



GA Tonic from 11 Feb to 20 Feb 2016

Dear Readers,

After the capsule which covered the news from January to help you all to score well in General Awareness Section, we have made the Double Tonic of February 2016, which includes the news from 11th February to 20th February 2016.

Do read it as we have compiled all the important news from the entire topics.

This will surely help you in upcoming exams especially in LIC AAO 2016.



Banking News

- **Aditya Birla Nuvo**, one of the eleven entities that have received in-principle approvals from the RBI to set up payments banks, said it has incorporated a new subsidiary for the same purpose. The new entity, **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd**, is a 51:49 joint venture (JV) between it and **Idea Cellular**, its telecom subsidiary in which it owns 23.26%.
- **YES Bank** has partnered **UltraCash Technologies** to launch payments processing through sound waves. UltraCash utilises a patent-pending technology through which payment data is securely transferred from one device to the other using unique ultra-high frequency sound waves.
- India's **Banking Giant State Bank of India (SBI)** has launched '**Japan Desk**', a single window for inbound Japanese investments in India and vice-versa. This is a first-of-its-kind initiative that seeks to facilitate Japanese corporate looking to invest in India with banking and advisory services.
- Vijay Mallya, led United Breweries Holdings Ltd has been declared a wilful defaulter by Punjab National Bank on 16th February 2016. On 13 November 2015, State Bank of India (SBI) had declared United Breweries and Mallya as wilful defaulters. The wilful defaulter tag is in connection with the loan taken by the company for the now grounded airline Kingfisher Airlines Ltd.
- Reserve Bank of India will inject adequate additional liquidity using a combination of appropriate instruments while continuing with its normal liquidity adjustment facility operations. This will be done with a view to addressing the expected tightening of liquidity conditions next month on account of advance tax payments by corporate and in order to provide flexibility to the banking system in its liquidity management towards March-end 2016.
- The Reserve Bank of India has directed commercial banks to accelerate provisioning requirement, **from April 1**, for the existing stock of restructured loans that are showing signs of stress. The central bank's move comes in the back drop of RBI Governor Raghuram Rajan's drive to clean up banks' balance sheets by March 2017.

Indian Economy in News

- The World Bank has decided to lend support to the Rajasthan government on energy reforms. The decision was taken at a meeting between World

Banks country director in India, Onno Ruhl and Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje.

- GOI has approved eight highway projects worth **Rs 6,000 crore** for six states - Punjab, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha. With this approval, the number of projects cleared by Road Transport and Highways Ministry this month so far has swelled to 37, entailing a total investment of about Rs 34,000 crore.
- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has launched **Non-Tax Receipt Portal (NTRP)** to electronically collect over Rs.2 trillion annually in non-tax receipts. It was launched as part of Union Government's flagship Digital India campaign. Currently, non-tax revenues are collected by physical instruments such as bank draft or cheque or cash. This portal will reduce a lot of manual work now.
- The Government has unveiled the **National Capital Goods Policy** to give an impetus to the capital goods sector and a leg up to the Make in India initiative. This is for the first time that a national policy has been framed for the sector.

Business News

- Microsoft has announced that they're going to begin rolling out an update to **Skype for iOS** and Android that will support group video calling.
- Indian Pharmaceutical giant **Cipla Ltd** has acquired 2 US generic drug companies, InvaGen Pharmaceuticals Inc. and Exelan Pharmaceuticals Inc.
- **Prasar Bharati has signed a MoU with Empresa de Brazil Comunicacao (EBC)** in connection with several broadcast related activities including exchange of news, programmes and co-production. The MoU was signed between Prasar Bharati Chief Executive Officer Jawhar Sircar and EBC Vice President Mr Mario in Brasilia, Brazil.
- Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd has commissioned a 270-MW coal-based thermal power project of GVK Group in Punjab. The unit has been commissioned at the upcoming 540 MW (2x270 MW) Goindwal Sahib coal-fired plant of GVK Power & Infrastructure Ltd located in Tarn Taran district in Punjab.
- TAL Manufacturing Solutions, a Tata Group company, is expected to launch first ever India-made robot before May 2016. Dubbed 'Tata Brabo', the robot has been showcased in the Make in India week in Mumbai. The development cost is reported to be about Rs 10 crore.
- Noida based Ringing Bells is all set to launch the world's cheapest 3G smartphone at just Rs 251 in India today. It is a move to disrupt the surging

smartphone market in India, which recently became the world's second largest market after China, surpassing the US. Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar will launch the smartphone 'Freedom 251' on February 17.

- HCL technology, 4th largest software services giant has acquired Volvo group's external IT business and signed a deal for 5 year outsourcing with Volvo. HCL claims that the deal is one of the largest IT deals signed by any Indian IT company and definitely the largest in HCL's history so far.
- Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL) has launched a mobile application 'DIAL Cargo' for cargo operations to reduce paperwork and track movement of shipments on real time basis. DIAL runs the international airport in the national capital.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated Make in India Centre at Bandra Kurla Complex, a commercial complex in the suburbs of Mumbai. The Make In India week will conclude on 18 February.
- On the first day of the 'Make in India' week in Mumbai, the three MoUs between Maharashtra government bodies and various companies for total investment worth Rs. 21,000 crore have been signed. Twinstar Display Technologies, Raymond Industries and Hindustan Coca-Cola Beverages were among the companies that signed the MoUs for setting up manufacturing plants in India.
- The computer giant Oracle is planning to set up a campus in Bengaluru and start an initiative to help more than half a million students in India develop computer science skills.
- Ecommerce Company Amazon has made an investment in Westland, a Trent Ltd subsidiary (Tata Group) in support of its publishing business. The investment will help to expand its international reach and scale its physical and digital book businesses.
- Global software major and India's 3rd largest exporter Wipro has made an announced buying "**HealthPlan Service**" business in the US for \$460 million (Rs.3,150 crore). **HealthPlan Services** is a leading independent technology and Business Process as a Service (BPaaS) provider in the US health insurance market that offers solutions to health insurance firms.

lakh crore, with host state Maharashtra alone accounting for Rs 8 lakh crore.

- The Union Cabinet has given an in-principle approval to the **LIGO-India** mega science proposal for research on gravitational waves. The proposal is piloted by the Department of Atomic Energy and the Department of Science and Technology. It will establish a state of the art gravitational wave observatory in India in collaboration with the LIGO Laboratory in the US run by Caltech and MIT. The gravitational waves were detected by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational Wave Observatory (LIGO) — a system of detectors in Washington and Louisiana.
- Union Minister for Information & Broadcasting Arun Jaitley released '**Bharat 2016**' and '**India 2016**' year books. These books give comprehensive information about the country and various States and Union Territories including functioning of the Government and the economy.
- Prakash Javadekar, Union Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change has **launched Environment Information System (ENVIS) portal and mobile application**. It was launched on the sidelines of the national interaction-cum-evaluation workshop for Environment Information System.
- The 24th National Homoeopathic Congress **Homeo-Vision 2016** was inaugurated by the Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge) and Health and Family Welfare, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik in Nagpur.
- India Government will distribute **14 crore Soil Health card** in the country by **March 2017**. The steps have been taken by the government to achieve the target.
- Union Health and Family Welfare Minister Jagat Prakash Nadda on 11 February 2016 released the **National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030** at New Delhi. The framework outlines India's strategy for elimination of the disease by 2030.

National News

- The week-long "**Make in India**" concluded in Mumbai. It was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 13, 2016. The event has secured investment commitments worth Rs 15.2



International News

- The first **cargo train** to connect **Iran and China** has arrived in Tehran. The train had started its journey from China's eastern Zhejiang province and it took 14 days to reach final destination. It marks the revival the ancient Silk Road and gives impetus to China's ambitious One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative part of revived Silk Road diplomacy.
- The **world's largest solar plant** was launched in the Souss-Massa-Drâa area in **Morocco**. It is the part of Noor Ouarzazate solar complex which will produce energy for more than one million Moroccan households on completion by 2018. It will also reduce carbon emissions by an estimated 760000 tons per year.
- The World Bank Group on 18 February 2016 announced **150 million US dollars** in funding to combat **Zika virus** in Latin America and the Caribbean.
- National Assembly, the Lower House of the bicameral Parliament of **France**, on 9 February 2016 passed a proposal to amend the Constitution to strip people convicted of terrorist offences of their French nationality.

States in News

- **Kalikho Pul**- Dissident Congress leader Kalikho Pul, 46, has sworn in as the ninth Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh with the support of 18 rebel Congress MLAs, and two Independents and 11 BJP MLAs who gave outside support.
- The Punjab government plans to sign a MoU with British Pig Association (BPA) to develop and promote piggery in the State. The tie-up of State Animal Husbandry department with BPA would turn around the stagnant economy of the peasantry, which is grappling with low returns from conventional farming.

- **Uber has signed a MoU with the Maharashtra** government's Skill Development & Entrepreneurship Department (SDED) to help create 75,000 entrepreneurship opportunities across the state over the next 5 years.
- The Odisha capital Bhubaneswar has emerged as the top among the cities in the Smart City Mission. The Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation has received the Clean City award from Union Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi. Bhubaneswar was ranked at 331 among the 476 cities and behind Cuttack with a rank of 296.
- **The Mahamagam festival** in Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu is underway and thousands of devotees are taking a holy dip in the Mahamagam tank. The festival that comes once in 12 years is often termed as equivalent to the grand religious event in Allahabad.
- Apple has confirmed its 1st technology centre in India at Hyderabad, at a cost of \$25 million. Spread across 2,50,000 square feet, the centre will help Apple develop maps and make them available in its iPhones and Mac systems
- Union Food Processing and Industry Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Chief Minister Raghubar Das inaugurated the first mega food park at Village Getalsud, Ranchi in Jharkhand.
- The US Trade and Development Agency has signed MoU with the Department Of Municipal Administration of Andhra Pradesh on funding for drawing up the master plan for Visakhapatnam Smart City and a consortium of three US companies, comprising AECOM, KPMG and IBM.
- International Radio Fair 2016 is to be held at Bhubaneswar. The fair will start on the occasion of World Radio Day i.e. 13th of February and close on 14th.
- Indian Railway signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Chhattisgarh Government to establish a joint venture (JV) for laying tracks and expedite implementation of railway projects in the state. With this Chhattisgarh became 5th state to join hands with the Indian Railways for speedy execution of rail projects through JV route.
- The state government has planned to set up the country's first-ever Aviation Park in Gujarat near Bagodara village in Ahmedabad to strengthen the aviation sector. The first ever Aviation Park will have the facilities including an airstrip, training school, helipad and space for setting up small manufacturing units among others.

- As per the report compiled and published by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) and Indicus Analytics Maharashtra has topped in terms of the overall Internet readiness index. **Maharashtra ranks at the top in terms of Internet readiness with a strong position in areas** like e-infrastructure, eGovernance, IT services and consumer participation. Karnataka, Gujarat, Telengana and Tamil Nadu followed in the tally. The report, titled 'Index of Internet Readiness of Indian States', said Delhi has emerged as the leader among the smaller states, followed by Puducherry and Goa.
- State-run equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) on 18 February 2016 commissioned a 270 MW generation unit at the Goindwal Sahib Thermal Power Project of private producer GVK Power & Infra in Punjab.
- **Paani Foundation**, a not-for-profit company, started by Actor Aamir Khan and his wife Kiran Rao was in news on 17 February 2016. The foundation came into news after Khan and Maharashtra chief minister Devendra Fadnavis announced that it will work with the state government to solve the water crisis in the state.
- Odisha government on 17 January 2016 decided to introduce a self-certifying scheme for non-hazardous industries. This scheme will ease the process of doing business in the state by shortening the inspection process at the initial levels required for non-hazardous industries to set up units.
- The Jharkhand government and Adani Group on 17 February 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for investment of 15000 crore rupees in the state to set up a 1600 MW capacity thermal power plant.
- West Bengal government on 16 February 2016 launched **Utkarsh Bangla** Scheme, a welfare scheme for school-dropouts, in Kolkata. Utkarsha Bangla is aimed at giving vocational training to school dropouts. Each youth will get training ranging from 400 to 1200 hours. The school-dropouts will be trained free of charge in tailoring, driving, repairing television and other electronic equipment and beauty courses etc.
- **The Marine Museum** was inaugurated on 3 February 2016 at the Marine Aquarium and Regional Centre (MARC) of Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in Digha, **West Bengal**.
- South Korean state of Chungcheongbuk and Haryana on 16 February 2016 agreed to enter into a sister-statehood relationship for development.
- The Ministry of Railways and State Government of Telangana on 11 February 2016 inked a

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the formation of Joint Venture (JV) companies for development of railway infrastructure in the state.

- **The first Mega Food Park (MFP) of Madhya Pradesh** was on 12 February 2016 inaugurated at Panwa village in Kasarwad tehsil of Khargone district. The MFP, named after Indus, was inaugurated by Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries.

National Appointments

- **Amit Mitra**- West Bengal Finance Minister **Amit Mitra** has been appointed as the Chairman of the Empowered Committee of State Finance Ministers on Goods and Services Tax (GST). He will succeed Kerala Finance Minister **K M Mani** who had to resign in November over corruption charges.
- **Alok Verma**- Senior IPS officer **Alok Verma** will be the next Delhi Police Commissioner. Mr. Verma will succeed incumbent Delhi Police Chief B S Bassi who will retire on 29th of this month. Mr. Verma is currently serving as Director General of Tihar prison.
- **Nitin Seth**- India's biggest online marketplace Flipkart has announced the appointment of Nitin Seth as its Chief People Officer. In Flipkart, Seth will lead the human resource function and partner with the leadership team.
- **Jayant Misra**- Senior IRS officer **Jayant Misra** has been appointed as Director General of Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI). Misra is currently DG (Systems) at the Directorate General of Systems and Data Management.
- **UK Sinha** will continue to lead India's capital and commodities market regulator for one more year. The government extended Sinha's term as the chairman of Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) till March 01, 2017.
- **Yogesh Tyagi**-President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Yogesh Tyagi, dean of the law faculty at South Asian University (SAU), as the new Vice Chancellor of Delhi University (DU).
- Air vice Marshal **Rajiv Dayal Mathur**, promoted to the rank of Air Marshal on 15 Feb 16.
- **Devraja Reddy**- The CA Institute has a new President in M Devraja Reddy. He belongs to Hyderabad and is a fellow member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) with more than 28 years of professional standing. Nilesh S Vikamsey is the new Vice President of the CA Institute for the term 2016-17.
- **Dr. Vilas A. Tonapi**- has been appointed as Director of Indian Institute of Millets Research (IIMR), Rajendranagar.

- **Ashok Chawla-** TERI's governing council appointed Ashok Chawla as its new chairman. Chawla is the former Union Finance Secretary and former Chairman of the Competition Commission.
- **Davinder Singh-** A top Indian origin lawyer has been named as Vice-Chairman of the Paris based International Chamber of Commerce Commission (ICC) on Corporate Responsibility and Anti-corruption. Davinder Singh, 58, is one of the top Indian origin lawyers in Singapore. He is the only Singaporean lawyer to be appointed to the leadership of one of 13 Policy Commissions under the ICC.
- **Mr. R K Verma-** A 1980 batch officer of Indian Railway Services Of Engineers Mr. R K Verma has assumed the charge as Secretary, Railway Board.

International Appointments

- **Sri Srinivasan** to become the first Indian-American Judge of the U S Supreme Court to replace Justice Antonin Scalia after his unexpected death. Srinivasan is born in Chandigarh and 48 years old. He originally from a village near Tamil Nadu's Tirunelveli.
- **President Idriss Deby** has appointed **MP Albert Pahimi Padacke** as new Prime Minister of the Central African country Chad.
- **Tamar Hahn** from Israel has been appointed as the Director of United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Awards and Recognition:

- **The World Press Photo of the Year honors** - The jury of the 59th annual World Press Photo Contest has selected an image by Australian photographer **Warren Richardson** as the World Press Photo of the Year 2015. Richardson is a freelance photographer, currently based in Budapest, Hungary.
- **IBA Banking Technology Award - Karnataka Bank Ltd** has won the IBA Banking Technology

Award' in the category of 'Best Risk and Fraud Management Initiative - Runner Up' amongst small banks. The award was announced as part of Indian Banks' Association (IBA) Technology Conference, Expo and Awards 2016.

- **Global prize for teachers** - Robin Chaurasiya, an Indian teacher who runs a non-profit school in Mumbai for girls from the city's red light areas has been named in the top 10 short-list for a global prize for teachers. **Robin Chaurasiya**, founder of **Kranti**, will compete with teachers from the UK, US, Nairobi, Palestine, Japan, Finland, Australia and Pakistan to win the \$1-million Global Teacher Prize 2016. The prize was created last year as a kind of Oscars for the teaching profession by the U.K.-based Varkey Foundation.
- Bollywood's popular lyricist **Sameer Anjaan** has made into the Guinness Book of World Records this year. He was rewarded for writing the most number of songs for Bollywood films. Sameer was included as a Guinness World Record holder under a new category titled '**Most prolific Bollywood lyricist**'.
- Fashion designer **Manish Arora** will be conferred with the Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), France's highest civilian honour. This award comes in recognition of his inspired creations and significant contribution to the fashion world as well as his longstanding ties with France.
- Renowned Indologist **Professor David Shulman** has been selected for the prestigious Israel Prize for his breakthrough studies in fields like philosophy and religion. He was chosen for this award for his studies on the religion, literature and culture of southern India and has command over Indian languages like Sanskrit, Tamil, Telegu and Malayalam. He is US born professor currently teaching Hebrew language at University of Jerusalem.
- **The 2016 Grammy Awards** were held on February 15, 2016, at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California. It was the sixteenth Grammy ceremony. The awards are following_____
 1. **Best album of the year** : 1989 - Taylor Swift
 2. **Best record of the year** :Uptown Funk- Mark Ronson featuring Bruno Mars
 3. **Best song of the year** : Thinking Out Loud- Ed Sheeran & Amy Wadge And
 4. **Best new artist** : Meghan Trainor
 5. **Record of the year**: Uptown Funk



4. Best Actress: Brie Larson (Room).

Most awards: The Revenant (5 wins). Most nominations: Bridge of Spies and Carol (9 nominations each).

- Chief Executive Officer **Vinita Gupta** and managing director **Nilesh Gupta**, Lupin Ltd have been chosen the **EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2015**. Ms. Vinita and Mr. Nilesh Gupta will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 7-12 June 2016. **F. C. Kohli**, former Vice-Chairman of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), has been honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award for his pioneering contribution towards the Indian software industry and nation-building.
- President Barack Obama on 18 February 2016 named 106 researchers, including six of Indian origin, as recipients of the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest US Government honour for young independent researchers. The White House announced the names of the following Indian-Americans who have been selected for the Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers:
 1. Shwetak Patel (University of Washington)
 2. Sachin Patel (Vanderbilt University Medical Centre)
 3. Rahul Mangharam (University of Pennsylvania)
 4. Milind Kulkarni (Purdue University)
 5. Vikram Shyam (NASA)
 6. Kiran Musunuru (Harvard University)
- The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI), international music trade body, on 8 February 2016 named Adele the Global Recording Artist of 2015 across all music formats.
- **Nagaland is changing, But...**, a film on conservation efforts by villagers, on 13 February 2016 won the Golden Beaver Best Film Award in the institutional category at the 6th National Science Film Festival and Competition in Mumbai.

Summits and Conferences

- The summit between leaders from the Associations of Southeast Asian Nations and The United States has begun in California. The agenda of 2 day meeting includes Maritime security in the South China sea. The focus will also be around innovation and entrepreneurship.
- India Australia Energy Security Dialogue Held At Canberra, Australia. To implement the Prime Minister's vision of affordable energy for all, Shri

- **Indo-British filmmaker Asif Kapadia** on 15 February 2016 won Grammy Award for Best Music Film for his documentary Amy. The award was presented at the 58th annual awards ceremony that was held at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, the USA Amy is a 2015 British documentary film that depicts the life and death of British singer-songwriter Amy Winehouse. It was directed by Asif Kapadia.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has **conferred Infosys Prize 2015 on** six winners for their outstanding contribution in the research fields in New Delhi. The awards were received by Prof Umesh Waghmare, Prof Jonardon Ganeri, Dr Amit Sharma, Prof Mahan Mj, Prof G Ravindra Kumar and Dr Srinath Raghavan.
- American publishing company, **Time Inc** has announced the winners of the inaugural TIME India awards, honouring **Tata Steel**, leaders for manufacturing excellence in India. McKinsey & Company is the knowledge partner for the awards. The finalists were announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.
- Bollywood **actress Vidya Balan** has been awarded the **'Pride of Kerala'** award by the World Malaya lee Council and Kairali TV. National Award-winning actress Vidya Balan, who hails from Kerala, is 38 year old. National award winner had made her debut in Bollywood in 2005 in Parineeta.
- **The 69th British Academy Film Awards** held on 14 February 2016 in London. It has taken place in Central London at the Royal Opera House. The Revenant' scooped the best film, best actor and best director awards at the 69th edition of the biggest film awards outside the U.S. The other award of BAFTA's are as follow :
 1. **Outstanding British Film:** Brooklyn.
 2. **Best Director:** Alejandro G. Iñárritu (The Revenant).
 3. **Best Actor:** Leonardo DiCaprio (The Revenant).

Piyush Goyal Union Minister of State (IC) for Coal, Power and New and Renewable had an Energy Security Dialogue with Australian Minister for Resources, Energy and Northern Australia, Mr Josh Frydenberg at Canberra.

- The 6th National Science Film Festival & Competition (NSFF) has begun at Nehru Science Center in Mumbai. The festival has been jointly organised by Nehru Science Centre and Vigyan Prasar. Vigyan Prasar is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Science and Technology. The event was chaired by veteran director Shyam Benegal and science film maker Dr Mike Panday.
- President Pranab Mukherjee hosted a two-day Conference of Governors at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. It is the fourth Conference to be presided over by President Mukherjee and 47th such Conference to be held in Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The 3rd edition of the Taj Literature Festival scheduled to begin in Agra (UP). The 3-day long festival beginning on February 26, will not have any particular theme.
- The 4-day National Arogya Fair concluded successfully on 8 February 2016 at Dehradun in Uttarakhand.
- The themes were based on Immune system, Homeopathy in Women's disorders, Treatment in Ayurveda, Yog se Arogya and Non-Communicable Diseases management in Siddha System etc.
- The 3-day long annual World Government Summit (WGS) concluded on 10 February 2016 in Dubai, the UAE. The summit was 4th in the series since the launch of WGS in 2013 by the UAE Government. During the summit, 2016 Best m-Government Service Awards presented. Karnataka's Mobile One project the award in the One Stop App category at the international level.

Exercise & Operations

- **LAMITYE 2016**, The 7th edition of India, Seychelles joint military exercise has begun in Victoria, Seychelles. The fourteen day exercise has been conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Victoria till February 28, 2016.
- The 4th edition of **India-Myanmar Coordinated Patrol (IMCOR)** was conducted jointly by ships of both navies along the International Maritime Boundary Line in the Andaman Sea since 2013. Indian Navy ships Saryu and Bitra along with Union of Myanmar ships Aung Zeya and FAC 563 participated in the patrol.

Sports News

- **Rio Haryanto** will become Indonesia's first Formula One driver after signing a deal with Manor Racing.
- Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Swiss partner Martina Hingis extended their winning streak to 40 after clinching the St. Petersburg Ladies Trophy.
- The **West Indies** won the Under-19 World Cup for the first time in their history after beating India by five wickets in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has banned **Pakistani umpire Asad Rauf** for five years after its disciplinary committee found him guilty of corrupt practices.
- India long distance **runner Kavita Raut** clinches gold in marathon.
- FC Barcelona forward Lionel Andres Messi has been named Liga BBVA Player of the Month for January, for the first time.
- The Indian triumphed at the Maybank Malaysian and Hero Indian Open before going on to finish tied fifth at the PGA Championship last year. He also became the first Indian to feature at The Presidents Cup and ended the year by winning the Asian Tour Order of Merit title and finishing in 40th place in the world rankings.
- The **hallowed Lord's** will host the final of the **Women's Cricket World Cup in 2017**. The ICC has announced, Derbyshire, Gloucestershire, Leicestershire, Somerset and Lord's in London will host the matches from June 26 to July 23.
- 12th South Asian Games (SAG) 2016 concluded on 16 February 2016 at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium, Sarusajai of Guwahati, Assam. The game that saw 228 events in 23 sports disciplines was held from 5 February to 16 February 2016.
- UNESCO report entitled **Colour? What Colour?** was presented on 9 February 2016 at the General Assembly of the European Club Association in Paris.
- Indian Railways on 14 February 2016 won the 36th National Chess team Championship in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. For the Indian Railways team it was the first ever title. To win the championship the team defeated Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) team in the final.
- Two prominent sportspersons from Odisha, namely Jauna Murmu and archer Ranjit Nayak were included in the Target Olympic Podium (TOP) Scheme formulated by the Union Government for the 2016 and 2020 Olympic Games.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) Cricket for Good and United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) in partnership with BCCI on 15

February 2016 launched the Team Swachh clinics during the ICC WT20 Host City Tour. The clinics were launched at the HPCA Stadium in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The step was taken to promote a nationwide initiative that aims to build a social movement for sanitation and toilet use there by leading to an open-defecation-free India.

Trade and Agreements

- The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to notify the **Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA)** of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to keep on projecting India as a business friendly destination.
- **NRDC** has signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) with IACS for commercialisation of technologies and intellectual properties (IP) developed at IACS. Under this MoA, NRDC will provide its services in IP Evaluation and Valuation in terms of their commercial potential to IACS.
- The ministry of railways signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the government of Sweden for technical cooperation. The main objective of the MoU, signed by Sweden's ministry of enterprise and innovation, is cooperation between the two countries to promote efficiency and sustainability and achieve concrete results with regard to bilateral trade, investment and technology transfer.
- Around 25 Indian and 100 Israeli firms will come together for a unique business seminar on defence and security in Israel. The seminar will be organised jointly by SIBAT, the Israeli defence ministry, the International Defence Cooperation Directorate and Ficci will take place on 21-25 February 2016.
- To promote start-ups and entrepreneurship, the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB) and National Research Development Corporation (NRDC). Both arms of the DSIR, have signed an MoU to facilitate industry-institute partnership.
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU) have signed an agreement to improve cooperation in cyber defense. The technical agreement signed at NATO headquarters at Brussels.
- The Indian government has sanctioned Rs.580 crore for the vital rail link. As it expected to complete the work on the 15-km-long rail line to connect Agartala with Akhaura in that country by 2017. Of the 15 km railway track, 10 km falls in the Bangladesh side and the rest in India. The entire project cost would be borne by the Center and over

Rs 1,000 crore was sanctioned for completion of the track in Bangladesh side.

- During the visit of Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi **Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan** and India, both countries **signed 9 agreements** and Memorandums of Understanding. The agreements and MoUs covered a wide range of sectors like the sphere of cyber security, infrastructure, renewable energy and finance. Both the countries issued a joint statement that expressed resolve **to increase trade by 60 percent over by 2020.**

Books and Authors

- **Playing It My Way:** Cricket Legend and Rajya Sabha MP **Sachin Tendulkar's** autobiography, **Playing It My Way**, has entered the Limca Book of Records in the category of best-selling books across both fiction and non-fiction categories with 1,50,289 copies sold on order subscriptions. The book has been published by Hachette India in the year 2014 with Boria Majumdar as the co-author of the book.
- A fiction book titled **A Kingdom For His Love** was launched in February 2016 by **Amar Chitra Katha (ACK)**. The book is co-authored by **Vani Mahesh and Shinie Antony.**



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Science & Technology

- **Prithvi-II missile:** India test-fired its indigenously developed Prithvi-II missile. This missile is capable of carrying 500 kg to 1000 kg of warheads. Prithvi II missile tested as part of a user trial by the army from a test range at Chandipur. The missile test was carried out from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).
- **The gravitational waves:** Scientists have observed a stunning discovery in their quest to fully understand gravity. The gravitational waves were predicted by Albert Einstein in his general theory of relativity 100 years ago in 1915. The gravitational waves were detected on September 14, 2015 by

LIGO detectors, located in Livingston, Louisiana, and Hanford, Washington, USA.

- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) on 17 February 2016 successfully launched astronomy satellite **ASTRO-H** from the Tanegashima Space Center in Kagoshima Prefecture.

Committees

- **Kala Committee:** Draft National Wildlife Action Plan; The National Wildlife Action Plan (NWAP) 2017-2031 unveiled by the environment ministry accords special emphasis to rehabilitation of threatened species of wildlife.

Defence News

- **Nidar** - India's first indigenously developed lightest revolver (gun) Nidar weighing merely 250 grams was successfully launched to boost the "Make In India" initiative. It has been designed and manufactured by the state-run Rifle Factory Ishapore located in West Bengal. The Nidar is lightest revolver ever made in India with cheapest price tag of Rs 35,000 only.
- **INS Viraat** - The **world's oldest aircraft carrier, INS Viraat**, is all set to be converted into a luxury hotel to attract tourists once it is decommissioned from service in June this year. The Defence Ministry has given its nod to a proposal from Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation (APTDC) to convert the Centaur-class aircraft carrier into a hotel-cum-museum. The state government has drawn up plans to convert Viraat into a 500-room hotel. **The project to be taken up under Public Private Partnership (PPP) model.**

Obituaries

- **Harper Lee** - the author of the classic novel **To Kill a Mockingbird**, has died in her hometown of Monroeville, Alabama, US. The Pulitzer Prize-winning writer was 89.
- **Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan** - Veteran Hindustani classical vocalist Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- **Akbar Kakkattil** - Renowned Malayalam novelist and story writer Akbar Kakkattil passed away in Kozhikode.
- **Boutros Boutros-Ghali** - Former United Nations (UN) Secretary-General passed away in Cairo, Egypt.
- **Rajamani** - southern music director and composer has passed away.

- **Biraja Prasad** - India's Ambassador to Tajikistan passed away following a massive cardiac arrest.
- **O N V Kurup** - Noted Malayalam poet and lyricist O N V Kurup passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was 84. He was popularly known as "ONV", Ottapalakkal Nambiyadikkal Velu Kurup and had made significant contributions to the Malayalam film music.
- **Leslie Bassett** - Pulitzer winning composer passed away in Oakwood, Georgia.
- **Lance Naik Hanumanthappa** - who had been battling for life at the Army's Research & Referral hospital, died. Hanumanthappa, hailed from Koppal in Karnataka. He belonged to a farming family in Betadur village in Kundagol taluk of Dharwad district.
- **Aurobindo Mukherjee** - Veteran film director Aurobindo Mukherjee passed away in Kolkata at his residence.
- **Dan Hicks** - Renowned American singer-songwriter Dan Hicks passed away after a two-year long battle with throat and liver cancer in California.
- **Andy Ganteaume**, the former West Indies and Trinidad & Tobago wicketkeeper-batsman, passed away on 17 February 2016 in Santa Margarita, St. Augustine, Trinidad and Tobago. He was 95. Ganteaume was West Indies' oldest living Test cricketer, and the world's second oldest, after South Africa's Lindsay Tuckett.
- Polish film director **Andrzej Zulawski** passed away on 17 February 2016 in Warsaw.
- **Soviet** football legend Anatoli Ilyin passed away on 10 February 2016 in Moscow, Russia. He was 84. **Ilyin was the scorer of the first ever UEFA European Championship qualifying goal** and the strike that earned the Soviet Union Olympic gold in 1956.

Important Days

- **February 20:** The United Nations' (UN) **World Day of Social Justice** is annually observed on February 20 to encourage people to look at how social justice affects poverty eradication. It also focuses on the goal of achieving full employment and support for social integration.
- **13 February:** World Radio Day was observed globally on 13 February 2016 with the theme - **Radio in Times of Emergency and Disaster.**
- **13 February:** National Women day
- **10th February:** India launched its 1st Deworming Day on 10th February. It was launched by The Ministry Of Health & Family Welfare to combat parasitic worm infections among preschool and school age children across India. National

Deworming Day is a **groundbreaking initiative** focused on reducing the threat of parasitic worm infections, a widespread health issue affecting over 241 million children in India alone. India has the highest burden of soil transmitted parasitic worms in the world.



Miscellaneous

- A day after closing down its controversy ridden free basics programme in India, Facebook India Managing Director **Kirthiga Reddy** has stepped down from her current role and will relocate to the United States.
- Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on 12 February 2016 concluded his 3-day visit to India. He is also the deputy supreme commander of UAE armed forces. He visited India on invitation of Narendra Modi who became the first Prime Minister to visit the UAE after a gap of 34 years in August 2015.
- Banaras Hindu University (BHU) founded by Freedom fighter Pt Madan Mohan Malviya has turned 100 years on **13th February 2016**.
- The Union Ministry of Railway has launched 3 Information Technology enabled apps to bring the transparency in system on the sidelines of Digital India initiative. These apps were launched by Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu. These apps includes - Handheld terminals for Indian Railways travelling ticket examiners (TTEs), a paperless unreserved ticketing mobile application and a facility for E-booking of disposable linen on trains.
- **Mukesh Bansal**, the head of commerce and advertising business and Ankit Nagori, Chief Business Officer of Flipkart has put in his papers.

- **India** has ranked **37 out of 38** countries for its intellectual property rights environment in the annual IP index released by the United States Chamber of Commerce (USCC).
- Union Ministry of state for Petroleum and Natural gas (MoPNG) has released the Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 for north-east India. The Hydrocarbon Vision 2030 outlines steps to leverage the hydrocarbon sector for social and economic development of the north-east region. The states covered under it are Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Sikkim, Mizoram and Tripura.
- Union Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Sushri Uma Bharti will **inaugurate Jal Manthan -2"** on February 22, 2016 New Delhi. The main theme of two day event is Integrated Approach for Sustainable Water Management.
- North Central Railway in association with the Construction and open line Units of the Railway on 14 February 2016 commissioned an ultra-modern computer-based signaling system at the Khurja junction.
- The Union Cabinet on 17 February 2016 gave its approval to amend Section 11 of the Delimitation Act, 2002 and Section 9 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950. This is in pursuance of the Constitution (One Hundredth Amendment) Act, 2015 and also allows for introduction of a Bill, namely, the Election Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016 in Parliament.
- Union Urban Development Minister M Venkaiah Naidu on 15 February 2016 announced the results of **Swachh Survekshan 2016 survey**. **Under the Swachh Survekshan 2016, 73 cities were surveyed for cleanliness** and categorized based on the marks scored by each of them. Out of the 73 cities, while **Mysuru in Karnataka** was adjudged as the cleanest city, **Dhanbad in Jharkand** was adjudged as the least clean city.
- **Walk of Hope: A padayatra for peace & harmony by the Manav Ekta Mission—from Kanyakumari to Kashmir:** The term Walk of Hope was in news in the third week of February 2016. It came into news as it reached the national capital, New Delhi after covering a distance of 5400 kilometers in 374 days.

ALL THE BEST FOR THE LIC AAO 2016 EXAM

Some Corrections of BA Capsule (Page: 58,60,62)
IMPORTANT DESIGNATIONS IN INDIA

Constitutional Heads	
Designation	Person
Harshvardhan Neotia	Chairperson, FICCI
Leo Puri	Chairperson, Unit Trust of India
Dr. Kshatrapati Shivaji	CMD, SIDBI

WILDLIFE SANTUARIES/NATIONAL PARKS / POWER PLANTS IN INDIA

S.no	States	National Parks(NP)	Wild Life Sanctuaries(WLS)	Power Plants
1.	J & K Governor: Narendra Vohra Capital: Jammu(Winter) Srinagar(Summer)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Dachigam National Park ➤ Hemis National Park ➤ Kishtwar National Park ➤ Salim Ali National Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Gulmarg WLS ➤ Limber WLS ➤ Nandini WLS 	-
12.	Gujarat CM: Anandiben Patel Governor: O.P.Kohli Capital: Gandhinagar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Blackbuck National Park, Velavadar ➤ Gir Forest National Park ➤ Marine National Park, Gulf of Kutch ➤ Bansa National Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Jambugodha WLS ➤ Jessore WLS ➤ Kachchh Desert WLS ➤ Mitiyala WLS ➤ Porbandar Lake WLS ➤ Rampara Vidi WLS ➤ Ratanmahal WLS ➤ Shoolpaneswar (Dhumkhal) WLS ➤ Thol Lake WLS ➤ Wild Ass WLS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Mundra Thermal Power Station ➤ Ukai Thermal Power Station ➤ Akrimota Thermal Power Station ➤ Kakrapar Nuclear Power Plant
13.	Karnataka CM: Siddaramaiah Governor: Vajubhai R. Vala Capital: Bangalore	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Bandipur National Park ➤ Bannerghatta National Park ➤ Kudremukh National Park ➤ Nagarhole National Park ➤ Anshi national park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Arabithittu WLS ➤ Attiveri WLS ➤ Bhadra WLS ➤ Bhimgad WLS ➤ Brahmagiri WLS ➤ Cauvery WLS ➤ Nugu WLS ➤ Pushpagiri WLS ➤ Ranganathittu Bird WLS ➤ Sharavathi Valley WLS ➤ Someshwara WLS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Raichur Thermal Power Station ➤ Udupi Thermal Power Plant ➤ Bellary Thermal Power Station
28.	Arunachal Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Namdapha National Park ➤ Mouling National Park 		
9.	Andhra Pradesh CM: N. Chandrababu Naidu Governor: E.S.L. Narasimhan Capital: Hyderabad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sri Venkateswara National Park ➤ Mahavir Harina Vanasthali National Park ➤ Mrugavani National Park ➤ Rajiv Gandhi National Park 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Coringa WLS ➤ Kawal WLS ➤ Kolleru WLS ➤ Nellapattu WLS ➤ Pulicat Lake WLS ➤ Rajiv Gandhi (Nagarjuna Sagar-Srisailem) WLS ➤ Rollapadu WLS 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simhadri Super Thermal Power Plant ➤ Sri Damodaram Sanjeevaiah Thermal Power Station

Dams in India:

- **Srisailem dam: on Krishna River, Andhra Pradesh**