

THE HINDU REVIEW: DECEMBER 2016

- ❑ World AIDS Day is observed across the world on 1st December annually. The theme for 2016 World Aids Day is 'Hands Up for HIV Prevention'.
- ❑ The autobiography of India's batting legend Sachin Tendulkar "Playing it my way" has won the prestigious Crossword Book of the Year Award in the Autobiography category. It is penned by renowned cricket historian and Tendulkar's close friend Boria Majumdar.
- ❑ NITI Aayog constituted a 13-member committee to promote cashless economy. The committee will be headed by Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu.
- ❑ Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik inaugurates the 55,000-tonne per annum (TPA) Odisha ferro-chrome plant set up by Tata Steel at a cost of Rs 542 crore in its Gopalpur Industrial Park in Ganjam district.
- ❑ Supreme Court made it mandatory for cinema halls to play the National anthem before the screening of a film in theatres across the country.
- ❑ Raj Bhawan of Himachal Pradesh has adopted the cashless system for all kind of payments. Governor Acharya Devvrat has directed Raj Bhawan's official in Shimla to use a cashless system or cheque in all kinds of payments.
- ❑ Federal Bank has tied up with Spice Digital for cash management services through the bank's e-collection facility.
- ❑ Union Government has approved inclusion of 15 new castes and modification of 13 other castes in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).
- ❑ Union Cabinet has approved Rs 2,000 Cr development package for one-time settlement of 36,384 displaced families from Pakistan occupied areas of Jammu and Kashmir and Chhamb.
- ❑ Union Cabinet has approved the Mumbai Urban Transport Project Phase-III estimated to cost Rs 10,947 crores on completion.
- ❑ Central Statistical Office announced that India's Gross Domestic Product accelerated to 7.3 % in the second quarter (July-September) of the 2016-17 financial year from a provisional 7.1 % expansion in the previous quarter. On the other hand, the Gross Value Added (GVA) increased to 7.1 percent.
- ❑ Yoga, India's one of the ancient practices to keep oneself healthy, has been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List as the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.
- ❑ All-India Football Federation has won the Asian Football Council's Developing Member Association of the Year Award in Abu Dhabi.
- ❑ Chemistry's highest gatekeepers have accepted the newly proposed names for elements 113(Nihonium), 115 (Moscovium), 117 (Tennessine) and 118 (Oganesson).
- Periodic Table elements with atomic number 113, Nihonium (Nh) has become the first ever element to be discovered by an Asian country after it was officially revealed by the International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC).
- ❑ Union HRD Minister launches 'Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan' to use the network of Centrally-run educational institutions for propagating the benefits of digital mode of payment in wake of the government's demonetisation move.
- ❑ China and Pakistan have launched a direct rail and sea freight service with the first cargo train departing from China's southwestern Yunnan province.
- ❑ Singer Katy Perry was honoured with the 'Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award' for her work as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador.
- ❑ Amid the Centre's push for the digital transaction, Dhasai village in Thane district has become the first "cashless village" in Maharashtra.
- ❑ Magnus Carlsen won the 2016 World Chess Championship in New York City, USA. Carlsen defeated Sergey Karjakin to retain the World Chess Champion title.
- ❑ Emirates launched the world's shortest scheduled service on an Airbus A380, flying it from Dubai to Doha within 80 minutes.
- ❑ International Day of Persons with Disabilities being observed on 03rd December 2016. The theme of World Disability Day for 2016 is: Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want.
- ❑ RBI defers mandatory implementation of Aadhar-enabled PoS (Point of Sale) devices till June 30,2017.
- ❑ Airtel Payments Bank, the first payments bank in India introduce that any customer opening a savings account








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- Edible oil firm Ruchi Soya Industries in association with State Bank of India (SBI) launched an initiative to provide banking assistance to farmers. Under the initiative 'Kisan Kalyan Ayojan', the company will help farmers to open bank accounts, procure the produce directly from farmers at the right price and ensure farmers get their payment immediately through internet banking.
- A 16-year-old Indian girl based in the UAE has won this year's International Children's Peace Prize for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation.
- The Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi is the 22nd most connected airport in the world, according to air travel intelligence company OAG. OAG's 2016 Megahubs Index has been topped by Chicago Airport in the United States.



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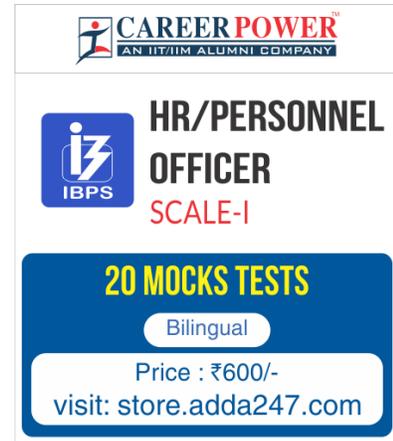
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- Basketball player LeBron James has been chosen as the Sports Illustrated's Sportsperson of the Year, becoming the second athlete ever to win the award twice.
- Spanish city has changed its name for the third time in a decade, renaming itself Palma from Palma de Mallorca.
- Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt won the International Association of Athletics Federations' award for male athlete of the year for a record sixth time.
- Kolkata, along with 10 other cities from across the globe, has been honoured with the best cities of 2016 award in recognition of its programme on solid waste management.
- Ramkrishna unexpectedly quit as chief executive officer of National Stock Exchange (NSE), ending her 24-year career.
- Hailakandi has become the first district in Assam to pay wages to tea garden workers through individual bank accounts.



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- India will train Qatar police for handling the security during the FIFA World Cup 2022 scheduled to be held in that country.
- India and Qatar has signed four agreements on visas, cyberspace and investments. It was signed between Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.
- India's representative Srinidhi Shetty has been crowned Miss Supranational 2016, an international beauty pageant.
- Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling starrer romantic drama La La Land has been chosen as the best film of 2016 by the New York Film Critics Circle. Manchester won the best actor award for Casey Affleck & Barry Jenkins was recognised as the best director for Moonlight & best actress trophy went to Isabelle Huppert for Elle and Things to Come.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has extended his greetings to all members of the Indian Navy and their families on the occasion of Navy Day which was observed on 4th December.
- Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu jumped two places to achieve her career-best ranking of seven in the latest BWF World Ranking, while Saina Nehwal is also back in the top 10.
- Tesla and SpaceX Founder Elon Musk has been named the most admired leader in the technology space.
- The sixth 'Heart of Asia' ministerial conference has kicked off in Amritsar, Punjab to discuss peace, cooperation and economic development in Afghanistan. The theme is 'Addressing Challenges, Achieving Prosperity'.
- India women's cricket team won the Asia Cup T20 after beating arch-rivals Pakistan in the final of the regional tournament by 17 runs.
- US President-elect Donald Trump has named General Motors CEO Mary Barra to his economic and job-creation panel.
- Universal Studios Hollywood has been named the Best Attraction in the World by ticket selling site 'AttractionTix'.



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Warner Brothers Studio Tour was voted the best attraction in the UK while Magic Kingdom Park in Walt Disney World Resort was named the Best Family Attraction.

- The International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed across the world on 5 December every year. This year theme is "Global Applause – give volunteers a hand".
- The World Soil Day 2016 is observed on 5 December annually. The theme for this year is "Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life".
- Tasmania-based Women's Legal Service in collaboration with TRS Law Offices (India) has launched a website (www.Girlsgottaknow.in) for women in the country to educate them about their legal rights.
- In order to mop up extra liquidity from the system in view of demonetisation, government and the Reserve Bank sharply raised the Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) ceiling to Rs 6 lakh crore from Rs 30,000 crore.
- All India Football Federation President Praful Patel has been appointed as a Senior Vice-President of Asian Football Confederation.
- Thailand named its crown prince Maha Vajiralongkorn as its new king after the passing of King Bhumibol Adulyadei.
- Indian Golfer Mukesh Kumar became the oldest golfer to win an Asian Tour title after winning the Panasonic Open India.
- Flipkart founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal have been jointly named "Asian of the Year 2016" by Singapore-based newspaper The Straits Times.
- KPMG in India and Microsoft India have established a strategic IoT Advisory partnership. This will enable them to combine their advanced technologies, industry insights, and creative thinking to accelerate the digital transformation of large and mid-market Indian enterprises.
- Telecom operator Bharti Airtel, announced top level changes by appointing Sunil Taldar as CEO & Director of its DTH arm Airtel Digital TV and moving incumbent Shashi Arora as MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank.
- E-commerce major Amazon has launched its global startup program 'Launchpad' in India, an online portal featuring over 400 products from different startups including 25 Indian startups.
- Driven by increased 4G and 3G penetration, India's internet population is likely to increase from current 343 million users to 600 million by 2020, according to a study by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) and Deloitte.
- Former international hockey umpire and veteran administrator, Phulel Singh Sujlana, passed away due to old age.
- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalitha Jayaraman passed away at a Chennai hospital on 05th December 2016. The

68-year old AIADMK supremo breathed her last at the Apollo Hospital.

- After the demise of AIADMK supremo & Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalitha, her loyalist O Panneerselvam has been sworn in as Chief Minister at a sombre ceremony at the Raj Bhawan along with all the ministers in the erstwhile Jayalalitha Cabinet.
- To encourage each district in the country to take the digitization route without fear, the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog will be immediately transferring Rs.5 lakh each district as seed money to kick start this drive.
- Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee has announced that the state would be setting up a special panel to stop child trafficking which is to be chaired by Parliamentary Affairs minister Partha Chatterjee.
- AirAsia has announced the appointment of Amar Abrol as its Managing Director in addition to his role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).
- President Pranab Mukherjee will inaugurate the first ever International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra, Haryana.
- Bernard Cazeneuve, currently French interior minister, will replace Manuel Valls as the country's new prime minister.
- Independent candidate and pro-European Alexander Van der Bellen has won the Austria's re-run presidential election with around 53.5% votes.
- Uzbekistan's Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev became the country's second president after winning 88.61% vote in the first presidential election since the death of the authoritarian leader and President Islam Karimov.
- Senior IAS officer B.S. Bhullar has been appointed the Chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- India's largest public sector trading body MMTC (Metals and Minerals Trading gold Corporation) tie-up with the State Bank of India (SBI) to sell government-minted Indian Gold Coin (24 Karat) which will be available in denominations of 5gm, 10gm and 20 gm bar.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched PSLV C36 Resource Sat-2A from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has kept its key policy rate, the Repo Rate (RR), at 6.25 %. It has lowered the growth forecast by 0.5% to 7.1% for 2016-17.
- RBI has withdrawn the incremental cash reserve ratio (CRR) of 100%.
- World Economic Forum (WEF) has named Hindi language ranked 10th in the top 10 most powerful languages on the planet. The list features English as the most powerful language followed by Mandarin.
- Reserve Bank of India has authorised the Receivables Exchange of India (RXIL), promoted by Sidbi and NSE, to



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- launch the country's first trade receivables exchange platform for MSMEs, buyers and financiers.
- Indian Oil Corporation, Bharat Petroleum Corporation and Hindustan Petroleum Corp have signed a pact to build India's biggest oil refinery at a cost of \$30 billion on the west coast in Maharashtra. IOC will hold a 50 % stake in the project while BPCL and HPCL will have 25 % each.
- Women and Child Development Ministry has tied up with India Post and SBI. This will offer more payment options to buyers and simplify shipping of products bought from "Mahila E-haat", an online marketing platform for women entrepreneurs.
- The world's first hospital train, Lifeline Express is all set to get two additional coaches for cancer treatment.
- Dr BR Ambedkar's birth anniversary to be observed as 'Water Day' across the country on 14 April, will be observed as "Water Day" across India.
- Corporation Bank has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank Award 2016' instituted by Assocham.
- Vijaya Bank has been adjudged 'Best Bank for SME Lending award' by Assocham.
- In order to further boost its growing defence ties with Vietnam, India has agreed to train the southeast nation's Sukhoi-30 fighter pilots.
- Bharat Earth Movers Limited Ltd (BEML) has bagged the 'CII National Quality 2016 Award'.
- Singapore has the highest achieving students in international education rankings, with its teenagers coming top in tests in maths, reading and science.
- The Russian-Indian- Indra NAVY-2016 naval exercise will be held in this December. It will be held in the city of Visakhapatnam and in the Bay of Bengal.
- The annual bilateral maritime exercise Konkan 16 between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy (British Navy) started in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Multimedia artist Helen Marten won the Turner Prize, which is Britain's top award for contemporary art. It is the 2nd prize in a month for Marten, who also won the inaugural Hepworth Prize.
- Political satirist and founder editor of Thuglak magazine, Srinivasa Iyer Ramaswamy is popularly known as Cho Ramaswamy passed away due to cardiac arrest in a Chennai.
- The TIME magazine has named US President-elect Donald Trump as Person of the Year 2016 and called him the President of the 'Divided States of America'. Modi won the online readers' poll conducted by Time magazine for Person of the Year 2016, the second time he emerged winner of the reader's choice poll.
- U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has selected Iowa Governor Terry Branstad as his incoming government's ambassador to China.
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (Nabard) will extend support aggregating about Rs. 120 crore to banks for deployment of two Point-of-Sale (PoS) devices per village in one lakh villages having a population of up to 10,000.
- Cabinet approves MoU with Afghanistan on cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space
- Cabinet approves MoU with United Kingdom UK to support ease of doing business in India
- India and United Kingdom (UK) MoU for cooperation in field of Intellectual Property approved.
- Cabinet approves Indo-Thai agreement on narcotics control.
- The Serendipity Arts Festival (SAF) is scheduled to be held in Goa. The festival will see a stellar line-up of 33 global artists, who will display their work at the eight-day inspiration-packed festival.
- Senior judge of the Supreme Court Justice Mian Saqib Nisar was appointed as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.
- Karnataka Bank Ltd has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank Award (private sector) 2016' instituted by Assocham.
- Microsoft has introduced business solutions from its partner ecosystem to meet the business needs of small and medium businesses across Kerala.
- Board of directors of IDFC Bank has approved the appointment of Veena Mankar as Non-Executive Chairperson.
- Ghana's main opposition leader Nana Akufo-Addo has won the country's presidential election with an absolute majority.
- Amazon, which started as an online book retailer, has announced Harry Potter and the Cursed Child as the best-selling book of 2016. The playscript by JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, was also named this year's 'Most Wished For' and 'Most Gifted' book.
- India and the United States vowed to expand the bilateral defence cooperation. Outgoing American defence secretary Ashton Carter termed New Delhi as a "major defence partner".
- Kerala chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan has launched Haritha Keralam Mission in Thiruvananthapuram to develop the Indian Railways in terms of service in travelling and freight across the country.
- Stockholders of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank approved to merge into the biggest bank of all Gulf Countries with an asset of \$ 178 billion. After the merger the combined company will be named as NBAD.
- Pakistan has removed an "undeclared" ban on import of ginned cotton from India.
- In order to enhance cooperation in education sector between India and Egypt, Center has decided to set up a center of Excellence in Information Technology at the Al-

Azhar University which is the oldest and most prestigious the University of Egypt.

- Vistaar Financial Services, an MSME-focused financing firm, has appointed former Sebi chief C B Bhavé as non-executive Chairman and Independent Director.
- Captain of the senior National Men's Hockey Team and one of the finest hockey goal-PR Sreejeshkeeper in the world, PR Sreejesh has been roped in as the Goalkeeping Mentor of the India Under-21 Hockey Team.
- Young Indian racer Jehan Daruvala has been signed by Formula 3's top team Carlin for the 2017 FIA F3 European Championship.
- Former NASA astronaut and Democratic US Senator from Ohio, John Glenn, has passed away at the age of 95.
- The Human Rights Day is observed across the world on 10 December every year.
- India and Vietnam have signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement. The two countries also signed three other agreements — to enhance aviation links, to jointly work in the area of energy efficiency and promotion of parliamentary cooperation.
- Kerala government has launched two mobile applications which can be used to upload information regarding graft. The applications launched are - 'ArisingKerala' and 'Whistle Now'.
- Indian filmmaker Onir's documentary, 'Raising The Bar' has won the 'Award of Recognition' at the 'Hollywood International Independent Documentary Awards'.
- The 21st International Film Festival of Kerala began in Thiruvananthapuram.
- Muhtar Kent has announced that he will step down as the CEO of Coca-Cola in May 2017 and will be succeeded by company President and COO James Quincey.
- Japan has successfully launched a rocket named H-2B carrying the unmanned cargo spaceship Kounotori 6 to deliver supplies for astronauts living in the International Space Station (ISS).
- Peter Gilchrist of Singapore defeated Sourav Kothari to win the 2016 IBSF World Billiards Long Up title.
- Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Ravi Shankar Prasad, launched a TV channel named 'DigiShala' to promote cashless transaction in rural areas. The government also initiated 'Digi Dhan Abhiyan' to achieve the objective of educating, enabling and informing citizens about the cashless economy.
- Larsen & Turbo (L&T) has bagged a contract from the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) to make Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium of Gujarat the world's biggest cricket stadium in terms of seating capacity.
- The India-UK Conference on Ease of Doing Business concluded in New Delhi. This act as an opportunity to

enhance the strategic bilateral partnership between the two nations to the next level.

- The 28th State Information Ministers Conference (SIMCON), 2016, was organised by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.
- A black civil rights leader who led a struggle against anti-black segregation and racism in Canada in the 1940s will be the first Canadian woman to figure on a banknote. Viola Desmond will appear on the Canadian \$10 bill - replacing the nation's first prime minister John A Macdonald.
- Senior Indian Revenue Service officer Rajendra Kumar has been appointed as the new Member of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), the policy making body for the Income Tax Department.
- The committee formed by Finance Ministry to boost Digital Payment system in India that was headed by Shri. Ratan P. Watal submitted its report to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
- Rajasthan High Court cancelled the Rajasthan Special Backward Classes (SBC) reservation Act 2015 that allowed for 5% quota to Gujjars and five other communities of the state.



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- Mumbai's Iqbal Sayed, who works as a civil engineer with Reliance Infrastructure and Mumbai Metro, became the first Indian to win a medal at the Mr Olympia event, after securing a silver medal in the event.
- Virat Kohli became the first Indian to score three double hundreds in a year, playing against England.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has launched a campaign, to end child labour, child slavery and violence against children. He launched the '100 Million for 100 Million Campaign' organised by The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.
- CM Mehbooba Mufti flags off first children special train in valley. It was flagged off at Banihal that en routes from

- Quazigund, Anantnag, Awantipur, Srinagar, Budgam, Sopore and Baramula.
- Rajasthan government has recently launched a mobile App named LeZgo that provides the latest information about tourist attractions in Ajmer and Pushkar.
 - Uttar Pradesh Government has tied up with Tata Trusts to acquire digital platforms to strengthen the public distribution system (PDS) in the state.
 - Paolo Gentiloni has been named as Italy's new Prime Minister following reformist leader Matteo Renzi's resignation in the wake of a crushing referendum defeat.
 - Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has constituted a committee to fight against the problem of online piracy and develop suitable business standards and best practices for the digital entertainment industry. Ajit Mohan of Hotstar will be the chairman of the committee.
 - The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC Russia reached a mutual agreement on their first deal since 2001, to jointly restrict oil production to control the excess global availability of the oil and thus boost oil prices.
 - Cyrus Mistry removed as director of Tata Industries at the Tata Industries Extraordinary General Meeting.
 - The world's longest tunnel, Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT) in Switzerland was opened for regular rail services.
 - China has launched the first of its new generation weather satellites Fengyun-4. The New technology on the satellite will improve the accuracy of weather forecasts.
 - Bishweshwar Nandi, coach of Dipa Karmakar who made India proud at the Rio Olympics with her performance in the field of gymnastics will co-author her memoir titled: "Dipa Karmakar: The Small Wonder".
 - India and Indonesia have signed three agreements during the visit of Indonesian President Joko Widodo. MoU on Youth and Sports Cooperation, on Standardization Cooperation between the Bureau of Indian Standards and the National Standardization Agency of Indonesia & Joint Communiqué on the Voluntary International Cooperation to Combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and to promote Sustainable Fisheries Governance was signed between the Union Government and the Government of Indonesia.
 - Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping laid the foundation stones for 17 road projects on 11 December 2016 during two functions held at Jiribam and Imphal.
 - Antonio Guterres, a former Portuguese Prime Minister, was sworn in as the ninth UN Secretary-General succeeding Ban Ki-moon as the chief of the 71-year old world body.
 - EU has signed a deal with Cuba on political dialogue and cooperation, with Cuba being the only Latin American country to lack such an agreement earlier.
 - Punjab government has launched country's first amphibious bus project at the Harike wetland near Amritsar.
 - Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won his 11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships title by beating Peter Gilchrist of Singapore in the summit clash in Bengaluru.
 - Two Indian-origin men have figured in Forbes magazine's second annual list of wealthiest entrepreneurs under the age of 40 which is topped by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Vivek Ramaswamy, a successful biotech entrepreneur has been ranked 24th on 'America's Richest Entrepreneurs Under 40 2016' list & Apoorva Mehta stands at 31st spot with a 360 million dollars net worth.
 - Lt. Gen. Naveed Mukhtar has been appointed as the new Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). He replaces Lt. Gen. Rizwan Akhtar.
 - Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo beat rival Lionel Messi to win the prestigious Ballon d'Or award for the fourth time.
 - Asian Development Bank lowered India's growth forecast for this year from 7.4 % to 7 % due to a slight slowdown in the economy following the central government's demonetisation move.
 - Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad has achieved carbon neutral status. It is the first in the Asia-Pacific region in the 5-15 million passengers per annum category to attain this status.
 - Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has signed an agreement with a consortium of six companies to deliver India's first industry-built satellite by late 2017.



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- ❑ The 9th edition of Indra Navy exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy held in the Bay of Bengal. The main aim of this exercise is to enhance the interoperability between the two navies and develop the common understanding of maritime security operations.
- ❑ Ousted Tata Sons Chairman Cyrus Mistry removed as the Director of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) after 93.11% shareholders voted in favour of Mistry's removal.
- ❑ Briton Andy Murray and Germany's Angelique Kerber were named ITF World Champions.
- ❑ A biopic of Madonna titled Blond Ambition has been named the most admired unproduced film script currently in the Hollywood system. It is Written by Elyse Hollander.
- ❑ Kerala's Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan has inaugurated the third edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB) at an inaugural event in Parade Ground, Fort Kochi.
- ❑ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and philanthropist couple Anupama and Vineet Nayar are among the Indians who have been named in the Global Thinkers of 2016 List compiled by the Foreign Policy magazine.
- ❑ The ever-popular 'border viewing point' of the Wagah border will soon be recreated in Gujarat's Banaskantha district.
- ❑ Rio Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu has won the Badminton World Federation (BWF) 2016 Most Improved Player of the Year award at the Players' in Dubai.
- ❑ The book titled "Many Everest" An Inspiring Journey of Transforming Dream into Reality' is penned by Ravindra Kumar.
- ❑ Malaysia has installed its 15th king, Sultan Muhammad V, in a ceremony marked by honour guards and Islamic prayers in the national palace in Kuala Lumpur.
- ❑ India has signed a Grant Agreement of USD 5.19 million with International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) for Additional Financing for Financing Energy Efficiency at MSMEs Project-Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency.
- ❑ Walter Swinburn, one of the most renowned jockeys of his generation and rider of the Shergar, passed away on 12 December 2016 following a prolonged illness.
- ❑ Prime minister Narendra Modi has ranked 9th on the Forbes list of 74 of the World's Most Powerful People. The list has topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin for a fourth straight year.
- ❑ 'Brexit' and 'Grexit' (hypothetical withdrawal of Greece from the EU) are among the 1,500 new words and phrases added to the Oxford English Dictionary this week.
- ❑ A Gujarat-born activist, Jayaben Desai who led a campaign against low pay for women workers at a UK factory in the 1970s has made it the BBC's most influential women of the past 70 years list.
- ❑ Paytm has announced a program to increase the digital inclusion in the country where in it is calling upon consumers and merchants across India to teach others on how to use Paytm to pay and accept money.
- ❑ 'Mahabharata', B R Chopra's famed teleserial, is set to be broadcast in its radio avatar on the All India Radio (AIR).
- ❑ The Marvelous City or Rio de Janeiro officially has entered into the UN's list of world heritage sites.
- ❑ The Government has announced to launch a 'Lucky Graahak Yojana' and 'Digi Dhan Yojana' to encourage digital payments. Schemes will begin from 25th Dec till April 14, 2017. 7,000 weekly awards and a maximum award of Rs 50,000 each for merchants will be awarded under Digi Dhan Vyapari Yojna.
- ❑ Union Cabinet approved the protocol for amending the agreement between India and Tajikistan for the avoidance of double taxation.
- ❑ The International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) has announced that Russia will not host the 2017 Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Championships.
- ❑ India will contribute \$500,000 to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for the year 2016-17 announced by Indian diplomat Anjani Kumar a counsellor at India's UN Mission at the pledging session held at UN.
- ❑ Labour Minister of Qatar, Issa bin Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi formally announced the end of its controversial "kafala" system, which was the biggest ever labour reform in Qatar. Kafala System is a system used to monitor migrant laborers, working primarily in the construction and domestic sectors of Qatar and other gulf countries.



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- ❑ Google's former Head of Industry, e-commerce Pulkit Trivedi was appointed as Industry Director for e-commerce, retail, travel and financial services verticals of Facebook.

- V G Kannan has taken charge as Chief Executive of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). He succeeds M V Tanksale.
- The World Bank Group has halted the two concurrent processes initiated by India and Pakistan under the Indus Water Treaty.
- A ban was imposed by the National Green Tribunal on the procurement, sale and use of glass powder coated 'manja' and other dangerous strings for flying kites.
- The book titled 'Courts of India – Past to Present' released by the Supreme Court of India. It was authored by the Editorial Board comprises members of both the Bench and the Bar.
- The Government of India informed that it has extended the e-Tourist Visa facility to citizens of 161 countries. Further, the number of foreign tourist arrivals on e-Tourist Visa from January to November this year has grown 168.5% over the same period last year.
- The Wholesale Price Index (WPI)-based inflation for November 2016 came in at a five-month low of 3.15 %, lower than 3.39 % in the October month.
- Bernard Fox died of heart failure at Valley Presbyterian Hospital in Van Nuys, California. He is best known for his roles on the ABC series Bewitched and James Cameron's Oscar-winning picture Titanic.
- Pakistan has successfully test-fired an enhanced version of an indigenously-designed cruise missile Babur, that can hit targets at 700km with all kinds of warheads, bringing many Indian cities within its range.
- For the first time, an Indian-American woman Savita Vaidhyathan has been elected as the new Mayor of the key Californian city of Cupertino, globally known for its Apple headquarters.
- Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 38 on the World's Most Powerful People list for 2016 by Forbes. Russian President Vladimir Putin has topped the list for the fourth consecutive year.
- The Seventh edition of Exercise EKUVERIN will be held in December 2016 at Kadhdhoo, Laamu Atoll, Maldives. The Exercise is a 14-day platoon level joint military exercise between the Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force conducted on a yearly basis.
- India batswoman Smriti Mandhana has been named in the ICC Women's Team of the Year 2016, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced.
- India has Topped the Asia's innovation chart Index. The 'Silicon Valley' of the east, Bengaluru, which is 5th largest hub at the global level, saw most of the innovations in 2016.
- The 5th India-Arab Partnership Conference was held in Muscat, Oman. The theme of the conference: 'Partnership towards innovation and cooperation in IT'.
- Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) has presented 'Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016' to Tata Sons interim Chairman Ratan Tata in Mumbai.
- New United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has announced Nigeria's Environment minister, Amina Mohammed as his Deputy Secretary-General (DSG). Ms. Maria Viotti of Brazil (Chef de Cabinet) and Ms. Kyung-wha Kang of the Republic of Korea as Special advisor(UN) on policy.
- Rajasthan government has launched a subsidised meal scheme 'Annapurna Rasoi'. As per the scheme, the poor and the needy will get breakfast for Rs 5 and lunch or dinner for Rs 8.
- The 15th Pune International Film Festival will be held from January 12 to 19. Around 250 films in different categories will be screened at the festival. The festival director Jabbar Patel said the theme for this year's festival is Environment.
- The Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation in Tamil Nadu has been selected for Digital India Award instituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.
- National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and NTPC Limited have signed a MoU to set up a 2400 MW power plant at Gajmara in Dhenkanal district of Odisha and supply captive power for expansion plans of Nalco at Angul and also Greenfield project at Kamakhyanagar in Dhenkanal district.
- India's foreign exchange reserves declined by 887.2 million dollars to 362.987 billion dollars in the week ended 9th December.
- The Dharwad-headquartered Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank has bagged two awards for inclusive insurance from Skoch Group for 2016. ii. The bank bagged the awards in



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- life insurance and micro insurance sectors under the order of merit category.
- ❑ The Lok Sabha has passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2016 in Lok Sabha which replaces the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995. The number of categories of differently-abled has been increased from seven to twenty-one so that the Divyangs could get the benefits of various schemes at the Centre and State level.
 - ❑ The state-owned BHEL has bagged a major order from Indian Railways for the supply of IGBT-based traction converters. Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has bagged a major order for supply of 118 sets of IGBT-based traction converters for 3 Phase 6,000 HP electric locomotives.
 - ❑ BEML Ltd, a defence public sector undertaking, has been conferred with CEPM Fellowship Award-2016.
 - ❑ In its first such final in 15 years, India overwhelmed Belgium 2-1 to lift the 2016 Hockey Junior World Cup at Lucknow's Major Dhyan Chand Hockey Stadium.
 - ❑ Eminent economist and a former member of the erstwhile Planning Commission, Saumitra Chaudhuri, who has served on the board of high level advisory panels of the government passed away.
 - ❑ The 'ThalFavangKut' festival of Mizoram, which marks the completion of weeding of the farmland by cultivators in the state, was held in Aizawl with enthusiasm and fervor.
 - ❑ Manipur Chief Minister Okram Ibobi Singh has inaugurated two new districts Pherzawl and Noney. Pherzawl carved out of Churachandpur district, and Noney from Tamenglong district in Manipur. With this, the total number of Districts in Manipur is 11.
 - ❑ Indian Railways' new train, Humsafar Express, was flagged off from Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu via video conferencing in Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.
 - ❑ Noted television journalist and talk show host Arnab Goswami has announced that the launch of his 'new venture' called 'Republic'.
 - ❑ A 2,700-square-meter skating space, which is being considered the world's largest non-permanent indoor ice rink, recently opened at the Grand Palais in Paris, France.
 - ❑ Priyanka Chopra has now made it up to the list of IMDb's most popular celebrities' list. Standing at number 55, Priyanka is ahead of Hollywood's big names like Jennifer Aniston, Emma Watson, Leonardo Di Caprio, Johnny Depp, Scarlett Johansson and others.
 - ❑ RBI has advised banks to cap the Merchant Discount Rates for debit card transactions upto 1000 rupees at 0.25 percent of the transaction value. For transactions between 1000 and 2000 rupees, the merchant charges shall be capped at 0.5 percent of the transaction value.
 - ❑ Indian boxing star Vijender Singh knocked out former world Francis Cheka to retain WBO-Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title.
 - ❑ Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley and Minister of State for Communications (Independent charge) and Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha has jointly launched State Bank and BSNL MobiCash Mobile Wallet.





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- ❑ In Himachal Pradesh, the first Cyber Crime Police Station has been opened at state police headquarter in Shimla.
- ❑ Jharkhand cadre IPS officer Rajiv Jain was appointed as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB) while Anil Dhasmana will head external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
- ❑ India and Tajikistan have signed four agreements in areas including on double taxation avoidance, money laundering and counter-terrorism.
- ❑ The Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Bipin Rawat will be the new Chief of Army Staff, while Air Marshal B.S Dhanoa, the next Chief of Air Staff.
- ❑ About 25-30 global CEOs and the heads of the multi national corporations will throng to Gujarat on January 10, 2017 for the 8th edition of biennial Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGS) 2017.
- ❑ The Union AYUSH (Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy) Ministry has launched 'Swasthya Raksha Programme' to promote health and health education in villages.
- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation of the first-ever Indian Institute of Skills of the country at Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.
- ❑ The Centre has decided to set up a single, permanent Tribunal to adjudicate all inter-state river water disputes

subsuming existing tribunals, a step which is aimed at resolving grievances of states in a speedy manner.

- As part of plans to merge some of the tribunals into larger entities to avoid identical functions, the government is looking to converge the Cyber Appellate Tribunal (CyAT) and TDSAT.

- Employee's Provident Fund Organization EPFO decided to lower the interest on EPF deposits for the current fiscal to 8.65 per cent, from 8.8 provided in 2015-16.
- The International Press Institute's (IPI) India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2016 has been awarded jointly to Varun Bhatt of Rajasthan Patrika and The Week for outstanding journalistic work done during 2015.
- Harvard researchers from the Harvard John A. Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) have built the world's smallest radio receiver, made out of atomic scale defects in pink diamonds.
- The world's first cloned goat bearing superfine Cashmere wool was born in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
- BJP led Assam government has roped in Bollywood actress, Priyanka Chopra as the brand ambassador of state tourism.
- The five-day India-Nepal Folk Crafts Festival (INCF-2016) begins in Kathmandu, Nepal on December 19, 2016 to promote cultural exchanges between the two countries.
- After claiming his second Wimbledon title and maiden ATP World Tour Finals crown, Britain's world number one Andy Murray won a record third BBC Sports Personality of the Year award.
- Atletico de Kolkata (ATK) regained the Indian Super League (ISL) title by beating Kerala Blasters. ATK won by 5-4.
- Karun Nair became the second Indian to score a triple ton in Test cricket as the smashed unbeaten 303 runs off just

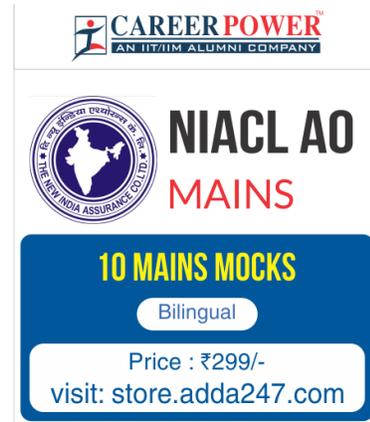
381 balls and powered India to their highest ever team total in Tests.

- The surgeon who created the life-saving Heimlich maneuver for choking victims has died at Christ Hospital in Cincinnati due to heart attack. He was 96 year's old.
- India has ranked 04th in the Global Wind Power Installed Capacity index after China, USA and Germany with cumulative installed wind power generation capacity of 28,279 MW in 2016.
- India and Kyrgyzstan has signed 6 agreements/Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) to boost bilateral cooperation. The agreements were signed in New Delhi during the State visit of Kyrgyzstan President AlmazbekAtambaye.
- The ninth edition of World Confluence of Humanity, Power and Spirituality, organised by ASSOCHAM in association with Srei Foundation and Times Foundation in New Delhi. The Confluence was inaugurated in the presence of Hon'ble President of India ShriPranab Mukherjee, ASSOCHAM President Mr. Sunil Kanoria and Srei Foundation Chairman Dr. Hari Prasad Kanoria.
- India has signed Open Skies agreement with Jamaica, Guyana, Czech Republic, Finland, Spain and Sri Lanka, allowing unlimited number of flights to six metro airports in the country, including Delhi, Mumbai, Hyderabad, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Chennai. The new arrangement entered into at the International Civil Aviation Negotiations (ICAN) - 2016 held recently in Nassau.
- Minister of State for Development of North Eastern Region Dr. Jitendra Singh has announced to provide 207 crore rupees for protection and development of the world heritage island Majuli located along river Brahmaputra in Assam.
- Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Raman Singh has launched India's first cashless bazaar in Raipur. This 'Smart' bazaar consist of nearly Over 900 shops which are providing the facilities of cashless payments using POS, UPI and other digital systems to its customers.
- The Madras High Court has banned unauthorised 'Sharia' courts functioning on premises of mosques in Tamil Nadu while hearing a petition from a husband who was allegedly forced to pronounce talaq by one such court in the city.
- India has received the maximum Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in flows from Singapore in 2015-16 followed by Mauritius, the US, the Netherlands and Japan, a report by industry chamber PHDCCI and KPMG. India attracted \$13.69 billion foreign direct investment from Singapore in that financial year.
- The 12-foot-tall stone statue of renowned Tamil poet and philosopher-saint Thiruvalluvar was inaugurated at

MelaBhawan premises in Haridwar, Uttarakhand by Chief minister Harish Rawat.

- The Bay of Bengal hosts a 'dead zone' of an estimated 60,000 square kilometres an area that contains little or no oxygen and supports microbial processes that remove vast amount of nitrogen from the ocean, scientists, including those from India, have found.
- Corporation Bank has bagged the SKOCH silver award for attaining the position of number1 channel partner of LIC of India for the past three financial years, according to a press release by the bank.
- Privatbank, Ukraine's largest private bank, is being nationalised to protect the country's financial system and preserve an essential bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund.
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare lead by JagatPrakashNadda has won gold in the Web Ratna category in the Digital India awards 2016.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has designated Deepak Agarwal, CEO of Greater Noida Industrial Development Authority (GNIDA), as the CEO of Noida Authority.
- China commissioned its first seven-tonne helicopter. AC352 civil helicopter can be used for operations like search and rescue and law enforcement, marking a new advancement in its aviation industry.
- A free instant messaging service for work and business environments, Flock has launched world's first chat operating system "FlockOS" by BhavinTurakhia, Flock CEO.
- The International Boxing Association has unanimously voted to induct the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) as one of its permanent members.
- Veteran character actor JagannathaVarma has passed away. He was suffering from age-related illness and was in the hospital for the past few days. The 77-year-old had acted in close to 200 films and two dozen TV serials in a career spanning close to four decades.
- Delhi Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung has submitted his resignation to the Government of India. The tenure of Jung, who took the charge of the office on July 9, 2013, was scheduled to end in 2018.
- Mumbai-based writer Jerry Pinto, Tamil author Vannadhasan, Hindi writer Nasira Sharma are among 24 others declared the winners of the SahityaAkademi awards 2016.
- Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has launched the trilingual website www.haj.gov.in relating to Haj Matters. The website is in Hindi, Urdu and English languages.
- Gujarat government has announced Aerospace and Defence Policy-2016 to attract investment into fields of

aerospace and defence design, development and manufacturing in the state.



- India has successfully test-fired its home-grown long range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay from the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur on sea off Odishacoast, for a distance of about 1,000 km.
- GirijaVaidyanathan, Additional Chief Secretary and Commissioner of Land Administration, has been appointed Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu in place of P. Rama MohanaRao.
- The Government of India has approved cadre review and formation of the Indian Enterprise Development Service (IEDS) in the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has imposed the penalty on five foreign banks, including Deutsche Bank and Standard Chartered Bank, for violation of its instructions on reporting requirements of the FEMA. The three other banks are: Bank of America, Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi and The Royal Bank of Scotland. They have been fined for violation of its instructions on reporting requirements of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).
- With over 10 months to go for the launch of FIFA Under-17 World Cup India 2017, the Bank of Baroda has become the first Indian company to sign up as a national supporter. The first-ever FIFA event in India, scheduled to kick start in October 2017 will see participation from 24 countries and matches will be played at six different venues.
- China has inked an agreement with the New development bank (NDB) set up by the BRICS approving a 525 million yuan loan for a solar power project in the country.
- Japan's space agency has announced successfully launched a 26-metre-long rocket named Epsilon-2, which put a satellite that helps study radiation belts in orbit.
- Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has unveiled a landmark Bill of rights guaranteeing freedom of speech, protest, fair trials and privacy.

- ❑ Actress Priyanka Chopra has become the first Indian to be appointed as the global ambassador of the hair care brand 'Pantene calling the brand a "favourite around the world.
- ❑ Actor HrithikRoashan has launched a children's book series 'Tactabet', written in Braille format, which is being published for visually impaired people. Available in both Hindi and English, the book series is on the alphabets.
- ❑ A 12-year-old ArjunBhati has outshined India in the Kids Golf World Championship 2016 in Malaysia defeating South Africa's MethuDenish to secure the first position.
- ❑ The Cricket Association of India has organised a 17-member Indian team for the upcoming second T20 cricket World cup for the visually challenged.
- ❑ Prime Minister NarendraModi has featured on the Government of India 2017 calendar. The calendar features candid pictures, with each month representing the issues that Modi has worked for.
- ❑ RavichandranAshwin has won both the ICC Cricketer of the Year and the ICC Test cricketer of the Year award after he was named as the only Indian in ICC's Test Team of the Year. ViratKohli was named the captain of the ICC ODI Team of the Year.
- ❑ Union Minister of State for AyushShripadYessoNaik has inaugurated the North Eastern Institute of Ayurveda and Homeopathy (NEIAH), which aims at providing alternative health care to people of the northeastern region and Sikkim.
- ❑ Delhi has emerged as the country's most well-read city in the fourth consecutive year with Bengaluru and Mumbai taking the second and third spot, according to Annual Reading Trends Report 2016 by Amazon.
- ❑ HrithikRoshan has become the highest advance taxpaying actor. He has paid an advance tax of Rs 80 crore till December 15, 2016, compared to Rs 50 crore last year. After Hrithik, it is Aamir Khan, who has paid Rs. 74 crore. RanbirKapoor, who paid Rs 37 crore as advance tax till December is at 3rd position.
- ❑ Salman Khan has been ranked No. 1 on the fifth Forbes India Celebrity 100 List.The Forbes' ranking is based on two parameters: estimates of entertainment-related earnings and estimates of fame. The period under consideration for both is 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016.
- ❑ China has launched atmospheric CO2-monitoring TanSat satellite in an effort to curb and monitor greenhouse gas emissions.
- ❑ The world's first solar road made with 30,000 square feet of solar panels has been opened in the French village of Normandy. The one-kilometre long road took five years and cost \$5.2 million to develop.
- ❑ FIFA has released the final rankings of 2016, with Argentina reclaiming the team of the year title from Belgium, finishing with 1634 points to top FIFA's rankings.
- ❑ India has defeated South Korea 3-0 to secure the bronze medal at the 4th Women's U18 Asia Cup 2016 hockey tournament in Bangkok, Thailand.
- ❑ Indian footballer JejeLalpekhluva has named 2016's All India Football Federation (AIFF) Player of the Year, an award given to the best footballer in the country.
- ❑ According to Global Wage Report, India has among the worst levels of gender wage disparity. Men earning more than women in similar jobs with the gap exceeding 30%, the Global Wage Report 2016-17 released by the International LabourOrganisation (ILO).
- ❑ Union Cabinet has Approved Ordinance to amend Payment of Wages Act, 1936. The Centre approved a draft ordinance to empower states and enable industries to pay wages by cheque or by direct credit into bank accounts of workers earning up to Rs. 18,000 a month, without taking their explicit consent.
- ❑ Bengali poet and literary critic ShankhaGhosh will get the Jnanpith Award for 2016. The award is given for exceptional contribution in the field of literature. The award was constituted way back in 1965 and He is the sixth Bengali to get this prestigious award.
- ❑ The External Affairs Ministry's have launched a new service called Twitter Seva that will enable timely, transparent and large-scale response to citizens' tweets in real time.
- ❑ Power Minister PiyushGoyal has launched 'Coal Mitra' Web Portal to facilitate Flexibility in Utilization of Domestic Coal. With this Government has also allowed Coal Swapping between PSUs and the Private Sector.
- ❑ Tata Steel has signed an agreement to acquire 100% equity in Odisha-based Brahmani River Pellets (BRPL) for Rs 900 crore.



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- The deal which will be financed through the company's internal cash flows is tipped to help Tata Steel as it ramps up capacity at its new plant at Kalinganagar.
- The Ministry of Textiles has decided to establish a "BunkarMitra-Handloom Helpline Centre" where professional queries of weavers will be answered by the experts in the field. This helpline will function from 10.00 a.m to 6 p.m. and initially it will be provided in 7 languages viz., Hindi, English, and 5 other regional languages (Telugu, Tamil, Kannada Bengali & Assamese).



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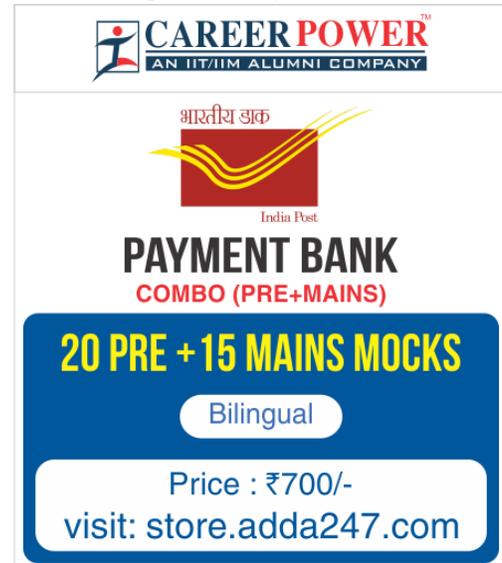
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- Naveen Patnaik launches BijuSishuSurakshyaYojana to nurture orphan kids. The state government launched the BijuSishuSurakshyaYojana, a scheme to nurture the orphan and HIV-infected children residing in different child care institutions and orphanages.
- ICICI Bank has now launched a payments collection app for offline merchants and retailers called Eazypaywhich will allow customers to pay via UPI, cards, net banking and the bank's Pockets wallet app.
- KisanDiwas is observed every year on 23 December across India Since 2001 to celebrate the birth anniversary of the fifth prime minister and kisanleader, Ch. Charan Singh. KisanDiwas is also known as Farmers Day or Charan Singh Jayanti.
- Nepal has announced to hold its first ever joint military exercise with China from February 10, 2017 to begin a new level of bilateral military engagement with China.
- The Defence Acquisition Council okayed defence requirements worth approximately Rs 7,000 crore. These include purchasing six modern surveillance aircraft for the Indian Coast Guard.
- Shareholders of Tata Chemicals have voted out NusliWadia as an independent director of the company with 75.67% votes going in favour of a resolution moved by Tata Sons to remove him.
- France's airspace regulator, General Directorate for Civil Aviation, has approved the plan to launch drone delivery

program, making France the world's first national postal service to use drones regularly.

- APIS India a leading producer, distributor and exporter of honey under APIS Himalaya brand, has roped in Indian badminton champion and Rio Olympics silver medalist PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador.
- India, coached by Rahul Dravid, continued their dominance in the Asia Cup as they clinched the U-19 title by defeating Sri Lanka in the final at the R Premadasa stadium in Colombo.
- India's Seasoned Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan clinched a gold medal at the Asian Luge Championship. Keshavan finished the 2 heat race with a time of 1 minute, 39.962 seconds and top speed of 130.4 km/h.
- Pakistan cricket has seen Christians and Hindus represent the country at home and abroad, but for the first time a Sikh has secured a place in the National Cricket Academy.
- Good Governance Day is being observed on 25th December 2016 to mark the birthday of former Prime Minister AtalBihari Vajpayee who has turned 92. From 25th December Good Governance campaign will be undertaken for 100 days during which Ministers and Members of Parliament will travel across the country and attend programmes highlighting the government's key initiatives.
- US President Barack Obama has signed into law the USD 618 billion defence budget for 2017, which enhances security cooperation with India and conditions nearly half of the funding to Pakistan on a certification that it is taking demonstrable steps against the Haqqani Network.
- Sri Lanka has unveiled a towering Christmas tree, claiming to have surpassed the world record for the tallest artificial Christmas tree. The 73-meter (238-foot) tree, built in capital Colombo, is 18 meters taller than the current record holder. The tree's steel-and-wire frame is covered with a plastic net decorated with natural pine cones, 600,000 LED bulbs and topped by a 6-meter-tall (20-foot) shining star.
- The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flight tested the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW) at the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur off Odisha coast.
- Aiming to raise awareness about online safety, Google India in collaboration with Ministry of Consumer Affairs has announced a nationwide 'Digitally Safe Consumer campaign, as part of a larger effort to help better protect consumer interest online.
- Social networking giant Facebook received 6,324 requests from Indian government agencies for 8,290 users/accounts in the first half of 2016. This is the second highest after the US, which made 23,854 requests for 38,951 users/accounts during January-June 2016, according to Facebook's Government Requests Report.

- ❑ The government has launched a host of online initiatives including a mobile App 'Smart Consumer' and an 'Online Consumer Mediation Centre (OCMC)' to provide speedy redressal of consumer grievances.
- ❑ The registration fees for Hindus and other minority community people from three neighbouring countries including Pakistan as Indian citizens have been drastically reduced to as low as Rs 100 from Rs 15,000. In a gazette notification, the home ministry said the new rules will be applicable to minority communities Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh and living in India on long term visa.
- ❑ After the release of ICC and Cricket Australia's list of best players of 2016, Lord's Cricket Ground have followed the trend and selected top 20 players for this calendar year.
- ❑ Government of India has launched Lucky GrahakYojana for Consumers and Digi-DhanVyaparYojana for Merchants to promote digital transaction. The schemes are aimed at encouraging people to move towards significantly higher usage of digital transactions through the offer of incentives.
- ❑ PM NarendraModi laid the foundation stone of Pune Metro project's Phase-I. PM Modi said the government is actively working on the Rurban Mission, which caters to the places that are urbanising quickly.
- ❑ Assam CM SarbanandaSonowal has launched 'Atal-AmritAbhiyan' Scheme across the State. The initiative is a health assurance scheme which will give comprehensive coverage for six diseases and cover all individuals in eligible families with annual income below Rs 5 lakh.
- ❑ Andhra Pradesh's own classical dance 'Kuchipudi' found a place in the Guinness World Records yet again when a record 6,117 dancers came together to present a show at the IGMC Stadium in Vijaywada.
- ❑ The foundation stone for India's first second generation ethanol bio-refinery to be set up by Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) at Bathinda in Punjab at a cost of Rs 600 crore.
- ❑ Uttar Pradesh CM AkhileshYadav has inaugurated power projects worth over Rs52,000crore across the state. Along with projects covering transmission and distribution of electricity, three thermal power plants with the total capacity of 33,000 MW were also inaugurated.
- ❑ India tested its Agni-V intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) in its final operational configuration from Wheeler Island off Odisha, paving the way for its eventual induction into the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) after user-trials.
- ❑ The State Bank of India (SBI) has adopted Shirki village at Pen taluka in Maharashtra for driving the Aadhaar-based merchant payment initiative.
- ❑ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (Irda) has approved the R3 application and granted certificate of registration to five global reinsurers to open shops. The R3 is the final approval from the regulator to begin branch operations.
- ❑ Scientists have identified materials that can withstand temperatures of nearly 4,000 degrees Celsius, an advance that may pave the way for improved heat resistant shielding for the faster-than-ever hypersonic space vehicles. Researchers from Imperial College London in the UK discovered that the melting point of hafnium carbide is the highest ever recorded for a material.
- ❑ DinanathBhargava, a co-artist in the team that sketched the national emblem 'Lion Capital of Ashoka' and decorated the pages of the Constitution's manuscript, died at the age of 89 in Indore.
- ❑ British singer George Michael who launched his career with Wham in the 1980s and continued his success as a solo performer has passed away.
- ❑ Sixteen-time world champion PankajAdvani ended the year on a high by bagging the National title in 6-red snooker, the shorter format of the game. In the final, Advani prevailed over local youngster IshpreetChadha 7-4 to clinch the title.
- ❑ In an effort to reduce pollution caused by diesel buses, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has launched 25 bio-diesel buses in the state. These eco-friendly buses will ply on four routes, including Tirupati and Chennai.
- ❑ The Centre has released Rs 1,982 crore for the multipurpose Polavaram irrigation project in Andhra Pradesh through National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), which sanctioned the long term irrigation fund under Prime Minister KrishiSinchayeeYojana.



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- Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications has brought out a Special Cover on freedom fighter 'Shri Gaya Prasad Katiyar' and a set of eight Commemorative Postage Stamps on 'Personalities Series: Bihar' & a stamp on 'Hardayal Municipal Heritage Public Library'.
- In a relief to farmers hit by demonetisation, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has given an additional 60 days to repay their crop loans due in November-December, 2016 and prompt repayment would be eligible for the extra 3% interest subsidy.
- The registration fees for Hindus and other minority community people from three neighboring countries comprising Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Bangladesh, to register as Indian citizens have been reduced drastically to Rs 100 from Rs 15,000.
- The Odisha government has decided to intensify state sponsored malaria elimination scheme 'Daman' (DurgamaAnchalare Malaria Nirakaran) in eight remote districts of the state.
- Chief Minister DevendraFadnavis launched an initiative 'Transform Maharashtra' at IIT Bombay's 'Mood Indigo' festival.
- The State Cabinet of Odisha has named the Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme worth Rs. 7,600 crore, after the noted freedom fighter and social reformer ParbatiGiri as a mark of respect for her immense contribution to the freedom movement and service to the poor and needy.
- Actor MithunChakrabortyha resigned from the RajyaSabha citing health issues. The 66-year-old actor was nominated to the Upper House by West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC).
- IDFC Bank has announced the nationwide launch of IDFC Aadhaar Pay, the country's first Aadhaar-linked cashless merchant solution that uses a retailer's own Android smartphone to enable cashless payments.
- The Karnataka VikasGrameen Banks (KVGB) has come up with 'Bank Sakhi' innovative scheme for employing women in villages to promote and improve the cashless transactions in rural areas.
- Actor Salman Khan on Twitter has announced the launch of his app, 'BeingInTouch', on his 51st birthday (27 December 2016). The app will provide access to Salman's social media accounts, along with his unseen pictures and videos.
- China has passed a new law to levy environment tax on polluters, especially on heavy industries. The environment tax law was adopted by the legislature, the National People's Congress (NPC) standing committee at a meeting in Beijing.
- Dr Barbara Jatta has appointed as the first female director of Vatican Museums by Pope Francis. It will be effective from January 2017 Jatta is currently working as the Deputy Director of the museums Since June 2016.
- Former Sri Lankan prime minister RatnasiriWickremanayakedied at the age of 83. He was admitted to the intensive care unit of a hospital last week. Wickremanayake had served as prime minister during MahindaRajapaksa's term as president from 2005 to 2010.
- Yuki Bhambri has captured the title of the \$10,000 ITF Hong Kong F4 Futures. It was his 11th title on the ITF Pro Circuit.
- Jaipur based Non-banking finance company Au Financiers (India) has received final approval of the Reserve Bank to start operations as small finance bank.
- Actor Shahrukh Khan has received an honorary doctorate from Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad for his extraordinary contribution in promotion of the Urdu language and culture through his films.
- Viral Acharya has appointed by the Government of India as the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He will be joining the ranks of N S Vishwanathan, S SMundra, R Gandhi as one of four deputy governors serving under RBI Governor Urjit Patel.
- Mobile payment and e-commerce platform Paytm has announced a 100-member 'merchant helpdesk' and announcing that it will invest Rs 50 crore towards educating merchants on digital payments across the country.
- Tata Motors has announced the appointment of Bollywood film star Akshay Kumar, as the brand ambassador for its Commercial Vehicle Business Unit. Indian Cinema's 'original Khiladi' will make his blockbuster entry in this new role at the launch of Tata Motors' latest offering in Commercial Vehicles, slated in January 2017.
- Pune based public sector lender Bank of Maharashtra, has helped to make the village of Malangaon, in Sangli district, Maharashtra, a completely cashless village. Post the announcement of withdrawal of 500 and 1000 currency notes and the push towards a cashless society.
- PM NarendraModi has laid the foundation stone of Char Dham highway development project in Dehradun. Char DhamYatra is an annual pilgrimage to the shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri. The project includes developing 900 km of National Highways in Uttarakhand at Rs 12,000 crore. The Char Dham project is a tribute to those who lost their lives during Uttarakhand flash floods.
- The Reserve Bank of India has allowed foreign portfolio investors (FPI) to transact in non-convertible debentures/bonds issued by Indian companies either directly or in any manner as per the prevalent/approved market practice.

- ❑ Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to reduce interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.65% for 2016-17 from the current 8.8%.
- ❑ Kisan Vikas Patra is a saving certificate scheme which was first launched in 1988 by India Post. Amount Invested matures in 112 months. Rate of Interest 7.7%.
- ❑ Viral Acharya was appointed by the Government of India as the deputy governor of the Reserve Bank of India under the tenure of RBI governor Urjit Patel.
- ❑ Cabinet Approves Ordinance to Penalize Person with Scrapped Notes Post March 31.
- ❑ Cabinet Approves Road Connectivity Project for Left Wing Extremism (LWE) Affected Areas.
- ❑ Centre gives ex post facto approval for ratification of ISA's Framework Agreement.
- ❑ Centre Approves Rs 266 crore investment for Delhi under AMRUT.
- ❑ India has signed an agreement with Bhutan for assistance in green and sustainable construction of infrastructure in the Himalayan kingdom.
- ❑ Anil Baijal has replaced Najeeb Jung as the next Delhi Lt Governor. Delhi's former Lt-Governor Najeeb Jung had resigned on December 22 2016, 18 months before the end of his tenure.
- ❑ Haryana Government has decided to set up a pilot corridor for an innovative concept of "Caterpillar Train" that will fly over city's traffic, in Gurgaon city.
- ❑ Eminent Rajasthani writer Satya Narayan has been chosen for the 26th Bihari Puraskar, 2016 by the K K Birla Foundation.
- ❑ Amul has launched the updated edition of 'Amul's India 3.0'. The book was unveiled by social commentator Santosh Desai, Amul's Managing Director R.S. Sodhi, and journalists Indrajit Hazra, Rahul Da Cunha and Jai Arjun Singh.
- ❑ Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Sunderlal Patwa passed away at the age of 92 after suffering a cardiac arrest.
- ❑ Actress Carrie Fisher, known for playing Princess Leia in the 'Star Wars' film series, passed away at the age of 60 in a Los Angeles hospital following a heart attack.
- ❑ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has appointed Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Singh Chautala as its life presidents.
- ❑ Private sector Lakshmi Vilas Bank has launched QIP to raise over Rs 599.88 crore by issuing 4.25 crore shares in domestic or international markets.
- ❑ Coca-Cola India has signed Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as brand ambassador for its Thums Up brand.
- ❑ Vera Rubin, who transformed modern physics and astronomy with her observations showing that galaxies and stars are immersed in the gravitational grip of vast clouds of dark matter, died at 88.
- ❑ After successfully co-hosting the 12th South Asian Games with Assam early in 2016, Meghalaya has now got the opportunity to hold the National Games 2022 with its 50 years of statehood.
- ❑ Gujarat's opening batsman Samit Gohel made history by scoring 359 runs not out during his team's Ranji Trophy quarter final against Odisha. It is the highest unbeaten score by an opening batsman in first-class cricket.
- ❑ Haryana government has signed a memorandum of understanding with Andhra Pradesh to assist it compile a centralised database of its population
- ❑ The Bihar Cabinet has declared 50 per cent reservation in all judicial services for aspirants belonging to the Extremely Backward Classes, Other Backward Classes, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- ❑ Mauritius High Commissioner to India Jagdishwar Goburdhun has stated that a 'World Bhojpuri Conference' will be held from 29 December 2016 till January 1 2017, in which participants from over 18 countries are likely to be present.
- ❑ The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has decided to team-up with Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) to further promote digital payments among the retail community.
- ❑ State-run Bank of Baroda and Heritage Foods Ltd (HFL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide dairy loans to farmers through the lender's branches across the country.
- ❑ Serbian Ana Ivanovic, the former world No1 and 2008 French Open champion, has retired from tennis at the age of 29.
- ❑ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a mobile app Bharat Interface for Money, BHIM to facilitate digital





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- ❑ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has increased the daily limit of ATM withdrawal to Rs 4500 from current Rs 2500 with effective from January 1st, 2017.
- ❑ India and Singapore have amended the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income, by signing a Third Protocol on 30th December 2016.
- ❑ Reserve Bank of India has extended the period of enhanced Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) limit of Rs 20,000 as part of efforts to promote digital payments.
- ❑ Samajwadi Party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav has expelled his son and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav for six years for alleged anti-party activities.

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- ❑ Romania's president Klaus Iohannis has appointed Sorin Grindeanu as the country's new prime minister.
- ❑ The world's highest bridge has opened to traffic in China, connecting two provinces in the mountainous southwest and reducing travel times by as much as three-quarters.
- ❑ Senior functionary Narinder Batra has resigned as the associate vice-president of the Indian Olympic Association.
- ❑ Test captain Virat Kohli has emerged as India's Sportsman of the Year 2016 in a poll conducted by India.

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