

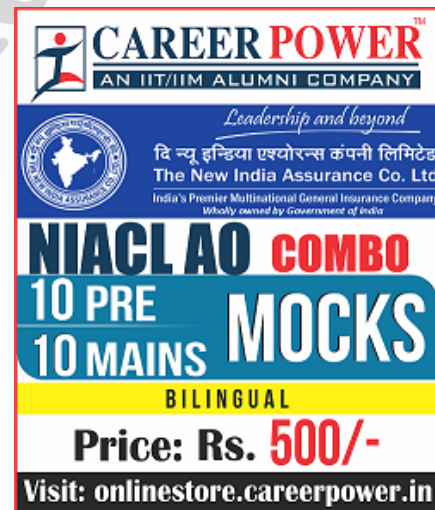
INDIA IN NEWS

- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched a campaign to boost the morale of soldiers by sending Diwali greetings under the #Sandesh2Soldiers campaign on the Narendra Modi App, through MyGov.in, and also through All India Radio.
- ✦ PM Narendra Modi has launched national Schedule Castes/Schedule Tribes hub in Ludhiana. With an initial outlay of Rs 490 crore, the hub will work towards strengthening market access/linkage, monitoring, capacity building, leveraging financial support schemes and sharing industry-best practices.
- ✦ India donated Rs. 9.3 million to the Nelson Mandela Foundation to help it in its welfare work for the people of South Africa.
- ✦ Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis inaugurated India's first centre for international arbitration in Mumbai. The Mumbai Centre for International Arbitration (MCIA) will initially be located at Express Towers.
- ✦ The Union Cabinet has approved "mini Ratna" public sector undertaking HLL Lifecare to sub-lease its land for setting up the country's first medical devices manufacturing park.
- ✦ India formally joined the Paris Climate Change Agreement by submitting its instrument of ratification in New York (UN Headquarter). India became the 62nd country to ratify the agreement. Main Motive of the COP summits is to monitor & encourage countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. COP22 will take place at Marrakech in Morocco, 2016.
- ✦ The Indian government has invited the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan to be the next Chief Guest at India's Republic Day parade of 2017. This is the first time that a leader of the United Arab Emirates will be honoured with the invitation of being the Chief Guest at India's Republic Day parade.

STATES IN NEWS

- ✦ Maharashtra is the top State in the implementation of agricultural reforms and offers the best environment for doing agri-business, according to an assessment by the Niti Aayog.
- ✦ Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan has launched paddy cultivation in Aranmula Pancha near Cochin.
- ✦ Punjab government will observe November 1 as 'No Tobacco Day' in an effort to discourage tobacco use in the state.
- ✦ India's first 'Design Yatra' conducted in Kerala's Kozhikode city during which competitions, heritage walk, talks and interaction with students will be conducted and it is scheduled to travel to 29 Indian cities.

- ✦ Himachal Pradesh was declared 'Open Defecation Free', becoming India's second state to get this status after Sikkim.
- ✦ Maharashtra government launched 'Kaushalya Setu', a skill development programme for students in Mumbai.
- ✦ Bihar government is set to introduce a "Lok Samvad" programme in an effort to get public feedback and suggestions.
- ✦ Haryana Government has decided to observe 2017 as the "Garib Kalyan Varsh. During the observation period of Garib Kalyan Varsh, the government would lay emphasis on welfare of poor people and generating employment opportunities for the youth.
- ✦ Kochi became the first city in the country to be confirmed as a venue for next year's World Cup which will be Kerala's first in any sport.
- ✦ PM Narendra Modi has inaugurated 3 hydro-electric projects with a generating capacity of 1,732 MW in Himachal Pradesh. The three hydropower projects are:
 - 540 MW generation capacity third phase of Parbati hydropower project of NHPC in Kullu district.
 - 412 MW Rampur project of Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd in Shimla.



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- 800 MW Kol Dam power project in Bilaspur district.
- ✦ Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of State (with I/c) for Petroleum & Natural Gas launched the National Seismic Programme (NSP) on Mahanadi basin (onshore) in Odisha.
- ✦ India's 29th state, Telangana's map was redrawn on 11 October 2016 with the creation of 21 new districts, With these, the total number of districts of the youngest state of India went up to 31.
- ✦ With an aim to make Madhya Pradesh anaemia-free, the state government has decided to launch a scheme-'Lalima Abhiyan'- that will be effective from November 1. Under the campaign, free iron folic acid tablets will be provided in aagan wadis', academic institutions & hospitals.



THE HINDU REVIEW: OCTOBER 2016 for IBPS PO/RRB MAINS

- ✦ Playback singer K J Yesudas has been roped in by the Kerala' government as the brand ambassador of its ambitious 'Haritha Keralam' project. 'Haritha Keralam' (Green Kerala) project, a massive initiative envisaged for a garbage-free & clean state.
- ✦ Jharkhand has become the first state in the country to implement Direct Benefit Transfer in Kerosene.
- ✦ Delhi Police has launched a mobile application for senior citizens to enable them to reach out to the police quickly in emergency situations. The application 'Delhi Police Senior Citizen' was launched by Delhi Lt. Governor Najeeb Jung & Police Commissioner Alok Kumar Verma.
- ✦ Gujarat's 900-year-old Rani ki Vav (the Queen's Stepwell) has been named as the 'Cleanest Cultural Heritage Site' in the nation. Further, Surat was named as the cleanest railway station, & Chandigarh's Post Graduate Institute of Medical Research & Education was named the cleanest hospital. Himachal Pradesh's Mandi district was named the cleanest district in hilly areas, while Maharashtra's Sindhudurg district was named the cleanest in plain areas.
- ✦ Chief Minister Pema Khandu flagged off a 10-member all-women Mt Gorichen Expedition led by Anshu Jamsempa. It will be the first all women team attempting to summit the second highest peak of Arunachal Pradesh (6488 mtr).
- ✦ Sikkim's capital Gangtok has been conferred with the title of the 'Cleanest Tourist Destination' in India by the Ministry of Tourism. Further, Chandigarh & Mysore were felicitated as 'Clean Cities' in the 'million plus population' category.
- ✦ Canara Bank has bagged awards for excellence in MSE Lending, Lending to Micro Enterprises and in the field of Khadi and Village Industries.
- ✦ According to the data released by the RBI, India' banking system reported total deposits of Rs. 100 lakh crore for the first time ever in September month of this year. With demand deposits crossing Rs10 lakh crore & time deposits crossing the Rs 90 lakh crore mark, the month saw the highest-ever monthly rise of Rs 5.32 lakh crore.
- ✦ State-run Bank of Maharashtra has renewed its corporate agency tie-up with United India Insurance Company.
- ✦ Standard Chartered Bank has announced a tie-up with Uber under which its credit cardholders, across six countries, will get a cash-back of up to 25 per cent for hailing cabs from the app.
- ✦ Jammu & Kashmir Bank appointed Parvez Ahmed as Chairman & CEO of the bank. He replaced Mustaq Ahmad.
- ✦ State Bank of India has become the first domestic bank of India to open 54th foreign branch, in the capital city of Yangon, Myanmar. Ghanshyam Srivastava will be the Chief Executive Officer of the SBI Yangon branch.
- ✦ State Bank of India (SBI) declared Silchar as its 5th zone in North-East India. This zone will cater to the banking needs of the people of Mizoram, Tripura and Manipur along with the Barak Valley.
- ✦ RBI's 24th Governor Urjit Patel, who has been recently appointed, has announced his first & country's 4th Bi-monthly Policy Statement for the year 2016-17. The RBI has reduced the policy Repo Rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF stands adjusted to 5.75 per cent, & the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate & the Bank Rate to 6.75 per cent.
- ✦ Arundhati Bhattacharya will remain the chairperson of the State Bank of India (SBI) for another year. She will oversee the merger of 6 smaller commercial banks into the country's largest lender.
- ✦ The Centre has appointed R Subramania Kumar as Executive Director (ED) of Indian Overseas Bank (IOB).

BANKS IN NEWS

- ✦ Public sector major MMTC (Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India) has joined hands with HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Andhra Bank to retail gold coins with a new buyback option. Besides its own outlets across the country, MMTC has tied up with Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, Federal Bank and YES Bank to sell gold coins in denominations of 5 gm and 10 gm coin and 20 gm bar.
- ✦ Bank of America has unveiled a virtual assistant called Erica, that uses artificial intelligence and predictive analytics to learn consumers' personal spending habits and offer financial advice.
- ✦ Banknotes of the denomination of Rs 2,000 will be in circulation soon. The notes have already been printed, and their dispatch from the currency printing press in Mysuru has commenced.
- ✦ NABARD has sanctioned a loan of Rs 19,702 crore to the National Water Development Agency (NWDA), under the Ministry of Water Resources.

ECONOMY NEWS

- ✦ The new law to prohibit benami transactions will come into effect from 1st November 2016. After coming into effect, the existing Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Act, 1988 will be renamed as the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions, PBPT, Act, 1988. The new legislation provides for seven years imprisonment and fine for those indulging in illegal transactions.
- ✦ The Finance Ministry announced the sixth tranche of sovereign gold bonds. The duration of the bond will be

for a period of eight years with exit option from the fifth year to be exercised on the interest payment dates.

- ✦ The pound saw a sudden collapse in intra-day trade on 08 October 2016, plunging over 6% to \$1.1841 in two minutes, to hit a fresh 31-year-low.
- ✦ The Union Ministry of Urban Development has approved projects worth Rs.114 crore under HRIDAY scheme for improving infrastructure facilities around core heritage sites in five cities. These five cities are: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Amritsar (Punjab), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Puri (Odisha) & Warangal (Telangana).
- ✦ India's foreign exchange reserves scaled a new high of USD 371.99 billion. The reserves had risen by USD 1.166 billion to USD 370.766 billion. Previously, they had touched a high of USD 371.279.
- ✦ The government has integrated 250 mandis in 10 states with the electronic national agriculture market (e-NAM) in the first phase. The target was to integrate 200 mandis by September this year & total 585 by March 2018.
- ✦ International Monetary Fund projects the global growth at 3.1 per cent in 2016, with slight increase to 3.4 percent in 2017. India's gross domestic product is projected to expand 7.6 percent in 2016 and 2017.
- ✦ CCEA approved the acquisition by ONGC Videsh Ltd. of 11% stake in the Russian state-run Vankor oil fields from Rosneft Oil Company for \$930 million, which will take OVL's overall ownership in the project to 26%.
- ✦ The Government has decided to raise the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) investment in Exchange Traded Funds (ETF) from present 5% to 10%.

BUSINESS NEWS

- ✦ Microsoft has launched its first cybersecurity engagement center in India in the heart of Delhi, which will help the government and the private sector organisations to deal with cyber attacks.
- ✦ HCL Technologies has agreed to acquire U.S. based engineering and design services firm Butler America Aerospace, LLC (Butler Aerospace) for cash consideration of \$85 million or Rs.567 crore.
- ✦ Government has formally granted a license to British Petroleum 'Petroleum industry company', headquartered in London, England, Europe's third-biggest oil company, to set up 3,500 petrol pumps in India.
- ✦ Oil & Natural Gas Corp. Ltd (ONGC) beat India's second largest software exporter Infosys Ltd to become the fifth most valuable company in India by market capitalization. TCS is India's most valuable company followed by Reliance Industries Ltd, HDFC Bank Ltd & ITC Ltd.

- ✦ Valvoline Cummins India has signed up India Test captain Virat Kohli as its ambassador. Valvoline is the world's first & most enduring lubricant brand.
- ✦ HCL Technologies has entered into a 15-year partnership deal with IBM for automation, development & operations solutions. HCL will build features & functions on top of existing IBM platforms.

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AGREEMENTS/MOU SIGNED

- ✦ India and South Korea have signed a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- ✦ India and New Zealand signed three agreements in the areas of double taxation avoidance, food security and sports.
- ✦ Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Railways signed an MoU under which railway stations and adjoining areas will be redeveloped on smart city lines for enhancing passenger amenities, easy access to stations, enabling optimal utilisation of land at railway stations.
- ✦ During a bilateral meeting attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and State Counsellor of Myanmar Aung San Suu Kyi, both sides inked pacts on power, banking and insurance.
- ✦ India & Russia formally inked the agreement for five S-400 Triumf air defence systems & four stealth frigates & a joint venture to manufacture Kamov-226T helicopters in India. The S-400 is considered one of the most advanced long range missile system in the world & can tackle all incoming airborne targets at ranges of up to 400 km.
- ✦ Doordarshan & Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) have entered into an agreement for transmission of four Gyan Darshan educational channels.
- ✦ Cabinet has approved amendments to the HIV & AIDS (Prevention & Control) Bill, 2014 in a meeting chaired by

PM Narendra Modi. The bill makes antiretroviral treatment a legal right of HIV/AIDS patients.

- ✦ The two agreements, one in the field of water resources, including innovations in irrigation technology & second for promotion of co-operation between Indian Council of World Affairs and its Hungarian counterpart was signed between India and Hungary during VP(Ansari) visit.
- ✦ Union Cabinet gave its approval to sign MoU between India & African Asian Rural Development Organization (AARDO) for capacity building programmes in the field of rural development.
- ✦ Union Cabinet gave its approval for the signing of MoU between India & European Union in the field of water resources. The MoU envisages strengthening the technological, scientific & management capabilities of India & the European Union in the field of water management on the basis of equality, reciprocity & mutual benefit.
- ✦ Facebook is collaborating with the Election Commission of India in five states, which are going to polls next year, to run a voter registration drive aimed at encouraging youth to participate in the democratic exercise.
- ✦ India & Singapore have signed 3 agreements, including two in the area of skill development, following delegation-level talks headed by PM Narendra Modi & Singapore Premier Lee Hsien Loong. A third MoU was signed in the field of industrial property cooperation.
- ✦ A historic global climate deal was finalised in Kigali, Rwanda at the 28th Meeting of the Parties to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (MOP28).
- ✦ The five-nation group of emerging economies BRICS has agreed to set up an independent BRICS Rating Agency in its efforts to challenge the western hegemony in the world of finance.

COMMITTEES

- ✦ BCCI president Anurag Thakur has taken charge as the member of the ICC's powerful Finance & Commercial Affairs committee. Anurag Singh Thakur is a member of Lok Sabha from Hamirpur in Himachal Pradesh.
- ✦ The committee which made the Report on Palaeo Channel of North West India was headed by Prof KS Valdiya, eminent Geologist which suggests that the Saraswati River was not mythical and it existed.
- ✦ BCCI president Anurag Thakur has taken charge as the member of the ICC's powerful Finance and Commercial Affairs committee.
- ✦ The one-man judicial committee on One Rank One Pension submitted its report to the Defence Minister Shri Manohar Parrikar. The Central Government had appointed the committee under the Chairmanship of Justice L Narasimha Reddy.

NEW APPOINTMENTS

- ✦ Kristalina Georgieva, a former head of EU humanitarian affairs and vice-president of the European commission, has been appointed chief executive of the World Bank.
- ✦ Bharti Enterprises Founder and Chairman Sunil Mittal has been elected as GSMA (Global System Mobile Association) Chairman for a two- year period from January 2017 through December 2018.
- ✦ Dr. Ajay M. Gondane has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of India to Australia.
- ✦ Mariano Rajoy, Spain's acting prime minister and leader of its center-right Popular Party, was re-elected after winning a parliamentary vote.
- ✦ Swedish telecom gear maker Ericsson has appointed Borje Ekholm as President and CEO.
- ✦ The International Hockey Federation has appointed New Zealand's Jason McCracken as its Chief Executive Officer (CEO).



- ✦ Tata Consultancy Services CEO N Chandrasekaran and Jaguar Land Rover CEO Ralf Speth joined the Tata Sons board as Additional Directors.
- ✦ In one of the biggest upheaval in the corporate sector, the Tata Sons Board has appointed Ratan Tata as the interim chairman of the group, replacing Cyrus Mistry.
- ✦ Jammu and Kashmir Governor N N Vohra has appointed former Chief Justice of Orissa High Court Bilal Nazki as the chairperson of the State Human Rights Commission.
- ✦ Nissan Motor Co Ltd will appoint its chief executive, Carlos Ghosn, as chairman of Mitsubishi Motors Corp.
- ✦ Haryana Government has appointed international woman wrestler Geeta Phogat as a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) in Haryana Police.
- ✦ S P Yadav has been elected as the new President of the North Zone of Urology Society of India.
- ✦ Morinari Watanabe of Japan was elected as the 9th President of the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG). He will replace Bruno Grandi.



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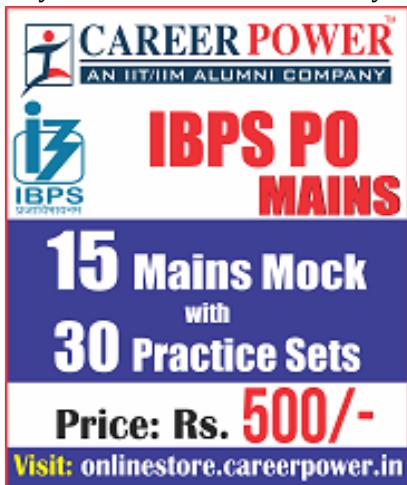
- ✦ Former legislative secretary Sanjay Singh has been appointed as Member Secretary, Law Commission of India.
- ✦ Senior IAS officer Ajay Kumar Bhalla appointed as the Director General of Foreign Trade (DGFT). He succeeds Anup Wadhawan.
- ✦ Luo Zhaohui appointed as the China's Ambassador to India. He replaced Le Yucheng.
- ✦ Senior diplomat Navdeep Singh Suri has been appointed Ambassador to United Arab Emirates. He is currently serving as Indian High Commissioner in Canberra. Suri had served in India's diplomatic missions in Cairo, Damascus, Washington, Dar es Salaam & London & as India's Consul General in Johannesburg.
- ✦ Indian Revenue Service officer Sushil Chandra as the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT). He will take over from the current CBDT Chairperson Rani Singh Nair.
- ✦ Kersti Kaljulaid elected as the President of Estonia by the parliament. With this, she will become Estonia's first female president.
- ✦ Amandeep Singh appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the UN Conference on Disarmament, Geneva.
- ✦ The Mizoram government & the Mizoram Journalists' Association declared Lalbiakthanga Pachuau as the "oldest working journalist in the country".
- ✦ Senior IAS officer Ajay Kumar Bhalla has been appointed as the Director General of Foreign Trade. He has been appointed to the post in place of Anup Wadhawan.
- ✦ Vice Admiral S V Bhokare assumed office as the Commandant of the Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala in Kerala.
- ✦ India's largest Public sector lender, Bank of Baroda has sealed a principal sponsorship contract with badminton Olympians P V Sindhu & K Srikanth.
- ✦ The government has appointed Reserve Bank's Executive Director G Mahalingam as a Whole-Time Member of markets regulator Sebi.
- ✦ Abdelilah Benkirane, the leader of Morocco's Islamic Justice & Development Party, has been appointed for another term as the country's PM.
- ✦ Former Indian Foreign Service officer Ms. Renu Pall has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Austria. It was announced by Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✦ China's President Xi Jinping appointed Luo Zhaohui, a senior diplomat with previous assignments in Pakistan & Canada, as China's new ambassador to India. He will take over from former Chinese ambassador to India Le Yucheng who left New Delhi in April.
- ✦ Germany has appointed former Nasscom Chairman B V R Mohan Reddy as an Honourary Consul of Germany in Hyderabad. Mohan Reddy will be the Consul for Germany in Telangana & Hyderabad.
- ✦ Former PM of Portugal, Antonio Guterres is poised to become the next Secretary-General of the United Nations after the Security Council declared him to be the unanimous choice in the sixth straw poll.
- ✦ Jawhar Sircar has resigned as the Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati Corporation.
- ✦ Reliance Nippon Life Insurance has a new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in Ashish Vohra.
- ✦ Shri R Ravindra, presently Ambassador of India to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire, has been concurrently accredited as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Guinea.
- ✦ M.S. Sahoo, a financial markets expert, was appointed as IBBI (Insolvency & Bankruptcy Board) Chairperson for a period of five years.
- ✦ Rajeev Sharma has taken over as the Chairman & Managing Director of state-run Power Finance Corporation (PFC) with immediate effect. Sharma succeeds M K Goel.
- ✦ The San Francisco-based payments network Visa's CEO Charles Scharf resigned from his post. He will be replaced by Alfred Kelly.
- ✦ Reliance Communications' Chief Executive Officer Vinod Sawhny has stepped down from the post. Mr. William (Bill) Barney & Mr. Gurdeep Singh, who are already working with the Company, will function as acting CO-CEOs of the Company with immediate effect.
- ✦ Somesh Sharma of Rashtrabodh Saptahik has been elected President of The Indian Newspaper Society for the year 2016-17. He succeeds PV Chandran of Grihalakshmi (Mathrubhumi Group)
- ✦ Mohit Kampani, the former managing director of Spencer's Retail, will be joining Aditya Birla Retail as chief executive officer.

OBITUARIES

- ✦ Celebrated Kashmiri singer Raj Begum passed away in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. She was 89. She was awarded Padma Shri in 2002.
- ✦ Japanese Prince Mikasa, uncle of Emperor Akihito, died at the age of 100.
- ✦ Legendary footballer Carlos Alberto Torres passed away at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was 72.
- ✦ Veteran Punjabi actor Mehar Mittal, who acquired legendary status with his comic roles, passed away, after prolonged illness.
- ✦ South African struggle icon and Gandhian activist Mewa Ramgobin has died at the age of 83.
- ✦ Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej - the world's longest-serving monarch - has died aged 88. King

Bhumibol, the ninth king of the 234-year-old Chakri dynasty.

- ✦ Parmeshwar Godrej, philanthropist & wife of Godrej group chairman Adi Godrej passed away in Mumbai at the age of 70.
- ✦ American boxer Aaron Pryor died at the age of 60 after a long battle with heart disease.
- ✦ Manipur-based theatre legend Heisnam Kanhailal passed away following a brief illness in Imphal. He was 75.
- ✦ Eminent contemporary artist Yusuf Arakkal passed away in Bengaluru, Karnataka. He was 71.
- ✦ Kigeli V Ndahindurwa, the last king of Rwanda, recently passed away in United States. He was 80 years old.



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AWARDS

- ✦ Two Yazidi women, Nadia Murad Basee and Lamiya Aji Bashar, who escaped sexual enslavement by Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Iraq, have won Europe's top human rights award, the Sakharov prize.
- ✦ Paul Beatty became the first author from the United States to be awarded the Man Booker prize, for his book, 'The Sellout'.
- ✦ Randeep Guleria have been selected for the prestigious Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy Award for excellence in the field of medicine.
- ✦ The Uttar Pradesh government has declared the list of Yash Bharati awardees 2016. 54 personalities have been selected for the coveted award for the year 2016-17. The award is given by the Uttar Pradesh Government for excellence in literature, fine arts, folk and classical music and sports.
- ✦ Noted British statistician Sir David Cox was named the inaugural recipient of the International Prize in Statistics. He is honoured for Survival Analysis Model Applied in Medicine, Science, and Engineering.
- ✦ The Film Society of Lincoln Center has named Robert De Niro the recipient of its 44th annual Chaplin Award, which honors major industry talents. De Niro will take home the 2017 trophy for a four-decade acting career.
- ✦ Bollywood Actress Sonam Kapoor has been bestowed with the 2016 ET Panache Trendsetter Award in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✦ Eminent writer C Radhakrishnan has been selected for the Mathrubhumi Literary Award in recognition of his contribution to the field of literature.
- ✦ Kirtiraj Kundlik Gaikwad, an Indian scientist with the Department of Packaging, has been awarded the prestigious IAFP Young scientist scholarship award for his research work on "development of novel oxygen absorbing package in the field of active packaging for oxygen sensitive food products".
- ✦ Satish Pathak, a Pune-based innovator, has been awarded for 'Excellence in Technical Innovation' by the International Society of Automation. The innovation, called Digital Controlled Valve for Precise Liquid Dispensing by Gravity flow.
- ✦ Former Uttarakhand chief minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has been conferred with a prestigious award by the Ugandan government for promoting human values through his literature.
- ✦ Veteran actor Ian McKellen was honoured at the UK Theatre Awards that took place in London for his individual contributions to British theatre.
- ✦ Sprinter Srabani Nanda has bagged the 24th Ekalabya Award for the year 2016 in recognition of her sporting excellence. Srabani won gold in 200m, silver in 100m & 4x100m relay in 12th South Asian Games held in Guwahati.
- ✦ Nayanjot Lahiri, Professor of History at the Ashoka University, has been awarded the 2016 John F. Richards Prize for her book Ashoka in Ancient India.
- ✦ Film-maker & elephant researcher Prajna Chowta has been appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit), one of the highest civilian recognitions of the French government.
- ✦ Famous British statistician Sir David Cox was awarded with the first recipient of the International Prize in Statistics. He is honoured for Survival Analysis Model Applied in Medicine, Science, and Engineering.
- ✦ Bollywood Actress Sonam Kapoor has been bestowed upon with the 2016 ET Panache Trendsetter Award in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✦ A 16-year-old Indian-origin South African teen Kiara Nirghin has won a \$50,000 scholarship, the grand prize at the annual Google Science Fair for her work using orange peel to develop a cheaper "super-absorbent material" that helps soil retain water.
- ✦ Young filmmaker Katyayan Shivpuri, from Maharashtra, has won the first prize at the Swachh Bharat Short Film Festival (SBSFF) for his work "Murga".
- ✦ The Maharajas' Express, the world's most luxurious train owned and operated by Indian Railway Catering and

Tourism Corporation, received the 2016 Seven Star Luxury Hospitality and Lifestyle Awards at Marbella in Spain.

DEFENCE NEWS

- ✦ The Indian and Chinese armies held their second joint exercise, "Sino India Cooperation 2016" in Eastern Ladakh.
- ✦ US Navy has commissioned its largest, most expensive & technologically advanced destroyer, Zumwalt. The 610-foot-long ship, commissioned in Baltimore also has an advanced power plant & weapon systems.
- ✦ Dassault Aviation of France has entered into a partnership with Reliance group to execute offsets for the recently concluded deal for 36 Rafale fighter jets. This is the largest offset contract to be executed by any defence company in India till date.
- ✦ The fast attack craft 'INS Tihayu' was commissioned by India recently. This craft is an improved version of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC).
- ✦ The Indian and Chinese armies began the second joint exercise named Sino India Cooperation 2016 in Ladakh. The aim behind this is to enhance interaction and cooperation between India and China.
- ✦ Russia has quietly signed an agreement with India to lease out a second Russian Akula-2 class nuclear-powered submarine to the Indian Navy.
- ✦ India has completed its nuclear triad by inducting the first endogenously built strategic nuclear submarine INS Arihant into service.
- ✦ Fast patrol vessel ICGS Gaidinliu, named after Naga freedom-fighter and leader Rani Gaidinliu, was commissioned by Director-General Rajendra Singh of the Coast Guard.



RANKS & REPORTS

- ✦ Andhra Pradesh and Telengana topped the all-India ranking in the list of State-wise Ease of Doing Business.

- ✦ India has climbed 21 spots to rank 87th on the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2016. Iceland tops the latest rankings followed by Finland, Norway and Sweden.
- ✦ India has ranked very poorly at 133 in a new Global Youth Development Index compiled by the Commonwealth Secretariat on the countries'. India ranked 133rd in the index while Germany topped the list.
- ✦ According to the World Bank's Ease of doing Business Report 2016, India now ranks 130 out of 190 countries, New Zealand has surpassed Singapore to become the easiest country in the world to do business.
- ✦ According to the report of World Economic Forum (WEF) on 'Safety & Security,' Finland is the safest place in the world with Qatar & UAE ranked second & third respectively. At the bottom of the survey ranked Nigeria, followed by Colombia, Yemen, Pakistan & Venezuela, as the least safest countries to live. India ranked 13th as the least safe countries in the world.
- ✦ Actress Priyanka Chopra has joined media mogul Oprah Winfrey & pop star Jennifer Lopez in Variety magazine's 'Power of Women Impact' List.
- ✦ India ranked 97th out of 118 countries on the International Food Policy Research Institute's (IFPRI) Global Hunger Index (GHI) in 2016, behind Nepal , Sri Lanka , Bangladesh, among others, but ahead of Pakistan & three other Asian countries.

SUMMITS

- ✦ 'Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) -2016' is being organized by M/o Culture in IGNC premises, Janpath, New Delhi. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh, Union Minister for Home Affairs.
- ✦ India will host the Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR).
- ✦ National Summit on Fortification of Food was held in New Delhi.
- ✦ The first World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) was held in New Delhi which was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee. The theme for the summit is Beyond 2015: People, Planet and Progress.
- ✦ The 2016 India Sanitation Conference (INDOSAN) was held in New Delhi which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✦ Pakistan has officially postponed the 8-nation SAARC summit 2016 , after 5 countries- India, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan & Sri Lanka dropped out of it.
- ✦ Anupriya Patel, Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare has inaugurated National Summit on Fortification of Food in New Delhi.

- ✦ Culture and Tourism Minister Mahesh Sharma chaired the first meeting of the Reconstituted Central Advisory Board on Culture (CABC) in New Delhi.
- ✦ 47th international film festival of India to be held in Goa in November.

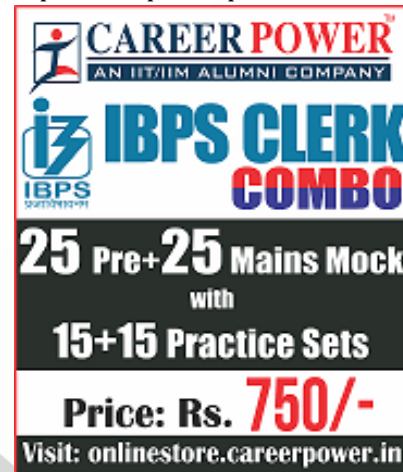
SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ✦ Tiangong-2, the experimental space lab of China has successfully launched a micro-satellite, Banxing-2 (the word means Companion Satellite). The micro-satellite is roughly the size of a desktop printer.
- ✦ International Astronautical Federation's renowned space scientist U.R. Rao has been inducted into its Hall of Fame for his contribution to development of India's space technology.
- ✦ China launched the two-man Shenzhou 11 space mission, which is its longest-ever manned space mission. The two astronauts will spend about a month in China's recently-launched experimental space lab, Tiangong 2.
- ✦ India's latest communication satellite GSAT-18 has been successfully launched by a heavy duty rocket of Arianespace from the spaceport of Kourou in French Guiana. GSAT-18, built by the Indian Space Research Organisation, aims at providing telecommunications services for the country by strengthening Isro's current fleet of 14 operational telecommunication satellites.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- ✦ Bangladesh has arrested more than 900 fishermen and deployed the army to patrol its waterways after introducing a temporary ban on catching hilsa in an effort to save the hugely popular fish.
- ✦ Delegates from 24 countries and the EU have agreed that the Ross Sea in Antarctica will become the world's largest marine protected area (MPA).
- ✦ Typhoon Haima made a landfall in south China's Guangdong Province.
- ✦ The first elephant sanctuary in Latin America has opened in Brazil to provide a home for an estimated 50 circus animals from across the region. Guida & Maia, both over 40 years old, are the first residents.
- ✦ Russian & Turkish leaders have agreed to intensify military & intelligence contacts after a meeting in Istanbul, Turkey. After his meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Russian President Vladimir Putin said, they have agreed on the need for aid to get to the northern Syrian city of Aleppo. The two countries have also signed a deal to construct two pipelines to send Russian gas under the Black Sea to Turkey.
- ✦ The Milan city council bestowed honorary citizenship on the Dalai Lama. However, China has strongly opposed another award given to him.

- ✦ Maldives government decided to leave the 53-member Commonwealth of Nations.
- ✦ Israel suspended co-operation with the UN's cultural agency, UNESCO, accusing it of denying Judaism's connections to the religion's holiest sites.
- ✦ France become the first country in the world to ban disposable plastic cups and plates.



BOOKS & AUTHORS

- ✦ Actress-turned-author Twinkle Khanna has shared the first look of her second book titled 'The Legend Of Lakshmi Prasad'. Her first book was 'Mrs Funnybones: She's Just Like You & a Lot Like Me', which was published in 2015.
- ✦ Nearly, 20 years after her Booker prize-winning novel 'The God of Small Things' was published, Arundhati Roy has announced the release of her next novel titled "The Ministry of Utmost Happiness" in June 2017.
- ✦ The Sleepwalker's Dream which is written by Dhrubajyoti Borah launched recently.
- ✦ The book titled Modi's Midas Touch in Foreign Policy which is authored by Ambassador Surendra Kumar was launched by Naidu.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- ✦ 31st October is being celebrated as 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas' (National Unity Day).
- ✦ CVC as part of its efforts to promote probity in public life and to achieve a corruption free society, observes Vigilance Awareness Week every year. This year it started from 31st October. "Public participation in promoting integrity and eradicating Corruption" has been chosen as the theme.
- ✦ 24 October is celebrated as United Nations Day since 1948.
- ✦ Disarmament Week is an annual event that is observed from 24 October to 30 October in various parts of the world.
- ✦ National Ayurveda Day is being observed on 28 October. The Ministry of AYUSH is organizing a day-long national



THE HINDU REVIEW: OCTOBER 2016 for IBPS PO/RRB MAINS

seminar on Prevention and Control of Diabetes through Ayurveda in New Delhi.

- ✚ United Nations' (UN) International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed on October 17 each year since 1993. This year theme is Moving from humiliation & exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms.
- ✚ On 21st October, Police Commemoration Day was observed across India.
- ✚ International Day of Rural Women is observed across the world on 15 October. The theme for the day for the year 2016 is Climate is changing. Food & agriculture must too.
- ✚ October 15th, Dr. Abdul Kalam's birthday, is observed as World Student Day by United Nations Organization annually.
- ✚ First Monday of October is always observed as World Habitat Day. This year the theme was Housing at the Centre.
- ✚ World Standards Day is observed annually on 14 October. The theme for World Standards Day 2016 is "Standards Build Trust".
- ✚ International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed annually on 13 October. This year theme is Live to Tell: Raising Awareness, Reducing Mortality.
- ✚ Government of India will be observing the First World Tsunami Awareness Day on November 5. It will be observed during the upcoming Asian Ministerial Conference for Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) 2016.
- ✚ The Second Thursday of October is always observed as World Sight Day. This year the theme was Stronger Together.
- ✚ International Day of the Girl Child is observed annually on 11 October; it is also called the Day of the Girl. The theme for this year's International Day of the Girl (11 October) is "Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls".
- ✚ World Mental Health Day is observed annually on 10 October. This year theme is 'Psychological First Aid'.
- ✚ World Post Day is celebrated each year on 9 October, the anniversary of the establishment of the Universal Postal Union in 1874 in the Swiss Capital, Bern. The theme for this year 2016 is Innovation, Integration & Inclusion.
- ✚ Air Force Day 2016 is observed annually on 8 October across India. This year is the 84th celebration of the Day which began in 1932.
- ✚ World Teachers' Day (WTD) 2016 is being observed across the world on 5 October. The theme for the World Teachers' Day 2016 is Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status.
- ✚ World Space Week is an annual event that is observed from 4 - 10 October every year in various parts of the world including Europe & Asia. World Space Week, 2016

is being observed with theme, Remote Sensing: Enabling our Future.

- ✚ The International Day of Non-Violence is observed on October 2, the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✚ Every year 1st October is observed as International day of Older Persons (IDOP). This year, the theme is "Take a Stand Against Ageism."

SPORTS NEWS

- ✚ India celebrated Diwali by winning gold medal in the Men's Asian Champions Trophy by beating arch-rivals Pakistan 3-2 in the final in Malaysia.
- ✚ Ace Indian tennis star Sania Mirza will end the season as world's top doubles Tennis player for the second straight year.
- ✚ After seven years, Jhulan Goswami becomes world number 1 bowler again. She is affectionately known as the 'Chakdaha Express'.
- ✚ The team of Indian Roller Skaters claimed their first ever International medal in the sport. Vikram Ingale, Nikhilesh Tabhane and Dhanush Babu have won India's first ever senior international roller skating medal, by securing the bronze medal in the 3000m team relay event in Lishui, People's Republic of China.
- ✚ Punjab Directorate won the 2016 National Cadet Corp (NCC) National Games. Subhash Bhamre, Minister of State for Defence, presented trophies to the winners at the closing ceremony at Delhi Cantonment.
- ✚ A team from the Indian Army's Gorkha Rifles has won a gold medal at one of the most gruelling exercises in the world. Team Gorkha was awarded a gold medal in Exercise Cambrian Patrol organized by the British Army.
- ✚ North Korea won the 2016 FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup, after defeating Japan on penalties in the final of the tournament.
- ✚ Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton (England) has won the 2016 United States Grand Prix.
- ✚ India beat Iran 38-29 to win their 8th successive Kabaddi World Cup.
- ✚ Four Indian wrestlers have won four medals individually including a gold medal, at the sixth edition of the TAFISA World Games held in Jakarta, Indonesia.
- ✚ The Indian Boxing Council (IBC) in the second week of October 2016 was inducted into the World Boxing Organisation (WBO) with voting rights.
- ✚ The Indian football team achieved its best FIFA ranking in over six years when the side jumped 11 places to be ranked 137th in the latest list released
- ✚ Serbian tennis player Novak Djokovic retained the top spot in the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) rankings.
- ✚ Indian shuttler Sourabh Verma clinched the men's singles title at the Chinese Taipei Open badminton.

- ✦ Indian boxer Neeraj Goyat outpunched Australia's Ben Kite to retain the WBC welterweight Asia title.
- ✦ International Cricket Council has decided to organise the first ever ICC Women's World T20 event in 2020. Cricket Australia, hosts for the men's & women's ICC World Twenty20 in 2020.
- ✦ Jamaican athlete Usain Bolt has confirmed that he is going to retire after the 2017 World Championships in London, & also informed that the Racers Grand Prix later this year will be his last race on Jamaican soil.
- ✦ India's ODI against New Zealand at Dharamshala on 16th oct 2016 is the team's 900th making it the world first side to achieve a milestone.
- ✦ Kochi became the first Indian city to be officially declared as one of the venues for hosting the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup.
- ✦ Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska won the 2016 China Open Women's Singles at the National Tennis Center in Beijing, China.
- ✦ Brazil has lifted the 1st BRICS U-17 Football Tournament 2016 held at Goa after defeating the South Africa in the title clash with 5-1.
- ✦ Australian Former Formula One driver Mark Webber will retire from professional racing at the end of the world endurance season in Bahrain in November.
- ✦ International Shooting Sports Federation (ISSF) has awarded ace shooter, Jitu Rai, the 'Champion of Champions' title for pistol shooting in 2016.
- ✦ The Arena by TransStadia in Ahmedabad, venue of the ongoing Kabaddi World Cup, is India's first convertible stadium. The Rs. 550 crore project converts an outdoor stadium into an indoor arena in 6 minutes at a touch of a button.
- ✦ The world's first Cybathlon Championship for Athletes with Disabilities organised by the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology ETH Zurich at the SWISS Arena in Kloten, canton Zurich. Popularly known as 'Bionic olympics', it differs from the paralympics as it sees participants compete against each other using the latest assistive technologies in terms of their ability to help users navigate the tasks & challenges of daily life.
- ✦ Indian Railways won the World Railway Shooting Championship Cup which was held in Saint Mandrier, France.
- ✦ Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska defeated British tennis player Johanna Konta 6-4, 6-2 to win the China Open Women's Singles at Beijing, China.
- ✦ India's 19-year-old shuttler Ruthvika Shivani Gadde won the women's singles title at the Russian Open in Vladivostok. Pranaav Jerry Chopra & N Sikki Reddy added to India's tally by winning the mixed doubles title at the event.
- ✦ British tennis player Andy Murray beat Bulgaria's Grigor Dimitrov in straight sets to win the China Open.
- ✦ Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Ltd (RINL), the corporate entity of Vizag Steel, has roped in top ranked Indian Badminton Player PV Sindhu as its brand ambassador.
- ✦ India's Harika Dronavalli defeated World No. 1 Hou Yifan of China to be at joint fourth position in the Isle of Man International Chess tournament.
- ✦ Indian shooter Jitu Rai clinched a silver medal in the 50-meter pistol event of the ISSF World Cup Final at Bologna, Italy.
- ✦ India's Aakanksha Hagawane has won the girls' U-16 title at the World Youth Chess Championship in Russia. Aakanksha sealed the title by defeating Alicja Sliwicka of Poland.
- ✦ Australian racing driver, Daniel Ricciardo has won the 2016 Malaysian Grand Prix held at the Sepang International Circuit in Selangor, Malaysia.
- ✦ Indian golfer Gaganjeet Bhullar won his 6th Asian Tour title, winning the Korea Open 2016 in Incheon, South Korea.
- ✦ Union Finance Ministry has decided that sports infrastructure will be included in the harmonised master list of infrastructure sub-sectors.
- ✦ Bengaluru's Kieren Dsouza has become the first Indian to complete the Spartathlon, widely described as the "world's toughest race". The 23-year old completed the 246.6 km distance in 33 hours, one minute & 38 seconds. The Spartathlon is an annual run between Athens & Sparta in Greece.
- ✦ Javelin thrower Annu Rani broke her own national record & in the process became the first Indian woman to cross the 60m mark.
- ✦ Indian star shuttler Saina Nehwal has been appointed as a member of the International Olympic Committee's Athletes' Commission.



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SCHEMES/APPS/PROGRAMME LAUNCHED

- ✦ Odisha government has come up with a new scheme to provide legal assistance to the deprived sections of the society at the grassroots level in all its 6,812 gram panchayats across the state. The scheme named after great Odia lawyer, 'Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibir' will offer legal services once a week.
- ✦ Union Petroleum Minister Dharmendra Pradhan launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in Maharashtra to provide free LPG connections to BPL households.
- ✦ Maharashtra Government launched Kaushalya SETU (Self-Employment and Talent Utilisation) initiative. This initiative, is a skill development programme for students, is likely to generate employment for as many as 7.5 lakh people in state.

MISCELLANEOUS

- ✦ As the Kashmir Stag popularly known as Hangul is on the verge of extinction, the International Union for Conservation of Nature is all set to declare it a 'critically endangered' species to protect this beautiful animal from disappearing from earth.
- ✦ The Oxford English Dictionary has included "Aiyoh" & "Aiyah" in its latest edition. The word has defined as, "In southern India & Sri Lanka, expressing distress, regret, or grief; 'Oh no!', 'Oh dear!'".
- ✦ Telangana government organised the traditional state festival of 'Bathukamma' on at the Lal Bahadur stadium in Hyderabad. The event, attended by about ten thousand women, found a place in the Guinness Book of World Records. The Telangana government has declared 'Bathukamma' as a state festival.
- ✦ Not only men, but women can also be prosecuted under the Protection of Women against Domestic Violence (DV) Act.
- ✦ Arjun Vajpai, a 23-year-old professional mountaineer from Noida, became the youngest in the world to scale the Mount Cho Oyu, the 6th highest mountain peak in the world at 8,188 metres above sea level.
- ✦ Railways Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu flagged off the newly manufactured 'Guard Van of Goods (Freight) Train', in New Delhi. The newly manufactured 'Guard Van of Goods Train' is equipped with the Solar powered Light for the first time.
- ✦ Polythene banned at all national monuments from October 2, the 2nd anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Mission which coincides with Gandhi Jayanti.

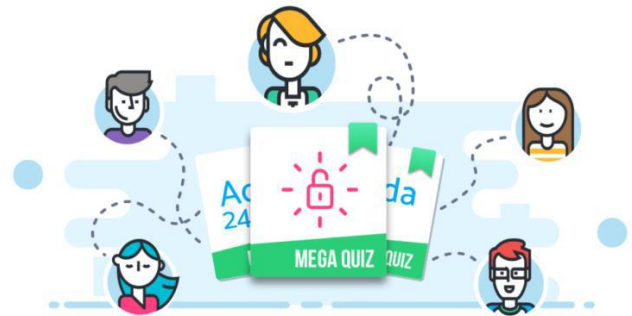
- ✦ Airport Authority of India's Tirupati Airport has been awarded as "Best Tourist Friendly Airport" under the category for "State Annual Excellence Awards (2015-16)" by Andhra Pradesh Tourism.
- ✦ Human rights activist Irom Sharmila announced the formation of her political party named Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA).
- ✦ Delhi International Airport Limited (DIAL) declared that Terminal 3 of Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) achieved Platinum rating from Indian Green Building Council (IGBC).



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