

Dear Readers,

In continuation to what we started, here we are with the next version of GA Tonic that covers the Current Affairs from 4th January 2016 to 11th January 2016. For interview candidates, it becomes more important to get yourself well acquainted with the current affairs.

The next big event for the banking aspirant will be LIC AAO 2016 & SYNDICATE PO EXAM 2016 . Instead of waiting for the last moment preparation, you can start preparing the GA section now to avoid the last minute pressure.



GA TONIC (From 4th Jan 2016 to 11th Jan 2016)

BANKING NEWS

- ✓ Union Government recently re-appointed **Dr. Urjit R Patel**, as Deputy Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI), for a second **three-year term**. Patel who joined RBI on 11 January 11, 2013 had headed a committee that paved the way for the proposed monetary policy committee. Patel, a doctorate from Yale University, also had a stint at IMF.
- ✓ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) **Governor Raghuram Rajan** was named **The Banker magazine's Global and Asia-Pacific Central Bank Governor of the Year 2015**, for stabilising the Indian rupee, initiating key reforms to attract much needed foreign capital in the country and reining in a runaway price appreciation. The Banker is a prestigious monthly magazine of the Financial Times Group.
- ✓ Andhra Bank recently launched **Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)** across all its branches in association with the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**. The service makes payments possible within fraction of seconds with all the standards and integrity maintained for security. The IMPS was enabled across all branches to provide inter-bank electronic fund transfer service capable of processing person to account remittances. Unlike National Electronic Funds Transfer (NEFT), IMPS will be available round-the-clock under which a real-time instant fund transfer system for inter-bank remittances is possible. **The maximum cap of transaction will be 2 lakh rupees and charged at the rate of five rupees per transaction**. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is one of the electronic funds transfer systems of India. It was started in November 2010. The service enables an instant, 24X7, **interbank electronic fund transfer through mobile, internet and ATM**.

INDIAN ECONOMY IN NEWS

- ✓ In order to avoid duplication of work and to improve efficiency, the government on Thursday merged the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs (MOIA) with the Ministry of External Affairs.

BUSINESS NEWS

- ✓ **Quikr** announced acquisition of the property search website **Commonfloor.com** for an undisclosed amount in a majority stock-swap transaction. **Quikr** bought the website in a distress sale orchestrated by Tiger Global Management Llc.
 - ✓ Taxi-hailing app **Uber** announced a new start-up mentorship programme in the country in partnership with Invest India called '**uberEXCHANGE**'. Over the next years, Uber will host a series of six leadership talks by senior Uber executives, including from their

headquarters in San Francisco, the company said in a statement. The programme will address issues that entrepreneurs face, like fund-raising, product design, engineering and how to scale up a business.

- ✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on 5 January 2016 gave its approval to Reliance Capital Asset Management's proposed acquisition of Goldman Sachs' mutual fund business in India for 243 crore rupees. After CCI's nod, Reliance Capital Asset Management (RCAM) will seek the final nod of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to complete the takeover.
- ✓ Nokia Corporation announced that it completed the regulatory formalities for acquiring the French telecom equipment company **Alca-Lucent**. The deal, worth 15.6 billion euro, was signed in 2014 and later approved by the European Commission. With this acquisition, Nokia holds 79.32 percent of outstanding Alcatel-Lucent shares and at least 78.97 percent of the French company's voting rights. It is a Finland based multinational communications and information Technology Company.
- ✓ **Sterlite Grid** set a new benchmark by commissioning the Transmission Project to Rajasthan Atomic Power Project (RAPP) ahead of schedule under the Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB) incentive regime. RAPP is the first power transmission line to be commissioned ahead of schedule since the implementation of TBCB scheme.



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NATIONAL NEWS

- ✓ The Union Government on 8 January 2016 allowed the conduct of the traditional bull-taming sports, **Jallikattu**, in Tamil Nadu. 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.

- ✓ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh **has approved 33% reservation for women in Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) at constable-level positions.** There will be 33% reservation for women at constable-level posts in Central Reserve Police Force and Central Industrial Security Force, and 14-15% reservation at the constable level in border guarding forces i.e. Border Security Force, Sashastra Seema Bal and Indo Tibetan Border Police, starting immediately, according to an official statement released by the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- ✓ The Supreme Court (SC) on 4 January 2016 directed the Gujarat government to make functional the Gujarat State Cooperative Tribunal by filling up the vacant posts including that of judicial members, which is the bone of contention. Further, the court directed that the tribunal cannot be allowed to be non-functional. The ruling was made by a bench headed by Chief Justice of India TS Thakur.
- ✓ 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 of UP situated along the banks of river Ganga will be developed.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Sri Lankan parliament began a process to formulate a new constitution with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe presenting a resolution to set up Constitutional Assembly of all members for the purpose.

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- ✓ The world's largest **blue star sapphire** that weighs 1404.49 carats was discovered in a mine in Sri Lanka. The sapphire was found in August 2015 near Ratnapura city in the South of Sri Lanka. The stone is worth at an estimated

cost of 100 million US dollars but could be valued up to 165 million US dollars. The sapphire has been named as The Star of Adam by its current owner.

✓ **India-Nepal Bus Service on 4 January 2016 resumed after a gap of 27 years.** The service was suspended 27 years ago in the wake of the Indo-Nepal Trade and Transit Treaty. The service runs between Kanchanpur in Nepal, which is close to Banbasa border in Champavat district of Uttarakhand, and Anand Vihar ISBT in Delhi.

STATES IN NEWS

- ✓ Gujarat Chief Minister Anandiben Patel on 10 January 2016 inaugurated the 28th edition of **International Kite Festival at Sabarmati River front in Ahmedabad, Gujarat.** The five-day annual event saw participation of about 98 foreign kite flyers from 28 different nations and 55 participants from 8 different states and 28 kite flyers from Gujarat.
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the chief guest at the **National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare** being held in Gangtok on January 17-18, the Agriculture Ministry said in a statement. The conference is being held in Sikkim, which has taken the lead on organic farming.
- ✓ The State Cabinet has decided to implement the **'Sampoorna Arogya Keralam'** project announced in the 2015-16 State budget. The project aims to bring all major government health services under one umbrella.
- ✓ State **election commissioner (SEC) Ashok Kumar Chauhan** on 4 January 2016 announced that toilets will be mandatory requirement for eligibility to contest panchayat elections. This declaration means that no one can contest the Bihar panchayat elections scheduled in 2016 without having a toilet at their home.

NATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- ✓ **Bhanumurthy B M:** The Bengaluru-headquartered company **Wipro** has elevated company veteran Bhanumurthy B M as its chief operating officer (COO) and president apart from handing over a new role to G K Prasanna, who is presently heading Global Infrastructure Services as president and chief executive.
- ✓ **Sailesh:** Senior IAS officer Sailesh was today appointed as Registrar General and Census Commissioner. He has been appointed in place of C Chandramouli, who completed his tenure today.
- ✓ **Amitabh Kant:** Amitabh Kant was recently appointed as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NITI Aayog. His appointment was approved by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC). Kant will take over the office of CEO in March 2016, when he retires from service. On 1 January 2016, Kant was given the

additional charge of the CEO of NITI Aayog following the completion of tenure of previous CEO Sindhushree Khullar on 31 December 2015.

- ✓ **Devender Kumar Sikri:** Devender Kumar Sikri was appointed as Chairman of fair-trade regulator Competition Commission of India (CCI). He succeeds Ashok Chawla, whose tenure as the Chairman of CCI ended on 7 January 2016 itself.
- ✓ **Kunal Shah:** Industry body Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI), which counts companies such as Facebook, Microsoft and Google as members, named **Kunal Shah, co-founder** FreeCharge as its new chairman. Shah succeeds Nishant Rao, the ex-managing director of LinkedIn, who recently moved to Freshdesk as the global Chief Operating Officer, the association said in a statement.
- ✓ **AB Khare:** The Centre has appointed AB Khare as the Chairman and Managing Director of the state-run Madras Fertilizers for a five-year term. Khare will succeed I Vijay Kumar.
- ✓ **Dr Achyuta Samanta:** was elected as the General President of the 105th Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) that is scheduled for 2017-18. Samanta is also currently serving as member of Executive Council of Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA). With this, Samanta becomes the second person from Odisha to be elected as President of the ISC in its 102 years history.
- ✓ **Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda:** popularly known as Sam Pitroda, was appointed Technology Advisor to the Odisha Government. Pitroda was appointed as the technology adviser for development of telecom, electronics, IT, ITES sectors of the state.
- ✓ **Pavan Kapoor:** Senior diplomat Pavan Kapoor has been appointed India's ambassador to strategically important Israel, where he will succeed Jaideep Sarkar.
- ✓ Danish pharmaceutical company Novo Nordisk recently **announced Indian cricket star Sachin Tendulkar** as brand ambassador for the disease awareness campaign 'Changing Diabetes' initiated by it in India.
- ✓ **Akshay Kothari:** Professional networking platform LinkedIn today appointed Akshay Kothari as Country Manager for India, with immediate effect. Kothari replaces Nishant Rao.

INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS


- ✓ **Mary Barra** elected as Chairman of General Motors (GM) Board of Directors with immediate effect. Barra succeeds Theodore Solso, who will continue serving as the Lead Independent Director of the Board. Earlier, Barra was serving as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of GM since January 2014.
- ✓ **Filippo Grandi,** a UN official who has worked in refugee and political affairs in the Middle East, Africa, and Asia,

began his five-year term as **UN High Commissioner for Refugees on January 1**, succeeding António Guterres whose more than 10 years in office ended last week.

AWARDS AND RECOGNITION:

- ✓ The **73rd Annual Golden Globe Awards** were announced on 11 January 2015 at Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, the US. **The Revenant won the Best Motion Picture – Drama** while best Actor and best Director Awards were conferred to Leonardo DiCaprio and Alejandro Inarritu for the same movie. **Brie Larson** won the best actress award for 'The Martian' Movie.

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- ✓ Tata Steel has been declared as the winner of Prime Minister's Trophy for being the 'Best Performing Integrated Steel Plant' in the country for the performance year 2013 – 2014. This Award has been conferred on the Company for the eighth time. In addition it has also received Certificate for Excellence twice and Steel Minister's Trophy once, since this trophy was instituted in 1992-93.
 - ✓ Forbes on 4 January 2016 released the 2016 30 Under 30 List featuring 600 men and women who achieved remarkable professional success before attaining 30 years of age. They were chosen from an initial screening list of more than 15000 representing a gamut of 20 segments that include art & style, finance, sports, education, etc. Indian-origin people figured in the list are....
1. Ritesh Agarwal, OYO Rooms CEO
 2. Karishma Shah, Alphabet's Google X
 3. Divya Nettimi, Viking Global Investors
 4. Nisha Chittal, MSNBC
 5. Ashish Patel, NowThis Media
 6. Saagar Govil, CEO of Cemtrex
- ✓ Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) on 3 January 2015 won the 26th Lal Bahadur Shastri Hockey tournament. To win the title, the ONGC defeated Indian Railways 3-0 on penalties in the final match held at the Shivaji Stadium in New Delhi.

NEW SCHEMES

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the **Stand Up India Scheme** to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes and Women entrepreneurs. The Scheme is intended to facilitate at least two projects per bank branch, on an average one for each category of entrepreneur. It provides for refinance window through Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) with an initial amount of 10000 crore rupees. It will create credit guarantee mechanism through the National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company (NCGTC). It will provide support for borrowers both at the pre loan stage and during operations. Its focus is on handholding support for both SC/ST and Women borrowers.
- ✓ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas has launched an online initiative to seek suggestions from LPG consumers across the country, which will help in providing efficient and friendly service. Two online discussion forums - Citizen-Friendly Services and Increasing LPG Coverage in the Country - have been launched and are available on myGov.in and mylpg.in, an official press statement said. The initiative is part of steps being taken to observe 2016 as the 'Year of LPG Consumers'
- ✓ **Wattan Ko Jano**, an initiative being carried out by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs in coordination with the Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Government, was in news on 6 January 2016. The initiative came in news after more than 240 youth in the age-group of 15 to 24 from J&K met with Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi. The initiative aims at exposing youth from the state to the vibrant development and vitality of culture of people residing in other states of the country.
- ✓ Union Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday **inaugurated the River Information System (RIS)** - the first of its kind in India - to facilitate safe and accurate navigation on National Waterway-1 (the Ganga River). "River Information Systems are combination of modern tracking equipment related hardware and software designed to optimise traffic and transport processes in inland navigation.
- ✓ **(BS) VI from April 1, 2020:** In a bid to curb vehicular pollution, the Centre today decided to implement stricter emission norms of Bharat Stage (BS) VI from April 1, 2020, by skipping BS-V altogether. "Government has decided to leapfrog from BS-IV to BS-VI directly by April 1, 2020. We have decided to skip BS-VI emission norms. It is a bold decision and a commitment to the environment," Gadkari told PTI here after the meeting.


SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

- ✓ The President of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the three day **long 88th annual conference of Nikhil Bharat Banga Sahitya Sammelan** (January 10, 2016) at Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- ✓ The Global Communication Association (GCA), a not-for-profit professional organisation, to host the 11th **international conference of media experts and communication specialists from around the world at Mysuru** on January 28-29. The meet has University of Mysore, which is celebrating its Centenary year, as its academic partner for hosting the conference. "
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **annual Indian Science Congress (ISC)** at University of Mysore campus in Karnataka. **Theme of this edition (103rd)** of the ISC is "**Science & Technology for Indigenous Development in India**".
- ✓ **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas 2016** is being celebrated in New Delhi on **9 January 2016** with the participation of the Honourable External Affairs Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs.

SPORTS NEWS

- ✓ **Stanislas Wawrinka** recently won his Chennai Open title. In the summit clash at the Nungambakkam tennis stadium of Chennai, he defeated Croatian Borna Coric.
- ✓ Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis carried the dominance of 2015 into the new season, winning their sixth consecutive title by lifting the WTA Brisbane trophy. The top seeds quelled the challenge of German wildcards Angelique Kerber and Andrea Petkovic.
- ✓ The Philippines' Miguel Tabuena was voted as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Month for December 2015. Tabuena won the award ahead of Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai and India's Himmat Rai. The trio were nominated by a selection panel before going into a voting process.
- ✓ Australia withdrew from the Under-19 World Cup Tournament in Bangladesh. It pulled-out citing security reasons. The decision was announced by Cricket Australia CEO James Sutherland who said the decision was taken after monitoring the security situation in Bangladesh. The tournament is scheduled to happen from 22 January to 14 February 2016.

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- ✓ Manchester United **striker Wayne Rooney** has been voted **2015 England Player of the Year** for the fourth time after breaking his country's scoring record, the Football Association announced on Tuesday, January
- ✓ **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 by defeating **Chinese Olympic gold medallist Yi Siling**.
- ✓ Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das recently inaugurated the state's **land bank web portal, jharbhoom.nic.in**, which will help investors know land-related information. With this, one would be able to get information about the land which is available at the district and the circle area level with a click of a mouse.
- ✓ **The ICC and MoneyGram International**, a leading global provider of money transfer services, today announced an eight-year deal which confirms MoneyGram as an event partner for ICC events from 2016-2023.

TRADE AND AGREEMENTS

- ✓ **Karnataka's Tourism and the National Academy of Sciences of India (NASI)** have signed a memorandum of understanding to set up a Cauvery river gallery in Mysuru. The gallery, to be built at a cost of Rs. 3.5 crore, is expected to showcase the life, culture and biodiversity along the river from its birth in Kodagu till it reaches the Bay of Bengal.
- ✓ The Union Cabinet recently gave its ex-post facto approval for a memorandum of understanding (MoU) that was signed with Singapore in the field of civil aviation. This MoU was signed in November 2015 between the Airports Authority of India (on behalf of the Government of India) and Singapore Cooperation Enterprise (on behalf of the Government of Singapore) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore. The objective of this MoU is to establish mutual cooperation in the field of civil aviation, **which will cover, to begin with, the airports of Jaipur and Ahmedabad.**

BOOKS AND AUTHORS

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently released a book titled "**MARU BHARAT SARU BHARAT**" (**My India Noble India**) written by **Jain Acharya Ratnasundersuriswarji Maharaj**. This is the 300th book of Ratnasundersuriswarji Maharaj.
- ✓ The book **Go Set a Watchman** written by **Harper Lee** was in news in the first week of January 2016 as it topped the 2015 US bestseller list. Around 1.6 million copies of the book were sold in the USA since it was published in July 2015.

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.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ✓ **The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC)** recently 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. these four elements are the first to be added to the table since 2011, when elements 114 (Flerovium, Fl) and 116 (Livermorium, Lv) were added. Naming of elements: Element 113 - Temporary working name and symbol are ununtrium and Uut respectively. It was discovered by the scientists belonging to RIKEN research laboratory in Japan.

 1. 115: ununpentium, Uup are the temporary working name and symbol respectively.
 2. 117: ununseptium, Uus are the temporary working name and symbol respectively. They were discovered by scientists belonging to Russia and the USA in collaboration
 3. Element 118 - It has ununoctium and Uuo as the temporary working name and symbol respectively.

COMMITTEES

- ✓ Department of Posts on 1 January 2016 formed a one-man committee to study issues related to Gramin Dak Sevaks including wage structure and service conditions. The panel will be **headed by Kamlesh Chandra.**

DEFENCE NEWS

- ✓ Anti-submarine warfare (ASW) **corvette INS Kadmat** was commissioned in the Indian Navy at naval dockyard in **Visakhapatnam** by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R K Dhowan.

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OBITUARIES

- ✓ **Ravindra Kalia:** Noted Hindi writer and journalist Ravindra Kalia passed away on 9 January 2016 in New Delhi. The writer is known for his works like Nau Saal Chotti Patni and Ghalib Chutti Sharab.
- ✓ **David Bowie:** British singer-songwriter David Bowie has died at the age of 69 after battling cancer for 18 months.
- ✓ **Maria Teresa de Filippis,** the first woman to compete in a world championship Formula One grand prix, passed away. She was from Italy.
- ✓ **Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed,** a crafty politician who took on the powerful Abdullah family and rose to become the country's first Muslim Home Minister, died today at AIIMS here after his platelets dropped dangerously. Sayeed, 79, who took charge of the State on March 1 last year heading a PDP—BJP alliance, breathed his last this morning after remaining on ventilator for the past few days.
- ✓ Noted Gujarati writer and **poet Labhshankar Thakar** passed away on 6 January 2016 following prolonged illness in Ahmedabad.
- ✓ Former Chief Justice of India **Sarosh Homi Kapadia** passed away on 4 January 2016 in Mumbai.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- ✓ **Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD):** The 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas (PBD) was held in New Delhi. The event was inaugurated by the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and attended by Priti Patel, MoS for Employment, United Kingdom.
- ✓ The 11th **World Hindi Day** was celebrated on 10 January. The day was first observed on 10 January 2006. And, it is in addition to the National Hindi Divas that is being celebrated annually on 14 September. National Hindi Divas is celebrated to mark the day, 14 September 1949, on which the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the Official Language of the Union.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✓ The French soldiers will march down the Rajpath on Republic Day along with Indian troops in the presence of President Francois Hollande. Hollande is the Chief Guest for 26 January 2016 celebrations. This is the first time that a foreign army will participate in the 26th January Parade, since 1950. A French contingent, comprising 56 personnel of 35th Infantry Regiment of 7th Armoured Brigade, is already in the country to take part in a joint exercise, Shakti 2016, which began in Rajasthan on 8 January 2016.
- ✓ **Human Resource Minister Smriti Irani** recently inaugurated the 43rd edition of the New Delhi World Book Fair which commenced here with China as the guest of honour country and a theme presentation of the cultural heritage of India. China was invited to be the guest country after the visit of Chinese President Xi Jinping here last year where he signed a memorandum of understanding with Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This year the fair has introduced a special '**Navlekhan'** programme which seeks to promote and publish young authors under the age of 40 writing in Indian languages.
- ✓ President Pranab Mukherjee promulgated the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016 to make amendments to the Enemy Property Act, 1968. These amendments will help in dealing with the loopholes of the Enemy Property Act, 1968 and ensure that the enemy properties that have been vested in the Custodian remain so and they do not revert back to the enemy subject or enemy firm.
- ✓ India and France 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.
- ✓ As a major initiative towards fast track implementation of Namami Gange Programme the first company of **Ganga Task force Battalion was deployed at Garhmukteshwar yesterday. Speaking on the occasion Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Sushri Uma Bharti** said that three such companies will be deployed soon at Kanpur, Varanasi and Allahabad. The Minister said 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.
- ✓ **Operation Green Hunt**, an all-out offensive by India's paramilitary forces and the state's forces against the Naxalites came in news on 8 January 2016. The

operation which is believed to start in November 2009 along five states in the "Red Corridor" came in news after Maoists called a two-day bandh opposing it in Nuapada, Malkangiri and Kalahandi districts of Odisha.

- ✓ Government is keen to promote operational oceanography since it plays an important role in translating the benefits of science for the common public. A few examples being potential fishing zones advisories to fishermen, ocean state forecasts for mariners, tsunami and storm surge early warnings among others, the minister was quoted as saying by an official release.
- ✓ **The term River Information System (RIS)** was in news in the first week of January 2016 as the Union Ministry of Shipping is set to launch the system for Inland Waterways in the country. The system is expected to improve navigation in Inland Waterways as the government is set to expand the network across the country through the National Waterways Bill,

2015. In the initial phase, it will be made operational on the 500 km long Haldia-Farakka National Waterways 1. With the implementation of the project, India will join a select league of country.

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