they would be offering to customers. Banks do not need to take prior RBI approval to launch products but prepaid payment instruments issuers need to take such approval to offer payments products. Payments banks are not allowed to lend. Their main mandate is to offer remittance services. They can also offer simple financial products like insurance and mutual funds. The regulator also mandated that an employee of the PB should be available for sufficient duration, at a fixed location known to the customers at the district level, to attend to customer grievances and support agent supervision. This fixed location will be considered while assessing the requirement of opening at least 25 per cent physical access points in rural centres, In the operational guidelines on small finance banks, the RBI clarified such entities are required to have 25 per cent of their branches in un-banked rural centres within one year from the date of commencement of operations. Both payments banks and small finance banks have been allowed electronic authentication and confirmation for opening accounts and wet signatures have not been made mandatory. RBI had granted in-principle licences to 11 payments banks and 10 small finance banks last year.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **cut repo rate by 25 bps** to 6.25 per cent. Reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent. In its policy statement, the central bank said that the decision of the monetary policy committee was consistent with the accommodative stance of the monetary policy. Retail inflation is expected to be 5 per cent by March 2017 with upside risk.

In order to boost rural economy by utilising bio-resources, a **National Mission on Bioeconomy was launched in Shillong** by the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) under the Ministry of Science and Technology. The mission is unique to south-east Asia and India has become one of the few countries to have tapped bio-resources, which when optimally utilized can create a large number of jobs at village level. The mission focuses on sustainable utilization of renewable biological resources for food, bio-based products and bio-energy through knowledge-based approaches. The latest estimate pegs India's fast-growing bioeconomy at USD 35 billion in 2015, which can even rise to USD 100 billion.

An internal working group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed to **relax bank branch norms** by suggesting that branches, including those manned by business correspondents that provide minimum 4 hours of service for 5 days a week, be allowed to be treated as a full-service branch. The panel, recommended that for banks to open such outlets they should meet the 25 per cent norm of opening banking outlets in un-banked rural centres. It has redefined the un-banked rural centre (URC) as a "rural (tier 5 and 6) centre that does not have a core banking solution-enabled 'banking outlet.'

State Bank of India (SBI) announced the opening up its **foreign branch in Yangon**, the capital city of Myanmar, thus becoming the first domestic bank of India to open a branch in Myanmar. The Yangon branch is the 54th foreign branch of the SBI.

Oil India Limited (OIL), an Upstream Oil & Gas PSU, with intent of augmenting its reserves base and maximising recovery from its aging oilfields, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Houston(USA), one of the leading universities on oil and gas of the world.

The Arab League chose former Egyptian foreign minister **Ahmed Aboul Gheit** as its new secretary-general. Aboul Gheit served as Egypt's foreign minister during the final seven years of Hosni Mubarak's rule, leaving his post in 2011, following the mass protests that toppled the aging ruler. The Arab League is a regional organization of Arab countries in and around North Africa, the Horn of Africa and Arabia. The 22-member organization voted unanimously in favor of Aboul Gheit after much debate. He will replace Nabil El-Araby, who served as Egypt's foreign minister under a transitional government formed after the 2011 uprising.

Anita Brookner, the Booker prize-winning British author and renowned art historian, died at the age of 87. She won the Booker in 1984 for her novel *Hotel du Lac*, one of 24 novels she wrote after a distinguished career as an art historian.

Vice Admiral **Atul Kumar Jain** took over as the Chief of Staff of the Visakhapatnam headquartered Eastern Naval Command.

Noted Indian scholar and plant physiologist **H Deep Saini** (60) was appointed as the fifth Vice Chancellor of the prestigious University of Canberra, Australia.

Myanmar's parliament elected **Htin Kyaw** as the country's next president, the first civilian leader after more than 50 years of military rule. Htin Kyaw is a close ally of Aung San Suu Kyi, whose National League for Democracy (NLD) party swept to victory in historic elections in November. He will replace Thein Sein as President who will step down at the end of March 2016 i.e. after end of five years of army-backed rule.

Justice **Ajit Singh** was sworn in as Chief Justice (CJ) of the Gauhati High Court.

The Government appointed former Supreme Court (SC) judge **Justice Balbir Singh Chauhan** (66) as Chairman of the 21st Law Commission of India. The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory and non-constitutional body constituted by the Union Government from time to time.

Renowned American mathematician and Nobel Prize-winning economist **Lloyd Stowell Shapley** passed away at the age of 92.

Former New Zealand cricket captain **Martin Crowe** passed away at the age of 53. Crowe was widely regarded as one of New Zealand's best ever batsman and had represented the country from the early 1980s until his retirement in 1996.

Mother Teresa will be made a saint on September 4, Pope Francis announced on March 15, 19 years after the death of the Nobel Laureate who spent 45 years serving the poor and sick on the streets of Kolkata. Mother Teresa founded the Missionaries of Charity and spent 45 years serving the poor, the sick, the orphaned, and the dying on the streets of Kolkata. She died at the age of 87 in Kolkata in 1997. The elevation of Mother Teresa to sainthood came after the Church recognised a second miracle earlier, the Missionaries of Charity said.

Lieutenant General **N P S Hira** was appointed as Deputy Chief of Army Staff. He has earned an Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and many more gallantry awards.

Acclaimed Brazilian percussionist **Nana Vasconcelos** died at age 71. He was a master of the single-string percussion instrument known in Portuguese as the berimbau.

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) promoted Hockey India national-level umpire **Nepoleon Singh** (30) as the International Outdoor Umpire.

Paramesh Krishnan Nair, the founder and former director of the National Film Archive of India (NFAI), died at the age of 82. Nair, the grand old man of film archiving in India, was not only responsible for the existence of exhaustive archives in India, his contribution in preserving exquisite films such as Raja Harishchandra (1913), Achhut Kanya (1936) and Uday Shankar's Kalpana (1948) is significant. He also preserved over 8,000 Indian films including works of legendary filmmakers such as Satyajit Ray, Ritwik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen, V Shantaram, apart from acquiring and preserving prints of almost 12,000 films by a variety of international stalwarts such as Ingmar Bergman, Akira Kurosawa, Krzysztof Zanussi and Vittorio De.

Raymond Tomlinson, the inventor of modern email and a technological leader, died at the age of 74. Email existed in a limited capacity before Tomlinson in that electronic messages could be shared amid multiple people within a limited framework. But until his invention in 1971 of the first network person-to-person email, there was no way to send something to a specific person at a specific address. Tomlinson also contributed to the network's development, among numerous other pioneering technologies in the programming world.

Intel's former CEO and Chairman **Andrew Grove** passed away at the age of 79. Andy Grove became Intel's President in 1979 and CEO in 1987. He served as Chairman of the Board from 1997 to 2005. Grove was one of the most influential figures in technology and business, writing best-selling books and widely cited articles.

Arvind Kejriwal has been named among the world's 50 greatest leaders by Fortune magazine with the Delhi Chief Minister being the sole Indian leader on the list topped by Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos. Fortune's third annual 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list features men and women from across the globe from the fields of business, government, philanthropy and the arts who are "transforming the world and inspiring others to do the same." 47-year-old Aam Aadmi Party chief is ranked 42nd on the list and is the sole leader from India.

Acclaimed humanitarian, actor, writer and political activist **Ashley Judd** from US was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). UNFPA is the nodal UN agency to address reproductive health and population issues and is based in New York, US.

Central African Republic president-elect **Faustin Archange Touadera** was sworn in as president in the country's capital, Bangui, marking a return of constitutional order. Since the overthrow of ex-president Francois Bozize by Seleka rebels in 2012, Central African Republic has witnessed numerous crises and conflicts.

Legendary US writer, actor, and comedian **Garry Shandling** passed away at the age of 66.

Htin Kyaw, a confidante of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi, was sworn in as Myanmar's president, ushering in the first democratically elected government into office after decades of military rule.

Johan Cruyff, the legendary Dutch soccer striker and coach, died at the age of 68. As a player, Cruyff was the embodiment of Dutch "total football", a fluid style of play focused on ball possession and rapid passing, and involving all members of the team in both attack and defence.

The Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) **Justice HL Dattu** was appointed as member of the International Coordinating Committee Bureau (ICCB) of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI-ICC) Bureau in Geneva.

United States (US) Air Force General **Lori Robinson** was selected as the next head of the US military's Northern Command, thus becoming the first woman to head a US combatant command as the position is one of the most senior in the US military.

Indian-American **Nandita Bakshi** was appointed the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Bank of the West, a subsidiary unit of French banking giant BNP Paribas.

US actress **Patty Duke**, winner of an Oscar in 1963 and star of a TV show that bore her name, died at the age of 69. At the age of 16, Duke won an Oscar for best supporting actress for her role in the movie "The Miracle Worker" to become the youngest actress at the time ever to be honoured with that prize.

Retired Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court Justice **Permod Kohli** was appointed as the Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT).

Noted designer **Ritu Beri** was appointed advisor to the Khadi and Village Industries Commission(KVIC) for promotion of khadi in India and across the world. KVIC appointed the ace fashion designer for a period of one year during which she will advise on ways to promote khadi.

An India-born academician was named by the UN Human Rights Council as an adviser to one of its working group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. **Surya Deva** was appointed by the Geneva-based UNHRC as the Asia-Pacific representative of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business.

Noted Shehnai exponent **Ustad Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan** passed away at the age of 77. He was one of the best-known players of the instrument after the legendary Bismillah Khan.

One of Kerala's most popular Kadhprasangam (story telling) artistes and film comedian **V.D. Rajappan** died at the age of 70.

President Barack Obama nominated MasterCard's Indian-American CEO **Ajay Banga** to a newly announced commission on enhancing national cybersecurity. Banga was among 10 people named in the White House announcement, along with former boss of the top US spying body National Security Agency, General Keith Alexander. This commission was set up past February to "make detailed recommendations to strengthen cybersecurity in both the public and private sectors while protecting privacy, ensuring public safety and economic and national security", according to its mission statement. Banga has been heading MasterCard since 2010, during which period he also took charge of the US-India Business Council, a body to promote business between the two countries. Banga has been a member of the Advisory Committee for Trade Policy and Negotiations since 2015, and serves on the boards of the Dow Chemical Company and American Red Cross. He is also co-chair of the American India Foundation.

Ukrainian Prime Minister **Arseniy Yatsenyuk** announced his resignation blaming politicians' failure to enact "real changes". Mr Yatsenyuk had been in office since former pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich was ousted in February 2014. His government was accused of inaction and corruption.

The birth anniversary of **B.R. Ambedkar**, father of the Indian Constitution, was observed on April 13 at the United Nations for the first time with focus on combating inequalities to achieve Sustainable Development Goals. This was his 125th anniversary.

Former Union Minister of state (MoS) Dr **C Silvera** passed away at the age of 80. He had served as Union MoS for Ministry of Health and Family Welfare from February 1994 to September 1999. He was the first and so far the only person from Mizoram to be in the Indian Union Council of Ministers as Minister.

Hashim Thaci was sworn in as the new president of Kosovo. Thaci, a former prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and in the past a leader of the Kosovo Liberation Army (UCK) - the ethnic-Albanian independence-seeking group that fought against Serbian forces at the end of the 1990s- is the fourth president of independent Kosovo (independence was declared on February 17, 2008).

The Government appointed senior IPS officer **Meeran C. Borwankar** as the Director General (DG) in the Bureau of Police Research & Development (BPR&D). BPR&D was established in 1970 in furtherance of the objective of the Union Government for the modernisation of police forces.

PDP leader **Mehbooba Mufti** made history as she took oath as the first woman Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Besides Mehbooba, 22 other ministers were sworn-in by Governor N N Vohra, bringing to an end the three-month President's Rule in the state.

Vietnam's National Assembly (NA) elected **Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan** as the country's first female house speaker.

Retired Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court Justice **Permod Kohli** was sworn in as the Chairman of Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). CAT is a multi-member body established in 1985 and exercises original jurisdiction in relation to recruitment and all services matters of public servants covered by it.

Iceland's governing coalition named **Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson** as the new prime minister after former leader David Gunnlaugsson stepped down in the wake of the leaked Panama Papers which showed Gunnlaugsson had owned an offshore account along with his wife.

Sushila Karki became the first woman Chief Justice of Supreme Court of Nepal on 13 April 2016. She is known for her zero tolerance against corruption in the judiciary.

The Government appointed **Susmita Pande** as the new chairperson of the National Monument Authority (NMA). NMA is a quasi-judicial body that functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism and is headquartered in New Delhi.

Tran Dai Quang was sworn in as the ninth President of Vietnam after he was elected by country's National Assembly. He succeeds Truong Tan Sang and shall have term of five years.

Former TOI journalist **Yogendra Bali** passed away at the age of 86. An author of many books, Bali was the editor of Asian Defence News till his death. He was a recipient of many awards including that of the Urdu Academy's lifetime achievement award (2004).

Reputed Iraqi-born British architect **Zaha Hadid** passed away at 65. She was world's most famous female architect and was known for her neofuturistic design which was her signature architectural style.

Indian Information Service (IIS) officer **Bhupendra Kainthola** was appointed as Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) and shall have a tenure of three years. FTII is premier institute that provides training for acting, film making, video editing, direction and production. It is an autonomous body under Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, was established in 1960 and is situated in Pune.

Renowned Hollywood actress **Doris Roberts** passed away in Los Angeles at the age of 90. She had won five Emmy Awards during her acting career.

Gujarat government appointed senior IPS officer **Geeta Johri** as the Director General of Police (DGP) of the state. With this she became the first female DGP of Gujarat.

US President Barack Obama nominated Indian-American **Geeta Pasi**, a career foreign service officer, as the country's next envoy to Chad. Ms Pasi, who served as US Ambassador to Djibouti from 2011 to 2014, is a career member of the Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counsellor. She is at present the Director of the Office of Career Development and Assignments in the Bureau of Human Resources at the Department of State.

Chad's veteran leader **Idriss Deby** won a fifth term in office after taking more than 60 per cent of the vote in the first round of presidential polls. Chad is a landlocked country in northern Central Africa. A former French Colony which became independent in 1960, it is one of the poorest and most corrupt countries in the world.

Lobsay Sangay, the Sikyong (Prime Minister) of Tibetan government-in-exile was re-elected, defeating his lone rival Penpa Tsering, the Speaker of the Tibetan Parliament. The 2016 general election was the second election since the Dalai Lama had stepped down as head of the government-in-exile in 2011 to focus on his role as the Tibetans' spiritual leader.

Former bureaucrat and parliamentarian **Nand Kishore Singh** was selected for the prestigious 'Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver', Japan's highest civilian award, for promoting economic, educational and cultural ties between India and Japan.

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has been invited to address a joint meeting of the United States (US) Congress on June 8, 2016 during his visit to the US. Modi will be the fifth Indian Prime Minister to address a joint meeting of Congress, and the first since 2005.

Goa Government appointed former Chief Justice of Patna High Court Justice **P.K.Mishra** as Lokayukta of the state. The post of the Lokayukta in the state was vacant for the last two years.

Pop icon **Prince** — whose pioneering brand of danceable funk made him one of music's most influential figures -- died at the age of 57. Prince became an international sensation in the 1980s, when he popularised the Minneapolis sound of danceable funk, incorporating rock elements. His 1984 album *Purple Rain* is often described as one of the greatest of all time.

An Indian academician is among 12 people appointed by UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to the global body's University Council to formulate its principles and policies, consider and approve biennial budget and work programme. **Radha Kumar**, 63, the Director General of New Delhi-based think tank Delhi Policy Group was named to the governing UN University Council.

In a major step to create an impression of itself as a professional set-up, the BCCI announced that **Rahul Johri** will be its first-ever chief executive officer. After spending two decades in the media industry, Johri will assume his new role on June 1. Johri was the Asia Pacific's executive vice-president and general manager for South Asia with Discovery Networks where he had been working for 15 years. Johri's appointment is largely perceived as a fall-out of the Supreme Court-appointed Justice R.M. Lodha panel's recommendations for administrative reforms in Indian cricket.

Bollywood actor **Salman Khan** was named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Olympics to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. This is the first time when a Bollywood superstar has been chosen as a goodwill ambassador for the Indian contingent at the Olympics.

Satyanand Munjal, co-founder of Hero Cycles group, died at the age of 99 in Ludhiana. Munjal was popularly known as 'mahatma' Satyanand Munjal for being devoted to several social causes related to the Arya Samaj. Apart from building a business empire, his philanthropic acts such as Bahadur Chand Munjal (BCM) Arya schools, Hero DMC Heart Institute, Dayanand Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) remain his most notable works.

Mindtree cofounder and former chairman **Subroto Bagchi** was selected by the government of Odisha to head the state's Skill Development Authority. Bagchi who would be given the rank of a Cabinet Minister, would directly report to the chief minister and would help in setting up a unified body that would guide, implement and oversee all skill development programmes in the state.

Senior IPS officer **Surender Kumar Bhagat** was appointed as the Director General (DG) of Railways Protection Force (RPF). RPF is a security force entrusted with protecting railway passengers, passenger area and railway property of the Indian Railways.

Renowned Kerala cartoonist **V T Thomas** passed away at the age of 86. He was popularly known as Toms and had created the legendary cartoon characters Boban and Molly (Bobanum Moliyum).

Former India captain **Anil Kumble** was re-appointed ICC Cricket Committee chairman for a second term of three years while his one-time team-mate and batting great Rahul Dravid was named member of the top panel. Kumble, the all-time highest wicket-taker for India, who was appointed as the chairman for his first term in 2012, will now continue to head the panel until 2018.

Senior advocate of Bombay High Court **Atma Ram Nadkarni** was appointed as Additional Solicitor General. An Additional Solicitor General acts as law officer to advise the Central government on various legal matters. Solicitor General and Additional Solicitor General's assist the government's top legal adviser Attorney General.

Indian Information Service (IIS) officer **Bhupendra Kainthola** took charge as Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). FTII is premier institute in the country that provides training for acting, film making, video editing, direction and production and is based in Pune.

Australian entrepreneur **Craig Wright** identified himself as Satoshi Nakamoto, the pseudonymous creator of the digital currency bitcoin. Cryptocurrencies, among which bitcoin is the dominant version, allow consumers to make electronic transactions without commercial banks as intermediaries, and outside the reach of central banks. There are around 15.5m bitcoins currently in circulation, including the million or so reportedly owned by Nakamoto, giving the founder – or founders – a net worth of around US\$450m, at the current price. One bitcoin is currently worth around £306 (US\$449).

FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) named **Fatma Samoura**, a Senegalese UN diplomat, as its first ever female secretary general, a historic move announced at a congress that sought to relegate world football's corruption crisis to the past.

Senior IPS officer **Kumar Rajesh Chandra** was appointed as Chief of Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), the aviation security wing of the Government.

To celebrate the 476th birth anniversary of one the greatest warriors of Indian history **Maharana Pratap**, the Union Government released a Maharana Pratap commemorative and circulation coin of Rs 100 and Rs 10 respectively.

US President Barack Obama appointed an Indian-American engineer to a key administration post. **Manjit Singh**, co-founder of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund was appointed as the member of President's

Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. President of Agilious, a software technology consulting firm he founded in 2013, Singh is also the co-founder and chairman of the Board of Directors of the Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund, a national Sikh American media, policy and education organization.

An Indian-origin lawyer **Murali Pillai** from Singapore's ruling People's Action Party (PAP) was elected member of the parliament.

Justice **Naveen Sinha** was sworn in as the 31st Chief Justice of Rajasthan.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon selected Mexican diplomat **Patricia Espinosa** as the executive secretary of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

Renowned statistician Dr **Radha Binod Barman** took over as the part-time Chairperson in the National Statistical Commission (NSC). The Commission is an advisory body on all statistical matters, set up to enhance public trust in official statistics.

Anti-crime candidate and mayor of Davao City, **Rodrigo Duterte** won the 2016 presidential election of the Philippines by a landslide victory, thus becoming the 16th President-elect of Philippines.

Sadiq Khan of the British Labour party was elected the new Mayor of London thus becoming London's first Muslim mayor.

Veteran cricket administrator **Shashank Manohar** was elected unopposed as ICC's first independent Chairman, two days after he stepped down from the post of BCCI President. Manohar is a prominent Indian lawyer who served his first stint as the BCCI President from 2008-2011. Following the passing of Jagmohan Dalmiya, Manohar was re-elected as the BCCI President in October 2015 and, by virtue of that position, has held the role of ICC Chairman since then.

Veteran actor **Shashi Kapoor's** autobiography titled 'Shashi Kapoor – the Householder, the Star' was released recently. The biography has been authored by film journalist Aseem Chhabra. Shashi Kapoor is a recipient of the Padma Bhushan (2011) and Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2014), apart from various other film awards.

Vice Admiral **Sunil Lanba**, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief (FOC-in-C) of Western Naval Command, was appointed as the 23rd Chief of Naval Staff w.e.f May 31, 2016 till May 31, 2019. The 58-year-old, a specialist in Navigation and Direction, succeeded Admiral RK Dhowan as the 21st Indian to be the Navy Chief. The first two were British.

Vice-Admiral **AR Karve** took charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command (SNC) from Vice Admiral Girish Luthra.

Anurag Thakur was unanimously elected as President of BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) by the board's special general meeting (SGM) held in Mumbai. He is 34th BCCI President and shall have tenure till September 2017.

Barack Obama, on May 27, became the first sitting US president to visit the site of the world's first atomic bomb attack, bringing global attention both to survivors and to his unfulfilled vision of a world without nuclear weapons. Obama touched down in Hiroshima after completing talks with world leaders at an international summit in Shima, Japan and paid tribute to the 140,000 people killed in the bombing seven decades ago.

AIADMK chief **J Jayalithaa** was sworn in as Tamil Nadu chief minister for a historic second consecutive term, after her mentor M G Ramachandran set the record in 1984. This is J Jayalithaa's second consecutive term as chief minister and sixth overall. She is the second female Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after Janaki Ramachandran.

BJP leader and former IPS officer **Kiran Bedi** was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry, a post that had been vacant for the past two years. The Union Territory was under the additional charge of Lt. Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Ms. Bedi, who joined the BJP just before the 2015 Assembly elections in Delhi, had been the party's chief ministerial candidate.

Trinamool Congress supremo **Mamata Banerjee** was sworn in as Chief Minister of West Bengal, beginning her second stint in the once-Left dominated State. She had founded All India Trinamool Congress (AITMC or TMC) party in 1997 after separating from the Indian National Congress. In 2011, she became first woman Chief Minister of West Bengal. She also had served as the Union Minister of Railways twice and was the first woman Railway Minister of India.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointments of **Mary Robinson** of Ireland and Macharia Kamau of Kenya as Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate. These appointments come at a time of great urgency. Drought and flooding associated with El Niño created massive needs across the world, especially in the four worst affected regions of East Africa, Southern Africa, Central America and the Pacific.

The world governing body of soccer FIFA appointed justice **Mukul Mudgal** deputy chairman of its governance committee. Mukul Mudgal was the former chief justice of the Punjab and Haryana high court, and headed the Indian Premier League (IPL) spot-fixing probe. Luis Miguel Maduro, a former European Court of Justice advocate general, will head FIFA's governance committee. Mudgal and Maduro will also head FIFA's international review committee, which will assess all major decisions.

Veteran CPI (M) leader **Pinarayi Vijayan** was sworn-in as 12th Chief Minister of Kerala after the left Democratic Front (LDF) won the 2016 state assembly election.

Marathi litterateur **R.G. Jadhav**, best known for his 91 reflective poems on Mahatma Gandhi, passed away at the age of 83. Much feted, Prof. Jadhav authored more than 40 works of literary criticism and poetry, and was also associated with the Sadhana Trust and worked with rationalist and anti-superstition crusader Narendra Dabholkar.

Former Finance Secretary **Ratan P Watal** was appointed as Principle Adviser for social sector in NITI Aayog. Mr. Watal is a retired IAS officer of Andhra Pradesh cadre of a 1978-batch. National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) is a premier policy think tank of Union Government which had replaced erstwhile six decade old Planning Commission.

Eminent scientist **S K Sharma** was appointed as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL), responsible for design, construction, commissioning and operation of nuclear power reactors.

BJP leader and former Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** was sworn-in as the 14th Chief Minister of Assam after winning the 2016 state assembly election with absolute majority.

Tsai Ing-wen was sworn-in as the first female and 14th President of Taiwan.

Veteran theatre personality, playwright and pioneer of Assam's mobile theatre movement **Achyut Lahkar** passed away at the age of 85. He was considered as the father of the Bhryamyman or Mobile Theatre of Assam.

Amber Gurung, Father of modern Nepali music and composer of the country's national anthem, passed away at the age of 79.

Actor **Dia Mirza** was named the ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission's youth-based 'Swachh Saathi' (student internship) programme. She will take forward the message of the government's programme, which she hails as the most important part to realise the dream of a clean country. Under the programme, more than 2,000 interns would be enrolled. They will coordinate with around 10,000 schools across the country to ensure that all students in these schools take the pledge for a clean India.

Distinguished scientist **G. Kalyanakrishnan** took over as the new Chief Executive of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) in Hyderabad. Mr. Kalyanakrishnan will also be the Chairman of the NFC Board and prior to this assignment, he was the Deputy Chief Executive, NFC. Having experience in erection, commissioning and operation of Heavy Water Plants, he made several pioneering contributions in streamlining various activities/operations of the plants leading to their improved performance. The NFC is a major industrial unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), for the supply of nuclear fuel bundles and reactor core components.

Veteran journalist **Inder Malhotra** passed away at the age of 86. One of the most respected journalists of the country, Mr. Malhotra had worked with *The Statesman* and *The Times of India*, New Delhi. His publications include *Indira Gandhi: A Personal & Political Biography* (1989), *Dynasties of India And Beyond* (2003), and a fresh biography of Indira Gandhi (2006).

Legendary Indian body builder and the country's very first Mr. Universe **Manohar Aich** died at the age of 102. A three-time Asian Games gold medalist, Aich was the first Indian to win the Mr Universe title post-independence in 1952. At 4 feet 11 inch, he was famously nicknamed 'Pocket Hercules'.

Famous Hindi novelist and critique **Mudrarakshas** died at the age of 82. His write-ups invariably focused on various vital social issues and causes.

Boxing legend **Muhammad Ali** - one of the world's greatest sporting figures - died at the age of 74. Born Cassius Marcellus Clay, Ali shot to fame by winning light-heavyweight gold at the 1960 Rome Olympics. Nicknamed "The Greatest", the American beat Sonny Liston in 1964 to win his first world title and became the first boxer to capture a world heavyweight title on three separate occasions. He eventually retired in 1981, having won 56 of his 61 fights.

Nita Ambani, founder-chairperson of Reliance Foundation, was nominated as an independent candidate to be a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) based out of Lausanne in Switzerland. The election for membership formality is scheduled at the 129th IOC Session at Rio de Janeiro between Aug 2 and Aug 4. As per the new selection process, Ambani, when elected, will continue to serve as a member of the IOC until she reaches 70 years of age.

Major General **Per Lodin** from Sweden was appointed as chief military observer and head of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). UNMOGIP, which started operations in 1949, was established by UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution and observes/reports on ceasefire violations along and across the Line of Control (LoC) between the nuclear-armed India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir.

Fijian diplomat **Peter Thomson** was elected as President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), thus becoming the first representative from the Pacific island states to get elected for the largely honorific post in the UN's 71-year history.

The senior-most Judge of the Manipur High Court Justice **Rakesh Ranjan Prasad** assumed charge of the Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court.

Additional Solicitor General of India and former Parliamentarian **Satya Pal Jain** was appointed as a part-time member of the 21st Law Commission of India.

Congress Party leader **V Narayanasamy** was sworn in as Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry.

Congress leader and former Chief Minister **V. Vaithilingam** was elected as the Speaker of the 14th Puducherry legislative Assembly.

Renowned Qawwal **Amjad Sabri**, one of the best Sufi musicians and qawwals from Pakistan and popularly known as Rock Star of Qawwali due to his modern style of rendition, was shot dead by unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen in Karachi, Pakistan.

Oscar-winning Hollywood actress **Anne Hathaway** was appointed by the United Nations as its global goodwill ambassador to promote gender equality and women empowerment. Hathaway joins Nicole Kidman, Emma Watson and Princess Bajrakitiyabha Mahidol of Thailand as fellow women's goodwill ambassadors.

Noted Telangana poet and lyricist **Guda Anjaiah** whose songs both regaled and incensed supporters of statehood movement died at the age of 61. He played a key role in Telangana movement, penning several songs that also found their way into films.

The founder member of Nationalist Socialist Council of Nagaland (Isak-Muivah), **Isak Chishi Swu**, passed away at the age of 87. Swu along with NSCN-IM general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah formed the group in 1980 opposing the Shillong Accord signed by the then Naga National Council (NNC) with the central government for bringing peace in Nagaland. Over the years, NSCN-IM was accused of indulging in killings, extortion and other subversive activities. Its persistent demand for separation from the country, led to military clamp down on the group. In 1997, NSCN-IM entered into a truce with the central government for peace and since then has been continuing dialogue with centre's emissaries. In August 2015, the NSCN-IM signed a framework agreement with the government which Prime Minister Narendra Modi described as a "historic" step to usher in peace in the state.

Indian-origin diplomat **Kamala Shirin Lakhdir** was nominated as the next American Ambassador to Malaysia by US President Barack Obama.

Veteran Malayalam theatre artist and poet **Kavalam Narayana Panicker** passed away at the age of 88.

Noted theatre personality and popular yesteryear Odia film actress **Manimala Devi** passed away at the age of 90. Manimala, who was among the first generation artistes in the state, had worked in over 40 films of which 14 bagged the national award.

The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) appointed **N S Vishwanathan** as the Deputy Governor of RBI. Vishwanathan was executive director at RBI and will succeed HR Khan.

Neil O'Brien, the pioneer of quizzing in India, passed away. A former member of Lok Sabha, the senior O'Brien was also a three-time nominated Anglo-Indian MLA in West Bengal and an educationist. He was the chairman of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and managing director of Oxford University Press, India. As a leader of the Anglo-Indian community, he was the president-in-chief of All-India Anglo-Indian Association and headed the Frank Anthony group of schools. O'Brien conducted the first well-organized, formal quiz in 1967 at Christ the King Church Parish Hall in Calcutta.

Rodrigo Duterte was sworn in as President of the Philippines, with some hoping his maverick style will energize the country but others fearing he will undercut one of Asia's liveliest democracies amid threats to kill criminals en masse.

Shashi Kant Sharma, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, was conferred with the honorary professorship by the Nanjing Audit University (NAU), China - the only university which is recognized by the Institute of Internal Auditors.

Senior IAS officer **Supriya Sahu** was appointed as Doordarshan's Director General, a post lying vacant for nearly two years.

Virginia Raggi was elected as Rome's first female mayor in a triumph for the populist Five Star Movement (M5S), representing a blow to Matteo Renzi, Italy's prime minister. A lawyer and local councillor, Raggi leapt from anonymity to become one of the best-known faces in Italian politics in the space of only a few months on the campaign trail.

Pakistan's celebrated philanthropist **Abdul Sattar Edhi** who dedicated his life to humanity and social services passed away at the age of 92.

The Union Government constituted a high-level committee headed by Chief Economic Adviser **Arvind Subramanian** to tackle the shortage of pulses in India.

Senior IPS officer **Ashok Patnaik** was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Intelligence Grid (NATGRID). The NATGRID is a centralised agency which stores sensitive personal information on citizens from almost two dozen agencies to be made available for counter-terror investigations.

India celebrated National Doctors day on 1 July to honour the contributions of Dr. **Bidhan Chandra Roy**, former West Bengal Chief Minister who was also a physician. Born in 1882, the legendary physician, who was also honoured with the Bharat Ratna in 1961, died on his birthday in 1962. The special day is observed throughout the country to thank the ones who have chosen this profession and to honour their relevance of them in the day-to-day lives of everyone.

D Rajkumar was appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL).

KVR Murthy was appointed as the Chairman-cum-Managing Director (CMD) of the Jute Corporation of India Limited (JCIL). JCIL is a nodal agency of Union Government that assists jute cultivators by providing minimum price support (MSP) and also work as a helping hand in the raw jute sector.

Noted scientist **M V Dhekane** was appointed the Director of ISRO Inertial Systems Unit (IISU), Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, thus becoming the seventh director of IISU which functions under the aegis of the Department of Space.

Noted music director **Om Prakash Sonik** passed away at the age of 77.

Senior IAS officer **Rakesh Kumar Chaturvedi** was appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE).

Sanjay Gupta was appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of Konkan Railway Corporation Limited (KRCL). KRC is a subsidiary of the Indian Railways (IR), with its headquarters in Navi Mumbai. It operates the Konkan Railways (741km line connecting western Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka), a subsidiary zone of the Indian Railways.

Dr. **Shankar Acharya** was made the head of a committee to examine the desirability and feasibility of having 'a new financial year'. The Committee will examine the merits and demerits of various dates for the commencement of the financial year including the existing date (April to March), taking into account the various relevant factors.

Sudarshan Sen was appointed as Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and will look after Department of Banking Regulation, Department of Co-operative Bank Regulation and Department of Non-Banking Regulation.

Newly appointed Chief Justice **Sushila Karki** took oath of office and secrecy to become the first woman Chief Justice of Nepal.

Tripura Governor **Tathagata Roy** was sworn in as the acting Governor of Arunachal Pradesh, thus becoming the 18th Governor to be sworn in as Governor of Tripura.

Theresa May took over as Britain's new Prime Minister, promising a "bold, new, positive role" for the country less than three weeks after its seismic vote to leave the European Union (EU). Ms. May, the former Interior Minister who succeeded David Cameron after seeing off several rivals for leader of the Conservative Party, became Britain's second female leader after Margaret Thatcher.

Senior IAS officer **Ajay Bhushan Pandey** was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI). UIDAI is nodal statutory organization behind the Aadhaar, a 12 digit unique number and was founded under the previous United Progressive Alliance (UPA) regime in 2009.

Former Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) official Dr. **Budha Rashmi Mani** was appointed as Director General (DG) of National Museum, located in New Delhi.

Justice **Dilip Babasaheb Bhosale** was sworn in as the new Chief Justice of Allahabad High Court.

BJP Lok Sabha member **Ganesh Singh** was appointed as Chairman of the Joint Committee of Parliament (JCP) to examine provisions of the Land Acquisition Amendment Bill, 2015.

Senior IAS officer **Guruprasad Mohapatra** was appointed as Chairman of Airports Authority of India (AAI). AAI is statutory body under the aegis of Union Ministry of Civil Aviation.

Noted Tabla maestro Pandit **Lachu Maharaj** passed away at the age of 73.

Eminent litterateur, social activist and a Magsaysay awardee **Mahasweta Devi** passed away at the age of 90. Wife of one of Bengal's most prolific playwrights and litterateurs, Bijon Bhattacharya, the activist-writer grew up in the family of Bengal's leading writers, poets and filmmakers. Influenced by the Communist movement of the 1940s, she chose to work among the poorest of the poor in the tribal areas of southern West Bengal and in other parts of the country and played a significant role to uplift the extremely backward community, Kheria Sabar.

Malcolm Turnbull was sworn as Prime Minister of Australia for second term thus becoming the 29th Prime Minister of the country.

Michel Barnier, a former vice president of the European Commission and a man well-versed in financial regulation, was appointed as EU's Chief Negotiator for the United Kingdom's exit from the bloc.

Legendary singer **Mubarak Begum**, best known for crooning the title track of 1961 romantic-drama *Hamari Yaad Aayegi*, passed away at 80. Begum, who gave scores of Hindi film songs and ghazals, mainly between the 1950s and 70s, made her Bollywood singing debut with 1949 film *Aiye*.

Noted agricultural scientist **Neelamraju Ganga Prasada Rao**, passed away at the age of 89. Dr. Rao was well-known for basic and applied research in breeding and agronomy of several dryland crops especially towards sorghum improvement, hence also earned the title of 'Father of Hybrid Sorghum' in India.

Like every year, July 18, 2016, was celebrated as **Nelson Mandela** International Day to mark birth anniversary of Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former South African President Nelson Mandela. The theme for this year was "Take Action, Inspire Change".

Pema Khandu of Congress Party was sworn in as the 10th Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, thus becoming the youngest Chief Minister in the country.

Indian actor, model, television personality **Rohit Khandelwal** won the prestigious 2016 Mr. World title, thus becoming the first Indian and first Asian to win this title.

Modern Indian internationally acclaimed painter **S.H. Raza** died at the age of 94. Artist Saiyed Haider Raza was honoured with the highest french award- The Legion of Honour in 2015. He also received Padma Vibhushan in 2013 and Padma Bhushan in 2007.

Egyptian-born Nobel-winning scientist **Ahmed Zewail** passed away at 70. He had won the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1999.

American ice hockey Olympic champion **Angela Ruggiero** was elected as the new chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC's) Athletes' Commission.

Dinesh Kumar Khara was appointed Managing Director (MD) of State Bank of India (SBI).

The Iron Lady of Manipur **Irom Chanu Sharmila** (44) ended her 16-year-long hunger strike for repealing of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) of 1958 from Manipur.

K M Hanumantharayappa assumed charge as the 25th Chairman of Central Silk Board (CSB), for a period of three years. CSB is a statutory body established by the Central Silk Board Act, 1948 under the aegis of Union Ministry of Textile.

Noted Assamese litterateur **Mahim Bora** passed away at the age of 92. He was an eminent short story writer & a poet and had received the Sahitya Akademi award as well as the Padma Shri.

Justice **Manjula Chellur** was selected as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court. Currently, she is the Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court.

Noted Tamilian poet and lyricist **Na Muthukumar** passed away at the age of 41. He was known for his critically acclaimed literary work and had also won two national awards.

Founder chairperson of Reliance Foundation, **Nita Ambani**, was elected as an individual member of International Olympic Committee (IOC), thus becoming the first Indian woman to join the prestigious body which governs Olympic sports in the world.

Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Chairperson **Pushpa Kamal Dahal** was elected as the 39th Prime Minister of Nepal.

Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer **Rani Singh Nair** was appointed as Chairperson (Chairman) of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

Renowned Yoga Guru **TKV Desikachar**, known for transforming the way of practising yoga, passed away at the age of 78.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) Board of Governors unanimously reelected **Takehiko Nakao** as President of ADB for a further 5 years beginning on 24 November 2016. Mr. Nakao is the ninth President of ADB. ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth, and regional integration. Established in 1966, ADB in December 2016 will mark 50 years of development partnership in the region. It is owned by 67 members—48 from the region. In 2015, ADB assistance totaled \$27.2 billion, including cofinancing of \$10.7 billion.

Vijay Rupani was sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of Gujarat after Anandiben Patel resigned from the post. He was inducted as minister in the first cabinet expansion by Chief Minister Anandiben Patel in November 2014.

Former Finance Secretary **Ashok Chawla** was appointed as the new Chancellor of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) University. TERI is a non-profit research institution that conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development.

CK Asnani took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of state owned Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL). UCIL is a centrally owned Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) for uranium mining and uranium processing under the Department of Atomic Energy.

Governor of Maharashtra **Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao**, was sworn in as the acting Governor of Tamil Nadu.

Uzbekistan's President **Islam Karimov** passed away at the age of 78. He had dominated Uzbekistan, Central Asia's most populous nation, for more than 25 years.

Cardiologist **K K Aggarwal** was elected as the National President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for the year 2016-17.

South African **Lindsay Tuckett**, who was the oldest surviving former Test cricketer, passed away at the age of 97.

Michel Temer, who served as Vice-President of Brazil, was appointed as the Interim President of the country following the suspension of Dilma Rousseff from the office in May 2016.

Thousands of pilgrims thronged St. Peter's Square at Vatican City for the canonisation of **Mother Teresa**, the tiny nun who cared for the world's most unwanted and became the icon of a Catholic Church. Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa a saint, making her the model of his Jubilee Year of Mercy and in some ways his entire papacy. For Pope Francis, Mother Teresa put into action his ideal for the church to be a merciful "field hospital" for the poorest of the poor both materially and spiritually.

Mukund Chaudhari took over as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of MOIL Ltd, a miniratna company. MOIL Limited is a miniratna state-owned manganese-ore mining company headquartered in Nagpur.

Noted Assamese poet, literary critic and author and winner of the Sahitya Akademi award **Nalinidhar Bhattacharyya** passed away at the age of 95.

Veteran trade union leader **Sharad Rao** passed away at the age of 78. Rao was heading several influential unions that represented employees in the Mumbai and other civic bodies in Mumbai metropolitan region as well as the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) that runs public transport buses in Mumbai. He also headed the Mumbai Autorickshawsmen's Union that represents majority of auto rickshaw drivers in the city.

Eminent economist, consultant and banker Dr. **Urjit Patel** assumed charge as the 24th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

President Pranab Mukherjee appointed former IAS officer **Alka Sirohi** as chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). UPSC is constitutional body which conducts the prestigious civil services examination to select IAS, IFS and IPS officers among others.

Anandi Ramalingam assumed charge as Director Marketing of the Public sector Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL), thus becoming the first woman to be appointed as the Director of the company.

Senior IAS officer **Arun Goyal** was appointed as Additional Secretary in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council. The Council, headed by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, is mandated to decide on tax rate, exempted goods and the threshold limit. Arun Goyal is IAS officer of 1985 batch of Union Territory cadre. Prior to this appointment he was working as Additional Secretary, Project Monitoring Group in Union Cabinet Secretariat.

Avionics scientist **BHVS Narayana Murthy** was appointed as Director of Research Centre Imarat (RCI), a premiere laboratory of Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) located in Hyderabad.

Justice **G C Gupta** was sworn-in as Chief Justice of Calcutta High Court. With this appointment for the first time a sitting judge was made Chief Justice after almost 30 years.

Jim Yong Kim was re-appointed for a second five-year term as World Bank President, beginning July 1, next year, the Bank announced. The starting point for his work when he joined the Bank in 2012 was the setting up of two ambitious new goals for the institution: to end extreme poverty by 2030, and to promote shared prosperity by boosting the income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population in every developing country. In order to deliver these goals, the Bank had to accelerate, become bolder and more agile, and reposition itself.

105-year-old **Kunwar Bai**, who was felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for building toilet by selling off her goats, was chosen as the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' mascot.

Navtej Sarna was appointed as Ambassador to the United States. In his new role he will face the task of engaging with the new administration in United States following the November 2016 Presidential poll. He is an Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer of the 1980 batch.

Senior IPS officer **OP Singh** was appointed as Directors General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF). The CISF is a central armed police force under the aegis of Union Ministry of Home Affairs. With a force larger than 1,65,000 it is the largest security force in the world.

The Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) appointed three economists as the external appointees on the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). They are **Pami Dua, Chetan Ghate and Ravindra Dholakia**. They will have a fixed four year term. Pami Dua is the Director of the Delhi School of Economics (DSE). Chetan Ghate is a macroeconomist and a professor at the Indian Statistical Institute (ISI), Delhi. Ravindra Dholakia is a faculty member of Economics at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Ahmedabad. MPC (under the RBI) decides the monetary policy by setting interest rates. It aims to bring significant changes in the power the RBI governor while deciding interest rates.

Senior IPS officer **R. K. Pachnanda** was appointed as Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). NDRF is India's elite disaster mitigation combat force established under The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and is headquartered in New Delhi.

Ravi Reddy, an Indian-origin South African, was appointed as the Head of International Society for Blood Transfusion (ISBT), thus becoming the first person from the African continent and first person of Indian origin to head ISBT. He is currently serving as the Chief Operations Officer (COO) of South African National Blood Service (SANBS).

Renowned Hindi and Urdu writer, playwright and television personality **Reoti Saran Sharma** passed away at the age of 92. He was pioneer in radio plays in All India Radio (AIR). He was conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award in 2007.

Former Israeli Prime Minister and President **Shimon Peres** passed away at the age of 93. Peres was Israel's most eminent elder statesman and was one of the last surviving pillars of Israel's founding generation.

Senior IPS officer **Sudhir Pratap Singh** was appointed as the Director General (DG) of counter-terrorism force National Security Guard (NSG). NSG was established in 1984 as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country.

Syed Shamsul Haq, one of Bangladesh's best known writers passed away at the age of 81. He was awarded the Swadhinata Padak in 2000, the highest civilian award of Bangladesh for his outstanding contributions to Bengali literature.

Abdelilah Bekirane was re-appointed as the Prime Minister of Morocco for a second term. Benkirane has been serving as Prime Minister since November 2011.

Senior IAS officer **Ajay Kumar Bhalla** was appointed as the new Director General of Directorate General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). DGFT is the nodal agency of the Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry, responsible for execution of the import and export Policies of India.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) formally elected **Antonio Guterres** (a Portuguese politician and diplomat) as the new Secretary-General of the United Nations. He will have five-year term beginning January 1, 2017, and will succeed Ban Ki-moon.

BVR Mohan Reddy, Founder and Executive Chairman of Cyient Ltd, was appointed as the Honorary Consul of Germany in Hyderabad. He will work towards further strengthening the collaboration between the two nations.

Thailand's King **Bhumibol Adulyadej** passed away at the age of 88. He was the world's longest reigning monarch.

Noted Manipuri theatre legend **Heisnam Kanhailal** passed away at the age of 75. He was actively been involved in theatre for the last 40 years in different roles of a playwright, director and also an actor. He had to his credit various awards and honors, including Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985), Padma Shri (2004) and Padma Bhushan (2016).

Kersti Kaljulaid was elected as the President of Estonia, thus becoming the first female president of the Baltic country.

M S Sahoo, a financial markets expert, took charge as Chairperson of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI). Prior to this appointment, Sahoo was a Member of the Competition Commission of India. He was also a Whole Time Member of the Securities and Exchange Board of India. IBBI would regulate the functioning of insolvency professionals, insolvency professional agencies and information utilities under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.

Union Culture Minister announced that the government will commemorate the birth centenary of social activist and former RSS leader **Nanaji Deshmukh** from October 11, 2016 to October 11, 2017. Nanaji Deshmukh was born in Kadoli in Maharashtra's Hingoli district on October 11, 1916 and passed away on February 27, 2010. He had worked in the fields of education, health, and rural self-reliance. He was a leader of Bharatiya Jana Sangh and RSS.

Ace badminton player **P V Sindhu** was appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited which is also popularly known as Vizag Steel.

Former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer **Renu Pall** was appointed as the Ambassador of India to Austria.

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2017.

Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer **Sushil Chandra** was appointed as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). CBDT is nodal policy-making body of the Income Tax (IT) department under the Union Finance Ministry.

Former ISRO Chairman and space scientist Prof **Udupi Ramachandra Rao** became the first Indian to be inducted in the Hall of Fame of International Astronautical Federation (IAF) for his outstanding contribution to the progress of astronautics.

International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended South Africa left-arm spinner **Aaron Phangiso** from bowling in Domestic cricket for suspect bowling action.

India won the 2016 Asia Cup T20 trophy for a record sixth time after beating Bangladesh by 8 wickets in the final.

Lin Dan from China won the prestigious 2016 All England Badminton title in the men's singles category when he defeated Chinese teammate Tian Houwei in the finals.

Russian tennis star **Maria Sharapova**, the highest-paid woman in sports, revealed that she failed a drug test at the Australian Open due to a substance she has been taking for 10 years for health issues. The 28-year-old Sharapova, a five-time grand slam champion, was provisionally suspended starting March 12, the International Tennis Federation (ITF) said.

Patna Pirates won the third season of Star Sports Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) by defeating U Mumbai in the final match. PKL is a professional Kabaddi (indigenous sport) league based on the format of the Indian Premier League (IPL) T20 cricket tournament.

Rahul Sachdev won the first All India Open Invitational Snooker Championship 2016 held at Aurangabad in Maharashtra.

Rest of India won the Irani Cup Cricket Title 2015-16 by defeating Mumbai in the final match of the cup by four wickets.

Services won the 70th edition of Santosh Trophy Football Championships title 2016 by defeating hosts Maharashtra.

Ace Indian shuttler **HS Prannoy** won the prestigious 2016 Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament in the men's single category.

Indian wrestler **Hardeep Singh** won silver medal in the Asian Olympic Qualification Tournament in the 98 kg category.

Russian grandmaster **Sergey Karjakin** won the prestigious FIDE World Chess Candidates Tournament held in Moscow when he defeated American grandmaster Fabiano Caruana.

Australian all-rounder **Shane Watson** declared his retirement from all forms of International Cricket. He played total 59 test matches and scored 3731 runs at an average of 35.19. He played total 190 ODI matches and scored 5757 runs at an average of 40.54. In 2016 auction, he was bought for Rs 9.5 crore by the Royal Challengers Bangalore.

International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended Bangladesh bowlers **Taskin Ahmed** and Arafat Sunny for bowling with an illegal action with an immediate effect.

Yogeshwar Dutt won a Gold medal in the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament in the 65 kg freestyle category.

British professional boxer **Anthony Joshua** won the 2016 International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight title thus becoming the first boxer in history to hold the Olympic super-heavyweight title and a version of the world heavyweight (IBF) title simultaneously.

Danny Willett from England won the prestigious 2016 US Masters Golf tournament.

Indian men (Grandmasters S P Sethuraman and K Sasikiran) won the Asian Nations Cup Chess tournament with a 3-1 victory over Vietnam in the final round.

England batsman **James Taylor** announced his retirement from all forms of International cricket at the age of 26 due to ill health.

Malaysia's badminton champion **Lee Chong Wei** won the 2016 Malaysian Open title in the men's single category.

Mercedes driver **Nico Rosberg** from Germany won the 2016 Gulf Air Formula One Bahrain Grand Prix held at Bahrain International Circuit in Manama.

World Number One tennis player **Novak Djokovic** from Serbia has won the 2016 Miami Open Title in the men's singles category.

Chess wizard **Vishwanathan Anand** was conferred with the prestigious Hridaynath Award, which recognises individuals for success in various walks of life. The honour comprises a cash award of Rs 2 lakh and a memento. Among the previous recipients of the award are the likes of Lata Mangeshkar, Babasaheb Purandare, Asha Bhosle, Amitabh Bachchan, Hariprasad Chaurasia and AR Rahman. Anand became India's first grandmaster in 1988. He held the FIDE World Chess Championship title from 2000 to 2002 and became the undisputed world champion in 2007. Hridaynath is the son of renowned musician Deenanath Mangeshkar and is younger brother of Indian music legends Lata Mangeshkar and Asha Bhosle.

West Indies won the ICC Cricket World Men's T-20 Cup 2016 by defeating England in the final match played at Eden Gardens, Kolkata. Virat Kohli was declared player of the series.

Australia won the 25th edition of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament 2016 for record ninth time by defeating India in the final match.

Indian rower **Dattu Baban Bhokanal** qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Brazil, after winning a silver medal in the men's single sculls event at the FISA Asian and Oceania Olympic Qualification Regatta held at Chung-ju in South Korea.

India's **Deepika Kumari** equalled the world record in Women's Recurve event at the qualifying stage of Archery World Cup held in Shanghai, China. She equalled the record set by South Korea's Ki Boe Bae at the World University Games in Gwangju in 2015.

Indian gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** created history by becoming the first Indian woman gymnast to qualify for Olympics. At 2014 Commonwealth Games held at Glasgow she had created history becoming the first Indian female gymnast to win medal (bronze) in history of the games.

India's **Durga Thakur** was promoted to international outdoor umpire by the International Hockey Federation (FIH), following her good performance at the recently-held Hawke's Bay Cup in New Zealand.

India will host the 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships in Jaipur, Rajasthan as announced by the Judo Federation of India (JFI).

Mercedes driver **Nico Rosberg** from Germany has won the 2016 Chinese Grand Prix held at the Shanghai International Circuit.

World No 1 tennis player **Novak Djokovic** from Serbia won the 2016 Laureus Sportsman of the Year Award, while US tennis legend Serene Williams won the 2016 Laureus Sportswoman of the Year Award.

Ace tennis player **Rafael Nadal** (World No 5) from Spain won the 2016 Barcelona Open title of Tennis when he defeated Kei Nishikori (World No 6) of Japan.

Veteran Sri Lankan left-arm spinner **Rangana Herath** announced his retirement from T20 and One Day International Cricket (ODI).

Riyad Mahrez became the first African football player ever to receive the Professional Footballers' Association Player of the Year award. With this, Mahrez also became the second non-European, after Luis Suarez (Uruguayan striker) to win this prestigious award in the sport of Football.

Ace snooker player **Mark Selby** (World no 1) from England won the 2016 World Championship title of Snooker when he defeated China's Ding Junhui in the final match.

Former South African cricketer **Mickey Arthur** was appointed as Pakistan cricket team's head coach.

German Formula One Driver **Nico Rosberg** from Mercedes team won the 2016 Russian Grand Prix held at Sochi, Russia.

Serbian Tennis player **Novak Djokovic** (World no. 1) won the 2016 Mutua Madrid Open title in the men's single category when he defeated Andy Murray from Great Britain.

Pakistan won the third edition of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2016 by defeating India. In the final match held at Pakistan. This is Pakistan's second successive win in the Asian Kabaddi title as they had won it in 2012.

Seven Indian shuttlers (Badminton players) officially earned the qualification for the forthcoming Rio Olympics scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Brazil. They are **Saina Nehwal**, PV Sindhu, K. Srikanth, Jwala Gutta, Ashwini Ponnappa, Manu Attri and B Sumeeth Reddy.

Two Indian women wrestlers **Vinesh Phogat** and Sakshi Malik qualified for 2016 Rio Olympics scheduled to be held in August 2016.

Andy Murray from Britain has won the 2016 Italian Open title of Tennis in the men's singles category when he defeated Novak Djokovic (World No.1) for the first time on the clay court.

Red Bull F1 driver **Max Verstappen** from Netherlands created history by becoming Formula One's youngest race winner.

Mohun Bagan FC won the 2016 Indian Federation Cup football tournament title for the 14th time when they defeated Aizawl FC in the final match.

India's ace cueist **Pankaj Advani** created history by clinching the Asian 6-Red snooker title. Advani thus became the first in the world to hold both world and continental titles in 6-Red snooker at the same time. The double IBSF World 6-Red snooker champion stamped his authority again in the short format of the game.

Real Madrid FC won the 2016 UEFA Champions League for the record 11th time by defeating Atletico Madrid FC in the finals.

Discus thrower **Seema Punia** qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August 2016. With this she became the 19th Indian track and field athlete to qualify for Rio Olympics.

Sunrisers Hyderabad (SRH) won the ninth edition of the Indian Premier League (IPL) after defeating Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) in the final match.

South Asian Games gold medalist and Indian judo player **Avtar Singh** qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympic Games scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Garbine Muguruza (Spain) won the Women's singles title of 2016 French Open when defeated Serena Williams (United States) in the final match.

Legendary Canadian Ice hockey player **Gordon Howe** died at the age of 88. Known as Mr. Hockey, he played 2,421 games in his career, scoring 1,071 goals and earning 1,518 assists before his retirement aged 51. He remains the man with the most professional appearances in pro hockey history.

Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** from Great Britain won the 2016 Canada Grand Prix title of Formula One.

The International Tennis Federation (ITF) banned former Russian World No. 1 tennis player **Maria Sharapova** for two years over doping charges.

World Number One tennis player **Novak Djokovic** from Serbia won the 2016 French Open title in the men's singles category when he defeated Britain's Andy Murray in the final match.

Ace Indian shuttler **Saina Nehwal** won the 2016 Australian Open Super Series Badminton tournament title in women's singles category.

The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed former spinner **Anil Kumble** (45) as the head coach of Indian Cricket Team with a tenure of one year.

Australia won the 2016 Champions Trophy title of Hockey by defeating India in the finals, thus winning the title for record 14 times.

Defending champion **Chile** won the 2016 Copa America Football tournament by defeating Argentina in a penalty shootout.

The Indian mixed team of **Deepika Kumari** and Atanu Das won the silver medal at the Archery World Cup held in Antalya, Turkey.

Indian sprinter **Dutee Chand** qualified for 2016 Rio Olympics in the women's 100metre event scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Ace Indian shooter **Jitu Rai** won silver medal at the ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) Shooting World Cup held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Barcelona FC star **Lionel Messi** announced retirement from Argentinean Football team. He is the only footballer to win five FIFA Ballons d'Or, four of which he had won consecutively. He also the first football player to win three European Golden Shoes.

Indian boxers **Manoj Kumar** and Vikas Krishan qualified for the Rio 2016 Olympics scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Mercedes driver **Nico Rosberg** from Germany won the 2016 European Grand Prix of Formula One.

The **Rio 2016** organising committee revealed the official slogan for the first Olympic and Paralympic Games in South America— "A new world". Along with the Olympic torch, the medals and the mascots, the slogan plays a major part in creating the unique identity of each Olympic Games. For Rio 2016, the core values of the slogan and the manifesto are unity, respect for diversity and the will for change.

Ace Indian shooter **Sanjeev Rajput** won silver medal in men's 50-metre rifle 3 position event of the ISSF World Cup held in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Britain's **Andy Murray** won the 2016 Wimbledon title in men's singles category when he defeated Canada's Milos Raonic in the final match.

Argentina women's team won the 2016 Champions Trophy title of Hockey by defeating Netherlands in the final match.

Ace Indian shuttler **B Sai Praneeth** (World no 33) won the 2016 Canada Open Grand Prix Badminton title in the men's singles category.

Gurpreet Singh Sandhu became the first Indian football player to play in UEFA Europa League. Gurpreet is now the only Indian to play for the first team in a top-division league of Europe.

India's Chess Grand Master **Harika Dronavalli** won the Fide Women's Grand Prix trophy held in China.

Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** from Great Britain won the 2016 Austrian Grand Prix title of Formula One.

Para swimmer **Niranjan Mukundan** won eight medals at the recently-concluded IWAS (International Wheelchair and Amputee Sports) U-23 World Games held in Prague, Czech Republic.

The Sports Ministry granted recognition to **Paralympic Committee of India**, giving a huge confidence boost to the several para-athletes who have qualified for Rio Paralympics. The ministry's move comes less than a month after the International Paralympic Committee announced temporary lifting of suspension imposed on the national body last year so that Indians can take part under the tri-colour in the showpiece event in September.

Portugal won the 2016 UEFA European football championship (Euro Cup 2016) by defeating host France. It was Portugal's first UEFA European Championship title.

Serena Williams of United States won the 2016 Wimbledon title in women's singles category when she defeated Germany's Angelique Kerber.

Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal won the 73rd Senior National Squash Championship in men's and women's single categories respectively.

India's Rio Olympics bound shot putter **Inderjeet Singh** was tested positive for a banned substance. Inderjeet Singh had won a bronze medal in the 2014 Asian Games and had qualified for the 2016 Olympics.

Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** from Great Britain won the 2016 Hungarian Grand Prix title of Formula One.

Noted Indian hockey player **Mohammed Shahid** passed away at the age of 56. Mohammed Shahid, considered one of India's greatest hockey players, won an Arjuna Award (1981) and a Padma Shri (1986).

The International Cricket Council announced that **Muttiah Muralidaran**, Karen Rolton, Arthur Morris and George Lohmann will be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame later this year. Record-breaking off-spinner Muralidaran became the first Sri Lankan player to be inducted along with twice ICC Women's World Cup winner and former Australia women's captain Karen Rolton, her compatriot Arthur Morris a member of Don Bradman's 'invincibles' and England's George Lohmann, the 19th century fast bowler who took 100 wickets in just 16 Tests.

Top Indian wrestler **Narsingh Yadav** failed a dope test after he was tested positive for a banned substance steroid, jeopardizing his participation in Rio Olympics.

Javelin thrower **Neeraj Chopra** created history by becoming the first Indian athlete to become a world champion at any level when he won a gold medal at the U-20 World Championships in Bydgoszcz, Poland. The 18-year-old from Khandra village in Haryana's Panipat district broke the previous record held by Latvian Zigismunds Sirmais.

Mohun Bagan conferred the highest decoration of the club, the Mohun Bagan Ratna (jewel), on legendary **Syed Nayeemuddin**. The former India captain and latter the National coach became the 16th recipient of the prestigious award, which is given to someone making seminal contribution to the success of the club.

Indian test team captain **Virat Kohli** became the first Indian captain to score a double century outside India when he scored 200 runs against West Indies on second day of the first Test at the Sir Vivian Richards stadium in Antigua, West Indies. With this he also broke Mohammed Azharuddin's long-standing record of 192 in 1990 against New Zealand.

Grandmaster and former world junior champion **Abhijeet Gupta** won the 20th Commonwealth Chess Championship 2016 held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Gymnast **Dipa Karmakar** created history by becoming the first Indian gymnast to qualify for the apparatus finals of artistic Gymnastics at the Rio 2016 Olympics.

India's top squash player **Dipika Pallikal** won the prestigious PSA Australian Open when she defeated Mayar Hany (World no 8) of Egypt.

Mercedes driver **Lewis Hamilton** from Great Britain won the 2016 German Grand Prix title of Formula One.

The National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) gave a clean chit to wrestler **Narsingh Yadav** in the doping case, thus allowing him to participate in 2016 Rio Olympics.

Novak Djokovic (World no 1) from Serbia won the 2016 ATP Toronto Masters (also known as the Rogers club) title in the men's single category when he defeated Kei Nishikori (World no 6) of Japan.

The 31st edition of Summer **Olympic Games** opened in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro, with the theme "World peace and Environment". The 2016 Rio Olympics games are scheduled to take place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil from 5 to 21 August 2016 and Brazil is hosting it for the first time. India fielded its biggest ever contingent of 120 sportspersons and was led by flag-bearer and Olympic Gold medalist Abhinav Bindra.

Jamaica's **Usain Bolt** won the Gold medal in 100 meters final event at 2016 Rio Olympics by sprinting at recorded time of 9.81 seconds, thus retaining his title as the "Fastest man alive on the planet".

Army Green won the 2016 Durand Cup Football Title by defeating Neroca FC in the 128th edition of the Durand Cup.

Deepa Malik created history by winning silver medal in Women's shotput at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, thus becoming the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics.

India's **Devendra Jhajharia** won gold medal in the men's javelin throw at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, thus becoming the second gold medallist at the Paralympics for the country.

Mariyappan Thangavelu won India's first gold medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics in the Men's High Jump event.

Mercedes driver **Nico Rosberg** from Germany won the 2016 Italian Grand Prix of Formula one.

Indian pair of **Pranaav Jerry Chopra** and N Sikki Reddy won the 2016 Brazil Open Grand Prix title of Badminton in the mixed doubles category.

Stan Wawrinka (World no 3) from Switzerland won the 2016 US Open men's singles title by defeating Novak Djokovic (World number One) from Serbia

Union Government's think-tank NITI Aayog devised a short-term (4-8 years) and medium-to-long term (8-15 years) action plan to help **India** achieve 50 medals in 2024 summer Olympics.

India won the test match against New Zealand by 197-runs in their historic 500th cricket Test in Kanpur. Ravinder Jadeja was declared Man of the Match. India is the 4th country to play 500 Tests in a format which has 10 participants. Others are England, Australia and West Indies.

Indian women's beach kabaddi team won the gold medal at the 5th Asian Beach Games held in Vietnam.

India opened their medal account in the 5th Asian Beach Games at Vietnam with **Pinky Balhara** bagging a bronze in kurash on the opening day of competitions. Balhara won the bronze in women's 52kg category after she lost to Nguyen Thi Thanh Thuy of Vietnam in the semifinals. Kurash is a form of wrestling originated from Uzbekistan. The two opponents wear a green and a blue jacket and they will try to throw the other on the ground. If a player throws down his opponent backward, he is declared victorious. If the opponent is thrown to one side, then the points are awarded. India had sent a contingent of 208 members to participate in the Asian Beach Games.

India's **Priyasha Deshmukh** won a historic bronze medal in the first World Deaf Shooting Championships held in Kazan, Russia.

Sathiyam Gnanasekaran became only the second Indian table tennis player to win an ITTF event as he clinched the men's singles title of the Belgium Open. Achanta Sharath Kamal was the first Indian to win an ITTF event in 2012.

Indian shooter **Subhankar Pramanick** won the gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup for pistol, rifle and shotgun in Gabala, Azerbaijan.

India's squash player **Velavan Senthilkumar** won the Under-19 Asian Junior Individual squash championship title when he defeated Jordan's Mohammad Al-Sarraj, thus becoming the second Indian to win this title after Ravi Dixit in 2010

Agnieszka Radwanska defeated Johanna Konta to win the 2016 China Open Women's Singles.

World Number two **Andy Murray** defeated Grigor Dimitrov to clinch the 2016 China Open Men's Singles title.

Brazil lifted the 1st BRICS U-17 Football Tournament 2016 held at Goa. In the Finals they defeated South Africa. Earlier in the match for the 3rd place between Russia and China, Russia defeated China. Ten-day BRICS tournament transcends the traditional spheres of interaction and opens new vistas in the field of sports. A first of its kind, the Tournament will be a harbinger for further exchanges in other sports.

Daniel Ricciardo of Australia won the 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix.

India won the three-match test series against New Zealand 3-0. Ravichandran Ashwin was declared man of the series. After conclusion of the third and final match, Indian captain Virat Kohli was presented with the ICC Test Championship mace for leading his team to the top of the Test Team Rankings.

Jitu Rai rejuvenated his shooting career by winning the Champion of Champions pistol award, and a cash prize of €5000 in the World Cup Final in Italy.

For addressing the issue of deficit of sports infrastructure in the country, the **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports Affairs** moved a proposal for inclusion of Sports in the harmonized master list of infrastructure sub-sectors so that the sports sector becomes eligible for obtaining long term financial support from banks and other financial institutions on the same principle as is available to other infrastructure projects.

Miscellaneous

World

- China announced to set up an "international maritime judicial center" to help protect the country's sovereignty and rights at sea. China disputes a group of uninhabited islets with Japan in the East China Sea, and also claims most of the South China Sea.
- South Korea's Parliament passed the country's first anti-terror bill that was first proposed 15 years ago in 2001 after the 9/11 terrorist attacks in US.
- Government of Peru declared emergency for three weeks after a major oil pipeline burst in the country's northeast region affecting two rivers Chiriaco and Morona.
- The World Health Organisation (WHO) declared that Ebola outbreak in West Africa no longer constituted a Public Health Emergency of International Concern, thus officially declaring an end to a nearly 20-month Ebola outbreak emergency that killed over 11,000 people.
- Nepal was officially made a dialogue partner of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), a Beijing-based regional security grouping, when it signed a memorandum during Nepalese Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli's official visit to China.
- The tenth edition of World Wide Fund for Nature's (WWF's) Earth Hour was observed across the World on 19 March 2016 from 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm local time. Earth Hour is a worldwide movement against the global warming for the planet organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature.
- Saudi Arabia and Egypt decided to literally bridge the gap between the two nations as they agreed to build a bridge across the Red Sea linking not just the two nations but, the two continents Asia and Africa. Both leaders, King Salman of Saudi Arabia and Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi welcomed this new project. This project could bolster the trade between the two nations.
- The Philippines launched world's first public immunization programme for dengue fever. The programme seeks to administer the world's first licensed vaccine against a mosquito-borne disease to a million school children.
- 175 nations including India signed the historic Paris Climate Agreement at United Nations Headquarters in New York along marking a significant step to combat global warming. On behalf of India, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar signed the agreement at on the occasion of Earth Day (22 April).
- China and Pakistan signed an agreement for the launch of a special satellite to monitor the development of the multi-billion dollars China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects.
- The 14th meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Russia, India and China (RIC) Forum was held in Moscow, and owed to deepen cooperation in combating terrorism.
- After decades of struggle by gay rights groups, and months of contested political negotiations, the Italian Parliament gave final approval to a law recognizing civil unions of same-sex couples.
- Kenya announced to close Dadaab refugee camp, the world's biggest refugee camp, within a year and send hundreds of thousands of Somalis back to their war-torn homeland or on to other countries, a plan decried by aid and human rights groups as dangerous, illegal and impractical.

- The bison, an animal once hunted to the brink of extinction in America, is set to become the first national mammal of the US, putting it on a par with the bald eagle as a symbol of the nation. Congress passed legislation, the National Bison Legacy Act, which names the hoofed beast as a “historical symbol of the United States” and establishes it as the nation’s landmark mammal.
- The European Central Bank (ECB) announced that it will permanently stop producing the 500 euro banknote by the end of 2018. The ECB will also exclude it from the Europa series, taking into account concerns that this banknote could facilitate illicit activities.
- United States of America (US) Navy tested the world's largest unmanned surface vessel named Sea Hunter in San Diego. It is a self-driving 132-foot ship able to travel up to 10000 nautical miles on its own to hunt for stealthy submarines and underwater mines.
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) released the report titled Actions on Air Quality. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), global urban air pollution levels increased by 8 per cent between 2008 and 2013. More than 80 per cent of people living in urban areas that monitor air pollution are exposed to air quality levels that exceed WHO limits, threatening lives, productivity and economies. As per the report, with the decline of the global air quality, action in some air quality areas points to political will to tackle this global public health emergency although current efforts still fall short.
- UNODC (United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime) launched its inaugural World Wildlife Crime Report, highlighting how the poaching and illegal trade of thousands of different species across the globe not only present real environmental dangers but ultimately undermine the rule of law by potentially fuelling conflict. One of the main messages the report aims to convey is that wildlife and forest crime is not limited to certain countries or regions, but is a truly global phenomenon. The report looks at eight case studies of species products sorted by seven industrial sectors that make use of wild sourced materials across the world.
- With Global Warming becoming a common phenomenon around the world, Norway stood up and became a deforestation-free country. It is the first ever country in the world to issue a blanket ban on deforestation.
- Orlando in US was in news because a mass shooting occurred there at a gay nightclub in which at least 51 people were killed, including the gunman.
- The French government has created a Smartphone app designed to send warnings directly to people’s phones in the event of a bombing, shooting or other disaster. The alert app called Saip (Système d’alerte et d’information des populations), was developed after last November’s coordinated terrorist attacks across Paris killed 130 people. Available in English and French, the app can be configured to receive an alert if an attack occurs near the user.
- Sri Lankan Parliament unanimously passed the Right to Information (RTI) bill aimed at restoring transparency and good governance in the country.
- The Colombian government and FARC ((Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) rebels signed a ceasefire and disarmament agreement, one of the last steps toward ending a half-century conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people. The deal puts a definitive end to fighting in Latin America’s longest civil war, which has torn the country apart with shootings and bombardments in its coca-rich jungles and hills.
- Scientists from the University of California have developed a microchip, named KiloCore that has 1000 independent programmable processors. The microchip is the world’s first 1,000-processor chip and has the highest clock-rate processor ever designed at the university level.

- Peru's government declared a health emergency in 11 states in the north and eastern jungle regions due to an expanding outbreak of the Zika virus.
- The World Health Organization (WHO) declared Brazil free of measles, as no case of the disease was registered in 2015.
- Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declared a three-month state of emergency in the country in response to the failed coup that happened in mid July 2016.
- The 11th edition of the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia issued the Ulaanbaatar Declaration. The Declaration focuses on fight against terrorism and greater connectivity among the Asia and Europe.
- The US authorities designated a Pakistan-based Islamist organisation, Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, as a "global terrorist" organization.
- The 7th meeting of SAARC Interior Minister's Conference was held in Islamabad.
- Chinese scientists will perform the world's first genetic editing trial on humans in an attempt to find a cure for lung cancer.
- The United States will give Israel \$38 billion in military assistance over the next decade, the largest such aid package in U.S. history, under a landmark agreement signed on September 15. The deal will allow Washington's chief Middle East ally to upgrade most of its fighter aircraft, improve its ground forces' mobility and strengthen its missile defense systems. While the package constitutes the most U.S. military aid ever given to any country, it entails concessions by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, according to officials on both sides.
- India along with 10 other member countries of WHO's South-East Asian Regional Committee announced to set up a dedicated fund aimed at building preparedness for health emergencies in the region. The joint funding stream will be established under the South-East Asia Regional Health Emergency Fund (SEARHEF).
- India officially received certificates from World Health Organisation (WHO), declaring the country yaws and maternal and neonatal tetanus free. India is the first country to be officially acknowledged as being yaws-free. India was validated for maternal and neonatal tetanus elimination in April 2015, much ahead of the global target date of December 2015. The elimination of tetanus as a public health problem means that in India, the annual rate of maternal and neonatal tetanus is now less than 1 per 1000 live births.
- The World Rabies Day was observed on 28 September across the world to raise awareness about the rabies disease and its preventable measures.
- The Colombian government and left-wing FARC(Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) rebels signed a historic agreement formally bringing an end to 52 years of civil war. Under the deal, the FARC will be relaunched as a political party.
- Russia and Cuba signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of peaceful atomic energy use.
- The World Tourism Day (WTD) was observed on 27th September to raise awareness about the importance of tourism.
- China has built world's largest radio telescope nicknamed Tianyan as a part of China's drive to become a science powerhouse.

- The International Day of Peace was observed across the World on 21 September to strengthen the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and people. The theme was: "The Sustainable Development Goals: Building Blocks for Peace".
- The 193 countries of the United Nations (UN) signed a landmark declaration to rid the world of drug-resistant infections or Anti Microbial Resistance (AMR).
- The International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer was observed on September 16. The theme was: "Ozone and climate: Restored by a world united".
- The International Day of Rural Women was observed across the world on 15 October to recognize the critical role and contribution of rural women. The Theme this year was: "Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too".
- The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) was observed on 13 October across the world to encourage citizens and governments to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations.
- The International Day of the Girl Child was observed across the world on 11 October to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world. The Theme this year was: "Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls".
- The World Mental Health Day was observed on 10 October to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health. The theme this year was: "Psychological First Aid".
- The World Post Day was observed on October 9 to spread awareness about the postal services and their role in the everyday lives of people and businesses. The Theme this year was: "Innovation, Integration and Inclusion".
- The World Habitat Day was observed on 3 October 2016, with the theme: "Housing at the Centre".
- The International Day of Non-violence was celebrated on 2 October throughout the world on the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

India

- Making a new beginning, Telangana and Maharashtra governments signed a historic agreement on construction of inter-state irrigation projects. The agreement will facilitate construction of five barrages on Godavari river and its tributaries Penganga and Pranahita -- projects which have been pending for four decades due to inter-state river disputes.
- India signed a financing agreement for IDA credit of 300 US dollars for the Madhya Pradesh Higher Education Quality Improvement Project with the World Bank.
- Public Sector Power equipment manufacturer Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) commissioned the second 40 MW hydropower generating unit at the Teesta low dam hydroelectric project (HEP) stage IV in West Bengal.
- President Pranab Mukherjee imposed Present's Rule (State Emergency) in the state of Uttarakhand in the wake of constitutional breakdown under Article 356 of Constitution.
- Goa government classified Feni, country liquor, as the heritage spirit of the state.

- Haryana Government decided to rename Gurgaon as Gurugram and Mewat as Nuh. The decision to change the name of Gurgaon was taken on the basis of the representations received at several forums by the people of Gurgaon.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) commissioned a seasonwise tiltable canal top solar PV plant at Bhimavaram in Andhra Pradesh. It is the first canal top project in Andhra Pradesh.
- Citing the “overwhelming response” to the ban on country liquor, which was enforced in Bihar from April 1, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar’s cabinet extended the ban to Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), making Bihar a dry state with immediate effect. Bihar became the fourth state in India to impose a total prohibition of alcohol
- Gujarat government announced 10 percent reservation for economically backward classes (EBCs) in general category.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) sanctioned a loan of Rs 1,000 crore to Haryana State Warehousing Corporation (HSWC) for purchase of wheat during the ongoing rabi marketing season. The objective of foodgrain procurement by the government agencies is to ensure that farmers get remunerative price for their produce and do not have to resort to distress sale and build buffer stocks.
- The Maharashtra Government announced to make it mandatory to have a hologram on every alcohol bottle manufactured and sold in the state. The step was taken to check sale of spurious liquor.
- Maharashtra government declared drought in over 29000 villages of the state, most of them in parched Marathwada and Vidarbha regions.
- The Bombay High Court upheld the ban on slaughter of bulls and bullocks in Maharashtra indicating that consumption of beef will remain banned across the state.
- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched Chandranna Bima Yojana in Vijayawada. The Yojna launched on the occasion of May Day is an insurance scheme for the working class people. The state government scheme will cover about 1.5 crore workers of the state. Under the scheme any insured worker who meets an accidental death and permanent disability will be paid 5 lakh rupees and the worker who suffers partial disability will be paid a sum of 3 lakh rupees.
- Lakshadweep signed ‘24x7 Power for All document’, thus becoming the first Union Territory to sign the document which aims to provide each household access to electricity through 24x7 Power supply by 2019.
- World’s largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant with capacity of 11.5 MegaWatt (MW) was inaugurated at Dera Baba Jaimal Singh at Beas, in Amritsar, Punjab.
- A Maharashtra government appointed taskforce to address agrarian issues suggested a five-point agenda to Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis , to bring at least 80 per cent of farmers into the institutional credit net. Vasantrao Naik Shetkari Swavalamban Mission, headed by agriculture expert Kishore Tiwari, suggested that Fadnavis direct collectors of 14 suicide-prone districts of Vidarbha and Marathwada region to start a crop loan helpline.
- Odisha became the first Indian state to give transgender people social welfare benefits, such as a pension, housing and food grains, generally given to those living below the poverty line. The step was aimed at improving their overall social and economic status.

- Punjab Chief Minister Parkash Singh Badal launched the fund titled Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund to provide free treatment for patients affected by Hepatitis C, thus becoming the first Indian state to provide free treatment to confirmed cases of Hepatitis C.
- The Netherlands and Uttar Pradesh signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to set up a skill development centre to help farmers.
- The Union Council of Ministers was expanded with the induction of 19 new Ministers of State. Prakash Javadekar, Minister of State with Independent Charge of Environment, Forest and Climate Change was elevated as Cabinet Minister. Of the 19 new Ministers inducted from 10 States, 15 have past legislative experience in the Parliament and in State Legislatures with 10 of them having served in central and state governments as Ministers and officials..
- The two-week long Haritha Haram programme of Telangana government aimed to plant 46 crore plants to improve green belt was launched in July 2016.
- Rajasthan became the first state in the country to introduce minimum wages for part time workers, making it mandatory to pay 50% of the prescribed a day minimum wage to a person who works for less than four hours in a day.
- The Indo - Thailand Military Exercise MAITREE concluded on July 29, 2016 at Krabi, Thailand. The exercise had commenced on 15 July 2016 under the aegis of the Royal Thailand Army.
- The Union Cabinet chaired approved the establishment of a new AIIMS at Bhatinda in Punjab under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- The Union Cabinet gave its approval for establishment of new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- Chief Minister of Kerala launched Kochi Water Metro project in Kochi, Kerala. It is the first ever Water Metro project in the country. German Development Bank, Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) has inked an agreement with the Kochi Metro Rail Limited for the project worth 747 crore rupees.
- West Bengal Cabinet cleared a proposal to rename the state as - "Bengal" in English and "Bango" or "Bangla" in Bengali.
- Assam's Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated Majuli as the 35th district of Assam, thus making it India's first island district.
- Gumthala Garhu near Pehowa became the first Wifi hotspot village in Haryana circle under the bulk plan of BSNL for the state.
- Patna High Court quashed Bihar governments notification completely banning liquor in the state.
- Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Telangana government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to provide digital classes across the state through its state channel Mana TV.
- The Union Government gave its approval to change the name of Gurgaon to Gurugram.

- Adani Green Energy (Tamil Nadu) Ltd dedicated the world's largest solar power plant of 648 megawatts to the nation. The plant has been set up with an investment of around 4550 crore rupees at Kamuthi in Ramanathapuram district of Tamil Nadu.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced Charkhi Dadri as the 22nd district of the state.
- Telangana redrew its map by creating 21 new districts. With these, the total number of districts of the youngest state of India went up to 31. Telangana came into existence in June 2014 as the 29th State of India, and had started out with 10 districts.
- A Hindu son can divorce his wife for the cruelty of trying to pry him away from his "pious obligation" to live with his aged parents and provide shelter to them, the Supreme Court announced.
- India announced to completely seal its winding border with Pakistan by December 2018, on account of increasing tension between the two countries.



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

Which bank, in March 2016, announced the launch of a work-from-home programme to prevent women employees from dropping out of its workforce?

- A) ICICI Bank B) HDFC Bank C) Kotak Mahindra Bank D) YES Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Which of the following, in March 2016, announced the completion of the acquisition of privately held US-based GAVIS Pharmaceuticals LLC and Novel Laboratories (GAVIS) thus enhancing the company's scale in the US generic market?

- A) Lupin B) Dr. Reddy's Labs C) Cipla D) Cadila Healthcare E) None of these

Question No. : 3

Vineet Taneja resigned as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Micromax Informatics Ltd. in March 2016. Micromax Informatics Ltd. is India's second-largest manufacturer and the 10th largest player in the world.

- A) TV B) Refrigerator C) Mobile Phone D) Washing Machine E) None of these

Question No. : 4

Who among the following was named as the world's richest person with a net worth of \$75 billion, according to Forbes' annual ranking of billionaires in March 2016?

- A) Bill Gates B) Amancio Ortega C) Warren Buffett D) Mukesh Ambani E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which of the following, in March 2016, inked a pact with the India Brazil Chamber of Commerce for cooperation in knowledge sharing, consultancy, skill and technology?

- A) HDFC Bank B) Yes Bank C) ICICI Bank D) Kotak Mahindra E) None of these

Question No. : 6

Non-banking financial company Altico Capital India appointed former chairperson Naina Lal Kidwai as an independent non-executive director. Altico Capital is a foreign owned and controlled NBFCs with a net worth Rs 2,000 crore.

- A) HDFC B) ICICI C) HSBC India D) Barclays India E) None of these

Question No. : 7

Which of the following launched its own digital wallet in March 2016, that can be used exclusively for its own transactions?

- A) Flipkart B) PayTM C) MobiKwik D) Snapdeal E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In March 2016 India Post selected to advise it on setting up a payments bank. India Post payments bank will largely target unbanked and under-banked customers in rural, semi-rural and remote areas, with a focus on providing simple deposit products and money remittance services.

- A) Deloitte B) Price Waterhouse Coopers C) Mckinsey D) Ernst & Young E) None of these

Question No. : 9

India and the agreed to set up a regional capacity development centre in New Delhi for member countries of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka and the

- A) International Monetary Fund B) World Bank C) United Nations D) SAARC E) None of these

Question No. : 10

In March 2016 RITES (Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways) signed a contract to supply 18 Meter Gauge 1350 HP Diesel Electric Locomotives to Railways, which will help it to meet increasing demand for passenger and freight traffic.

- A) Myanmar B) Nepal C) Bhutan D) Bangladesh E) None of these

Question No. : 11

The Union Cabinet approved the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP). Which of these is NOT a feature of the policy?

- A) uniform license for exploration and production of all forms of hydrocarbon B) an open acreage policy
 C) easy to administer revenue sharing model D) marketing and pricing freedom for the crude oil and natural gas produced
 E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In March 2016 Indian Railways appointed as a consultant to discover the advertising potential in trains and railway stations. This is the first time in the country that a large-scale project to identify and leverage pan-India advertising opportunities has been initiated.

- A) Ernst & Young B) Deloitte C) KPMG D) Mckinsey E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In March 2016 Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announced the withdrawal of the budget proposal on taxing Employees Provident Fund, following a backlash in and outside Parliament. The proposal had sought to make up to per cent of savers' corpus withdrawn from the EPF tax-free if invested in annuity.

- A) 50 B) 60 C) 70 D) 80 E) None of these

Question No. : 14

Former cricket captain Martin Crowe passed away at the age of 53 in March 2016.

- A) New Zealand B) Australia C) England D) South Africa E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Mother Teresa will be made a saint on September 4, Pope Francis announced on March 15, 19 years after the death of the Nobel Laureate who spent 45 years serving the poor and sick on the streets of

- A) Mumbai B) New Delhi C) Kolkata D) Bengaluru E) None of these

Question No. : 16

Lieutenant General N P S Hira was, in March 2016, appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff. He has earned an Ashok Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and many more gallantry awards.

- A) Army B) Air Force C) Navy D) Border Security Force E) None of these

Question No. : 17

Acclaimed percussionist Nana Vasconcelos died at age 71 in March 2016. He was a master of the single-string percussion instrument known in Portuguese as the berimbau. He belonged to

- A) Brazil B) Argentina C) Peru D) Chile E) None of these

Question No. : 18

The International Hockey Federation (FIH) promoted Hockey India national-level umpire as the International Outdoor Umpire in March 2016.

- A) Napoleon Singh B) Santokh Singh C) Pargat Singh D) Zafar Iqbal E) None of these

Question No. : 19

Paramesh Krishnan Nair, the founder and former director of NFAI died at the age of 82 in March 2016. What does NFAI stand for?

- A) National Film Archive of India B) National Forensic Archive of India C) National Festival Archive of India
 D) National Film Association of India E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Raymond Tomlinson died at the age of 74 in March 2016. He was reputed for being

- A) the inventor of modern email B) a great author C) a great musician D) a seasoned politician E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In March 2016 the Arab League chose former foreign minister of Ahmed Aboul Gheit as its new secretary-general.

- A) Israel B) Egypt C) Syria D) Kuwait E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Anita Brookner, the Booker prize-winning author and renowned art historian, died at the age of 87 in March 2016.

- A) British B) American C) Canadian D) French E) None of these

Question No. : 23

Which country won the 2016 Asia Cup T20 trophy for a record sixth time in March 2016?

- A) India B) Pakistan C) Sri Lanka D) Bangladesh E) None of these

Question No. : 24

Lin Dan from China won the prestigious 2016 All England title in the men's singles category in March 2016.

- A) Badminton B) Lawn Tennis C) Table Tennis D) Snooker E) None of these

Question No. : 25

In March 2016 tennis star Maria Sharapova, the highest-paid woman in sports, was provisionally suspended by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

- A) French B) German C) Swedish D) Russian E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Which of the following won the third season of Star Sports Pro Kabaddi League (PKL) in March 2016?

- A) Patna Pirates B) U Mumba C) Telugu Titans D) Bengal Warriors E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Rahul Sachdev won the first All India Open Invitational Championship 2016 held at Aurangabad in March 2016.

- A) Snooker B) Golf C) Badminton D) Table Tennis E) None of these

Question No. : 28

In March 2016 three British professors, Richard Morris, Tim Bliss and Graham Collingridge, won the, dubbed as "the Nobel Prize of neuroscience", for discovering the secrets of how memories are formed in the brain.

- A) Brain Prize B) Heart Prize C) Liver Prize D) Neuron Prize E) None of these

Question No. : 29

Which veteran actor was, in March 2016, selected for the Dadasaheb Phalke award 2015 for his contribution to the film industry?

- A) Dilip Kumar B) Shashi Kapoor C) Manoj Kumar D) Amitabh Bachchan E) None of these

Question No. : 30

Renowned poetess and writer Padma Sachdev was, in March 2016, awarded the prestigious Krutitava Smagra Samman for the year 2015 for her outstanding contribution in literature and great service to Language.

- A) Dogri B) Hindi C) Tamil D) Gujarati E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In March 2016 veteran playwright and director was selected for the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award 2016 at the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META).

- A) Ratan Tata B) Ratan Thiyam C) Ratan Singla D) Ratan Gupta E) None of these

Question No. : 32

Charutar Arogya Mandal Chairman Dr Amrita Patel was, in March 2016, decorated with the Mahindra Samridhi India Agri Lifetime Achievement Aear-Krishi Shiromani Samman. Dr Patel had played a pivotal role in the implementation of

- A) Operation Flood B) Operation Milk C) Operation Water D) Operation Blue Star E) None of these

Question No. : 33

Which state, in March 2016, announced inclusion of widow marriage under the state government's Mukhyamantri Kanya Vivah Yojana?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Haryana C) Uttar Pradesh D) Bihar E) None of these

Question No. : 34

Which of the following, in March 2016, became the first state in the country to launch the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine as a public health programme for school children?

- A) Delhi B) Punjab C) Haryana D) Kerala E) None of these

Question No. : 35

The Aadhaar Bill, 2016 was introduced by Minister of Finance, Mr. Arun Jaitley, in Lok Sabha on March 3, 2016. Every resident shall be entitled to obtain an Aadhaar number. A resident is a person who has resided in India for days, in the one year preceding the date of application for enrolment for Aadhaar.

- A) 365 B) 182 C) 100 D) 60 E) None of these

Question No. : 36

The Rajya Sabha passed a landmark Real Estate Bill with a promise to secure the interests of homebuyers and developers in equal measure and remove corruption and inefficiency from the sector. Real estate contributes cent to the national GDP and the Bill's passage was seen as crucial to ensuring better regulatory oversight and orderly growth in the industry.

- A) 24 B) 4 C) 9 D) 19 E) None of these

Question No. : 37

The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 2016 was introduced by Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Rajnath Singh, in Lok Sabha on March 9, 2016. Which of the following is NOT true in this context?

- A) The Bill seeks to amend the Enemy Property Act, 1968 and the Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Act, 1971
- B) The central government had designated some properties belonging to nationals of Pakistan and China as 'enemy properties' during the 1962, 1965 and 1971 conflicts. It vested these properties in the 'Custodian of Enemy Property for India', an office instituted under the central government. The 1968 Act regulates these enemy properties, and lists the powers of the Custodian.
- C) The amendments include that once an enemy property is vested in the Custodian, it shall continue to be vested in him as enemy property irrespective of whether the enemy, enemy subject or enemy firm has ceased to be an enemy due to reasons such as death etc.
- D) The new bill ensures that the law of succession does not apply to enemy property
- E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In March 2016 the Government of India constituted a committee to consider Scheduled Tribe status to six Communities of The committee will be headed by Special Secretary (Internal Security) Ministry of Home Affairs, Mahesh Kumar Singla.

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Assam
- C) Meghalaya
- D) Sikkim
- E) None of these

Question No. : 39

In March 2016 Telangana and governments signed a historic agreement on construction of inter-state irrigation projects.

- A) Andhra Pradesh
- B) Karnataka
- C) Maharashtra
- D) Tamil Nadu
- E) None of these

Question No. : 40

In March 2016 India signed a financing agreement for IDA credit of 300 US dollars for the Higher Education Quality Improvement Project with the World Bank.

- A) Uttar Pradesh
- B) Madhya Pradesh
- C) Rajasthan
- D) Bihar
- E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In March 2016 NTT DATA Inc. and announced that they entered into a definitive agreement for NTT DATA to acquire the latter.

- A) Dell Inc. B) Wipro C) TCS D) Infosys E) None of these

Question No. : 2

In March 2016 Tokyo-based Yokohama Rubber Co announced to acquire off-highway-tyre manufacturer Alliance Tire Group (ATG) for \$1,179 million to expand its commercial tyre business. ATG sells radial and bias tyres in 120 countries and is based in

- A) India B) Israel C) UK D) France E) None of these

Question No. : 3

Theemerged as the richest Asian-origin entrepreneurs in Britain for the fourth consecutive year with an estimated personal fortune of 16.5 billion pounds as per the "Asian Rich List 2016" released in March 2016.

- A) Tatas B) Oswals C) Hindujas D) Munjals E) None of these

Question No. : 4

Which State signed an MoU with Cisco, in March 2016, to launch the first phase of Fiber Grid project to provide broadband connectivity at cheap rate?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Karnataka C) Kerala D) Maharashtra E) None of these

Question No. : 5

In March 2016 pharmaceutical giant Pfizer appointed S Sridhar as its Managing Director (MD) with immediate effect for a period of five years. Pfizer Inc. is a/an global pharmaceutical corporation.

- A) British B) French C) Dutch D) American E) None of these

Question No. : 6

Which leading global IT company, in March 2016, announced a three year partnership with the Virgin Money London Marathon to enhance the digital experience delivered to marathon participants?

- A) TCS B) Infosys C) Wipro D) Cognizant E) None of these

Question No. : 7

In March 2016 India's leading mobile phone operator announced the acquisition of Videocon Telecommunications Ltd's entire spectrum for 4428 crore rupees. Identify the company.

- A) Vodafone India B) Bharti Airtel Ltd. C) Idea Cellular D) Tata Docomo E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In March 2016 TIME magazine released its second annual 30 Most Influential People on the Internet list. The list was topped by

- A) Prime Minister Narendra Modi B) Kanye West C) Bill Gates D) Warren Buffett E) None of these

Question No. : 9

Which of the following, in March 2016, launched a contactless mobile payment solution through which its customers will be able to make payments by waving their cell phones near a contact-less merchant terminal?

- A) ICICI Bank B) HDFC Bank C) Yes Bank D) Kotak Mahindra Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 10

Which institution, in March 2016, notified Guidelines for 100% percent FDI in Business to Business e-commerce?

- A) Ministry of Finance B) RBI C) Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion
 D) Securities and Exchange Board of India E) None of these

Question No. : 11

In March 2016 the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to facilitate USD in funding to develop solar parks across India.

- A) 848 million B) 748 million C) 648 million D) 848 million E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In March 2016 the Reserve Bank of India issued revised Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Medium, Small and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs). This revised Framework will be applicable to MSMEs having loan limits up torupees including accounts under consortium or multiple banking arrangement.

- A) 25 crore B) 35 crore C) 15 crore D) 20 crore E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In March 2016 the Union Ministry of Finance notified interest rates on various Small Saving Schemes for the period between April 2016 and June 2016. Which of the following is NOT true in this context?

- A) Since 2012-13, interest rates on small savings scheme were revised annually; the practice was based on the recommendations of the Shyamala Gopinath Committee.
 B) As per the earlier practise, the revised rates for the coming financial year used to be announced in March every year.
 C) To ensure that the interest rates under Small Savings Schemes are more dynamically related to the current market rates the Government notified for quarterly revision in February 2016.
 D) The quarterly revision of interest rates will enable the Banks to move their interest rates in line with current money market rates.
 E) None of these

Question No. : 14

The former CEO and Chairman of, Andrew Grove, passed away at the age of 79 in March 2016.

- A) Intel B) Microsoft C) Yahoo D) Google E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Who among the following was named among the world's 50 greatest leaders by Fortune magazine in March 2016?

- A) Arvind Kejriwal B) Narendra Modi C) Sonia Gandhi D) Raghuram Rajan E) None of these

Question No. : 16

Jeff Bezos, the CEO of, topped the list of Fortune's third annual 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list released in March 2016.

- A) Amazon B) Google C) Apple D) Yahoo E) None of these

Question No. : 17

Who among the following was appointed as Goodwill Ambassador of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in March 2016?

- A) Ashley Judd B) Kate Winslet C) Jennifer Aniston D) Angelina Jolie E) None of these

**Question No. : 18**

Legendary writer, actor, and comedian Garry Shandling passed away at the age of 66 in March 2016.

- A) American B) British C) Canadian D) Australian E) None of these

Question No. : 19

Htin Kyaw was sworn in as the president of in March 2016, ushering in the first democratically elected government into office after decades of military rule.

- A) Nepal B) North Korea C) Myanmar D) Bhutan E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Johan Cruyff, the legendary soccer striker and coach, died at the age of 68 in March 2016.

- A) Dutch B) French C) German D) British E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In March 2016 the Chairman of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) was appointed as member of the International Coordinating Committee Bureau (ICCB) of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI-ICC) Bureau in Geneva. Identify the person.

- A) HL Dattu B) T. S. Thakur C) RM Lodha D) P. Sathasivam E) None of these

Question No. : 22

In March 2016 United States (US) Air Force General was selected as the head of the US military's Northern Command, thus becoming the first woman to head a US combatant command as the position is one of the most senior in the US military. Identify the person.

- A) Lori Robinson B) Ann Dunwoody C) Janet Wolfenbarger D) Esther McGowin Blake E) None of these

Question No. : 23

In March 2016 Sergey Karjakin won the prestigious FIDE World Candidates Tournament.

- A) Chess B) Snookers C) Golf D) Badminton E) None of these

Question No. : 24

This reputed cricket player declared his retirement from all forms of International Cricket in March 2016. He played total 59 test matches and scored 3731 runs at an average of 35.19. He played total 190 ODI matches and scored 5757 runs at an average of 40.54. Identify the person.

- A) Shane Watson B) Brett Lee C) David Warner D) Steve Smith E) None of these

Question No. : 25

In March 2016 International Cricket Council (ICC) suspended bowlers Taskin Ahmed and Arafat Sunny for bowling with an illegal action with an immediate effect.

- A) Afghanistan B) Pakistan C) Bangladesh D) Zimbabwe E) None of these

Question No. : 26

In March 2016 Yogeshwar Dutt won a Gold medal in the Asian Olympic Qualification tournament. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Wrestling B) Boxing C) Shooting D) Weight Lifting E) None of these

Question No. : 27

HS Prannoy won the prestigious 2016 Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold tournament in March 2016. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Badminton B) Lawn Tennis C) Golf D) Boxing E) None of these

Question No. : 28

In March 2016 Tikka Shatruijit Singh, the royal scion of Kapurthala's Ahluwalia dynasty, was conferred with the prestigious Knight of the Legion of Honour for his "extraordinary work in exchanging the lifestyle and Indian culture with each other."

- A) French B) German C) Spanish D) British E) None of these

Question No. : 29

Which state, in March 2016, won the Krishi Karman Awards 2014-15 for total food grain production greater than 10 million tonnes in Category I States?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Punjab C) Odisha D) Uttar Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 30

Which state, in March 2016, won the Krishi Karman Awards 2014-15 for the production of Wheat?

- A) Haryana B) Andhra Pradesh C) Rajasthan D) Punjab E) None of these

Question No. : 31

The 63rd National Film Awards (2015) were announced on 28 March 2016. Which film was adjudged as the Best Feature Film?

- A) Baahubali-The Beginning B) Bajrangi Bhaijaan C) Piku D) Bajirao Mastani E) None of these

Question No. : 32

Who was acknowledged as the Best Director at the 63rd National Film Awards (2015) in March 2016?

- A) Kabir Khan B) Sanjay Leela Bhansali C) S. S. Rajamouli D) Sartaj Singh Pannu E) None of these

Question No. : 33

Which project was launched by Haryana in March 2016, which seeks to maintain a healthy balance between the births of children by using injectable contraceptive, thus becoming the first State in the country to launch injectable contraceptive as part of a government initiative?

- A) Project Salamati B) Project Bhalai C) Project Contraceptives D) Project Neerogta E) None of these

Question No. : 34

Which State, in March 2016, dedicated the Pattiseema lift irrigation scheme to its people, aimed at linking Godavari and Krishna rivers?

- A) Karnataka B) Tamil Nadu C) Andhra Pradesh D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In March 2016 the Government of and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed a MoU on Capacity Enhancement on Sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development in the State.

- A) Mizoram B) Arunachal Pradesh C) Sikkim D) Assam E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In March 2016 the Legislative Assembly unanimously passed the State Backward Classes Bill, 2016. The bill seeks to provide reservation in services and admission in educational institutions to persons belonging to backward classes.

- A) Rajasthan B) Haryana C) Gujarat D) Madhya Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In March 2016 the Centre notified the new Aadhaar Act. Which of the following is NOT true in this context?

- A) It provides for efficient, transparent, and targeted delivery of subsidies, benefits and services to people eligible for them.
B) The expenditure for the transfer of benefits to eligible people is incurred from the Consolidated Fund of India.
C) Those individuals to whom Aadhaar number has not been assigned shall be offered alternate and viable means of identification for delivery of the subsidy, benefit or service.
D) The Aadhaar number will not be a proof of citizenship or domicile. E) None of these

Question No. : 38

Which State Cabinet, in March 2016, approved the Bill on the Settlement of Agricultural Indebtedness providing for a framework for expeditious determination and settlement of non-institutional agricultural debt?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Punjab C) Andhra Pradesh D) Haryana E) None of these

Question No. : 39

In March 2016 Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) commissioned the second 40 MW hydropower generating unit at the Teesta low dam hydroelectric project (HEP) stage IV in

- A) West Bengal B) Kerala C) Maharashtra D) Karnataka E) None of these

Question No. : 40

In March 2016 President Pranab Mukherjee imposed President's Rule (State Emergency) in the state of in the wake of constitutional breakdown under Article 356 of Constitution.

- A) Uttarakhand B) Uttar Pradesh C) Haryana D) Odisha E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

Which of the following launched an Aadhaar-based ATM usage facility in April 2016, wherein a customer can transact using his biometric details instead of the PIN, thus becoming the first bank to launch an Aadhaar based ATM?

- A) DCB Bank B) YES Bank C) ICICI Bank D) HDFC Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Which of the following, in April 2016, acquired payments start-up PhonePe Internet Pvt. Ltd?

- A) Flipkart B) Snapdeal C) Amazon India D) e-Bay E) None of these

Question No. : 3

In April 2016 Forbes released Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen 2016 list which features eight Indian women business leaders. Who among the following is NOT in the list?

- A) Nita Ambani B) Arundhati Bhattacharya C) Chanda Kochhar D) Ekta Kapoor E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In April 2016 Wolfgang Prock-Schauer, the CEO of Go Air was promoted as its Managing Director. Go Airlines (India) Ltd. is the aviation foray of the Group and it operates its services under the brand GoAir.

- A) Wadia B) Hinduja C) Tata D) Reliance E) None of these

Question No. : 5

With the health ministry maintaining its firm anti-tobacco stand, one of the oldest cigarette manufacturers was the first to implement the new and larger health warnings in April 2016. Identify the company.

- A) Golden Tobacco Company B) ITC C) NTC Industries D) Godfrey Phillip E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In April 2016 NASSCOM announced the appointment of Mr. CP Gurnani as its Chairman for 2016-2017. What does NASSCOM stand for?

- A) National Association of Segregated and Services Companies
 B) National Association of Strategy and Services Companies C) National Association of Sick and Sold Companies
 D) National Association of Software and Services Companies E) None of these

Question No. : 7

In April 2016 electronics giant Panasonic appointed senior executive Manish Sharma to its global executive council, inducting an Indian onto the coveted decision-making body of the \$80-billion company for the first time ever. Panasonic is a/an Company.

- A) Japanese B) Chinese C) British D) American E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In April 2016 Pfizer Inc. announced that the merger agreement between Pfizer and Allergan plc was terminated by mutual agreement of the companies. Pfizer is a/an company.

- A) French B) British C) German D) American E) None of these

Question No. : 9

Which of the following was, in April 2016, recognized as a 2016 Best Employer in India by Aon Hewitt, the global talent, retirement and health solutions business of Aon plc.?

- A) Tata Communications B) Infosys C) Wipro D) Dabur E) None of these

Question No. : 10

A UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) report released in April 2016 ranked India among the world's 10 largest manufacturing countries.

- A) 6th B) 7th C) 3rd D) 4th E) None of these

Question No. : 11

In April 2016 the Government extended the safeguard duty on import of some steel products. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) The Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC) issued a notification mentioning that safeguard duty will be reduced to 10% in stages from current 20%.
B) The main intention of this move is to protect domestic industry from onslaught of cheap steel supplies (imports) from China amid a global glut.
C) The duty has been extended till March 2018.
D) The safeguard duty is tariff barrier imposed by government on the commodities to ensure that imports in excessive quantities do not harm the domestic industry.
E) All of these

Question No. : 12

In April 2016 Bharti Airtel received its payment bank license from RBI that it had applied for in partnership with, a development that will help the companies reach out to more customers while advancing the government's financial inclusion drive, and generate additional revenue.

- A) Kotak Mahindra Bank B) HDFC Bank C) ICICI Bank D) YES Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In March 2016 PDP leader Mehbooba Mufti took oath as the woman Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir.

- A) 2nd B) 3rd C) 1st D) 4th E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In April 2016 National Assembly of elected Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan as the country's first female house speaker.

- A) Malaysia B) Indonesia C) Vietnam D) Nepal E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Retired Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court Justice Permod Kohli was, in April 2016, sworn in as the Chairman of CAT. What does CAT stand for?

- A) Common Administrative Tribunal B) Central Administrative Tribunal C) Central Appraisal Tribunal
D) Core Administrative Tribunal E) None of these

Question No. : 16

In April 2016 Sigurdur Ingi Johannsson was named as the new prime minister of after former leader David Gunnlaugsson stepped down in the wake of the leaked Panama Papers which showed Gunnlaugsson had owned an offshore account along with his wife.

- A) Ireland B) Iceland C) Norway D) Netherlands E) None of these

Question No. : 17

Sushila Karki became the first woman Chief Justice of Supreme Court of in April 2016. She is known for her zero tolerance against corruption in the judiciary.

- A) Bangladesh B) India C) Bhutan D) Nepal E) None of these

Question No. : 18

In April 2016 the Government appointed Susmita Pande as the new chairperson of the NMA, a quasi-judicial body that functions under the aegis of Union Ministry of Culture and Tourism and is headquartered in New Delhi.

- A) National Monument Authority B) National Museum Authority C) National Migration Authority
 D) National Music Authority E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In April 2016 Tran Dai Quang was sworn in as the ninth President of succeeding Truong Tan Sang.

- A) Malaysia B) Vietnam C) Thailand D) North Korea E) None of these

Question No. : 20

In April 2016 Yogendra Bali passed away at the age of 86. He was a reputed

- A) Journalist B) Singer C) Scientist D) Sportsman E) None of these

Question No. : 21

Reputed Iraqi-born British professional Zaha Hadid passed away at 65 in April 2016. She was world's most famous female

- A) Architect B) Author C) Musician D) Doctor E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Who among the following was, in April 2016, conferred with the prestigious Hridaynath Award, which recognises individuals for success in various walks of life?

- A) Lata Mangeshkar B) Babasaheb Purandare C) Amitabh Bachchan D) Vishwanathan Anand E) None of these

Question No. : 23

Which country won the ICC Cricket World Men's T-20 Cup 2016 by defeating England in the final match played at Eden Gardens, Kolkata in April 2016?

- A) West Indies B) Australia C) India D) New Zealand E) None of these

Question No. : 24

In April 2016 professional boxer Anthony Joshua won the 2016 International Boxing Federation (IBF) heavyweight title thus becoming the first boxer in history to hold the Olympic super-heavyweight title and a version of the world heavyweight (IBF) title simultaneously.

- A) American B) British C) Russian D) Iranian E) None of these

Question No. : 25

In April 2016 Danny Willett from England won the prestigious 2016 US Masters tournament.

- A) Golf B) Badminton C) Chess D) Table Tennis E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Which country, in April 2016, won the Asian Nations Cup Chess tournament?

- A) India B) Vietnam C) Russia D) China E) None of these

Question No. : 27

In April 2016 James Taylor of announced his retirement from all forms of International cricket at the age of 26 due to ill health.

- A) Australia B) South Africa C) England D) New Zealand E) None of these

Question No. : 28

Who among the following won the 'Global Indian of the Year' award in April 2016, recognizing outstanding achievements of the Indian diaspora globally?

- A) Aishwarya Rai Bachchan B) Katrina Kaif C) Deepika Padukone D) Kareena Kapoor Khan E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In April 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the highest civilian honour of

- A) Saudi Arabia B) China C) Oman D) France E) None of these

Question No. : 30

In April 2016 former army chief Gen. (retd) JJ Singh was conferred with the highest civilian distinction, Officer of the Legion of Honour.

- A) German B) French C) Swedish D) British E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In April 2016 author and poet Padma Sachdev's autobiography 'Chitt-Chete', written in Dogri language, was selected for the prestigious for 2015.

- A) Saraswati Samman B) Kalidas Samman C) Booker Prize D) Valmiki Samman E) None of these

Question No. : 32

Investigative journalist Khadija Ismayilova of was, in April 2016, chosen for the prestigious 2016 UNESCO/Guillermo Cano World Press Freedom Prize.

- A) Azerbaijan B) Uzbekistan C) Ukraine D) Kuwait E) None of these

Question No. : 33

In April 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval to Implementation of the NHP, which will be a central sector scheme with a total outlay of Rs. 3679.7674 crore. What does NHP stand for?

- A) National Highways Project B) National Hydrology Project C) National Health Project D) National Hill Project
E) None of these

Question No. : 34

Which State, in April 2016, launched Mission Drinking Water?

- A) Maharashtra B) Haryana C) Bihar D) Punjab E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In a landmark judgment in April 2016, the legislature became the first state in India to pass a law that could mean the end for social discrimination in the state.

- A) Maharashtra B) Gujarat C) Kerala D) Andhra Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In April 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and on cooperation in preventing and combating of Human Trafficking.

- A) United Arab Emirates B) Iraq C) Pakistan D) Bangladesh E) None of these

Question No. : 37

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP). Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) The benefit will be given with effect from 1st July, 2014.
B) Pension will be re-fixed for pre 1.7.2014 pensioners retiring in the same rank and with the same length of service as the average of minimum and maximum pension drawn by the retirees in the year 2013. Those drawing pensions above the average will be protected.
C) The benefit would also be extended to family pensioners including war widows and disabled pensioners.
D) Financial implications on account of grant of OROP including Pre-Matured Retirees (PMR) cases would be Rs. 10925.11 crore for payment of arrears and annual financial implication would be Rs. 7488.7 crore.
E) All of these

Question No. : 38

In April 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February 2016 between India and on Technical Cooperation in the Railway Sector.

- A) Sweden B) France C) Germany D) China E) None of these

Question No. : 39

In April 2016 Haryana Government decided to rename Gurgaon as

- A) Gurugram B) Gurugaon C) Goregaon D) Gurushehar E) None of these

Question No. : 40

Citing the "overwhelming response" to the ban on country liquor, which was enforced in from April 1, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's cabinet extended the ban to Indian Made Foreign Liquor (IMFL), making Bihar a dry state with immediate effect. Bihar became the state in India to impose a total prohibition of alcohol.

- A) 3rd B) 1st C) 4th D) 2nd E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

Which of the following, in April 2016, became the first Indian company to join EP100, a global energy campaign led by an international non-profit group, that will work with the world's most influential businesses in setting commitments to double their energy productivity?

- A) Mahindra & Mahindra B) TCS C) Infosys D) Dabur E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Panasonic along with US-based sustainable energy provider AES would install a joint project of 10 MW energy storage array in Both the firms entered into an agreement in April 2016 to set up a battery-based energy storage project at Panasonic's Techno park manufacturing facility in the state.

- A) Gujarat B) Haryana C) Uttar Pradesh D) Rajasthan E) None of these

Question No. : 3

In April 2016 Reliance Defence signed an agreement with three state-owned firms to collaborate on a range of military products including transport aircraft, armoured vehicles, maritime gas turbines and unmanned aerial vehicles.

- A) Ukrainian B) Russian C) German D) French E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In April 2016 a US grand jury slapped a \$940 million fine on two group firms in a trade secret lawsuit filed against them by Epic Systems.

- A) Tata B) Reliance C) Bharti D) Hero E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which of the following has been recognized as one of the 50 future-ready cities around the world that are embracing technology to adapt and thrive in an ever-changing and globalised future, according to a report by IT major Dell?

- A) Mumbai B) Pune C) Hyderabad D) Delhi E) None of these

Question No. : 6

Which company, in April 2016, launched a fraud detection mechanism named the Hunter Fraud Score, which measures the probability of fraud in a credit application across banking and insurance industries?

- A) Experian B) Accenture C) Polaris D) Sapient E) None of these

Question No. : 7

In April 2016 Infosys cofounder S Gopalakrishnan launched a new app that chronicles the "fascinating journey" of the Indian IT Industry since the 1950s. What is the app called?

- A) Itihaasa B) Ancient C) IT Dip D) Connecting India E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In April 2016 JK Tyre and Industries Ltd announced the completion of the acquisition of tyre, tube and flap maker Cavendish Industries, a unit of Kesoram Industries Ltd, for 2195 crore rupees. Kesoram Industries is a Group company.

- A) Tata B) Reliance C) B.K. Birla D) Hero E) None of these

Question No. : 9

The Union Cabinet, in April 2016, gave its approval for signing the Paris Agreement adopted at the 21st Conference of Parties held in Paris in December 2015. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) The Paris Agreement on climate change is a milestone in global climate cooperation, meant to enhance the implementation of the Convention and recognizes the principles of equity and common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities in the light of different national circumstances.
- B) The Paris Agreement acknowledges the development imperatives of developing countries.
- C) The Agreement recognizes the developing countries' right to development and their efforts to harmonize development with environment, while protecting the interests of the most vulnerable.
- D) India had advocated a strong and durable climate agreement based on the principles and provisions of the Convention; the Paris Agreement addresses all the important concerns and expectations of India.
- E) All of these

Question No. : 10

India was ranked out of 180 countries in the 2016 World Press Freedom Index that was released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in April 2016.

- A) 113 B) 123 C) 133 D) 143 E) None of these

Question No. : 11

Which country topped the 2016 World Press Freedom Index that was released by Reporters Without Borders (RSF) in April 2016?

- A) Finland B) Netherlands C) Norway D) Denmark E) None of these

Question No. : 12

Who among the following was, in April 2016, named as the goodwill ambassador of the Indian contingent for the upcoming Olympics to be held in August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil?

- A) Salman Khan B) Amitabh Bachchan C) Shah Rukh Khan D) Akshay Kumar E) None of these

Question No. : 13

Satyanand Munjal, co-founder of group, died at the age of 99 in April 2016.

- A) Hero Cycles B) Oswal C) Vardhman D) Bharti Enterprises E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In April 2016 Mindtree cofounder and former chairman Subroto Bagchi was selected by the government of to head the state's Skill Development Authority.

- A) Bihar B) West Bengal C) Odisha D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 15

In April 2016 senior IPS officer Surender Kumar Bhagat was appointed as the Director General (DG) of RPF. What does RPF stand for?

- A) Railways Protection Force B) Revenue Policy Forum C) Rajasthan Police Force D) Retarded Peoples' Forum
- E) None of these

Question No. : 16

Renowned cartoonist V T Thomas of passed away at the age of 86 in April 2016. He was popularly known as Toms and had created the legendary cartoon characters Boban and Molly.

- A) Kerala B) Goa C) Maharashtra D) Karnataka E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In April 2016 Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Bhupendra Kainthola was appointed as Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). FTII is a premier institute that provides training for acting, film making, video editing, direction & production and is situated in

- A) Mumbai B) Pune C) Hyderabad D) Delhi E) None of these

Question No. : 18

Doris Roberts passed away at the age of 90 in April 2016. She was a renowned

- A) Actress B) Author C) Gymnast D) Scientist E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In April 2016 government appointed senior IPS officer Geeta Johri as the Director General of Police (DGP) of the state. With this she became the first female DGP of the state.

- A) Gujarat B) Maharashtra C) Rajasthan D) Haryana E) None of these

Question No. : 20

In April 2016 US President Barack Obama nominated Indian-American Geeta Pasi, a career foreign service officer, as the country's next envoy to

- A) Chile B) Chad C) China D) Cuba E) None of these

Question No. : 21

Which country won the 25th edition of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey Tournament 2016 for record ninth time in April 2016?

- A) India B) Pakistan C) Australia D) England E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Dattu Baban Bhokanal qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics scheduled to be held in August 2016 in Brazil, after winning a silver medal in the FISA Asian and Oceania Olympic Qualification Regatta held at Chung-ju in South Korea in April 2016. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Rowing B) Swimming C) Badminton D) Weight Lifting E) None of these

Question No. : 23

Dipa Karmakar created history in April 2016 by becoming the first Indian woman to qualify for Olympics. At 2014 Commonwealth Games held at Glasgow she had created history becoming the first Indian female to win medal (bronze) in history of the games.

- A) Swimmer B) Gymnast C) Weight Lifter D) Boxer E) None of these

Question No. : 24

In April 2016 India's Durga Thakur was promoted to international outdoor umpire by the International Federation, following her good performance at the recently-held Hawke's Bay Cup in New Zealand.

- A) Football B) Cricket C) Hockey D) Badminton E) None of these

Question No. : 25

It was announced in April 2016 that will host the 2018 Commonwealth Judo Championships.

- A) India B) China C) Japan D) North Korea E) None of these

**Question No. : 26**

In April 2016 President Pranab Mukherjee nominated six eminent personalities from different fields to Rajya Sabha following a recommendation of the Union government. Which of them is NOT one of these six?

- A) Subramanian Swamy B) Navjot Singh Sidhu C) Mary Kom D) Suresh Gopi E) Rahul Dravid

Question No. : 27

In April 2016 Narendra Jadhav was nominated to the Upper House. Which of the following is true about him?

- A) He is a policy advisor to PM Narendra Modi.
 B) He was nominated to the Upper House due to his enormous fan following in UP and Bihar as a movie actor.
 C) He was one of the petitioners in the 2G spectrum case, which led to the decline of the Congress.
 D) The BJP nominated him to the Upper House despite opposition from party leaders in Punjab E) None of these

Question No. : 28

In April 2016 K Ashok Kumar, a research food engineer scholar from Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur, won the prestigious 2016 International Plant Nutrition Scholar Award (IPNSA). The award is given by the International Plant Nutrition Institute (IPNI) based in

- A) France B) Germany C) US D) UK E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In April 2016 women's rights activist, from, Tabassum Adnan won the prestigious 2016 Nelson Mandela Graça Machel Innovation Award.

- A) Afghanistan B) Iraq C) Syria D) Pakistan E) None of these

Question No. : 30

Pulitzer Prizes, which honour extraordinary work in journalism, drama and literature in, were announced in April 2016.

- A) US B) UK C) France D) Germany E) None of these

Question No. : 31

The Government, in April 2016, merged Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), launched by the UPA government, with the Khelo India programme for development of sports. Khelo India is based on the model of Khel Mahakumbh of, in which schools and colleges from different parts of the country participate in about 27 disciplines.

- A) Gujarat B) Uttar Pradesh C) Maharashtra D) Andhra Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In April 2016 the Government launched National LED programme -Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA) in.....

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Uttar Pradesh C) Bihar D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 33

The Union Cabinet, in April 2016, gave its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) and the Insurance Authority of providing for enhanced cooperation between the two authorities in the field of insurance supervision.

- A) United Arab Emirates B) Sri Lanka C) Bangladesh D) Nepal E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In April 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and on technical cooperation in the field of capacity building, benchmarking and bilateral exchange in infrastructure engineering.

- A) Bhutan B) Bangladesh C) Nepal D) Sri Lanka E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In April 2016 Rajya Sabha passed the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2016 to include certain communities in the list of Scheduled Castes (SC) from 4 states - Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Kerala and

- A) West Bengal B) Bihar C) Uttar Pradesh D) Madhya Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 36

The Union Government, in April 2016, launched Sahapedia.org, India's first online interactive portal on the of the country.

- A) cultural heritage B) economic development C) agricultural excellence D) scientific progress E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In April 2016 National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) sanctioned a loan of to Haryana State Warehousing Corporation (HSWC) for purchase of wheat during the ongoing rabi marketing season.

- A) Rs 1000 crore B) Rs 500 crore C) Rs 200 crore D) Rs 1500 crore E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In April 2016 the Government announced to make it mandatory to have a hologram on every alcohol bottle manufactured and sold in the state to check sale of spurious liquor.

- A) Maharashtra B) Haryana C) Punjab D) Bihar E) None of these

Question No. : 39

On April 2016, 175 nations including India signed the historic Paris Climate Agreement at United Nations Headquarters in New York along marking a significant step to combat global warming on the occasion of Earth Day.

- A) 21 B) 22 C) 23 D) 24 E) None of these

Question No. : 40

In April 2016 China and signed an agreement for the launch of a special satellite to monitor the development of the multi-billion dollars Economic Corridor projects between the two countries.

- A) India B) Pakistan C) North Korea D) France E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In May 2016 Future Group's Chief Executive Kishore Biyani was appointed Managing Director (MD) of

- A) Bharti Retail B) Cantabil Retail C) V-mart Retail D) Shopper's Stop E) None of these

Question No. : 2

In May 2016 Department of Industrial Policy & Promotion started the process for issuance of UBIN to enable budding entrepreneurs. What is the full form of UBIN?

- A) Universal Business Identification Number B) Unique Business Identification Number
C) Unique Business Illustration Number D) Unmatched Business Identification Number E) None of these

Question No. : 3

In May 2016 the trade body of Indian IT firms NASSCOM signed an MoU with to build a product design initiative to engage the country's young entrepreneurs into becoming problem solvers and solution builders.

- A) Facebook B) Google C) Yahoo D) Twitter E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In May 2016 acquired Synergise , a business technology startup founded by an Indian-origin entrepreneurs launched in 2013.

- A) Google B) Yahoo C) Facebook D) Twitter E) None of these

Question No. : 5

In May 2016 the government approved the proposal of to set up an IT/ITeS special economic zone in Bengaluru.

- A) Wipro B) TCS C) Infosys D) Cognizant E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In May 2016 Forbes magazine released the list of Money Masters: the Most Powerful People in the Financial World. The only Indian who finds mention in the list is, who is ranked 33rd in the list with a net worth of 7.1 billion dollars.

- A) Uday Kotak B) Azim Premji C) Mukesh Ambani D) Sunil Bharti Mittal E) None of these

Question No. : 7

KPMG's offshore arm in India announced the appointment of Sameer Chadha as partner and CEO in May 2016. KPMG is headquartered in

- A) France B) US C) Finland D) Netherlands E) None of these

Question No. : 8

Mrugank Paranjape took charge as managing director (MD) and chief executive officer (CEO) of MCX in May 2016. What does MCX stand for?

- A) Multi Commodity Exchange B) Multi Currency Exchange C) Multi Cultural Exchange
D) Multinational Commodity Exchange E) None of these

Question No. : 9

In May 2016 Mukesh Ambani-owned Reliance Jio Infocomm launched its digital wallet service, for Indian consumers, following the introduction of 4G services to the public through an employee-driven invite system. What is the service called?

- A) JioMoney Wallet B) Reliance Wallet C) Infocomm Wallet D) Jio Wallet E) None of these

Question No. : 10

In May 2016 the government of granted in-principle approval for the first phase of Reliance Power's project in the country. This will be the largest foreign direct investment in the country with a potential investment of over US\$1.3 billion.

- A) Bangladesh B) Myanmar C) Sri Lanka D) Nepal E) None of these

Question No. : 11

The Union Cabinet, in May 2016, gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and Financial Services Regulatory Authority (FSRA), ,for mutual co-operation and technical assistance between the two regulators.

- A) Abu Dhabi B) Saudi Arabia C) Qatar D) Mongolia E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In May 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed in February, 2016 between Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Bank of on co-operation concerning currency swap agreement.

- A) United Arab Emirates B) Canada C) Pakistan D) China E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In May 2016 India and other 5 countries viz. Canada, Iceland, Israel, New Zealand and signed OECD's (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) Multilateral Competent Authority Agreement aimed at boosting automatic exchange of information on tax issues and developing new tools to tackle the tax evasion.

- A) Japan B) China C) France D) Norway E) None of these

Question No. : 14

Who among the following was, in May 2016, re-appointed ICC Cricket Committee chairman for a second term of three years?

- A) Anil Kumble B) Rahul Dravid C) Sachin Tendulkar D) Ravi Shastri E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Who among the following was, in May 2016, appointed as Additional Solicitor General of India?

- A) Atma Ram Nadkarni B) L. Nageswara Rao C) Ashok Bhushan D) Uday Umesh Lalit E) None of these

Question No. : 16

In May 2016 Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Bhupendra Kainthola took charge as Director of Film and Television Institute of India (FTII). FTII is premier institute in the country that provides training for acting, film making, video editing, direction and production and is located

- A) Mumbai B) Pune C) Hyderabad D) Delhi E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In May 2016 Australian entrepreneur Craig Wright identified himself as Satoshi Nakamoto. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) Satoshi Nakamoto is the pseudonymous creator of the digital currency bitcoin.
 B) Cryptocurrencies, among which bitcoin is the dominant version, allow consumers to make electronic transactions without commercial banks as intermediaries, and outside the reach of central banks.
 C) There are around 15.5m bitcoins currently in circulation, including the million or so reportedly owned by Nakamoto, giving the founder – or founders – a net worth of around US\$450m, at the current price.
 D) One bitcoin is currently worth around £306 (US\$449). E) All of these

Question No. : 18

In May 2016 named Fatma Samoura, a UN diplomat, as its first ever female secretary general.

- A) Senegalese B) Korean C) Japanese D) French E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In May 2016 senior IPS officer Kumar Rajesh Chandra was appointed as Chief of BCAS. Expand BCAS.

- A) Board of Civil Aviation Security B) Bureau of Civil Aviation Security C) Bureau of Civil Aviation Strategy
 D) Bureau of Civil Automated Security E) None of these

Question No. : 20

To celebrate the 476th birth anniversary of one the greatest warriors of Indian history, the Union Government, in May 2016, released a commemorative and circulation coin of Rs 100 and Rs 10 respectively.

- A) Maharana Pratap B) Banda Bahadur C) Tipu Sultan D) Akbar E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In May 2016 US President Barack Obama appointed, an Indian-American engineer, as the member of President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships.

- A) Satnam Singh B) Ravinder Singh C) Manjit Singh D) Ajay Banga E) None of these

Question No. : 22

An Indian-origin lawyer Murali Pillai from the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) of was, in May 2016, elected member of the parliament.

- A) Malaysia B) Thailand C) Singapore D) Indonesia E) None of these

Question No. : 23

In May 2016 Justice Naveen Sinha was sworn in as the 31st Chief Justice of

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Bihar C) Rajasthan D) Uttar Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 24

Mark Selby from England won the 2016 World Championship title of when he defeated China's Ding Junhui in the final match in May 2016.

- A) Snooker B) Golf C) Badminton D) Table Tennis E) None of these

Question No. : 25

Mickey Arthur, former cricketer of, was appointed as Pakistan cricket team's head coach in May 2016.

- A) South Africa B) England C) Australia D) New Zealand E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Formula One Driver Nico Rosberg of won the 2016 Russian Grand Prix in May 2016.

- A) Germany B) France C) Sweden D) Russia E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Novak Djokovic won the 2016 Mutua Madrid Open title when he defeated Andy Murray in May 2016. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Table Tennis B) Lawn Tennis C) Badminton D) Snooker E) None of these

Question No. : 28

Which country won the third edition of the Asian Kabaddi Championship 2016 held in May 2016?

- A) India B) Iran C) Pakistan D) Afghanistan E) None of these

Question No. : 29

Which of the following, in May 2016, received the "Best Indian Destination for Wildlife" award by the Lonely Planet Group?

- A) Madhya Pradesh Tourism B) Rajasthan Tourism C) Gujarat Tourism D) Uttar Pradesh Tourism E) None of these

Question No. : 30

Who among the following, in May 2016, won the regional Commonwealth Short Story Prize for 2016 for the Asia region?

- A) Parashar Kulkarni B) Ram Charan C) Hari Parmeshwar D) Vikram Seth E) None of these

Question No. : 31

Which country felicitated Neela Banerjee with the prestigious Edgar A Poe Award in May 2016?

- A) US B) UK C) Canada D) Australia E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In May 2016 the President of India Pranab Mukherjee presented the 15th Set of FIEO "Niryat Shree" and "Niryat Bandhu" Awards to various companies. What does FIEO stand for?

- A) Federation of International Export Organisations B) Federation of Indian Export Organisations
C) Federation of Indian Extrinsic Organisations D) Federation of Indian Emerging Organisations E) None of these

Question No. : 33

In May 2016 three Indian names were on the list of fifty scientists elected as Fellows of The Royal Society, a premier scientific academy of the U.K. and the Commonwealth. Who among the following is NOT one of them?

- A) Sriram Ramaswamy B) Ramanujan Hegde C) Lakshminarayanan Mahadevan D) C.N.R Rao E) None of these

Question No. : 34

The Union Cabinet, in May 2016, approved the National Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) Policy that will lay the future roadmap for intellectual property in India. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) The Policy recognises the abundance of creative and innovative energies that flow in India, and the need to tap into and channelise these energies towards a better and brighter future for all.
B) The Policy is a vision document that aims to create and exploit synergies between all forms of intellectual property (IP), concerned statutes and agencies.
C) The Policy aims to incorporate and adapt global best practices to the Indian scenario and lead to the creation of an innovation-conducive environment, which stimulates creativity and innovation across sectors.
D) The Policy recognizes that India has a well-established TRIPS-compliant legislative, administrative and judicial framework to safeguard IPRs, which meets its international obligations while utilizing the flexibilities provided in the international regime to address its developmental concerns.
E) All of these

Question No. : 35

In May 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Inter-Governmental Agreement between India and on cooperation in cooperatives and related fields.

- A) Mauritius B) France C) Malaysia D) Singapore E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In May 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the signing of Memorandum of Co-operation (MoC) between Ministry of Women & Child Development (MWCD) and Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF) for the cooperation in Information and Communication Technology enabled Real Time Monitoring (ICT-RTM) of Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) and other related technical matters. The MoC would cover 162 high malnutrition burden districts of Indian States.

- A) 6 B) 8 C) 7 D) 10 E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In May 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for allowing flexibility in utilisation of domestic coal for reducing the cost of power generation. This proposal is in line with the UDAY scheme of Government of India. What does UDAY stand for?

- A) Unnati Discom Assurance Yojana B) Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana C) Ujala Discom Assurance Yojana
D) Uttar Discom Assurance Yojana E) None of these

Question No. : 38

After decades of struggle by gay rights groups, and months of contested political negotiations, the Parliament of, in May 2016, gave final approval to a law recognizing civil unions of same-sex couples.

- A) Italy B) France C) Germany D) Belgium E) None of these

Question No. : 39

Which country, in May 2016, announced to close Dadaab refugee camp, the world's biggest refugee camp, within a year and send hundreds of thousands of Somalis back to their war-torn homeland or on to other countries?

- A) Kenya B) Tanzania C) Iraq D) Nigeria E) None of these

Question No. : 40

The bison, an animal once hunted to the brink of extinction, is set to become the first national mammal of, putting it on a par with the bald eagle as a symbol of the nation.

- A) Australia B) UK C) US D) France E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In May 2016 a jury in San Francisco cleared of copyright infringement in a case.

- A) Oracle B) Google C) Yahoo D) Microsoft E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Which bank, in May 2016, launched SmartUp, a dedicated solution for startups, to fulfil all their banking needs?

- A) ICICI Bank B) HDFC Bank C) YES Bank D) Kotak Mahindra Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 3

In May 2016 state-owned major, National Aluminium Company Limited (Nalco) and Mines & Mining Industries Development Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) of signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly explore the possibility of setting up an aluminium smelter in

- A) Iraq B) Saudi Arabia C) Iran D) Kuwait E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In May 2016 state-run power producer NTPC signed a joint venture agreement with state-run miner Coal India Limited (CIL) to revive plants of the

- A) Fertilizer Corporation of India Limited B) Food Corporation of India C) Shipping Corporation of India
D) Power Grid Corporation of India E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which Mobile app for transportation, in May 2016, signed an MoU with National Safai Karamcharis Finance and Development Corporation (NSKFDC) to focus on building a sustainable framework by supporting entrepreneurship, skill development training and self-defence courses for Safai Karamcharis and Scavengers?

- A) Ola B) Uber C) Meru D) Mega Cabs E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In May 2016 Strides Shasun received tentative approval from the US health regulator for Efavirenz tablets used in treating human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection. Strides Shasun is an Indian pharmaceutical company headquartered in

- A) Gurgaon B) Bengaluru C) Mumbai D) Chennai E) None of these

Question No. : 7

In May 2016 Islamic Development Bank (IDB) of announced to open its first branch in India at Ahmedabad, Gujarat, as part of the MoU signed between IDB and India's EXIM Bank?

- A) Iraq B) Saudi Arabia C) Qatar D) Kuwait E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In May 2016 the Government of India, the Government of and the World Bank signed a US\$ 100 million loan agreement for a project to bring clean water to one million citizens of the state.

- A) Maharashtra B) West Bengal C) Karnataka D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 9

In May 2016 the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) tightened norms for participatory notes (P-notes or PNs) as part of its efforts to curb money laundering through this route. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) P-notes are derivative instruments issued by registered foreign portfolio investors to overseas investors to enable them to trade in Indian stocks without having to register with the regulator.
- B) At present, P-note subscribers are not required to take prior permission of the P-note issuer for transferring it to another investor offshore. The regulator mandated all Pnote issuers to capture the details of all intermediate transfers during the month and report the same.
- C) The proposed changes come in the wake of the concerns raised by the Supreme Court-appointed Special Investigation Team (SIT) on black money on the identification of beneficial owners and on the transferability of P-notes.
- D) The regulator also mandated that P-note issuers would have to follow the Indian know-your client (KYC) and anti- money laundering norms instead of the norms prevalent in the jurisdiction of the end beneficial owner or of the P-note issuer, an attempt to bring uniformity in KYC norms.
- E) All of these

Question No. : 10

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for National Capital Goods Policy in May 2016. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) This is first ever policy for Capital Goods sector with a clear objective of increasing production of capital goods from Rs.2,30,000 crore in 2014-15 to Rs.7,50,000 crore in 2025 and raising direct and indirect employment from the current 8.4 million to 30 million.
- B) The policy envisages increasing exports from the current 27 percent to 40 percent of production. It will increase the share of domestic production in India's demand from 60 percent to 80 percent thus making India a net exporter of capital goods.
- C) The policy also aims to facilitate improvement in technology depth across sub-sectors, increase skill availability, ensure mandatory standards and promote growth and capacity building of MSMEs.
- D) The Policy will help in realising the vision of 'Building India as the World class hub for Capital Goods'. It will also play a pivotal role in overall manufacturing as the pillar of strength to the vision of 'Make in India'.
- E) All of these

Question No. : 11

In May 2016 SBI proposed merger of its five associate banks and newly created Bharatiya Mahila Bank (BMB) with itself and sought government's approval for the same. Which of the following is NOT one of these associate banks?

- A) State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur B) State Bank of Hyderabad C) State Bank of Patiala D) State Bank of Indore
- E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In May 2016 Union Government gave its final approval for setting up of National Investment & Manufacturing Zone (NIMZ) in and create employment opportunity for 1.5 lakh people in the state.

- A) Odisha B) Bihar C) West Bengal D) Assam E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In May 2016 BJP leader and former IPS officer Kiran Bedi was appointed Lieutenant Governor of, a post that had been vacant for the past two years.

- A) Puducherry B) Goa C) Lakshadweep D) Delhi E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In May 2016 Trinamool Congress supremo Mamata Banerjee was sworn in as Chief Minister of West Bengal, beginning her stint in the once-Left dominated State.

- A) 3rd B) 2nd C) 4th D) 5th E) None of these

**Question No. : 15**

In May 2016 United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon announced the appointments of Mary Robinson of and Macharia Kamau of Kenya as Special Envoys on El Niño and Climate.

- A) Norway B) Ireland C) France D) Germany E) None of these

Question No. : 16

In May 2016 the world governing body of soccer FIFA appointed justice as deputy chairman of its governance committee.

- A) Mukul Mudgal B) TS Thakur C) Anil R Dave D) Dipak Misra E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In May 2016 Veteran CPI (M) leader Pinarayi Vijayan was sworn-in as 12th Chief Minister of after the left Democratic Front (LDF) won the 2016 state assembly election.

- A) Kerala B) West Bengal C) Tamil Nadu D) Andhra Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 18

In May 2016 Vice-Admiral AR Karve took charge as the Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Naval Command.

- A) Northern B) Southern C) Eastern D) Western E) None of these

Question No. : 19

Anurag Thakur was unanimously elected as the President of BCCI (Board of Control for Cricket in India) by the board's special general meeting (SGM) held in Mumbai in May 2016.

- A) 30th B) 34th C) 33rd D) 32nd E) None of these

Question No. : 20

In May 2016 Barack Obama became the sitting US president to visit Hiroshima - the site of the world's first atomic bomb attack, bringing global attention both to survivors and to his unfulfilled vision of a world without nuclear weapons.

- A) 2nd B) 3rd C) 1st D) 4th E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In May 2016 AIADMK chief J Jayalithaa was sworn in as Tamil Nadu chief minister for a historic consecutive term.

- A) 2nd B) 1st C) 4th D) 3rd E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Pankaj Advani created history in May 2016 by clinching the Asian 6-Red title thus becoming the first in the world to hold both world and continental titles in the game at the same time.

- A) Snooker B) Golf C) Squash D) Archery E) None of these

Question No. : 23

In May 2016 Real Madrid won the 2016 Champions League for the record 11th time by defeating Atletico Madrid in the finals. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Football B) Hockey C) Cricket D) Boxing E) None of these

**Question No. : 24**

In May 2016 Seema Punia qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics scheduled to be held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in August 2016. Which sporting event is being talked about?

- A) Long Jump B) Discus Throw C) High Jump D) Boxing E) None of these

Question No. : 25

In May 2016 Andy Murray from Britain won the 2016 Italian Open title when he defeated Novak Djokovic. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Badminton B) Lawn Tennis C) Table Tennis D) Squash E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Red Bull F1 driver Max Verstappen from created history in May 2016 by becoming Formula One's youngest race winner.

- A) Germany B) France C) Sweden D) Netherlands E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Which of the following won the 2016 Indian Federation Cup football tournament title for the 14th time in May 2016?

- A) Aizawl FC B) Mohun Bagan FC C) Bengaluru FC D) Salgaocar SC E) None of these

Question No. : 28

In May 2016 Pakke Tiger Reserve of received the 'India Biodiversity Award 2016' under the category, "conservation of threatened species".

- A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Rajasthan C) Gujarat D) Madhya Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In May 2016 Routes 2 Roots, a Delhi-based Non-profit organization (NGO), was awarded the prestigious Inter-cultural Innovation Award 2016, for its unique Student Exchange Program, which allowed children in schools from India and to connect with each other.

- A) China B) Bangladesh C) Pakistan D) Nepal E) None of these

Question No. : 30

In May 2016 Han Kang, won the 2016 Man Booker International Prize for her novel 'The Vegetarian', thus becoming the first person from to win this prestigious literary prize.

- A) South Korea B) China C) Japan D) Malaysia E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In May 2016 bioengineer Frances Arnold from won the prestigious 2016 Millennium Technology Prize, thus becoming the first female to be awarded with this prestigious biennial award in its 12-year history.

- A) Canada B) UK C) US D) Australia E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In May 2016 it was announced that professor Dr. Rakesh K. Jain will be presented the 2015 National Medal of Science of for his individual achievement and leadership in advancing the field of science and technology.

- A) India B) US C) France D) Germany E) None of these

Question No. : 33

Which state, in May 2016, launched the Smart Village programme to improve public facilities in 300 villages, aspiring to make them self-reliant, clean and hygienic?

- A) Gujarat B) Maharashtra C) Kerala D) Haryana E) None of these

Question No. : 34

Which state, in May 2016, initiated PEHAL, a vision document for implementing programmes under its canopy with key sectors, which includes Primary Education, (PRERNA), educating people on rights of forests, health and sanitation, anti drug campaign, livelihood and women empowerment?

- A) Kerala B) Himachal Pradesh C) Punjab D) Uttar Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In May 2016 the Government decided to launch Green Passage Scheme for orphan students to ensure that the orphan students get free of cost higher education in the state.

- A) Odisha B) Bihar C) West Bengal D) Madhya Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In May 2016 the Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the Amendment to The Institutes of Technology Act, 1961 for incorporation of six new IITs. Which of the following is NOT one of these places?

- A) Tirupati B) Palakkad C) Jammu D) Nagpur E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In May 2016 the Union Cabinet granted ex-post facto approval to the MOU between India and for promoting sustainable, stable and low-carbon thermal power development in India.

- A) China B) Japan C) Singapore D) Malaysia E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In May 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for financial restructuring of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation Limited (HFCL), thus facilitating de-registration of HFCL from BIFR by making its net worth positive. What does BIFR stand for?

- A) Board for Investment and Financial Reconstruction B) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconsideration
 C) Bureau for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction D) Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction
 E) None of these

Question No. : 39

Which of the following signed '24x7 Power for All document' in May 2016, thus becoming the first Union Territory to sign the document which aims to provide each household access to electricity through 24x7 Power supply by 2019?

- A) Lakshadweep B) Puducherry C) Chandigarh D) Delhi E) None of these

Question No. : 40

World's largest Single Rooftop Solar Power Plant with capacity of 11.5 MegaWatt (MW) was inaugurated in May 2016 in

- A) Karnal (Haryana) B) Beas (Punjab) C) Nasik (Maharashtra) D) Pune (Maharashtra) E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In June 2016 Google and Tata Trusts' joint initiative was launched in Kolkata, West Bengal. The initiative aims at reducing the digital gender gap in rural areas of India. What is the name of this initiative?

- A) Internet Dost B) Internet Saathi C) Internet Friend D) Internet Disha E) None of these

Question No. : 2

According to 2016 Global Retail Development Index (GRDI), which ranks top 30 developing countries for retail investment worldwide, which country was ranked as number one on 'ease of doing business'?

- A) China B) Brazil C) Russia D) India E) None of these

Question No. : 3

In June 2016 E-ticketing startup Kyazoonga raised an undisclosed amount of funding from The funds will be deployed by the startup for market expansion, to enter geographies like United States, West Asia, Pakistan and the Caribbean Islands.

- A) Mukesh Ambani B) Ratan Tata C) Anil Ambani D) Sunil Bharti Mittal E) None of these

Question No. : 4

Which of the following, in June 2016, announced to acquire professional networking platform LinkedIn in an all-cash transaction valued at \$26.2 billion?

- A) Microsoft B) Google C) Yahoo D) Facebook E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which of the following, in June 2016, became the first US bank to issue credit cards for use in Cuba by Americans, thus becoming the first U.S. bank to support credit card transactions in Cuba since the thaw in relations between Washington and Havana?

- A) Stonegate Bank B) Powergate Bank C) Stonedoor Bank D) Bank of America E) None of these

Question No. : 6

Which of the following, in June 2016, announced to acquire renewable energy company Welspun Renewables Energy Pvt. Ltd in a bid to grow its clean energy portfolio to 2.3 gigawatts (GW)?

- A) Tata Power Co. Ltd B) Reliance Power C) NTPC D) Adani Power E) None of these

Question No. : 7

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for the Civil Aviation Policy. The policy aims at India to become the largest civil aviation market by 2022 from ninth.

- A) Second B) Third C) Fourth D) Fifth E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for the Civil Aviation Policy. Which of the following is an aim of this policy?

- A) Domestic ticketing to grow from 8 crore in 2015 to 30 crore by 2022
 B) Airports having scheduled commercial flights to increase from 77 in 2016 to 127 by 2019
 C) Cargo volumes to increase by 4 times to 10 million tonnes by 2027
 D) Development of green-field airports and heliports E) All of these

Question No. : 9

The RBI, in June 2016, issued guidelines on a 'Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Assets', which envisages determination of the sustainable debt level for a borrower, and bifurcation of the outstanding debt into sustainable debt and equity/quasi-equity instruments which are expected to provide upside to the lenders when the borrower turns around.

- A) Stressed B) Obligated C) Necessary D) Bad E) None of these

Question No. : 10

Which of the following, in June 2016, raised \$500 million at the London Stock Exchange after it launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond to finance climate change solutions around the world?

- A) Axis Bank B) YES Bank C) Kotak Mahindra Bank D) HDFC Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 11

The RBI, in June 2016, released its second bi-monthly monetary policy for year 2016-17. Which of the following is NOT true in this context?

- A) Repo rate unchanged at 6.50 per cent B) Reverse Repo unchanged at 6%
 C) Cash reserve ratio or CRR unchanged at 5% D) Timely capital infusion to be ensured in PSU banks to aid credit flow
 E) None of these

Question No. : 12

What is the growth forecast projected for current fiscal by the RBI in its second bi-monthly monetary policy for year 2016-17, released in June 2016?

- A) 7.6% B) 7.7% C) 7.2% D) 7.3% E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In June 2016 the New Development Bank of the BRICS countries announced to issue its first yuan-denominated bonds, also known as bonds, with plans to release more bonds in local currencies including in Indian Rupee.

- A) White B) Yellow C) Green D) Red E) None of these

Question No. : 14

Who among the following was, in June 2016, named the ambassador for Swachh Bharat Mission's youth-based 'Swachh Saathi' (student internship) programme?

- A) Dia Mirza B) Katrina Kaif C) Kareena Kapoor Khan D) Deepika Padukone E) None of these

Question No. : 15

In June 2016 distinguished scientist G. Kalyanakrishnan took over as the new Chief Executive of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC) The NFC is a major industrial unit of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), for the supply of nuclear fuel bundles and reactor core components. Where is it located?

- A) Delhi B) Mumbai C) Hyderabad D) Chennai E) None of these

Question No. : 16

In June 2016 veteran Inder Malhotra passed away at the age of 86.

- A) Journalist B) Author C) Singer D) Scientist E) None of these

Question No. : 17

Legendary Indian body builder and the country's very first Mr Universe died in June 2016. A three-time Asian Games gold medalist, he was the first Indian to win the Mr Universe title post-independence in 1952.

- A) Manohar Aich B) Manoj Sharma C) Maninder Singh D) Dara Singh E) None of these

Question No. : 18

Famous Mudrarakshas died at the age of 82 in June 2016.

- A) Author B) Singer C) Scientist D) Player E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In June 2016 boxing legend Muhammad Ali - one of the world's greatest sporting figures - died at the age of 74. What was his real/birth name?

- A) Cassius Marcellus Clay B) John Marcellus Clay C) Cassius Marcellus Steven D) Patrick Marcellus Clay
E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Who among the following was, in June 2016, nominated as an independent candidate to be a member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) based out of Lausanne in Switzerland?

- A) Nita Ambani B) Tina Ambani C) Parmeshwar Godrej D) Dia Mirza E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In June 2016 veteran theatre personality, playwright and pioneer of mobile theatre movement in, Achyut Lahkar, passed away at the age of 85.

- A) Assam B) Manipur C) Sikkim D) Arunachal Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Amber Gurung, Father of modern national music and composer of the country's national anthem , passed away in June 2016. Which nation is being talked about?

- A) Bangladesh B) Myanmar C) Nepal D) Bhutan E) None of these

Question No. : 23

In June 2016 legendary player Gordon Howe died at the age of 88. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Ice Hockey B) Cricket C) Field Hockey D) Football E) None of these

Question No. : 24

In June 2016 Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton from Great Britain won the 2016 Grand Prix title of Formula One.

- A) Canada B) US C) Singapore D) France E) None of these

Question No. : 25

In June 2016 the International Tennis Federation (ITF) banned former World No. 1 tennis player Maria Sharapova of for two years over doping charges.

- A) Russia B) Germany C) Slovakia D) France E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Who among the following won the 2016 French Open title in the men's singles in June 2016?

- A) Novak Djokovic B) Andy Murray C) Roger Federer D) Rafael Nadal E) None of these

Question No. : 27

In June 2016 Saina Nehwal won the 2016 Open Super Series Badminton tournament title in women's singles category.

- A) Canadian B) Australian C) French D) British E) None of these

**Question No. : 28**

In June 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Amir Amanullah Khan Award, the highest civilian honour of

- A) Afghanistan B) Pakistan C) Turkey D) Kuwait E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In June 2016 Legendary Oscar winning Indian music composer A.R. Rahman was awarded Fukuoka prize for 2016 of for his outstanding contribution towards creating, preserving and showcasing South Asian traditional fusion music.

- A) China B) North Korea C) Japan D) Singapore E) None of these

Question No. : 30

In June 2016 Dr. R Seetharaman, Group CEO of, was honored with the 2016 Green Economy Visionary Award for his contribution in environment-friendly activities and promoting green economy for nearly two decades.

- A) Yes Bank B) Doha Bank C) HDFC Bank D) ICICI Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 31

Who among the following won the prestigious 2016 International Dublin Literary Award for his/her semi-autobiographical novel "Family Life" ?

- A) Akhil Sharma B) Jhumpa Lahiri C) Vikram Seth D) Salman Rushdie E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In June 2016 President Pranab Mukherjee was presented National Order of

- A) Republic of Ivory Coast B) Republic of Korea C) Japan D) China E) None of these

Question No. : 33

In June 2016 the Railways launched a facility to provide baby food at stations and to ensure availability of essential items like hot milk and water at stations under the scheme. What is the facility called?

- A) Janani Sewa B) Naari Sewa C) Aurat Sewa D) Woman Sewa E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding between Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre in India and India Taipei Association in Taipei, Taiwan for cooperation in the field of

- A) Agriculture and Allied Sector B) Education C) Oil & Petroleum D) Pharmacy E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the Agreement on Labour Co-operation between India and, aimed at benefitting the Indian emigrant workers who are working in that country.

- A) Kuwait B) Iraq C) Saudi Arabia D) Oman E) None of these

Question No. : 36

The Union Cabinet, in June 2016, gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and for cooperation in Skill Development and Recognition of qualifications.

- A) Qatar B) Kuwait C) Saudi Arabia D) Iran E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between and India to enhance cooperation in the field of wildlife conservation and combating wildlife trafficking.

- A) US B) France C) UK D) Canada E) None of these

Question No. : 38

The Union Cabinet, in June 2016, gave its ex-post facto approval to the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Directorate General of Civil Aviation of India (DGCA) and the Civil Aviation to implement Technical Cooperation Programme for promotion and implementation of Standards and Recommended Practices of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO).

- A) German B) French C) British D) American E) None of these

Question No. : 39

With Global Warming becoming a common phenomenon around the world, stood up in June 2016 and became a deforestation-free country, thus becoming the first ever country in the world to issue a blanket ban on deforestation.

- A) Finland B) Norway C) France D) Russia E) None of these

Question No. : 40

Orlando in US was in news in June 2016 because a mass shooting occurred there at a in which at least 51 people were killed.

- A) Gay nightclub B) Football Stadium C) Shopping Mall D) School E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

Which of the following, in June 2016, acquired UK-based digital transformation firm The BIO Agency Ltd, strengthening an important focus area for the company?

- A) Tech Mahindra Ltd B) Infosys C) TCS D) Wipro E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Which of the following was, in June 2016, named in a 'Hall of Shame' list of 158 banking and financial institutions globally that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs?

- A) State Bank of India B) HDFC C) ICICI D) YES Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 3

In June 2016 conglomerate SoftBank announced Ken Miyauchi as president and chief operating officer, thus replacing Nimesh Arora from this post.

- A) Chinese B) Korean C) Japanese D) German E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In June 2016, Xerxes Sapur Desai, the man who founded and made it an internationally renowned Indian brand, passed away.

- A) HMT Watches B) Titan Co. Ltd C) Dabur D) Britannia Industries E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Who among the following was, in June 2016, elected as the chairman of the Paris-based International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), thus becoming the 51st chairman of the ICC and the third Indian business leader to be elected as the chief of the ICC in its near 100-year history?

- A) Sunil Mittal B) Mukesh Ambani C) Anil Ambani D) Sunil Duggal E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In June 2016 Sujoy Bose, Director and Global Co-Head, Infrastructure and Natural Resources, International Finance Corporation (IFC), Washington DC, was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NIIF. What does NIIF stand for?

- A) National Investment and Infrastructure Fund B) National Intrinsic and Infrastructure Fund
C) National Investment and Infrastructure Forum D) National Investment and International Fund E) None of these

Question No. : 7

Which Indian company, in June 2016, became the largest producer of unconventional gas in India?

- A) NTPC B) Essar C) Reliance Power D) Tata Power E) None of these

Question No. : 8

Identify the supercomputer that was declared as the fastest in the world by the TOP500 List?

- A) Param B) Sunway TaihuLight C) Goliath D) Magnitude E) None of these

Question No. : 9

The Union Cabinet, in June 2016, approved the establishment of "Fund of Funds for Startups" (FFS) atfor contribution to various Alternative Investment Funds (AIF), registered with Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) which would extend funding support to Startups.

- A) Small Industries Development Bank of India B) Industrial Development Bank of India
 C) Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India D) State Bank of India E) None of these

Question No. : 10

Which of the following is NOT one of the countries which will get the first set of loans totaling \$509 million from China sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), as announced in June 2016?

- A) Bangladesh B) Indonesia C) Pakistan D) India E) None of these

Question No. : 11

Which of the following, in June 2016, approved a 500 million dollars loan to build a bridge across the Ganga River in Bihar?

- A) Asian Development Bank B) World Bank C) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank D) New Development Bank
 E) None of these

Question No. : 12

Which of the following, in June 2016, set up a Rs 200-crore fund, named 'IT Innovation Start –up Fund' to support start-ups in the financial technology space?

- A) State Bank of India B) ICICI C) HDFC D) YES Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the merger of five associate banks as well as Bharatiya Mahila Bank with State Bank of India. Which of the following is NOT one of these banks?

- A) State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur B) State Bank of Travancore C) State Bank of Patiala D) State Bank of Saurashtra
 E) None of these

Question No. : 14

Which of the following Oscar-winning Hollywood actress was , in June 2016, appointed by the United Nations as its global goodwill ambassador to promote gender equality and women empowerment.

- A) Nicole Kidman B) Emma Watson C) Anne Hathaway D) Jennifer Aniston E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Noted theatre personality and popular yesteryear film actress Manimala Devi passed away in June 2016. Manimala, who was among the first generation artistes in the state, had worked in over 40 films of which 14 bagged the national award. Which state is being talked about?

- A) Odisha B) Karnataka C) Kerala D) Andhra Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 16

Renowned Qawwal Amjad Sabri, one of the best Sufi musicians and qawwals from Pakistan and popularly known as Rock Star of Qawwali due to his modern style of rendition, was in news in June 2016 because

- A) he was shot dead by unidentified motorcycle-borne gunmen in Karachi, Pakistan B) he was caught in a multi crore scam
 C) he was awarded the highest civilian award of Pakistan D) he joined Pakistan politics E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In June 2016 Neil O'Brien passed away. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) A former member of Lok Sabha, Neil O'Brien was also a three-time nominated Anglo-Indian MLA in West Bengal and an educationist.
- B) He was the chairman of the Council for the Indian School Certificate Examinations (CISCE) and managing director of Oxford University Press, India.
- C) As a leader of the Anglo-Indian community, he was the president-in-chief of All-India Anglo-Indian Association and headed the Frank Anthony group of schools.
- D) He was the pioneer of quizzing in India and conducted the first well-organized, formal quiz in 1967 at Christ the King Church Parish Hall in Calcutta.
- E) All of these

Question No. : 18

In June 2016 Rodrigo Duterte was sworn in as President of , with some hoping his maverick style will energize the country but others fearing he will undercut one of Asia's liveliest democracies amid threats to kill criminals en masse.

- A) The Philippines
- B) Malaysia
- C) Indonesia
- D) Thailand
- E) None of these

Question No. : 19

Shashi Kant Sharma, the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India, was in news in June 2016 because he

- A) was conferred with the honorary professorship by the Nanjing Audit University (NAU), China
- B) passed away
- C) was caught in a political scam
- D) released his autobiography
- E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Virginia Raggi was, in June 2016, elected as the first female mayor of in a triumph for the populist Five Star Movement (M5S), representing a blow to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

- A) Rome
- B) Paris
- C) Berlin
- D) Helsinki
- E) None of these

Question No. : 21

Noted Telangana Guda Anjaiah, who played a key role in the statehood movement, died at the age of 61 in June 2016.

- A) Scientist
- B) Political Leader
- C) Poet
- D) Boxer
- E) None of these

Question No. : 22

In June 2016 the founder member of Nationalist Socialist Council of Isak Chishi Swu, passed away at the age of 87.

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Manipur
- C) Nagaland
- D) Assam
- E) None of these

Question No. : 23

Which country won the 2016 Champions Trophy title of Hockey in June 2016, thus winning the title for record 14 times?

- A) England
- B) India
- C) Pakistan
- D) Australia
- E) None of these

Question No. : 24

Which country won the 2016 Copa America Football tournament in June 2016?

- A) Chile
- B) Argentina
- C) Brazil
- D) Peru
- E) None of these

Question No. : 25

The Indian mixed team of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das won the silver medal at the World Cup held in Antalya, Turkey in June 2016.

- A) Badminton B) Archery C) Table Tennis D) Lawn Tennis E) None of these

Question No. : 26

In June 2016 the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) appointed as the head coach of Indian Cricket Team with a tenure of one year.

- A) Anil Kumble B) Ravi Shastri C) Kapil Dev D) Rahul Dravid E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Barcelona FC star Lionel Messi was in news in June 2016 because he

- A) announced retirement from Argentinean Football team B) won the FIFA Ballons d'Or C) was caught in a sex scam
 D) married the daughter of Argentina's President E) None of these

Question No. : 28

The twenty-fifth G. D. Birla Award for for 2015 was awarded to Prof. Sanjay Mittal in June 2016.

- A) Scientific Research B) Entrepreneurship C) Social Sensitivity D) Mathematical Brilliance E) None of these

Question No. : 29

The 17th International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016 were presented in Spain in June 2016. Who among the following got the award for the Best Director?

- A) Sanjay Leela Bhansali B) Shoojit Sircar C) Kabir Khan D) Karan Johar E) None of these

Question No. : 30

Which of the following got the 'Best Film' award in the International Indian Film Academy (IIFA) Awards 2016 in June 2016?

- A) Bajrangi Bhaijaan B) Bajirao Mastani C) Piku D) Masaan E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In June 2016 Mohun Bagan announced to honour country's only Dronacharya coach Syed Nayeemuddin with the Mohun Bagan Ratna. Nayeemuddin was chosen for the prestigious award for his overall contribution to the club and the country both as a player and as a coach.

- A) Hockey B) Football C) Basketball D) Cricket E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In June 2016 film *Thithi* won the best film and best script writers award at the Asia New Talent Awards in the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival.

- A) Kannada B) Marathi C) Tamil D) Telugu E) None of these

Question No. : 33

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the implementation of the recommendations of Central Pay Commission (CPC) on pay and pensionary benefits, which will come into effect from 01.01.2016.

- A) 6th B) 7th C) 8th D) 5th E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and for bilateral cooperation in water resources management and development.

- A) Nigeria B) Kenya C) Tanzania D) Zambia E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the NMEP, which primarily aims at enhanced participation of the private sector. What does NMEP stand for?

- A) National Macro Economic Policy B) National Mineral Extraction Policy C) National Mineral Exploration Policy
D) National Micro Economic Policy E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In June 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the signing of a Protocol amending the Agreement between India and for avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.

- A) Belgium B) France C) Singapore D) Malaysia E) None of these

Question No. : 37

Which of the following, in June 2016, launched a new scheme Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana (KSSY) with an aim to provide education loan at 1 percent interest to students for pursuing higher studies?

- A) Bihar B) Odisha C) Uttar Pradesh D) Haryana E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In June 2016 exercise 'Jalrahat for Flood Relief' was conducted as a joint initiative of Indian Armed Forces and

- A) Assam B) Haryana C) Gujarat D) Punjab E) None of these

Question No. : 39

In June 2016 parliament of unanimously passed the Right to Information (RTI) bill aimed at restoring transparency and good governance in the country.

- A) Nepal B) Sri Lanka C) India D) Malaysia E) None of these

Question No. : 40

In June 2016 the Government and FARC rebels signed a ceasefire and disarmament agreement, one of the last steps toward ending a half-century conflict that has killed hundreds of thousands of people. Which country is being talked about?

- A) Colombia B) Kenya C) Iraq D) Israel E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In July 2016 online healthcare start-up announced to acquire diagnostic labs aggregator Medd (HoloMed Healthcare Technologies Pvt. Ltd) in a move aimed at boosting its diagnostic footprint.

- A) 1mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd B) 1000mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd C) 100mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd
D) 10mg Technologies Pvt. Ltd E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Which fashion brand, in July 2016, announced to acquire global clothing brand 'Forever 21' in the Indian market for USD 26 million?

- A) Aditya Birla Fashion and Retail B) Myntra C) Jabong D) Fabindia E) None of these

Question No. : 3

Which of the following announced in July 2016 that it will sponsor Indian contingent for Rio 2016 Olympic Games slated to be held in Brazil this August?

- A) Amul B) Pepsi C) Coke D) Mother Dairy E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In July 2016 Google announced a deal to buy Moodstocks, a startup behind technology that helps smartphones recognise whatever they are aimed at?

- A) German B) French C) British D) Canadian E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which of the following in July 2016, inked a wage settlement pact with its permanent workers at Gurgaon Plant, entailing an hike of Rs.12,500 spread over three years?

- A) Hero MotoCorp Ltd. B) Hyundai Motor India Ltd. C) Honda Motors India Pvt. Ltd. D) Maruti Suzuki India Ltd.
E) None of these

Question No. : 6

Which of the following, in July 2016, announced to acquire micro-lender Grama Vidiyal in an all-cash deal as it seeks to expand its customer base and gain access to loan portfolios that enjoy priority sector status?

- A) IDFC Bank B) ICICI Bank C) HDFC Bank D) SBI E) None of these

Question No. : 7

What is the name of the social media banking platform for Facebook and Twitter users, launched by SBI in July 2016?

- A) SBI Mingle B) SBI Net C) SBI Friends D) SBI Mix E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In July 2016 the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India launched mobile application for measuring real time mobile Internet speed of consumers.

- A) MySpeed B) MegaSpeed C) OurSpeed D) HighSpeed E) None of these

Question No. : 9

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for Revised Cost Estimate (RCE) of Rs. 7290.62 crore for the ongoing 1020 MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (HEP) in

- A) Bhutan B) Myanmar C) Nepal D) Bangladesh E) None of these

Question No. : 10

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet approved a long-term contract by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with for import of pulses either through the private channels or Government-to-Government (G2G) sales through State Agencies nominated by the two countries.

- A) Mozambique B) Malaysia C) Pakistan D) China E) None of these

Question No. : 11

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for setting up a Major port at Enayam, which will not only act as a major gateway container port for Indian cargo that is presently trans-shipped outside the country, but also become a trans-shipment hub for the global East-West trade route.

- A) Tamil Nadu B) Gujarat C) Kerala D) Odisha E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and on Drug demand reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and related matters.

- A) Mozambique B) China C) Iran D) Japan E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In July 2016 State Bank of India (SBI) and the World Bank inked agreements for facility to support grid-connected rooftop solar programme (GRP) in the country.

- A) \$625 million B) \$725 million C) \$825 million D) \$425 million E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In July 2016 Sanjay Gupta was appointed as chairman and managing director (CMD) of

- A) Konkan Railway Corporation Limited B) Delhi Metro Rail Corporation C) High Speed Rail Corporation of India Limited
 D) Rail Vikas Nigam Limited E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Who among the following was, in July 2016, made the head of a committee to examine the desirability and feasibility of having 'a new financial year'?

- A) Shankar Acharya B) Arun Jaitley C) Montek S Ahluwalia D) Sushma Swaraj E) None of these

Question No. : 16

In July 2016 Sudarshan Sen was appointed as Executive Director of to look after Department of Banking Regulation, Department of Co-operative Bank Regulation and Department of Non-Banking Regulation.

- A) IDBI B) SEBI C) RBI D) SBI E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In July 2016 Chief Justice Sushila Karki took oath of office and secrecy to become the first woman Chief Justice of

- A) Bangladesh B) India C) Nepal D) Bhutan E) None of these

Question No. : 18

In July 2016 Tathagata Roy was sworn in as the acting Governor of, thus becoming the 18th Governor of the State.

- A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Tripura C) Sikkim D) Assam E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In July 2016 Theresa May took over as the new Prime Minister of, promising a "bold, new, positive role" for the country.

- A) Canada B) Australia C) Britain D) Sweden E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Pakistani national Abdul Sattar Edhi passed away at the age of 92 in July 2016. He was a noted

- A) Philanthropist B) Terrorist C) Politician D) ISI agent E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In July 2016 the Union Government constituted a high-level committee headed by Chief Economic Adviser Arvind Subramanian to tackle the shortage of in India.

- A) Wheat B) Rice C) Pulses D) Cotton E) None of these

Question No. : 22

In July 2016 senior IPS officer Ashok Patnaik was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NATGRID. What is the NATGRID?

- A) National Intelligence Grid B) National Information Grid C) National Intelligence Group
 D) National Infrastructure Grid E) None of these

Question No. : 23

India celebrated National Doctors day on to honour the contributions of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, former West Bengal Chief Minister who was also a physician.

- A) July 2, 2016 B) July 3, 2016 C) July 1, 2016 D) July 5, 2016 E) None of these

Question No. : 24

Who won the 2016 Wimbledon title in men's singles category in July 2016?

- A) Milos Raonic B) Andy Murray C) Roger Federer D) Novak Djokovic E) None of these

Question No. : 25

Which country's women's team won the 2016 Champions Trophy title of Hockey in July 2016?

- A) Argentina B) Netherlands C) India D) Germany E) None of these

Question No. : 26

In July 2016 B Sai Praneeth won the 2016 Canada Open Grand Prix title in the men's singles category.

- A) Badminton B) Lawn Tennis C) Table Tennis D) Fencing E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Who among the following, in July 2016, became the first Indian football player to play in UEFA Europa League, thus becoming the only Indian to play for the first team in a top-division league of Europe?

- A) Gurpreet Singh Sandhu B) Sunil Chhetri C) Balwant Singh D) Saumik Dey E) None of these

Question No. : 28

Harika Dronavalli won the Women's Grand Prix trophy held in China in July 2016. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Badminton B) Shooting C) Chess D) Boxing E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In July 2016 writer and filmmaker, Lidudumalingani, won the prestigious Caine Prize for his short story, Memories We Lost. Which country does he belong to?

- A) US B) France C) South Africa D) Germany E) None of these

Question No. : 30

It was announced in July 2016 that will become the first woman in the world to receive the Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea for 2016, from the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), for saving the lives of seven fishermen?

- A) Radhika Menon B) Shweta Menon C) Radhika Apte D) Shweta Sharma E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In July 2016 cookbook author and food blogger Nimi Sunilkumar won the Gourmand World Cookbook Award for 2015-16 for her cookbook "4 o'clock Temptations of" .

- A) Gujarat B) Kerala C) Andhra Pradesh D) Bihar E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In July 2016 Gujarati novelist, poet and critic Dr. Raghuveer Chaudhari was conferred the Award by President Pranab Mukherjee.

- A) Jnanpith B) Saraswati Samman C) Pampa Award D) Sahitya Akademi Award E) None of these

Question No. : 33

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) with an outlay of to impart skilling to one crore people over the next four years (2016-2020).

- A) Rs.12000 crore B) Rs.15000 crore C) Rs.14000 crore D) Rs.20000 crore E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the Interest Subvention Scheme for farmers for the year 2016-17. The Government has earmarked a sum of for this purpose.

- A) Rs. 18,276 Crore B) Rs. 17,276 Crore C) Rs. 19,276 Crore D) Rs. 16,276 Crore E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and which will encourage cooperation in the field of rural development and capacity building on the basis of equality and mutual benefit between both countries.

- A) Mauritius B) Nigeria C) Malaysia D) Tanzania E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet approved a National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 10,000 crore and a target of apprentices to be trained by 2019-20.

- A) 50 lakh B) 40 lakh C) 60 lakh D) 70 lakh E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy.

- A) Tanzania B) Mauritius C) Kenya D) Iran E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In July 2016 India and inked seven agreements to enhance cooperation and bilateral relations between the two countries.

- A) Tanzania B) Kenya C) France D) Indonesia E) None of these
-

Question No. : 39

Which country declared a health emergency in July 2016 in 11 states due to an expanding outbreak of the Zika virus?

- A) Peru B) Argentina C) South Africa D) Tanzania E) None of these
-

Question No. : 40

The two-week long Haritha Haram programme of government aimed to plant 46 crore plants to improve green belt was launched in July 2016.

- A) Telangana B) Andhra Pradesh C) Odisha D) Kerala E) None of these
-



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

Which of the following, in July 2016, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) to promote sustainable cultivation of rare medicinal plants in Ladakh?

- A) Dabur India B) Pitanjali C) Cadbury India D) Bharti Enterprises E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Which of the following, in July 2016, announced the acquisition of online retail portal Jabong through its fashion subsidiary Myntra?

- A) Snapdeal B) Flipkart C) Amazon D) eBay E) None of these

Question No. : 3

Which of the following, in July 2016, became the first Indian company to issue rupee-denominated bonds "masala bonds" on London Stock Exchange (LSE)?

- A) ICICI B) HDFC C) Kotak Mahindra D) YES Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 4

How many Indian companies made it to the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue, released in July 2016?

- A) Five B) Six C) Three D) Seven E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which of the following is NOT one of the companies listed in the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue, released in July 2016?

- A) Indian Oil Corporation B) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation C) Rajesh Exports D) Tata Motors E) None of these

Question No. : 6

Which company topped the latest Fortune 500 list of the world's biggest corporations in terms of revenue, released in July 2016?

- A) Walmart B) State Grid C) China National Petroleum D) Royal Dutch Shell E) None of these

Question No. : 7

Softbank, a multinational telecommunications and Internet corporation, announced to acquire ARM Holdings, the U.K. based semiconductor firm, in July 2016.

- A) Japanese B) Chinese C) British D) French E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In July 2016 Tata Advanced Systems Ltd (TASL) and based Bell Helicopter announced to jointly develop the helicopter market in India.

- A) UK B) US C) Russia D) France E) None of these

Question No. : 9

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for raising foreign shareholding limit from 5% to in Indian Stock Exchanges for a stock exchange, a depository, a banking company, an insurance company, a commodity derivative exchange.

- A) 8% B) 10% C) 12% D) 15% E) None of these

Question No. : 10

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet approved Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT) between India and seeking to promote and protect investments from either country in the territory of the other country with the objective of increasing bilateral investment flows.

- A) Cambodia B) Malaysia C) Japan D) Tanzania E) None of these

Question No. : 11

In July 2016 the Government of India announced that the amount estimated for implementing National Mineral Exploration Policy (NMEP) in the next five years is about

- A) Rs. 2116 crore B) Rs. 1116 crore C) Rs. 3116 crore D) Rs. 4116 crore E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In July 2016 Central bank governors and finance heads from the group ended a two-day meeting in China with a fresh pledge to use "all policy tools" to promote growth.

- A) G20 B) G7 C) G15 D) G8 E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In July 2016 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) approved the installation of Ghatampur Thermal Power Project (GTPS) of 1980 MW capacity in the state of

- A) West Bengal B) Haryana C) Uttar Pradesh D) Kerala E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In July 2016 Malcolm Turnbull was sworn as Prime Minister of for second term thus becoming the 29th Prime Minister of the country.

- A) Australia B) Canada C) New Zealand D) England E) None of these

Question No. : 15

In July 2016 Michel Barnier, a former vice president of the European Commission, was appointed as EU's Chief Negotiator for the exit of from the bloc.

- A) UK B) Sweden C) France D) Belgium E) None of these

Question No. : 16

This legendary singer, who gave scores of Hindi film songs and ghazals, mainly between the 1950s and 70s, died in July 2016 at the age of 80. Identify the person.

- A) Mubarak Begum B) Lata Mangeshkar C) Asha Mangeshkar D) Begum Akhtar E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In July 2016 Neelamraju Ganga Prasada Rao, a noted, passed away at the age of 89.

- A) Agricultural Scientist B) Author C) Playback Singer D) Politician E) None of these

Question No. : 18

Like every year, 2016, was celebrated as Nelson Mandela International Day to mark birth anniversary of Nobel Peace Prize laureate and former South African President Nelson Mandela.

- A) July 16 B) July 18 C) July 24 D) July 30 E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In July 2016 Pema Khandu of Congress Party was sworn in as the 10th Chief Minister of, thus becoming the youngest Chief Minister in the country.

- A) Arunachal Pradesh B) Sikkim C) Manipur D) Assam E) None of these

Question No. : 20

In July 2016 senior IAS officer Ajay Bhushan Pandey was appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of

- A) Unique Identification Authority of India B) Airports Authority of India C) Coal India Limited
 D) Food Corporation of India E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In July 2016 former Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) official Dr. Budha Rashmi Mani was appointed as Director General (DG) of National Museum, located in

- A) Mumbai B) New Delhi C) Hyderabad D) Pune E) None of these

Question No. : 22

In July 2016 senior IAS officer Guruprasad Mohapatra was appointed as Chairman of

- A) Unique Identification Authority of India B) Airports Authority of India C) Coal India Limited
 D) Food Corporation of India E) None of these

Question No. : 23

In July 2016 noted maestro Pandit Lachu Maharaj passed away at the age of 73.

- A) Tabla B) Flute C) Sarangi D) Violin E) None of these

Question No. : 24

This eminent litterateur, social activist and a Magsaysay awardee passed away in July 2016. Influenced by the Communist movement of the 1940s, she chose to work among the poorest of the poor in the tribal areas of southern West Bengal and in other parts of the country. Identify the person.

- A) Mahasweta Devi B) Gayatri Devi C) Lakshmi Devi D) Rekha Devi E) None of these

Question No. : 25

In July 2016 Dipika Pallikal Karthik and Saurav Ghosal won the 73rd Senior National Championship in men's and women's single categories respectively.

- A) Squash B) Badminton C) Lawn Tennis D) Billiards E) None of these

Question No. : 26

India's Rio Olympics bound Inderjeet Singh was tested positive for a banned substance in July 2016. Inderjeet Singh had won a bronze medal in the 2014 Asian Games and had qualified for the 2016 Olympics. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Wrestling B) Boxing C) Shot Put D) Weight Lifting E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Who won the 2016 Hungarian Grand Prix title of Formula One in July 2016?

- A) Lewis Hamilton B) Nico Rosberg C) Daniel Ricciardo D) Sebastian Vettel E) None of these

Question No. : 28

This noted Indian hockey player passed away at the age of 56 in July 2016. Considered one of India's greatest hockey players, he won an Arjuna Award (1981) and a Padma Shri (1986). Identify the person.

- A) Mohammed Shahid B) Dhyan Chand C) Dhanraj Pillay D) K. D. Singh Babu E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In July 2016 the International Cricket Council announced that the following cricketers will be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame later this year. Who among these is NOT in that list?

- A) Muttiah Muralidaran B) Karen Rolton C) Arthur Morris D) Courtney Walsh E) None of these

Question No. : 30

Top Indian Narsingh Yadav failed a dope test in July 2016 after he was tested positive for a banned substance steroid, jeopardizing his participation in Rio Olympics.

- A) Wrestler B) Swimmer C) Boxer D) Weight Lifter E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In July 2016 renowned Avasarala Kanyakumari was selected for the prestigious 2016 Sangita Kalanidhi Award.

- A) Violinist B) Singer C) Flute Player D) Music Director E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In July 2016 the Advertising Agencies Association of India (AAAI) conferred its Lifetime Achievement Award on

- A) Srinivasan K.Swamy B) Piyush Pandey C) Praseon Joshi D) R Balakrishnan E) None of these

Question No. : 33

Who among the following is NOT a recipient of the 2016 Ramon Magsaysay Awards, announced in July 2016?

- A) Bezwada Wilson B) Conchita Carpio Morales C) Dompot Dhuafa D) Kommaly Chanthavong E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In July 2016 renowned Music Director and singer Bapi Lahiri was honoured with Mahanayak award by the Government.

- A) Kerala B) Tamil Nadu C) West Bengal D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 35

Which State Tourism struck gold at the Pacific Asia Travel Association awards in recognition of its trend setting marketing initiatives, which have boosted the state's profile as a must-visit destination?

- A) Gujarat B) Rajasthan C) Uttar Pradesh D) Kerala E) None of these

Question No. : 36

Which State Government, in July 2016, launched the Pashudhan Bima Yojan aimed at providing insurance cover to cattle breeders in the state at different premium rates for different animals?

- A) Uttar Pradesh B) Punjab C) Haryana D) Rajasthan E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In July 2016 the Union Government approved nearly 1600 crore rupees for under skill development initiative 'Himayat'.

- A) Jammu and Kashmir B) Haryana C) Rajasthan D) Odisha E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In July 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post-facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and focusing on capacity building and exchange of best practices in the area of skill development.

- A) France B) Sweden C) Germany D) England E) None of these
-

Question No. : 39

In July 2016 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared free of measles, as no case of the disease was registered in 2015.

- A) Argentina B) Brazil C) Peru D) Nigeria E) None of these

Question No. : 40

Which country declared a three-month state of emergency in July 2016 in response to the failed coup that happened in mid July 2016?

- A) Turkey B) Iraq C) Afghanistan D) Iran E) None of these
-



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In August 2016 Deepak Iyer was appointed as Managing Director of Mondelez International's India Business. Mondelez International is a multinational confectionery, food, and beverage company of

- A) US B) France C) Germany D) Australia E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Which country's anti-monopoly watchdog announced in August 2016 that Google would have to pay a 438 million rouble (\$6.8 million) fine for pre-installing applications on mobile devices running its Android operating system?

- A) Russia B) Germany C) Japan D) China E) None of these

Question No. : 3

In August 2016 the Board of Directors at reappointed Pawan Munjal as the Chairman, Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of the company for a period of five years with effect from 1st of October, 2016.

- A) Hero Moto Corp Ltd B) Honda India C) Maruti Suzuki India D) Dabur India Limited E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In August 2016 former RBI Deputy Governor Anand Sinha was appointed to the Board of as an Additional Director in the category of Independent Director on the board.

- A) HDFC Bank B) ICICI Bank C) IDFC Bank D) SBI E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Who among the following was, in August 2016, named as the President of Microsoft India by the parent company Microsoft Inc.?

- A) Anant Maheshwari B) Bhaskar Pramanik C) Satya Nadella D) Anil Bhansali E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In August 2016 online legal documentation startup LegalDesk.com announced the launch of its electronic signing feature which allows people to sign documents from remote places. Built on the Aadhaar platform, its is an initiative of the Government of India and meant to save money and time for citizens. What is the initiative called?

- A) eSignDesk B) eAadhaarDesk C) eSuidhaDesk D) eIndiaDesk E) None of these

Question No. : 7

Which of the following was constituted in August 2016 consequent to India's ratification of the WTO Agreement on Trade Facilitation(TFA) to facilitate domestic co-ordination and implementation of TFA provisions?

- A) National Committee on Trade Facilitation B) National Committee on Domestic Facilitation
C) National Committee on Economic Facilitation D) National Committee on Export Facilitation E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In August 2016 the government announced to set up a committee to look into all issues including foreign direct investment norms pertaining to the fast growing e-commerce industry in the country. The committee will be headed by

- A) Amitabh Kant B) Pranab Mukerjee C) Arun Jaitley D) Raghuram Rajan E) None of these

Question No. : 9

In August 2016 the Lok Sabha passed the Employee's Compensation (Amendment) Bill 2016 that seeks to raise the cap on amount of compensation to be taken up by high courts to

- A) Rs 10,000 B) Rs 20,000 C) Rs 15,000 D) Rs 12,000 E) None of these

Question No. : 10

In August 2016 the Parliament passed the Constitution (122nd Amendment) (GST) Bill, 2014 after it was unanimously passed by the Lok Sabha by approving all the amendments made by Rajya Sabha earlier. What does GST stand for?

- A) Goods and Services Tax B) Goods and Sales Tax C) Gross Sales Tax D) Gross Services Tax E) None of these

Question No. : 11

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval to amend regulation for foreign investment in the NBFCs thus enabling inflow of foreign investment in "Other Financial Services" on automatic route. What does NBFC stand for?

- A) Non- Banking Futuristic Companies B) Non- Banking Finance Companies C) Non- Balanced Finance Companies
 D) Non- Banking Finance Corporations E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing and ratification of an Agreement between India and on Economic Cooperation.

- A) France B) Malaysia C) Croatia D) Mongolia E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of new Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and aimed to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchange between the two countries bringing it in tune with the developments in the civil aviation sector.

- A) Lao People's Democratic Republic B) Republic of Korea C) Republic of Ireland D) Republic of China
 E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In August 2016 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) set up a committee to look at the various facets of household finance in India and to benchmark the country's position vis-à-vis both peer countries and advanced countries. The committee will be chaired by

- A) Tarun Ramadorai B) Urjit Patel C) Arun Jaitley D) Raghuram Rajan E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Who among the following was, in August 2016, elected as an individual member of International Olympic Committee (IOC), thus becoming the first Indian woman to join the prestigious body which governs Olympic sports in the world?

- A) Nita Ambani B) Parmeshwar Godrej C) Tina Ambani D) Gauri Khan E) None of these

Question No. : 16

In August 2016 Pushpa Kamal Dahal was elected as the 39th Prime Minister of

- A) Bangladesh B) Bhutan C) Nepal D) Myanmar E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In August 2016 senior Indian Revenue Service officer Rani Singh Nair was appointed as Chairperson of

- A) Central Board of Direct Taxes B) Central Pollution Control Board C) National Productivity Council
 D) Indian Trade Promotion Organization E) None of these

**Question No. : 18**

TKV Desikachar, who passed away in August 2016 at the age of 78, was a renowned

- A) Yoga Guru B) Scientist C) Music Director D) Author E) None of these

Question No. : 19

Takehiko Nakao was in news in August 2016 as he was appointed as the President of for a further 5 years beginning on 24 November 2016.

- A) Asian Development Bank B) World Bank C) Bank of America D) Royal Bank of Scotland E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Vijay Rupani was in news in August 2016 because he was sworn in as the 16th Chief Minister of

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Gujarat C) Maharashtra D) Tamil Nadu E) None of these

Question No. : 21

Egyptian-born Nobel-winning scientist Ahmed Zewail passed away in August 2016 at 70. He had won the Nobel Prize in in 1999.

- A) Physics B) Chemistry C) Medicine D) Mathematics E) None of these

Question No. : 22

In August 2016 Olympic champion Angela Ruggiero was elected as the new chair of the International Olympic Committee (IOC's) Athletes' Commission. Which sport is he associated with?

- A) American ice hockey B) Rugby C) Gymnastics D) High Jump E) None of these

Question No. : 23

Dinesh Kumar Khara was in news in August 2016 as he was appointed the Managing Director (MD) of

- A) HDFC B) ICICI C) Bank of Baroda D) SBI E) None of these

Question No. : 24

In August 2016 Chanu Sharmila ended her 16-year-long hunger strike for repealing of the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act (AFSPA) of 1958 from

- A) Manipur B) Assam C) Sikkim D) Nagaland E) None of these

Question No. : 25

K M Hanumantharayappa was in news in August 2016 because he

- A) assumed charge as the Chairman of Central Silk Board (CSB).
 B) assumed charge as the Chairman of Central Statistical Organization (CSO). C) was caught in a sex scam.
 D) was awarded a national award. E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Abhijeet Gupta was in news in August 2016 because he won the 20th Commonwealth Championship 2016 held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

- A) Chess B) Badminton C) Golf D) Archery E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Who created history in August 2016 by becoming the first Indian gymnast to qualify for the apparatus finals of artistic Gymnastics at the Rio 2016 Olympics?

- A) Dipa Karmakar B) Sheela Karmakar C) Ritu Karmakar D) Neha Karmakar E) None of these

Question No. : 28

Dipika Pallikal of India won the prestigious Australian Open when she defeated Mayar Hany (World no 8) of Egypt in August 2016. Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Squash B) Billiards C) Chess D) Golf E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In August 2016 Mercedes driver won the 2016 German Grand Prix title of Formula One.

- A) Lewis Hamilton B) Nico Erik Rosberg C) Jenson Button D) Sebastian Vettel E) None of these

Question No. : 30

In August 2016 the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) gave a clean chit to Narsingh Yadav in the doping case, thus allowing him to participate in 2016 Rio Olympics.

- A) Swimmer B) Weight Lifter C) Wrestler D) Boxer E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In August 2016 Novak Djokovic from won the 2016 ATP Toronto Masters (also known as the Rogers club) title in the men's single category when he defeated Kei Nishikori (World no 6) of Japan.

- A) Serbia B) France C) Germany D) US E) None of these

Question No. : 32

The edition of Summer Olympic Games opened in the Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro in August 2016, with the theme "World peace and Environment".

- A) 30th B) 31st C) 32nd D) 29th E) None of these

Question No. : 33

Which of the following was, in August 2016, selected for the All India Coordinated Rice Improvement Project Award 2015 for its achievement in four key areas that include scientific research for seeds?

- A) Haryana B) Punjab C) Andhra Pradesh D) West Bengal E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In August 2016 translator and artist Anita Gopalan was awarded the 2016 PEN/Heim Translation Fund Grant for her English translation of Hindi novel " *Simsim* " by Geet Chaturvedi, thus becoming the second Indian translator to be selected for the grant. PEN is a renowned literary organisation of

- A) UK B) US C) France D) Sweden E) None of these

Question No. : 35

Who among the following was, in August 2016, selected for the Rajiv Gandhi National Sadbhavana Award for his/her outstanding contribution towards the promotion of communal harmony, peace and goodwill?

- A) Shubha Mudgal B) Bhimsen Joshi C) Pandit Kumar Gandharva D) Alka Yagnik E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and for cooperation in the field of Tourism.

- A) South Africa B) Canada C) New Zealand D) Australia E) None of these

Question No. : 37

The Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for amendments to the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961 by introducing the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament in August 2016. Which of the following is/are the amendments to the Act?

- A) Increase Maternity Benefit from 12 weeks to 26 weeks for two surviving children and 12 weeks for more than two children.
B) 12 weeks Maternity Benefit to a 'Commissioning mother' and 'Adopting mother'. C) Facilitate 'Work from home'.
D) Mandatory provision of Creche in respect of establishment having 50 or more employees. E) All of these

Question No. : 38

In August 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a 15-day programme aimed to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Quit India Movement and 70 years of Independence. Where was the programme launched?

- A) Madhya Pradesh B) Uttar Pradesh C) Maharashtra D) Haryana E) None of these

Question No. : 39

In August 2016 the US authorities designated a Pakistan-based Islamist organization as a "global terrorist" organization. Which organization is being talked about?

- A) Jamaat-ul-Ahrar B) Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) C) Lashkar-e-Omar (LeO) D) Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP)
E) None of these

Question No. : 40

The 7th meeting of SAARC Interior Minister's Conference was held in August 2016 in

- A) New Delhi B) Islamabad C) Beijing D) Bangkok E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

Which of the following, in August 2016, acquired Swedish firm Blueair - a leading player in mobile air purification technology?

- A) Unilever B) P&G C) Johnson & Johnson D) Whirlpool E) None of these

Question No. : 2

Who among the following was, in August 2016, appointed as the President of India Bullion and Jewellers Association (IBJA), a 97 year old apex organization for bullion dealers and jewelers?

- A) Mukesh Mehta B) Sunil Mehta C) Rohit Mehta D) Vipul Mehta E) None of these

Question No. : 3

Which cement company was acquired by Birla Corporation Limited in August 2016 for 4800 crore rupees?

- A) Reliance Cement Company Private Limited B) J K Cement Limited C) Dalmia Cement (Bharat) Limited
D) Ambuja Cements Limited E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In August 2016 the Cabinet gave its approval to the "radical" changes in the foreign direct investment regime. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) As per the liberalised norms, foreign investment in defence sector is now permitted up to 100 per cent.
B) With a view to aid in modernisation of the existing airports to establish a high standard and help ease pressure on the existing airports, 100 per cent FDI under automatic route has been allowed in brownfield airport projects.
C) In case of single brand retail trading, the government has relaxed local sourcing norms for up to three years, with prior government approval, for entities undertaking trading of products having 'state of art' and 'cutting edge' technology.
D) FDI ceiling in sectors like teleports, Direct to Home (DTH), Cable Networks, mobile TV and Headend-in-the Sky Broadcasting Service(HITS) has been increased to 100 per cent.
E) All of these

Question No. : 5

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval to create a Project Development Fund (PDF) with a corpus of Rs 500 Crore for catalysing Indian economic presence in the Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and

- A) Vietnam B) Thailand C) Nigeria D) Bhutan E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the scheme for grant of Permanent Residency Status (PRS) to foreign investors for a period of years with multiple entry.

- A) 5 B) 10 C) 2 D) 15 E) None of these

Question No. : 7

In August 2016 wrestler was named as Haryana's brand ambassador for 'Beti Bachao, Beti Pado' campaign in Haryana.

- A) Sakshi Malik B) Yogeshwar Dutt C) Geeta Phogat D) Satender Dagar E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In August 2016 VP Singh Badnore was sworn in as the new Governor of

- A) Punjab B) Haryana C) Rajasthan D) Uttar Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 9

Justice Manjula Chellur was in news in August 2016 because she was

- A) sworn in as the new Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court B) caught in a multi crore scam
 C) nominated for a national award D) chosen to had a committee investigating a political scam E) None of these

Question No. : 10

S.R. Nathan died in August 2016 at the age of 92. He was the sixth and longest-serving President of and served two terms from 1999 to 2011.

- A) Singapore B) Malaysia C) Indonesia D) Thailand E) None of these

Question No. : 11

Who among the following was, in August 2016, appointed United Nations Women's Advocate for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in India?

- A) Aishwaryaa Dhanush B) Sushmita Sen C) Shabana Azmi D) Deepika Padukone E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In August 2016 country's largest paramilitary force CRPF announced the appointment of as its brand ambassador and bestowed the honorary rank of Commandant on the player.

- A) PV Sindhu B) Sakshi Malik C) Dipa Karmakar D) Jitu Rai E) None of these

Question No. : 13

National Sports Day was observed on to mark the birth anniversary of the legendary hockey player Dhyan Chand.

- A) August 29, 2016 B) August 27, 2016 C) August 21, 2016 D) August 30, 2016 E) None of these

Question No. : 14

Noted scientist P D Gupta was in news in August 2016 because he was

- A) appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of Mumbai-based Homi Bhabha National Institute.
 B) appointed as the new Chairman of Bhabha Atomic Research Centre
 C) nominated for a national award for excellence in scientific innovations D) applauded for inventing a cure for Cancer
 E) None of these

Question No. : 15

In August 2016 Dr. Najma Heptulla was sworn-in as the 18th Governor of

- A) Manipur B) Mizoram C) Arunachal Pradesh D) Assam E) None of these

Question No. : 16

Who among the following was, in August 2016, named chairman of a five-member review committee to probe the shooters' Rio Games debacle?

- A) Abhinav Bindra B) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore C) Gagan Narang D) Vijay Kumar E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In August 2016 India's ace shuttler Pusarla Venkata Sindhu won the silver medal in women's singles badminton event at 2016 Rio Olympics, thus becoming the Indian woman to win silver medal in Olympics and the woman player from India to win a medal in Olympics respectively.

- A) 1st, 5th B) 1st, 4th C) 2nd, 5th D) 2nd, 4th E) None of these

**Question No. : 18**

In August 2016 Narsingh Yadav was banned from all competitive sporting events for four years by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) based in Lausanne, Switzerland following an appeal by World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA). Which sport is being talked about?

- A) Boxing B) Wrestling C) Weight Lifting D) Shot Put E) None of these

Question No. : 19

The International Kabaddi Federation (IKF) announced in August 2016 that the Kabaddi World Cup will be hosted in between October 7 and 22, 2016.

- A) Ahmedabad B) New Delhi C) Panipat D) Patiala E) None of these

Question No. : 20

The 31st Summer Olympics (or 2016 Rio Olympics) ended in August 2016 after 16 days of sporting activity. United States was at the top of the medals tally followed by

- A) Great Britain B) China C) Japan D) Germany E) None of these

Question No. : 21

Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Awards were given in August 2016. Identify the incorrect pairing of player-game in this context, out of the options given below:

- A) PV Sindhu- Badminton B) Dipa Karmakar-Gymnastics C) Jitu Rai- Shooting D) Sakshi Malik-Boxing
E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Apurvi Chandela was one of the recipients of the Arjuna Awards given in August 2016. Which sport is she associated with?

- A) Wrestling B) Shooting C) Badminton D) Athletics E) None of these

Question No. : 23

National Sports Awards 2016 were given in various categories in August 2016. One of these awards is the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna Award, given for the spectacular and most outstanding performance in the field of sports by a sportsperson over a period of years.

- A) Five B) Three C) Four D) Two E) None of these

Question No. : 24

Which University was awarded the Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (MAKA) Trophy in August 2016 for being the overall top performing university in inter-university tournaments?

- A) Osmania University, Hyderabad B) Punjab University, Chandigarh C) Punjabi University, Patiala D) Delhi University
E) None of these

Question No. : 25

Noted poetess and novelist Padma Sachdev was awarded the prestigious Saraswati Samman in August 2016 for the year 2015 for her autobiography written in language.

- A) Hindi B) Marathi C) Dogri D) Gujarati E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Who among the following was, in August 2016, awarded the first IEI-IEEE Award (constituted by the Institution of Engineers and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Asia Pacific region) for Engineering Excellence-2015 for his/her significant national contributions towards missiles and aerospace technologies?

- A) G. Satheesh Reddy B) C.N.R Rao C) APJ Kalam (posthumous) D) J Manjula E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Who among the following won the 'UEFA Best Player in Europe Award' in August 2016?

- A) Cristiano Ronaldo B) Lionel Messi C) Andrés Iniesta D) Franck Ribéry E) None of these

Question No. : 28

Who among the following was, in August 2016, conferred with the prestigious Vyas Samman 2015?

- A) Sunita Jain B) Kamal Kishore Goyenka C) Vishwanath Tripathi D) Narendra Kohli E) None of these

Question No. : 29

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of new Air Services Agreement (ASA) between India and for updation of the existing Air Services Agreement (ASA) between the two countries.

- A) Malaysia B) Fiji C) Singapore D) Indonesia E) None of these

Question No. : 30

In August 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for introduction of the "Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016". The Bill shall apply to whole of India, except the state of

- A) Jammu and Kashmir B) Telangana C) Nagaland D) Assam E) None of these

Question No. : 31

In August 2016 Reserve Bank of India (RBI) asked all commercial and co-operative banks to provide loans to women self-help groups (SHGs) in rural areas at percent per annum under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) in 250 districts.

- A) 6 B) 5 C) 7 D) 4 E) None of these

Question No. : 32

Who of the following headed the Committee on border protection that submitted its report to the Home Minister Rajnath Singh?

- A) Madhukar Gupta B) Sushma Swaraj C) Sindhushree Khullar D) Raghuram Rajan E) None of these

Question No. : 33

Who of the following will head Indian Navy's high level committee that was constituted to find out the extent of Scorpene Submarine data leak?

- A) Ashok Kumar B) Robin Dhowan C) Sunil Lanba D) Karambir Singh E) None of these

Question No. : 34

Name the city where the first phase of SAUNI (Saurashtra Narmada Avataram Irrigation yojana) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in August 2016?

- A) Jamnagar B) Gandhinagar C) Varanasi D) Lucknow E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In August 2016 Union Minister Maneka Gandhi launched Protection of Children from Sexual Offenses (POCSO) e-Box. Up to which age is an individual recognised as a child under POSCO Act 2012?

- A) 18 years B) 16 years C) 14 years D) 12 years E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In August 2016 the Union Government launched 'Sugamaya Pustakalaya' online library to serve

- A) Persons with print disabilities B) Persons with dyslexia C) Persons with physical disabilities
D) Persons with visual disabilities E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In a significant decision that could have far-reaching implications for India's military posture, India and agreed "in principle" on a logistics support agreement — Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA), in August 2016.

- A) China B) US C) Great Britain D) Russia E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In August 2016 the United Nations University Institute for Environment and Human Security and Bundnis Entwicklung Hilft released the World Risk Report 2016. Which country has the highest risk of disaster among the 171 countries included in the World Risk Index 2016.

- A) Pakistan B) Afghanistan C) Vanuatu D) Vietnam E) None of these

Question No. : 39

Which of the following, in August 2016, launched the DNA Index System (DIS), the first-of-its-kind initiative that allows generation of DNA profiles from live samples like saliva and blood stains within 90 to 120 minutes, as a step towards curbing the crime rate?

- A) Andhra Pradesh B) Kerala C) West Bengal D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 40

In August 2016 the Government of issued a draft notification for the creation of 17 new districts in order to enhance the efficiency of the administration.

- A) Telangana B) Odisha C) Uttar Pradesh D) Rajasthan E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In September 2016 automobile maker Isuzu announced top level changes in its Indian operations with Hiroshi Nakagawa taking over as the Chairman of Isuzu Motors India (IMI) with immediate effect.

- A) German B) Japanese C) Korean D) French E) None of these

Question No. : 2

In September 2016 LG Electronics Inc of announced its partnering with Amazon.com Inc on smart-home services, enabling the US company's services such as the Alexa virtual assistant on some of the electronics maker's devices.

- A) Japan B) North Korea C) South Korea D) US E) None of these

Question No. : 3

Which of the following represents the correct triplet of companies that officially adopted the EU-US Privacy Shield framework in September 2016?

- A) Microsoft, Google and Verizon B) Microsoft, Apple and Salesforce C) Microsoft, Google and Salesforce
D) Verizon, Google and Salesforce E) None of these

Question No. : 4

In the biggest consolidation deal in the telecom sector, Reliance Communications Ltd in September 2016 announced to merge its mobile phone services business with rival

- A) Aircel B) Idea C) BSNL D) Vodafone E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which of the following, in September 2016, launched the 'Jio' service offering free voice calls and zero roaming charges for its customers as a part of Jio Welcome Offer?

- A) Tata Docomo B) Bharti Enterprises C) Reliance Industries Limited D) Idea Cellular E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In September 2016 media firm Sony Pictures Networks India (SPN) signed a definitive agreement to acquire for \$385 million.

- A) Ten Sports B) NEO Cricket C) DD Sports D) STAR Sports E) None of these

Question No. : 7

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the creation of the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) to give a major push for creation of high quality infrastructure in premier educational institutions. The HEFA would be jointly promoted by the identified Promoter and the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) with an authorised capital of

- A) Rs.2,000 crore B) Rs.1,000 crore C) Rs. 500 crore D) Rs.1,500 crore E) None of these

Question No. : 8

The Union Government, in September 2016, issued fresh flexi-fund guidelines for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Under the new norms, flexi-funds in each CSS have been increased from the current percent to 25 percent for states and 30 percent for Union Territories.

- A) 10 B) 15 C) 20 D) 17 E) None of these

Question No. : 9

In September 2016 the Income Tax department launched a special electronic grievance redressal system in order to fast track taxpayer grievances and ensure early resolution of their complaints. What is it called?

- A) e-nivaran B) e-saral C) e-suvidha D) e-lakshya E) None of these

Question No. : 10

In September 2016 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cancelled the certificate of registration of non-banking financial companies (NBFCs), thus disabling them from transacting the business of a non-banking financial institution.

- A) 4 B) 5 C) 6 D) 10 E) None of these

Question No. : 11

In September 2016 the Ministry of rolled out its insurance scheme for passengers, under which they can buy a premium of 92 paise while booking a ticket to get an insurance cover of up to Rs 10 lakh.

- A) Railways B) Civil Aviation C) Road Transport & Highways D) Shipping E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In September 2016 the Centre issued model guidelines for states to regulate direct selling and multi-level marketing businesses while prohibiting pyramid structures as well as money circulation schemes. What was the objective of this step?

- A) To protect consumers from Ponzi frauds B) To help them understand marketing
C) To integrate them with marketing companies D) To promote e-commerce and marketing E) None of these

Question No. : 13

Which of the following, in September 2016, became the first foreign government issuer of masala bonds (rupee-denominated bonds issued to overseas buyers, aimed at investments into India's infra needs)?

- A) British Columbia B) Ontario C) Alberta D) Manitoba E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In September 2016 Governor of Maharashtra Chennamaneni Vidyasagar Rao, was sworn in as the acting Governor of

- A) Tamil Nadu B) Gujarat C) Andhra Pradesh D) Karnataka E) None of these

Question No. : 15

In September 2016 President of, Islam Karimov, passed away at the age of 78, after dominating the nation for more than 25 years.

- A) Uzbekistan B) Latvia C) Kazakhstan D) Russia E) None of these

Question No. : 16

Who among the following was, in September 2016, elected as the National President of the Indian Medical Association (IMA) for the year 2016-17?

- A) K K Aggarwal B) Naresh Trehan C) KS Reddy D) Sanjay Tyagi E) None of these

Question No. : 17

Lindsay Tuckett, who was the oldest surviving former Test cricketer, passed away in September 2016 at the age of 97. Which country did he represent?

- A) Australia B) England C) South Africa D) New Zealand E) None of these

Question No. : 18

In September 2016 Michel Temer, who served as Vice-President of, was appointed as the Interim President of the country.

- A) Peru B) Argentina C) Brazil D) Laos E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In September 2016 Pope Francis declared Mother Teresa as a

- A) Goddess B) Saint C) Priest D) Queen E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Who among the following was, in September 2016, appointed as the new Chancellor of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) University?

- A) Ashok Chawla B) Ashok Gupta C) Ashok Sethi D) Ashok Goel E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In September 2016 CK Asnani took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director UCIL. Expand UCIL.

- A) Uranium Corporation of India Limited B) Unilever Corporation of India Limited C) Uber Corporation of India Limited
 D) Uninor Corporation of India Limited E) None of these

Question No. : 22

In September 2016 Mukund Chaudhari took over as Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of MOIL Ltd. MOIL Limited is a miniratna state-owned manganese-ore mining company headquartered in

- A) Nagpur B) Patna C) Mumbai D) Pune E) None of these

Question No. : 23

In September 2016 Deepa Malik created history by winning silver medal in Women's at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, thus becoming the first Indian woman to win a medal at the Paralympics.

- A) Shotput B) Long Jump C) Javelin Throw D) High Jump E) None of these

Question No. : 24

In September 2016 India's Devendra Jhajharia won gold medal in the men's at the 2016 Rio Paralympics, thus becoming the second gold medallist at the Paralympics for the country.

- A) Javelin Throw B) High Jump C) Shotput D) Long Jump E) None of these

Question No. : 25

In September 2016 Mariyappan Thangavelu won India's first gold medal at the 2016 Rio Paralympics in the Men's

- A) Javelin Throw B) High Jump C) Shotput D) Long Jump E) None of these

Question No. : 26

Who among the following won the Italian Grand Prix of Formula one in September 2016?

- A) Nico Rosberg B) Lewis Hamilton C) Sebastian Vettel D) Ricciardo E) None of these

Question No. : 27

In September 2016 Indian pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and N Sikki Reddy won the 2016 Brazil Open Grand Prix title of in the mixed doubles category.

- A) Badminton B) Table Tennis C) Lawn Tennis D) Squash E) None of these

Question No. : 28

Who among the following was, in September 2016, appointed 'Knight of the National Order of the French Legion of Honour'?

- A) Kiran Mazumdar Shaw B) Nita Ambani C) Arundhati Bhattacharya D) K.V Kamath E) None of these

Question No. : 29

This India-born innovator and scientist won the prestigious 2016 Lemelson-MIT Prize for his co-invention of an ultra-fast imaging camera that can see around corners, low-cost eye-care solutions. Identify him.

- A) Ramesh Raskar B) Tessy Thomas C) Animesh Chakravorty D) Ashok Gadgil E) None of these

Question No. : 30

In September 2016 Stuart Blackburn was presented the MM Bennetts Award for his novel "Into the Hidden Valley". The book tells the story of the Apatani tribe of during British India.

- A) Assam B) Arunachal Pradesh C) Nagaland D) West Bengal E) None of these

Question No. : 31

Which of the following pairs represents the two Indians nominated for the prestigious Magsaysay Award in September 2016?

- A) Bezwada Wilson, T.M. Krishna B) Bezwada Wilson, Anshu Gupta C) Sanjiv Chaturvedi, T.M. Krishna
 D) Sanjiv Chaturvedi, Anshu Gupta E) None of these

Question No. : 32

Who/Which among the following is NOT a recipient of the Magsaysay Award in September 2016?

- A) Conchita Carpio Morales B) Dompot Dhuafa C) Japan Overseas Cooperation Volunteers D) Kulandei Francis
 E) None of these

Question No. : 33

In September 2016 Indian-American physician-author Abraham Verghese, whose work has emphasised empathy in medicine, was selected for the prestigious

- A) 2015 National Humanities Medal B) Jawaharlal Nehru Prize 2016 C) Excellence in Science & Technology Award 2015
 D) W.D West Memorial Award 2016 E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In September 2016 BJP leader Subramanian Swamy was honoured with 'Tamil Ratna' award by a body of Tamil diaspora in for fighting corruption and working for more transparency in the functioning of the government.

- A) New York B) Sydney C) Toronto D) London E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the signing and ratification of the Extradition Treaty between India and providing a legal framework for seeking extradition of terrorists, economic offenders and other criminals from and to

- A) Iraq B) Afghanistan C) Iran D) UAE E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the extension of contract between Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India and the ISA for exploration of Polymetallic Nodules for a further period of 5 years (2017-22). What does ISA stand for?

- A) International Seabed Authority B) International Scientific Authority C) International Satellite Authority
 D) International Strategic Authority E) None of these

Question No. : 37

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post-facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and on cooperation in the field of National Housing Policy Development and Management (NHPDM).

- A) Kenya B) Nigeria C) Tanzania D) Pakistan E) None of these

Question No. : 38

In September 2016 the Government launched the 'Biju Kanya Ratna Yojana'(BKRY) in three districts of the state, with the objective of improving Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB) and Child Sex Ratio (CSR) in the three districts.

- A) Odisha B) Haryana C) Bihar D) Uttar Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 39

The United States announced to give \$38 billion in military assistance over the next decade, the largest such aid package in U.S. history, under a landmark agreement signed in September 2016.

- A) Iraq B) Syria C) Israel D) Palestine E) None of these

Question No. : 40

In September 2016 became the first country to be officially acknowledged as being yaws-free by WHO.

- A) Indonesia B) Malaysia C) Brazil D) India E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In September 2016 mobile phone manufacturer Gionee signed a memorandum of understanding with the Government to set up its manufacturing unit in the state with an initial investment of Rs 500 crore.

- A) Haryana B) Uttar Pradesh C) Himachal Pradesh D) Madhya Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 2

What is the name of the mobile chat application launched by Google in September 2016 that can be used in online conversations with friends?

- A) Allo B) Pallo C) Challo D) Tallo E) None of these

Question No. : 3

Which of the following was, in September 2016, granted prestigious membership of Asia-Pacific Aerospace Quality Group (APAQG) under category 'Full Member with voting rights', thus making India the seventh nation to join the APAQG under the International Aerospace Quality Group (IAQG)?

- A) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited B) Jet Airways C) Indigo D) Air India E) None of these

Question No. : 4

Which of the following launched Skava Commerce (a modern, mobile-first and modular e-commerce platform that delivers engaging omni-channel experiences) in September 2016?

- A) TCS B) Infosys C) Wipro D) Cognizant E) None of these

Question No. : 5

Which of the following, in September 2016, landed a 99.7-million dollar (around 660 crore rupees) contract from Vietnam Border Guard to design, construct and supply high-speed patrol vessels?

- A) Larsen & Toubro (L&T) B) Engineers India Limited (EIL) C) NTPC D) Reliance Power E) None of these

Question No. : 6

Who among the following was, in September 2016, appointed as Brand Ambassador of state-owned Punjab National Bank (PNB)?

- A) Virat Kohli B) Shah Rukh Khan C) Deepika Padukone D) Amitabh Bachchan E) None of these

Question No. : 7

The Union Cabinet, in September 2016, gave its approval for closure of HCL, a BIFR referred company since 2002. What does HCL stand for?

- A) Hindustan Cables Limited B) Hindustan Computers Limited C) Hindustan Consumers Limited
D) Hindustan Cables Limited E) None of these

Question No. : 8

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing and ratification of Agreement between India and for the exchange of information with respect to Taxes.

- A) Samoa B) Peru C) Mauritius D) Argentina E) None of these

Question No. : 9

The Union Cabinet, in September 2016, approved the proposals of Ministry of Finance on certain landmark budgetary reforms. Which of these is NOT one such reform?

- A) The merger of Railway budget with the General budget
- B) The advancement of the date of Budget presentation from the last day of February
- C) The merger of the Plan and the Non-Plan classification in the Budget and Accounts
- D) Exponentially increasing the budgetary allocation for Railway expenditures
- E) None of these

Question No. : 10

The Union Cabinet, in September 2016, gave its approval for provision of a direct communication link through a dedicated submarine Optical Fibre Cable (OFC) between Mainland (Chennai) and Port Blair & five at an estimated cost of

- A) Rs. 102.38 crore
- B) Rs. 1102.38 crore
- C) Rs. 2102.38 crore
- D) Rs. 3102.38 crore
- E) None of these

Question No. : 11

The Union Cabinet, in September 2016, approved the proposal to extend subsidy support of Rs. 1,250 crore to as compensation for deficit incurred by it in operating the Rural Wire-line connections installed prior to 1st April, 2002.

- A) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)
- B) Bharti Enterprises
- C) Reliance
- D) Tata Docomo
- E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In September 2016 the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (RBI Act) was amended by the Finance Act, 2016, to provide for a statutory and institutionalised framework for a Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), for maintaining price stability. Who among the following is NOT a member of MPC?

- A) Urjit Patel
- B) R Gandhi
- C) Michael Patra
- D) Arun Jaitley
- E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In September 2016 Jim Yong Kim was re-appointed for a second five-year term as President of, beginning July 1, 2017.

- A) World Bank
- B) IMF
- C) UN
- D) WTO
- E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In September 2016, 105-year-old, who was felicitated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi for building toilet by selling off her goats, was chosen as the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' mascot.

- A) Kunwar Bai
- B) Rani Bai
- C) Sita Bai
- D) Laxmi Bai
- E) None of these

Question No. : 15

Navtej Sarna was in news in September 2016 because

- A) He was appointed as Ambassador to France.
- B) He was appointed as Ambassador to the United States.
- C) He was appointed as Ambassador to Pakistan.
- D) He was appointed as Ambassador to China.
- E) None of these

Question No. : 16

In September 2016 senior IPS officer OP Singh was appointed as Director General of the CISF, the largest security force in the world. What is CISF?

- A) Central Industrial Security Force
- B) Central Indian Security Force
- C) Central Industrial Strategic Force
- D) Cooperative Industrial Security Force
- E) None of these

Question No. : 17

In September 2016 the Appointments Committee of Cabinet (ACC) appointed three economists as the external appointees on the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). Who among the following is NOT one of them?

- A) Pami Dua B) Chetan Ghate C) Ravindra Dholakia D) R Gandhi E) None of these

Question No. : 18

In September 2016 senior IPS officer R. K. Pachnanda was appointed as Director General of NDRF. What is NDRF?

- A) National Disaster Response Force B) National Disaster Reaction Force C) National Daily Response Force
 D) National Diplomatic Response Force E) None of these

Question No. : 19

In September 2016 Ravi Reddy, an Indian-origin South African, was appointed as the Head of (ISBT), thus becoming the first person from the African continent and first person of Indian origin to head ISBT. What is ISBT?

- A) International Society for Blood Transfusion B) International Services & Ballistic Technology
 C) Internal Society for Bionic Transplantation D) International Services Bus Terminal E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Renowned Hindi and Urdu writer, playwright and television personality Reoti Saran Sharma was in news in September 2016 because

- A) He was conferred with Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. B) He passed away. C) He launched his own TV channel.
 D) He was caught in a multi crore scam. E) None of these

Question No. : 21

Former Prime Minister and President of Shimon Peres passed away at the age of 93 in September 2016.

- A) Israel B) Iran C) Iraq D) Indonesia E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Women's team of won the gold medal at the 5th Asian Beach Games held in Vietnam in September 2016.

- A) India B) China C) Japan D) Thailand E) None of these

Question No. : 23

India opened their medal account in the 5th Asian Beach Games in September 2016 with Pinky Balhara bagging a bronze in 'Kurash' on the opening day of competitions. What is Kurash?

- A) It is a form of wrestling that originated from Uzbekistan. B) It is a form of boxing that originated from Iran.
 C) It is a form of archery that originated from Afghanistan. D) It is a form of karate that originated from China.
 E) None of these

Question No. : 24

India's Priyasha Deshmukh won a historic bronze medal in the first World Deaf Championships held in Russia in September 2016.

- A) Shooting B) Wrestling C) Weight Lifting D) Athletics E) None of these

Question No. : 25

Sathiyam Gnanasekaran became the Indian table tennis player to win an ITTF event as he clinched the men's singles title of the Belgium Open in September 2016.

- A) 2nd B) 1st C) 4th D) 3rd E) None of these

Question No. : 26

India's player Velavan Senthilkumar won the Under-19 Asian Junior Individual championship title in September 2016.

- A) Lawn Tennis B) Table Tennis C) Squash D) Badminton E) None of these

Question No. : 27

In September 2016 film "Visaranai" was selected as India's official entry to Oscars 2017 (89th Academy Awards) in the Foreign Language Film category.

- A) Telugu B) Tamil C) Marathi D) Gujarati E) None of these

Question No. : 28

In September 2016 'The White Helmets', a civil organisation of emergency responders in rebel-held areas, won the Right Livelihood Award.

- A) Syrian B) Korean C) British D) US E) None of these

Question No. : 29

Which of the following represents the pair of cricketers who were conferred with the Arjuna Award in September 2016 for their contributions to cricket?

- A) Ajinkya Rahane and Virat Kohli B) Ajinkya Rahane and Rohit Sharma C) Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli
D) MS Dhoni and Rohit Sharma E) None of these

Question No. : 30

Who among the following was, in September 2016, nominated for the Kumaon Literary Festival's FON (Fellows of Nature) South Asia Short Story Award in Nature writing for her short story "People of the Sun."?

- A) Meghna Pant B) Meghna Gulzar C) Meghna Das D) Meghna Gupta E) None of these

Question No. : 31

Which Indian-born researcher won the prestigious 2016 Marconi Society Paul Baran Young Scholar Award for his contribution to radio waves?

- A) Dinesh Bharadia B) Dinesh Gupta C) Dinesh Sharma D) Dinesh Iyer E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In September 2016 the Union Government approved projects worth 500 crore rupees for integrated development of tourism in under Swadesh Darshan scheme.

- A) Jammu and Kashmir B) Haryana C) Rajasthan D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 33

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for the Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY) launched in July, 2003 and Varistha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY) launched in August, 2014. The Schemes are implemented through

- A) Life Insurance Corporation B) National Insurance Company C) New India Assurance
D) The Oriental Insurance Company E) None of these

Question No. : 34

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Undertaking between India and for recognition of maritime education and training, certificates of competency, endorsements, training documentary evidence and medical fitness certificates for seafarers issued by the Government of the other country.

- A) France B) South Korea C) Germany D) China E) None of these

Question No. : 35

In September 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the River Authorities Order, 2016 laying down a new institutional structure for policy and implementation in fast track manner and empowering National Mission for Clean to discharge its functions in an independent and accountable manner.

- A) Ganga B) Yamuna C) Satluj D) Saraswati E) None of these

Question No. : 36

In September 2016 Union Health Ministry announced to launch the Mission Parivar Vikas in High Focus districts in seven states.

- A) 145 B) 112 C) 98 D) 52 E) None of these

Question No. : 37

The World Rabies Day was observed on across the world to raise awareness about the rabies disease and its preventable measures.

- A) 28 September B) 24 September C) 29 September D) 21 September E) None of these

Question No. : 38

The government and left-wing FARC rebels signed a historic agreement formally bringing an end to 52 years of civil war. Which country is being talked about?

- A) Colombia B) Peru C) Brazil D) Argentina E) None of these

Question No. : 39

In September 2016 Russia and signed an agreement on cooperation in the field of peaceful atomic energy use.

- A) India B) Cuba C) Japan D) Ukraine E) None of these

Question No. : 40

The World Tourism Day (WTD) was observed on to raise awareness about the importance of tourism.

- A) 27 September B) 25 September C) 24 September D) 29 September E) None of these



DIRECTIONS for the question: Mark the best option:

Question No. : 1

In October 2016 the Union Cabinet approved the sub-leasing of 330.10 acres of land by HLL Lifecare Ltd, a mini-ratna, for setting up a medical devices manufacturing park (Medipark). Which state is being talked about?

- A) Tamil Nadu B) Andhra Pradesh C) Karnataka D) Gujarat E) None of these

Question No. : 2

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in October 2016, gave its approval to an acquisition by ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL), for 11 per cent stake in JSC Vankorneft from Rosneft Oil Company (Rosneft), the national oil company of

- A) Russia B) Germany C) France D) Sweden E) None of these

Question No. : 3

What was India's rank out of 28 countries in the 2016 Biopharmaceutical Competitiveness & Investment (BCI) Survey released in October 2016?

- A) 19 B) 28 C) 11 D) 3 E) None of these

Question No. : 4

India is seeking greater market access for the domestic pharmaceuticals sector in the Market, as per an announcement by Union Commerce Minister in October 2016.

- A) Japanese B) Chinese C) British D) German E) None of these

Question No. : 5

In a major deal for India's private defence industry, Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group and Rafale maker Dassault Aviation of announced a joint venture (JV) in October 2016.

- A) Germany B) UK C) France D) Russia E) None of these

Question No. : 6

In October 2016 Standard Chartered Bank (SCB) tied-up with under which its credit cardholders will get a cash-back of up to 25 percent for hailing cabs from the app across six countries, including India.

- A) Uber B) Ola C) Meru Cabs D) Mega Cabs E) None of these

Question No. : 7

The Union Cabinet, in October 2016, gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on General Cooperation with New Development Bank (NDB) by Government of India. The proposal will enhance trade and economic relations among the countries.

- A) ASEAN B) BRICS C) NAFTA D) SAARC E) None of these

**Question No. : 8**

In October 2016 the Finance Ministry set up a PDMC with a view to streamline government borrowings and better cash management with the overall objective of deepening bond markets. What is PDMC?

- A) Public Debt Management Cell B) Prime Debt Management Cell C) Priority Debt Management Cell
D) Pragmatic Debt Management Cell E) None of these

Question No. : 9

In October 2016 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) said the entities that had been granted a licence would need to take specific approval for the products they would be offering to customers. These banks are not allowed to lend and their main mandate is to offer remittance services.

- A) Payments Bank B) Prime Bank C) Priority Bank D) Public Bank E) None of these

Question No. : 10

In October 2016 the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) cut repo rate by 25 bps to per cent.

- A) 6.25 B) 6 C) 6.5 D) 6.75 E) None of these

Question No. : 11

In the new monetary policy statement released by the RBI in October 2016, the Reverse Repo Rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate and the Bank Rate to per cent.

- A) 6.5 B) 6.75 C) 6.25 D) 6 E) None of these

Question No. : 12

In order to boost rural economy by utilising bio-resources, a National Mission on Bioeconomy was launched in October 2016 in by the Institute of Bio-resources and Sustainable Development (IBSD) under the Ministry of Science and Technology.

- A) Shillong B) Karnal C) Gandhinagar D) Amritsar E) None of these

Question No. : 13

In October 2016 an internal working group set up by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) proposed to relax bank branch norms by suggesting that branches, including those manned by business correspondents that provide minimum 4 hours of service for 5 days a week, be allowed to be treated as a full-service branch. The panel, recommended that for banks to open such outlets they should meet the per cent norm of opening banking outlets in un-banked rural centres.

- A) 25 B) 15 C) 30 D) 10 E) None of these

Question No. : 14

In October 2016 Kersti Kaljulaid was elected as the President of, thus becoming the first female president of this country.

- A) Estonia B) Ukraine C) Russia D) Uzbekistan E) None of these

Question No. : 15

In October 2016 M S Sahoo, a financial markets expert, took charge as Chairperson of IBBI. What is IBBI?

- A) Incumbency and Bankruptcy Board of India B) Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India
C) Intrinsic Bicameral Board of India D) Internal Bankruptcy Board of India E) None of these

**Question No. : 16**

In October 2016 Union Culture Minister announced that the government will commemorate the birth centenary of social activist and former RSS leader from October 11, 2016 to October 11, 2017.

- A) Nanaji Deshmukh B) Deendayal Upadhyaya C) Syama Prasad Mukherjee D) Subramanian Swamy
E) None of these

Question No. : 17

Who among the following was, in October 2016, appointed as the Brand Ambassador of Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (popularly known as Vizag Steel)?

- A) PV Sindhu B) Saina Nehwal C) Sania Mirza D) Deepa Karmakar E) None of these

Question No. : 18

In October 2016 former Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer Renu Pall was appointed as the Ambassador of India to

- A) UK B) Austria C) Hungary D) Pakistan E) None of these

Question No. : 19

Who among the following will be the Chief Guest at the Republic Day celebrations on 26 January 2017?

- A) Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan (Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi) B) François Hollande (President of France)
C) Theresa May (PM of UK) D) Justin Trudeau (PM of Canada) E) None of these

Question No. : 20

Senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer Sushil Chandra was, in October 2016, appointed as the Chairman of

- A) Central Board of Direct Taxes B) National Dairy Development Board C) National Thermal Power Corporation
D) Gujarat Cooperative Milk Marketing Federation E) None of these

Question No. : 21

In October 2016 former ISRO Chairman and space scientist became the first Indian to be inducted in the Hall of Fame of International Astronautical Federation (IAF) for his outstanding contribution to the progress of astronautics.

- A) Udipi Ramachandra Rao B) Jimit Gadhia C) Ramesh Pai D) Nand Kishore Vyas E) None of these

Question No. : 22

Which country lifted the 1st BRICS U-17 Football Tournament 2016 held at Goa in October 2016?

- A) Brazil B) China C) Russia D) India E) None of these

Question No. : 23

Daniel Ricciardo of won the 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix in October 2016.

- A) Australia B) England C) Germany D) Sweden E) None of these

Question No. : 24

In October 2016 India won the three-match test series against and Ravichandran Ashwin was declared man of the series.

- A) New Zealand B) Australia C) South Africa D) England E) None of these

Question No. : 25

Who among the following won the Champion of Champions pistol award in the World Cup Final in Italy in October 2016?

- A) Jitu Rai B) Abhinav Bindra C) Gagan Narang D) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore E) None of these

Question No. : 26

In October 2016 Agnieszka Radwanska of won the 2016 China Open Women's Singles.

- A) Poland B) Germany C) France D) Sweden E) None of these

Question No. : 27

Who was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in October 2016?

- A) Bob Dylan B) Patrick Modiano C) Svetlana Alexievich D) Alice Munro E) None of these

Question No. : 28

Who among the following was NOT a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Physics in October 2016?

- A) David J. Thouless B) F. Duncan M. Haldane C) J. Michael Kosterlitz D) Arthur B. McDonald E) None of these

Question No. : 29

Yoshinori Ohsumi of won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in October 2016.

- A) North Korea B) South Korea C) Japan D) Singapore E) None of these

Question No. : 30

In October 2016 Chief Minister of was honoured with prestigious Sustainable Development Leadership Award of the The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in recognition of his vision and leadership in environment and sustainable development.

- A) Meghalaya B) Assam C) Sikkim D) Arunachal Pradesh E) None of these

Question No. : 31

Who among the following was awarded the Nobel Prize in Economics in October 2016?

- A) Oliver Hart B) Angus Deaton C) Jean Tirole D) Lloyd S. Shapley E) None of these

Question No. : 32

In October 2016 the Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and on cooperation in the field of water management.

- A) Hungary B) Germany C) Bangladesh D) France E) None of these

Question No. : 33

The Union Cabinet, in October 2016, gave its approval for signing the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and on Expansion of Bilateral Trade and Economic Cooperation.

- A) Russia B) Hungary C) Sweden D) France E) None of these

**Question No. : 34**

The Union Cabinet, in October 2016, gave its approval to the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and AARDO for capacity building programmes in the field of rural development. Expand AARDO.

- A) African American Rural Development Organization B) African Asian Rural Development Organization
C) American Asian Rural Development Organization D) Anglo Asian Rural Development Organization E) None of these

Question No. : 35

The Union Cabinet, in October 2016, gave its approval for the signing of MoU between India and in the field of water resources.

- A) European Union B) NAFTA C) SAARC D) G-8 E) None of these

Question No. : 36

The Union Cabinet, in October 2016, gave its approval to introduce official amendments to the HIV and AIDS (Prevention and Control) Bill, 2014. Which of the following is true in this context?

- A) The HIV and AIDS Bill, 2014 was drafted to safeguard the rights of people living with HIV and affected by HIV.
B) The provisions of the Bill seek to address HIV-related discrimination, strengthen the existing programme by bringing in legal accountability and establish formal mechanisms for inquiring into complaints and redressing grievances.
C) The Bill seeks to prevent and control the spread of HIV and AIDS, prohibits discrimination against persons with HIV and AIDS, provides for informed consent and confidentiality with regard to their treatment, places obligations on establishments to safeguard rights of persons living with HIV and create mechanisms for redressing complaints.
D) The Bill aims to enhance access to health care services by ensuring informed consent and confidentiality for HIV-related testing, treatment and clinical research.
E) All of these

Question No. : 37

The International Day of Rural Women was observed across the world on to recognize the critical role and contribution of rural women.

- A) 15 October B) 17 October C) 18 October D) 19 October E) None of these

Question No. : 38

The International Day for Disaster Reduction (IDDR) was observed on across the world to encourage citizens and governments to take part in building more disaster resilient communities and nations.

- A) 13 October B) 17 October C) 18 October D) 19 October E) None of these

Question No. : 39

The International Day of the Girl Child was observed across the world on to recognize girls' rights and the unique challenges girls face around the world.

- A) 11 October B) 12 October C) 10 October D) 5 October E) None of these

Question No. : 40

The World Mental Health Day was observed on to raise awareness about mental health issues around the world and mobilizing efforts in support of mental health.

- A) 10 October B) 12 October C) 10 October D) 5 October E) None of these



Current GK Tests Answer Keys

MBA Current Gk March Test 01		MBA Current Gk March Test 02		MBA Current Gk April Test 01		MBA Current Gk April Test 02		MBA Current Gk May Test 01		MBA Current Gk May Test 02	
1.	A	1.	A	1.	A	1.	A	1.	A	1.	B
2.	A	2.	B	2.	A	2.	B	2.	B	2.	B
3.	C	3.	C	3.	D	3.	A	3.	A	3.	C
4.	A	4.	A	4.	A	4.	A	4.	A	4.	A
5.	B	5.	D	5.	A	5.	D	5.	C	5.	A
6.	C	6.	A	6.	D	6.	A	6.	A	6.	B
7.	A	7.	B	7.	A	7.	A	7.	C	7.	B
8.	C	8.	B	8.	D	8.	C	8.	A	8.	C
9.	A	9.	A	9.	A	9.	E	9.	A	9.	E
10.	A	10.	C	10.	A	10.	C	10.	A	10.	E
11.	E	11.	A	11.	E	11.	A	11.	A	11.	D
12.	A	12.	A	12.	A	12.	A	12.	A	12.	A
13.	B	13.	E	13.	C	13.	A	13.	B	13.	A
14.	A	14.	A	14.	C	14.	C	14.	A	14.	B
15.	C	15.	A	15.	B	15.	A	15.	A	15.	B
16.	A	16.	A	16.	B	16.	A	16.	B	16.	A
17.	A	17.	A	17.	D	17.	B	17.	E	17.	A
18.	A	18.	A	18.	A	18.	A	18.	A	18.	B
19.	A	19.	C	19.	B	19.	A	19.	B	19.	B
20.	A	20.	A	20.	A	20.	B	20.	A	20.	C
21.	B	21.	A	21.	A	21.	C	21.	C	21.	A
22.	A	22.	A	22.	D	22.	A	22.	C	22.	A
23.	A	23.	A	23.	A	23.	B	23.	C	23.	A
24.	A	24.	A	24.	B	24.	C	24.	A	24.	B
25.	D	25.	C	25.	A	25.	A	25.	A	25.	B
26.	A	26.	A	26.	A	26.	E	26.	A	26.	D
27.	A	27.	A	27.	C	27.	A	27.	B	27.	B
28.	A	28.	A	28.	A	28.	C	28.	C	28.	A
29.	C	29.	A	29.	A	29.	D	29.	A	29.	C
30.	A	30.	C	30.	B	30.	A	30.	A	30.	A
31.	B	31.	A	31.	A	31.	A	31.	A	31.	C
32.	A	32.	B	32.	A	32.	D	32.	B	32.	B
33.	A	33.	A	33.	B	33.	A	33.	D	33.	A
34.	A	34.	C	34.	A	34.	A	34.	E	34.	B
35.	B	35.	A	35.	A	35.	A	35.	A	35.	A
36.	C	36.	B	36.	A	36.	A	36.	B	36.	D
37.	E	37.	E	37.	E	37.	A	37.	B	37.	B
38.	B	38.	D	38.	A	38.	A	38.	A	38.	D
39.	C	39.	A	39.	A	39.	B	39.	A	39.	A
40.	B	40.	A	40.	C	40.	B	40.	C	40.	B



MBA Current Gk June Test 01		MBA Current Gk June Test 02		MBA Current Gk July Test 01		MBA Current Gk July Test 02		MBA Current Gk August Test 01		MBA Current Gk August Test 02	
1.	B	1.	A	1.	A	1.	A	1.	A	1.	A
2.	A	2.	A	2.	A	2.	B	2.	A	2.	A
3.	B	3.	C	3.	A	3.	B	3.	A	3.	A
4.	A	4.	B	4.	B	4.	D	4.	C	4.	E
5.	A	5.	A	5.	A	5.	B	5.	A	5.	A
6.	A	6.	A	6.	A	6.	A	6.	A	6.	B
7.	B	7.	B	7.	A	7.	A	7.	A	7.	A
8.	E	8.	B	8.	A	8.	B	8.	A	8.	A
9.	A	9.	A	9.	A	9.	D	9.	A	9.	A
10.	A	10.	D	10.	A	10.	A	10.	A	10.	A
11.	C	11.	A	11.	A	11.	A	11.	B	11.	A
12.	A	12.	A	12.	A	12.	A	12.	C	12.	A
13.	C	13.	D	13.	A	13.	C	13.	A	13.	A
14.	A	14.	C	14.	A	14.	A	14.	A	14.	A
15.	C	15.	A	15.	A	15.	A	15.	A	15.	A
16.	A	16.	A	16.	C	16.	A	16.	C	16.	A
17.	A	17.	E	17.	C	17.	A	17.	A	17.	A
18.	A	18.	A	18.	A	18.	B	18.	A	18.	B
19.	A	19.	A	19.	C	19.	A	19.	A	19.	A
20.	A	20.	A	20.	A	20.	A	20.	B	20.	A
21.	A	21.	C	21.	C	21.	B	21.	B	21.	D
22.	C	22.	C	22.	A	22.	B	22.	A	22.	B
23.	A	23.	D	23.	C	23.	A	23.	D	23.	C
24.	A	24.	A	24.	B	24.	A	24.	A	24.	C
25.	A	25.	B	25.	A	25.	A	25.	A	25.	C
26.	A	26.	A	26.	A	26.	C	26.	A	26.	A
27.	B	27.	A	27.	A	27.	A	27.	A	27.	A
28.	A	28.	A	28.	C	28.	A	28.	A	28.	A
29.	C	29.	A	29.	C	29.	D	29.	A	29.	B
30.	B	30.	A	30.	A	30.	A	30.	C	30.	A
31.	A	31.	B	31.	B	31.	A	31.	A	31.	C
32.	A	32.	A	32.	A	32.	A	32.	B	32.	A
33.	A	33.	B	33.	A	33.	D	33.	D	33.	A
34.	A	34.	C	34.	A	34.	C	34.	B	34.	A
35.	C	35.	C	35.	A	35.	D	35.	A	35.	A
36.	A	36.	A	36.	A	36.	C	36.	A	36.	A
37.	A	37.	B	37.	A	37.	A	37.	E	37.	B
38.	B	38.	A	38.	B	38.	B	38.	A	38.	C
39.	B	39.	B	39.	A	39.	B	39.	A	39.	A
40.	A	40.	A	40.	A	40.	A	40.	B	40.	A



MBA Current Gk September Test 01		MBA Current Gk September Test 02		MBA Current Gk October Test 01	
1.	B	1.	A	1.	A
2.	C	2.	A	2.	A
3.	C	3.	A	3.	A
4.	A	4.	B	4.	A
5.	C	5.	A	5.	C
6.	A	6.	A	6.	A
7.	A	7.	A	7.	B
8.	A	8.	A	8.	A
9.	A	9.	D	9.	A
10.	B	10.	B	10.	A
11.	A	11.	A	11.	B
12.	A	12.	D	12.	A
13.	A	13.	A	13.	A
14.	A	14.	A	14.	A
15.	A	15.	B	15.	B
16.	A	16.	A	16.	A
17.	C	17.	D	17.	A
18.	C	18.	A	18.	B
19.	B	19.	A	19.	A
20.	A	20.	B	20.	A
21.	A	21.	A	21.	A
22.	A	22.	A	22.	A
23.	A	23.	A	23.	A
24.	A	24.	A	24.	A
25.	B	25.	A	25.	A
26.	A	26.	C	26.	A
27.	A	27.	B	27.	A
28.	A	28.	A	28.	D
29.	A	29.	B	29.	C
30.	B	30.	A	30.	C
31.	A	31.	A	31.	A
32.	D	32.	A	32.	A
33.	A	33.	A	33.	A
34.	A	34.	B	34.	B
35.	B	35.	A	35.	A
36.	A	36.	A	36.	E
37.	A	37.	A	37.	A
38.	A	38.	A	38.	A
39.	C	39.	B	39.	A
40.	D	40.	A	40.	A

*“The distance between
your Dreams and Reality
is called Action.”*



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