

Edge'ucator

December 2016

The definitive magazine for Bank, SSC and Govt. Exam aspirants

Jayalalithaa Jayaram

Born: 24 February 1948

Died: 5 December 2016



An Indian actress and a politician who served five terms as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, for over fourteen years between 1991 and 2016.

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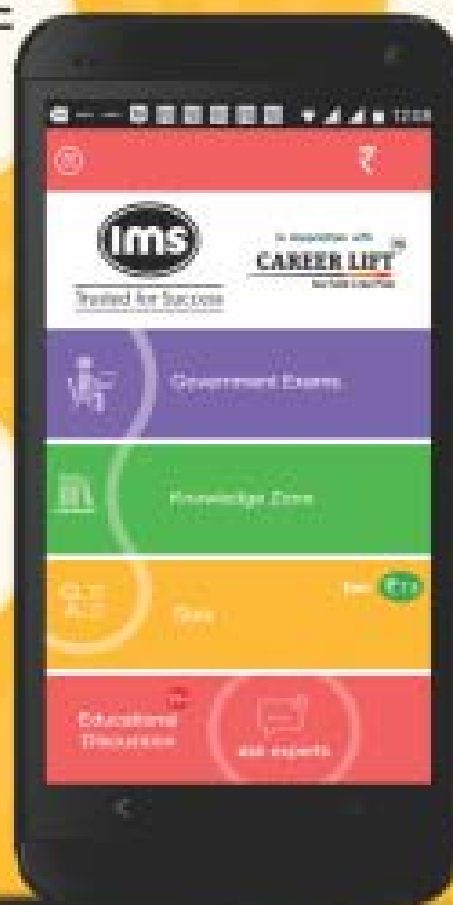
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from the editor

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As you prepare for your bank exams, I'd like to share a story from 'The Mahabharata', one which almost all of you will know.

One day, while testing the focus of his students, Guru Dronacharya fixed a toy parrot with a large eye on the branch of a tree. He then asked each student by turn to raise their bow, lock an arrow and take aim to hit the eye of the parrot. Before the student could release the arrow, Dronacharya asked each student what he saw. He got a myriad of replies, ranging from "I can see the tree", "leaves", "branch", "bird", "trunk", "sky" and so on.

Upon hearing such replies, Dronacharya would immediately pull the student out of line and disqualify him. Finally, it was Arjun's turn. Striding towards Dronacharya like a lion, Arjun bent low, touched the feet of his Guru, and took aim. Guru Dronacharya asked him, "Arjun, what do you see?" Arjun simply replied, "I see only the eye of the parrot". "Then shoot, dear Arjun!" exclaimed Dronacharya. The arrow blazed like lightning through the afternoon air and pierced the eye of the parrot, devastating it completely.

Dronacharya's chest swelled with pride. After all, Arjun was his most focussed and dedicated student.

Each and every one of you is an Arjun, striving to pierce the eye of the parrot. All you need are the three D's - Discipline, Dedication, and Determination. Don't be perturbed by how you have performed in the SBI PO or IBPS PO 2016 exams — whether good or bad, let bygones be bygones. Focus on what is coming up.

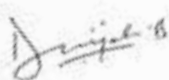
And that is the next selection exam, your eye of the parrot. And there are innumerable opportunities in store for you — IBPS SO, LIC AAO, IDBI Executive Officer, SSC, RRB Stage 2, Indian Bank PO 2017 and so on. Concentrate like a laser beam. Let nothing come in the way of your seat reserved at your preferred bank. Think of yourself as the last batsman walking out for India in the World Cup Final with 8 runs to win in the last over. The entire country's hopes are on your shoulders. And you have to deliver, whatever it takes.

Most of you will be employed or in college. Believe me when I say that I know it is difficult to balance work/college, family and studies. Those who do it, will reap the fruits of success. There is no easy way. Keep aside a fixed time for studying. Do not depend on burning the midnight oil at the last minute, because, cliché though it might be, there is no substitute for hard work. Unflinching dedication to your goal can set your career soaring.

It was this discipline, dedication and determination that saw a svelte schoolgirl from a Bangalore convent rise to meteoric heights in the political arena. This month, we bid a tearful adieu to "Puratchi Thalaivi" (revolutionary leader). Fondly referred to as "Amma", J. Jayalalithaa rose like a phoenix from a conservative Tamil Iengar family to become a powerful icon who shattered the very foundations of male dominated society in India. Our tribute to her untiring and selfless achievements forms the lead story of this month's issue. For other latest news in national and international current affairs, awards and honours, sports, science, medicine and technology, read on!

Best of luck!

Dwijendra Srivastava



Editor

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Personality of the Month

Jayalalithaa Jayaram

(24 February 1948 – 5 December 2016) fondly referred to as “Amma”(mother) and “Puratchi Thalaivi” (revolutionary leader) was an Indian actress-turned-politician, was a six-time chief minister of Tamil Nadu. She was also the General Secretary of the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) party. Sworn-in as the chief minister for a record sixth term on 23 May 2016, Jayalalithaa died in office on December 5, 2016 at the age of 68 years after suffering from a major cardiac arrest.



Personal Background

Born in Melukote, Mysore, on 24 February 1948, Jayalalithaa hailed from a Tamil Iyengar family. Having lost her father in her early years, she moved to Madras in 1958 with her mother. She completed her education at Sacred Heart Matriculation School. Being a bright student, she was fluent in several languages, including Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi, Malayalam and English.

Film career

In Chennai, Jayalalitha trained in classical music, western classical piano, and various forms of classical dance, including Bharatanatyam, Mohiniattam, Manipuri and Kathak.

Jayalalithaa's professional background before entering politics

At the behest of her mother, Jayalalitha started working in films at the age of 15 when she was still in school. Below is a chronicle of her acting career:

- Her first films in various languages were: 'Epistle'(English-1961), 'Chinnada Gombe' (Kannada-1964), 'Vennira Aadai' (Tamil-1965), and 'Manushulu Mamathalu' (Telugu-1966)
- Jayalalitha acted opposite Shivaji Ganesan in the film 'Pattikada Pattanama' in 1972, which won the National Film Award for Best Feature Film in Tamil.
- In 1973, she received three Filmfare Awards for Best Actress for her performance in the films 'Pattikada Pattanama', 'Suryakanthi' and 'Sri Krishna Satya'.
- The first Tamil film that India submitted for the Academy Awards in the category 'Best Foreign Language Film' was 'Deiva Magan'. It featured her and Sivaji Ganesan.
- 'Izzat', one of her notable Hindi films, saw her paired opposite Dharmendra.

Political career

- In 1982, Jayalalitha became a member of the AIADMK, a party founded by M.G. Ramachandran. It marked her entry into politics.
- She was made the Propaganda Secretary of the AIADMK in January 1983. As was chosen by Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R., Jayalalitha to conduct her first election campaign in February 1983 for the party as a candidate in the by-election from the Tiruchendur Assembly Constituency.
- Jayalalitha was elected for the first time as a member of the Rajya Sabha in 1984 and she retained the seat till 1989.
- In 1984, M.G.R. fell ill and moved to the U.S.A to undergo medical treatment. In his absence, Jayalalitha came to the forefront during the elections to the Lok Sabha and the Legislative Assembly in Tamil Nadu in December 1984. That year, the alliance of Congress (I) and AIADMK secured a massive victory.
- Puratchi Thalaivar M.G.R. expired in 1987, after which the AIADMK was split into two parties. The election symbol of the party, “Two Leaves”, was frozen by the Election Commission of India. Jayalalitha was elected as a member of Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly in 1989 from the Bodinayakkanur constituency.
- Jayalalitha was the first lady to become the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of Tamil Nadu.
- The two factions of the party reunited in February 1989 under the leadership of Jayalalitha, who was unanimously elected as the General Secretary of the united AIADMK. The election symbol of the AIADMK party, ‘Two Leaves’, was restored by her in 1989.
- Jayalalitha directed the Congress (I) and AIADMK alliance to a historic victory in the 1989 General Elections to the Lok Sabha in Puducherry and Tamil Nadu.
- A landslide victory was secured by Jayalalitha in the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections held in 1991, when the party and its alliance won 225 out of the total 234 seats. She contested from two constituencies, Kangeyam and Bargur, and won both the seats comprehensively.
- On 24 June 1991, she became the youngest ever and the second female Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. She held the position till 12 May 1996.
- She swept the 1991 General Elections by securing a complete victory for the AIADMK and its alliance partner INC in the 40 Lok Sabha constituencies of Puducherry and Tamil Nadu, thus creating history.



- The 2001 Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly elections saw her leading the alliance to a win of 195 seats out of the 234 and her party, the AIADMK, alone secured 132 seats.
- On 14 May 2001, Jayalalitha became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the second time and held the post till 21 September 2001.
- In February 2002, she was elected from the constituency of Andipatti.
- She remained the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu from 2 March 2002 to 12 May 2006.
- The AIADMK alliance won 69 seats in the 2006 Legislative Assembly elections and Jayalalitha served as the Leader of Opposition.
- Again in the 2011 Legislative Assembly elections in Tamil Nadu, the AIADMK and its allies bounced back, winning 203 seats out of 234, with the AIADMK securing 150 seats on its own. The new government was formed on 16 May 2011 and Jayalalitha became the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for the fourth time.
- Jayaram Jayalalitha had to step down from her post of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu in September 2014 when a trial court in Karnataka held her guilty in an 18-year-old disproportionate assets (amounting to Rs. 66.65 crore) and corruption case. The court had sentenced her to a four-year jail term with a fine of Rs. 100 crore, but she challenged this verdict in Karnataka High Court.
- On 11 May 2015, the Karnataka High Court acquitted Jayalalitha in the Disproportionate Assets case.
- J. Jayalalitha was sworn-in as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for a record-equalling fifth time on 23 May 2015.
- On 25 April 2016, she filed her nomination papers in R. K. Nagar ahead of the Tamil Nadu Assembly elections.
- She created a history of sorts by becoming the first chief minister since 1989 to return to power for a second consecutive term.
- She took oath as the chief minister of Tamil Nadu for a record sixth time on 23 May 2016.



Awards and Honours won by Jayalalitha

- In 1972, the Government of Tamil Nadu honoured her with the Kalaimamani Award.
- A degree of Doctor of Literature (D.Litt.) was conferred upon her by the University of Madras in 1991.
- A degree of Doctor of Science was conferred upon her by Dr. M.G.R. Medical University in 1992 and by Tamil Nadu Agricultural University in 2003
- A degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon her by Madurai Kamaraj University in 1993 and Bharathidasan University in 2003.
- She was invited by the House of Lords, London, in 2004 to receive the “Woman Politician of the Decade” Award from the Asian Guild Awards.
- The Golden Star of Honour and Dignity Award was conferred upon her in 2004 by the International Human Rights Defence Committee recognising her services in protecting the weaker section of society and in the field of gender equality in Tamil Nadu and India.
- In 2011, a resolution was passed by the New Jersey General Assembly to appreciate her exemplary excellence and dedication as a leader and in service to the people of Tamil Nadu.





People in News

PM Narendra Modi ranks 9th among world's most powerful people list of Forbes - December 15, 2016



Prime Minister Narendra Modi was placed at 9th position among 74 of the world's most powerful people list released by the Forbes Magazine. The list gives the annual ranking of the World's Most Powerful People on the basis of their financial resources, scope and use of power and the number of people they impact.

2016 edition of the list was topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin. This is for fourth consecutive year Putin has topped the list. The first billionaire President of the United States was ranked second in the list.

In the 2015 edition of the list he was placed 72. Outgoing US President Barack Obama dropped from 2 to 48. German Chancellor and backbone of the European Union Angela Merkel was ranked 3rd. She continues her reign as the most powerful woman on the planet for consecutive 11 years.

New names in list: Theresa May (#13), Travis Kalanick (#64), Bob Iger (#67), Mike Pence (#69); Rodrigo Duterte (#70), Sheldon Adelson (#72), Antonio Guterres (#36) and Recep Erdogan (#56). Other Indian's in the list: Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani (#38), Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella (#51).

10 most powerful people in the world:

1. Vladimir Putin President of Russia
2. Donald Trump President of US
3. Angela Merkel Chancellor of Germany
4. Xi Jinping President of China
5. Pope Francis Pope of Roman Catholic Church, Vatican City
6. Janet Yellen Chairperson of US Federal Reserve
7. Bill Gates Chairman of Bill & Melinda Foundation
8. Larry Page Founder of Google
9. Narendra Modi Prime Minister of India
10. Mark Zuckerberg Cofounder of Facebook

Indian's in the list

- 38 Mukesh Ambani Chairman of Reliance Industries
- 51 Satya Nadella Microsoft CEO

Antonio Guterres sworn in as UN Secretary General December 13, 2016



Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres (67) was sworn in as the 9th UN Secretary-General. He was administered the Oath of Office by Peter Thomson, President of UN General Assembly at special plenary meeting. He succeeds Ban Ki-moon and shall have five-year term beginning January 1, 2017. Antonio Guterres was unanimously appointed by the UN General Assembly after the 15-nation UN Security Council had approved him in October 2016.

About Secretary-General of United Nations

The UN Secretary-General is the head of the United Nations Secretariat. He is de facto spokesperson and leader of the UN. The role Secretary-General has been mentioned in Chapter XV (Articles 97 to 101) of UN Charter. The post lasts for five years and is limited to a maximum of two terms.

Justice JS Khehar appointed as 44th Chief Justice of India - December 6, 2016



Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar (64) will be the next Chief Justice of India (CJI). He will be the 44th CJI and shall succeed Chief Justice TS Thakur who retires on January 3, 2016. Justice Khehar will be sworn in as the CJI by President Pranab Mukherjee on January 4, 2017. With

this, he will be the first Sikh to become the CJI. Justice Khehar's name for appointment as the next CJI was recommended by SC collegium headed by Chief Justice TS Thakur. He would remain in office from January 4, 2017 till August 4, 2017 i.e. till he attains the age of 65.

About Jagdish Singh Khehar

He was born on 28 August 1952. He was awarded the LL.B degree by the Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1977. Later he acquired the LL. M. qualification from the same University in 1979. He was enrolled as an Advocate in 1979 and practiced mainly in Punjab and Haryana High Court, Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh High Court, Shimla and the Supreme Court. He was appointed as Additional Advocate General, Punjab in January 1992, and then as Senior Standing Counsel Chandigarh (UT). He was designated as Senior Advocate in February, 1995. He was elevated to the Bench of High Court of Punjab and Haryana in February 1999. He was appointed as Acting Chief Justice of the Punjab and Haryana High Court twice in August 2008, and again in November 2009. He was elevated as Chief Justice of the High Court of Uttarakhand in November 2009. Later he was transferred as Chief Justice of High Court of Karnataka, in August 2010. He was elevated as Judge of the Supreme Court in September 2011. He is due to retire from Supreme Court in August 2017. In SC, he had led the five-judge constitution bench which had struck down the NJAC Act and 99th Constitutional Amendment Act for appointment of judges. He has also headed a SC bench which had set aside the imposition of President's Rule in Arunachal Pradesh in January 2016.

O Panneerselvam sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu - December 6, 2016



AIADMK leader O. Panneerselvam (65) was sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu following death of Chief Minister Jayalalithaa. He was administered the oath of office and secrecy by Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao

at a solemn ceremony held in the Raj Bhavan, Chennai. Besides, all 31 members of the outgoing Ministry from the Jayalalithaa's council of Ministers were sworn in. This is for third time he has sworn in as Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. Earlier he had served CM for two brief periods from 2001-02 and 2014-15 after Jayalalithaa was unseated from the post by the courts on various grounds. Panneerselvam has been a trusted aide of AIADMK supremo Jayalalithaa. After her death, he was elected the leader of the Legislature Party. He will have remaining four years term of the Jayalalithaa Government. In Jayalalithaa's government he was Minister for Finance and Public Works Departments since May 2016.

Lt. Gen. Qamar Bajwa appointed Pakistan Army chief - November 28, 2016



Lt. Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa was appointed Pakistan's new army chief (or Chief of Army Staff, COAS). He will succeed Gen. Raheel Sharif who has formally retired from service. He was elevated to the rank of four-star general by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. The post of Army chief is the most powerful in Pakistan. The Pakistani army is world's sixth-largest army by troop numbers. The army has played a prominent role in Pakistan's politics since its independence in 1947 and so far has staged three coups.

Under the constitution of Pakistan, the prime minister is the head of the country's executive. But the army controls domestic-security issues, Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the spy agency and the nation's defense and foreign policies.

Cuba's former President Fidel Castro passes away - November 26, 2016



Cuba's former president and leader of the Communist revolution Fidel Castro passed away due to old age. He was 90. He was commander in chief of the 1959 Cuban revolution 1959 and had successfully built a communist state on the doorstep of the United States during Cold War. He had ruled Cuba as a one-party state for almost half a century (from 1976 to 2008) before handing over the powers to his brother Raul Castro in 2008 due to ill health.

Upma Chowdhary named first woman director of LBSNAA - November 26, 2016



Upma Chowdhary was appointed as new Director of Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA) at Mussoorie. She will be the 23rd director and first woman director of LBSNAA. She will replace Rajeev Kapoor. Upma Chowdhary is a 1983 batch IAS officer of Himachal cadre. Currently, she is posted as Additional Chief Secretary in Himachal Pradesh. During her 33 years' service as an IAS officer, she had served in several positions in the state and at the centre.

About Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA)

LBSNAA is India's premier institution dedicated to training Officers of the country's higher civil services. It was established in 1959 in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand as the National Academy of Administration by merging the IAS Training School, Delhi and IAS Staff College, Shimla.

Mission: Promote good governance, by providing quality training for building a professional and responsive civil service in a caring, ethical and transparent framework.

Mandate: (i) Induction level training to members of All India Services and Central Services (Group A) through a common Foundation Course (ii) Induction-level and post-entry professional training for officers of IAS including mid-career training programmes (iii) Other in-service training programmes for the IAS and other services.

Portugal Prime Minister Antonio Costa to be Chief Guest of 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas - November 23, 2016



António Costa (54), the Indian origin Prime Minister of Portugal will be the chief guest at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention. The PBD Convention is scheduled to be held from January 7 to 9, 2017 in Bengaluru, Karnataka. Mr. Costa will participate in the inaugural session of the PBD Convention on January 8 and address the delegates. Besides, Surinam Vice president Michael Ashwin Satyandre Adhin will be the Special Guest at the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) to be held in Bengaluru on January 7, 2017.

About Antonio Costa

Atonio Costa was born on 17 July 1961 in Lisbon, capital city of Portugal. By profession he is a lawyer. He traces his paternal roots to Goa (India). He is son of Orlando Costa, an accomplished poet and writer and has several relatives at Margao in Goa. His grandfather, Luis Afonso Maria da Costa hailed from Goa. After Portugal's 2015 general

election, he was appointed as Prime Minister, after he had put together a coalition of left parties that is currently in power in Portugal. In 2004, he was elected as one of the 14 Vice-Presidents of the European Parliament and also had served on the Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs. He was Mayor of Lisbon City from 2007 to 2015. He was elected as Secretary-General of the Socialist Party in September 2014.

About Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)

The PBD is celebrated every year on January 9 to mark the contribution of overseas Indian community in the development of India. It is celebrated every year since 2003. It provides a platform to the overseas Indian community to engage with the government and people of the land of their ancestors for mutually beneficial activities. January 9 was chosen as the day to celebrate this occasion since it was on this day in 1915 that Mahatma Gandhi returned to India from South Africa. Thus, this event marks the importance of arrival of India's greatest Pravasi who led India's freedom struggle and changed the lives of Indians forever.

Pankaj Patel elected as FICCI President for 2017 - November 23, 2016



Pankaj Patel was elected as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for the year 2017. He will take over after incumbent Ambuja Neotia Group Chairman Harshavardhan Neotia completes his term in December 2016.

At present Pankaj Patel is Chief Managing Director of Zydus Cadila. He is actively involved in various educational institutions and is on advisory committees and academic councils of several educational institutions such as IISER (Kolkata), IIM Ahmedabad etc. He is also the Vice President, Executive Chairman and Trustee of the Gujarat Cancer Society and Chairman of the Gujarat Cancer and Research Institute, one of the largest of its kind regional Cancer Centre in India.



Awards & Honours

*UAE-based Indian girl
Kehkashan Basu wins 2016
International Children's
Peace Prize - December 3,
2016*



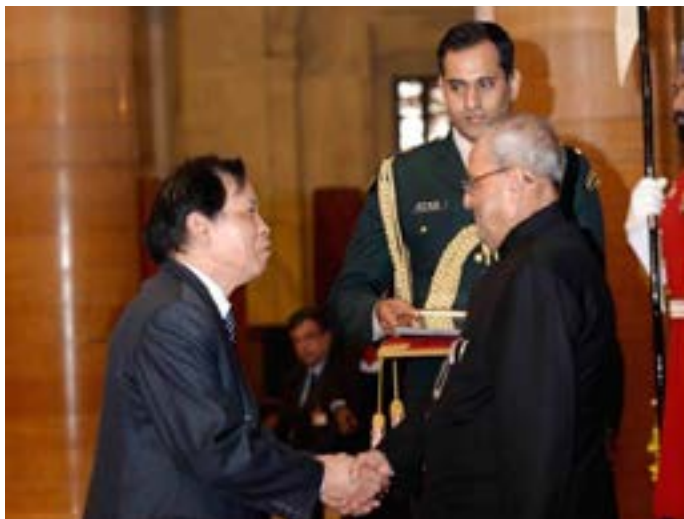
UAE based Indian environmental activist **Kehkashan Basu** (16) has won 2016 prestigious International Children's Peace Prize. She was bestowed with this prestigious award for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation. She was presented with the award by Bangladesh's Nobel peace laureate Mohammad Yunus at a glittering ceremony held in The Hague, Netherlands.

Kehkashan Basu had started campaign to educate her neighbours on the importance of saving the environment at tender age of eight. She had brought together children to collect and recycle waste and also plant trees. She had founded her environmental organisation **Green Hope** based in the United Arab Emirates at the age of twelve. Through it, she has initiated countless cleanup operations and awareness campaigns. Now the organisation has more than 1,000 volunteers in 10 countries around the world. The organisation has successfully implemented environmental projects, including planting 5,000 trees in Colombia, Mexico, France, Nepal, Oman and the United States.

About International Children's Peace Prize

It is awarded annually to a child who has made a significant contribution to advocating children's rights and improving the situation of vulnerable children. It carries monetary award 100,000 euro (\$106,000) investment for projects in the winner's home country. The prize was launched in 2005 by Marc Dullaert, Chairman and Founder of the Amsterdam-based children's rights organization, KidsRights. In 2006, India's Om Prakash Gurjar was given this award for setting up network of child friendly villages to give all children a birth certificate to protect them from exploitation.

President presents 2nd ICCR Indologist award to Prof. Yu Long Yu - December 2, 2016



The second Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Indologist Award for the year 2016 was awarded to Prof. Yu Long Yu of China. He was presented with this award by President Pranab Mukherjee at a function in Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi.

Prof. Yu Long Yu is a Professor and Director at the Centre for Indian Studies, Shenzhen University. He has studied Indology for half a century and is the pioneer for Indology in South China. He has set up the Centre for Indian Studies and Tan Yunshan Sino-Indian Friendship Museum in Shenzhen University.

About ICCR Indologist Award

It is an annual award instituted by ICCR. It carries prize amount of US\$ 20000. It is bestowed upon eminent Indologists working abroad who have made outstanding contribution to the study/research/teaching of India's history, philosophy, thought, art, culture, literature, languages, civilization, society etc. The first award was presented to Prof. Heinrich Freiherr Von Stietencron of Germany in 2015.

Awards Current Affairs Iranian film Daughter wins Golden Peacock award at 47 IFFI - November 29, 2016



Iranian film “Daughter” has won the coveted Golden Peacock award at the 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). It has been directed by Reza Mirkarimi. It is a family drama set in southern Iran. It brings out intergenerational conflict between a strict father and a young daughter. Union Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore conferred these awards during the concluding ceremony of IFFI held in Goa.

Other Category Awards:

- Special jury award: The Throne (South Korea) directed by Lee Joon-Ik.
- Best Actor Female award: Elina Vaska (Latvia) for Mellow Mud.
- Best Actor Male award: Farhad Aslani (Iran) for Daughter.
- Best Director award: Jointly-shared by Soner Caner and Baris Kaya for Turkish film “Rauf”. ICFT UNESCO Gandhi Medal Prize: Turkish director Mustafa Kara for his film “Cold of Kalandar”.
- Special Jury mention award: Tiffany Hsuig for the Korean movie “The Apology”.
- Centenary Award for the Best Debut Feature of the director: Pepa San Martin for the film “Ra Ra”.

Malini Subramaniam honoured with International Press Freedom Award - November 24, 2016



Indian journalist Malini Subramaniam was conferred with the 2016 International Press Freedom Award. She has been honored for her reporting from the Naxal-infested Bastar area and for the commitment to a free press.

She is among the four journalists selected by the Committee to Protect Journalists for this year's award. Others are Oscar Martinez (El Salvador), Can Dundar (Turkey) and Abou Zeid (Egypt). Malini Subramaniam is a contributor to the news website Scroll.in. She has reported on abuses by security forces and police, jailing of minors, sexual violence against women, shutdown of schools, extrajudicial killings, and threats against journalists in Bastar region in Chattisgarh.

About International Press Freedom Award (IPFA)

The IPFA honors journalists or their publications around the world for showing courage in defending press freedom despite facing attacks, threats or imprisonment. The award was established in 1991 and is administered by the Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ), an independent NGO based in New York, US. In addition to recognizing individuals, CPJ seeks to focus local and international media coverage on countries where violations of press freedom are particularly serious.

Radhika Menon becomes first woman to receive IMO's Exceptional Bravery award at Sea - November 22, 2016



Captain Radhika Menon was awarded with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea. With this, she became the first woman in the world to receive the Award. She was presented with this award for saving lives of seven fishermen from sinking fishing boat in Bay of Bengal. Besides, B M Das operator and diver of a rescue helicopter at Indian Coast Guard air station Daman was also presented with this award. He was bestowed with this award for rescuing all 14 crew members of the merchant ship Coastal Pride, which capsized and eventually sank.

Radhika Menon had joined the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) as a trainee radio officer in 1991. She was the first woman to do so and is native of Kodungallur in Kerala. Later on she ascended the hierarchy by clearing exams for the posts of second mate and chief mate and did the sea time required to appear for the master's certificate in 2010. In 2011, Radhika Menon had made history by becoming the first woman to become captain of Indian Merchant Navy. In 2012, she took charge of MT Suvarna Swarajya.

International Maritime Organisation (IMO): It UN's specialised agency responsible for the safety and security of shipping and the prevention of marine pollution by ships.

Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea: It is an annual Award established by IMO. It seeks to provide international recognition for those who perform acts of exceptional bravery at the risk of losing their own life.

Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn conferred with first World Sanskrit Award - November 21, 2016



Thailand's Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was presented with the first 'World Sanskrit Award' for her exemplary contribution for the promotion of the language for the year 2015. Besides, American linguist and Indologist Prof. George Cardona was also presented with this award for the year 2016. They were bestowed with the award by Vice President Hamid Ansari at a function held in New Delhi.

Maha Chakri Sirindhorn is a noted educator and scholar of Sanskrit and Pali. She has been awarded with several awards and Honorary Doctorates including Honorary Degree of Doctor of Literature (Sanskrit) from Delhi University in 1987. She won Indira Gandhi Prize for Peace, Disarmament and Development Award from the Union Government in 2004; and Magsaysay Award for Public Service in 1991. She was also the Royal Patron of the 16th World Sanskrit Conference which was held in Bangkok in 2015.

About World Sanskrit Award

The award was instituted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR). It was announced by the Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during her inaugural address in the 16th World Sanskrit Conference in Bangkok in June 2015. It is presented to eminent Sanskrit scholars to recognise their outstanding contribution to the study/ research/ teaching in Sanskrit language and literature.





Sports

Current Affairs

Cristiano Ronaldo wins 2016 FIFA Ballon d'Or Award - December 13, 2016



Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo (31) from Portugal has won the prestigious 2016 FIFA Ballon d'Or Award. He has earned this title of world's best football player for fourth time. Earlier he had won the Ballon d'Or in 2008, 2013 and 2014. In this year's competition, Barcelona's Lionel Messi (Argentina) finished second and Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann (France) third in the vote.

FIFA Ballon d'Or Award is annual football association award given by FIFA to the male player who has performed the best in previous calendar year. It was instituted in 2010 after France Football's Ballon d'Or and the men's FIFA World Player of the Year award were merged. It is awarded to male player, based upon highest votes secured by him from national team coaches and captains, as well as journalists from around world.

Usain Bolt, Almaz Ayana crowned 2016 IAAF World Athlete of the year award - December 5, 2016



Sprint king Usain Bolt from Jamaica has been awarded the 2016 IAAF World Athlete of the Year award in male category for sixth time. Earlier he had won it in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013. He was rewarded for his blistering performance in 2016 season in which he won three gold medals (100m, 200m and 4x100m relay) at the 2016 Rio Olympics. Bolt had won three gold medals, each in the 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meters at the Rio Olympics, repeating his feats of the 2012 London Games and in Beijing in 2008.

Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia won the award in women's award category. She was presented with the award for her world-record run to win Olympic gold medal in the 10,000 meters. She is the third Ethiopian woman to win this award following Genzebe Dibaba (2015) and Meseret Defar (2007).

Magnus Carlsen wins 2016 Chess Championship title - December 2, 2016



Grandmaster Magnus Carlsen of Norway has won the 2016 World Chess Championship for the third consecutive time. He retained the title after defeating Sergey Karjakin of Russia. Karjakin had tied against Carlsen in 12 regular rounds but was beaten in the final phase of four quickfire games.

Magnus Carlsen is a Norwegian chess grandmaster. He is No. 1 ranked player in the world and reigning World Chess Champion in classical, rapid, and blitz. He became Grandmaster in 2004, at the age of 13 years, 148 days, making him at that time the second youngest grandmaster in history, although he has since become the third youngest. His peak rating is 2882, the highest in history of the FIDE rankings. On 1st January 2010, at the age of 19 years, 32 days, he was the youngest chess player in history to be ranked world No. 1. In November 2013, he became World Champion by defeating Viswanathan Anand in the World Chess Championship. In 2013, he was named in the Time magazine list of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2013.

Sachin Singh wins gold medal at the AIBA Youth World Championships - November 28, 2016



Indian boxer Sachin Singh won the gold medal at the AIBA (International Boxing Association) Youth World Championships in the 49 kg weight class. In the summit

clash held at St Peterburg (Russia), Sachin Singh defeated Jorge Grinan of Cuba by 5-0 score. With this he became the third Indian boxer ever to win gold medal in the AIBA Youth World Championships. Others are Thokchom Nanao Singh (2008) and Vikas Krishan (2010). In this edition of AIBA tournament, India won with one gold medal and a bronze medal, marking improvement from the solitary bronze medal won in the 2014 edition. Naman Tanwar had to settle for a bronze medal after losing in the semifinal in the 91 kg category.

Gaganjeet Bhullar wins Indonesia Open - November 22, 2016



Ace Indian Golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar has won the US \$ 300,000 BANK BRI-JCB Indonesia Open for the second time in his career. He won the title after closing with a four-under-par 68. Earlier, Bhullar has also won the event in 2013. With this year victory, he has sealed his seventh Asian Tour victory. It was his second title 2016 season with a 16-under-par 272 total at the Pondok Indah Golf Course in Jakarta. With this win, Bhullar became the fifth player after Thaworn Wiratchant (Thailand), Frank Nobilo (New Zealand), Frankie Minoza (Philippines) and Lu Hsi-chuen (Chinese Taipei) to win the event twice.

PV Sindhu wins 2016 China Open Super Series Premier title - November 21, 2016



India's ace shuttler and Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu has won the \$700,000 2016 China Open Super Series title in women's category. It was her maiden Super Series

Premier title and first post 2016 Rio Olympics title. In the summit clash held in Fuzhao, Sindhu (World No 11) defeated China's Sun Yu (World No 9) by 21-11, 17-21, 21-11 score.

Other Category winners:

Men's Singles

Jan Ø. Jørgensen (Denmark) won the title in men's single category by defeating I Z Zainuddin (Malaysia) by 22-20, 22-20, 7-21 score.

Men's Doubles

Chinese pair of Chai B and Hong W won the title by defeating Indonesian pair of M F Gideon and K S Sukamuljo by 21-16, 24-26 and 19-21 score.

Mixed Doubles

Indonesian pair Tontowi Ahmad and Liliyana Natsir won the title by defeating South Korean pair of Choi S-g and Chae Y-j by 21-17 and 25-23 score.

Kenya's Eliud Kipchoge wins 2016 Delhi Half Marathon - November 21, 2016



Kenya's Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge has won the men's race in Delhi Half Marathon. Ethiopia's Worknesh Degefa won the women's title. It was ninth edition of Delhi Half Marathon. Over 34 thousand participants from across the world had participated in it. 13 Rio Olympians took part in the elite race category. The marathon also had featured some of the biggest track and field and distance runners, with a total of 25 men and 18 women athletes from country. Winners.





International Current Affairs

China launches advanced weather satellite Fengyun-4 - December 12, 2016

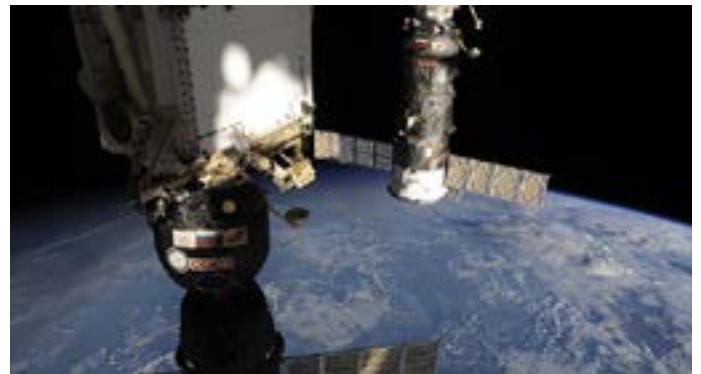


China has successfully launched Fengyun-4 satellite, first of its new generation weather satellites into geostationary orbit. It was launched onboard of Long March-3B carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province. The launch marked the 242nd mission of China's Long March series of rockets.

Fengyun-4 is the first of China's second-generation weather satellites and also the country's first quantitative remote-sensing satellite in highest orbit. It will make high time, spatial and spectral resolution observations of atmosphere, space environment and clouds of China and surrounding regions. It will significantly help in improving capabilities of weather and climate forecasts and accuracy of forecasts. The China Meteorological Administration

(CMA) is the primary user of the satellite. Previously, China had successfully launched 14 weather satellites, of them seven are still in orbit.

Japan successfully launches space junk collector into orbit - December 10, 2016



Japan's space agency (JAXA) successfully launched a Kounotori 6 (HTV-6) spacecraft that will deliver a large magnetic tether, a space junk collector technology into orbit. The spacecraft was launched on board of H-IIB rocket from Tanegashima Space Center. It was also carrying essential supplies for International Space Station (ISS).

Why there is need of space junk collector technology?

More than 5 decades of human space exploration since the first Soviet-launched Sputnik satellite in 1957 has produced this hazardous belt of orbiting debris in the

space. There are estimated to be more than 100 million pieces are circling our planet in the lower orbit, posing a growing threat to future space exploration. These pieces of debris travel at high speeds. A relatively small piece of orbital debris can inflict a great deal of damage on satellites or spacecrafts orbiting in the space. This phenomenon is Kessler Syndrome which describes a self-sustaining cascading collision of space debris in low earth Orbit.

English, the most powerful language in the world: WEF - December 8, 2016

RANK	SCORE	LANGUAGE	NATIVE (MM)
1	0.889	English	446.0
2	0.411	Mandarin*	960.0
3	0.337	French	80.0
4	0.329	Spanish	470.0
5	0.273	Arabic	295.0
6	0.244	Russian	150.0
7	0.191	German	92.5
8	0.133	Japanese	125.0
9	0.119	Portuguese	215.0
10	0.117	Hindi*	310.0

English has been ranked first in the top 10 most powerful languages in the world according to the 2016 World Power Language Index (PLI). The index was published by World Economic Forum (WEF). Indian language Hindi was ranked 10th in the 2016 PLI.

According to the index there are over 6,000 languages spoken in the world. Of these 2,000 count fewer than 1,000 speakers. Moreover, just 15 languages account for half of the languages spoken in the world. English is dominant powerful language of 3 G7 nations (USA, UK and Canada). Top 10 Languages in 2016 PLI: English (1st), Mandarin (2nd), French (3rd), Spanish (4th), Arabic (5th), Russian (6th), German (7th), Japanese (8th), Portuguese (9th) and Hindi (10th).

The top six languages are official languages of the United Nations. The remaining 4 in the top 10 include two other BRIC languages (Portuguese and Hindi) and 2 of the economic heavyweights (Germany and Japan). Hindi is most primarily language spoken in India with a share of 41%. It is also the official language of Indian government.

BRICS nations to share tax information automatically to eliminate tax evasion - December 7, 2016



The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries have agreed to share tax information automatically as per their commitment to ensure the fairness of the international tax system. Decision in this regard was taken at the meeting of Heads of Revenue of BRICS Countries in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

The BRICS nations have faced major tax dodging by big corporate and individuals that diminishes their efforts to reduce societal inequality by taxation. US based think tank Global Financial Integrity has estimated that BRICS countries have faced huge flows of illicit fund flows in the last decade. BRICS member countries occupy five of the top seven places in the global ranking of countries for illicit outflows. China has been the biggest source of illicit fund outflows followed by Russia during this period.

Mercosur revokes membership of Venezuela - December 3, 2016



The South American economic bloc Mercosur has suspended Venezuela from it for violating the bloc's democratic principles and failing to meet its basic standards. The membership was revoked by the Foreign Ministers of the four founding members of Mercosur — Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Paraguay.

Mercosur is a sub-regional bloc of South American countries. Its purpose is to promote free trade and the fluid movement of goods, people, and currency. It was established in 1991 and its headquarters are located at Montevideo (Uruguay). It calls itself the common market of the South America. At present, it is a full customs union

and a trading bloc. It's full members are Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Its associate countries are Chile, Bolivia, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador and Suriname. Besides, New Zealand, Mexico are observer countries.

Russian Scientist develop new cheap way to produce nuclear fuel using electricity - December 3, 2016



Scientists from Russia have developed a new unique, low-cost method for producing high-quality nuclear fuel using electricity. It is alternative novel method that forms the basis of powder metallurgy and involves electric pulse sintering under pressure. The main type of fuel for nuclear power reactors is the uranium oxide pellet composition. It is produced from a powder by granulation, pressing, and sintering (coalescing into a solid or porous mass by heating) with the subsequent control of the quality and size of the pellets.

UK scientists allow three-parent babies mitochondrial gene therapy - December 1, 2016



An independent panel of British scientists and experts have formally given nod to introduce so-called three-parent baby fertility treatments or mitochondrial gene therapy (MGT) procedures. The panel tasked with reviewing the safety of MGT held that this practice should be cautiously adopted to prevent certain genetic diseases from being passed on to future generations. Thus, it paves the way for the country to officially introduce the procedures.

Earlier in February 2016, British Parliament voted to legalize three-parent baby fertility treatments or MGT procedures. It was first country in the world to legalize creation of In-Vitro Fertilization babies with DNA from three people. The world's first three-parent baby boy was born in Mexico in April 2016 to a Jordanian couple with the help of this new fertility technique which incorporates DNA from three people in embryo.

MGT or Mitochondrial donation is a medical technique in which defective mitochondria carried by a woman is replaced with the healthy mitochondria of a donor. Through invitro fertilization technique (IVF), the egg is then fertilised with the partner's sperm. Thus, the embryo remains free from any such genetic defects. Thus, it prevents the transmission of mitochondrial (genetic) disease from one generation to the next. The two most common techniques in mitochondrial donation are pronuclear transfer and maternal spindle transfer. MGT proposes to give parents chance of having a child that is over 99% genetically matched to them and most importantly free of the mitochondrial disease.

25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women - November 25, 2016



The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IDEVAW) is observed every year across the world on 25 November. Observance of this day seeks to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, end the violence against the women. It also seeks to show that prevention is possible against violence of women.

2016 Theme: “Orange the World – raise funds to end violence against women”. The orange colour in the theme symbolizes a better future to women and girls all over the globe without the pervasive human rights violation which affects 1 in 3 women and girls all over the globe.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had designated this day through a resolution 54/134 passed in December 1999. Prior to it, women’s activists across the world observed this day against violence since 1981. Earlier in December 1993, the UNGA had adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women by passing resolution 48/104. This day is commemorated in the memory of the Mirabal sisters who were three political activists from the Dominican Republic. They were brutally assassinated during the Rafael Trujillo dictatorship (1930-1961) in 1960.

India becomes Associate Member of CERN - November 22, 2016



India became an associate member of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), the world’s largest nuclear and particle physics laboratory. In this regard, an agreement was signed by Dr. Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and CERN Director General Dr. Fabiola Gianotti in Mumbai, Maharashtra. India will formally become member of CERN around January 2017 after depositing an instrument of ratification.

As an associate member, India can take part in meetings of the CERN Council and its committees (Scientific Policy Committee and Finance Committee). However India will not have voting rights on decisions of the council. It will open up new avenues for Indian scientists to engage with their counterparts in front line research in physics and engineering. It will help to boost India’s science credentials and give access to high end scientific technology. It will

also make Indian scientists eligible for staff appointments in CERN. Besides, Indian industry will be entitled to bid for CERN contracts. Thus, it will open up opportunities for industrial collaboration in areas of advanced technology. India will also has to contribute a certain amount of money for research activities including annual contribution of 11.5 million swiss frank to CERN.

China launches world’s longest super-secure quantum communication line - November 21, 2016



China has launched world’s longest super-secure quantum communication line connecting Hefei, capital of Anhui province to Shanghai, the country’s financial hub. The super-secure quantum communication line is 712-km in length. It boasts of ultra-high security making it impossible to wiretap, intercept or crack the information transmitted through them.

Quantum communication uses subatomic particles to securely communicate between two points. These subatomic particles are mainly quantum entanglement of photons. It ensures that nobody taps into the line as a photon can be neither separated nor duplicated. Thus tapping the network will inevitably corrupt the signal. It has the ability to inform the two communicating users of the presence of any third party trying to eavesdrop. At the same time, the information being intercepted will self-destruct.

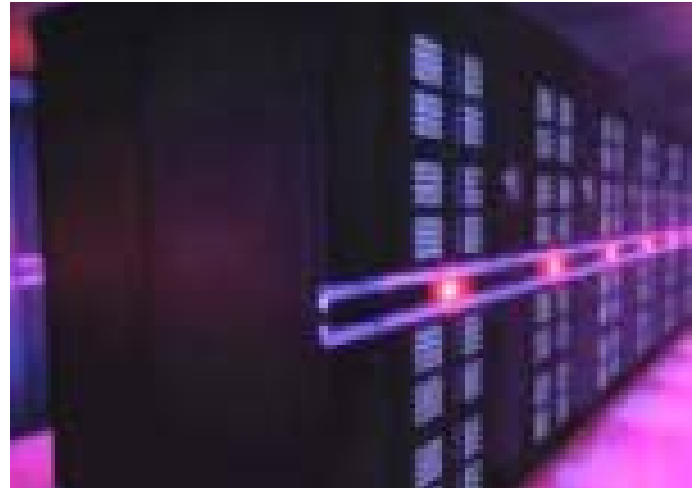
NASA launches Next Generation Weather Satellite GOES-R - November 21, 2016



The NASA has successfully launched highly advanced geostationary weather satellite Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R (GOES-R). It was launched on board of Atlas 5 rocket which had lifted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida. The satellite will boost the US's weather observation capabilities, leading to more accurate and timely forecasts, watches and warnings.

GOES-R is the first of four new advanced weather satellites of the GOES-R program managed by US's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). It will become operational within a year after undergoing a testing and validation of its six new instruments, including the first operational lightning mapper in geostationary orbit. The satellite's primary instrument Advanced Baseline Imager, will provide images of Earth's weather, oceans and environment with 16 different spectral bands. GOES-R is also first satellite to carry a lightning mapper instrument to geostationary orbit. It will photograph lightning activity throughout Western Hemisphere about 200 times every second. It will monitor the sun and relay crucial information to forecasters so they can issue space weather alerts and warnings. In all, data from GOES-R will result in 34 new or improved meteorological, solar and space weather products. It also will be part of the Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking (SARSAT) System, an international satellite-based search and rescue network operated by NOAA.

China's Sunway Taihulight wins fastest supercomputer title - November 17, 2016



China's 'Sunway Taihulight' has won the fastest supercomputer title in the recently released 48th edition of Top500 list of supercomputers. With this, Chinese supercomputer has retained the top spot in the list of the world's fastest supercomputers for the eighth consecutive year. In this list, the number of systems installed in China had increased to 171 from 168 on last list released in June 2016. United States also now has 171 systems up from 165 in previous list.

Sunway TaihuLight is built entirely using processors designed and made in China. It had made its first public appearance in June 2016. It was developed by the China's National Research Centre of Parallel Computer Engineering and Technology (NRCPC). It can perform 93 quadrillions calculations per second (petaflop/s) almost three times as fast as Tianhe-2. In June 2016, TaihuLight had dethroned the former fastest supercomputer Tianhe-2, also a Chinese system but built based on Intel chips. Prior to its introduction, Tianhe-2 had claimed top spot in Top500 list for past three years. TaihuLight is intended for use in research and engineering including climate, weather, life sciences, advanced manufacturing and data analytics.

Doctors from Netherlands perform brain implant for the first time in history - November 17, 2016



Doctors from Netherlands have performed the first-ever brain implant on a 58-year-old woman paralysed by Lou Gehrig's disease (also known as amyotrophic lateral sclerosis-ALS). With this, she became the first patient to use a brain-computer interface. The implant has enabled paralysed women to communicate in day-to-day life via a speech computer.

Doctors in first-ever brain implant directly installed a device called an electrocorticograph (ECoG) on the women's brain. The device has electrodes fitted in the brain. Using these electrodes in brain, the patient can control the computer using brain signals, spell out messages at two letters per minute.

These implanted electrodes detect brain activity that results when she moves fingers in her mind, and converts it into a mouse click. The patient has a screen in front of her that includes the alphabet and some additional functions (such as selecting previously spelled words or deleting letters). Each letter on screen lights up one at a time, and by using her brain to click the mouse at the right time, she can compose words one letter at a time. These words then are vocalized by a speech computer. The entire process is done wirelessly.





National

Current Affairs

Union Government launches Lucky Grahak Yojana, Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana to promote digital payments - December 15, 2016



The Union Government has launched Lucky Grahak Yojana to encourage consumers and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana to encourage merchants for transition to digital payments. These award based schemes were launched by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog, government's policy think-tank.

These schemes aim to give cash awards to consumers and merchants who utilize digital payment instruments for personal consumption expenditures. They will specially focus on bringing the poor, lower middle class and small businesses into the digital payment fold. National Payment Corporation of India (NPCI) will be the implementing agency for these schemes. Transactions using USSD, UPI, RuPay and AEPS will only be covered under these schemes. Digital payments made through credit cards and e-wallets won't be covered. To ensure focus on small transactions incentives will be restricted to transactions within the range of Rs 50 and Rs 3000. The winners shall be identified through a random draw of eligible Transaction IDs by software to be especially developed by NPCI for this purpose.

Lucky Grahak Yojana

Under it, consumers making payment through digital mode will get chance to win minimum Rs 1000 each every day or Rs 1 lakh per week. 15,000 winners will get cashback prizes of Rs 1000 each every day starting on 25 December 2016 (Christmas) and ending on 14 April 2017 (Babasaheb Ambedkar Jayanthi). In addition, there will be weekly awards worth Rs 1 lakh, Rs 10,000 and Rs 5,000 for 7000 people. On last day of scheme mega prize winner award will be announced. He will get Rs. 1 crore award.

Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana

This scheme is for the merchants across the country. Mandatory for merchants to have POS (Point of Sale) machines for undertaking cashless transactions. Under it, merchants doing business using POS are eligible to win Rs.50000 per week from 25 December 2016 to 14 April 2017. 3 Mega Prizes for merchants will be of Rs 50 lakhs, 25 lakh, 12 lakh for digital transactions between 8 November 2016 to 13 April 2017. It will be announced on 14 April 2017.

Union Cabinet approves Major Port Trust Authorities Bill, 2016 to give autonomy to 12 major ports - December 15, 2016



The Union Cabinet has approved the draft Major Port Authorities Bill, 2016 to replace the existing Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. The bill aims to empower 12 major ports to perform with greater efficiency on account of full autonomy in decision-making.

Significance of the Bill

- Promotes expansion of port infrastructure and facilitate trade and commerce. Bring transparency in operations of Major Ports.
- Decentralize decision making and infuse professionalism in governance of major ports.
- Impart faster and transparent decision making benefiting the stakeholders and better project execution capability.
- Reorients governance model in central Ports to landlord port model in line with the successful global practice.

Note: 12 major ports are Kandla (Gujarat), Mumbai (Maharashtra), JNPT (Maharashtra), Marmugao (Goa), New Mangalore (Karnataka), Cochin (Kerala), Chennai (Tamil Nadu), Ennore (Tamil Nadu), V.O. Chidambaram (Tamil Nadu), Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh), Paradip (Odisha) and Kolkata (including Haldia, West Bengal).

India, Indonesia sign three agreements to enhance strategic partnership - December 13, 2016



India and Indonesia have signed three agreements in various areas to enhance strategic partnership. These agreements were signed after delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting President of Indonesia Joko Widodo in New Delhi.

Signed Agreements are

- MoU on Youth and Sports Cooperation.
- MoU on Standardization Cooperation.
- Joint Communiqué on Voluntary International Cooperation to Combat Illegal, Unregulated and Unreported (IUU) Fishing and to promote Sustainable Fisheries Governance.

Besides, both countries decided to strengthen their defense and maritime security relations and resolved to effectively address the issue of terrorism.

Kolkata-Mizoram trade route via Myanmar to open soon - December 12, 2016



A deep water port built in Myanmar's Sittwe by India is ready to be commissioned. Thus, open Kolkata-Mizoram trade route via Myanmar. The Sittwe port is starting point

for the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar. Once shipments arrive at Sittwe port from Kolkata, they will be transferred to smaller freight carriers which would sail upstream into Mizoram.

Sittwe is the capital of Rakhine State situated in south-western Myanmar. It is located at the mouth of the Kaladan river, which flows into Mizoram in north-eastern India. The work on Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project was conceived in 2010. Construction of the sea port is the first phase of an integrated \$500-million project being funded by a long-term interest-free loan provided by India.

President Pranab Mukherjee launches 100 Million for 100 Million Campaign - December 12, 2016



President Pranab Mukherjee launched a '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The campaign was conceptualized by Nobel peace prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and was organized by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.

The campaign aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world. Its prime objective is to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children over the next 5 years. It also seeks to promote the right of every child to be safe, free, and educated. It will strive to inspire 100 million children to speak and act for the numerous other unfortunate children living in terrible conditions to build a child-friendly world.

India, Vietnam sign Civil Nuclear deal, three other agreements - December 10, 2016



India and Vietnam have signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement. With this, Vietnam became 14th country with which India has signed the civil nuclear deal. The MoU in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was signed by Sekhar Basu, Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy and Pham Cong Tac, Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Science and Technology in New Delhi.

The two countries also signed three other agreements in the fields of energy, aviation and government cooperation. These agreements will enhance aviation links, cooperation in the area of energy efficiency and promotion of parliamentary cooperation between both countries. Vietnam also extended invitation to India to explore energy in South China Sea (SCS). It has urged India to intensify economic engagement with Southeast Asia, highlighting India's importance as a regional power. It also supported India's multilateral membership plans including UNSC.

Union Government scraps import duty on wheat - December 10, 2016



The Union Government has waived the import duty on wheat to zero from 10 per cent for an indefinite period. This move aims to improve domestic availability in the

wake of rising prices and concerns about the wheat crop in 2016-17.

The duty was waived because of uncertainty over the wheat output this year. Despite a rise in area sown, questions are raised over condition of the wheat crop, low fertiliser and pesticide use due to and fears of a warm winter. The waiving of import duty will make wheat imports (especially from Australia and Ukrainian) considerably cheaper. This will fuel imports to over 6 million tonnes in 2016-17. This will be the highest wheat imports in the 10 years.

The wheat production in the country will be around 93.50 million tonnes in 2016-17 as per the government estimates. However, many experts have pegged the figures around 90 million tonnes due to year-on-year droughts in 2014 and 2015. Moreover, Union Government's own wheat stocks are at an all-time low due to less procurement.

Recommendations of Ratan Watal Committee for Digital Payments - December 10, 2016



The Committee on Digital Payments headed by Ratan P. Watal has submitted its final report to the Union Finance Ministry. It was 11-member committee notified in August 2016 by the Finance Ministry. It was tasked to review existing payment systems in the country and recommend appropriate measures for encouraging Digital Payments. It was having representatives from Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), tax department and various industry bodies in the payments space.

Recommendations: The Committee has recommended medium term strategy for accelerating growth of Digital Payments in India. The strategy must be backed with regulatory regime which is conducive to bridging the Digital divide by promoting competition, interoperability and open access in payments. It also recommends inclusion of financially and socially excluded groups and assimilation of emerging technologies in the market. It calls for need of safeguarding security of Digital Transactions and

providing level playing to all stakeholders and new players who will enter this new transaction space. It has suggested inter-operability of payments system between banks and non-banks, up-gradation of digital payment infrastructure and institutions. It also recommends a framework to reward innovations for leading efforts in enabling digital payments.

Union Government launches DigiShala TV channel to promote digital payments - December 10, 2016



The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched a TV channel named 'DigiShala' to promote cashless transactions. The channel was launched as part of the 'Digidhan' campaign which aims to spread awareness about digital transactions.

DigiShala is a dedicated 24*7 and 365 days free-to-air TV channel to inform citizens about digital payment ecosystem, benefits and processes. It is a satellite channel managed by Doordarshan (DD). It will be broadcasted nationally on DD Free Dish DTH service. It will be available through GSAT15 (DD Direct DTH), 93.5 degree East, Receive frequency: 11590 Mhz. Through it, citizens will be informed and educated about various digital payment options through step by step demos of digital payments using e-wallets, UPI, USSD, Aadhaar-enabled payment systems and cards. It will impart information and education, especially in rural and semi-urban areas related to Digital Payment ecosystem, its tools, processes and benefits. The services on the channel initially will be available in Hindi and English and later in local languages as well. It is not mandatory for the service provider and direct-to-home (DTH) airing it and customers may opt for it.

FSSAI bans use of newspapers for packing food - December 9, 2016



The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) has banned use of newspapers for wrapping and packing of food items. In this regard, FSSAI has issued an advisory all states and Union territories and asked commissioners of food safety to restrict the use of newspapers for packing, serving and storing of food items. This is first time in recent years FSSAI has issued new rule related to packaging of food items. So far, it had focused on setting standards for packaged food.

Why this ban has been imposed?

In India, use of newspapers for wrapping and packing of food items is a common practice followed by small corner shops and street vendors. However, it can cause serious health concerns due to contaminate food items by newspaper ink. Printing ink used for printing newspapers may contain bioactive materials, harmful pigments, colours, additives, binders, preservatives, chemical contaminants and even pathogenic microorganisms that may pose potential risk to human health. Even newspaper or cardboard boxes made of recycled paper may be contaminated with mineral oils, metallic contaminants and harmful chemicals like phthalates which can cause digestive problems and also lead to severe toxicity. Older people, teenagers, children and people with compromised vital organs and immune systems are at a greater risk of acquiring cancer-related health complications after they are exposed to food items packed in such materials



Union Government announces package for promotion of digital & cashless economy - December 9, 2016









The Union Government has announced package of incentives and measures for promotion of digital and cashless economy in the country. It was announced to supplement the surge in the digital transactions aftermath demonetisation of old Rs.500 and Rs.1,000 notes for promotion of digital cashless economy and cutting out cash transactions.

Key Provisions of Package

Petroleum companies will offer a discount of 0.75% on diesel and petrol to consumers who pay through digital means. 0.5% discount will be given to people who will buy

monthly seasonal tickets in the Suburban railway networks through digital payment mode. Passengers will get 10 lakh rupees free accident insurance cover on booking of Railway ticket through online mode. Payments through digital mode for railways catering, accommodation, retiring room will also attract 5% discount. People will be get 10% discount on General Insurance and 8% discount on new life Insurance policies of PSUs purchased online. Discount of 10% will be available to users for payment of toll at Toll Plazas on National Highways using RFID card and Fast Tags. Government departments and PSUs will ensure that transaction, MDR charges are not borne by customers for public dealings. NABARD will extend financial support to eligible banks for deployment of two Point of Sale (PoS) devices each in 1 Lakh villages with population of less than 10,000. NABARD will also support Rural Regional Banks (RRBs) and Cooperative Banks to issue Rupay Kisan Cards to over 4 crore 32 lakh Kisan Credit Card (KCC) holders to enable them to make digital transactions at ATMs and POS machines. Merchants will not pay more than 100 rupees monthly rental for PoS terminals, Micro ATMs and mobile POS from the merchants.

 Discount of 0.75% on digital payments at fuel pumps run by State oil firms	 Discount of 0.5% on sub-urban rail season/monthly tickets paid for digitally	 All railway passengers buying online ticket will get free insurance cover of up to Rs. 10 lakh	 8% discount on life insurance. 10% discount on general insurance from PSU firms
 No service tax on digital transactions up to Rs. 2,000	 10% discount for digital payment of toll on National Highways	4.32 crore farmers who have Kisan Credit Card will get RuPay debit cards	

Triple talaq unconstitutional, violates rights of Muslim women: Allahabad high court - December 8, 2016



The Allahabad High Court has ruled that the practice of triple talaq (Talaq-e-bidat) among Muslims is unconstitutional and violates the rights of women enshrined in constitution. The order was passed by HC Justice Suneet Kumar while hearing a petition filed by a woman who claimed her husband arbitrarily divorced her. Besides, the High Court also held that No Personal Law Board is above the Constitution i.e. it was indirectly referring to All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB).

What is the issue?

Talaq-e-bidat is Muslim man divorcing his wife unilaterally by pronouncing the word 'talaq' thrice in one go. Thus, it is oral talaq pronounced for irrevocable instantaneous divorce at one go. Many activists say that this practice is not of Islamic origin. AIMPLB, a non-government organisation always has held that Talaq-e-bidat is integral part of Muslims and courts have no role to play in Personal Law as it falls under the Fundamental Right to practice religion. Supreme Court is also hearing a petition challenging the validity of triple talaq, as several individuals and NGOs have sought a ban on its practice. Even, the National Commission of Women (NCW) considers it "highly misused" custom and asked Government to scrap it to protect the rights of Muslim women.

Why triple talaq should be abolished?

The practice of 'triple talaq' has enabled husbands to divorce their wives arbitrarily and unilaterally, devoid of any substantiation. It impacts adversely on the rights of women to a life of dignity. It also has been abolished in 21 Islamic theocratic countries including Pakistan. It is also against constitutional principles such as gender equality, secularism, international laws etc. Thus, it must be kept in mind that gender equality is a sacred principle of our constitution and modern society. So it is right time to make necessary changes.

Union Cabinet approves Pune Metro Rail Project Phase – 1 December 8, 2016



The Union Cabinet has approved the development of Phase – 1 of the Pune Metro Rail Corridor Project. It will be covering a length of 31.254 km comprising with two corridors Corridor-1 (Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to Swargate) and Corridor-2 (Vanaz to Ramwadi).

Corridor-1 will be covering length of 16.589 km of which 11.57 km elevated and 5.019 km underground. Corridor-2 will be covering 14.665 km and will be fully elevated. The project is scheduled to be completed in five years from the date of start of work as per the Detailed Project Report (DPR). The Project will be implemented by Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MAHA-METRO). The total completion cost of the metro rail corridor will be



Banking

Current Affairs

RBI Current Rates: (As on 16/12/2016)

Policy Repo Rate	:	6.25%
Reverse Repo Rate	:	5.75%
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	:	6.75%
Bank Rate	:	6.75%
CRR	:	4%
SLR	:	20.75%

RBI Reference Rate

INR / 1 USD	:	67.7994
INR / 1 Euro	:	71.1555
INR / 100 Jap. YEN	:	57.7200
INR / 1 Pound Sterling	:	85.1154
Base Rate	:	9.30% - 9.65%
MCLR (Overnight)	:	8.65% - 9.00%
Savings Deposit Rate	:	4.00%
Term Deposit Rate > 1 Year	:	6.50% - 7.10%

Money Market

Call Rates	:	4.80% - 6.30%*
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* as on previous day

Government Securities Market

7.72% GS 2025	:	6.7589%
91 day T-bills	:	5.9428%*
182 day T-bills	:	6.0748%*
364 day T-bills	:	6.0048%*

* cut-off at the last auction

Capital Market

S&P BSE Sensex	:	26519.07*
Nifty 50	:	8153.60*

* as on 15/12/2016

RBI keeps key rates unchanged in fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review - December 8, 2016



The Reserve bank of India (RBI) in its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review for year 2016-17 has kept key rates unchanged. Decision in this regard was taken by RBI's six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) headed by Governor Urjit Patel. This decision was taken on the basis of an assessment of the current and evolving macroeconomic situation.

Policy Rates

- Repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF): Unchanged at 6.25 percent.
- Reverse repo rate under the LAF: Unchanged at 5.75 per cent.

- Marginal standing facility (MSF) and Bank Rate: Unchanged at 6.75 per cent.
- Reserve Ratios Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of scheduled banks: Unchanged at 4.0 per cent of net demand and time liability (NDTL).
- Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR): Unchanged 20.75 per cent.

The policy repo rate was kept unchanged citing global and domestic uncertainties that posed upside risks to inflation. The MPC also has cut Gross Value Added (GVA) growth estimates for the economy in the fiscal year ending March 2017 to 7.1% from 7.6% earlier. Thus, RBI has retained its “accommodative” monetary policy stance with the objective of achieving consumer price index (CPI) inflation at 5% by Q4 of 2016-17 and the medium-term target of 4% within a band of +/- 2 per cent, while supporting growth.

Banks to bear liability in case of online security breach: RBI - December 7, 2016



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that banks will have to bear the full liability in the event of any security breach or compromise in the authorized card network. Banks issuing the cards will offer the ‘payment authentication solutions’ of the respective card networks on an optional basis to their customers.

RBI held that only authorised card networks will offer such payment authentication solutions with participation of card issuing and acquiring banks. For this purpose, customer’s consent must be taken while making this solution available to them. Customers opting for this facility will go through a one-time registration process. They are required to enter card details and additional factor authentication by issuing bank. Thereafter, registered customers will not be required to re-enter card details for every transaction at merchant locations that offer this solution, thus save time and effort. The card details already registered will be the first factor

while the credentials used to login to the solution would be the additional factor of authentication.

Besides, RBI also has relaxed additional factor authentication (AFA) norms for online transactions up to Rs. 2,000. This decision was taken in a move to save time for customers amid the government’s push for digitization of payments.

CERT-In warns micro-ATMs against malware attacks - December 5, 2016



The premier cyber security agency CERT-In has cautioned bankers, customers and traders against skimming and malware attacks on micro ATMs and Point of Sale (POS) terminals. The move comes as usage of POS and micro-ATMs counters have witnessed a sharp surge post demonetisation. It has asked to adopt high-end encryption to plug possible breaches. In this regard, CERT-In has issued two specific advisories for micro-Automated Teller Machines and POS terminals.

What are potential threats?

Skimming: It is the theft of classified credit/debit card data. Using this method, a hacker (thief) can obtain the victim’s card number using a small electronic device near the card acceptance slot and store hundreds of card details at a time.

Social engineering attack: It can be engineered at these banking and POS facilities, by gaining trust of the card owner as the fraudster poses as a member of staff.

Micro ATM: It work with minimal power and connect to central banking servers through a GPRS network. It enables the un-banked rural population to access banking services in their villages or towns. It offers facilities of deposit, withdrawal, balance enquiry, issuance of mini-statement and funds transfer.

CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team): It is the nodal agency that deals with cyber security threats like hacking and phishing. It is government organisation under Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. It aims to strengthen security-related defence of the Indian Internet domain.

RBI to introduce new 20 & 50 rupee currency notes - December 5, 2016



The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is going to issue new currency notes of Twenty and Fifty rupees denomination in the Mahatma Gandhi Series-2005. All old the previous currency notes of old Rs. 20 and Rs. 50 denomination issued by the Bank will continue to be legal tender.

The 50 rupees note will be without inset letter in both the number panels. The 20 rupees note will be with inset letter 'L' in both the number panels. Both notes will bear signature of incumbent RBI Governor Dr. Urjit R Patel. The year 2016 will be printed on the reverse of both the notes.

Earlier in November 2016, the Union Government had decided to ban Rs 500 and Rs 1000 denomination bank notes, in a move to curb black money. Subsequently a new Rs 500 banknote and Rs 2000 with advance security features were also issued. However, Rs 1000 notes have not been issued yet.

Akodara becomes India's first Digital Village - November 29, 2016



Akodara village in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat has earned the coveted tag of becoming India's first digital village in India. The village with a total population of 1,191

people and 250 households uses a various cashless system for payments of goods and services. All transactions in the village are carried out through digital modes like SMS, net-banking or debit cards.

The village was adopted by ICICI Bank under its Digital Village Project in 2015 and made cashless by adopting digital technology. The project was launched in January 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and ICICI Bank MD and CEO Chanda Kochhar to mark 60-year-celebration of the ICICI group's existence. All households in village have savings account in local ICICI Bank branch. The bank has provided training to villagers to embrace digital technology to reduce dependence on cash. The village has almost 100% financial rate and all mobile banking is done in Hindi, English and Gujarati languages. It also has its own official website. The villagers' most important transactions selling agri-produce at the local market or mandi or selling milk at the co-operative society have been made cashless. It has primary, secondary and higher secondary schools equipped with smart boards, computers and tablets. It can be said that this village has become prime example of how e-banking can be practically implemented in Indian villages without much difficulty to make India cashless economy.

RBI introduces incremental CRR to manage excess liquidity in banking system - November 28, 2016

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has introduced an incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of 100% for fortnight to absorb excess liquidity in the banking system following demonetisation. CRR is the proportion of deposits that banks have to keep as cash with the RBI (or the central bank). Banks do not earn any interest on CRR balances kept with the RBI.

After Union Government announced demonization of old Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 notes on November 8, 2016, banks started depositing and exchanging those notes. The deposits in banks had swelled by Rs.3.24 lakh crore between September 16 and November 11, 2016. The last fortnight of September 2016 saw deposit mobilisation jump by Rs.3.5 lakh crore.

Implications

It is intended to absorb a part of the surplus liquidity arising from the return of specified bank notes to the banking system. Thus, it leaves adequate liquidity with banks to meet the credit needs of the productive sectors of the economy. It will only have a marginal impact on bank's cost of funds since it was a temporary measure.

Airtel launches India's first Payments Bank service in Rajasthan - November 24, 2016



Airtel Payments Bank Limited or Airtel Bank became the first payments bank in the country to launch live banking services in Rajasthan. The pilot phase of the Airtel bank launched in Rajasthan aims at testing systems and processes ahead of a full scale pan Indian launch.

Key Facts

Airtel Payments Bank is a subsidiary of Bharti Airtel Limited. Mahindra Bank holds 19.9% stake in it. Airtel retail outlets across Rajasthan will act as banking points.

They offer a range of basic, convenient banking services as per Payments Bank guidelines issued by RBI. Customers can open bank accounts by using Aadhaar based e-KYC. Airtel subscriber's mobile number will function as a bank account number. The bank will accept deposits not exceeding Rs 1 lakh. It cannot perform lending activities, except while giving loans to its employees on approval of the board. It intends to give an interest rate of 7.25% per annum on deposits in savings accounts. It will be offering customers the convenience of cashless purchase of goods/ services using their bank accounts/wallets, contributing to financial inclusion and banking for all. Though payment banks are allowed to issue debit card facility, but Airtel Payments Bank will be not offering this facility right now.

Background

In August 2015, RBI had given in-principle approval to 11 applicants to set up payments bank by February 2017. So far, out of these 11 applicants, Tech Mahindra Ltd, Cholamandalam Investment and Finance Co, and billionaire Dilip Shanghvi have opted out.





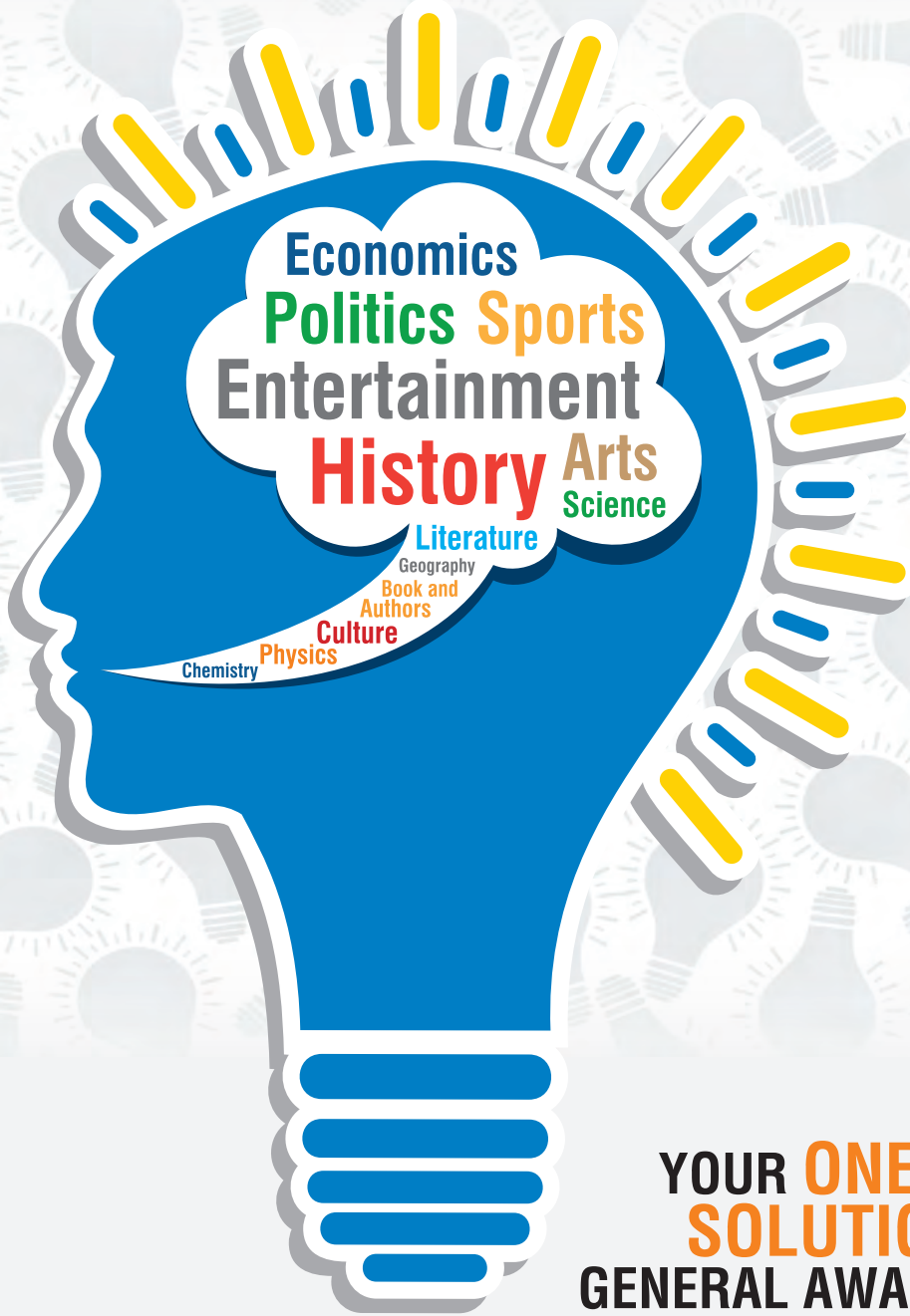
GK & Current Affairs Quiz for IBPS Clerks Main Exam 2016

1. Which Bollywood personality has been appointed as the UNICEF's newest Global Goodwill Ambassador?
A] Priyanka Chopra B] Deepika Padukone
C] Ranveer Singh D] Amitabh Bachchan
2. India's largest indoor sports arena will come up in which of the following states?
A] Assam B] West Bengal
C] Kerala D] Andhra Pradesh
3. What is the India's position in the vacation deprived country ranking, as per recently released 2016 Expedia vacation deprivation report?
A] 3rd B] 5th
C] 4th D] 1st
4. The Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD) has started in which city?
A] Pune B] Chennai
C] Kolkata D] New Delhi
5. What is the current India's economic growth forecast for FY 17, as per updated report "Asian Development Outlook 2016" of Asian Development Bank (ADB)?
A] 7.4% B] 7.2%
C] 6.9% D] 7.0%
6. What is the India's rank in the defence spending, according to the recently published 2016 IHS Jane's Defense Budgets Report?
A] 5th B] 4th
C] 9th D] 7th
7. Which Indian airport has become the second airport in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve carbon neutral status?
A] Kempegowda International Airport, Bangalore
B] Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad
C] Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport, New Delhi
D] Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA), Hyderabad
8. The book "Many Everests: An Inspiring Journey of Transforming Dream into Reality" has been authored by whom?
A] Ravindra Kumar B] Kailash Satyarthi
C] Manav Kumar D] Nitish Bharadwaj
9. Which badminton player has won the 2016 'Most Improved Player' award by the Badminton World Federation (BWF)?
A] Lee Chong Wei B] PV Sindhu
C] Woon Khe Wei D] Carolina Marin

10. Which Indian personality has been named as the 2016 Foreign Policy Global Thinker for novel Twitter diplomacy?
A] Narendra Modi B] Akhilesh Yadav
C] Mamata Banerjee D] Sushma Swaraj
11. Antonio Guterres, who has been sworn-in as the new Secretary General of the United Nations, is the former Prime Minister of which country?
A] Portugal B] Singapore
C] Malaysia D] New Zealand
12. Who has won the World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships title?
A] Dhruv Sitwala B] Pankaj Advani
C] Saurav Kothari D] Peter Gilchrist
13. India's first amphibious bus project has been launched by which state government?
A] Haryana B] Andhra Pradesh
C] Punjab D] Uttar Pradesh
14. Who is the newly elected Prime Minister of New Zealand?
A] Kemal Dervis B] Helen Clark
C] Paula Bennett D] Bill English
15. Which state government has tied up with Tata Trust to strengthen Public Distribution System (PDS)?
A] Uttar Pradesh B] Tamil Nadu
C] Kerala D] Andhra Pradesh
16. "Fengyun-4" an advance weather satellite has been successfully launched into orbit by which country?
A] Russia B] China
C] Japan D] Malaysia
17. Gotthard Base Tunnel(GBT), the world's longest and deepest traffic tunnel, is located in which country?
A] France B] Japan
C] Switzerland D] China
18. Which of the following footballers has won the 2016 FIFA Ballon D'or Award ?
A] Neymar B] Cristiano Ronaldo
C] Lionel Messi D] Antoine Griezmann
19. "Vanjeevan" the National Resource Centre for Tribal Livelihood will be launch in which state?
A] Odisha B] Assam
C] Manipur D] Sikkim
20. The book "The Other One Percent: Indians in America" has been authored by whom?
A] Mohana krishnan B] Sanjoy Chakravorty
C] Joe Harris D] Balaji Vittal

ANSWERS

- | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 1-[A] | 2-[B] | 3-[C] | 4-[D] | 5-[D] | 6-[B] | 7-[D] | 8-[A] | 9-[B] | 10-[D] |
| 11-[A] | 12-[B] | 13-[C] | 14-[D] | 15-[A] | 16-[B] | 17-[C] | 18-[B] | 19-[A] | 20-[B] |



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