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# Current Affairs

Day to Day



## INDEX :

- (A) Chronological Order
- (B) Current Affairs Sections



**Questions and Related Facts**  
**1 January, 2016 to 31 January, 2016**

# Preface

Dear readers, we have started edristi English edition as well since August, 2015. We are hopeful that it will help us to connect to the broader audience and amplify our personal bonding with each other.

While presenting Day-to-day current affairs, we are very cautious on choosing the right topics to make sure only those get the place which are useful for competitive exams perspective, not to increase unnecessary burden on the readers by putting useless materials. Secondly, we have also provided the reference links to ensure its credibility which is our foremost priority. You can always refer the links to validate its authenticity.

We will try to present the current affairs topics as quickly as possible but its authenticity is given higher priority over its turnaround time. Therefore it could happen that we publish the incident one or two days later in the website.

Our plan will be to publish our monthly PDF on very first day of every month with making appropriate modifications of day-to-day events. In general, the events happened till 28<sup>th</sup> day will be given place in the PDFs. The necessity of this is to ensure the contents factual authenticity.

Reader's satisfaction is our utmost priority so requesting you to provide your valuable feedback to us. We will warmly welcome your appreciation/criticism given to us. It will surely show us the right direction to improve the content quality. Hopefully the current affairs PDF (from 1st January to 31st January) will benefit our beloved readers.

Current affairs data will be useless if it couldn't originate any competitive exam questions. E-Dristi has been very successful in that direction. Almost all the questions from UPPCS and other examinations have been asked from our materials. You can verify that by matching the question papers and e-Dristi contents from yourselves.

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## French President's visit to India

**Question:** From 24-26 January 2016, French President Francois Hollande was on the state visit to India. During his visit the Indo-French trade summit was held at-

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Ahmedabad
- (c) Chandigarh
- (d) Jaipur

**Ans (c)**

### Related facts:

- At the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi as the chief guest of the 67th Republic Day celebrations of 2016 French President Francois Hollande was on the state visit to India from 24-26 January 2016.
  - Earlier he was on the State visit to India from 14-15 February, 2013.
  - There are close and multifaceted relations between India and France.
  - France is the first country with which India has entered into an agreement on civil nuclear cooperation.
  - This is President Hollande's second State Visit to India and the fifth time that a French Head of State or Government has been invited as the Chief Guest on India's Republic Day celebrations making France the country that has been extended this honour the highest number of times so far.
  - India had honored France in its 67th Republic Day Parade through the participation of a French military contingent, making France the first country to receive such an honour.
  - On January 24, 2016 the French president Hollande begins his trip from the city of Chandigarh.
  - There he visited the famous Rock Garden of Chandigarh and the Government Museum and Art Gallery with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
  - Subsequently, the two leaders addressed India-France Business Summit held in Taj hotel of Chandigarh.
  - French President Francois Hollande met Aishwarya Rai Bachchan at a special luncheon in New Delhi on 26 January 2016. Their conversation ranged from movies to her experiences at Cannes.
  - During the Indo-French business summit following the 16 MoUs and agreements were signed between the two countries:
1. MoU between AFD and the Government of Maharashtra on technical cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development for development of smart city in Nagpur.



2. MoU between AFD and The Government of the Union Territory of Chandigarh on technical cooperation in the field of sustainable urban development for development of smart city in Chandigarh.
  3. MoU between AFD and The Government of the Union Territory of Puducherry on technical cooperation in the field of sustainable development for development of smart city in Puducherry.
  4. Wind Power Development Agreement between EDF JV with SITAC RE India to jointly explore opportunities for development of wind based power project in India.
  5. MOU between EPI Ltd – Dassault Systèmes in urban sector development.
  6. MOU between EPI-Egis - urban sector development.
  7. MOU between EPI- Schneider Electric - urban sector development.
  8. MOU between EPI-Thales - urban sector development.
  9. MOU between EPI-EDF - urban sector development.
  10. MOU between EPI-Alstom - urban sector development.
  11. MOU between EPI-SA CAN - urban sector development.
  12. MOU between EPI-Lumiplan ITS India Pvt Ltd - urban sector development.
  13. MOU between EPI-POMA - urban sector development.
  14. Agreement between CEA (the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) and Green Ventures – Solar photo voltaic projects in the Indian rural areas (Varanasi, U.P.).
  15. Agreement between CEA (the French Alternative Energies and Atomic Energy Commission) and Crompton Greaves - To explore opportunities in Solar Photo Voltaic (PV) System with storage function for Indian Airports.
  16. Mahindra-Airbus cooperation to create the new private strategic partner for helicopters within the Make in India initiative.
- On January 25, 2016 bilateral talks held between the Indian prime minister and the French president at Hyderabad House in New Delhi.
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Francois Hollande strongly condemned the heinous terrorist attacks that have struck many parts of the world recently and expressed their shared anguish and outrage at the loss of innocent lives and after extensive consultations a 10 point joint statement was issued.
  - After talks 14 agreements / MoUs were signed in the presence of the two leaders for cooperation in many important areas-
1. MoU between India and France on purchase of 36 Rafale Aircrafts
- Rafale Aircraft is fighter plane which is fitted with two Snecma M88 engines built by the French company Dassault.
  - The Rafale aircraft deal with France for the first time was signed in 2012 during the tenure of UPA.
  - Then the new government canceled the deal of the 126 aircraft amid of the scandal in the auction process.
  - Rafael can touch the height up to 60 thousand feet in 1 minute. It is able to fly about 2000 km / h.

- France will give 36 planes to India after the deal and also will also provide their technical help for their maintenance.
  - This will also provide boost to “Make in India” process.
2. ISRO and CNES Implementation Arrangement on hosting Argos-4 Payload onboard India’s Oceansat-3 satellite
  3. ISRO and CNES Implementation Arrangement on a future joint Thermal Infrared earth observation mission.
  4. Letter of Intent on CNES, France participation in ISRO’s next Mars Mission
  5. Shareholding Agreement on JV between Alstom and Indian Railways for production of 800 electric locomotives in Madhepura Bihar
  6. Agreement between Indian Railways and SNCF, French Railways for joint feasibility study for the renovation of Ludhiana and Ambala railway stations
  7. MOU between Food Safety & Standards Authority of India and ANSES in food safety
  8. Partnership Agreement between Ministry of Personnel & Public Grievances and French on Cooperation in Public Administration
  9. Declaration of Intent for conducting next round of Namaste France (Indian festival) in 2016 and Bonjour India (French festival) 2017
  10. Cultural Exchange Programme for the period 2016-2018
  11. Arrangement for establishment of an Indo- French Ministerial level Joint Committee on Science & Technology
  12. MoU for Industry Sponsored Ph.D Fellowship between IIT Mumbai and Thales Systems Aero ports
  13. Cooperation Agreement between IISER, Pune and ENS de Lyon (France) for joint research, teaching, exchange of personnel etc.
  14. Agreement of Cooperation between CNRS, TB, UBO, UBS, ENSTA Bretagne, ENIB (French Universities) and IIT Mumbai in the field of Higher Education & Research

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<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26293/List+of+MoU+Agreements+exchanged+at+the+India+France+Business+Summit+in+Chandigarh++January+24+2016>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26294/List+of+Agreements+MOUs+signed+during+the+State+Visit+of+President+Francois+Hollande+of+the+French+Republic+to+India+January+25+2016>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26295/India+France+Joint+Statement+on+Counter+Terrorism+on+the+occasion+of+the+State+Visit+of+President+Francois+Hollande+of+the+French+Republic+to+India+January+25+2016>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/incoming-visit-detail.htm?26297/India+France+Joint+Statement+on+the+occasion+of+the+State+Visit+of+President+Francois+Hollande+of+the+French+Republic+to+India+January+25+2016>

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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dassault\\_Rafale#Engines](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dassault_Rafale#Engines)

<http://www.dassault-aviation.com/en/defense/rafale/specifications-and-performance-data/http://www.thehindu.com/entertainment/aishwarya-rai-lunches-with-french-president/article8155124.ece>

## Mumbai

**Ques: Recently India's first High Speed Public Wi-Fi Service started at-**

- (a) Delhi railway station
- (b) Howrah railway station
- (c) Bengaluru railway station
- (d) Mumbai central railway station

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, Minister of Railways, Govt of India, inaugurated the Wi-Fi service in a function at Mumbai Central Railway station on Friday, 22nd January, 2016.
- It is started as a part of an ambitious project towards Digital India initiative by Indian Railways with the help of Rail Tel Corporation in collaboration with Google.
- Under this project 100 busiest railway stations of India will be covered by the end of 2016.
- After its success this facility will be extended to 400 other stations.
- The project of providing free Wi-Fi connectivity at railway stations across the country was announced in September 2015 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Google headquarters in the US (Mountain View) by Google's CEO Sundar Pichai.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135730>



## Cabinet approves amendments in Power Tariff Policy to ensure 24X7 affordable Power

**Ques:** Recently Union Cabinet approved amendments in Power Tariff Policy to ensure 24X7 affordable power and promoting clean energy. In this context, consider the following statements.

- (1) In this, provision has been made to provide electricity at affordable rates.
- (2) In order to promote renewable energy, 8% of electricity consumption excluding hydro power, shall be from solar energy by March 2022.
- (3) In this there is provision to install Smart meters to enable “Time of Day” metering, reduce theft.
- (4) The amendments are also aimed at achieving the objectives of Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).



**Choose the correct code:**

- (a) Only(1) and (2) are true
- (b) Only (2) and (4) are true
- (c) Only (1),(2) and (3) are true
- (d) All four are true.

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20 January 2016, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Power for amendments in the Tariff Policy.
- These amendments have been made in the Tariff policy 2006.
- The amendments are also aimed at achieving the objectives of Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).
- It also focuses on 4 Es: Electricity for all, Efficiency to ensure affordable tariffs, Environment for a sustainable future, Ease of doing business to attract investments and ensure financial viability.

**Highlights of Amendments are:**

- 24X7 supply will be ensured to all consumers and State Governments and regulators will devise a power supply trajectory to achieve this.
- Power to be provided to remote unconnected villages through micro grids with provision for purchase of power into the grid as and when the grid reaches there.
- Reduction in the power cost to consumers through expansion of existing power plants.



- Transmission projects to be developed through competitive bidding process to ensure faster completion at lower cost.
- Faster installation of Smart meters to enable “Time of Day” metering, reduce theft and allow net-metering.
- Renewable Power Obligation (RPO): In order to promote renewable energy and energy security, 8% of electricity consumption excluding hydro power, shall be from solar energy by March 2022.
- No inter-State transmission charges and losses to be levied for solar and wind power.
- Swachh Bharat Mission to get a big boost with procurement of 100% power produced from Waste-to-Energy plants.
- To release clean drinking water for cities and reduce pollution of rivers like Ganga, thermal plants within 50 km of sewage treatment facilities to use treated sewage water.
- States allowed to setup plants, with up to 35% of power procured by DISCOMs on regulated tariff.
- Clarity on tariff setting authority for multi-State sales. Central Regulator to determine tariff for composite schemes where more than 10% power sold outside State.
- These amendments will benefit power consumers in multiple ways. While reducing the cost of power through efficiency, they will spur renewable power for a cleaner environment and protect India's energy security.
- They would also aid the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission as well as 'Namami Gange' Mission through conversion of waste to energy, usage of sewage water for generation and in turn ensure that clean water is available for drinking and irrigation.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

## Visit of External Affairs Minister to Palestine and Israel

**Ques:** Recently External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was on visit to West Asia Region, Palestine and Israel. This was her-

- (a) First visit to West Asia region
- (b) Second visit to West Asia Region
- (c) Third visit to West Asia Region
- (d) Fourth visit to West Asia Region

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts:

- From January 17 to 18, 2016 Sushma Swaraj was on an official visit to Palestine and Israel.
- This was her first visit to the West Asia region.
- On January 17, 2016, in first phase she visited the state of Palestine.
- The visit came after the state visit of President of India to Palestine in October 2015.
- During her visit she met with the Palestinian leadership and review India Palestinian bilateral relations.
- India shares traditionally close relations with the State of Palestine and contributing actively through capacity building and human resource development initiatives with Palestine.
- During her visit she inaugurated Palestine digital learning and innovation center in Ramallah.
- In second phase she visited to Israel from 17-18 January 2016.
- This is the first visit of external affairs minister to Israel and came after the State visit of The President of India to Israel in the month of October 2015.
- During the visit she held discussions with the Israeli leadership and review entire scope of India Israel bilateral relations.
- India and Israel also share close relation in the fields of agriculture, science & technology and education.

### Reference:

<http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?26264/Visit+of+External+Affairs+Minister+to+Israel+January+17+18+2016>

<http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?26265/Visit+of+External+Affairs+Minister+to+Palestine+January+17+2016>

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[detail.htm?26271/Remarks+by+External+Affairs+Minister+at+inauguration+of+IndiaPalestine+Digital+Learning+and+Innovation+Centre+January+17+2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/outgoing-visit-detail.htm?26271/Remarks+by+External+Affairs+Minister+at+inauguration+of+IndiaPalestine+Digital+Learning+and+Innovation+Centre+January+17+2016)



## Bihar government approved 35 percent reservation for women in government jobs

**Ques:** How much percentage does Bihar government approved as the reservation for women in government jobs?

- (a) 33%
- (b) 35%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 30%

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts:

- On 19 January 2016 Bihar Government has formally approved 35 per cent reservation for women in government jobs in the state.
- The Decision in this regard was taken by state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Nitish Kumar in Patna.
- This decision will be applicable in all government jobs including reserved and unreserved category.
- It should be noted that there is already a 35 percent reservation for women in recruitment as police constables and sub-inspectors and 50 percent reservation as primary school teachers and in the Panchayati Raj system in Bihar.
- This decision fulfilled a key election promise of Chief Minister Nitish Kumar which he has made during campaigning for the Bihar assembly polls in 2015.



### Reference:

- <http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/nitish-kumar-keeps-election-promise-rolls-out-35-reservation-for-women/>
- <http://www.thequint.com/hot-wire/2016/01/19/bihar-cabinet-approves-35-percent-job-reservation-for-women>
- [http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/bihar-cabinet-okays-35-per-cent-job-reservation-for-women\\_1846968.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/bihar-cabinet-okays-35-per-cent-job-reservation-for-women_1846968.html)
- [http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/bihar-cabinet-okays-35-percent-job-reservation-for-women-116011901121\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/bihar-cabinet-okays-35-percent-job-reservation-for-women-116011901121_1.html)

## Uttar Pradesh: Affordable, Safe Destination for Tourists

**Ques:** According to a survey of which organisation Uttar Pradesh emerged as an affordable and safe holiday destination for the domestic and foreign tourists?

- (a) ASSOCHAM
- (b) FICCI
- (c) ATTOI
- (d) Ministry Of Tourism

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts:

- Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM)



conducted a survey to study the trend in tourism this year.

- The ASSOCHAM Social Development Foundation had interacted with about 500 travel enthusiasts (working professionals) in the age group of about 25-60 years in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi-NCR, Indore, Jaipur, Kolkata, Lucknow, Mumbai and Pune.
- Over half of these said they plan to visit northern tourist destinations of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand.
- Of the total 500 respondents, 20 per cent said they are planning to visit famous tourist spots in UP like Agra, Fatehpur Sikri, Allahabad, Ayodhya, Mathura—Vrindavan (Brajmandal), Sarnath, Varanasi.
- Tourists considered the Uttar Pradesh as a safe and affordable destination, the survey claimed.
- Improved air connectivity, proper care of heritage sites and better management of pilgrimage spots have helped Uttar Pradesh emerge as an affordable and safe holiday destination for the domestic and foreign tourists.
- According to a survey conducted by the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM), Tourist hot spots in northern, central India and in majority of the coastal belt are expected to see influx of about 15 lakh domestic and foreign tourists as they find it both cheap and safe.

### Reference:

<http://www.assochem.org/newsdetail.php?id=5404>

<http://www.assochem.org/upload/news/1451407055.pdf>



# Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

**Ques: When did Union Cabinet has approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' - a path breaking scheme for farmers' welfare?**

- (a) 10 January 2016 (Rabi season)
- (b) 10 January 2016 (Kharif season)
- (c) 13 January 2016 (Kharif season)
- (d) 13 January 2016 (Rabi season)

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 13 January 2016 approved the New Crop Insurance Scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' to boost the agricultural sector.
- The scheme will come into effect from the upcoming kharif season (2016).
- It has replaced the existing two schemes viz. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) (2010) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) (2010) by removing their inherent drawbacks (shortcomings) and incorporating the best features of all previous schemes.

**The highlights of this scheme are as under:**

- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.
- The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers.
- This capping was done to limit Government outgo on the premium subsidy. This capping has now been removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
- This Scheme also covers Loss / damage resulting from occurrence of identified localized risks i.e. hailstorm, landslide.
- The new Crop Insurance Scheme is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme
- Coverage is available up to a maximum period of 14 days from harvesting for those crops which are kept in "cut & spread" condition to dry in the field after harvesting, against specific perils of cyclone / cyclonic rains, unseasonal rains throughout the country.
- The use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent. Smart phones will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers.
- In Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana on the 30 thousand sum assured with 22% premium Farmer has to pay only Rs600 as a premium amount and rest Rs6000 will be paid by the government.
- Government liability on premium subsidy would be shared by the Central and State governments on a 50:50 basis.
- Remote sensing will be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments.
- Farmers can get the claim amount quickly.
- Private insurance companies, along with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd, will implement the scheme.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134432>  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134445>  
[http://www.agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/whatsnew/sch\\_eng.pdf](http://www.agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/whatsnew/sch_eng.pdf)





## New Skill Initiatives for Youths

**Question: Which ministry on January 12, 2016, announces the new skills skill initiatives for youths?**

- (a) Ministry of Tourism
- (b) Home Ministry
- (c) Ministry Of Finance
- (d) Ministry Of Railway

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Ministry of Tourism on January 12, 2016, on the occasion of International Youth Day initiative launched new skill development initiatives.
- It is announced to improve the sectoral service standards, which is one of the pre-requisites for attracting tourists in larger numbers.
- The following points are included in the initiative:

**A sensitization programme for the existing service providers at Varanasi:**

- The primary objectives of the programme will be to eventually achieve an improved tourist specific service ambience and to further the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- It will target Boatmen, Rickshaw pullers, Pandas, Porters, Shopkeepers & Street Vendors.
- Each course duration will be of 4 -day
- The Programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management.

**A programme to groom young persons interested in home delivery service as an occupation:**

- It will target persons who are at least matriculates and in the age group of 18-28 years.
- The Programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management, Institutes of Hotel Management & Food Craft Institutes.
- The programme will prepare the trainees to deliver food at home with skill, style and civility.
- Each course duration will be of 6-day

**A programme for training to bring up “Paryatak Mitra”:**

- The programme will attempt to inculcate appropriate tourism traits and knowledge among the trainees to enable them to act / work as Tourist Facilitators (Paryatak Mitra).
- It will target college-going students including those enrolled with the NCC& NSS, in the age group of 18-28 years.
- Each course duration will be of 10-day.
- The programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management, first at destinations identified under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

**A training programme to bring up tourist facilitators in the North East:**

- The primary objective of the programme limited to the North East, will be to achieve better tourist satisfaction in terms of availability of skilled tourist facilitators. It will target 10+2 pass-outs in the age group of 18-28 years.
- Each course duration will be of 30-day
- The programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134388>

<http://www.uniindia.com/tourism-ministry-launches-new-skill-initiatives-on-national-youth-day/india/news/341457.html>

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-01-12/news/69704711\\_1\\_training-programme-tourism-ministry-national-service-scheme](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-01-12/news/69704711_1_training-programme-tourism-ministry-national-service-scheme)



# MoU signs for monitoring and managing National Highways

**Ques:** For use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways the NHAI has signed

**Memorandum of Understanding with:**



- (a) National Remote Sensing Centre
- (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- (c) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
- (d) Ministry of Earth Sciences

**Ans (a)**

## **Related facts**

- On January 13, 2016 the NHAI has signed Memorandum of Understanding with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and North East Centre for Technology Application and Research (NECTAR) for use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways.
- The use and benefits of unmanned aerial vehicle technology will be useful in monitoring, construction progress and Road Asset Management.

## **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134429>

## 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

**Ques: 14<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held at-**

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Bengaluru

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

### 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas



- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2016 was held at New Delhi from 08<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.
- This was eighth occasion that Paravasi Bhartiya Divas is celebrated in New Delhi.
- Earlier in year 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2014 PBD is celebrated in New Delhi.
- The event was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and attended by Priti Patel, MoS for Employment, United Kingdom.
- Apart from the main event in New Delhi, the day was celebrated by the MEA, across the world, through its missions/posts abroad.
- On this occasion, Sushma Swaraj announced that the government is considering Aadhaar cards to non-resident Indians (NRIs) and allowing women workers to Gulf countries only through the government agencies to ensure they were not duped by recruiting agents or firms.
- **The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was unique for two reasons-**
- It was the first limited edition of the PBD. The government, in 2015, took a decision to limit the PBD conference as a biannual event and extend the PBD across the world and throughout the year. In effect, the next PBD conference will be held in 2017.
- It was organised for the first time by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the government's decision to merge Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with it. Earlier it used to celebrate by the MOIA.
- It is being held annually since 2003 to bring the Indian Diaspora on a single platform and leverage their resources in nation building activities.
- The day is held annually on 9 January 2015 to mark the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India.
- The 13th PBD was held in Gujarat (Gandhinagar) marked the 100th year of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa.

**Reference:**

[http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26262/Keynote+Address+by+External+Affairs+Minister+on+14th+Pravasi+Bharatiya+Divas+January+09+2016)

[Statements.htm?dtl/26262/Keynote+Address+by+External+Affairs+Minister+on+14th+Pravasi+Bharatiya+Divas+January+09+2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26262/Keynote+Address+by+External+Affairs+Minister+on+14th+Pravasi+Bharatiya+Divas+January+09+2016)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=128468%20>

# Union Government Notification on traditional bull-taming sports Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu and bullock cart races in Maharashtra

**Ques:** The central government gave notification to restart which of the following traditional sports / games in the January 2016?

1. Jallikattu
2. Horse cart racing
3. Bullock cart racing
4. Elephant cart racing

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 2 and 3

(c) 1 and 3 (d) All of these

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The Union Government on 7 January 2016 allowed the conduct of the traditional bull-taming sports, Jallikattu, in Tamil Nadu.
- Earlier on 11 July 2011, In exercise of the powers conferred by Section 22 of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 (59 of 1960) the Central Government gave the notification that specifies the following animals shall not be exhibited or trained as performing animal.
- Namely, 1. Bears 2. Monkeys 3. Tigers 4. Panthers 5. Lions 6. Bulls
- Since then, these states felt the pressure to make traditional sports, which include Jallikattu celebrated in Tamilnadu.
- The ban on the sports was lifted few days before the traditional harvest festival will begin in Tamil Nadu. Jallikattu is celebrated around Pongal in southern state of Tamil Nadu with some restrictions.
- The events that use bulls as performing animals are Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu and bullock cart races in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Gujarat.
- But these events are allowed only in those districts where it is being traditionally held annually but with the permission of district collector or the district magistrate.
- The notification also specifies that bullock cart race shall be organised on a proper track, which shall not exceed two kilometers.
- On the other hand, in case of Jallikattu, the moment the bull leaves the enclosure it shall be tamed within a radial distance of 15 metre.
- It should be ensure that the bulls are put to proper testing by the authorities of the Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Department to ensure that they are in good physical condition to participate in the event.
- Performance enhancement drugs should not administered to the bulls in any form.
- But Recently, The Supreme Court has stayed the Union Government's notification lifting ban on traditional bull taming sport Jallikattu during the festival of Pongal in Tamil Nadu.
- In this regard the apex court rejected the plea of Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF) and Tamil Nadu Government.

**Reference:**

[http://www.thehindu.com/multimedia/archive/02688/Notification\\_allow\\_2688414a.pdf](http://www.thehindu.com/multimedia/archive/02688/Notification_allow_2688414a.pdf)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/no-jallikattu-in-tamil-nadu-this-year/article8097633.ece>



# Pathankot Airbase attack

**Question: Which militant group claimed responsibility for the Pathankot Airbase attack?**

- (a) SIMI
- (b) United Jihad Council
- (c) Jaish-e-Mohammad
- (d) Hizbul Mujahideen

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On the morning of 2 January 2016 at around 0330 IST a group of terrorists attacked the Pathankot Airbase with Huge amounts of explosive material and arsenal.
- Following this a joint combing operation by the armed forces, police and security personnel was launched.
- 2 militants and three security forces personnel were killed in the initial gun battle on 2 January 2016.
- They entered the living quarters of the base but were prevented from entering the area where "high-value assets are parked".
- Overall, six militants and seven security personnel were killed in the attack.
- The operation launched by the Indian Army to neutralise the attackers called "Operation Dhangu" or "Dhangu Suraksha", named after the village Dhangu where the base is located
- Seven security forces personnel that were killed includes 5 from Defence Security Corps, one from Garuda Indian Air Force commando and one was related to National Security Guard.
- On 4 January 2016, United Jihad Council (UJC) claimed the responsibility for the Pathankot Airbase attack.
- The United Jihad Council, also known as the Muttahida Jihad Council (MJC), is a Kashmiri separatist militant group was formed in 1994.
- It is currently headed by Syed Salahuddin.

**Reference:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016\\_Pathankot\\_attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Pathankot_attack)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/united-jihad-council-claims-responsibility-of-pathankot-attack/article8064932.ece>

[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/03/world/asia/india-air-base-attack-pathankot.html?\\_r=2](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/03/world/asia/india-air-base-attack-pathankot.html?_r=2)

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/fresh-firing-at-pathankot-air-base-army-deploys-reinforcements-in-area/article8061229.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/pathankot-attack-how-operation-dhangu-was-won/articleshow/50480188.cms>





## Enhancement of representation of women in CAPFs

**Ques:** The Union Government has reserved what % posts of Constables for women in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to enhance their representation?

- (a) 23%
- (b) 33%
- (c) 50%
- (d) 45%

**Ans (b)**



### Related facts:

- On 5 January 2015, The Union Government has reserved 33 % posts of Constables for women in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to enhance their representation.
- The proposal in this regard was approved by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh and shall come into effect with immediate effect.
- To begin with, 33 % of posts of Constables will be reserved for women in Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- While, 14-15 % posts in the Border Security Force (BSF), Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) and Indo Tibetan Border Police Force (ITBP) will be reserved for women.
- This horizontal reservation for women comes in lines with the recommendation of Committee on Empowerment of Women.
- The committee had recommended urgent need to provide proper representation to women in paramilitary forces.

### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/enhancement-of-representation-of-women-in-capfs-116010500398\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/enhancement-of-representation-of-women-in-capfs-116010500398_1.html)

<http://www.uniindia.com/news/india/govt-approves-33-pc-representation-of-women-in-capfs/331966.html>

## India-Nepal bus service resumes after 27 years

**Ques:** A friendship bus service between India and Nepal resumed after a gap of how many years?

- (a) 10 Years
- (b) 20 Years
- (c) 27 Years
- (d) 15 Years

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 4 January 2016, A friendship bus service between India and Nepal was flagged off via Champawat district in Uttarakhand after a gap of 27 years.
- The resumed bus service has been regularized and will run between Kanchanpur in Nepal close to the Banbasa border in Champawat district and Anand Vihar in New Delhi.
- People travelling in these buses do not require any special documents to travel. These buses are air conditioned and provide free wi-fi connectivity to passengers.
- The service was suspended 27 years ago in the wake of the Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty.
- This bus service will be mainly used by the people on both sides of the border as they have family as well as trade relations with each other.

**Reference:**

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/friendship-bus-service-between-india-nepal-resumes/articleshow/50439187.cms>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/indianepal-bus-service-resumes-after-27-years/article8066201.ece>



## Corruption Perceptions Index-2015

**Ques:** On January 27, 2016 the Transparency International issued Corruption Perception Index 2015 in which India is ranked at-

- (a) 58<sup>th</sup>
- (b) 76<sup>th</sup>
- (c) 80<sup>th</sup>
- (d) 72<sup>nd</sup>

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 27 January 2016, the Transparency International issued 21<sup>st</sup> edition of Corruption Perception Index (CPI 2015).
- The Index measures the perceived levels of public sector corruption in 168 countries and territories.
- The marks were awarded on a scale of 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean).
- The index was topped by Denmark with a score of 91 that is referred to as the most honest country.
- It is followed by Finland (Score-90), Sweden (Score-89) and New Zealand (Score-88) ranked at second and third and fourth place respectively.
- This year the two countries Netherlands (score-87) and Norway (score-87) jointly secured the fifth position.
- North Korea and Somalia the worst performers (167th), scoring just 8 points each.
- Afghanistan (Score 11), Sudan (score 12), South Sudan (score 15), Angola (score 15) and Libya (score 16) are ranked at 166th, 165th, 163th, 161th place respectively.
- India with a score of 38 has been ranked 76th out of 168 nations in CPI-2015.
- Last year (CPI2014) India with a score of 38 was ranked 85th out of 175 nations.
- In CPI-2015 among India's neighboring countries Bhutan ranked 27th (score -65), China and Sri Lanka are ranked 83 (Score -37), Pakistan 117th (score 30) Nepal 130th (score 27) and Bangladesh (score 25).
- It may be mentioned that the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) has been released annually since 1995.
- Overall, two-thirds of the 168 countries on the 2015 index scored below 50, on a scale from 0 (perceived to be highly corrupt) to 100 (perceived to be very clean) showed that people working together can succeed in the battle against corruption



**Reference:**

[https://www.transparency.org/news/pressrelease/corruption\\_perceptions\\_index\\_2015\\_corruption\\_still\\_rife\\_but\\_2015\\_saw\\_pocket](https://www.transparency.org/news/pressrelease/corruption_perceptions_index_2015_corruption_still_rife_but_2015_saw_pocket)

<http://www.transparency.org/cpi2015#results-table>

## Attack on University in Pakistan

**Ques:** name the University located in the Charsadda District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa of Pakistan which was recently attacked by militant?

- (a) Muslim Youth University
- (b) Bacha Khan University
- (c) Islamia College University
- (d) Hazara University

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20 January 2016, several militant opened fire at Bacha Khan University in an attack in Charsadda, Pakistan. It is located in the Charsadda District of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa.
- In which nearly 25 people were killed in the attack included a university professor.
- Security forces killed four terrorists in a combat action at the university campus.
- Islamic militant Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the attack.
- Earlier in year 2014 The Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan had also claimed responsibility of terrorist attack in Peshawar on Army Public school in which more than approximately 141 school children were killed.
- Named after Abdul Ghaffar Khan (Bacha Khan).The University in Charsadda was founded on 3 July 2012.
- It should be noted that on 15 June 2014, Pakistani army launched operation "Zarb-e Azb" to eliminate militants.

**Reference:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacha\\_Khan\\_University\\_attack](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacha_Khan_University_attack)  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/21/world/asia/bacha-khan-university-attack-charsadda.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/21/world/asia/bacha-khan-university-attack-charsadda.html?_r=0)  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/20/asia/pakistan-university-militant-attack/>  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/20/asia/pakistan-university-militant-attack/>  
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[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacha\\_Khan\\_University](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bacha_Khan_University)  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Zarb-e-Azb](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Zarb-e-Azb)



# Global Talent Competitiveness Index 2015-2016

**Question:** In the recently released Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2015-16 India is ranked-

- (a) 100<sup>th</sup>
- (b) 98<sup>th</sup>
- (c) 89<sup>th</sup>
- (d) 105<sup>th</sup>

**Ans (c)**

## Related facts:

- On 19 January 2016 the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) 2015-16 was released during annual summit of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland.
- This GTCI list was compiled by INSEAD business school in partnership with Adecco and Human Capital Leadership Institute of Singapore (HCLI) on the first day of annual summit of the World Economic Forum (WEF).
- The theme for this year is “Talent Attraction and International Mobility”
- Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI), 2015-16 includes 109 countries.
- The top three countries ranked on talent competitiveness are Switzerland at number one, followed by Singapore and Luxembourg in second and third places, respectively, remaining the same as in 2014.
- Thereafter United States (4th), Denmark (5th), Sweden (6th), United Kingdom (7th), Norway (8th), Canada (9th) and Finland (10th).
- Compared to its **78th rank in the 2014-15 report**, India slipped 11 places to rank **89th in the GTCI 2015-16**.
- Among BRICS countries China ranked 48<sup>th</sup>, Russia 53<sup>rd</sup>, South Africa and Brazil are ranked 57<sup>th</sup> and 67<sup>th</sup> respectively.
- Among the neighboring countries of India, Sri Lanka ranked 83<sup>rd</sup>, Bangladesh and Pakistan are ranked 100<sup>th</sup> and 103<sup>rd</sup> respectively.
- The countries that were at the bottom of the index are— Mali (105), Tanzania (106), Ethiopia (107), Burkina Faso (108) and Madagascar (109).

## Reference:

<http://global-indices.insead.edu/gtci/gtci-2015-16-report.cfm>

[http://global-indices.insead.edu/gtci/documents/INSEAD\\_2015-16\\_Full\\_Book\\_Ebook.pdf](http://global-indices.insead.edu/gtci/documents/INSEAD_2015-16_Full_Book_Ebook.pdf)





## India elected to Board of Directors of AIIB

**Question:** Recently AIIB (Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank) has constituted its board of directors, Name the person who have been elected from India to this 12-member board?

- (a) Dinesh Sharma
- (b) Gautam Sanyal
- (c) Arun Kumar Singh
- (d) Nripendra Misra

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts:

- On 17 January 2016 India one of the founding members of the AIIB, has been elected to the board of directors of the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank in Beijing, China.
- Dinesh Sharma who is presently serving as Additional Secretary of Ministry of Finance has been elected to the 12-member board of directors.
- He has been elected through a secret ballot.
- This is the first board of directors for the new bank in which 57 members joined founding members.
- The election of India to board of directors of the AIIB expected to provide significant role for it as it is the forum that approves the loans for projects.
- AIIB was formally launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping at a special function in Beijing on 17 January 2016.
- The inaugural meeting of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank's Board of Governors was held in Beijing on January 16-17, 2016.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley is the designated governor of the AIIB from India.
- The Governors elected the Bank's Board of Directors and Mr. Jin Liquan, former Chinese Finance Minister to head the bank after Russia withdrew its candidate.
- It should be noted that China is the largest shareholder with 26.6 per cent voting shares; India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 per cent followed by Russia 5.93 per cent and Germany with 4.5 per cent voting shares in AIIB.
- AIIB has authorized capital of \$100 billion and subscribed capital of \$50 billion.
- AIIB will invest in sectors including energy, transportation, urban construction and logistics as well as education and healthcare.

### Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/india-elected-to-board-of-directors-of-chinabacked-aiib/article8116850.ece>  
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[http://www.aiib.org/html/2016/NEWS\\_0117/85.html](http://www.aiib.org/html/2016/NEWS_0117/85.html)  
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# United States and European Union lifted their economic sanctions on Iran

**Question:** On 17 January 2016 US and EU lifted their economic sanction against Iran, These sanctions were due to which of the following purposes

- (a) To lower the price of oil from Iran
- (b) To close the Iranian nuclear program
- (c) To restrict Iranian business
- (d) For promoting environmental protection in Iran

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 17 January 2016, United States (US) and European Union (EU) have removed a wide range of nuclear sanctions against Iran after it has met its commitments to roll back its nuclear programme.
- These sanctions were lifted after International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed that Iran has met its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA) or Vienna agreement with P5 + 1(USA, Russia, China, UK, France+ Germany.) countries signed in July 2015.
- Iran has started its nuclear program in 1950 for the peaceful purpose, in 2002 after the disclosure of some of its undeclared nuclear centers concern about the Iran nuclear program began to grow in the international community.
- In 2006, the UN Security Council passed a resolution to ban the Iran nuclear program.
- In same year the US and EU imposed many sanctions on Iran oil exports and trade.
- In November 2013 a historic agreement was done between Iran and US, Britain, Russia, China, France and Germany (P5 + 1) in which Iran agreed on reducing its uranium reserves, Opening its nuclear plants for monitoring, not having more than 5 percent uranium enrichment and not to develop nuclear plant.
- In July 2015, Iran resumed some concessions under an agreement with US and EU.
- Finally on 17 January 2016, United States and the European Union lifted sanctions imposed on Iran due to its nuclear programme.
- Through this agreement nearly 100 billion US dollars of Iranian assets were freed and the both countries announced to release each other's prisoners.
- Due this agreement Iran will be able to use the banking system in international transactions and making the purchase of Oil and gas by a person or country possible from Iran.
- This agreement led to the suspension of all nuclear related sanctions imposed by US and the United Nations lift the ban on the sale of nuclear-related materials.
- The lifting of the sanctions on Iran will benefit India with lower oil prices and more opportunities for trade.
- It will also bring the proposed Iran-Pakistan-India gas pipeline closer to reality.

**Reference:**

<http://sputniknews.com/politics/20160117/1033260794/eu-us-lift-iran-sanctions.html>

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-01-17/iran-sanctions-lifted-by-us-eu-nuclear-deal-prisoner-swap/7093508>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanctions\\_against\\_Iran](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sanctions_against_Iran)



# Trends in International Migrant Stock: The 2015 Revision

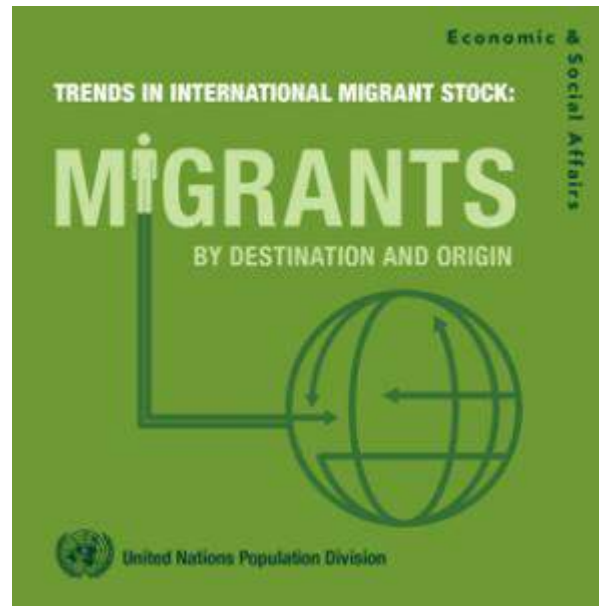
**Ques :** On January 12, 2016 according to the report released by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of United Nations, the number of international migrants worldwide in 2015 has reached to:

- (a) 240 million
- (b) 255 million
- (c) 244 million
- (d) 300 million

**Ans (c)**

## Related facts

- On January 12, 2016 the United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division released a report titled with "TRENDS IN INTERNATIONAL MIGRANT STOCK: THE 2015 REVISION".
- As per the report the number of international migrants worldwide has reached to 244 million in 2015.
- The number of migrants has been increased by 71 million (41%) between 2000 and 2015.
- Two third of all international migrants have resident in Europe (76 million) and Asia (75 million).
- The female share in the global international migrant stock fell slightly from 49.1 per cent to 48.2 per cent between 2000 and 2015.



Areas	Total number of international Migrants	The number of women migrants compare to men
Europe	76 million	< 52.4%
Asia	75 million	>42%
North America	54 million	<51.2%
Africa	21 million	>46.1%
Latin America and the Caribbean	9 million	Almost equal
Oceania	8 million	Almost equal

- The population of international migrants (according to country), USA-47 million, Germany-12 million, Russia-12 million, Saudi Arabia-10 million, UK-9 million and 8 million have resident in UAE.
- The population of other international migrants (according to country), India-16 million, China-10 million, Bangladesh-7 million, Pakistan-6 million and 6 million from Ukraine have migrated.
- Accordingly to report most immigrants have come from India in the world.
- In international migrants 48 per cent are women.
- In international migrants the 43% have taken birth in Asia and 25% in Europe.
- The median age of these international migrants is mentioned 39 years in the report.
- According to the report the global share of migrants in the population have reached to 3.3% in 2015 compare to 2.8% in 2000.

## Reference

- <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/estimates15.shtml>
- [http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015\\_Highlights.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/migrationreport/docs/MigrationReport2015_Highlights.pdf)
- <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/2016/01/244-million-international-migrants-living-abroad-worldwide-new-un-statistics-reveal/>
- <http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/publications/populationfacts/docs/MigrationPopFacts20154.pdf>

## Nepal elected as UNICEF's executive board member

**Ques:** Which of the following country has been elected as the members of the Executive Board of UNICEF in January 2016?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) India

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Nepal on 9 January 2016 was elected to the UNICEF executive board, representing the group of Asia-Pacific countries for the term 2016-2018.
- Nepal's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), Durga Prasad Bhattarai, was also unanimously elected vice-president to the Bureau of the Executive Board of the UNICEF for 2016.
- The Executive Board is made up of 36 Member States, elected to three-year terms by the Economic and Social Council, with the following regional allocation: Africa (8 seats), Asia (7), Eastern Europe (4), Latin America and Caribbean (5) and Western Europe and Others (12).
- At the present time (2016) the 7 Members from Asia region are- 1. Bangladesh, 2. China 3. India, 4. Iran, 5. Nepal, 6. Papua New Guinea and 7. Republic of Korea.
- Nepal recently completed its terms as a member of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for 2013-2015 and as vice-president from Asia-Pacific region at the executive board of United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund/United Nations Office for Project Services for the year 2015.
- Nepal had contributed to the UNICEF by remaining in the executive board in different times including 1982 to 1985, 1992 to 1995 and 2002 to 2004.
- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations program that provides long-term humanitarian and developmental assistance to children and mothers in developing countries.
- It is one of the members of the United Nations Development Group and its Executive Committee.
- UNICEF was created by the United Nations General Assembly on 11 December 1946 to provide emergency food and healthcare to children in countries that had been devastated by World War II.

**Reference:**

<http://kathmandupost.ekantipur.com/news/2016-01-09/nepal-joins-unicefs-executive-board.html>  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/south-asia/Nepal-elected-as-Unicefs-executive-board-member/articleshow/50518593.cms>  
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[http://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/index\\_42661.html](http://www.unicef.org/about/execboard/index_42661.html)



## Amendment in Gold Monetisation Scheme

**Question: When did the government launched Gold Monetisation Scheme?**

- (a) 5 November 2015
- (b) 22 October 2015
- (c) 22 January 2015
- (d) 11 October 2015

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21 January 2016, The Reserve Bank of India has made a few amendments to its Master Direction on Gold Monetization Scheme. The modifications have been made in consultation with Central Government to make the Scheme more customer-friendly.
- The gold monetization scheme was launched by Government on November 5, 2015. Changes in the plan are: -
- Premature redemption under Medium and Long Term Government Deposits (MLTGD), Any Medium Term (5-7 Years) Deposit will be allowed to be withdrawn after 3 years and any Long Term (12-15 Years) Deposit after 5 years.
- Gold depositors can also give their gold directly to the refiner rather than only through the Collection and Purity Testing Centers (CPTCs). This will encourage the bulk depositors including Institutions to participate in the scheme.
- The banks would get a 2.5 % commission for the scheme which will include the charges payable to the Collection and Purity Testing Centers/Refiners.
- Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has modified the licensing condition for refiners already having National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) accreditation.
- From the existing three years refining experience it has been reduced to one year refining experience. This is likely to increase the number of licensed refiners.
- BIS has published an Expression of Interest (EOI) on its website inviting applications from the more than 13,000 licensed jewelers to act as a CPTC in the scheme.
- The quantity of gold collected under the scheme will be expressed up to three decimals of a gram. This will give the consumer better value for the gold deposited.
- Banks are free to hedge their positions in the case of short-term (1-3 years) deposits.
- Gold to be deposited with the CPTCs/Refineries can be of any purity. The CPTC/Refiner will test the gold and determine its purity which will be basis on which the deposit certificate will be issued.





- Indian Banks Association (IBA) will communicate the list of the BIS licensed CPTCs and refiners to the banks.
- Government has also launched the dedicated website [www.finmin.nic.in/swarnabharat](http://www.finmin.nic.in/swarnabharat) and toll free number 18001800000, which provide all the information of the schemes.
- It is again clarified that Tax exemptions under the GMS include exemption of interest earned on the gold deposited and exemption from capital gains made through trading or at redemption.
- It is also reiterated that as per CBDT instructions No. 1916 dated 11th May, 1994, in course of IT Search u/s 132, gold jewellery to the extent of 500 gms per married lady, 250 gms per unmarried lady and 100 gms per male member of the family, need not be seized by tax authorities.
- Till January 20, 2016 the government has already mobilized 900.087 kg of gold through the gold monetization plan.
- The Gold Monetization Scheme intended to mobilise 20000 tons of gold held by households and institutions of the country and facilitate its use for productive purposes, and in the long run, to reduce country's reliance on the import of gold.

**Reference:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=36041](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=36041)

<https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/NotificationUser.aspx?Id=10240&Mode=0>

## World Economic Outlook (Update)

**Question:** What was the projected growth rate of India for the year 2016 in the "World Economic Outlook (Update) report published on January 19, 2016?

- (a) 7.5%
- (b) 7.3%
- (c) 7.0%
- (d) 7.2%

**Ans(a)**



**Related facts:**

- On January 2016, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) published the updated version of World Economic Outlook.
- The theme of this version is "Subdued Demand, Diminished Prospects"
- In this estimated global growth in 2015 was estimated at 3.1 percent now it updated to 3.4 percent for 2016 and 3.6 per cent for 2017.
- IMF forecast for global growth in 2016 to 2017 is revised down by 0.2 percentage points compared to the estimated projections made earlier.
- In this report, India's growth rate in 2015 is estimated to 7.3 percent and for 2016 and 2017 projection is of 7.5 percent.
- India's growth rate is equal to the estimated projections made in October 2015.
- Among BRICS countries the highest growth rate was of India (7.3%) was followed by China (6.9%), South Africa (1.3%), Russia (-3.7%) and Brazil (-3.8%), respectively.
- Indian economy is expected to grow faster than other major emerging economies.
- The International Monetary Fund projected India's growth rate as 7.5 percent compared to 6.3 percent growth rate of China in year 2016.
- Growth rate of advanced economies is estimated at 1.9 percent and 2.1 percent in 2016 and 2017 respectively.

- The growth rate for the United States is estimated to be 2.5 for 2015 and 2.6 percent for the year 2016 and 2017.
- Emerging market and developing economies (EMDE) growth rate in 2015 is estimated 4.0 percent and forecasted to 4.3 percent in 2016 and 4.7 percent in 2017.
- In the report gross world trade (goods and services) compared to 2014 (3.4 percent) it has reduced in 2015 (2.6 percent). Also in 2016 (3.4 percent) and in 2017 (4.1 percent) is expected to grow.
- Excessive reduction in the price of petroleum in 2015 (-47.1 percent) was assessed while some improvement is expected in 2016 and 2017.
- The following three key transitions continue to influence the global outlook:
  1. The gradual slowdown and rebalancing of economic activity in China away from investment and manufacturing toward consumption and services.
  2. Lower prices for energy and other commodities, and
  3. A gradual tightening in monetary policy in the United States in the context of a resilient U.S. recovery as several other major advanced economy central banks continue to ease monetary policy.
- The following risks are described in the report: -
  1. A sharper-than-expected slowdown along China's needed transition to more balanced growth with attendant effects on global financial markets and currency valuations.
  2. Adverse corporate balance sheet effects and funding challenges related to potential further dollar appreciation and tighter global financing conditions as the United States exits from extraordinarily accommodative monetary policy.
  3. A sudden rise in global risk aversion, regardless of the trigger, leading to sharp further depreciations.
  4. An escalation of ongoing geopolitical tensions in a number of regions affecting confidence and disrupting global trade, financial, and tourism flows.
- In this report it is stated that to overcome the risks there is need of raising actual and potential output through a mix of demand support and structural reforms.

**Reference:**

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/update/01/>

<http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2016/update/01/pdf/0116.pdf>

# An Economy for the 1%

**Question: Which the international non-governmental organization released a report named “An Economy for the One Percent” on the global economic inequality?**

- (a) Oxford
- (b) Oxfam
- (c) IBRD
- (d) IMF

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 18 January 2016, Oxfam an international non-governmental organization released a report named “An Economy for the One Percent” on the global economic inequality.
- The report analyzed growing trends of concentration of wealth across the world and suggested remedies to correct the anomaly.
- According to the report richest 1% now has more wealth than the rest of the world combined. Power and privilege is being used to skew the economic system to increase the gap between the richest and the rest.
- In 2015, just 62 individuals had the same wealth as 3.6 billion people. This figure is down from 388 individuals as recently as 2010.
- According to the report the wealth of the richest 62 people has risen by 44% in the five years since 2010 – that's an increase of more than half a trillion dollars (\$542bn), to \$1.76 trillion.
- According to Oxfam since the turn of the century, the poorest half of the world’s population has received just 1% of the total increase in global wealth, while half(99%) of that increase has gone to the top 1%
- The average annual income of the poorest 10% of people in the world has risen by less than \$3 each year in almost a quarter of a century. Their daily income has risen by less than a 1% every year.
- The name Oxfam comes from the Oxford Committee for Famine Relief, founded in Britain in 1942, it has distributed food among affected women and children in the Second World War.

**Reference:**

[http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/media/files/bp210-economy-one-percent-tax-havens-180116-en\\_0.pdf](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/media/files/bp210-economy-one-percent-tax-havens-180116-en_0.pdf)

<http://www.oxfamamerica.org/explore/stories/62-people-own-as-much-as-half-of-the-world/>



# World Development Report-2016

**Question: What was the theme of World Development Report released -2016 released on 14 January 2016?**

- (a) Risk Management
- (b) Climate change
- (c) Digital Dividend
- (d) Transition Economies

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On January 14, 2016 World Bank had released the World Bank World Development Report -2016.
- The theme of this year report is "Digital Dividend".
- The report is helpful in understanding impact of the internet, mobile phones, and related technologies on economic development across the world.
- According to the report, more than 40 percent of the world's population has access to Internet.
- In the past decade, the number of Internet users has increased more than threefold it has been increased from 1 million in 2005 to 3.2 billion at the end of 2015.
- China has the largest number of internet users, followed by the United States, with India, Japan, and Brazil filling out the top five.
- On an average 8 in 10 people in the world have mobile phone and the number is increasing.
- The lowest mobile penetration is in Sub-Saharan Africa (73 percent), against 98 percent in high-income countries.
- According to the report internet adoption lags behind considerably, only 31 percent of the population in developing countries had access in 2014, against 80 percent in high-income countries.
- According to the report on the Internet in one day 207 million e- mail are sent.
- A day's total Web traffic is of 2.3 billion GB.
- Nearly 9 of 10 businesses in high-income OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries had a broadband internet connection in 2010–14, compared with 7 for middle-income countries and 4 for low-income countries.
- Out of world's 3.2 billion Internet users, 1.1 million people use high-speed Internet.
- The benefits of digital technologies filter throughout the economy, For businesses, the internet promotes inclusion of firms in the world economy by expanding trade, raises the productivity of capital, and intensifies competition in the marketplace, which in turn induces innovation.
- The report suggested that Digital development strategies need to be broader than ICT strategies. It cautioned that when the analog complements are absent, the development impact will be disappointing.
- Three main mechanisms to transmit the digital dividend are described as inclusion, efficiency and innovation.
- Connectivity for all has been described as the important goal and challenge. This can be dealt with a strong analog foundation.



**Reference:**

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/wdr2016>

[http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202016/WDR2016\\_overview\\_presentation.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202016/WDR2016_overview_presentation.pdf)

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2016/01/13/digital-revolution-needs-offline-help-to-realize-its-potential>

[http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202016/WDR16\\_Berlin\\_Mishra.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202016/WDR16_Berlin_Mishra.pdf)

[http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202016/WDR2016\\_Concept\\_Note.pdf](http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/Publications/WDR/WDR%202016/WDR2016_Concept_Note.pdf)



## PwC economists reveal predictions for 2016

**Question:** According to PwC (PricewaterhouseCoopers) India's growth rate in 2016 is estimated to be-

- (a) 7.7%                      (b) 8.0%  
(c) 7.0%                      (d) 7.3%

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts:

- According to a report by PricewaterhouseCoopers published on 7 January 2016, G7 (US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Canada) countries will grow with more than 2% growth rate which is highest since 2010.
- According to the report, India's growth rate will be of 7.7 per cent in 2016 and inflation rate is estimated to be 5.2 per cent.
- This is the second consecutive year; India has surpassed China's economy.
- According to the report if India's central bank policy rates remain between 6.75% to 8% India will be benefitted from consumption and investment this year also.
- It is estimated that the E7 (China, India, Brazil, Mexico, Russia, Indonesia and Turkey) emerging economies will grow slower than their trend rate (but still faster than the G7). Within the E7, the Brazilian and Russian economies will contract and China will slow, but India will be the star performer.
- The report states that instead of economics, Geopolitics will be at the top of policymakers' agendas: Three geopolitical issues will continue to dominate the news headlines. First, the migrant crisis in Europe, Second, the response of the international community to the crisis in the Middle East. Third, the referendum on the fate of the UK's membership of the European Union.
- Commodity prices will continue to decline.
- US and UK interest rates to rise in 2016.
- Report estimated that Euro zone GDP will expand by around 1.6% in 2016 – which is fastest growth rate since 2011.
- Report states that the Chinese GDP growth will ease to 6.5%.
- PricewaterhouseCoopers is a global professional services network. 157 countries are connected to the network. It is a reputed audit firm and was formed in 1998.



### Reference:

<http://press.pwc.com/News-releases/ALL/pwc-economists-reveal-predictions-for-2016/s/B2995C91-8091-45A7-92CD-ED2DFD8818AB>

<http://preview.thenewsmarket.com/Previews/PWC/DocumentAssets/416302.pdf>

# Union Cabinet approves creation of a Credit Guarantee Fund for MUDRA loans

**Ques:** Recently the Union Cabinet gave its approval for the creation of a Credit Guarantee Fund for loans under which of the following scheme?

- (a) Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana
- (b) Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana
- (c) Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana
- (d) Atal Pension Yojana

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On January 6, 2016 the Union Cabinet given its approval for the creation of a Credit Guarantee Fund for MUDRA (Micro Units Development Refinance Agency) loans.
- Establishment of Credit Guarantee Fund for MUDRA Units (CGFMU) for guaranteeing loans sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana with effect from April 8, 2015.
- With the objective to reduce the credit risk to Banks / NBFCs / MFIs / other financial intermediaries, who are Member Lending Institutions (MLIs).
- The National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC Ltd.), a wholly-owned company of Government of India, shall be the Trustee of the Fund.
- The guarantee would be provided on portfolio basis to a maximum extent of 50% of Amount in Default in the portfolio.
- The Fund is expected to guarantee more than Rs 1,00,000 crore worth of loans to micro and small units in the first instance.
- The cabinet given its approval to convert MUDRA Ltd. into MUDRA Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) Bank as a wholly owned subsidiary of SIDBI.
- The MUDRA (SIDBI) Bank will undertake refinance operations and provide support services.
- MUDRA Bank and a Credit Guarantee Fund was proposed to be set up with a refinance corpus of Rs. 20,000 crore and a corpus of Rs.3,000 crore respectively as per the Budget Speech for 2015-16.

**Reference**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134215>

# Global Economic Prospects Report, January 2016

**Ques:** As per Global Economic Prospects Report (GEP)-2016 which was released by World Bank Group the estimated growth rate of India and World economy during 2016 are:

- (a) 7.3 % and 2.9 %
- (b) 8.3 % and 3.9 %
- (c) 7.3 % and 4.2 %
- (d) 7.3 percent and 4.2 percent

**Ans (b)**

## Related facts

- On January 6, 2016 Economic Prospects with the title of 'Spillovers amid weak growth' was released by the World Bank Group (Washington, D.C.).
- As per report global growth rate was only 2.4 % in 2015. While estimated growth rate in 2016 is 2.9 % however both in 2017 and 2018 growth rate are 3.1 %.
- According to latest report the India's growth rate was 7.3 % in 2015 however estimated growth rate were 7.8 % and 7.9 % in 2016 and 2017-18 respectively.
- As per report the South Asia's growth rate was 7.0 % in 2015 however estimated growth rate were 7.3 % and 7.5 % in 2016 and 2017-18 respectively.
- As per the latest report the growth rate in East Asia and Pacific region was 6.4 % during 2015. While estimated growth rate were 6.3 % and 6.2 % in 2016 and 2017-18 respectively.
- As per report the growth rate of Euro region was 1.5 % in 2015. While estimated growth rate were 1.7 % and 1.6 % in 2016 and 2017-18 respectively.
- As per GPE-2016 the economic growth rate was 1.6 % in high income countries during 2015. While estimated economic growth rate were 2.1 % in both 2016 and 2017-18.
- As per report the economic growth rate was 5.1 % in low income countries during 2015. While estimated economic growth rate were 6.2 % and 6.6 % in 2016 and 2017-18 respectively.
- As per report growth rate of BRICS countries was 3.9 % in 2015. While estimated growth rate were 4.6 % and 5.3 % in 2016 and 2017 respectively.
- As per GEP report the global economic growth was remain weak as per prior estimates the reason behind is reduced flow of capital and trade.
- As per GEP report the slow growth rate of four emerging markets of the world (Brazil, Russia, China and South Africa) were produced restriction in Spillovers Effect on World Economy.



## Reference:

<http://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2016/01/06/anemic-recovery-in-emerging-markets-to-weigh-heavily-on-global-growth-in-2016>  
<http://www.worldbank.org/content/dam/Worldbank/GEP/GEP2016a/Global-Economic-Prospects-January-2016-Spillovers-amid-weak-growth.pdf>

## RBI imposes Monetary Penalty on State Bank of Travancore

**Ques :** Recently how many monetary penalty has been imposed by Reserve Bank of India on State Bank of Travancore for violation of its instructions?

- (a) 1.5 crore
- (b) 1 crore
- (c) 50 million
- (d) 2 crore

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts

- January 4, 2015 the Reserve Bank of India has imposed monetary penalty of 10 Million on State Bank of Travancore for violation of its instructions, inter alia, on reporting of data to Central Repository of Information on Large Credits (CRILC).
- The penalties have been imposed in exercise of powers vested in the Reserve Bank under the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.

### Reference

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35878](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35878)



### Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the area of outer space

**Question:** Recently Union Cabinet has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the area of outer space between-

- (a) ISRO and NASA
- (b) ISRO and KISR
- (c) ISRO and CNSA
- (d) ISRO and INPE

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 20 January 2016 The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been apprised of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Department of Space / Indian Space Research Organization (DOS/ISRO) and Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR).
- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is signed on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
- The MoU will enable pursuing potential interest in following areas in both cooperative and commercial mode:
  - (1) Use of data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites by KISR for initiating a few research and application projects.
  - (2) Training and
  - (3) Building and launching of remote sensing and communication satellites on commercial terms.
- The MoU will lead to setting up of a Joint Working Group, drawing members from ISRO and KISR.
- This will further work out the plan of action including the time-frame and the means of implementing this MoU.
- This Cooperation with KISR through this MoU will lead to developing a joint activity in the field of application of space technology for the benefit of humanity.
- The MoU will provide impetus to explore newer research activities and application possibilities in the field like
  - a) Remote sensing of the earth
  - b) Satellite communication
  - c) Satellite navigation space science and
  - d) Exploration of outer space.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx?relid=0>



## India launches 5th navigation satellite IRNSS-1E

**Ques:** Through which Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) on 20 January 2016 successfully launched the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) 1-E satellite?

- (a) PSLV-C31
- (b) PSLV-C30
- (c) PSLV-C24
- (d) PSLV-C28

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts:

- On 20 January 2016, ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, PSLV-C31, successfully launched the 1425 kg IRNSS-1E.
- The satellite is the fifth of the IRNSS constellation. It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR), Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh.
- This is the thirty second consecutively successful mission of PSLV and the eleventh in its 'XL' configuration.
- After a flight of about 18 minutes 43 seconds, IRNSS-1E Satellite was injected to an elliptical orbit of 282.4 km X 20,655.3 km inclined at an angle of 19.21 degree to the equator.
- Satellite successfully separated from the PSLV fourth stage. After injection, the solar panels of IRNSS-1E were deployed automatically.
- ISRO's Master Control Facility (at Hassan, Karnataka) took over the control of the satellite.
- IRNSS-1E is the fifth of the seven satellites constituting the space segment of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System.
- IRNSS-1A, 1B, 1C and 1D, the first four satellites of the constellation, were successfully launched by PSLV on July 02, 2013, April 04, 2014, October 16, 2014 and March 28, 2015 respectively.
- IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland.
- IRNSS would provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Services (SPS) - provided to all users - and Restricted Services (RS), provided to authorize users.



### Reference:

<http://www.isro.org/update/20-jan-2016/pslv-c31-successfully-launches-indias-fifth-navigation-satellite-irns-1e>

<http://www.isro.org/launcher/pslv-c31-irns-1e>

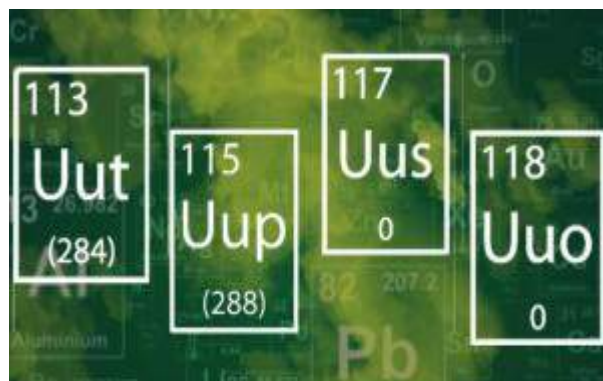
## IUPAC announced addition of Four Elements

**Question:** The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) on 30 December 2015 announced discovery and assignment of elements with atomic numbers-

- (a) 115,116,117,118
- (b) 117,113,114,115
- (c) 113,115,117,118
- (d) 118,114,112,116

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) on 30 December 2015 announced discovery and assignment of elements with atomic numbers 113, 115, 117 and 118.
- The decision was taken by the IUPAC as the four elements met the discovery of elements of the IUPAP/IUPAC Transfermium Working Group (TWG) 1991 Discovery Criteria.
- All these four elements are synthetic in nature. They were discovered by scientists belonging to the USA, Russian and Japan and complete the 7th row of the periodic table of the elements.

Name	Symbol	Atomic Number
Ununtrium	Uut	113
Ununpentium	Uup	115
Ununseptium	Uus	117
Ununoctium	Uuo	118

- It is also worth noting that the name has been accepted temporarily. The soon to be permanent names and symbols.
- All these elements were discovered by slamming lighter nuclei into each other and tracking the following decay of the radioactive super heavy elements.
- Like other super heavy elements that populate the end of the periodic table, they only exist for fractions of a second before decaying into other elements.
- Presently the president of IUPAC is Mark Cesa.

**Reference:**

<http://www.iupac.org/news/news-detail/article/discovery-and-assignment-of-elements-with-atomic-numbers-113-115-117-and-118.html>

## Joint exercise 'Sahyog-Kaijin-XV'

**Ques:** Recently the 15th edition of bilateral exercise titled 'Sahayog-Kaijin 2016' has begun off the coast of Chennai, Tamil Nadu in the Bay of Bengal. This is held between Coast Guards of the following two countries?

- (a) India-Sri Lanka
- (b) India-Japan
- (c) India-Seychelles
- (d) India-Pakistan

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts:

- The Coast Guards of India and Japan on 15 January 2016 conducted their 15th joint exercise off the coast of Chennai, Tamil Nadu in the Bay of Bengal.
- India's Coast Guard vessel Samudra Pehredar and the Japanese vessel Echigo were berthed at Chennai Port for the bilateral training called Sahyog-Kaijin 2016.
- The exercise would be jointly witnessed by the Director General, Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Bisht, and Vice Amdiral Hideyo Hanamizu, Vice commandant of the Japanese Coast Guard besides other top officials.
- The highlight of the joint exercise was anti-piracy. However, search and rescue operations and interoperability between the two forces was also given emphasis.
- India was represented by (Indian coast guard ships) ICGS Samudra Paheredar, ICGS Sarang, ICGS Vishwast, ICGS Rajtarang, ICGS Rajkamal and a Dornier Do 226 and Chetak helicopters in 'Sahyog-Kaijin-XV'.
- Japan Coast Guard's JCGS Echigo with its integral helicopter took part in the exercise.
- The Sahayog-Kaijin is a bilateral exercise, which is a part of the cooperative arrangements between two Coast Guards for the last 15 years.
- The exercise is also a part of the Memorandum on Cooperation, which was signed between India and Japan in 2006.
- It is a biennial bilateral exercise and the venue shifts in both countries on alternate occasions.

### Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/india-japan-conduct-joint-exercise-sahyogkaijin-off-chennai-coast/article8112017.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/joint-exercise-conducted-by-coast-guards-of-india-japan/articleshow/50591908.cms>



# 68th Army Day

**Ques: Which Day is celebrated as Army Day in India?**

- (a) 15 January
- (b) 14 January
- (c) 13 January
- (d) 12 January

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- India on 15 January 2016 celebrated the 68th Army Day.
- On this day, 69 years ago, Lieutenant General (later Field Marshal) K. M. Cariappa took over as the first Commander-in-Chief of the Army of a newly formed India.
- He took over from General Sir Francis Butcher, the last British Commander-in-Chief of India on 15 January 1949.
- To mark the occasion, General Dalbir Singh, Chief of the Army Staff reviewed the Parade at Army Parade Ground, Delhi Cantonment.
- He also awarded fifteen Sena Medals (including five posthumously) for individual acts of Gallantry and thirteen COAS Unit Citations for commendable performance of their respective units.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/in-pictures-the-indian-army-celebrating-army-day/article8112724.ece#im-image-0>

<http://indianarmy.nic.in/Site/FormTemplate/frmTempSimple.aspx?MnId=ZCxdwpLZk6WmTUvDsZlqNA==&ParentID=482DfX+3oad1CMniVjel3w==>

## ICAR-CIRB become India's second center to produce cloned buffalo

**Ques:** On December 11, 2015 the scientists of ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) succeeds to produce a cloned calf. The name of the calf is-

- (a) Haryana GOURAV
- (b) Punjab GOURAV
- (c) Hisar GOURAV
- (d) None of the above

**Ans (c)**

### Related facts

- On December 11, 2015 the scientists of ICAR-Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) succeed to produce a cloned calf 'HISAR GOURAV'.
- Calf born through normal delivery.
- This cloned buffalo calf is distinct from the earlier clones produced in India by ICAR-NDRI as this is produced from cells of ventral side of tail of superior buffalo bull, this part is least exposed to sunlight and may have less mutation rate, and can be good choice for isolation of donor cells to produce healthy clones.
- This achievement has been made under the project entitled, Cloning for conservation and multiplication of superior buffalo germplasm.
- With this achievement CIRB becomes world's third and India's second institute to produce cloned buffalo.
- Progeny Testing Bull Farm, Hisar of State Government, Haryana was transferred to Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) in the year 1985, and was established as Central Institute for Research on Buffaloes (CIRB) at Hisar.
- In 1990, with the birth of "Pratham", the first IVF buffalo calf of the world, NDRI (National Dairy Research Institute) reached a significant milestone.

### Reference

<http://www.icar.org.in/hi/node/10066>

[http://www.cirb.res.in/index.php?option=com\\_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=1&lang=en](http://www.cirb.res.in/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=58&Itemid=1&lang=en)





# Test Firing of New Tank Ammunition for Arjun MBT

**Question: Where was Main Battle Tank (MBT) Arjun tested for the new explosive materials (Ammunition)?**

- (a) January 6, 2016, from the Chandipur test range in Orissa
- (b) January 6, 2016, Pokhran test range in Rajasthan
- (c) January 9, 2016 Chandipur, Odisha
- (d) January 9, 2016 Pokharan, Rajasthan

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted test firing of new tank ammunition Penetration-Cum Blast (PCB) and Thermobaric (TB) Ammunition, specially designed for Arjun Tank at Chandipur, Odisha on 6th Jan 2016.
- The trials were found to be very effective and successful.
- The ammunitions have been developed by Pune based DRDO laboratories Armament Research and Development Establishment (ARDE) and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL).
- ADRE and HERML works for research and development work for the manufacturing of indigenous weapon.
- So the above ammunition was developed by fully indigenous chemical combination.
- The innovative chemical composition was developed by HEMRL after extensive research for the TB ammunition.
- During the development phase, these ammunitions were evaluated against different simulated targets which are armour plates, concrete structures and fortifications.
- The trials were conducted jointly with Army and were aimed to demonstrate the effectiveness of the ammunitions on derelict tank fitted with instrumentation to measure the shocks, blast pressure and temperature at various locations and on advanced imaging systems.
- The trials were unique as for the first time such evaluation was carried out in India which gave a quantum jump in the fire-power of Arjun tanks.
- The technical trials were witnessed by Directors of HEMRL & PXE, Director DQRS, Army representatives and other senior officials from DRDO.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134324>

# Military exercise Shakti-2016

**Ques:** Recently a Military training 'Exercise Shakti-2016' is started between the following two countries?

- (a) India- France
- (b) India-Japan
- (c) India- Sri Lanka
- (d) India-China

**Ans (a)**



## Related facts:

- **India and France** on 8 January 2016 started their eight-day counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency joint exercise **Shakti-2016** in Rajasthan.
- This is the third edition in the series of bilateral exercises under this banner and is being held in Mahajan Field Firing Ranges in Rajasthan's Bikaner.
- The exercise will be focused on counter terrorism operations in backdrop of semi-urban terrain under United Nations Mandate.
- It is an important step for the armies to train together and gain from each other's rich operational experience.
- The joint training would focus on high degree of physical fitness, tactical drills, techniques and procedure.
- French contingent comprising 56 personnel of 35th Infantry Regiment of 7th Armoured Brigade, which had taken part in the Afghan war, will participate in the Shakti-2016. The contingent led by Major Thibaut De Lacoste Lareymondie arrived Jodhpur on 6 January 2016.
- On the other hand, the Indian contingent to participate in the exercise will be the 2nd Battalion of Garhwal Rifles, part of the Sapta Shakti Command.
- The exercise would be conducted in two phases, namely combat conducting and tactical training and validation exercise.

## Reference:

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/indo-french-military-exercise-shakti-2016-begins-in-rajasthan-today\\_1842857.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/india/indo-french-military-exercise-shakti-2016-begins-in-rajasthan-today_1842857.html)  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/jaipur/Indo-French-military-exercise-Shakti-2016-begins/articleshow/50509981.cms>  
[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/exercise-shakti-2016-to-be-held-in-january-116010100451\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/exercise-shakti-2016-to-be-held-in-january-116010100451_1.html)

## Five minor planets named after top Chinese scientists

**Ques:** What is the name of China's first Nobel laureate scientist?

- (a) Tu Youyou
- (b) Zheng Zhemin
- (c) Zhang Cunhao
- (d) Xie Jialin

**Ans:** (a)

**Related facts:**

- On 4 January 2016, Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong participated in ceremony of naming the five minor planet after the name of scientist in Beijing.
- A total of five minor planets have been named after top Chinese scientists.
- The naming was suggested by the National Astronomical Observatories of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) and approved by the International Astronomical Union (IAU) Minor Planet Center (MPC).
- Chinese vice premier Liu Yandong awarded certificates to the scientists at the ceremony.
- Minor Planet No. 31230 was named after Tu Youyou who won 2015 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for discovering Artemisinin to treat malaria and saved millions of lives.
- Minor Planet No. 12935 was named after Zheng Zhemin, a prominent dynamicist and one of the founders of the field of explosion mechanics.
- Minor Planet No. 19282 was named after Zhang Cunhao, who is the founder of the field of high-energy chemical lasers in China and one of the pioneers in the field of molecular reaction dynamics.
- Minor Planet No. 32928 was named after Xie Jialin, a renowned physical scientist and the founder of particle accelerators in China.
- Minor Planet No. 9221 was named after Wu Liangyong, an architect, city planner and educator.
- The four scientists, except Tu, previously won the State Top Scientific and Technological Award, the country's top science prize, for their outstanding contributions to scientific and technological innovation.
- The five minor planets were discovered between 1995 and 1999 by the Beijing Schmidt CCD Asteroid Program at the Xinglong observation station in north China.

**Reference:**

[http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-01/05/c\\_134979383\\_2.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2016-01/05/c_134979383_2.htm)



# Commissioning of INS Kadmatt

**Ques : When was INS Kadmatt commissioned?**

- (a) January 5, 2016
- (b) January 6, 2016
- (c) January 7, 2016
- (d) January 8, 2016

**Ans (c)**

## Related facts

- On January 7, 2016 INS Kadmatt was commissioned into the Indian Navy by the Chief of Naval Staff at a glittering ceremony held at Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam.
- It is second warship ship of Project 28 (P28) class Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Corvettes.
- With the changing power dynamics in the Indian Ocean Region, INS Kadmatt will augment the mobility, reach and flexibility of Indian Navy.
- It is notable that the event marks the formal induction into the Navy of the second of the four ASW Corvettes.
- It is indigenously designed by the Indian Navy's in-house organisation, Directorate of Naval Design and constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata.
- The earlier Kadmatt, also an ASW Corvette, acquired in 1968 from the erstwhile Soviet Union.
- It was distinguished herself in the 24 years of service to the nation, particularly during the 1971 Indo-Pak war, Operation Pawan in Sri Lanka, and Operation Tasha.
- INS Kadmatt is named after one of the large islands amongst the Lakshadweep group of Islands off the west coast of India.
- The Lakshadweep Islands and the Navy share a special relation with the Island chain being home to our base INS Dweepprakash.
- INS Kadmatt has a multitude of networks such as Total Atmospheric Control System (TACS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Battle Damage Control System (BDCS) and Personnel Locator System (PLS).
- The unique feature of this ship is the high level of indigenisation incorporated in the production, accentuating our national objective of 'Make in India'.
- About 90% of the ship is indigenous and the ship is equipped to fight in Nuclear, Biological and Chemical (NBC) warfare conditions.
- Some of the major equipment/ systems developed indigenously include Combat Management System, Rocket Launcher, Torpedo Tube Launchers and Infra-Red Signature Suppression System.
- With a displacement of 3300 tonnes, the sleek and magnificent ship spans 109 meters in length and 13.7 meters at the beam and is propelled by four diesel engines to achieve speeds in excess of 25 knots with an endurance of 3450 Nm.
- The ship is commanded by Commander Mahesh Chandra Moudgil and would be an integral part of the Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command.



## Reference

- <http://indiannavy.nic.in/content/ins-kadmatt-commissioned-visakhapatnam>
- <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134269>

# Foundation Stone Laid for an "International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography"

**Ques:** In which of the following location the Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Shri. Y. S. Chowdary laid Foundation stone for the building complex of the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Port Blair
- (c) Bangalore
- (d) New Delhi

**Ans (a)**

## Related facts



- On January 5, 2016 the Minister of State for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences Shri. Y. S. Chowdary laid Foundation stone for the building complex of the International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography (ITCO-Ocean) at Hyderabad.
- International Training Centre for Operational Oceanography is being set up by Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Government of India has already allocated Rs.100 crores over a period of 5 years.
- It will be beneficial for Potential Fishing Zones advisories to fishermen, Ocean State Forecasts for mariners, Tsunami & Storm Surge Early warnings, etc.

## Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134190>



# Indian Navy successfully test fires Barak-8 long range missile from INS Kolkata

**Question:** On 30 December 2015 Indian Navy successfully tested the Barak-8 Long range missile from INS Kolkata, it is-

- (a) Surface to Air missile
- (b) Surface to Surface missile
- (c) Air to air missile
- (d) Air to surface missile

**Ans (a)**

## **Related facts:**

- On 30 December 2015. The Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden firing of its newly developed Long Range Barak-8 Surface-to-Air Missile (LR SAM).
- The Navy described the maiden firing of its newly developed Long Range Surface to Air Missile (LR SAM) as a significant milestone in enhancing its anti-air warfare capability.
- The firing was undertaken on the Western Seaboard by INS Kolkata, wherein the missile successfully intercepted an aerial target at
- The firing trial of the LR SAM has been jointly carried out by the Indian Navy, Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) and Israel Aerospace Industries.
- The LR SAM has been manufactured by M/s Bharat Dynamics Limited, India.
- The Barak-8 system includes a Multi-Functional Surveillance and Threat Alert Radar (MF STAR) for detection, tracking and guidance of the missile.
- The missile can fire at range of 70-100 kilometers.

## **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134000>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/indian-navy-successfully-test-fires-long-range-barak-8-missile-from-ins-kolkata/articleshow/50378363.cms>

<http://www.defensenews.com/story/defense/international/asia-pacific/2015/12/30/indo-israeli-lr-sam-test-fired-aboard-indian-warship/78073524/>



# Sports

## Tennis

### Apia International Sydney-2016

**Ques: Who won Apia International Sydney 2016 men's title?**

- (a) John Isner
- (b) Grigor Dimitrov
- (c) Viktor Troicki
- (d) Stan Wawrinka

**Ans (c)**

#### Related facts

- From 10-16 january, 2016 the Apia International tennis tournament held at Sydney (Australia).
- The result of the tournament are given below:



#### Men's Singles

- Winner- Viktor Troicki (Serbia)
- Runner- Grigor Dimitrov (Bulgaria)

#### Women's Singles

- Winner- Svetlana Kuznetsova (Russia)
- Runner- Monica Puig (Puerto Rican)

#### Men's Doubles

- Winner- Jamie Murray (Britain) and Bruno Soares (Brazil)
- Runner- Rohan Bopanna (India) and Florin Mergea (Romania)

#### Women's Doubles

- Winner- Martina Hingis (Switzerland) and Sania Mirza (India)
- Runner- Caroline Garcia and Kristina Mladenovic (both from france)
- It is notable that Sania Mirza (India) and Martina Hingis (Switzerland) broke a 22 year old world record by winning 29 women's doubles match.

#### Reference

<http://www.apiainternational.com.au/draws>  
<http://www.apiainternational.com.au/2016/01/twice-is-nice-troicki-repeats-as-champ>  
<http://www.apiainternational.com.au/2016/01/flawless-kuznetsova-wins-sydney-title>  
<http://www.apiainternational.com.au/2016/01/gallery-mens-finals-night>  
<http://www.apiainternational.com.au/2016/01/hingis-and-mirza-win-again>

## World record by Sania Mirza- Martina Hingis

**Ques:** Recently India's Sania Mirza and her Swiss partner Martina Hingis broke a 22-year-old world record by winning how many women's doubles match in a row?

- (a) 27
- (b) 28
- (c) 29
- (d) None of these

**Ans (c)**

### Related facts:

- On 13 January 2016, India's Sania Mirza and her Swiss partner Martina Hingis broke a 22-year-old world record by winning their 29th women's doubles match in a row en route to their entry into the women's doubles final of the WTA Sydney International, in Sydney.
- The World No 1 pair beat the pair of Romanian Raluca Olaru and Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova by 4-6, 6-3, 10-8 in a closely-fought semifinal.
- With this they now surpassed the pair of Gigi Fernandez (Puerto Rica) and Natasha Zvereva (Belarus) who won 28 matches in a row during their successful pairing back in 1994.

### Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/tennis/world-record-by-sania-mirza-and-martina-hingis-as-they-win-29th-match-on-trot/article8106676.ece>

<http://www.ibnlive.com/news/sports/sania-mirza-martina-hingis-earn-29th-win-in-a-row-chase-world-record-1189609.html>

<http://www.dailypioneer.com/todays-newspaper/unstoppable-sania-hingis-pair-scoops-record-29th-win-in-a-row.html>



# Brisbane International-2016

**Ques : Who won the Brisbane International 2016 title in men's singles?**

- (a) Milos Raonic
- (b) Lleyton Hewitt
- (c) Roger Federer
- (d) Juan Martin

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts**



- From 3 to 10 January, 2016 Brisbane International Tennis Tournament held at Brisbane (Queensland).
- The results of the tournament are as follows:

- **Men's Singles**

Winner - Milos Raonic (Canada)

Runner- Roger Federer (Switzerland)

- **Women's Singles**

Winner- Victoria Azarenka (Belarus)

Runner- Angelique Kerber (Germany)

- **Men's Doubles**

Winner- Henri Kontinen(Finland) and John Pearce (Australia)

Runner- James Duckworth and Chris Guccione (both from Australia)

- **Women's Doubles**

Winner- Martina Hingis (Switzerland) and Sania Mirza (India)

Runner- Angelique Kerber and Andrea Petkovic (both from Germany)

**Reference:**

<http://www.brisbaneinternational.com.au/players/men-singles>

<http://www.brisbaneinternational.com.au/2016/01/hingis-mirza-claim-womens-doubles-title>

## Aircel Chennai Open-2016

**Question: Who won the singles title of Aircel Chennai Open-2016?**

- (a) Stan Wawrinka
- (b) Aljaz Bedene
- (c) Borna Coric
- (d) Leander Paes

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The Aircel Chennai Open 2016 21<sup>st</sup> edition was played in Chennai (India) from January 4-10, 2016.
- **The results of the competition are:**
- **Male Single:**
- Winner-Stan Wawrinka (Switzerland).
- Runner-Borna Corik (Croatia).
- **Men Doubles:**
- Winner-Oliver Marach (Austria) and Fabrice Martin (France).
- Runner-Austin Krajicek (USA) and Benoit Paire (France).
- This third consecutive title for Wawrinka in this championship and overall fourth (2011, 2014, 2015, 2016).

**Reference:**

[http://www.aircelchennaiopen.org/2016/players/benoit\\_paire](http://www.aircelchennaiopen.org/2016/players/benoit_paire)

[http://www.aircelchennaiopen.org/2016/players/Borna\\_Coric](http://www.aircelchennaiopen.org/2016/players/Borna_Coric)

<http://www.aircelchennaiopen.org/2016/news/view/aco-2016-day-5-jan-8th-2016>





# Cricket

## Blind T20 Asia Cup

**Question: Who won the Blind Twenty20 Asia Cup -2016?**

- (a) India
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Pakistan
- (d) Nepal

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On January 24, 2015 the first edition of the blind Twenty20 Asia Cup was completed in India.
- On 24 January 2016 in the final match played at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Kochi, India defeated Pakistan to win the title.
- In a limited 20 over's India after electing to bat scored 208 runs with the loss of 5 Wickets.
- In the reply Pakistan just managed to make 164 in 18.2 over's and lost the match by 44 runs.
- It should be noted that the Indian blind cricket team had won the title of T-20 World Cup in 2012 and the 2014 World Cup by defeating Pakistan team.



**Reference:**

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/india-beat-pakistan-to-win-first-t20-blind-asia-cup/1/578730.html>

<http://www.sportstarlive.com/cricket/indian/india-beat-pakistan-to-win-blind-t20-asia-cup/article8148151.ece>

# Hockey

## Lal Bahadur Shastri hockey tournament

**Ques :** Who won the 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri hockey tournament title?

- (a) Indian Railway
- (b) ONGC
- (c) IOC
- (d) PNB

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts

- On December 27, 2015 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri hockey tournament held at Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi.
- ONGC clinched the title after defeating Indian Railway 3-0 in penalty shootout.



### The results of the tournament are as follows:

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

### Reference

<http://www.asianage.com/hockey/ongc-shoot-out-indian-railway-211>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-sports/ongc-clinches-title/article8062626.ece>

# Football

## SAFF football championships-2015

**Ques: Who has won the 2015 South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship?**

- (a) Bangladesh
- (b) Afghanistan
- (c) Maldives
- (d) India

**Ans (d)**



**Related facts:**

- The **2015 SAFF Championship** (officially known as the **SAFF Suzuki Cup 2015** for sponsorship reasons) was held in India from 23 December 2015 to 3 January 2016. This was the 11th edition of the SAFF Championship.
- India on 3 January 2016 won of the South Asian Football Federation Cup (SAFF) championships. In the title clash played at Trivandrum International Stadium of Kerala, India defeated defending champions Afghanistan by 2-1.
- India has won the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) championship for record seventh time.
- **Special awards conferred in the championship are:**
  - Golden Boot Award- Khyber Amani (Afghanistan).
  - Best Player Award-Sunil Chhetri (India).
  - Indian Team Captain was Sunil Chhetri and Afghanistan Team Captain was Faysal Shayesteh.
- **8 participating countries are:** Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Afghanistan (joined in 2005).
- In 2017 SAFF football championship is scheduled to be held in Afghanistan.

**Reference:**

<https://www.the-aiff.com/news-center-details.htm?id=6908>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/football/india-beat-afghanistan-21-to-lift-saff-cup-title-for-7th-time/article8061642.ece>

<http://zeenews.india.com/live-updates/saff-cup-final-live-india-vs-afghanistan-1841155>

# Badminton

## Malaysia Masters-2016

**Ques: Who won the men's singles title in Malaysia Masters 2016 badminton competition?**

- (a) Lee Chong Wei
- (b) Tommy Sugiarto
- (c) K. Srikanth
- (d) Boon Heong Tan

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- BWF 2016 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold was held from 19 to 24 January 2016 in Penang, Malaysia.
- **The results of the competition is as follows:**
- **Men's Singles**
  - Winner: Lee Chong Wei (Malaysia)
  - Runner: Iskandar Zulkarnain Zainuddin (Malaysia)
- **Women's singles**
  - Winner: P.V. Sindhu (India)
  - Runner: Kirsty Gilmour (Scotland)
- **Men's Doubles**
  - Winner: Gideon Markus Fernaldi and Kevin Sanjaya Sukamuljo (Both from Indonesia)
  - Runner: Koo Kien Keat and Tan Boon Heong (Both from Malaysia)
- **Women's Doubles**
  - Winner: Misaki Matsutomo and Ayaka Takahashi (Both from Malaysia)
  - Runner: Tang Yunting and Yu Yang (Both from China).
- **Mixed Doubles:**
  - Winner: Zheng Siwei and Li Yinhui (Both from China)
  - Runner: Tan Kian Meng and Pei Jing Lai (Both from Malaysia)
- This was P.V Sindhu's second title in Malaysia Masters Grand Prix which earlier she had won in 2013. It was overall fifth career Grand prix gold title and first title of the season 2016.

**Reference:**

<http://bwfbadminton.com/events/2331/malaysia-masters/>  
<http://bwf.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=C25E58BA-9DC6-4161-B20A-16FD377EDD0D>  
<http://www.badmintonindia.com/news/blog/2016/01/19/victor-far-east-malaysia-masters-2016-penang-malaysia/>  
<http://bwfbadminton.com/2016/01/25/lee-chong-wei-sindhu-champions-victor-far-east-malaysia-masters-review/>



## Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon, 2016

**Question: Who has won the 13<sup>th</sup> Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon men's title?**

- (a) Gideon Kipketer
- (b) Seboka Dibba
- (c) Marius Kimutai
- (d) Nitendra Singh Rawat

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On January 17, 2016 the 13<sup>th</sup> Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon competition was held.
- Gideon Kipketer of Kenya has won the 13<sup>th</sup> Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon men's title.
- He completed the race 42.194 km in 2 hours, 08 minutes and 35 seconds.
- Shuko Jenemo of Ethiopia has won the 13<sup>th</sup> Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon women's title.
- She completed the race in 2 hours, 27 minutes and 50 seconds.
- In the men's Category Nitendra Singh Rawat of India completed the race in 2 hours, 15 minutes, 48 seconds secured top position among Indian men athletes and overall 10<sup>th</sup> place.
- In women's category Sudha Singh of India completed the race in 2 hours, 39 minutes, 28 seconds and secured top position among Indian women athletes and overall 7<sup>th</sup> place.

**Reference:**

<http://scmm.procamrunning.in/race-results/>





# Sports Miscellaneous

## Spirit of India Run

**Ques: When did an Ultra Marathon Runner from Australia Pat Farmer started “Spirit of India Run”?**

- (a) 24 January 2016
- (b) 26 January 2016
- (c) 25 January 2016
- (d) 27 January 2016

**Ans(b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 26 January 2016 on the occasion of India's Republic Day and Australia Day, former Education, Science and Training Parliamentary Secretary Pat Farmer, an ultra-Marathon Runner from Australia started the '**Spirit of India Run**' race.
- 'Spirit of India Run' will commence on 26 January 2016 in front of Gandhi Mandapam, Kanyakumari at 0615 hrs and will be completed at Srinagar after 64 days on 30 March 2016 with covering a distance of 4600 km.
- Pat Farmer will run on an average 70-80 Km, daily through the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir.
- Farmer's 'Spirit of India Run' is aimed at cementing relations between India and Australia; encourage tourism and personal relationships with a view to create awareness of India as a 'Must Experience' destination for travelers from Australia; and support causes and charity which in the current endeavor is to raise funds for education of girl child.
- The Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India along with State Tourism departments of the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi, Haryana, Punjab, Jammu & Kashmir and Union Territory of Chandigarh are supporting '**Spirit of India Run**'
- '**Spirit of India Run**' by Pat Farmer is also supported by Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Federation of Hotels & Restaurants Association of India (FHRAI), Hotel Association of India and Indian Heritage Hotels Association.
- Pat Farmer is a multiple world record holder for endurance running and has run from the North Pole to the South Pole, and across Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, the Middle East and North America.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135778>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/spirit-of-india-run-from-kanyakumari-on-january-26/article8146808.ece>

## MRF limited as a Global Partner for ICC events

**Ques :** On January 20, 2016 the International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced MRF limited as a Global Partner for ICC events for the duration of-

- (a) 2016 to 2020
- (b) 2016 to 2019
- (c) 2016 to 2021
- (d) 2017 to 2021

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts



- On January 20, 2016 the International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced MRF limited as a Global Partner for ICC events from 2016 to until 2020 in a function held at MRF Tyres headquarters in Chennai.
- The ICC and MRF Tyres completed a successful partnership at the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.
- MRF is already an active promoter and supporter of cricket with a number of domestic and international fast bowlers benefitting from its MRF Pace Foundation.
- Important to know that the MRF is the only Indian tyre company ranked amongst the top 16 global tyre companies, with a turnover of Rs 14,000 Crores.
- MRF is the recipient of the J.D. Power Award for Customer Satisfaction for OE tyres for a record 11 times and has been a consecutive recipient winner for the last five years.
- MRF has been conferred a special award 'Recognising Excellence in Customer Satisfaction' by J.D. Power Asia Pacific in 2014.

### Reference

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/news/2016/media-releases/91558/icc-announces-mrf-tyres-as-global-partner>

## ICC announces MoneyGram as Event Partner

**Ques:** Which of the following company a leading global provider of money transfer services has been announced as event partner by ICC?

- (a) MoneyGram
- (b) Paytm
- (c) Vivo
- (d) Money Transfer

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 11 January 2016, The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced MoneyGram International, a leading global provider of money transfer services, as their event partner in an eight-year deal from 2016-2023.
- The ICC and MoneyGram recently completed a successful five-year partnership, which began with the ICC World Twenty20 West Indies 2010, concluding with the ICC Cricket World Cup 2015.
- Founded in 1998, MoneyGram is a global provider of innovative money transfer and payment Services Company based in the United States with headquarters in Dallas, Texas.

**Reference:**

<http://www.icc-cricket.com/news/2016/media-releases/91447/icc-announces-moneygram-as-event-partner>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/international-cricket-council-icc-announces-moneygram-as-event-partner/article8092398.ece>

[http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/icc\\_names\\_moneygram\\_as\\_new\\_events\\_partner](http://www.sportspromedia.com/news/icc_names_moneygram_as_new_events_partner)



## Pro Wrestling League (PWL)-2015

**Question: Who has won the title of Pro Wrestling League-2015?**

- (a) U.P Warriors
- (b) Punjab Royals
- (c) Haryana Hammers
- (d) Revanta Mumbai Garuda

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts:**

- Mumbai Garuda outclassed Haryana Hammers with 7-2 to clinch the inaugural Pro Wrestling League title at KD Jadhav wrestling stadium Stadium (Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium), New Delhi.
- The Pro Wrestling League (PWL) was held in between 10–27 December 2015.
- The captain of Revanta Mumbai Garuda was Adeline Gray (female 69 kg.) and Haryana Hammers captain was Yogeshwar Dutt (65 kg male.)
- The Mumbai Garuda won all matches of the championship (7 matches).
- The League was the initiative of Pro-Sportify owned by Kartikeya Sharma and Wrestling Federation of India.
- This was first season of the league which was held among 6 city-based teams with 66 wrestlers from different countries of the world.
- “Dabur Chawanprash” was the title sponsor of the first edition.
- **Teams Participated** – Mangalayatan University Dilli Veer, Uttar Pradesh Warriors, Haryana Hammers, Punjab Royals, Revanta Mumbai Garuda and Bengluru Yodhas.
- **Categories** – There was 5 weight categories (57 kg, 65 Kg, 74 Kg, 97 Kg, 125 Kg) for men and 4 weight categories (49 Kg, 53 Kg, 58 Kg, 69 Kg) for women.

**Reference:**

<http://www.prowrestlingleague.com/about.php>

<http://www.prowrestlingleague.com/preview-27-12-15.php>

<http://www.prowrestlingleague.com/pwl-team.php>





# Personalities

## Sanjay Mishra

**Ques: Recently, Who has been appointed as new UP Lokayukta by the Supreme Court of India?**

- (a) Satish Chandra Mishra
- (b) Sanjay Mishra
- (c) Virendra Singh
- (d) Sudheer Agrawal

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 28 January 2016, The Supreme Court today appointed former judge of the Allahabad High Court Justice Sanjay Mishra as the Lokayukta of Uttar Pradesh.
- The apex court bench comprising Justice Ranjan Gogoi and Justice Prafulla C Pant appointed Mishra as the Lokayukta, while recalling their earlier order.
- Earlier in December 16, 2015 with a rare display of its extraordinary powers vested under Article 142 of the Constitution, Supreme Court bench ordered to appoint former Justice Virendra Singh as Lokayukta.



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/supreme-court-appoints-justice-sanjay-mishra-as-up-lokayukta/article8161705.ece>  
<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/supreme-court-appoints-justice-sanjay-mishra-as-up-lokayukta/1/581430.html>

## Rebelo de Sousa

**Ques: On 24 January 2016 who among the following won the presidential election of Portugal?**

- (a) Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa
- (b) Anibal Cavaco *Silva*
- (c) Antnio Sampaio da Novoa
- (d) Marisa Matias

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 24 January 2016 Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa of Social Democratic Party (PSD) won Portugal's presidential election.
- 52% of the total vote cast was received by Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa.
- His closest rival, Antonio Sampaio da Novoa, conceded defeat after picking up around 22.89 percent of the vote.
- Rebelo de Sousa will succeed President Anibal Cavaco Silva who served two consecutive five-year terms as president.
- This time 10 candidates contested the presidential election which is a record in itself.
- 67 years old Rebelo de Sousa is a law professor and a former journalist he will be sworn in as the 20th president of Portugal.



**Reference:**

<http://america.aljazeera.com/articles/2016/1/24/social-democrat-rebelo-de-sousa-wins-portugal-presidential-vote-outrig>  
<http://www.reuters.com/article/us-portugal-president-election-idUSKCN0V211E>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese\\_presidential\\_election,\\_2016](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_presidential_election,_2016)



## Ravi Chellam

**Ques:** Recently who has assumed charge as the executive director of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Greenpeace India on 20 January 2016?

- (a) Rajendra Kumar
- (b) Rajendra Kumar Pachauri
- (c) Ravi Chellam
- (d) Dinesh Chaturvedi

**Ans (c)**

**Related fact:**



- On 20 January 2016, the NGO announced that Noted environmentalist Ravi Chellam has assumed charge as the executive director of Greenpeace India.
- He has replaced former Executive Director Samit Aichhad resigned in June 2015.
- Prior to joining Greenpeace he has worked with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), United Nations Development Programme(UNDP), Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, Wildlife Conservation Society (India Program), Madras Crocodile Bank Trust amongst others.

**Reference:**

[http://www.greenpeace.org/india/en/Blog/Campaign\\_blogs/meet-greenpeace-indias-new-executive-director/blog/55279/](http://www.greenpeace.org/india/en/Blog/Campaign_blogs/meet-greenpeace-indias-new-executive-director/blog/55279/)

<http://www.outlookindia.com/news/article/ravi-chellam-takes-charge-as-new-head-of-greenpeace-india/927582>

## Atulesh Jindal

**Question:** Recently who has been appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet?

- (a) A .K Jain
- (b) Nripendra Jha
- (c) Atulesh Jindal
- (d) Anita Kapoor

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 22 January 2016, Atulesh Jindal is appointed as the chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) by Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.
- He is an IRS (Indian Revenue Services) officer of 1978 batch.
- He will replace AK Jain who will be retired at the end of this month.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>



## Yasutaro Koide

**Question:** Recently the world's oldest person Yasutaro Koide died. How much old he was?

- (a) 113
- (b) 112
- (c) 109
- (d) 110

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 19 January 2016, the world's oldest man died in Japan at the age of 112 after suffering chronic heart problems.
- Mr. Koide was born on March 13, 1903, died two months short of his 113th birthday.
- Koide's died just five months after Guinness Book of world presented him with a certificate of his title "world's oldest man" in August 2015.
- The award was given after death of Sakari Momoi of Saitama, Japan.

**Reference:**

<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/19/asia/japan-oldest-man-dies/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/yasutaro-koide-worlds-oldest-man-dies-at-112/article8123773.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sakari\\_Momoi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sakari_Momoi)



## Mrinalini Sarabhai

**Question:** Recently died famous classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabha was associated with which of the following forms of dance?

- (a) Bharatnatyam, Kathakali and Mohiniyattom
- (b) Kathak and Odissi
- (c) Bharatnatyam and Kathak
- (d) Bharatnatyam, Kathak and Odissi

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21 January 2016, famous classical dancer Mrinalini Sarabha passed away in Ahmedabad at the age of 97.
- She was a famous dancer, choreographer and instructor of Bharatnatyam, Kathakali and Mohiniyattom.
- She was the wife of the Father of the Indian Space Program and renowned Indian scientist Vikram Sarabhai.
- Mrinalini was awarded by the Indian government with the national civilian awards Padma Bhushan in 1992 and the Padma Shri in 1965
- She also wrote an autobiography, titled " Mrinalini Sarabhai:The Voice of the Heart".



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/noted-danseuse-mrinalini-sarabhai-passed-away/article8133753.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mrinalini\\_Sarabhai](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mrinalini_Sarabhai)

## Rahul Thakkar

**Ques :** Which of the following Indian will be awarded with Oscar 2016 for 'groundbreaking design'?

- (a) Rahul Thakkar
- (b) Bhanu Athaiya
- (c) Resul Pookutty
- (d) Satyajit Ray

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts**

- On February 13, 2016 the Indian-origin actor, producer Rahul Thakkar will be honoured with Academy Award in a function held at the Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills.
- 10 scientific and technical achievements represented by 33 individual award recipients will be honored during annual Scientific and Technical Awards.
- Bhanu Athaiya, Satyajit Ray, Resul Pookutty, A.R. Rahman and Gulzar had also awarded with Academy Awards before Rahul Thakkar from India.
- Rahul Thakkar is a computer engineering graduate from Mumbai University.
- Mr. Thakkar shares the honour with Richard Chuang for “groundbreaking design” of the review workflows and advanced playback features, of the DreamWorks Animation Media Review System.
- Mr. Thakkar, who took his Master’s degree in computer science from Utah State University, has over 20 years of experience in product design and research.



**Reference**

<http://www.oscars.org/news/11-scientific-and-technical-achievements-be-honored-academy-awardsr>

## Guenter Butschek

**Ques: Who has appointed as chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) of the Tata Motors Ltd?**

- (a) Guenter Butschek
- (b) Ralf Speth
- (c) Karl Sym
- (d) Nasser Munjee

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 18 January 2016, India's largest automaker Tata Motors Ltd's has appointed Guenter Butschek as chief executive officer (CEO) and managing director (MD) of the company.
- Butschek will lead all operations of Tata Motors in India and in international markets including South Korea, Thailand, Indonesia and South Africa.
- Jaguar Land Rover (Its British subsidiary) would continue to be managed by its Chief Executive Officer and Director, Dr Ralf Speth, who is also on the Board of Tata Motors.
- Mr Butschek is expected to join the company by 15th February, 2016.
- Prior to this appointment he had served as chief operating officer (COO) of plane-maker Airbus Group and also was member of the group executive committee.



**Reference:**

<http://www.tatamotors.com/press/tata-motors-appoints-mr-guenter-butschek-as-chief-executive-officer-managing-director/>  
<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/tata-motors-appoints-former-airbus-official-guenter-butschek-as-ceo-md/article8120588.ece>

## Tsai Ing-wen

**Question: Recently who has been elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Female President of Taiwan?**

- (a) Tsai Ing-wen
- (b) Chan Yung-jan
- (c) Chien Yu-chin
- (d) Chen Chu

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 16 January 2016, Pro-Independence Opposition candidate of Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) **Tsai Ing-wen** (59) has been elected as first female and 14th President of Taiwan.
- Ms Tsai's victory is the biggest mandate ever won by a DPP president and is only the second-ever victory for the DPP since Taiwan split with China in 1949.
- In the 2016 general elections, DPP led by Tsai emerged victorious with 56 percent of the total vote share.
- She defeated Eric Chu of the ruling Kuomintang (KMT) Party that secured 31 percent vote share.
- Born on 31 August 1956 in Taipei, Taiwan, Tsai graduated from the College of Law, National Taiwan University in 1978.
- She obtained a Master of Laws at Cornell University Law School in 1980 and then a Ph.D. in law at the London School of Economics in 1984.



**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-35333647>  
<http://edition.cnn.com/2016/01/18/asia/taiwan-president-tsai-ing-wen/>  
[http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/17/world/asia/taiwan-elections.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/01/17/world/asia/taiwan-elections.html?_r=0)  
<http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/jan/16/taiwan-elects-first-female-president>

## V Rama Rao

**Ques:** Recently died V. Rama Rao was the former governor of which of the following state?

- (a) Sikkim
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 17 January 2016 Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former Sikkim Governor Ventrappagada Rama Rao passed away in Hyderabad after prolonged illness. He was 80.
- Rama Rao was one of the founders of Jana Sangh (later became BJP) in Andhra Pradesh.
- He was also Andhra Pradesh BJP president during 1992-93 and 1996-97.
- He was elected as MLC on four occasions in the erstwhile Andhra Pradesh State Legislature.
- Rama Rao was born on 12 December 1935 in Machilipatnam in Krishna district of Andhra Pradesh.
- He was a lawyer by profession and had practiced at the Andhra Pradesh High Court.
- In October 2002, he was appointed by President of India as the Governor of Sikkim. **He served as Governor of Sikkim from 2002 to 2007.**



**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/andhra-pradesh/former-sikkim-governor-v-rama-rao-passes-away/article8117994.ece>

<http://www.deccanchronicle.com/politics/180116/hyderabad-veteran-bjp-leader-rama-rao-no-more.html>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/former-sikkim-guv-v-rama-rao-passes-away-116011700560\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/former-sikkim-guv-v-rama-rao-passes-away-116011700560_1.html)

## Gopal Krishna Roy passed away

**Ques:** Biographical book on Suchitra Sen named 'Suchitra-r kotha' was written by-

- (a) Ashok Sodhi
- (b) Moolchand Yadav
- (c) Jagendra Singh
- (d) Gopal Krishna Roy

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts**

- On January 17, 2016 Veteran journalist Gopal Krishna Roy passed away. He was 82.
- Roy worked with news agency UNI (United News of India) for several years.
- Roy was known for his proximity to late legendary actress Suchitra Sen and journalists would often fall back on him for information about her as she had lived in seclusion since her last film in 1978.
- Roy had also written a biographical book on Sen named 'Suchitra-r kotha'.



**Reference**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/veteran-journalist-passes-away/article8117786.ece>



## Alan Rickman

**Question:** Recently British actor Alan Rickman passed away, He worked in which of the following famous film?

- (a) Harry Potter
- (b) Gandhi
- (c) The Avenger
- (d) Titanic

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 14 January 2016, British actor Alan Rickman passed away in London, England. He was 69 and was suffering from cancer.
- He was known for his roles in Harry Potter, Robin Hood and Love Actually as well as a successful stage career.
- He was loved by all for his role as Professor Snape in the Harry Potter films.
- In 1996, he earned a Golden Globe Award, an Emmy Award and a Screen Actors Guild Award for his portrayal of the title character in **Rasputin: Dark Servant of Destiny**.
- He won a BAFTA Award for his role in Robin Hood.

**Reference:**

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0000614/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan\\_Rickman](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alan_Rickman)



## Rajesh Vivek

**Question:** Which was the first film of recently died Bollywood actor Rajesh Vivek?

- (a) Junoon
- (b) Agneepath
- (c) Kachche Dhaage
- (d) Swadesh

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The famous Bollywood actor Rajesh Vivek, died of a heart attack during the shooting in Hyderabad on 14 January 2016.
- The actor was 66 years old.
- Rajesh was born on January 31, 1949 to Raj Bahadur Upadhyay (1904–1980) & Prem Kumari Upadhyay (1912–1992).
- He completed his M.A. in Ancient history & Archaeology from T.D.Degree College, Jaunpur(Uttar Pradesh).
- Rajesh Vivek was first introduced by Shyam Benegal in his film 'Junoon' (1978).
- Rajesh was well-known for his role of an astrologer Guran in Aamir Khan-starrer Lagaan, and as a postman in Shah Rukh Khan's Swades.
- Some of his latest films include 'Bunty Aur Babli', 'Bhoot Uncle', 'What is Your Rashee', 'Agneepath', 'Son of Sardaar', 'Dishkiyaaun'.
- He had also acted in popular television series 'Mahabharata', 'Bharat Ek Khoj' and in 'Aghori'.
- He had played the role of Veda Vyasa in the popular Indian series Mahabharat (TV series)

**Reference:**

<https://rajesh-vivek.tributes.in/>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajesh\\_Vivek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rajesh_Vivek)



## Lt Gen J.F.R Jacob

**Ques: Recently, Lt. Gen. J. F. R. Jacob died. He played a significant role in which of the following war?**

- (a) India-China War
- (b) India-Pakistan War 1971
- (c) India-Pakistan War 1998
- (d) World War-II

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Lieutenant General Jacob-Farj-Rafael Jacob (retired) died on 13 January 2016 after prolonged illness in New Delhi. He was 92.
- He fought in Indo-Pakistan War of 1965 and Indo-Pakistan War of 1971.
- Lt Gen Jacob gained prominence when as Major General he served as the Chief of Staff of the Indian Army's Eastern Command that defeated the Pakistan Army in East Pakistan during the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War.
- He enlisted in the British Indian Army in 1942.
- Jacob joined the army at the age of 19 and also fought in World War II retired from Army in 1978.
- He also served as the Governor of Goa and Punjab after his retirement.
- He authored two books named **Surrender at Dacca: Birth of a Nation** and **An Odyssey in War and Peace: An Autobiography Lt Gen. J.F.R. Jacob**.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134442>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J. F. R. Jacob](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/J._F._R._Jacob)

## Binny Bansal

**Ques: Recently, Who has been appointed as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the nation's leading e-commerce firm flipkart?**

- (a) Sachin Bansal
- (b) Binny Bansal
- (c) Pawan Bansal
- (d) Kunal Bansal

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Nation's leading e-commerce giant Flipkart has promoted co-founder Binny Bansal to the post of Chief Executive Officer (CEO) from current post Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the company.
- He will succeed incumbent CEO Sachin Bansal (since inception of company) who has been appointed as newly-created post of Executive Chairman of the company.
- Binny Bansal by profession is an Indian Software engineer and Internet entrepreneur especially in ecommerce business.
- In 2007, he had co-founded the e-commerce platform Flipkart along with Sachin Bansal.
- Earlier, in September 2015 Forbes India Richest List Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal was ranked 86<sup>th</sup> out of 100.



**Reference:**

<http://stories.flipkart.com/flipkart-management-structure/>

<http://www.flipkart.com/about-us>

## Newly appointed Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India

**Ques: Recently who has been appointed as Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India?**

- (a) Sailesh
- (b) Abhikant Das
- (c) Ashok Chawla
- (d) Siraj Hussain

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 8 January 2016, Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has appointment of Shri Sailesh, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs as Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India.
- He will replace C. Chandramoulion his completion of tenure on 08.01.2016.
- He will be in the rank and pay of Additional Secretary for a period till 28.07.2017 or until further orders.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134285>

## Devender Kumar Sikri

**Ques: Recently who has been appointed as Chairman of Competition Commission of India (CCI)?**

- (a) Ashok Chawla
- (b) Devendra Kumar Sikri
- (c) Sailesh
- (d) Ranglal Jamuda

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 7 January 2016, Union Government has appointed former IAS Devender Kumar Sikri as Chairman of Competition Commission of India (CCI).
- He will succeed Ashok Chawla whose tenure ended as the Chairman of CCI.
- He will have tenure of about two and half years i.e. till he attains the age of 65 years.
- Competition Commission of India is statutory body established under The Competition Act of 2002. It was established in 2003 and became fully functional in 2009.
- It consists of a Chairperson and 6 Members appointed by the Union Government.
- CCI's duty is to eliminate practices having adverse effect on competition, promote and sustain competition, protect the interests of consumers and ensure freedom of trade in the markets of India.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134366>

## David Bowie

**Ques:** Recently died David Bowie was related to which of the following fields?

- (a) Music
- (b) Arts
- (c) Science
- (d) Journalism

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- David Bowie, one of the most influential British singers passed away on 10 January 2016 due to throat cancer. He was 69.
- Born on 8 January 1947, David Bowie was an English singer, songwriter, multi-instrumentalist, record producer, arranger, painter and actor.
- Bowie was a legendary singer-songwriter and producer who excelled at glam rock, art rock, soul, hard rock, dance pop, punk and electronica during his over 40-year career.
- His first hit song, Space Oddity, reached the top five of the UK Singles Chart after its release in July 1969.
- Bowie turned 69 on 8 January 2016, on the same day he released a new album called "Blackstar".



**Reference:**

<http://www.davidbowie.com/>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/entertainment-arts-35278872>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/singer-david-bowie-passes-away-at-69/article8094123.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/singer-david-bowie-passes-away-at-69/article8094123.ece>

## Ravindra Kalia

**Question:** Recently noted Hindi writer and journalist Ravindra Kalia passed away, which of the following is a major story collection written by him?

- (a) Nau Saal Chotti Patni
- (b) Naya Gyanodaya
- (c) Vagarth
- (d) Khuda Sahi Salamat hay

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Noted Hindi writer and journalist Ravindra Kalia passed away on 9 January 2016 in New Delhi. He was 78.
- The writer is known for his works like **Nau Saal Chotti Patni** and **Ghalib Chutti Sharab**.
- The former Bharatiya Jnanpith director, Kalia was also the editor of several literary magazines, including **Naya Gyanodaya**.
- Born on 11 November 1938 in Jalandhar, Punjab, Kalia was mainly famous for writing stories, novels, memoirs and satires.
- Story Collection: Nau Saal Chotti Patni, Ghalib Chutti Sharab, Kala Register, Garibhi Hataao, Banke Laal, Gally Kuche, Ckayaneem.
- Fiction: Khuda Sahi Salamat hay, A B C D, 17 Ranade Road
- Awards and Honours: Uttar Pradesh (UP) Premchand Memorail Award, Pdulal Bakshi Award of Madhya Pradesh Government, UP Sahitya Bhushan Award, UP Lohia Award, Punjab Government's Shiromani award.



**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hindi-writer-ravindra-kalia-passes-away-116010900763\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/hindi-writer-ravindra-kalia-passes-away-116010900763_1.html)

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/hindi-writer-ravindra-kalia-passes-away/1/567034.html>



## Pavan Kapoor

**Question:** Recently Pavan Kapoor an Indian Foreign Service officer named as India's new ambassador to which of the following country?

- (a) Egypt
- (b) Iran
- (c) Israel
- (d) Saudi Arabia

**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- Pavan Kapoor, a 1990 batch Indian Foreign Service officer, was on 7 January 2016 named as India's new ambassador to Israel.
- Mr Kapoor is currently India's High Commissioner in Mozambique capital Maputo.
- He will succeed Jaideep Sarkar.



**Reference:**

<http://mea.gov.in/press-releases.htm?dtl/26259/Pavan+Kapoor+appointed+as+the+next+Ambassador+of+India+to+Israel>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/pavan-kapoor-to-be-indias-ambassador-to-israel-1263251>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/india/ifs-pavan-kapoor-is-india-s-new-ambassador-to-israel/story-F0IM2d56rqvinauDUdae1K.html>

## Dr. Urjit R. Patel

**Ques:** Who has been re-appointed as RBI deputy governor for 3 more years?

- (a) H R Khan
- (b) Urjit Patel
- (c) R Gandhi
- (d) S S Mundra

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Union Government on 8 January 2016 re-appointed Dr. Urjit R. Patel, as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for a second three-year term.
- Dr. Urjit R. Patel was earlier appointed as Deputy Governor for a period of three years from January 11, 2013.
- The re-appointment of Patel assumes significance as in recent past none of the deputy governors got a second term.

**Reference:**

[https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35933](https://www.rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35933)

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/banking-finance/rbi-urjit-patel-reappointed-as-rbi-deputy-governor-for-three-years/190842/>

<http://www.businesstoday.in/management/executives/urjit-patel-reappointed-as-rbi-deputy-governor-for-three-years/story/227949.html>





## Sachin Tendulkar

**Ques: "Novo Nordisk" company, especially committed to treatment of which of the following for disease?**

- (a) Diabetes
- (b) Hepatitis
- (c) Malaria
- (d) Cancer

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 4 January 2016, Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk today announced Indian cricket star Sachin Tendulkar as brand ambassador for the disease awareness campaign 'Changing Diabetes' initiated by it in India.
- Novo Nordisk, world's leading diabetes care company.
- It is to be noted that the highest number of diabetic patients hails from India.
- According to the Melvin D'Souza, Vice-President and General Manager of Novo Nordisk India the campaign focused on raising awareness of diabetes and its impact on the lives of people affected by it, their families, society and eventually the country at large.

**Reference:**

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sachin-is-brand-ambassador-for-novo-nordisk-s-diabetes-campaign-116010400857\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/companies/sachin-is-brand-ambassador-for-novo-nordisk-s-diabetes-campaign-116010400857_1.html)

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/sports/eat-smart-and-hit-the-gym/article8065282.ece>

<http://www.novonordisk.co.in/>



## Lieutenant General Suresh Sharma

**Ques: Who has appointed as the Director General Border Roads?**

- (a) Lt Gen Suresh Sharma
- (b) Lt Gen Mukesh Verma
- (c) Lt Gen Dinesh Sharma
- (d) Lt Gen Rajesh Purohit

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts**

- On January 6, 2016 Lieutenant General Suresh Sharma has taken over as the 24th Director General Border Roads (DGBR).
- Lt Gen Suresh Sharma was commissioned into Corps of Engineers from Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.
- He has been Chief Operations Officer and advisor to United Nations Mission in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

**Reference**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134231>



## Labhshankar Thakar

**Ques:** Which of the following literary works is not written by Labhshankar Thakar?

- (a) Kalgranthi
- (b) Kamayani
- (c) Pravahan
- (d) Mara Namne Darwaje

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Noted Gujarati writer and poet Labhshankar Thakar passed away on 6 January 2016 following prolonged illness in Ahmedabad. He was 80.
- He was a modernist author of Gujarati literature with influence of existentialism challenging traditional literature styles.
- Thakar was born on 14 January 1935 in Sedla village near Surendranagar in Gujarat.
- He was popularly known by his penname Punarvasu and Vaidya Punarvasu
- He got Sahitya Akadami Award (1991) for his poetry- Tolan Aawaz Ghunghat and Sahitya Gaurav Puraskar (2002) of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad.
- Some of his famous poems are Vahi Jati Pachhal Ramya Ghosha (1965), Manasni Vaat (1968), Mara Namne Darwaje (1972), Boom Kagalma Kora (1974), Pravahan (1986), Kalagranthi (1987).



**Reference:**

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labhshankar\\_Thakar](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Labhshankar_Thakar)

<http://deshgujarat.com/2016/01/06/noted-gujarati-litterateur-labhshankar-thakar-passes-away/>

<http://tv9gujarati.in/2016/01/07/eminant-gujarati-writer-labhshankar-thakar-passes-away-ahmedabad-tv9/>

## SH Kapadia

**Ques: Chief Justice of India Sarosh Homi Kapadia passes away. He was the first Chief Justice of Supreme Court which belongs to -**

- (a) Parsis Community
- (b) Buddhist Community
- (c) Jewish Community
- (d) Jain Community

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts

- January 4, 2015 former Chief Justice of India Sarosh Homi Kapadia died in Mumbai. He was 68.
- Justice Kapadia was appointed as the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court in May, 2010 and retired in September 2012.
- It is notable that Justice Kapadia was the first Chief Justice of Supreme Court which came from Parsi community.
- Justice Kapadia is most remembered for his verdict in 2G, Vodafone, Sahara and Salwa Judum.



### Reference

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Former-CJI-SH-Kapadia-passes-away/articleshow/50456529.cms>

<http://supremecourtindia.nic.in/judges/rcji/38shkapadia.htm>

## Dr. Gyanendra D. Bandgaiyan

**Ques : Who is appointed as the Director General of "National Centre for Good Governance"?**

- (a) Dr. Gyanendra D. Bandgaiyan
- (b) A. K. Seth
- (c) D. Arvind Kumar
- (d) P. Subramanian

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts

- On December 30, 2015 The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has approved the appointment of Ex-Chief Economist, UNDP Dr. Gyanendra D. Bandgaiyan as Director General of National Centre for Good Governance.
- Mr. Bandgaiyan has been appointed for a period of three years which is extendable by another two years or up to 60 years of age, an order issued by Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT).
- The NCGG, an autonomous institution under the administrative control of the DoPT.



### Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134050>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/gyanendra-bandgaiyan-to-head-good-governance-think-tank/article8045756.ece>

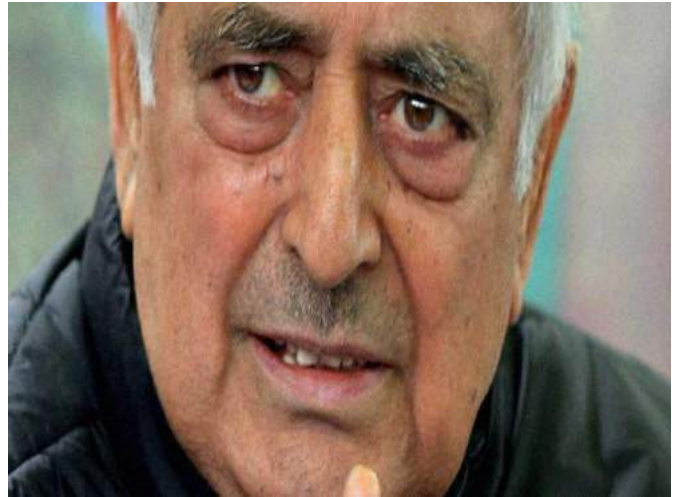
**Question: Who had become the first Muslim Minister for Home Affairs?**

- (a) Mufti Mohammad Sayeed
- (b) Salman Akhatar
- (c) Sheikh Abdulla
- (d) Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 7 January 2016, Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir Mufti Mohammad Sayeed passed away of multiple organ failure in New Delhi. He was 79.
- Mr. Sayeed, a two-time Chief Minister of J&K had started his second tenure on March 1st, 2015 heading Peoples Democratic Party-Bhartiya Janta Party (PDP-BJP) coalition government.
- He was born on 12 January 1936 in Anantnag district of South Kashmir.
- He has done Graduation from SP College Srinagar and completed his Post Graduate in Arabic and in Law from Aligarh Muslim University.
- He had started his political career with Democratic National Conference (DNC) Party of G M Sadiq from grass root level in 1950s.
- For first time he was elected to J&K state assembly from Bijbehara in 1962.
- In 1967 he was again elected from the same seat and he served as Deputy Minister in Ghulam Mohammed Sadiq led state government.
- Later he fell out with the DNC and joined the Indian National Congress (INC) becoming cabinet minister in Congress Government.
- He had served as Union Minister for Tourism and Civil Aviation in Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1986.
- In 1987 he left the Congress Party and co-founded Jan Morcha with former Prime Minister V.P. Singh.
- In 1989, he became first Muslim Minister for Home Affairs in the Union Cabinet headed by then PM V.P. Singh.
- In 1989, within few days of taking office as the Union Minister for Home Affairs, his third daughter, Rubaiya, was kidnapped by the militants.
- She was released in exchange for the release of five militants.
- He left the Congress party in 1999 along with his daughter Mehbooba Mufti to form his own Jammu and Kashmir People's Democratic Party (PDP).
- For first time he became CM in 2002 heading PDP-Congress coalition government and was in office from November 2002 to November 2005.
- In 2015, the PDP in his leadership became the largest party in the Jammu and Kashmir state assembly election, the government formed in coalition with the BJP and he became the CM again.



**Reference:**

<http://jkcmsecretariat.nic.in/>

<http://jkpdp.org/chief-patron/>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/jk-chief-minister-mufti-mohammad-sayeed-passes-away/article8075774.ece>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Mufti-Mohammad-Sayeed-Jammu-and-Kashmir-chief-minister-dies/articleshow/50477014.cms>

<http://www.ndtv.com/india-news/mufti-mohammed-sayeed-chief-minister-of-jammu-and-kashmir-dies-1263027>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/mufti-mohammad-sayeed-dies-jammu-and-kashmir/>

## Abidali Neemuchwala

**Question:** Which company has named current chief operating officer (COO) Abidali Neemuchwala as its new chief executive?

- (a) Wipro
- (b) HCL
- (c) TCS
- (d) Mahindra Tech

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- IT giant Wipro, India's third largest IT services exporter, on 4 January 2016 appointed current Chief Operating Officer (COO) Abid Ali Neemuchwala as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and member of the board.
- On the other hand, the current CEO T K Kurien was elevated as its new executive vice-chairman. Both the changes will be effective 1 February 2016.



**Reference:**

<http://www.wipro.com/newsroom/press-releases/Wipro-Limited-appoints-TK-Kurien-as-Executive-Vice-Chairman-Abidali-Neemuchwala-as-CEO-and-Member-of-the-Board/>  
<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/wipro-names-abid-ali-neemuchwala-as-ceo/article8064911.ece>  
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/tech/ites/wipro-shuns-radical-rejig-pins-hope-on-abidali-neemuchwala-for-revival/articleshow/50446029.cms>

## Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria

**Ques :** Recently Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria took over as -

- (a) Navy chief
- (b) Air Chief
- (c) Air Force deputy chief
- (d) Deputy chief of Army

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts**

- On January 1, 2016 Air Marshal Rakesh Kumar Singh Bhadauria took over as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.
- Prior to taking over as DCAS, Air Marshal Bhadauria was Senior Air Staff Officer at Central Air Command of IAF.
- He is an Experimental Test Pilot, Cat 'A' Qualified Flying Instructor and Pilot Attack Instructor with over 4200 hours of experience on over twenty five types of fighter and transport aircraft.
- He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy and was commissioned in the IAF in June 1980.
- Air Marshal Bhadauria is a recipient of Ati Vishisht Seva Medal and Vayu Sena Medal conferred in 2013 and 2002 respectively.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134102>



## AB Bardhan

**Question:** Veteran Communist Party of India (CPI) leader A.B. Bardhan, who passed away recently, was CPI's general secretary for how many years?

- (a) 16 Years
- (b) 14 Years
- (c) 10 Years
- (d) 6 Years

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Veteran Communist Party of India (CPI) leader A B Bardhan (Ardhendu Bhushan Bardhan) passed away on 2 January 2016 after a long illness. He was 92 years old.
- AB Bardhan has been a leading figure of the trade union movement and Left politics in Maharashtra.
- Bardhan worked with workers ranging from various sectors like textile, electricity, railways, defence etc. He contested several elections from Nagpur but was elected only once to the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly in 1957 as an independent candidate
- He was CPI's general secretary for 16 years from 1996 to 2012.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/veteran-cpi-leader-ab-bardhan-passes-away/article8058830.ece>  
<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/veteran-cpi-leader-a-b-bardhan-passes-away/>  
<http://www.firstpost.com/politics/veteran-cpi-leader-a-b-bardhan-passes-away-2568632.html>



## S. Javeed Ahmad

**Question:** Recently who has been appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh by the state government?

- (a) Surya Prakash Shukla
- (b) S. Javeed Ahmad
- (c) Jagmohan Yadav
- (d) A. K. Jain

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1 January 2016 S. Javeed Ahmed has been appointed as Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh by the state government.
- Javeed Ahmad is a 1984 batch Indian Police Service officer.
- He succeeds Jagmohan Yadav, who retired from the post on 31 December 2015.
- Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the Director General of police (Railways) in Lucknow.

**Reference:**

<https://uppolice.gov.in/>  
<http://ddinews.gov.in/National/National%20-%20Headlines/Pages/newdgpofup.aspx>



## Mangesh Keshav Padgaonkar

**Question:** Recently poet Mangesh Keshav Padgaonkar has passed away; He got the Sahitya Academy Award in which year?

- (a) 1980
- (b) 1979
- (c) 1981
- (d) 1982

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Marathi poet and Padma Bhushan recipient Mangesh Keshav Padgaonkar passed away on 30 December 2015 after a brief illness. He was 86.
- He was born on March 10, 1929 in Vengurla, Sindhudurg district in Maharashtra, he received a Master of Arts degree in Marathi and Sanskrit from the University of Bombay.
- He has written a collection of essays and published it under the title “Nimbonichya Zadamage”.
- He has also penned lyrics for many Marathi film songs sung by Arun Date, “Ya Janmawar, Ya Jaganyawar Shatada Prem Karawe”, “Bhatukalichya Khelamadhali” and “Shukratara Mand Wara” are well known.
- Mr. Padgaonkar received several awards, including the Sahitya Academy Award in 1980 for his collection of poems 'Salam'.
- He received the MP Literary Conference Award in 1956, and the Maharashtra State Award in 1953 and 1955.
- In 2008, Mr. Padgaonkar was awarded with Maharashtra Bhushan Award.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/marathi-poet-mangesh-padgaonkar-passes-away/article8044860.ece>  
<http://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-news-india/veteran-marathi-poet-and-padma-award-recipient-mangesh-padgaonkar-passes-away/>  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/entertainment/marathi/music/Mangesh-Padgaonkar-poet-marathi/articleshow/50377130.cms>



# Sports Personalities

## Apurvi Chandela

**Question:** Which Indian shooter had recently made the world record?

- (a) Apurvi Chandela
- (b) Anjali bhagwat
- (c) Heena Sidhu
- (d) Tejaswini Sawant

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 5 January 2016, Indian shooter Apurvi Chandela broke the world record on way to winning gold in the women's 10 metre air rifle event at the Swedish Cup Grand Prix.
- Chandela shot 211.2 in the event held on 5 January 2016 to surpass the feat of Chinese Olympic gold medallist Yi Siling, who held the record with 211.
- The silver and bronze went to Swedish shooters Astrid Steffensen (207.6) and Stine Nielsen (185.0) respectively.
- Chandela had won the gold in the National Championships held in December 2015.

**Reference:**

[http://www.esc-shooting.org/calendar/view/222-swedish\\_cup\\_2016/](http://www.esc-shooting.org/calendar/view/222-swedish_cup_2016/)

[http://iof3.idrottonline.se/ImageVaultFiles/id\\_144337/cf\\_104/Resultbook\\_Swedish\\_Cup\\_2016.PDF](http://iof3.idrottonline.se/ImageVaultFiles/id_144337/cf_104/Resultbook_Swedish_Cup_2016.PDF)

<http://www.issf-sports.org/athletes/athlete.ashx?personissfid=SHINDW0401199301>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/other-sports/swedish-cup-grand-prix-shooting-tournament-apurvi-chandela-wins-gold-with-world-record-effort/article8073001.ece>



## Maria Teresa de Filippis

**Question:** Recently first female F1 (Formula One) driver Maria Teresa de Filippis passed away, to which country did she belong?

- (a) France
- (b) Italy
- (c) Portugal
- (d) America

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The first female F1 (Formula One) driver Maria Teresa de Filippis passed away on 8 January 2016 in Italy. She was 89.
- She was born on 11 November 1926 in Naples, Italy.
- Between the years 1958-59 she took part in five World Grand Prix champion.

**Reference:**

<http://www.bbc.com/sport/formula1/35272662>

<http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/jan/09/maria-teresa-de-filippis-female-f1-driver>

<http://www.formula1.com/content/fom-website/en/latest/headlines/2016/1/maria-teresa-de-filippis--first-female-f1-racer--dies-at-89.html>



## Pranav Dhanawade made world record

**Question:** Which player has recently set a world record of most runs in a single game?

- (a) AEJ Collins
- (b) Prithvi Shaw
- (c) PranavDhanawade
- (d) Mobin Sheikh

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- 15-year-old cricketer PranavDhanawade created a world record by scoring 1009 runs (not out) in HT Bhandari Cup, an under-16 inter-school tournament held in Mumbai (Maharashtra).
- His batting lasted for 396 minutes and Dhanawade smashed a whopping 129 fours and 59 sixes.
- He was representing KC Gandhi High School against AryaGurukul and scored 1009 (not out) in 327 balls with strike rate of 308.56.
- Pranav now holds the record for the highest individual score in any form of cricket; bettering AEJ Collins' 628 not out for Clark's House against North Town in 1899 in the UK.



**Reference:**

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/ci/engine/current/match/958397.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/with-1009-in-323-balls-mumbai-teen-scripts-rare-record/article8068635.ece>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-35230388>

<http://www.theguardian.com/sport/2016/jan/05/the-spin-pranav-dhanawade-1009>

[http://static.espncriinfo.com/db/ARCHIVE/1890S/1899/ENG\\_LOCAL/OTHERS/CLARKES\\_NORTH-TOWN\\_22-28JUN1899.html](http://static.espncriinfo.com/db/ARCHIVE/1890S/1899/ENG_LOCAL/OTHERS/CLARKES_NORTH-TOWN_22-28JUN1899.html)

## Laxmi Ratan Shukla

**Question:** Recently Laxmi Ratan Shukla has announced his retirement from all forms of official cricket; he represented which team in Ranji Trophy?

- (a) West Bengal
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Maharashtra

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 30 December 2015, former captain of West Bengal Ranji Trophy team Laxmi Ratan Shukla, the Bengal all-rounder, has announced his retirement from all forms of official cricket.
- He made his international debut in Nagpur in 1999, and played three ODIs in all and scored 18 runs.
- He played 137 first-class matches in all, scoring 6217 runs including nine centuries.
- He also picked up 172 wickets with his seam-up bowling.
- Shukla also played 47 IPL matches, representing Kolkata Knight Riders, Delhi Daredevils and Sunrisers Hyderabad.



**Reference:**

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/india/content/story/956617.html>

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/india/content/player/34019.html>



# Places

## Safari Park in North Bengal

**Ques:** On January 21, 2016 which of the following Indian state inaugurated its first safari park?

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) West Bengal
- (d) Jharkhand

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On January 21, 2016, the West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee inaugurated the first phase of the state's first safari park.
- The Safari Park is opened in Sauriya near Siliguri in north Bengal.
- A Rs 250 crore-project is presently house to 15 Sambar Deer, 15 barking Deer, 120 spotted Deer (chital), one male Rhino, wild Boars, Jungle Fowl, Jungle Cats, and golden and silver Pheasants.
- Ten swamp Deer, one female Rhino and Bisons would be brought in soon.
- By the end of 2016, the park is expected to would house about 250 herbivores and carnivores.

**Reference:**

<https://web.facebook.com/MamataBanerjeeOfficial/posts/1017737151626959>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/mamata-inaugurates-safari-park-in-north-bengal/article8134787.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/mamata-inaugurates-safari-park-in-north-bengal/1/576243.html>

<http://www.millenniumpost.in/NewsContent.aspx?NID=234590>



# Ranchi

**Question:** Recently where did the defence minister Manohar Parrikar hoisted the world's tallest and largest Indian national flag?

- (a) Gandhinagar
- (b) Bengaluru
- (c) Goa
- (d) Ranchi

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 23 January 2016, on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, defence minister



Manohar Parrikar unfurled the tallest and largest Indian national flag at Ranchi's popular Pahari Mandir.

- Its height is 66 meters and width is 99 feet.
- In Ranchi, the tricolor is hoisted on the pole of 293 feet.
- The project took more than 120 workers and 40 days to put up the flag post, costing an estimated Rs 1.25 crore, of which Rs 44 lakh was spent on the flag alone.
- In this way Ranchi broke the record of Faridabad where in 2015 national flag of 64 feet high and 96 feet wide was hoisted on the pole of 250 feet.

**Reference:**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Worlds-tallest-largest-tricolour-hoisted-at-British-era-hanging-point-in-Ranchi/articleshow/50699030.cms>

<http://www.hindustantimes.com/ranchi/ahead-of-r-day-india-s-largest-tri-colour-unfurled-at-ranchi/story-ozqra4sf330lzIPxgbtxMN.html>

## Jharkhand

**Ques: Recently which of the following states has decided to set up fast track courts for speedy trial of cases related to witchcraft incidents?**

- (a) Jharkhand
- (b) West Bengal
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Assam

Ans (a)

### Related facts

- On January 13, 2016 the government of Jharkhand has decided to set up fast track courts for speedy trial of cases related to witchcraft incidents.
- The fast-track courts will be set up in five districts named as Ranchi, West Singhbhum, Khuti, Palamau and Simdega.
- In Jharkhand, 40 to 50 women are branded as witches on an average every year and killed.
- Since the creation of the state in November 2000, more than 700 women have been killed in this fashion.
- The Jharkhand government formulated an anti-witchcraft law in 2001 and set up a special investigation team to look into these killings.

### Reference

<http://www.jharkhandstatenews.com/fast-track-courts-to-be-set-up-for-speedy-trial-of-witchcraft-cases/#.VqCf-5p97IU>  
[http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/jharkhand-to-set-up-fast-track-courts-for-trial-of-withcraft-116011300015\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/jharkhand-to-set-up-fast-track-courts-for-trial-of-withcraft-116011300015_1.html)  
<http://www.legallyindia.com/bar-bench-litigation/jharkhand-to-set-up-fast-track-courts-for-trying-alleged-murderers-of-women-witches>



# Sikkim Organic Festival-2016

**Ques:** On January 18, 2016 Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sikkim Organic Festival 2016 at-

- (a) Gangtok
- (b) Mangan
- (c) Namchi
- (d) Geyzing

**Ans (a)**

## Related facts

- On January 18, 2016 the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Sikkim Organic Festival 2016 at Saramsa near Gangtok in Sikkim.
- Hilly State Sikkim is the first state of the country which got status of organic state where most of its farm land has been converted into certified organic land.
- The Prime Minister exhorted States to identify a district, or even a block, to convert to a 100 percent organic area.
- The Prime Minister digitally launched the logo of “Sikkim Organic.” He launched three new Orchid species developed in Sikkim.
- The Prime Minister complimented Sikkim for Gangtok being rated as the 10th cleanest city in a survey conducted by the Government of India.
- Referring to the recently announced crop insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the Prime Minister said the scheme had instilled confidence among farmers, and efforts should be made to increase coverage of insurance.
- The Prime Minister said farmers have to be motivated for schemes such as soil health card.
- He led emphasis a network of soil laboratories should come up across the country, and even school labs could be used during summer holiday months for this purpose.
- The Prime Minister suggested that a digital online platform of progressive farmers should be developed in each State.



## Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134579>

<http://www.ddinews.gov.in/Home%20-%20Top%20Story/Pages/PM%20visit%20gangtok.aspx>

## New ancient Buddhist caves found in Mumbai

**Ques:** Recently, how many of ancient Buddhist caves were found by ASI team near Kanheri caves at Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivli (Mumbai)?

- (a) 4
- (b) 5
- (c) 6
- (d) 7

**Ans (d)**

### Related facts

- In January, 2016 Seven Buddhist caves have been discovered at forests of the sprawling Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Borivli (Mumbai).
- The caves are Buddhist 'viharas' (residences for monks) with only one of them showing the remains of a 'harmika' (the top railing of a stupa).
- They are believed to have been constructed before the Kanheri Caves nearby and probably served as a monsoon shelter for the monks.



### Legal issues

- While a formal approval from the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) is awaited for detailed exploration and documentation of the new caves, the team that has discovered the caves date them between 1st century BCE (or BC) and 5th-6th century CE (or AD).
- The discovery was made by a three-member team last February under an excavation programme jointly conducted by the Centre for Archaeology, Mumbai University, and the department of ancient Indian culture, Sathaye College, Vile Parle; the head of the department, Suraj Pandit, led the team.
- The discovery of five of the seven caves was done by a team in February 2015.

### Kanheri Caves

- Kanheri (19°13' N; 72°55' E), the Kanhasela, Krishnagiri, Kanhagiri of ancient inscriptions, is located north of Mumbai, was a major Buddhist centre.
- The caves were excavated as early as mid 3rd century B.C. and were in occupation right up to 11th century A.D.

### Reference

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/Seven-ancient-Buddhist-caves-found-in-national-park/articleshow/50608424.cms>

## Tumkur

**Ques:** Recently Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a plaque for the foundation stone of a new helicopter manufacturing unit of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited located in -

- (a) Pune, Maharashtra
- (b) Sanand, Gujarat
- (c) Tumkur, Karnataka
- (d) Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

**Ans (c)**

### Related facts



- On January 3, 2015 the Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a plaque for the foundation stone of a new helicopter manufacturing unit of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in Tumkur district in Karnataka.
- The central government will invest Rs 5,000 crore in the plant.
- This is the first plant of the country which built completely indigenously developed helicopters under make in India.
- The first helicopter will fly out by 2018.

### Reference:

[http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-unveils-plaque-for-foundation-stone-for-new-helicopter-manufacturing-unit-of-hal-in-tumkur-district/?comment=disable](http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-unveils-plaque-for-foundation-stone-for-new-helicopter-manufacturing-unit-of-hal-in-tumkur-district/?comment=disable)

[http://hal-](http://hal-india.com/PM%20Lays%20Foundation%20Stone%20for%20HAL%E2%80%99s%20New%20Helicopter%20Manufacturing%20Facility%20at%20Tumakuru,%20Karnataka%20Promises%20More%20Support/ND_147)

[india.com/PM%20Lays%20Foundation%20Stone%20for%20HAL%E2%80%99s%20New%20Helicopter%20Manufacturing%20Facility%20at%20Tumakuru,%20Karnataka%20Promises%20More%20Support/ND\\_147](http://hal-india.com/PM%20Lays%20Foundation%20Stone%20for%20HAL%E2%80%99s%20New%20Helicopter%20Manufacturing%20Facility%20at%20Tumakuru,%20Karnataka%20Promises%20More%20Support/ND_147)



# Awards & Honors

## Padma Awards-2016

**Question: In 2016 Padma Awards how many persons were announced to be awarded with Padma Vibhushan?**

- (a) 11
- (b) 10
- (c) 12
- (d) 13

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts:

- On the eve of the 67th Republic Day, January 25, 2016 - Padma awards 2016 were announced by the Union Home Ministry.
- This year President Pranab Mukherjee has approved conferment of 112 Padma Awards.
- This year's list comprises 10 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 83 Padma Shri Awardees.
- 19 of the awardees are women and the list also includes 10 persons from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs (include one posthumous) and 4 Posthumous awardees.
- Padma Awards - one of the highest civilian Awards of the country, are conferred in three categories, namely, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.
- The Awards are given in various disciplines/ fields of activities, viz.- art, social work, public affairs, science and engineering, trade and industry, medicine, literature and education, sports, civil service, etc.
- 'Padma Vibhushan' is awarded for exceptional and distinguished service; 'Padma Bhushan' for distinguished service of high order and 'Padma Shri' for distinguished service in any field.
- The awards are announced on the occasion of Republic Day every year. These awards are conferred by the President of India at ceremonial functions which are held at Rashtrapati Bhawan usually around March/ April every year.

### List of Padma awardees 2016

#### Padma Vibhushan:

- **Art**-Yamini Krishnamurthi (Classical dance), Rajinikanth (Cinema), Girija Devi (Classical Vocal)
- **Literature & Education**-Shri Avinash Dixit (U.S.A), Ramoji Rao (Journalism)
- **Medicine**- Viswanathan Shanta (Oncology)
- **Public Affairs**- Jagmohan
- **Science & Engineering**-Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre



- **Trade & Industry**-Late Shri Dhiru Bhai Ambani (Posthumous)
- **Others**- Shri Ravi Shankar(Spiritualism)

#### **Padma Bhushan:**

- **Art**- Anupam Kher (Cinema), Udit Narayan Jha (Playback Singing), Ram V. Sutar (Sculpture), Heisnam Kanhailal (Theatre).
- **Literature & Education**- Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad, N. S. Ramanuja Tatacharya, Barjinder Singh Hamdard (Journalism).
- **Medicine**- D. Nageshwar Reddy (Gastroenterology)
- **Public Affairs**- Ravindra Chandra Bhargava, Robert Blackwill (U.S.A)
- **Sports**- Saina Nehwal (Badminton), Sania Mirza (Tennis)
- **Trade & Industry**- Indu Jain, Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry (NRI/PIO)
- **Science & Engineering**- Venkata Rama Rao Alla
- **Others**-Swami Tejomayananda (Spiritualism), Hafeez Contractor (Architecture)
- **Civil Service**- Vinod Rai

#### **Padma Shri:**

- **Art**- This time 21 persons in this category have been awarded some of the important name includes-
- Prathibha Prahlad (Classical Dance), Bhikhudan Gadhvi (Folk Music), Sribhas Chandra Supakar (Textile Designing), Ajay Devgn (Cinema), Priyanka Chopra (Cinema), Tulsidas Borkar (Classical Music), Soma Ghosh (Classical Vocal), Nila Madhab Panda (Film Direction and Production), S.S. Rajamouli (Film Direction and Production), Prakash Chand Surana (Posthumous) (Classical Music), Saeed Jaffrey (NRI/PIO/Posthumous) (Cinema).
- **Literature & Education**- 11 persons have been honored in this category some of the important names are- Pushpesh Pant (Journalism), Halder Nag, Jawaharlal Kaul (Journalism)
- **Medicine**- 16 persons have been honored in this category some of the important names are- Ravi Kant (Surgery), Ram Harsh Singh (Ayurveda), Anil Kumari Malhotra (Homeopathy), M. M. Joshi (Ophthalmology).
- **Public Affairs**-4 persons have been honored in this category some prominent names are M. C. Mehta, Ujjwal Nikam.
- **Science & Engineering**- 6 persons have been honored in this category some of the important names are- Satish Kumar, Dipankar Chatterji, Onkar Nath Srivastava.
- **Social Work**-10 persons have been honored in this category which includes Sunita Krishnan, Sudhakar Olwe, T.V. Narayana etc.
- **Sports**-In this category two persons were awarded, Deepika Kumari (Archery) and Sushil Doshi (commentary).
- **Trade & Industry**-5 persons have been honored in this category some of the important names are-Dilip Sanghvi, Keki Hormusji Gharda, Ajaypal Singh Banga (NRI/PIO).
- **Others**- 8 persons have been honored in this category some of the important names are-Piyush Pandey (Advertising & Communication), Subhash Palekar (Farming), Ravinder Kumar Sinha (Wildlife Conservation), Hui Lan Zhang (Yoga), Predrag K. Nikic (Yoga).

#### **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135783>

## Ashok Chakra-2016

**Question: On the Occasion of Republic day-2016 who has been awarded with Ashok Chakra Awarded Posthumously?**

- (a) Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami
- (b) Subedar Mahendra Singh
- (c) Sepoy Jagdish Chand
- (d) Naik Kheem Singh Mehra

**Ans(a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 25 January 2016, The President has approved awards of 365 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of the 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrations.
- This includes one Ashoka Chakra, four Kirti Chakras, 11 Shaurya Chakras, one Bar to Sena Medal (Gallantry), 48 Sena Medal (Gallantry), 04 Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), two Vayu Sena Medal (Gallantry).
- Including 29 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, 05 Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, 04 Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 49 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 20 Yudh Seva Medal, three Bar to Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 37 Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), eight Nao Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 16 Vayu Sena Medal (Devotion to Duty), 05 Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 118 Vishisht Seva Medal.
- The nation's highest peacetime gallantry award Ashoka Chakra has been awarded posthumously to 13625566W Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami of 9 Para (Special Forces)/6th Battalion of the Rashtriya Rifles for his acts of most conspicuous gallantry.
- On the intervening night of 02/03 September 2015 Lance Naik Mohan Nath Goswami was part of an ambush in Haphruda forest at Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir.
- There was a fierce encounter with four terrorists wherein two of his comrades were injured and pinned down.
- Lance Naik Mohan along with his buddy dashed forward to rescue their injured colleagues, knowing well the risks to their own lives.
- He first assisted in eliminating one terrorist. Sensing grave danger to three of his wounded colleagues, Lance Naik Mohan with utter disregard to his own personal safety, charged at the remaining terrorists drawing intense fire from them.
- He was hit in the thigh. Unmindful, he closed in and eliminated one terrorist, injured another and was again shot in the abdomen.
- Undeterred by his injuries, he hurled himself on the last terrorist and killed him at point blank range before succumbing to his wounds. Lance Naik Mohan not only killed two terrorists, but also assisted in neutralizing the other two and save the lives of three of his wounded colleagues.
- This time KIRTI CHAKRA is given to Sub. Mahendra Singh, Head Constable Rajesh Atra, Sepoy Jagdish Chand (Posthumous) and Gautam Koch (Posthumous).
- The **Ashoka Chakra** is India's highest peacetime military decoration awarded for valor, courageous action or self-sacrifice away from the battlefield.



**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135773>

## Tansen Samman-2015

**Ques: Who has been awarded with “Tansen Samman” for the year 2015?**

- (a) Ajoy Chakrabarty
- (b) Prabhakar Karekar
- (c) Ghulam Mustafa Khan
- (d) Ajay Pohankar

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 24 December 2015, Indian classical vocalist Ajoy Chakrabarty was awarded with the National Tansen Samman 2014-15 in Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh.
- Tansen Samman is a national Award given by Government of Madhya Pradesh to the exponents of Hindustani music.
- Legislator Jaibhan Singh Pawaiya presented a sum of Rs 2 lakh and a citation to the artist.
- Pandit Ajoy Chakrabarty born in 1952 in Kolkata is an Indian Hindustani classical vocalist. He belongs to the Patialagharana.
- He has been awarded with Padmashree in year 2011.
- In year 2014 it was awarded to the Indian Classical vocalist Prabhakar Karekar

**Reference:**

<http://www.uniindia.com/tansen-samman-for-ajoy-chakrabarty/states/news/319825.html>

<http://news.webindia123.com/news/Articles/India/20151225/2754905.html>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tansen\\_Samaroh#cite\\_note-4](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tansen_Samaroh#cite_note-4)

## Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award

**Ques: Who has been awarded as the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award by UNICEF?**

- (a) David Beckham
- (b) Cristiano Ronaldo
- (c) Lionel Messi
- (d) Novak Djokovic

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts



- On January 13, 2015 United Nations Children's Fund goodwill ambassador and former England soccer captain David Beckham awarded with Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award in a function of sixth biennial UNICEF Ball program held at Los Angeles.
- Sir Elton John and David Furnish presented the award to Beckham at the black-tie gala event, honouring him for his tireless work to save and improve the lives of children around the world.
- It is notable that Beckham has been a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2005.
- Through 7, David Beckham will use his powerful voice to help create change for children across every aspect of UNICEF's work for children.
- The UNICEF Ball marked the launch of Louis Vuitton for UNICEF, a global partnership to help support children affected by conflict, disease, natural disasters, and other situations that threaten their safety and well-being.
- UNICEF UK raises funds to protect children in danger, transform their lives and build a safer world for tomorrow's children.
- UNICEF is the world's leading organisation for children, promoting the rights and wellbeing of every child, in everything we do.

### Reference

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/Media-centre/Press-releases/UNICEF-Goodwill-Ambassador-David-Beckham-receives-the-Danny-Kaye-Humanitarian-Leadership-Award-/>



## Krishi Karman Award 2014-15

**Ques:** Which state has been awarded with prestigious Krishi Karman Award for consecutive 4th year in Category-1 for maximum food grains production?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Madhya Pradesh
- (c) Haryana
- (d) Rajasthan

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts



- On January 13, 2016 as per the release has been issued by Department of Public Relations, Madhya Pradesh has been selected by Indian government for Krishi Karman Award for consecutive 4th year.
- It is noteworthy that the state has been awarded with this award in 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15.
- Along with Krishi Karman Award amount of Rs. 5 crore will also be given to Madhya Pradesh.
- Krishi Karman awards were instituted in the year 2010-11 to reward the Best performer States for raising country's food grain production.

### Reference:

<http://www.mpinfo.org/News/TodaysNews.aspx?newsid=20160113N58&LocID=1&PDt=1%2f13%2f2016>

<http://nfsm.gov.in/krishikarman.aspx>

## EPFO bags National Award on e-Governance

**Ques: The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has won the National Award on e-Governance 2015-16 for launching-**

- (a) Universal Account Number (UAN)
- (b) Universal Identity Number (UIN)
- (c) Unique Identification Number (UIN)
- (d) National Identification Number (NIN)

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The Employees' Provident Fund Organization won the National Award on e-Governance 2015-16 for launching the Universal Account Number (UAN).
- The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions will present the award in the 19th National Conference on e-governance to be held in Nagpur on 22 January 2016.
- The EPFO won the gold award in the 'innovative use of technology in e-governance' category and the retirement body will get a cash prize of Rs 2 lakh.

**About Universal Account Number (UAN)**

- UAN is an e-initiative of EPFO, launched in July 2014.
- In this initiative, all active employees are provided a universal number which can be linked to various provident fund account numbers provided to them while working in different organisations
- Statistically 5.65 crore workers in 4.57 lakh organisations had been allocated UAN till November 2015.
- A single account number can be used through all of workers' employments with various organisations.
- It enables the employees to switch their provident fund deposits automatically, when they change their job, just by providing UAN to the new employer.
- It also allows employees to have access to their provident fund account to view their balance and deposits on the portal, without going through the Employer.
- The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation is a statutory body of the Government of India under the Ministry of Labour and Employment. It administers a compulsory contributory Provident Fund Scheme, Pension Scheme and an Insurance Scheme.
- Headquarters: New Delhi.
- Central Provident Fund Commissioner at EPFO – K.K. Jalan

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/epfo-bags-national-award-on-egovernance/article8098318.ece>



## National Bravery Awards -2015

**Question: Choose the correct combination of No. of Boys and Girls who have been selected for the National Bravery Awards 2015?**

- (a) 3 Girls 22 Boys
- (b) 22 Girls 3 Boys
- (c) 10 Girls 15 Boys
- (d) 15 Girls 10 Boys

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 18 January 2016, Government of India announced the National Bravery Awards 2015.
- Overall, twenty five children (3 girls and 22 boys) were selected for the National Bravery Awards 2015.
- The Award Winners has been selected by a committee comprised of representatives from various Ministries and Departments, NGOs as well as Office Bearers of Indian Council for Child Welfare (ICCW).
- These children will receive National Bravery Awards 2015 from the Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi on January 24, 2016.
- The awardees will receive a medal, a certificate and cash prize.
- Two of the Awards have been given posthumously.
- Gaurav Kawduji Sahastrabuddhe, 15, from Maharashtra, who sacrificed his life while saving his four friends, will be awarded with 'Bharat Award', the highest of the National Bravery awards.
- Shivansh Singh, 13, also to be awarded posthumously for sacrificing his life to save his friend from drowning in Saryu River. Unfortunately, he could not save his friend and lost his life too.
- Their Parents will receive the Awards On behalf of them.
- The Geeta Chopra Award has been conferred on 8 year old Km. Shivampet Ruchitha of Telangana who displayed exemplary valour in saving two precious lives when a train hit her school bus.
- Ruchitha is the youngest of the 25 children to receive the bravery award.
- The Sanjay Chopra Award has been given to 16 year old Master Arjun Singh of Uttarakhand who displayed outstanding bravery in fighting a tiger to save his mother.
- Master Ramdinthara (15 years) of Mizoram, Master Rakeshbhai Shanabhai Patel (13 years) of Gujarat and Master Aromal S.M. (12 years) of Kerala have been given the Bapu Gaidhani Awards
- Master Ramdinthara saved two persons from electrocution. Master Rakeshbhai saved a boy who accidentally fell into a deep well. Master Aromal saved two ladies from drowning.



- The other recipients are Master Kashish Dhanani (Gujarat), Master Maurice Yengkhom and Master Chongtham Kuber Meitei (both from Manipur), Km. Angelica Tynsong (Meghalaya), Master Sai Krishna Akhil Kilambi (Telangana), Km. Joena Chakraborty and Master Sarwanand Saha (both from Chhattisgarh), Master Dishant Mehndiratta (Haryana), Master Beedhovan, Master Nithin Philip Mathew, Master Abhijith K.V., Master Anandu Dileep and Master Muhammad Shamnad (all from Kerala), Master Mohit Mahendra Dalvi, Master Nilesh Revaram Bhil, Master Vaibhav Ramesh Ghangare (all from Maharashtra), Master Abinash Mishra (Odisha), Master Bhimsen alias Sonu and Late Master Shivansh Singh (both from Uttar Pradesh).
- Eligible awardees will be granted financial assistance until they complete their schooling. Some State governments also provide financial assistance to them.
- In addition, ICCW provides financial assistance under its Indira Gandhi Scholarship Scheme to those undertaking professional courses such as engineering and medicine.

#### **About National Bravery Award:**

- The National Bravery Award Scheme was started by the ICCW.
- It was established to recognise the children who showed outstanding deeds of bravery and courage.
- The first bravery award was given in 1957 (a boy and a girl) for their courageous deed. Since then National Bravery Award is conferred every year in collaboration with Government of India.
- Since the inception of the scheme in 1957, the ICCW has given awards to 920 brave children - 656 boys and 264 girls.
- The Bharat Award under National Bravery Award was instituted by ICCW in 1987-88.
- Geeta Chopra and Sanjay Chopra award was instituted by ICCW in 1978.
- Bapu Gaidhani Awards was instituted in 1988-89.

#### **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134569>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Delhi/25-young-bravehearts-to-be-honoured/article8121880.ece>

**Question: Who has won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016?**

- (a) Akhil Sharma
- (b) Anuradha Roy
- (c) Mirza Waheed
- (d) Raj Kamal Jha

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Indian author Anuradha Roy on 16 January 2016 won the prestigious DSC Prize for South Asian Literature for her novel *Sleeping on Jupiter* at the Galle Literary Festival in Sri Lanka.
- Roy was awarded the prize which carried a cash award of \$50,000 and a trophy by Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.
- The six shortlisted authors in contention for the prestigious prize were:
  - Akhil Sharma: *Family Life* (Faber & Faber, UK)
  - Anuradha Roy: *Sleeping on Jupiter* (Hachette, India)
  - K.R. Meera: *Hang Woman* (Translated by J Devika; Penguin, India)
  - Mirza Waheed: *The Book of Gold Leaves* (Viking/Penguin India)
  - Neel Mukherjee: *The Lives of Others* (Vintage/Penguin Random House, UK)
  - Raj Kamal Jha: *She Will Build Him A City* (Bloomsbury, India)
- The DSC Prize for South Asian Literature is a literary prize awarded annually to writers of any ethnicity or nationality writing about South Asia with themes such as culture, politics, history or people.
- The prize was instituted by DSC Limited, an Indian infrastructure and construction company.
- It is for an original full-length (Minimum 25 thousand words) novel written in English, or translated into English.
- The prize for the first time was given to Pakistani novelist HM Naqvi in 2011.
- In 2015, Jhumpa Lahiri won the prize for her novel *The Lowland*. Cyrus Mistry won it for *Chronicle of a Corpse Bearer* in 2014.

**Reference:**

<http://dscprize.com/global/updates/anuradha-roy-wins-the-dsc-prize-for-south-asian-literature-2016.html>

<http://dscprize.com/global/updates/dsc-prize-2016-announces-a-shortlist-of-6-novels.html>

<http://dscprize.com/about>

<http://www.thehindu.com/books/books-authors/anuradha-roy-wins-2016-dsc-prize-for-south-asian-literature/article8114482.ece>





## 61st Britannia Filmfare Awards-2015

**Ques: Which film was awarded as the 'Best Film' in 61st Britannia Filmfare Awards 2015?**

- (a) Bajirao Mastani
- (b) Tanu Weds Manu Returns
- (c) Bajrangi Bhaijaan
- (d) Masaan

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts

- On January 15, 2016 the film Bajirao Mastani awarded as the Best Film in 61st Britannia Filmfare Awards 2015 held at Sardar Patel Stadium (Mumbai).
- Bajirao Mastani (directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali) was most honored in nine categories at the award ceremony.
- Piku (directed by Sujit Sarkar) was honored in five categories however Dum Laga Ke Haisha, Roy and Tanu Weds Manu Returns were honored in two categories respectively.
- Bajrangi Bhaijaan, Bombay Velvet, Dil Dhadakne Do, Hero and Tamasha were honored in one category respectively.

**The complete list of winners from 61st Filmfare Awards 2015 are given below:**

- Best Film-Bajirao Mastani
- Best Director-Sanjay Leela Bhansali (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Male)-Ranveer Singh (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female)-Deepika Padukone (Piku)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)-Anil Kapoor (Dil Dhadakne Do)
- Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)-Priyanka Chopra (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Music-Ankit Tiwari, Meet Bros. Anjjan and Amaal Mallik (Roy)



- Best Lyrics-Irshad Kamil - Agar tum saath ho (Tamasha)
- Best Playback Singer (Male)-Arijit Singh - Sooraj dooba (Roy)
- Best Playback Singer (Female)-Shreya Ghoshal - Deewani mastani (Bajirao Mastani)

**Winners from Critics Categories are given below:**

- Best Film-Piku
- Best Actor (Male)-Amitabh Bachchan (Piku)
- Best Actor (Female)-Kangana Ranaut (Tanu Weds Manu Returns)
- Lifetime Achievement Award-Moushumi Chatterjee
- RD Burman Award-Armaan Mallik
- Best Debut (Male)-Sooraj Pancholi (Hero)
- Best Debut (Female)-Bhumi Pednekar (Dum Laga Ke Haisha)
- Best Debut Director-Neeraj Ghaywan (Masaan)
- Best Action-Sham Kaushal (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Background Score-Anupam Roy (Piku)
- Best Choreography-Pt Birju Maharaj - Mohe rang do laal (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Cinematography-Manu Anand (Dum Laga Ke Haisha)
- Best Costume-Anju Modi and Maxima Basu (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Dialogue-Himanshu Sharma (Tanu Weds Manu Returns)
- Best Editing-A Sreekar Prasad (Talvar)
- Best Production Design-Sujeet Sawant, Sriram Iyengar and Saloni Dhatrak (Bajirao Mastani)
- Best Screenplay-Juhi Chaturvedi (Piku)
- Best Sound Design-Shajith Koyeri (Talvar)
- Best Story-Vijayendra Prasad (Bajrangi Bhaijaan)
- Best VFX-Prana Studio (Bombay Velvet)

**Reference**

<http://www.filmfare.com/news/full-list-of-winners-of-the-61st-britannia-filmfare-awards-11841.html>

## Pritzker Architecture Prize -2016

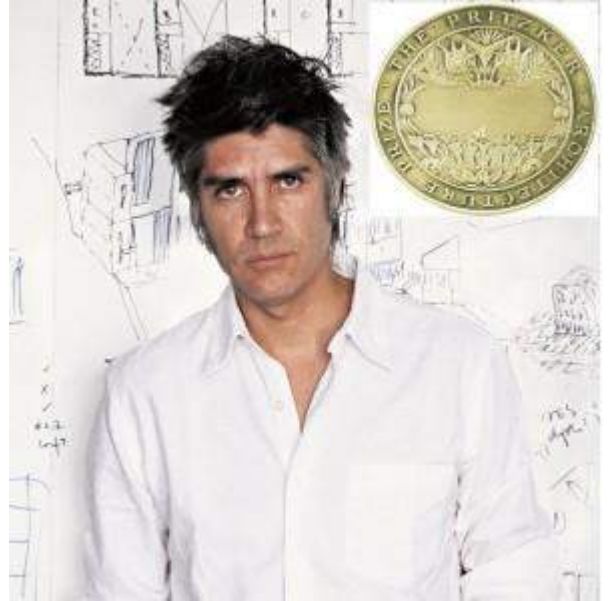
**Ques: Who has won the Pritzker Architecture Prize-2016 considered as Nobel Prize in Architecture?**

- (a) Steven Holl
- (b) Daniel Libeskind
- (c) Sou Fujimoto
- (d) Alejandro Aravena

**Ans (d)**

### Related facts:

- On 13 January 2016, Alejandro Aravena of Chile has been selected as the 2016 Pritzker Architecture Prize Laureate.
- The 48-year-old Aravena is an architect based in Santiago, Chile. He becomes the 41st laureate of the Pritzker Prize, the first Pritzker Laureate from Chile.
- He is the fourth from Latin America, after Luis Barragán (1980), Oscar Niemeyer (1988), and Paulo Mendes da Rocha (2006).
- The jury has selected an architect who deepens our understanding of what is truly great design.
- Alejandro Aravena has pioneered a collaborative practice that produces powerful works of architecture and also addresses key challenges of the 21st century.
- The formal award ceremony for what has come to be known internationally as architecture's highest honor will be at United Nations Headquarters in New York on April 4, 2016.
- Laureates of the Pritzker Architecture Prize receive a \$100,000 grant, a formal citation certificate, and since 1987, a bronze medallion.
- Prior to that year, a limited edition Henry Moore sculpture was presented to each Laureate
- The award was established by Jay Pritzker and his wife Cindy.
- The award is funded by Pritzker family and sponsored by the Hyatt Foundation.
- It is often referred to as the Nobel Prize of architecture.
- Germany's well-known architect Frei Paul Otto was given this award in 2015, posthumously.



### Reference:

<http://www.pritzkerprize.com/2016/announcement>

<http://www.pritzkerprize.com/>

<http://www.pritzkerprize.com/about/history>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pritzker\\_Architecture\\_Prize](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pritzker_Architecture_Prize)

## FIFA Ballon d'Or Award 2015

**Ques: Who has won the Ballon d'Or trophy for the world's best football player for the year 2015?**

- (a) Cristiano Ronaldo
- (b) Luis Enrique
- (c) Lionel Messi
- (d) James Rodriguez

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- Barcelona forward Lionel Messi on 11 January 2016 won the Ballon d'Or trophy for the world's best football player for the fifth time overall.
- In the award ceremony in Zurich (Switzerland), the 28-year-old Argentine claimed the award with 41.33 percent votes.
- In the 2014-15 Messi had played 61 games in which he scored 52 goals, and gave 26 assists.
- **Other 2015 winners :**
  - Women's World Player of the Year: Carli Lloyd (United States)
  - FIFA Puskás Award: Wendell Lira (Goianesia Sport Club)[Brazil]
  - World Coach of the Year (Men's): Luis Enrique (Barcelona FC).
  - World Coach of the Year (Women's): Jill Ellis (United Sates).
  - FIFA Fair Play Award: All football organisations supporting refugees.
  - FIFA FIFPro World XI: Neuer, Silva, Marcelo, Ramos, Alves, Iniesta, Modric, Pogba, Messi, Neymar, Ronaldo

**Reference:**

<http://www.fifa.com/ballon-dor/>

<http://www.fifa.com/ballon-dor/player-of-the-year/index.html>



# Golden Globe Award-2016

**Ques: Who awarded as the Best Film Director in Golden Globe Award 2016?**

- (a) Alejandro Inaritu
- (b) Aaron Sorokin
- (c) Richard Linklater
- (d) Wes Anderson

**Ans (a)**

## Related facts



- On January 10, 2016 the 73rd Golden Globe-2016 winners was awarded at the Beverly Hilton Hotel of Los Angeles, California (America).
- The awards given in the major categories are as follows:

## Motion Picture: Drama

- 'The Revenant' awarded as the best film category.
- Director of 'The Revenant' Alejandro Inarritu was awarded as the Best Film Director award.
- Leonardo Di Caprio awarded as the Best Actor Award for the film 'The Revenant'.
- Actress Brie Larson was awarded as the Best Performance for the film 'room'.
- Aaron Sorkin was awarded as the Best Script Award for the film Steve Jobs.

## Award for Best Motion Picture in Musical or Comedy category:

- 'The Martian' was awarded as the Best Film Award.
- Actor Matt Damon was awarded as the Best Actor Award for the film 'The Martian'.
- Actress Jennifer Lawrence was awarded for best acting performance in the film Joy.
- Film 'Son of Saul' was awarded as the Best Foreign language Film award.
- 'Inside Out' was awarded as the Best Animation Film Award.

## Reference

<http://www.goldenglobes.com/>

<http://www.goldenglobes.com/winners-nominees>



## Central Banker of the Year Award-2016

**Ques:** Recently who has been conferred with the Central Banker of the Year Award (Global and Asia Pacific) for year 2016?

- (a) Raghuram Rajan
- (b) Arudhati Bhattacharya
- (c) Chanda Kochhar
- (d) Arjuna Mahendran

**Ans (a)**



### Related facts:

- The Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan on 7 January 2016 was felicitated with the Central Banker of the Year Award (Global and Asia Pacific) for 2016.
- The award was given by the Financial Times Group's monthly publication **The Banker**.
- The Central Banker of the Year 2016 Awards celebrates the officials that have best managed to stimulate growth and stabilise their country's economy.

### Reference:

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/awards-won-by-rbi-governor-raghuram-rajan-116010800288\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/finance/awards-won-by-rbi-governor-raghuram-rajan-116010800288_1.html)

<http://profit.ndtv.com/news/banking-finance/article-raghuram-rajan-conferred-central-banker-award-by-ft-group-arm-1263360>

[https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS\\_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35916](https://rbi.org.in/Scripts/BS_PressReleaseDisplay.aspx?prid=35916)

<https://rbidocs.rbi.org.in/rdocs/content/pdfs/CBGY070116.pdf>

<http://www.businesstoday.in/magazine/sectors/banks/raghuram-rajan-conferred-central-banker-award-by-ft-arm/story/227919.html>

## India Pharma Awards-2016

**Question:** Recently Union Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers, Shri Ananth Kumar gave away the 1st India Pharma awards-2016, which company has been awarded with Innovation of the Year award?

- (a) Cadila Helthcare Limited
- (b) Abbott India Limited
- (c) Lupin Limited
- (d) Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 7 January 2016, minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers Shri Ananth Kumar inaugurated an international exhibition and conference on Pharma industry, medical electronics and devices sector at Bengaluru "India Pharma2016" and "India Medical Expo 2016"
- It is the first such major composite event in the country for the pharmaceutical and Medical devices industry.
- He also gave away the 1<sup>st</sup> India Pharma awards during the event.
- The awards constituted by Department of Pharmaceuticals were given to outstanding Pharma Industries to motivate Indian Pharma and medical devices industries.
- The awards are as follows:



### Category

### Winner

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| • <b>Overall India Pharma Excellence Award</b>                 | Cadila Healthcare Ltd                                |
| • <b>Pharma Leader Award</b>                                   | Shri Glenn Saldana, CMD, Glenmark Pharmaceutical Ltd |
| • <b>Company of the Year</b>                                   | Lupin Limited  |
| • <b>Bulk Drug Company of the Year</b>                         | SMS Pharmaceutical Ltd                               |
| • <b>Innovation of the Year</b>                                | Cadila Healthcare Ltd                                |
| • <b>Research &amp; Development Achievement</b>                | Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Ltd                    |
| • <b>Corporate Social Responsibility Programme of the Year</b> | Abbott India Ltd                                     |
| • <b>Medical Devices Company of the Year</b>                   | Harsoria Healthcare Pvt Ltd                          |
| • <b>Export Company of the Year</b>                            | Campus Pharma Pvt Ltd                                |
| • <b>Bulk Drug Export Company of the Year</b>                  | SMS Pharmaceutical Ltd                               |
| • <b>Medical Devices Export Company of the Year</b>            | Scope Medical Devices Pvt Ltd                        |
| • <b>Special Award: PSU Company of the Year</b>                | Karnataka Antibiotics & Pharmaceutical Ltd           |

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134291>

# Priyanka Chopra

**Ques: Which Indian actress recently won the People's Choice Award in US?**

- (a) Priyanka Chopra
- (b) Kangana Ranaut
- (c) Deepika Padukone
- (d) Katrina Kaif

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On January 7, 2015, the Indian actress and former Miss World Priyanka Chopra was awarded in the prize distribution ceremony of the People's Choice Awards -2016 held in Los Angeles, the United States.
- She was awarded for her leading role in American TV thriller series "Quantico".
- She was awarded the People's Choice Award in the category of 'Favorite Actress in a New TV Series' for her role in Quantico.
- She played the role of an FBI agent named Alex Parish in the show.
- She was competing against actresses like Emma Roberts, Jamie Lee Curtis, Lea Michele and Marcia Gay Harden in the category.
- Priyanka Chopra has become the first South Asian to win the People's Choice Award.
- Priyanka Chopra is familiar face in US before this TV series she has released album with pitbull.



**Reference:**

<https://web.facebook.com/priyankachopra/photos/a.227411120690.296347.222401665690/10156505238115691/?type=3&theater>

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-35249261>

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-features/tp-metroplus/priyanka-chopra-wins-for-quantico-at-peoples-choice-awards/article8083362.ece>

<http://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/bollywood/priyanka-chopra-wins-at-peoples-choice-awards-bollywood-congratulates-the-quantico-girl/>

# Costa Book Awards

**Ques: Costa Novel prize 2015 is awarded for which book?**

- (a) A God in Ruins
- (b) Life After Life
- (c) How to be both
- (d) The Loney

**Ans: (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On January 4, 2016 the winners of Costa Book Awards-2015 were announced.
- British writer Kate Atkinson on 4 January 2016 won the novel-of-the-year prize at Britain's Costa Book Awards 2015 for the second time in three years.
- She fetched the award for **A God in Ruins**, a story of war and its aftermath.
- With this, Atkinson became the first author to receive the Costa novel prize three times: for **A God in Ruins** in 2016, **Life After Life** in 2013 and **Behind the Scenes at the Museum** in 1995.
- She was appointed as Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the 2011 for services to literature.
- **Other winners of 2015 Costa Book Awards:**
- Costa biography award: Andrea Wulf for 'The Invention of Nature: The Adventures of Alexander Von Humboldt, The Lost Hero of Science'.
- Costa children's book award: Frances Hardinge for 'The Lie Tree'.
- Costa Poetry Award: Don Paterson for '40 Sonnets'.
- Costa First Novel Award: Andrew Michael Hurley for 'The Loney'.
- **About Costa Book Awards:**
- The Costa Book Awards is one of the United Kingdom's most prestigious and popular literary prizes.
- It was established in 1971 as the Whitbread Book Awards. Later in 2006 it was renamed as Costa Book Awards.
- It recognizes some of the most enjoyable books of the year, written by authors based in the UK and Ireland.
- The prize has five categories: First Novel, Novel, Biography, Poetry and Children's Book.

**Reference:**

<http://www.costa.co.uk/media/391535/2015awardwinners.pdf>

<http://www.costa.co.uk/costa-book-awards/costa-book-awards/>



## BCCI Annual Awards 2014-15

**Question: Who has been honoured with the Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award at 2014-2015 BCCI Annual awards ceremony in Mumbai for his contribution to Indian cricket?**

- (a) Syed Kirmani
- (b) Virat Kohli
- (c) Jalaj Saxena
- (d) Robin Uthappa

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts:

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) on 5 January 2016 presented the ninth BCCI Awards 2014-15 at a ceremony held in Mumbai.
- Former India wicketkeeper and middle order batsman Syed Kirmani was honoured with the Col CK Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award in Mumbai (Maharashtra) for his contribution to Indian cricket.
- Col CK Naydu Life time award consists of an amount of Rs 25 lakh, a citation and memento/trophy.
- India's Test captain Virat Kohli was awarded with the Polly Umrigar Trophy and 5 lakh rupees for Cricketer of the Year.

### Other Recipients of 2014-15 BCCI Awards are:

- **Lala Amarnath Award:**
- Best all-rounder in Ranji Trophy: Jalaj Saxena (Madhya Pradesh).
- Best all-rounder in Domestic Limited-Overs Competitions: Deepak Hooda (Baroda).
- **Madhavrao Scindia Award:**
- Highest Scorer in Ranji Trophy: Robin Uthappa (Karnataka) (11 matches and 912 runs).
- Highest Wicket-Taker in Ranji Trophy: R Vinaykumar (Karnataka) and Shardul Thakur (Mumbai).
- **A. Chidambaram Trophy:**
- Best Under-23 Cricketer: Almas Shaukat (Uttar Pradesh).
- Best Under-19 Cricketer: Anmolpreet Singh (Punjab).
- Best Under-16 Cricketer: Shubman Gill (Punjab).
- Best Woman Cricketer (Sr): Mithali Raj (Indian Railways).
- Best Woman Cricketer (Jr): Devika Vaidya (Maharashtra).
- Best Umpire In Domestic Cricket: O Nandan
- Best Overall Performance: Karnataka State Cricket Association.

### Reference:

<http://www.bcci.tv/news/2015/bcci-news/12411/bcci-annual-awards-2014-15>

<http://sports.ndtv.com/cricket/news/253971-virat-kohli-crowned-indian-cricketer-of-the-year-at-bcci-awards>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/bcci-awards-given-away/article8069528.ece>





# Operation & Campaign

## Naseem Al Bahr exercise

**Ques:** Recently Naseem Al-Bahr, the tenth edition of the bilateral naval exercises began off the coast of Goa. The naval exercise is between which of the following two countries?

- (a) India-Bahrain
- (b) India-Maldives
- (c) India-Oman
- (d) India-Bangladesh

**Ans (c)**

### Related facts:

- The Indian Navy and the Royal Navy of Oman had conducted a bilateral maritime exercise NASEEM-AL-BAHR in the Arabian Sea from 22-27 Jan 16 off Goa in the Arabian Sea
- This bilateral naval exercise by India and Oman is being held since 1993.
- The primary aim of this exercise is to increase interoperability amongst the two navies and develop common understanding and procedures for maritime security operations.
- The current exercise will be the tenth such exercise.
- The first phase is "Harbour Phase" which was completed on the coast of Goa from 22 to 24 January 2016.
- The second phase will be "Sea Phase" and it was completed in the Arabian Sea along the coast of Goa from 24 to 27 January 2016
- During the exercise, the Indian Navy was represented by INS Trikand and INS Trishul.
- In addition, Fast Attack Craft, Maritime Patrol Aircraft and integral helicopters also participated in the bilateral exercise.
- The Omani Navy was represented by RNOV Al-Shamikh, a Corvette and RNOV Al-Seeb, a Fast Attack Craft.
- The 9th edition of the bilateral Indian Navy-Royal Omani Navy biennial exercise was held on 23 Sep 13 off the coast of Oman, in the North Arabian Sea.



### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135706>

<http://indiannavy.nic.in/content/naseem-al-bahr-2016-visit-royal-navy-oman-ships>

# Operation Green Hunt

**Ques:** Name the joint operation which has been recently in news, started by India's paramilitary forces and the state's forces against the Naxalites?

- (a) Green Hunt
- (b) Red Hunt
- (c) Grey Hunt
- (d) All of these

**Ans(a)**

**Related facts:**

- **Operation Green Hunt** is the name used by the Indian media to describe the "all-out offensive" by India's paramilitary forces and the state's forces against the Naxalites.
- The term was coined by the Chhattisgarh police officials to describe one successful drive against the Communist Party of India (Maoist) in the state and later used by the Indian media to describe the "all-out offensive" by India's paramilitary forces and the state's forces against the Naxalites.
- The operation begun in November 2009 along five states in the "Red Corridor".
- It is an operation implemented by the Central Reserve Police Force and the Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) plays lead role in the operations.
- In this operation unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and satellite phones are being used.
- This was in the news in December 2014, when Maoists attack on security forces in the Sukma district of Chhattisgarh in the opposition of Green Hunt operation.
- On January 8, 2016 the central government paramilitary force resume the operations because of which it is recently in news.
- The campaign is being run in the red corridor area which includes Chhattisgarh, Seemandhra, Telangana, Orissa, West Bengal and the northeastern states.



**Reference:**

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/Maoists-vow-to-avenge-killings/articleshow/50634026.cms>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/states/odisha/Maoists-Torch-Construction-Equipment-in-Bargarh-District/2016/01/09/article3219015.ece>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation\\_Green\\_Hunt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Operation_Green_Hunt)

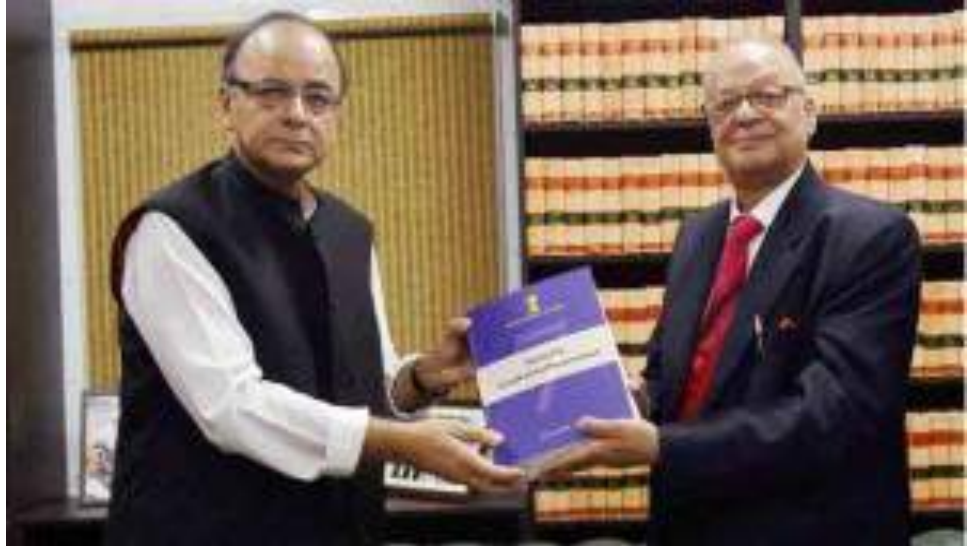
## Commission & Committee

### Constitution of an Empowered Committee of Secretaries to process the recommendations of the 7th Central Pay Commission

**Ques :** Recently the Union Cabinet has given its approval for setting up an Empowered Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of-

- (a) Finance Secretary
- (b) Home Secretary
- (c) Cabinet Secretary
- (d) Governor of Reserve Bank of India

**Ans (c)**



#### Related facts

- On January 13, 2016 the Union Cabinet has given its approval for setting up an Empowered Committee of Secretaries under the Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary, in order to process the recommendations of 7th Central Pay Commission (CPC) in an overall perspective.
- The Empowered Committee of Secretaries will function as a Screening Committee to process the recommendations with regard to all relevant factors of the 7th CPC in an expeditious detailed and holistic fashion.

#### Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134425>

## High level panel to fast-track bullet trains

**Ques:** Who is heading the high-level panel set up by the union government to sort out the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train issues with Japan?

- (a) A.K Mittal
- (b) S Jaishankar
- (c) Shaktikanta Das
- (d) Arvind Pangariya

**Ans (d)**

### Related facts:

- The Union government on 11 January 2016 constituted a five-member high-level committee chaired by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Arvind Panagariya to monitor the Rs 90,000 crore Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train projects.
- Other members of the committee include: Railway Board Chairman AK Mittal, Foreign Secretary S Jaishankar, Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Shantikanta Das and Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion Secretary Amitabh Kant.
- These members will look into the overall operations and technical issues of the project, its strategic importance for bilateral relation, financial outlay and the 'Make in India' component respectively.
- Further, a separate committee under Mr. Das has been formed for inter-departmental co-ordination and resolving all issues related to project implementation.
- Mr. Mittal and Mr. Kant, who currently holds additional charge as Niti Aayog's chief executive officer (CEO) role, will also be a part of this committee.
- Earlier, in December 2015, both countries signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation and assistance in the execution of the project.

### Reference:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/government-forms-highlevel-panel-on-mumbaiahmedabad-bullet-train-project/article8093799.ece>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pmo-sets-up-committee-to-fast-track-high-speed-rail-corridor-116011100409\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/pmo-sets-up-committee-to-fast-track-high-speed-rail-corridor-116011100409_1.html)





## Justice Lodha Committee

**Question:** Recently Justice RM Lodha Committee has submitted its report to the Supreme Court suggesting reforms in-

- (a) On the issue of reform in Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- (b) On the issue of legal recognition to hockey betting.
- (c) On the issue of alleged corruption in hockey
- (d) On the issue of reform of the Hockey India League

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Justice RM Lodha Committee on IPL spot fixing on 4 January 2015 submitted its report to the Supreme Court suggesting reforms in the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).
- **Major Recommendations Committee:**
- The panel has recommended separate governing bodies for IPL and BCCI.
- Providing limited autonomy for the IPL Governing Council.
- It has also recommended legalising betting.
- It proposed that no Minister or government servant should become a BCCI office-bearer.
- It suggested that the BCCI office-bearer's term should not exceed more than two consecutive terms.
- It suggests that any BCCI office-bearer cannot hold two posts at the same time.
- It proposed the constitution and establishment of a players' association.
- It asks for restructuring of the BCCI constitution.
- It says that one association from each state should be a member of the BCCI and should have right to vote.
- At present BCCI have 34 members of which few are inactive ones like Railways and Services. It recommended relegation of Railways, Services and other members who don't have competitive presence, to affiliate status without voting rights.
- For the creation of the players' association, it suggests for a steering committee headed by former Home Secretary G K Pillai with Mohinder Amarnath, Diana Eduljee and Anil Kumble as members.
- It suggests that the day to day management of the BCCI should be conducted by a CEO, who should be assisted by six professional managers. They will be responsible to an apex council.
- It suggests that the apex council of the BCCI should constitute of 9 members of whom 5 will be elected, 2 will be representatives of the players' association, and one will be a woman.
- The committee has also suggested certain eligibility criteria for important BCCI office bearers like the President, Vice President, secretary, joint secretary and treasurer. The criteria include:
  - a) He/she should not be more than 70 years in age.
  - b) Should not being insolvent, not holding any post in the government (whether that of a minister or a government servant).
  - c) He also must not have held office in BCCI for the last nine years.
  - d) Each office bearer will have a tenure of three years, and no office bearer can hold the office for more than three terms - with the rider that there will be a 'cooling off period' after each term.
- The report will be reviewed by a bench of a bench Supreme Court headed by Chief Justice T. S. Thakur.
- In January, 2015, on the direction of the Supreme Court the Lodha committee was formed.

**Reference:**

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/india/content/story/957707.html>

<http://www.espncriinfo.com/india/content/story/957967.html>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/live-lodha-panel-submits-report-on-bcci-reforms/article8064354.ece>

<http://www.thehindu.com/sport/cricket/justice-lodha-committee-report-on-ipl-bcci-to-constitute-working-group-on-ipl-verdict/article7440612.ece>





## Committee set up to Review Wage Structure of Gramin Dak Sevaks

**Question:** Who is the head of the Committee set up to examine the wage structure, service conditions, etc. of the Gramin Dak Sevaks in the Department of Posts?

- (a) Kamlesh Chandra
- (b) Ramesh Chandra
- (c) Deepak Parekh
- (d) U. K. Sinha

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 1 January 2016 the Government of India (GoI) has set up a committee to examine the wage structure and service conditions of the Gramin Dak Sevaks (GDS) in the Department of Posts.
- The committee will be headed by Kamlesh Chandra, a retired member of the Postal Services Board, which will be assisted by T Q Mohammad, a senior administrative grade officer, as the secretary.
- It will review the existing facilities for 2.6 lakh employees spread across the country.
- **Terms of reference of the panel:**
  - To review the existing Services Discharge Benefits Scheme/other social security benefits for the Gramin Dak Sevaks and suggest necessary changes.
  - To review the existing facilities/welfare measures provided to the Gramin Dak Sevaks and suggest necessary changes.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>



## Committee for Holistic interpretation of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act/ Rules

**Question: Government constituted Committee for Holistic interpretation of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act/Rules is head by-**

- (a) Shyam Benegal
- (b) Om Prakash Mehra
- (c) Anupam Kher
- (d) Pahlaj Nihalani

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 1 January 2016 Government constituted the Committee for Holistic interpretation of the provisions of the Cinematograph Act/ Rules which is headed by Shayam Benegal.
- The recommendations of this Committee will provide a holistic framework and enable those tasked with the work of certification of films (Censor Board) to discharge their responsibilities keeping in view this framework.
- The other Members of the Committee include Shri Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra, Shri Piyush Pandey, Ms. Bhawana Somaaya , Ms. Nina Lath Gupta and Joint Secretary (Films) as Member Convener.
- The Committee has been requested to submit their recommendations within two months.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

<http://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/Shyam-Benegal-to-Head-Committee-Revamping-Censor-Board/2016/01/01/article3206618.ece>

<http://indiatoday.intoday.in/story/shyam-benegal-to-head-panel-responsible-for-rejig-in-censor-board/1/560248.html>

# Planning & Project

## Chief Minister Farmer and General insurance scheme

**Ques :** Uttar Pradesh Government announced 'Chief Minister Farmer and General insurance scheme' in place of Krishak Durghatna Bima Yojana. Consider the following statements:

- (1) This scheme will cover the account holders in Revenue Records (Khatauni).
- (2) landless farmers and those families whose annual income is less than Rs 75,000 will be covered.
- (3) In this scheme beneficiary will be covered through Rs 5 lakh insurance after the death and total disability.
- (4) The scheme will be applicable from April 1, 2016.

**Which of the following options is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 & 2
- (b) 1 & 3
- (c) 2 & 3
- (d) 1, 2 & 3

**Ans (d)**

### Related facts

- 'Chief Minister Farmer and General insurance scheme' has been announced by Uttar Pradesh Government for the welfare of farmers which will apply from April 1, 2016.
- The scheme will replace Krishak Durghatna Bima Yojana of Department of Revenue.
- Chief Minister Farmer and General insurance scheme come under the control of Directorate of institutional financial insurance , external aids and planning.
- This scheme will cover the account holder in khatauni, landless farmers and those families whose annual income is less than Rs 75,000.
- In this scheme beneficiary get Rs 5 lakh financial help after the death and total disability however 2.5 lakh in case of physical damages for the medical treatment. Government will also provide artificial organs for damages parts.
- Insured personal family are required to take service in those hospitals who provides facility under the scheme.
- Under this scheme government will provide a card for insured person. In case your card is not issue then account holder of Khatauni , nominees of khatauni and other member will get the advantage of this scheme.
- Under this scheme government merged the Krishak Durghatna Bima Yojana, so all insured families under the scheme will be also get benefit in this scheme.
- Approximately 897 crore fund will be distribute in this scheme. Premium of the insurance policy will be deposited annually.

### Reference

[http://information.up.nic.in/View\\_Hindinews.aspx?id=2553](http://information.up.nic.in/View_Hindinews.aspx?id=2553)



## Hybrid Annuity model for implementing highway projects

**Question:** The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has given its approval for the Hybrid Annuity Model as one of the modes of delivery for implementing which of the following project?

- (a) Highway Projects
- (b) Skills Development Project
- (c) Agricultural Development Project
- (d) Solar energy project

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 27 January 2016, The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for the Hybrid Annuity Model as one of the modes of delivery for implementing the Highway Projects.
- Adopting such a model for projects not found viable on BOT (Build, Operate and Transfer) (Toll) mode shall be more effective in terms of maximizing the quantum of kilometers implemented within the available financial resources of the Government.
- The main object of the approval is to revive highway projects in the country by making one more mode of delivery of highway projects.
- By adopting the Model as the mode of delivery, all major stakeholders in the PPP arrangement - the Authority, lender and the developer, concessionaire would have an increased comfort level.
- This will result in revival of the sector through renewed interest of private developers/investors in highway projects and this will bring relief thereby to citizens / travelers in the area of a respective project.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/pmreleases.aspx?mincode=69>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135821>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-approves-hybrid-annuity-model-for-highway-projects/article8158108.ece>



## Project Green Port

**Ques: Which one of the following ministry has recently launched 'Project Green Ports'?**

- (a) Petroleum and Natural Gas
- (b) Ministry of Shipping
- (c) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- (d) Ministry of Railways

**Ans (b)**



### **Related facts**

- On January 19, 2016 the Ministry of Shipping has launched 'Project Green Ports' which will help in making the Major Ports across India cleaner and greener.
- 'Project Green Ports' will have two verticals, one is 'Green Ports Initiatives' related to environmental issues and second is 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan'.
- The Green Port Initiatives include twelve initiatives.

### **Some key initiatives are as follows:**

- Acquiring equipments required for monitoring environmental pollution.
- Acquiring dust suppression system.
- Setting up of sewage/waste water treatment plants/ garbage disposal plant.
- Setting up projects for energy generation from renewable energy sources.

**Under Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, the Ministry has identified 20 activities some of them are given below:**

- (i) Cleaning the wharf
- (ii) leaning and repairing of sheds
- (iii) cleaning and repairing of port roads
- (iv) modernizing and cleanliness of all the toilet complexes in the operational area

### **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134595>



**Ques: Where did the State Bank of India (SBI) has launched dedicated specialized branch for start-ups called 'SBI InCube'?**

- (a) Pune
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Bengaluru
- (d) Hyderabad



**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- India's largest bank, State Bank of India (SBI), on 14 January 2016 launched and inaugurated India's first start-up focused bank branch called SBI InCube in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- It was announced by SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya
- The specialized branch aims to understand and address banking needs of a Start-up Business.

**About SBI InCube**

- The SBI InCube branch will work towards fulfilling the specific financial needs of the start-ups.
- The service will provide advisory services to the budding entrepreneurs under one roof.
- It will assist start-ups in cash management, regulations, taxation, mentoring, foreign exchange and remittances and other financial services.
- The branch, in its current form, will not fund start-ups i.e. it will not provide loans. However, it will give them loans when they turn more mature.
- InCube branch in Bengaluru will be headed by an assistant general manager and a team of three other officers.
- SBI will soon launch InCube branches in Pune and National Capital Region (NCR).
- The bank also launched the wealth management service **SBI Exclusif**, which is targeted at the fast-growing affluent segment in the country.
- SBI Exclusif is a first ever 'e-Wealth Centre' that enables transactions and provides advisory at your fingertips via Call/ Video Call/ Chat through a single point-of-contact; besides an enhanced internet and mobile banking platform
- It will also help in expert financial advisory across all asset classes crafted to suit your immediate & long-term financial need.

**Reference:**

[https://www.sbi.co.in/portal/documents/25328/29521/InCube\\_Newsletter/37131d3a-737e-4ba4-beb4-b0d6fce3cd35](https://www.sbi.co.in/portal/documents/25328/29521/InCube_Newsletter/37131d3a-737e-4ba4-beb4-b0d6fce3cd35)

<https://www.sbi.co.in/portal/web/personal-banking/sbi-incube>

<https://www.sbi.co.in/portal/web/personal-banking/wealth-management>

# Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

**Question:** When did Union Cabinet has approved the 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' - a path breaking scheme for farmers' welfare?

- (a) 10 January 2016 (Rabi season)
- (b) 10 January 2016 (Kharif season)
- (c) 13 January 2016 (Kharif season)
- (d) 13 January 2016 (Rabi season)

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister

Narendra Modi on 13 January 2016 approved the New Crop Insurance Scheme, 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' to boost the agricultural sector.

- The scheme will come into effect from the upcoming kharif season (2016).
- It has replaced the existing two schemes viz. National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) (2010) and Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS) (2010) by removing their inherent drawbacks (shortcomings) and incorporating the best features of all previous schemes.

**The highlights of this scheme are as under:**

- There will be a uniform premium of only 2% to be paid by farmers for all Kharif crops and 1.5% for all Rabi crops.
- In case of annual commercial and horticultural crops, the premium to be paid by farmers will be only 5%.
- The premium rates to be paid by farmers are very low and balance premium will be paid by the Government to provide full insured amount to the farmers against crop loss on account of natural calamities.
- There is no upper limit on Government subsidy. Even if balance premium is 90%, it will be borne by the Government.
- Earlier, there was a provision of capping the premium rate which resulted in low claims being paid to farmers.



- This capping was done to limit Government outgo on the premium subsidy. This capping has now been removed and farmers will get claim against full sum insured without any reduction.
- This Scheme also covers Loss / damage resulting from occurrence of identified localized risks i.e. hailstorm, landslide.
- The new Crop Insurance Scheme is in line with One Nation – One Scheme theme
- Coverage is available up to a maximum period of 14 days from harvesting for those crops which are kept in “cut & spread” condition to dry in the field after harvesting, against specific perils of cyclone / cyclonic rains, unseasonal rains throughout the country.
- The use of technology will be encouraged to a great extent. Smart phones will be used to capture and upload data of crop cutting to reduce the delays in claim payment to farmers.
- In Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana on the 30 thousand sum assured with 22% premium Farmer has to pay only Rs600 as a premium amount and rest Rs6000 will be paid by the government.
- Government liability on premium subsidy would be shared by the Central and State governments on a 50:50 basis.
- Remote sensing will be used to reduce the number of crop cutting experiments.
- Farmers can get the claim amount quickly.
- Private insurance companies, along with the Agriculture Insurance Company of India Ltd, will implement the scheme.

#### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134432>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134445>

[http://www.agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/whatsnew/sch\\_eng.pdf](http://www.agricoop.nic.in/imagedefault/whatsnew/sch_eng.pdf)

<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-national/centre-clears-new-crop-insurance-scheme/article8104020.ece>

## New Skill Initiatives for Youths

**Question: Which ministry on January 12, 2016, announces the new skills skill initiatives for youths?**

- (a) Ministry of Tourism
- (b) Home Ministry
- (c) Ministry Of Finance
- (d) Ministry Of Railway

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**



- Ministry of Tourism on January 12, 2016, on the occasion of International Youth Day initiative launched new skill development initiatives.
- It is announced to improve the sectoral service standards, which is one of the pre-requisites for attracting tourists in larger numbers.
- The following points are included in the initiative:

**A sensitization programme for the existing service providers at Varanasi:**

- The primary objectives of the programme will be to eventually achieve an improved tourist specific service ambience and to further the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.
- It will target Boatmen, Rickshaw pullers, Pandas, Porters, Shopkeepers & Street Vendors.
- Each course duration will be of 4 -day.
- The Programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management.

**A programme to groom young persons interested in home delivery service as an occupation:**

- It will target persons who are at least matriculates and in the age group of 18-28 years.
- The Programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management, Institutes of Hotel Management & Food Craft Institutes.
- The programme will prepare the trainees to deliver food at home with skill, style and civility.
- Each course duration will be of 6-day.

**A programme for training to bring up “Paryatak Mitra”:**

- The programme will attempt to inculcate appropriate tourism traits and knowledge among the trainees to enable them to act / work as Tourist Facilitators (Paryatak Mitra).
- It will target college-going students including those enrolled with the NCC& NSS, in the age group of 18-28 years.
- Each course duration will be of 10-day.
- The programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management, first at destinations identified under the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD) scheme of the Ministry of Tourism.

**A training programme to bring up tourist facilitators in the North East:**

- The primary objective of the programme limited to the North East, will be to achieve better tourist satisfaction in terms of availability of skilled tourist facilitators. It will target 10+2 pass-outs in the age group of 18-28 years.
- Each course duration will be of 30-day.
- The programme will be implemented by the Indian Institute of Tourism & Travel Management.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134388>

<http://www.uniindia.com/tourism-ministry-launches-new-skill-initiatives-on-national-youth-day/india/news/341457.html>

[http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-01-12/news/69704711\\_1\\_training-programme-tourism-ministry-national-service-scheme](http://articles.economictimes.indiatimes.com/2016-01-12/news/69704711_1_training-programme-tourism-ministry-national-service-scheme)



# MoU signs for monitoring and managing National Highways

**Ques:** For use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways the NHAI has signed

**Memorandum of Understanding with:**



- (a) National Remote Sensing Centre
- (b) Defence Research and Development Organisation
- (c) Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur
- (d) Ministry of Earth Sciences

**Ans (a)**

## Related facts

- On January 13, 2016 the NHAI has signed Memorandum of Understanding with National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) under Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and North East Centre for Technology Application and Research (NECTAR) for use of spatial technology for monitoring and managing National Highways.
- The use and benefits of unmanned aerial vehicle technology will be useful in monitoring, construction progress and Road Asset Management.

## Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134429>

## BHEL commissions Thermal Power unit in Andhra Pradesh

**Question:** What is the capacity of Thermal power Unit set up by BHEL on 11 January 2016 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh?

- (a) 250 MW
- (b) 520 MW
- (c) 660 MW
- (d) 1382 MW

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) on 11 January 2016 announced that it commissioned the first unit of the 2x520 MW Vizag thermal power project in Andhra Pradesh.
- While the project, which is located in Visakhapatnam, is owned by **the Hinduja National Power Company Limited (HNPC)**, it is being executed by BHEL on engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) basis.
- The project is located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal and uses single flow condenser and sea water as main cooling water.
- The project was severely affected by the Hudhud cyclone in 2014 while it was under construction.
- Then the restoration work was carried out by **BHEL** on war footing and the first unit has been commissioned successfully. The second unit of this project is also in an advanced stage of completion
- **BHEL** has already commissioned 5,010 MW of power plants in the utility sector during the financial year 2015-16 and is on track to achieve the target set by the government for the year.

**Reference:**

[http://www.bhel.com/press\\_release/press\\_pop.php?press\\_id=796](http://www.bhel.com/press_release/press_pop.php?press_id=796)

<http://www.bhel.com/about.php>

## Project Loon

**Ques:** Recently Google has announce to launch “Project Loon” for Internet services in India it was launched by Google as a pilot project in which country?

- (a) Australia
- (b) New Zealand
- (c) Russia
- (d) Brazil

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 16 December 2015, Speaking at the “Google for India” event, the company's CEO Sundar Pichai announced to launch pilot project of the "Project Loon".
- Project Loon began with a pilot test in June 2013 in New Zealand’s South Island and in second phase it was expanded to New Zealand, California (the US) and Brazil.
- It is planned to launch in Indonesia and Sri Lanka before India by the Google.
- In India Google has offered partnership to the Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) for this project.
- The Government of India in December 2015, allowed for the trial phase of this project.
- Earlier Department of communications and IT had expressed his doubts that Google's Project Loon will interfere with cellular transmissions of mobile operators in India.
- **Project Loon** is a research and development project being developed by Google X with the mission of providing Internet access to rural and remote areas.
- Loon’s balloon envelopes are made from sheets of polyethylene plastic, and they measure fifteen meters wide by twelve meters tall when fully inflated Helium-filled balloons travel approximately 20 km above the Earth’s surface in the stratosphere.
- Each balloon can provide connectivity to a ground area of about 40 km in diameter using a wireless communications technology called 4G(LTE).
- It may be noted that in terms of internet usages India ranks second in the world after China.
- Through this project, Google in October 2015 announced to providing free WiFi to 400 railway stations of India using Railwire network.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/chennai-floods-google-ceo-sundar-pichai-pitches-project-loon-for-connectivity/article7997667.ece>  
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/tech/tech-news/Google-CEO-Sundar-Pichai-We-will-bring-Project-Loon-to-India-soon/articleshow/50203190.cms>  
<https://www.google.com/loon/how/>  
<https://www.google.com/loon/>

# First River Information System of India

**Ques: Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Mr. Nitin Gadkari inaugurated the First River Information System (RIS) System at-**

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Bangalore
- (d) Gandhi Nagar

**Ans (b)**



## **Related facts**

- On January 6, 2016 Union Minister of Shipping, Road Transport and Highways Mr. Nitin Gadkari was inaugurated the First River Information System (RIS) System in New Delhi.

## **Following facilities will be provided through this system:**

- Enhancement of inland navigation safety in ports and rivers.
- Better use of the inland waterways
- Environmental protection
- The new system will facilitate safe and accurate navigation on National Waterway – 1 on the Ganges River.
- The Phase- II of the System from Farakka to Patna and Phase-III from Patna to Varanasi will also be implemented.
- RIS is being implemented under the overall responsibility of Inland Waterway Authority of India, a statutory body administered by the Ministry of Shipping.

## **Reference:**

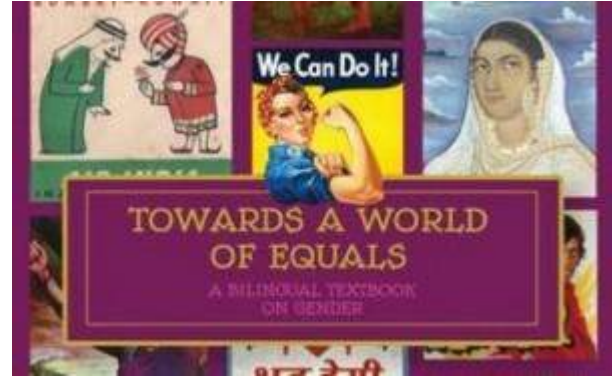
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134228>

## First State to make gender education compulsory at graduate level

**Ques:** Which state became the first State in India to introduce compulsory gender education at the graduate level?

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Madhya Pradesh
- (d) Uttar Pradesh

**Ans(b)**



**Related facts:**

- On 11 January, Telangana has become the first State to introduce compulsory gender education at the graduate level.
- In this regard, the state in second week of January 2016 introduced a bilingual textbook titled, **Towards a World of Equals**.
- The book introduced on a pilot basis in engineering colleges affiliated to the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU-Hyderabad).
- This book discusses gender in its composite form without limiting itself to crime against women.
- The book attempts to cover information on unacknowledged women writers of Telangana to problems of sex selection and women's work in politics and economics.
- It also touches upon complex subjects like female-centric history and male-female relationships.
- The book is structured in simple language and form to suit under-graduates.
- The book discusses different strands of women's movements across the world, introducing students to political movements of Afro-American, Caribbean, African, Dalit and minority women.
- The book is coupled with a collection of visual teaching tools which include documentary films.
- The book is being taught over 14 weeks in a semester at the rate of two classes per week.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/telangana-becomes-first-state-to-make-gender-education-compulsory/article8089730.ece>



## Online initiative to engage LPG consumers and citizens

**Question:** Recently, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced to celebrate 2016 as-

- (a) Year of LPG subsidy savings
- (b) Year of LPG consumers
- (c) Year of LPG customer awareness
- (d) Year of LPG leakage vigilance

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (MoPNG) on 9 January 2016 launched an Online Initiative to engage the LPG Consumers and Citizens in providing efficient and citizen friendly services in LPG distribution.
- It has launched two online discussion forums namely Citizen Friendly Services and Increasing LPG Coverage in the Country, which are available on the websites [www.mygov.in](http://www.mygov.in) and [www.mylpg.in](http://www.mylpg.in).
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas announced to celebrate 2016 as “Year of LPG consumers”.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134323>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/petroleum-and-natural-gas-ministry-launches-an-online-initiative-to-engage-116010900169\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/petroleum-and-natural-gas-ministry-launches-an-online-initiative-to-engage-116010900169_1.html)



## “e-Vahan Bima” Scheme

**Ques: Which state government has launched e-Vahan Bima Scheme?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh
- (b) Telangana
- (c) Andhra Pradesh
- (d) Kerala

**Ans: (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Government of Telangana on 2 January 2016 launched e-Vahan Bima Scheme to issue motor insurance policy in digital form.
- With this Telangana has become the first State in the country to do so.
- This scheme can provide the benefits like faster issuance, removal of fraud, higher customer satisfaction, elimination of revenue leakages, analytics and so on.
- The e-Vahan Bima is an electronic motor insurance policy issued in digital form with Quick Response (QR) code to scan for verification of policy details.
- A mobile app will also be soon provided which can be downloaded with ease on your windows, android and apple phones wherein too, the policy details are available along with a QR Code.
- An SMS-based verification was also installed. It can be stored and accessed on smart phones to make the process of verification easier for commuters as well as police.
- The scheme was launched by Information Technology Minister K T Rama Rao in the presence of T S Vijayan, Chairman of Insurance Regulatory Development Authority (IRDA).
- The initiative will be implemented in 5 more states these are Delhi NCR, Karnataka, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- The initiative is a joint effort by the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) of India, Department of Information Technology, police and transport departments of the state.



**Reference:**

[https://www.irda.gov.in/ADMINCMS/cms/whatsNew\\_Layout.aspx?page=PageNo2718&flag=1](https://www.irda.gov.in/ADMINCMS/cms/whatsNew_Layout.aspx?page=PageNo2718&flag=1)  
<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/telangana/evahan-bima-launched-in-ts/article8059807.ece>  
<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/news/telangana-become-first-state-to-accept-emotor-insurance-policies/article8058116.ece>  
[http://www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in/assets/Handbook%20Electronic%20Motor%20Policies\\_version%20III.pdf](http://www.hyderabadpolice.gov.in/assets/Handbook%20Electronic%20Motor%20Policies_version%20III.pdf)

## Cabinet approves Stand Up India Scheme

**Ques:** Union Cabinet allocated the initial budget for “Stand Up India Scheme” of-

- (a) 10,000 crore
- (b) 20,000 crore
- (c) 25,000 crore
- (d) 30,000 crore

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On January 6, 2016 The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi approved the “Stand Up India Scheme” to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and Women entrepreneurs.
- The Scheme is intended to facilitate at least two such projects per bank branch.
- The expected date of reaching the target of at least 2.5 lakh approvals is 36 months from the launch of the Scheme.
- Refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of Rs. 10,000 crore.
- Creation of a credit guarantees mechanism through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC).
- Handholding support for borrowers both at the pre loan stage and during operations.
- This would include increasing their familiarity with factoring services, registration with online platforms and e-market places as well as sessions on best practices and problem solving.

**The details of the scheme are as follows:**

- Focus is on handholding support for both SC/ST and Women borrowers.
- The overall intent of the approval is to leverage the institutional credit structure to reach out to these under-served sectors of the population by facilitating bank loans repayable up to 7 years and between Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 100 lakh for Greenfield enterprises in the non farm sector set up by such SC, ST and Women borrowers.
- The loan under the scheme would be appropriately secured and backed by a credit guarantee through a credit guarantee scheme.
- For which Department of Financial Services would be the settler and National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company Ltd. (NCGTC) would be the operating agency.
- Margin money of the composite loan would be up to 25%. Convergence with state schemes is expected to reduce the actual requirement of margin money for a number of borrowers.
- Over a period of time, it is proposed that a credit history of the borrower be built up through Credit Bureaus.
- The "Start up India Stand up India" initiative was announced by the Prime Minister in his address to the nation on 15th August, 2015.

**Reference**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134220>



## Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for Kerosene

**Ques:** Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme for Kerosene will be implemented by Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry on -

- (a) April 1, 2016
- (b) March 1, 2016
- (c) May 1, 2016
- (d) July 1, 2016

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts

- On January 1, 2016 Direct Benefit

S.No	State	Districts
1.	Chhattisgarh	Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur
2.	Haryana	Panipat, Panchkula
3.	Himachal Pradesh	Shimla, Solan and Una
4.	Jharkhand	Chhatra, Giridih, East Singhbhum, Hazaribagh, Jamtara and Khunti
5.	Madhya Pradesh	Hoshangabad, Harda, Khandwa, Burhanpur
6.	Maharashtra	Amaravati, Latur
7.	Punjab	Taran Taran, Pathankot and Mohali
8.	Rajasthan	Pali, Jhunjhunu, Kota

Transfer (DBT) scheme for Kerosene by Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry will be implemented with effect from April 1, 2016.

- It is notable that 26 districts out of eight states have agreed on DBT scheme on kerosene.
- This scheme will be implementing in Chhattisgarh (Raipur, Durg, Bilaspur), Haryana (Panipat, Panchkula), Himachal Pradesh (Shimla, Solan and Una), Jharkhand (Chhatra, Giridih, East Singhbhum, Hazaribagh, Jamtara and Khunti), Madhya Pradesh (Hoshangabad, Harda, Khandwa, Burhanpur), Maharashtra (Amaravati, Latur), Punjab (Taran Taran, Pathankot and Mohali) and Rajasthan (Pali, Jhunjhunu, Kota).
- Subsequently, the amount of subsidy will be directly transferred to the bank account of the beneficiary.
- Central government has been decided that the States be given cash incentive of 75% of subsidy savings during the first two years, 50% in the third year and 25% in the fourth year.

### Perspective of the scheme -

- The National Sample Survey 2011-12 indicates that the total consumption of kerosene in the country, including both open market and PDS kerosene, was 71.30 lakh kilolitres.
- 86.85 lakh kilolitres of subsidized PDS kerosene has been allocated to the States in the year 2015-16.
- It is notable that Subsidy outgo for kerosene for the financial year 2014-15 was about Rs. 24,799 crore.

### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134114>

<http://pibphoto.nic.in/documents/rlink/2016/jan/p20161103.pdf>

## 'Amma seeds' scheme for farmers

**Ques:** Which of the following state launched "Amma seeds" scheme in January 2016?

- (a) Karnataka
- (b) Tamilnadu
- (c) Kerala
- (d) Andhra Pradesh

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- Jayalalithaa government in Tamil Nadu to benefit farmers launched "Amma seeds" scheme on January 2, 2016.
- 'Amma Seeds' scheme is aimed at providing quality seeds to the farmers.
- For availability of certified 'Amma Seeds' would set up 'Amma Service Centres' across the state.
- The Tamil Nadu Seeds Development Agency (TNSDA) will act as the nodal body to coordinate seed farms, production units and the farmers.
- The motive of the scheme is to encourage farmers to use certified seed.
- Urban residential area will be encouraged to produce Vegetable above the roofs of the houses.
- It allocated a sum of Rs. 5.37 crore towards expanding a scheme for urban citizens to grow vegetables at home to Tiruchirappalli and Madurai.
- The scheme, which involves providing kits with necessary ingredients to people to try out vegetable farming in urban environment, has been successfully implemented in Chennai and Coimbatore following its launch last year.
- Under agriculture department initiatives, the CM inaugurated a series of buildings including dry and cold storage facilities constructed at an estimated Rs. 28.51 crore.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/tamil-nadu/tamil-nadu-cm-j-jayalalithaa-launches-amma-seeds-scheme-for-farmers/article8058599.ece>

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-jayalalithaa-launches-amma-seeds-scheme-for-farmers-urban-gardening-2161571>



## Ganga Gram Yojana launched

**Question:** How many villages are aimed to develop under recently launched Ganga Gram Yojana?

- (a) 1400
- (b) 1600
- (c) 1000
- (d) 600

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- The Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti on 5 January 2016 launched **Ganga Gram Yojana** at Village Puth in Hapur district of Uttar Pradesh (UP).
- Under the scheme, 1600 villages that are situated along the banks of river Ganga will be developed.
- In the first phase of the Ganga Gram Yojana, 200 villages in UP have been selected.
- Government will spend one crore rupees on every village under this programme.
- It would be mandatory for every household in selected villages to have functional toilets.
- In these villages, open drains falling into river Ganga will be diverted and alternative arrangements for sewage treatment will be made.
- Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation also deployed the first company of “Ganga Task force Battalion” to fast track implementation of Namami Gange Programme.
- It was deployed at Garhmukteshwar town in Hapur district of UP.
- Three such companies will be deployed soon at Kanpur, Varanasi and Allahabad.
- The Jawans of the Ganga Task force will be deployed on the banks of the river Ganga to ensure that industry and civilians do not pollute the river.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

## Delhi-Meerut Expressway project

**Question:** Recently, the Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of which of the following 14-lane expressway project?

- (a) Delhi-Lucknow Expressway
- (b) Delhi-Agra Expressway
- (c) Delhi-Meerut Expressway
- (d) Delhi-Gurgaon Expressway

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 31 December 2015, The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi unveiled a plaque to mark the laying of the foundation stone of the of 74 km long Delhi-Dasna-Meerut 14 lane Expressway.
- Along with this he also unveiled the upgradation of 22 Km long Dasna-Hapur section of NH-24, at Sector-62 in Noida.
- Delhi-Meerut Expressway will spur development in western Uttar Pradesh.
- The above project will cost Rs 7566 Crore and will include the following three components :
- DME Phase-I - Construction of 28 km long 14 lane Delhi-Dasna section of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, costing Rs 2869 Crore.
- DME Phase II – Construction of 46 km long, 6 lane Dasna-Meerut section of Delhi-Meerut Expressway, costing Rs 3575 Crore.
- Phase-III- 6- lane of 22 km long Dasna-Hapur section of NH -24 costing Rs 1122 Crore.
- This expressway is the first project under the new Hybrid Annuity model.
- It will be developed as a smart expressway.

**Reference:**

[http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-unveils-plaque-for-foundation-stone-of-delhi-meerut-expressway/?comment=disable](http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-unveils-plaque-for-foundation-stone-of-delhi-meerut-expressway/?comment=disable)

[http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/text-of-pms-address-at-the-foundation-stone-laying-ceremony-for-the-construction-of-delhi-dasna-meerut-expressway-and-upgradation-of-dasna-hapur-section-of-nh-24/?comment=disable](http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/text-of-pms-address-at-the-foundation-stone-laying-ceremony-for-the-construction-of-delhi-dasna-meerut-expressway-and-upgradation-of-dasna-hapur-section-of-nh-24/?comment=disable)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134068>

<http://pib.nic.in/eventsite/ebook/pdf/MinistryofRoadTransportandHighways.pdf>



# MoboMoney

**Question: Which of the following companies has launched contactless digital payment wallet – MoboMoney?**

- (a) Infosys
- (b) Satyam
- (c) Tech Mahindra
- (d) TCS

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On 23 December 2015, Tech Mahindra has announced the launch of 'MoboMoney', a first of its kind 'Tap N Pay' contact less digital payment solution for the Indian masses.
- MoboMoney is a prepaid wallet issued in the form of a NFC (Near Field Communication) contact less tag that could be used to 'Tap N Pay' for goods and services.
- This 'Tap N Pay' facility would be available on a network of NFC enabled merchant point of sale machines.
- Customers without an NFC-enabled phone too could enjoy the 'Tap n Pay' experience to purchase goods.
- Regarded as India's first commercial NFC ecosystem rollout, MoboMoney allows consumers to load their wallet by paying cash at its 1000+ retail network, helping convert cash into e-cash.
- The money loaded into the customer's digital wallets can then be used to 'Tap N Pay' for over the counter payments, recharges, make bill payments, as well as pay online.
- It should be noted that earlier in 2015, Reserve Bank of India has granted a license to the Tech Mahindra Limited for Payment banks.

**Reference:**

[http://www.techmahindra.com/media/press\\_releases/Mahindra-Group-launches-MoboMoney.aspx](http://www.techmahindra.com/media/press_releases/Mahindra-Group-launches-MoboMoney.aspx)

<http://www.thehindubusinessline.com/info-tech/tech-mahindra-launches-contactless-wallet->

[mobomoney/article8022128.ece](http://mobomoney/article8022128.ece)

# Lucknow Metro Rail Project

**Question:** Respective participation of Union Government and Government of Uttar Pradesh in the Lucknow

**Metro Rail Project Phase-1 A if of-**

- (a) 50:50
- (b) 80:20
- (c) 70:30
- (d) 60:40

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 22 December 2015 approved the Lucknow Metro Rail Project Phase-1 A.
- The cost of the project will be Rs. 6,928 crore which will be supported by Government of India with Rs.1,300 crore.
- The project will be implemented by the Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation (LMRC), which will be reconstituted into a 50:50 jointly owned company of Union Government and Government of Uttar Pradesh.
- Out of the total route length of 22.878 km, elevated route will be 19.438 km while underground route length will be 3.440 km. with total 19 elevated and three underground metro stations.
- The metro train will play between Chowdhary Charan Singh Airport and Munshi Pulia.

**Reference:**

[http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/approval-for-lucknow-metro-rail-project-phase-1a/?comment=disable](http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/approval-for-lucknow-metro-rail-project-phase-1a/?comment=disable)  
<http://www.railnews.co.in/cabinet-approves-lucknow-metro-rail-project-phase-1a/>  
[http://zeenews.india.com/news/uttar-pradesh/cabinet-nod-to-lucknow-metro-rail-project-phase-1a\\_1837466.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/uttar-pradesh/cabinet-nod-to-lucknow-metro-rail-project-phase-1a_1837466.html)



# National Biotechnology Development Strategy 2015-2020

**Question:** The National Biotechnology Development Strategy -2015-2020 was unveiled by the Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the Strategy aim to-

- (a) Establish India as a world-class bio-manufacturing hub
- (b) Establish India as a world-class Defence-manufacturing hub
- (c) Establish India as a world-class Solar power equipment-manufacturing hub
- (d) Establish India as a world-class Ship-manufacturing hub



**Ans (a)**

## **Related facts:**

- On 30 December 2015, Dr. Harsh Vardhan Union Minister for Science & Technology and Earth Sciences unveiled The National Biotechnology Development Strategy -2015-2020 in New Delhi.
- The Strategy aims to establish India as a world-class bio-manufacturing hub.
- It intends to launch a major mission, backed with significant investments, for the creation of new biotech products, create a strong infrastructure for research and development (R&D).
- It intends commercialization, and empowers India's human resources scientifically and technologically.
- **This mission includes :**
- Using the knowledge and tools for the benefit of humanity.
- Empower scientifically and technologically India's incomparable Human Resource.

## **Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>



## On Good Governance Day, Health Minister announces 4 new IT-based initiatives for citizen-centric health services

**Question: Good Governance Day is celebrated to mark the birthday of-**

- (a) Deendayal Upadhyaya
- (b) Madan Mohan Malaviya
- (c) Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (d) Lal Krishna Advani

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 25 December 2015 Shri J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare announced four new IT-based initiatives on Good Governance Day, to mark the birthday of Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- Enumerating the first of the initiatives, the Health Minister announced 'Kilkari'. Kilkari is an audio-based mobile service that delivers weekly audio messages to families about pregnancy, child birth and child care.
- In the first phase of implementation, such messages would be sent to the pregnant women and infants' mothers in six States in Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan.
- "Mobile Academy", has been developed through which about 9000,000 ASHAs will be trained using mobile services.
- A dedicated toll free number, 1800-11-6666, with a call centre is being started.
- It will provide round the clock support for patient counseling and treatment support services.
- This initiative is being started in the States of Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi.
- 'M-Cessation'. This will be an IT-enabled tool to help tobacco users to quit tobacco.
- Built on a helpline concept, it will register beneficiaries on the basis of a missed call. The counseling would be done through a two-way SMS process.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133940>



## Mobile Apps Launched for Farmers

**Question:** Recently launched Mobile app “AgriMarket Mobile” can be used by the farmers to get the market prices of crops in the mandi within how many Kms?

- (a) 50 Kilometers
- (b) 100 Kilometers
- (c) 80 Kilometers
- (d) 20 Kilometers

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- On 23 December 2015 Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare Minister, Sh Radha Mohan Singh launched two mobile apps for the farmers.
- The launched mobile Apps are “Crop Insurance” and “AgriMarket Mobile”.
- “Crop Insurance” will help the farmers not only to find out complete details about insurance cover available in their area but also to calculate the insurance premium for notified crops, coverage amount and loan amount in case of a loaned farmer.
- “AgriMarket Mobile” can be used by the farmers to get the market prices of crops in the mandi within 50 km radius of the device and other mandis in the country.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=133861>



## Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme for Textiles industry

**Ques:** In which of the following date, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the "Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS)"?

- (a) December 30, 2015
- (b) December 28, 2015
- (c) December 25, 2015
- (d) December 20, 2015

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts**

- In December 30, 2015 the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the introduction of "Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS).
- It is notable that the amended scheme would give a boost to “Make in India” in the textiles sector; it is expected to attract investment to the tune of one lakh crore rupees, and create over 30 lakh jobs.
- A budget provision of Rs.17,822 crore has been approved, of which Rs. 12,671 crore is for committed liabilities under the ongoing scheme, and Rs. 5,151 crore is for new cases under ATUFS.

**Reference**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134032>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cabinet-approves-amended-technology-upgradation-fund-scheme-for-textiles-industry-115123000748\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/cabinet-approves-amended-technology-upgradation-fund-scheme-for-textiles-industry-115123000748_1.html)

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/economy/policy/government-approves-amended-tuf-scheme-to-create-over-3-million-jobs/articleshow/50380838.cms>



# Treaty & Agreement

## India-Armenia Double Taxation Avoidance agreement

**Question:** On 27 January 2016, the Government of India has signed a Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention with which of the following countries?

- (a) Armenia
- (b) Albania
- (c) Romania
- (d) Colombia

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts:

- On 27 January 2016, A Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention was signed by the Government of India and the Government of Armenia.
- The Protocol amends the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention between India and Armenia that has been in existence since 9th September, 2004.
- The Protocol amends the Article on Exchange of Information for tax purposes to bring it in line with the updated provisions in the OECD Model.
- The Protocol will enable the two countries to exchange information related to financial and banking transactions under the Double Taxation Avoidance Convention.
- It is also expected to further strengthen the efforts of Government of India in curbing generation of black money.

### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135818>



## Agreement between the India and Russia for conducting basic and exploratory scientific research

**Ques:** Recently the Union Cabinet has approved the agreement between the India and Russia for conducting basic and exploratory scientific research. The Agreement is valid for how many years?

- (a) 7 Years
- (b) 6 Years
- (c) 5 Years
- (d) 3 Years

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 27 January 2016, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the agreement between the India and Russia for cooperation on a coordinated grant competition for conducting basic and exploratory scientific research.
- The agreement between India and Russia was done in May 2015.
- The Agreement provides for competitive research grants to Indian and Russian researchers for joint implementation of research projects in areas of Basic and Exploratory Sciences.
- The Agreement is valid for a period of six years and could be extended through mutual consent between Department of Science & Technology (DST) and Russian Science Federation (RSF).
- This competition would be conducted in the areas of Mathematics, Computer & System Science; Physics & Space Science; Chemistry & Material Science; Biology and Life Science; Basic research for Medicine, Agricultural Science, Earth Science and Engineering Science.
- Decision to identify research projects for funding would be taken jointly by DST and RSF.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135823>

# Memorandum of Understanding between India and United Kingdom

**Question:** Recently Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India, and United Kingdom for-

- (a) Nuclear energy
- (b) Renewable Energy
- (c) Public Administration and Governance Reforms
- (d) In the field of cultural activities

**Ans (c)**

*Understanding between  
India and United Kingdom  
in the field of Public  
Administration and  
Governance Reforms*

**Related facts:**

- On 20 January 2016, the Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India, and United Kingdom for Cooperation in Public Administration and Governance Reforms.
- This MoU was signed in November, 2015.
- The form of co-operation under the MoU will be in areas like sharing good governance practices in public administration; User led service design, Reducing bureaucracy in service delivery, Government Process Re-engineering, Building and developing staff capability, Public Grievance Redress Mechanism, Local Government Reforms.
- It will also bring reforms towards strengthening of social security, Collaboration in strategies for promotion of ethics in Government, Collaboration between Government and Industry on staff management, Mechanisms for public engagement, Crisis and Disaster Management and Digital transformation of Government.
- The MoU will help in understanding the system of customer oriented public service delivery in UK with reference to rapidly changing environments in the area of public service management.
- It will also enable in replicating, adapting and innovating some of the best practices and processes in the Indian Public Service Delivery System, leading to improved public service delivery in India.
- A Joint Working Group on Public Administration and Governance will be responsible for implementation of the MoU.
- The First Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is scheduled to be held later this month in London.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>



# India Signs Financing Agreement with World Bank

**Question: Name the Project for which Indian Government has signed US\$ 250 million financing agreement with World Bank (IDA)?**

- (a) Damodar Valley Project
- (b) Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project
- (c) Tehri Dam project
- (d) Tulbul project

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- Government of India and the World Bank on January 21, 2016 at New Delhi signed an agreement according which World Bank (IDA) will provide an assistance of US\$ 250 million for Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project.
- It is a loan for an implementation period of 5 years.
- The Financing Agreement was signed by Mr. Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Onno Ruhl, Country Director in India, on behalf of the World Bank.
- A Subsidiary Agreement was also entered into between Government of India and Project Implementing Entity i.e. Government of Jammu & Kashmir.
- The objective of the project is to support the recovery and increase disaster resilience in Project Areas and increase the capacity of the Project Implementing Entity to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency.
- The primary beneficiaries would be the communities in the districts of Jammu & Kashmir that were affected by loss of public service infrastructure.
- **The project has seven components:**
  - (i) Reconstruction and strengthening of critical infrastructure.
  - (ii) Reconstruction of roads and bridges.
  - (iii) Restoration of urban flood management infrastructure.
  - (iv) Restoration and strengthening of livelihoods.
  - (v) Strengthening disaster risk management capacity.
  - (vi) Contingency Emergency Response and
  - (vii) Implementation Support.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>



# India signs Financing Agreement with World Bank for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project

**Question:** How much does the World Bank is providing as a financial assistance according to an agreement signed by it for the Bihar Kosi Basin development project?

- (a) 250 Million dollars
- (b) 200 Million dollars
- (c) 275 Million dollars
- (d) 300 Million dollars

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Government of India and the World Bank on January 20, 2016 at New Delhi signed an agreement according which World Bank (IDA) will provide an assistance of US\$ 250 million for Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project.
- The Financing Agreement was signed by Mr. Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs on behalf of Government of India and Mr. Onno Ruhl, Country Director in India, on behalf of the World Bank
- The objective of the project is to enhance resilience to floods and increase agricultural production and productivity in the targeted districts in the Kosi River Basin, and to enhance Bihar's capacity to respond promptly and effectively to an eligible crisis or emergency.
- The primary beneficiaries will be rural producers and households in the Kosi River Basin who are regularly exposed to floods.
- This includes farmers who lost their agricultural lands due to the silt deposits brought by the 2008 Kosi River Flood.
- It will also benefit farmers in the project area that are currently without access to irrigation and other technologies, improved agricultural practices and an adequate transport network.
- **The project has five components:**
  - (i) Improving Flood Risk Management.
  - (ii) Enhancing Agricultural Productivity and Competitiveness.
  - (iii) Augmenting Connectivity.
  - (iv) Contingent Emergency Response and
  - (v) Implementation Support.
- It is a loan for an implementation period of 5 years. Government of Bihar is the implementing agency.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134661>

<http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P127725/bihar-flood-rehabilitation-phase-ii?lang=en>



# Ultra Mega Solar Power Plant, Rewa

**Ques:** Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Madhya Pradesh Government and IFC , member of the World Bank Group, to set up the world's largest solar energy plant. The plant will be set up at:

- (a) Rewa
- (b) Jabalpur
- (c) Indore
- (d) Ujjain

**Ans (a)**

## Related facts



- Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between Madhya Pradesh Government and IFC, member of the World Bank Group, to set up the solar energy plant.
- The Rewa Ultra-Mega Solar Power Project will be set up in Gurh tehsil of Rewa district over an area of 1,500 hectares at an estimated cost of Rs 4,500 crore.
- The proposed Solar Park at Rewa, Madhya Pradesh would be among world's largest facility of its kind on completion with a total solar installed capacity of 750 MW.
- Successful implementation of the Rewa Ultra-Mega Power project will be a key milestone for Madhya Pradesh's outstanding efforts and leadership in renewable energy.
- Madhya Pradesh Urja Vika Nigam Limited (MPUVNL) and the Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) have created a joint venture company named as Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Power Limited to implement the project.

## Reference

<http://seci.gov.in/content/innerpage/madhya-pradesh.php>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/other-states/mp-govt-inks-pact-to-set-up-worlds-largest-solar-plant/article8115186.ece>

# Government of India and World Bank sign a loan agreement

**Question:** Recently, the Government of India for which project signed a loan agreement with the World Bank?

- (a) Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project
- (b) Neeranchal National Watershed Project
- (c) Sagar Mala Project
- (d) Diamond Quadrilateral project

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 14 January 2016, Government of India signed a loan agreement with World Bank for the Neeranchal National Watershed Project.
- The Neeranchal project was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 7 October 2015 last year.
- This project has total budget outlay of Rs.2142 crore.
- The Government has share of Rs.1071 crore and the rest 50% by the World Bank.
- The project to be implemented by the Ministry of Rural Development over a six-year period (2016-21).
- This project will support the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana in hydrology and water management, agricultural production systems, capacity building and monitoring and evaluation.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134475>

<http://www.worldbank.org/projects/P132739/neeranchal-national-watershed-project?lang=en>



## Loan Agreement signed between Government of India and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

**Ques:** Recently Government has signed a loan agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for pollution abatement of which river?

- (a) Ganga river
- (b) Mula-Mutha river
- (c) Yamuna river
- (d) Periyar river

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts:

- On 13 January 2016, The Government signed a loan agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for pollution abatement of River Mula-Mutha in Pune under National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).
- The project is scheduled to be completed by January, 2022.
- The Government of Japan will provide a soft loan of 19.064 billion Yen (about Rs. 1000 crore) to Government of India for the project at an interest rate of 0.30% per annum.
- On this occasion Minister of State (Independent Charge) of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Prakash Javadekar was present.

### Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134415>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/loan-agreement-signed-between-government-of-india-and-jica-for-cleaning-116011300447\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/loan-agreement-signed-between-government-of-india-and-jica-for-cleaning-116011300447_1.html)





# Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives

**Ques:** Recently Union Cabinet, has given its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives on cooperation in which of the following field?

- (a) Tourism
- (b) Health
- (c) Science and Technology
- (d) Renewable energy



**Ans (b)**

## Related facts:

- On 13 January 2016 Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its ex-post facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Maldives on cooperation in the field of Health.
- It was signed in January, 2014.
- The Memorandum of Understanding covers the following areas of cooperation:-
  - I. Exchange & training of medical doctors, officials, other health professionals and experts.
  - II. Assistance in development of human resources and setting up of health care facilities.
  - III. Medical and health research development.
  - IV. Management of healthcare sector and public health services.
  - V. Procurement of generic and essential drugs and assistance in sourcing of drug supplies.
  - VI. Health promotion and disease prevention.
  - VII. Traditional and complementary Medicine.
  - VIII. Telemedicine and
  - IX. Any other area of cooperation as may be mutually decided upon.

## Reference:

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134423>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/hindirelease.aspx?relid=44277>

# Union Cabinet approved MoU with Bangladesh to set up border haats

**Question:** Recently with which country Union Cabinet approved MoU to set up border haats?

- (a) Nepal
- (b) Bangladesh
- (c) Myanmar
- (d) Sri Lanka

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- The Union Cabinet, presided by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, on 6 January 2016 gave its ex-post-facto approval for the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Bangladesh.
- MoU and Mode of Operation of Border Haats that was signed on 23 October 2010 with Bangladesh for setting up Border Haats on India-Bangladesh Border.
- Addendum to the MoU signed on 15 May 2012.
- The approval is given to establish new Border Haats after identification of suitable locations in consultation with Government of Bangladesh and concerned State Governments.
- The Border Haats will aim at promoting the well-being of the people dwelling in remote areas across the borders of two countries, by establishing traditional system of marketing the local produce thorough local markets in local currency and/or barter basis.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134203>

## MoU between India and Singapore

**Ques:** Recently, Union Cabinet gave its ex-post facto approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Singapore in which of the following fields?

- (a) In agriculture
- (b) Information and Technology
- (c) In the field of civil aviation
- (d) Shipping sector

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**



- The Union Cabinet on 6 January 2016 gave its ex-post facto approval for signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Airports Authority of India and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise in Civil Aviation.
- The MoU was signed between the two nations in November 2015 during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore.
- The MoU aims at establishing mutual cooperation in the field of civil aviation, which will cover the airports of Jaipur and Ahmedabad. This cooperation will be extended to other airports with mutual consent.
- This includes collaboration in Civil Aviation Sector between both countries will be in the areas of (i) Master-planning and design (ii) Commercial development (iii) Traffic development Training and development (iv) Service quality improvement (v) Maintenance, repair and overhaul (vi) Cargo handling and Management (vii) Operation and management.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134213>

## Approval of India-Bahrain Agreement

**Ques :** With Which of the following country Union Cabinet has given its approval for agreement on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs, Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Chemicals and its ratification?

- (a) Myanmar
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Bahrain

**Ans (d)**

### Related facts

- On January 6, 2016 the Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its ex-post facto approval to the Agreement between India and Bahrain on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs, Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Chemicals and its ratification.
- It will help establish framework for enhancing cooperation between the officials of intelligence and law-enforcement agencies of the two countries.
- The Agreement aims to improve the effectiveness of both countries in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and suppression of crimes including crime relating to terrorism, transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

### Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134210>

*Cabinet gives ex-post facto approval to India-Bahrain Agreement on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism, Transnational Organized Crime and Trafficking in Illicit Drugs, Narcotic and Psychotropic Substances and Precursors Chemicals, and ratification of the same*

**Ques:** The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS countries for BRICS Network University on -

- (a) December 30, 2015
- (b) November 30, 2015
- (c) October 30, 2015
- (d) September 30, 2015

**Ans (a)**

### Related facts

- On December 30, 2015 The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its ex-post facto approval for signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) among BRICS countries on BRICS Network University.
- It is notable that negotiations were held on this during the 3rd BRICS Education Ministers meeting and Senior Officials meeting in November, 2015 at Moscow, Russia.
- The MoU will help in developing pro-active cooperation among the BRICS nations for the purpose of enhancement of scientific research, higher education, information exchange, analysis and implementation of best practices, joint research programmes, and mobility of students, researchers and educators.
- BRICS countries are: Brazil, India, Russia, China and South Africa.



### Reference

[http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/ex-post-facto-approval-for-signing-of-mou-among-brics-countries-on-brics-network-university/](http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/ex-post-facto-approval-for-signing-of-mou-among-brics-countries-on-brics-network-university/)

<http://gusbrics.org/>



## First MOU on “UDAY”

**Ques: Which state and electricity distribution company recently signed the first agreement with the Indian Government under the scheme 'UDAY' (Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojna)?**

- (a) Uttar Pradesh and Purvanchal Vidyut Vitaran Nigam Limited
- (b) Bihar and Bihar Power Distribution Company Limited
- (c) Jharkhand and Jharkhand Bijli Vitaran Nigam Ltd (JBVNL)
- (d) Orissa and Orissa Electricity Distribution Corporation Limited

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The Jharkhand Government and the Jharkhand Bijli Vitaran Nigam Limited (JBVNL) on 5 January 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) under the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) Scheme.
- The MoU will help state government in electrifying remaining 2200 villages in state and make Union Government's vision of providing 24x7 electricity supply to all a reality.
- The Scheme UDAY was launched by the Government of India on 20th November, 2015 in consultation with various Stakeholders including States, DISCOMs, Banks and Financial Institutions.
- It is started to ensure a sustainable solution to enable the Distribution utilities across the country to break out of a long standing Debts of almost Rs 4.3 Lakh crore.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/uday-has-15-takers-jharkhand-first-state-to-sign-mou-116010400540\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/uday-has-15-takers-jharkhand-first-state-to-sign-mou-116010400540_1.html)



# India signs Financing Agreement with World Bank for Nai Manzil

**Ques :** How many aid approved by the World Bank for Nai Manzil scheme to the Government of India?

- (a) US\$ 50 million
- (b) US\$ 60 million
- (c) US\$ 70 million
- (d) US\$ 100 million

**Ans (a)**

## Related facts



- On January 1, 2015 a Financing Agreement for IDA credit of US\$ 50 million for the “Nai Manzil Education and Skills Training for Minorities” was signed with the World Bank.
- The Financing Agreement was signed by Mr. Raj Kumar, Joint Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs (DEA) on behalf of the Government of India.
- The total project size is USD 100 million, out of which USD 50 million will be available as IDA credit, and the balance funding from the Union Budget.
- The project takes an integrated and holistic approach towards education and skill development of the minority youth, to address the high dropout and unemployment rate among them.
- Minority BPL (below poverty line) youth in the age group of 17-35 years will be the main beneficiaries of the project.

## Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134091>

## Russia's Rostec State Corporation tie up with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)

**Question:** Russia's Rostec State Corporation is expected to tie up with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture which helicopters?

- (a) Sukhoi-30MKI
- (b) Kamov 226T
- (c) Kamov 218T
- (d) Kamov 220T

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On December 29, 2015 Russia's Rostec State Corporation willing to tie up with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to manufacture Kamov 226T light helicopters in India.
- Under this deal Rostec State Corporation will manufacture at least 200 Kamov 226T light helicopters.
- The deal is estimated to be worth USD 1 billion under the 'Make in India' initiative.
- The Kamov will replace the ageing fleet of Cheetah and Chetak.
- It should be noted that during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Moscow on 23-24 December 2015, an agreement was signed between the two countries on cooperation in the field of helicopter manufacturing.

**Reference:**

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/russia-wants-hal-as-partner/article8042470.ece>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/boost-for-make-in-india-russias-rostec-to-form-jv-with-hal-for-making-kamov-226t-choppers/articleshow/50366234.cms>

## Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Urban Development and Bloomberg Philanthropies

**Question:** Name the project for which Union Cabinet has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Urban Development and Bloomberg Philanthropies (BP), New York?

- (a) HRIDAY Scheme
- (b) AMRUT Project
- (c) Smart City Project
- (d) Housing For all Scheme

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- On 30 December 2015, The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Urban Development and Bloomberg Philanthropies (BP), New York to support the development of Smart Cities.
- Under this proposal Bloomberg Philanthropies will work as Knowledge Partner and support the development and execution of a Cities Challenge under the Smart Cities Mission.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134018>



## Agreement between India and Maldives for the exchange of information with respect to taxes

**Ques:** Recently with which of the following country Union cabinet signed agreement for the exchange of information with respect to taxes?

- (a) Myanmar
- (b) Maldives
- (c) Sri Lanka
- (d) Bhutan

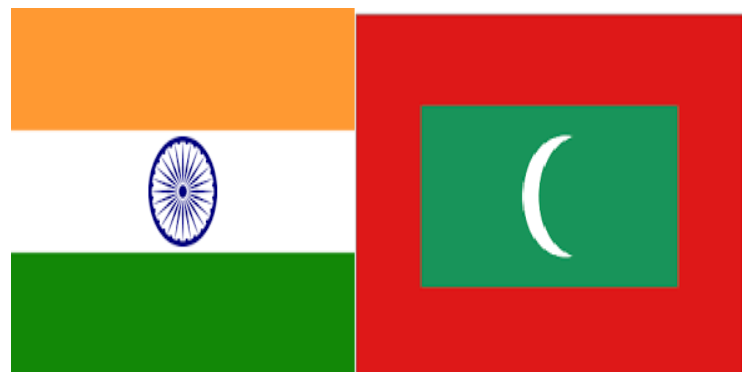
**Ans (b)**

**Related facts**

- In December 30, 2015 the Union Cabinet has approved the signing and ratification of an Agreement for the exchange of information between India and Maldives with respect to taxes.
- It is notable that the Agreement will stimulate effective exchange of information between the two countries which will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.

**Reference**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134015>



# Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Jordan

**Ques:** Recently Union Cabinet signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Jordan for promoting cooperation in the field of -

- (a) Information Technology and Electronics
- (b) Agriculture
- (c) Space
- (d) Cultural

**Ans (a)**



## Related facts

- On December 30, 2015 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Jordan for promoting cooperation in the field of Information Technology and Electronics.
- It is notable that MoU will develop Sharing of best practices in the areas of regulatory policy and the institutional framework with special emphasis on developing internationally competitive IT&E manufacturing and services industry.

## The main areas of co-operation between the parties include:

- Strengthening of collaboration in the IT&E sector in the areas of e-education, e-Governance, m-Governance, e-health, telemedicine.
- Cooperation among private and public entities of both countries in the areas of investment and business promotion.
- It will develop and strengthen industrial, technological and commercial cooperation between the two countries in Information Technology and Electronics (IT&E) sector and to implement institutional and capacity building cooperation programme aimed at fostering partnerships between the two countries.

## Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134024>



# Conference

## India Africa Hydrocarbons Conference

**Ques: Where did the 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Africa Hydrocarbons Conference was held?**

- (a) Nairobi
- (b) Guwahati
- (c) New Delhi
- (d) Bamako

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Africa Hydrocarbons Conference was held at New Delhi from 21 to 22 January 2016.
- The conference's main theme was "Energizing the bottom of the pyramid: Together towards Tomorrow".
- The India-Africa Hydrocarbons Conference was conceptualized in 2007 with the objective to foster bilateral trade relations in the hydrocarbons sector, understand policy and regulatory frameworks and offer opportunities for strategic partnerships in upstream and downstream sectors of the two regions.
- This summit saw the presence of 41 African Heads of States and Governments.
- In his opening speech, India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister of State (Independent Charge), Dharmendra Pradhan stated that in 2014, 32 million metric tons of crude oil was imported from Africa to India.
- Including 3 Million Metric tonnes from North Africa and 29 Million Metric tonnes from West Africa, mainly from Nigeria and Angola.
- This constitutes approximately 16% of our consumption. This is going to increase in the coming years.
- India's scarcity of domestic energy resources can be offset by Africa's surplus energy reserves – which accounts for about 15% of current proved accessible global oil reserves.
- The new discoveries in Africa have seen oil reserves grow by over 100% and gas reserves grow by over 55%.
- The Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of Indian primary energy consumption in the last 15 years has been about 7.3% as compared to a global CAGR of 3%.
- According to the International Energy Agency's (IEA) World Energy Outlook 2015, India will contribute around 25% of the growth in global energy demand and would thus be the single largest contributor to energy growth globally.
- India import nearly 78% of crude oil & 35% our natural gas requirements.
- Despite being a net importer of crude oil, India, with 23 refineries, has become a net exporter of petroleum products by investing in refineries designed for export.



- India has emerged as a refining hub.
- India has the fourth largest refining capacity in the world with 4.5% of world share.
- Indian refineries have the highest complexity and can refine almost 180 kinds of crude.
- In 2014-15, India exported 63 Million Metric Tonnes of petroleum products to more than 55 countries around the world.
- Indian companies are already providing comprehensive Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) services to the hydrocarbon sector in Africa.
- ONGC Videsh Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the E & P activities (engineering and procurement) with Equatorial Guinea.
- 250 pre-finance scholarships are announced. The scholarship will be provided to those persons of Africa who are doing technical research in hydrocarbon sector in institutions in India.
- During India Africa Forum Summit in October 2015, Hon'ble Prime Minister had announced 50,000 scholarships for African students and research scholars. This includes scholarships in petroleum sector specific R&D and training.
- In his closing remarks, Foreign Minister Sushma Swaraj suggested for moving while working together for energy poverty and energy justice.
- This conference aims to build on successful accomplishment of the first three conferences held in 2007, 2009, and 2011 respectively.

#### **Reference:**

[http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26286/Valedictory\\_Address\\_by\\_External\\_Affairs\\_Minister\\_at\\_IndiaAfrica\\_Hydrocarbon\\_Conference\\_2016\\_January\\_22\\_2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26286/Valedictory_Address_by_External_Affairs_Minister_at_IndiaAfrica_Hydrocarbon_Conference_2016_January_22_2016)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134670>

<http://www.iahc2016.com/press-release-1.html>

<http://www.iahc2016.com/>

# 19th National e-governance Conference

**Question:** The two-day 19th National Conference on e-Governance organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY) was held at-

- (a) Nagpur
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Hyderabad
- (d) Chennai

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- The 19th National Conference on e-Governance was inaugurated in Nagpur, Maharashtra on January 21 2016.
- The two-day Conference was held on January 21-22, 2016.
- The conference was organized by Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) and Department of Electronics and Information Technology (DeitY), Government of India in association with the Government of Maharashtra.
- The Conference serves as an effective forum for IT professionals of the Central and State Governments, Software Solution Providers and the Industry to interact and analyse various solution frameworks.
- Many new initiatives in e-Governance have emerged out of these Conferences.
- The Conference was divide into six plenary sessions on topics such as Governance with Accountability Transparency & Innovation (GATI) for Citizen-Centric Services, Financial Inclusion- Jan Dhan, Aadhaar and Mobile (JAM)
- It also included the discussion on Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Urban Governance in Smart Cities, Cyber Security Framework for Citizen Centric Services, Decade of e-Governance- Way Ahead and Technology Enabled Education.
- There was a book presented in the conference titled “Transforming Governance - A Decade of e-Governance and the Next Wave of Governance Reforms”.
- The Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Shri Devendra Fadnavis honored 24 winners of national-e-governance awards in 12 categories for their outstanding achievement in the field of e-governance.
- Project “TDS Reconciliation Analysis & Correction Enabling System (TRACES)” of Directorate of Income Tax won gold award in category-I.
- Similarly project “Passport Seva” of Ministry of External Affairs of Govt. of India won gold award in category –II.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134612>  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135728>  
<http://nceg.gov.in/19th-nceg>  
[http://nceg.gov.in/sites/nceg.gov.in/files/list\\_of\\_awards.pdf](http://nceg.gov.in/sites/nceg.gov.in/files/list_of_awards.pdf)  
<http://nceg.gov.in/National-Awards-for-e-Governance>



## Inauguration of 'SHRESTHKRITI' and Launch of 'Cottage Premium'

**Question:** Where did the CCIC has organized an Exhibition cum Sale of exclusive handcrafted creations which aims to promote Indian Handicraft products and to showcase the rich heritage of India?

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Chennai
- (d) Kolkata

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- In an endeavor to promote Indian Handicraft products and to showcase the rich heritage of India , CCIC has organized an Exhibition cum Sale of exclusive handcrafted creations by National Awardees in its showroom at Janpath, New Delhi from 19th January 2016 to 31st January 2016.
- The exhibition was inaugurated on 19 January 2016 by Ms. Rashmi Verma, Secretary, Ministry of Textiles, at CCIC showroom.
- Synonym with its name 'SHRESTHKRITI' the exhibition showcases unique artifacts, paintings, Wooden Panels, Antique Oil Lamps, Brass handicrafts, Marble Artifacts, Painted Wooden Artifacts , Dhokra ,Pottery, Papier machie, sarees ,shawls, and home linen.
- The highlight of the exhibition was the launch of "COTTAGE PREMIUM"- An exquisite collection of highly exclusive and very limited collection of handicraft and handloom products for the connoisseur of crafts.
- The limited Cottage Premium Collection is available initially only in CCIC Emporium of Jawahar Vyapar Bhawan, Janpath, New Delhi.
- This exhibition is yet another step in the series of special displays being organised by CCIC to encourage the craft persons and present their creations to the discerning buyers from all parts of the globe.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134604>

## Matdaata Mahotsav

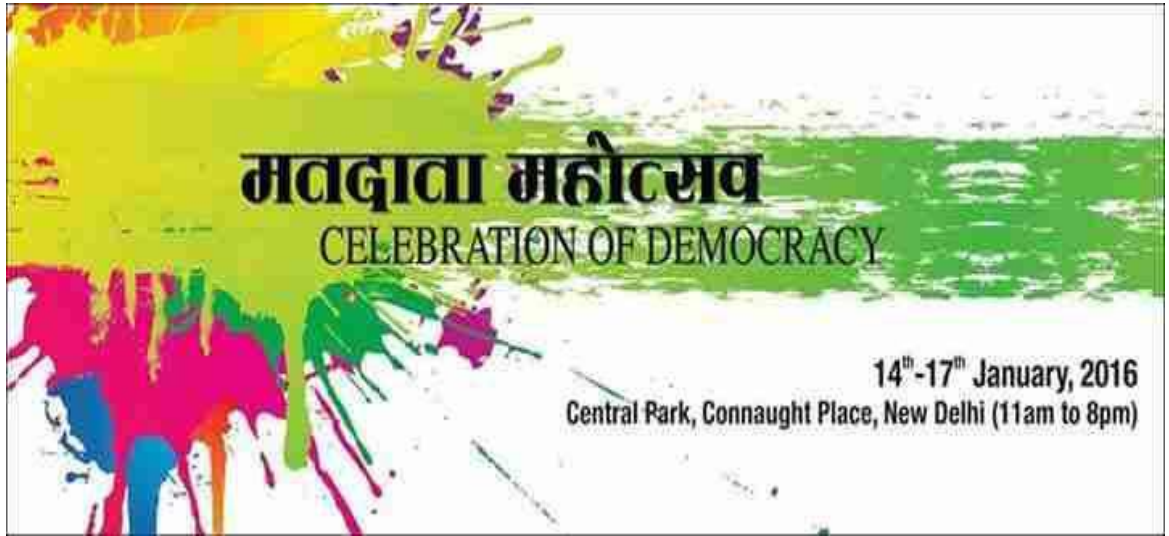
**Ques:** Recently Election Commission of India (ECI) organized “Matdaata Mahotsav” at-

- (a) New Delhi
- (b) Jaipur
- (c) Gandhinagar
- (d) Bengaluru

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Election Commission



of India (ECI) has organized “Matdaata Mahotsav” from 14th to 17th of January, 2016 at Central park, Connaught Place, New Delhi

- The event was inaugurated by Chief Election Commissioner of India Dr. Nasim Zaidi on 14th January, 2016.
- The event had focused at involving voters and citizens from all walks of life specifically women, youth, defence personnel, non-resident Indians, persons with disabilities, and those from marginalised sections for enhanced sense of inclusion.
- It also aimed at increasing awareness about the electoral process and strengthening SVEEP (Systematic Voters' Education & Electoral Participation) programme.
- This festival was organized with the support from partner CSOs, NGOs, Ministries and Departments, Radio, TV and Print Media partners for greater outreach to the people.

**Reference:**

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/voter-fest2016/voter-fest.html](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/voter-fest2016/voter-fest.html)

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/PN5\\_15012016.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN5_15012016.pdf)

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/PN4\\_14012016.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN4_14012016.pdf)

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/PN3\\_13012016.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/PN3_13012016.pdf)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134523>



## 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

**Question: 14<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bhartiya Divas was held at-**

- (a) Ahmedabad
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Kolkata
- (d) Bengaluru

**Ans (b)**



**14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**

**Related facts:**

- The Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) 2016 was held at New Delhi from 08<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January, 2016.
- This was eighth occasion that Paravasi Bhartiya Divas is celebrated in New Delhi.
- Earlier in year 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011 and 2014 PBD is celebrated in New Delhi.
- The event was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and attended by Priti Patel, MoS for Employment, United Kingdom.
- Apart from the main event in New Delhi, the day was celebrated by the MEA, across the world, through its missions/posts abroad.
- On this occasion, Sushma Swaraj announced that the government is considering Aadhaar cards to non-resident Indians (NRIs) and allowing women workers to Gulf countries only through the government agencies to ensure they were not duped by recruiting agents or firms.
- **The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas was unique for two reasons-**
  - (1) It was the first limited edition of the PBD. The government, in 2015, took a decision to limit the PBD conference as a biannual event and extend the PBD across the world and throughout the year. In effect, the next PBD conference will be held in 2017.
  - (2) It was organised for the first time by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) after the government's decision to merge Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with it. Earlier it used to celebrate by the MOIA.
- It is being held annually since 2003 to bring the Indian Diaspora on a single platform and leverage their resources in nation building activities.
- The day is held annually on 9 January 2015 to mark the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to India.
- The 13th PBD was held in Gujarat (Gandhinagar) marked the 100th year of Mahatma Gandhi's return to India from South Africa.

**Reference:**

[http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26262/Keynote+Address+by+External+Affairs+Minister+on+14th+Pravasi+Bharatiya+Divas+January+09+2016)

[Statements.htm?dtl/26262/Keynote+Address+by+External+Affairs+Minister+on+14th+Pravasi+Bharatiya+Divas+January+09+2016](http://www.mea.gov.in/Speeches-Statements.htm?dtl/26262/Keynote+Address+by+External+Affairs+Minister+on+14th+Pravasi+Bharatiya+Divas+January+09+2016)

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=128468%20>

[http://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/whats\\_080116\\_1.html](http://www.indembassy-tokyo.gov.in/whats_080116_1.html)

# 20th National Youth Festival

**Ques: What is the theme of 20<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival?**

- (a) Youth for Clean, green and progressive India.
- (b) India Youth for Skill, Development and Harmony.
- (c) Youth for Skilled India
- (d) Youth for Clean India

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

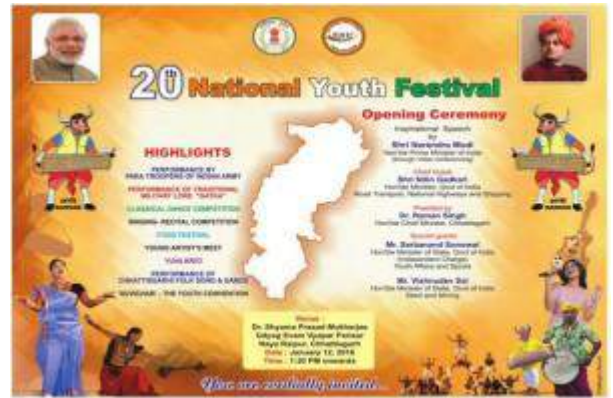
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi on 12 January 2016 delivered the inaugural address for the National Youth Festival at Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh, via video-conferencing from Race Course Road, Delhi.
- The 20th National Youth Festival was on 12 January 2016 inaugurated by Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari at Rajyostav Sthal in Naya Raipur, Chhattisgarh to mark the National Youth Day.
- The five day (12-16 January 2016) long annual festival is celebrated by the Union Government in partnership with a state government on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- For the 20th National Youth Festival, Chhattisgarh was chosen as the partner state with the theme India Youth for Skill, Development and Harmony.
- It is an annual gathering of students being jointly organised by Chhattisgarh Sports and Youth Welfare Department, Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme.
- The festival will see the participation of over 6000 youths from across the country except West Bengal.
- It will see contests in 18 different disciplines, including folk dance, folk song, drama, classical music, classical dance, extempore etc.
- For the first time in the youth festival, para-trooping would be displayed by the Indian Army along with weapons and explosives used during war.
- It comprises a Youth Parliament where representatives of student unions and Universities would discuss key issues of the country particularly on the theme-India Youth for Skill, Development and Harmony.
- National Industry Conclave: The conclave, which is held annually during the festival, saw the participation of various ministries and companies.
- On this occasion, Tata Group announced that it would establish 40 skill centres.
- Mascot: Wild Buffalo, the state animal of Chhattisgarh, in famous dancing pose was chosen as the mascot of the event.
- The mascot was named as Sanghi (friend), which symbolises strength, gives message of physical fitness to youth of nation and its dancing pose signifies festive zeal.
- The 19th National Youth Festival was held in Guwahati, Assam.

**Reference:**

[http://www.ptinews.com/news/6957735\\_20th-National-Youth-Festival-from-Jan-12-in-C-garh.html](http://www.ptinews.com/news/6957735_20th-National-Youth-Festival-from-Jan-12-in-C-garh.html)

[http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news\\_updates/pm-inaugurates-national-youth-day/?comment=disable](http://pmindia.gov.in/en/news_updates/pm-inaugurates-national-youth-day/?comment=disable)

[http://newsonair.com/full\\_news.asp?type=bulletins&id=110](http://newsonair.com/full_news.asp?type=bulletins&id=110)<http://www.thehindu.com/todays-paper/tp-in-school/national-youth-fest-opens-today-in-cgarh/article8093665.ece>



# 103rd Indian Science Congress

**Ques: The theme of the 103rd edition of the Indian Science Congress (ISC) is-**

- (a) Science and technology for human development
- (b) Science and Technology for Indigenous Development in India
- (c) Make in India
- (d) Science and Technology for Agricultural Development

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- University of Mysore hosted the prestigious 103rd edition of Indian Science Congress from January 3 to 7, 2016 at its campus.
- The Indian Science Congress is being hosted in Karnataka after 13 years and in Mysuru after 34 years, previously it was held in 1982.
- The Science Congress was formally inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 3, 2016.
- During the inaugural speech Prime Minister gave a new mantra comprising five Es – **“Economy, Environment, Energy, Empathy and Equity”**.
- The 103<sup>rd</sup> Science Congress was held under the presidentship of Dr. Ashok Kumar Saxena.
- The theme of this edition of the Congress is **“Science and Technology for Indigenous Development in India.”**
- In addition to well-known scientists from across the world it was attended by Prof John B Gurdon, UK, Nobel in 2012 for Medicine, Prof Manjul Bhargava, USA, Fields Medal (Nobel Equivalent) in 2014, Prof David J Gross, USA, Nobel in 2004 for Physics, Prof Dan Shechtman, Israel, Nobel in 2011 for Chemistry, Prof Serge Haroche, France, Nobel in 2012 for Physics and Arthur B. McDonald, Canada, Nobel in 2015 for Physics.
- Eminent Indian Scientists like Prof C N R Rao, Prof Kasturirangan and Prof Goverdhan Mehta and others also delivered lectures and expressed their views on the science development in the country.
- As part of Indian Science Congress, the Children Science Congress was inaugurated by Nobel Laureate Prof. John B. Gurdon, (Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 2012) on January 4
- The 5<sup>th</sup> Women’s Science Congress was inaugurated by HRD Minister Smt Smriti Zubin Irani at the Crawford Hall on January 4, 2016.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Science Communicators Meet also held, it is an initiative for Science communicators for professional growth, this Sammelan will focus on the theme “Science and Technology for Indigenous Development in India”.
- On January 7, 2016 General Meeting of the Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) and closing ceremony of 103<sup>rd</sup> Indian Science Congress was held.
- Over 5000 speakers delivered talks and a total of 12500 delegates and 500 Scientists participated at the 103rd Indian Science Congress.
- Over 150 institutions from around India and abroad took part in the meet.
- It was declared that the next (104<sup>th</sup>) annual Indian Science Congress will be held between Jan 3rd to Jan 7th, 2017 at SRM University in Chennai.
- Pro. D. Narayanan Rao named as president of the 104th Indian Science Congress.

**Reference:**

<http://www.isc103.in/>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134301>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134127>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134191>

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/backgrounders.aspx?relid=0>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/PM-Modi-inaugurates-103rd-Indian-Science-Congress/articleshow/50425445.cms>



## 7th National Conference on Women in Police

**Question:** Recently the 7th National Conference on Women in Police was held at-

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) Lucknow
- (c) Gurgaon
- (d) New Delhi

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**

- The three day (Jan 6- 8, 2016) 7th National Conference on Women in Police was held at CRPF Academy, Kadarapur, Gurgaon.
- Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 7th National Conference on Women in Police.
- The theme of this Conference was “Capacity Building and Leadership”.
- The sub themes were Role of Women in Conflict Resolution; Work and Life Balance; Creating Gender-Sensitive Work Infrastructure and Equipment; and Strategies to handle human trafficking.
- In this conference Shri Rajnath Singh said that the MHA will implement 33% implementation in CRPF and CISF to begin with and 15% in border guarding forces such as BSF, SSB & ITBP.
- Kerala was the first Indian state to have women in the police force.
- The first women inducted into the then Travancore Royal Police in 1933.
- Thereafter recruitment of women into the police in other states began only after independence. In 1981, women accounted for 0.4% of the total police in the country.
- Recently the number of women in Police increased gradually and it was 6.11% in 2014.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134233>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/union-home-minister-inaugurates-7th-national-conference-on-women-in-police-116010600774\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/government-press-release/union-home-minister-inaugurates-7th-national-conference-on-women-in-police-116010600774_1.html)

<http://www.uniindia.com/hm-inaugurates-7th-national-conference-on-women-in-police/india/news/334056.html>



## First Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Diwas

**Ques: Recently First "Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Diwas" held at -**

- (a) Lucknow
- (b) Agra
- (c) Saifai
- (d) Kanpur

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts

- First "Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Diwas" held in ITC Mughal, Agra on 4th and 5th January, 2016.
- The purpose of the event was to promote investment and industries in the state.
- An exhibition was organized by state government to reflect economic potential and achievement of Uttar Pradesh.
- On the occasion 16 NRI / PIO have been awarded with "UP. Ratna Award" by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh for his significant contributions in various fields.
- The awardees are: Alka Bhatnagar, Ashok Ramsran, Dr. Atat Khan, Vasudev Pandey, Frenk F. islam, Kanwal Rekhi, Dr. Khalid Hameed, Dr. Krishna Kumar, Nadeem Akhtar Tareen, Dr. Nandini Tandon, Dr. Rajan Prasad, prof. Rajesh Chandra, Dr. Rajinder Tiwari, Dr. Nath Singh, Suman Kapoor and Talat F. Hasan.
- On the occasion NRI Yusuf Ali of the United Arab Emirates announced an investment of Rs 1,000 crore in Lucknow.
- On opening ceremony of Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Diwas, 13 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) have been signed by international and national overseas Indians.
- University of the South Pacific (Fiji), Indo Canadian Chamber of Commerce of Toronto (Canada), Indian Trade Exhibition Center in Sharjah, and Indian Business Council (Dubai) were also participated in the evenet.
- Moreover Upika of Canada, Nadeem Tareem Education Society, Panorama India, Indian Association of Japan, UP. Association of North America, W.T.C. Noida Development Company, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and the Global Organisation of Pupil of Indian Origin are included in it.
- UP Chief Minister announced to organize Uttar Pradesh Pravasi Diwas in consecutive years in future as well.



### Reference

<https://tactstorage.blob.core.windows.net/docnews/task-doc-f1adf039-dc56-4f7e-8aa2-0f74e28fcafd.pdf>



## Associations & Organisations

### Cabinet approves India joining the International Energy Agency – Ocean Energy Systems

**Question:** Recently Union Cabinet has given its approval for India becoming a member country of the International Energy Agency - Ocean Energy Systems (IEA-OES), its nodal agency will work under which ministry?

- (a) Ministry Of Defence
- (b) Ministry of Earth Sciences
- (c) Department of Atomic Energy
- (d) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas

**Ans (b)**

*Cabinet approves India joining the International Energy Agency – Ocean Energy Systems*

**Related facts:**

- On 13 January 2016 the Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for India becoming a member country of the International Energy Agency - Ocean Energy Systems (IEA-OES) by signing the Implementing Agreement (IA).
- The nodal agency for the membership would be Earth System Science Organisation - National Institute of Ocean Technology (ESSO-NIOT) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- By becoming a member India will have access to advanced Research & Development (R&D) teams and technologies across the world.
- India will also become partner in developing test protocols along with other countries which will in turn help in testing Indian prototypes as per international requirements and norms.
- This will help in testing Indian prototypes as per international requirements and norms.
- It can also help India to leverage benefits from joint cooperative programs with institutes of member countries could be taken up.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134427>

## The Sugar Cess (Amendment) Act, 2015

**Ques:** As per the Sugar Cess (Amendment) Act, 2015 the ceiling on the cess increased from Rs 25 per quintal of sugar to:

- (a) Rs. 250 / quintal
- (b) Rs. 200 / quintal
- (c) Rs. 150 / quintal
- (d) Rs .125 / quintal

**Ans (b)**

### Related facts

- On January 8, 2016 the President Pranab Mukherjee approved the Sugar Cess (Amendment) Act, 2015.
- The principal Act specifies the ceiling on the cess at Rs 25 per quintal under the Act. The Bill proposes to increase this ceiling to Rs 200 per quintal of sugar.
- The Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2015 had passed in Lok Sabha on December 11, 2015.
- President gave his assent as per provisions of Article 111 of Constitution after the bill was not returned by the Rajya Sabha to the Lok Sabha within 14 days of its consideration as per constitutional provisions.
- The amendment Bill seeks to amend the The Sugar Cess Act, 1982.
- The Bill proposes to increase this ceiling of sugar to Rs 200 per quintal from existing Rs 25 per quintal specified in the principal Act.
- It would lead to increase in the accruals to the Sugar Development Fund (SDF) which in turn would facilitate rehabilitation and modernisation of sugar mills and thereby helping cane growers.
- In present scenario, it will help in revival of stagnant sugar economy by helping cash-starved mills and sugarcane growers.

### Reference

<http://bombayhighcourt.nic.in/libweb/actc/yearwise/2016/2016.09.pdf>

<http://www.prsindia.org/uploads/media/Sugar%20Cess/Sugar%20Cess%20Amendment%20Bill%202015.pdf>

[http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/sugar-cess-ceiling-hiked-to-rs-200-qlt-after-president-nod-to-bill-116011201011\\_1.html](http://www.business-standard.com/article/economy-policy/sugar-cess-ceiling-hiked-to-rs-200-qlt-after-president-nod-to-bill-116011201011_1.html)



# Year, Day & Week

## National Voters Day

**Ques: When National Voters Day is celebrated?**

- (a) 21 January
- (b) 24 January
- (c) 23 January
- (d) 25 January

**Ans (d)**

### Related facts



- National Voters Day is celebrated every year on January 25, 2015.
- January 25, 2016, 6th National Voters Day was celebrated by the Election Commission of India across the country.
- The two theme of 6th National Voters Day are as follows:
  1. Inclusive and Qualitative Participation
  2. No Voter to be left behind
- It is known that the National Voters Day was launched by the President Smt. Pratibha Devisingh Patil on January 25, 2011 on the occasion of establishment of Election Commission (established in 1950).

### Reference

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/Speech-CEC%20NVD-2016%20final.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/Speech-CEC%20NVD-2016%20final.pdf)

[http://eci.nic.in/eci\\_main1/current/6th-NVD-CEC-Message-Hindi24012016.pdf](http://eci.nic.in/eci_main1/current/6th-NVD-CEC-Message-Hindi24012016.pdf)

## National Girl Child Day

**Ques : When National Girl Child Day is celebrated?**

- (a) 23rd January
- (b) 24th January
- (c) 20th January
- (d) 25th January

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts**

- On January 24, 2016, National Girl Child Day was celebrated across the country.
- It is notable that the Government of India in 2008 declared January 24 of every year to be celebrated as the 'National Girl Child Day' with the objective of raising consciousness of the society towards the girl child so that she can be valued and respected.
- International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated every year by UN on October 11.

**Reference**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135748>  
<http://www.indiacelebrating.com/events/national-girl-child-day/>  
<http://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/>



## National Youth Day

**Question: January 12 is observed as “National Youth Day” In which did the Union Government declared to celebrate this day?**

- (a) In Year 1986
- (b) In Year 1984
- (c) In Year 1989
- (d) In Year 1995

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- 32<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Day was observed across India on 12 January 2016 to mark **the 153rd birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda** who was India's foremost social reformer, philosopher and thinker.
- On this occasion, Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed a gathering at **the National Youth Festival**, which was held in **Raipur**, through video conference from New Delhi.
- Union Government in 1984 had declared and decided to observe the birthday of Swami Vivekananda i.e. 12 January as a National Youth Day every year from 1985 onwards.

**Reference:**

<http://www.narendramodi.in/pm-modi-addresses-the-national-youth-festival-in-chhattisgarh-via-video-conference--399101>  
[http://www.odisha.gov.in/portal/LIWPL/event\\_archive/Events\\_Archives/32National\\_Youth\\_Day.pdf](http://www.odisha.gov.in/portal/LIWPL/event_archive/Events_Archives/32National_Youth_Day.pdf)  
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134401>



# National Girl Child Day

**Ques: When National Girl Child Day is celebrated?**

- (a) 23rd January
- (b) 24th January
- (c) 20th January
- (d) 25th January

**Ans (b)**

## Related facts

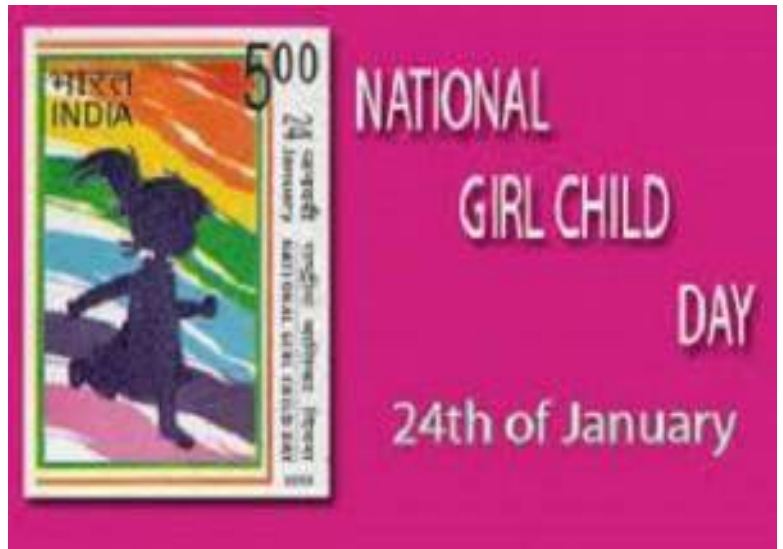
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- International Day of the Girl Child is celebrated every year by UN on October 11.

## Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135748>

<http://www.indiacelebrating.com/events/national-girl-child-day/>

<http://www.un.org/en/events/girlchild/>





## Miscellaneous

### Cabinet approves raising of Indian Reserve Battalions

**Question:** Recently Union Cabinet has approved the raising of India Reserve Battalions (IR Bns) by Jammu & Kashmir and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States by how much?

- (a) 18
- (b) 17
- (c) 10
- (d) 15

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 17 January 2016, The Union Cabinet has approved the raising of 17 India Reserve Battalions (IR Bns) by Jammu & Kashmir and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States.
- It includes five IR Bns in the state of J&K, four IR Bns in Chhattisgarh, three IR Bns in Jharkhand, three IR Bns in Odisha and two IR Bns in Maharashtra.
- The Government of India introduced the scheme of Indian Reserve Battalions in 1971.
- The Government of India has so far, sanctioned 153 IR Bns to various States, out of which 144 IR Bns have been raised.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135829>



# Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) got a deemed-to-be-university recognition

**Ques:** Where did the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies is located?

- (a) Sarnath
- (b) Leh (Ladakh)
- (c) Gaya
- (d) Bhopal

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 27 January 2016, the Central Government, on the advice of the UGC, has declared that 'Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS shall be a deemed-to-be-university provisionally, for a period of five years under the de novo category.
- It is located in Choglamsar, Leh (Ladakh), Jammu & Kashmir,
- Central Institute of Buddhist Studies (CIBS) has been declared deemed university under the UGC Act, 1956.
- Deemed status has been granted Provisionally for a period of five years under the de novo category, from the date CIBS disaffiliates itself for its courses / programmes from Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, Varanasi and Tibetan Medicines and Astrology Department, Dharamsala.
- The declaration of CIBS as deemed-to-be-university shall be confirmed after five years on the basis of five successive annual performance reports of UGC Expert Committee(s).
- This has been notified on 15th January 2016 for publication in Gazette of India Part-1, Section-1.
- UGC Regulations (Institutions Deemed to be University) 2010 amended in the year 2014 and 2015 and any further amendments, and guidelines of UGC issued from time to time with respect to Deemed to be University shall be binding on the CIBS.
- The CIBS shall not offer any distance education programmes.
- CIBS is also not permitted to affiliate any college(s) / institution(s).

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135856>



# First Flower Grown in Space Station's Veggie Facility

**Question:** Name the first flower grown at International space station by the scientist?

- (a) Aster
- (b) Orchid
- (c) Zinnia
- (d) Lily

**Ans(c)**

**Related facts:**

- NASA on January 16, 2016 announced the blooming of zinnia flower in the Veggie plant growth system aboard the International Space Station.
- This flowering crop experiment began on Nov. 16, 2015, when NASA astronaut Kjell Lindgren activated the Veggie system and its rooting "pillows" containing zinnia seeds.
- The challenging process of growing the zinnias provided an exceptional opportunity for scientists back on Earth to better understand how plants grow in microgravity, and for astronauts to practice doing what they'll be tasked with on a deep space mission: autonomous gardening.
- In the next missions growing of plants such as tomatoes will be attempted by NASA.
- Zinnia belongs to the "Asteraceae" family of flowers.

**Reference:**

<http://www.nasa.gov/image-feature/first-flower-grown-in-space-stations-veggie-facility/>



## Mahamana Express

**Ques:** On 22 January 2016, Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, flagged off the Mahamana Express at a ceremony held at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi. It is scheduled to run between which of the following two cities?

- (a) Varanasi-Lucknow
- (b) Varanasi-New Delhi
- (c) Varanasi-Rachi
- (d) Varanasi-Mumbai

**Ans (b)**



**Related facts:**

- On 22 January 2016, Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, flagged off the 02417 Varanasi-New Delhi Superfast (Special Train) Mahamana Express with Model Rake through remote control at a ceremony held at Diesel Locomotive Works, Varanasi.
- The name Mahamana, is after social activist Madanmohan Malviya, co-founder of the Benaras Hindu University and popularly called Mahamana or a “great human being.
- This is also the first train to have a seamless run on electric traction from Varanasi to New Delhi.
- It should be noted that Indian Railway had recently commissioned the electrification of 140 km Ghaziabad-Moradabad residual stretch on the Varanasi-Delhi route.
- The 18-coach “Mahamana Express”, which will run at top speed covering the distance between the two cities thrice a week via Lucknow.
- The basic fare of Varanasi-New Delhi Mahamana Express shall be 15% higher than the normal Mail/Express basic fares except fares for second class (unreserved).
- The coaches and cabins have been refurbished to provide modern facilities and other amenities.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=135716>

## Union Home Minister approves New Prison Manual 2016

**Question:** Recently, When did the Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh approved the new model prison manual in 2016?

- (a) 20 January 2016
- (b) 18 January 2016
- (c) 1 January 2016
- (d) 21 January 2016

**Ans (d)**

**Related facts:**

- On 21 January 2016, The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh has approved the new Model Prison Manual.
- It consists of 32 chapters.
- It aims at bringing in basic uniformity in laws, rules and regulations governing the administration of prisons and the management of prisoners all over the country.
- A committee to propose changes to the Model Prison Manual 2003 was constituted by Ministry of Home Affairs in the Centre-State Division on 11 December 2014 on the directions of the Union Home Minister.
- The Expert committee extensively reviewed the existing model prison manual and whole draft chapters were discussed by the members threadbare and the suggestions/modifications were incorporated in the draft chapters.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134687>





## Cabinet approves policy on Promotion of City Compost

**Ques:** Recently Union Cabinet approved Policy on promotion of compost, made from the garbage of which of the following areas?

- (a) City garbage
- (b) Village garbage
- (c) Both City and Village garbage
- (d) Industrial garbage

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 20 January 2016, The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given its approval for a Policy on Promotion of City Compost.
- Under the policy, a provision has been made for Market development assistance of Rs. 1500 per tonne of city compost for scaling up production and consumption of the product.
- Market development assistance would lower MRP of city compost for farmers.
- Compost from city garbage would not only provide carbon and primary/secondary nutrients to soil but also help in keeping the city clean.
- This also prevents production of harmful greenhouse gases (especially methane) and toxic material that pollutes groundwater apart from polluting the environment. City Waste composting would also generate employment in urban areas.
- Fertilizer companies and marketing entities will co-market City Compost with chemical fertilizers through their dealers' network.
- The companies will also adopt villages for promoting the use of compost.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/erelease.aspx>

## EESL Achieves Milestone of Distribution of 5 Crore LED Bulbs

**Question:** On 21 January 2016 Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) completed distribution of 5 crore LED bulbs under Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), this programme was started on-

- (a) 22 January 2015
- (b) 5 January 2015
- (c) 15 January 2015
- (d) 25 January 2015

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**



- On 21 January 2016 Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) completed distribution of 5 crore LED bulbs under Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP).
- The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had launched the DELP scheme on 5<sup>th</sup> January 2015.
- The scheme is presently running in 19 states & union territories in India and to be executed across 100 cities.
- Through this scheme, residential consumers are provided with high quality LED bulbs given at a concessional rate of Rs.100-105 as against the market price of Rs 350 to 450.
- Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL), a public sector entity under Ministry of Power, has taken up the project of distributing LED bulbs under its flagship initiative, the Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP).
- According to EESL will be able to distribute 7 crore LED bulbs by end of February and between 9-10 crore by March, 2016.
- The DELP scheme helps to save 1,76,87,005 kWh energy per day which is worth Rs 6,95,14,059.
- Replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs reduces emission of 14,469 tonne of Carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134669>

## 150th Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai

**Ques:** Recently the government held a ceremony to commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of which of the following freedom fighter?

- (a) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
- (b) Bipin Chandra Pal
- (c) Lala Lajpat Rai
- (d) Swami Shraddhanand Ji

**Ans (c)**



**Related facts:**

- On 13 January 2016, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, the Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (Independent charge) and Civil Aviation inaugurated an Exhibition on Lala Lajpat Rai at a function to commemorate “150th Birth Anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai” in New Delhi.
- The exhibition was entitled **“Lala Lajpat Rai – A Selfless Patriot”**.
- He was a stalwart of freedom struggle who ranks among India’s most outstanding leaders.
- He was popularly known as ‘Punjab Kesari’.
- He was a prominent figure in protests against the Partition of Bengal and led the extremist wing of the Congress along with Bipin Chandra Pal and Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- On 30th October 1928 he was assaulted by the police while leading a demonstration against the Simon Commission in Lahore, he succumbed to severe injuries on 17th November 1928.
- As a tribute to the recognition of his sacrifices the Government of India has decided to commemorate his 150th birth anniversary.
- This is to be noted that Ministry of Culture observes birth centenary/125th/150th etc. anniversaries of great personalities of national importance and various activities are organized for a period of one year.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134433>

## 1st state in country to achieve 100% primary education

**Ques:** Which state became first State to achieve 100% primary education?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Andhra Pradesh
- (c) Mizoram
- (d) Maharashtra

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**

- Kerala became the first state in the country to achieve 100 percent primary education.
- To this effect, a declaration was made by the Vice President of India Hamid Ansari on 12 January 2016 at a special ceremony organised at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.
- The success of Kerala in achieving total primary education can be attributed to various initiatives undertaken by the Kerala Literacy Mission in the last two decades.
- This has been achieved through the primary education equivalency drive of the state literacy mission — **Athulyam**.
- The second phase of Athulyam was carried out across the state as part of the Mission 676 of the government
- The equivalency programmes have proved a huge success and the ultimate objective is to achieve total Plus-Two education in the state
- The programme was meant to provide primary school education to people aged between 15 and 50.
- The mission mainly focused on deprived sections viz. the scheduled caste, scheduled tribe, physically, financially weak and mentally disabled among others.
- As a result, **Kannur** became the first district in the country to achieve total primary education in 2001.

**Reference:**

<http://vicepresidentofindia.nic.in/contents.asp?id=569>

<http://www.ibtimes.co.in/kerala-becomes-1st-indian-state-achieve-100-primary-education-662878>

<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/Kerala-becomes-1st-state-in-country-to-achieve-100-primary-education/articleshow/50540263.cms>



## BSNL launches 4G services in Chandigarh

**Ques:** Recently BSNL on 13 January 2016 started 4G services on non-commercial basis in Chandigarh, its 4G services will provide a broadband speed of up to-

- (a) 100 Mbps
- (b) 110 Mbps
- (c) 50 Mbps
- (d) 150 Mbps

**Ans (a)**

**Related facts:**



- On 13 January 2016 Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched 4G services for its employees in Chandigarh as soft launch.
- It is non-commercial service as of now. It will be open for limited number of BSNL employees, while customers can visit the 4G centre to experience it.
- As per the operator, its 4G services will provide a broadband speed of up to 100 Mbps on mobile as well as fixed-line networks.
- With this launch, BSNL became fifth telecom service provider in India to launch 4G service after Airtel (1st), Aircel (2nd), Vodafone (3rd) and Reliance Jio (4th).
- BSNL has launched the 4G services by utilising spectrum in the 2500 MHz band.
- BSNL is first to start the 4G service in 2500 Mhz band.
- BSNL has spectrum in the 2500 MHz band across the country, except in the Gujarat, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kolkata circles.
- BSNL is also in talks with Reliance JioInfocomm Limited (RJIL) to offer 4G services to its customers using RJIL's network.
- Further, BSNL is planning to deploy 2500 Wi-Fi hotspots by March 2016 and plans to increase them to 40,000 by March 2017.

**Reference:**

<http://www.tele.net.in/news/item/18570-bsnl-launches-4g-services-for-its-employees-in-chandigarh?format=pdf>

<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/telecom/bsnl-to-launch-4g-services-in-chandigarh/articleshow/50557799.cms>

<http://www.thehindu.com/business/Industry/bsnl-starts-4g-service-with-soft-launch-in-chandigarh/article8102268.ece>



# Government announced the closure of three operating units of HMT

**Ques:** Recently the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decided to close the HMT and its subsidiaries.

**When was its first unit set up?**

- (a) In Year 1963
- (b) In Year 1981
- (c) In Year 1953
- (d) In Year 1965

**Ans (c)**

**Related facts:**



- On 6 January 2016, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) decided to close the HMT Watches, HMT Chinar Watches and HMT Bearings.
- About 1,000 employees of these units have been offered attractive VRS / VSS packages at 2007 pay scales from the government.
- The government will met this scheme with the cash assistance of 427.48 crore.
- HMT was entrusted the vital task of building machine tools and in 1953 the first Machine tool factory was set up in Bangalore.
- HMT set up a watch manufacturing Unit at Bangalore in 1961.
- It was set up in collaboration with M/s Citizen Watch Co. Japan.

**Reference:**

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134200>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/national/govt-approves-closure-of-hmt-watches/article8073567.ece>

<https://www.hmtwatches.in/9/about-us/history.html>

<http://www.financialexpress.com/article/industry/companies/govt-decides-to-shut-3-hmt-units-offer-vrs-to-employees/189086/>

## Government decides to directly shift from BS-IV to BS-VI Emission norms

**Ques :** In which of the following date the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has decided to leapfrog from BS-IV to BS-VI emission norms?

- (a) Till 1st April, 2022
- (b) Till 1st April, 2021
- (c) Till 1st April, 2018
- (d) Till 1st April, 2020

**Ans (d)**

### Related facts

- On January, 2016 Ministry of Road Transport & Highways has decided to leapfrog from BS-IV to BS-VI emission norms directly by April 1, 2020.
- It may be mentioned that the Auto Fuel Policy had recommended implementation of BS-VI norms by 2024.
- Earlier in the draft notification by the Ministry the date was advanced to April1, 2021 and now it has been further advanced to April 1, 2020.
- The Ministry is also sure that the Indian Automobile industry with its technical competence and commitment to environment will rise to the occasion and support the decision.

### Reference

<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=134232>



**Question:** Recently a couple has launched Malaysia's first Islamic airline offering Shariah compliant services, they belongs to which of the following religion?

- (a) Islam
- (b) Hinduism
- (c) Buddhism
- (d) Christianity

**Ans (b)**

**Related facts:**

- On 20 December 2015 "Rayani Air" founders Ravi Alagendrran and his wife Karthiyani Govindan, an ethnic Indian Hindu couple has launched Malaysia's first Islamic airline offering Shariah compliant services.
- The Ravi's grandfather went to Malaysia in 1930 from Ponnamaravathi of Tamilnadu and Ravi was born in Kuala Lumpur.
- They have the business of buying and selling of aircraft in Malaysia.
- The airline offers Shariah compliant services including prayers before take-off, noon-flight serving of alcohol or meals with pork.
- There will be a strict dress code for female flight attendants.
- Muslim crew members will be obliged to cover their heads and non-Muslim members of the crew are required to dress decently in accordance to Shariah requirements.
- Rayani Air's fleet has two Boeing 737-400 aircraft with a capacity of 188 passengers each.
- There are numerous airlines from Muslim countries which have sharia compliant menus and rules, including Royal Brunei, Saudi Arabian and Iran.



**Reference:**

<http://rayaniair.com/rairweb/index.php>

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/international/rayani-air-ethnic-indian-couple-launches-malaysias-1st-islamic-airline/article8022081.ece>

[http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/indian-hindu-couple-launches-malaysias-1st-islamic-airline-5-things-to-know\\_1837972.html](http://zeenews.india.com/news/world/indian-hindu-couple-launches-malaysias-1st-islamic-airline-5-things-to-know_1837972.html)

<http://www.ibtimes.com/malaysias-first-islam-compliant-airline-rayani-air-takes-skies-starting-muslim-prayer-2238883>