



## CURRENT AFFAIRS (FEBRUARY - 2017) :

### National

- ⇒ India signed a deal with the USA for purchase of 145 M777 ultra-light howitzers for ₹ 5,000 crore, which will be mostly deployed near the borders with China. Out of the 145 guns, US defence subsidiary of BAE Systems will deliver 25 guns and the rest 120 will be assembled in India by Mahindra.
- ⇒ The Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani visited New Delhi and held talks with PM Narendra Modi. The two countries signed four agreements on visas, cyber space and investments. Qatar is not only an important trading partner for India in the Gulf region, but is also the largest supplier of LNG (Liquefied Natural Gas), accounting for 66% of the total imports in 2015-16.
- ⇒ RESOURCESAT-2A, India's latest remote sensing satellite has been launched through Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO) workhorse PSLV – C36 from Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. RESOURCESAT-2A would be useful for agricultural applications like crop area and production estimation, drought monitoring, soil mapping, cropping system analysis, etc.
- ⇒ Indonesian President Joko Widodo visited India, met the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and signed three agreements. Indonesia is the world's most populous Muslim nation.
- ⇒ Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon visited India and met the Prime Minister Narendra Modi. They decided to strengthen defence cooperation and inked four pacts in this regard. India and Tajikistan will work closely on developing trade and transport links through the Chabahar Port in Iran.
- ⇒ Kyrgyzstan President Almazbek Atambayev visited India and held talks with the PM Narendra Modi. They finalised broad outlines of a bilateral investment treaty and signed six other agreements.
- ⇒ India successfully test-fired Agni-V, its most lethal nuclear-capable, intercontinental ballistic missile that has a range of over 5,000 km from Abdul Kalam island off Odisha coast.

### International

- ⇒ The United Nations Security Council unanimously imposed the toughest sanctions on North Korea and asked it to abandon all nuclear weapons and all existing nuclear programmes. Under the resolution, North Korea will be restricted from exporting more than 7.5 million tonnes of coal in 2017. China also has cancelled coal import from North Korea.
- ⇒ The UN Security Council recently voted to halt the Israeli settlement in the Palestinian Territory in the West Bank. The resolution was passed by all the 15 members of the council while the United States abstained. By deciding not to veto the move, the US took a rare step that deeply angered Israel. The resolution demands that 'Israel immediately and completely cease all settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem'.

### Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 6.2.2017) are :
  - \* Repo Rate (*Repo Rate is the rate at which commercial banks borrow money from the central bank, i.e., RBI*) : 6.25%.
  - \* Reverse Repo Rate (*Reverse Repo Rate is the rate at which the commercial banks deposit their surplus money to the central bank*) : 5.75%
  - \* Statutory Liquidity Ratio (*SLR is the percentage of deposits that commercial banks have to maintain with themselves*) : 20.50%
  - \* CRR (*Cash Reserve Ratio is the proportion of deposits which the banks have to keep with the central bank*) : 4%
  - \* Bank Rate (*Bank rate is the rate at which central bank, i.e. RBI, rediscounts the bills of exchange of commercial banks*) : 6.75%
  - \* MSF (*Marginal Standing Facility is the loan banks are permitted to avail themselves from the RBI on overnight basis, using its SLR securities*) : 6.75%.
  - \* Base Rate (*Base Rate reflects the actual cost of banks that has to be covered through lending. Banks cannot lend money below the Base Rate, which varies from bank to bank*) : 9.25% - 9.65%.
  - \* Term Deposit (Fixed Deposit) Rate (more than 1 year): 6.5% - 7.0%.
  - \* MCLR: 7.75% - 8.2%.(MCLR, the Marginal Cost of Fund-based Lending Rate, is the new benchmark lending rate at which banks will now lend to new borrowers. Till 31 March 2016, banks used the Base rate as the benchmark lending rate. MCLR is built on four components – Marginal cost of funds, Negative carry on account of CRR, Operating costs and Tenor premium).
- ⇒ The Lok Sabha has passed the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (Second Amendment) Bill. The Bill was introduced as some of the existing provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 can possibly be misused for concealing black money.
  - The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PM GKY) is the Union government's second income disclosure scheme to allow tax evaders to come clean with unaccounted wealth. Declarants of undisclosed income need to pay 30% tax, 10% penalty and 33% Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Cess of the taxed amount – all of which add up to around 50%. Besides, declarants must make mandatory deposit of 25% of undisclosed income in the zero interest Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme, 2016 with lock-in period of 4 years.
- ⇒ The Committee on Digital Payments, under the Chairmanship of Ratan P. Watal, Principal Advisor, NITI Aayog, has submitted its final report.
- ⇒ NITI Aayog announced the launch of the schemes 'Lucky Grahak Yojana' and 'Digi Vyapar Yojana' to give cash awards to consumers and merchants who utilise digital payment instruments for personal consumption expenditure.



- ⇒ The Central government announced a package to promote digital transactions and get people to stop using cash. Some features –
- For those using cards and e-wallets, Petrol and Diesel purchases will now attract 0.75% discount.
  - Railways to give 5% discount on catering and retiring room on payments by digital mode.
  - All railway passengers who buy tickets online will get free insurance worth ₹ 10 lakh.
  - Insurance of public sector companies, bought online from customer portal, will get 8% discount for life and 10% for general insurance.
  - Digital transactions of up to ₹ 2,000 will be exempted from service tax.
  - Highway toll will see 10% discount on digital payments.
- ⇒ The NITI Aayog has constituted a 13 member Committee on promotion of cashless society and digital economy. It is headed by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. Chief Ministers of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Sikkim, Puducherry and Maharashtra, representing different political parties, are its members.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ India has received over US \$300 billion US Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) milestone between April 2000 and September 2016. 33% of the FDI came through the Mauritius route. The Mauritius route is preferred by investors because they wanted to take advantage of India's double taxation avoidance treaty (DTAA) with the island nation.
- ⇒ Sudden increase in production and import prices of steel has adversely affected the domestic steel industry in India. In this regard, four mineral rich States Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Karnataka were identified for setting-up Integrated Steel Plants through Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) route. The government has targeted to reach 300 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA) steel production capacity by 2025.
- ⇒ 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. Skimming means the theft of classified credit/debit card data
- ⇒ E-commerce giant Amazon has launched its global startup program 'Launchpad' in India. The program will enable Indian startups to sell their products overseas.
- ⇒ The Women and Child Development Ministry has tied-up with India Post and SBI to offer more payment options to buyers and simplify shipping of products bought from 'Mahila e-Haat', an online marketing platform for women entrepreneurs.
- ⇒ India has been ranked 4th by the end of 2016 in the Global Wind Power Installed Capacity Index. The cumulative installed wind power generation capacity of India is 25,088 MW. China topped the list followed by USA and Germany.
- The Government of India has set a target of 175 GW renewable energy installed capacity by the end of 2022. This include : 60 GW from wind power, 100 GW from solar power, 10 GW from biomass power and 5 GW from small hydro power.
- ⇒ The Ministry of Electronics and IT has started a new campaign called Digi Dhan Abhiyan to promote cashless transactions. Under the Digi Dhan campaign, the Ministry has launched a free to air channel called Digishala, which will impart information in rural and semi urban areas on digital payment ecosystem.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has approved Central Assistance of 2000 crore rupees for 36,384 displaced families from Pakistan occupied areas of Jammu & Kashmir (POJK) and Chhamb. ₹ 5 lakh cash benefit per family will be disbursed to the displaced families.
- ⇒ Pakistan's Senate passed a resolution which seeks withdrawal of high denomination (₹ 5000) currency notes from circulation to halt illicit money flows and money laundering.

## Sports

- ⇒ India defeated England 4-0 in a five-match Test Series. The first Test at Rajkot ended in a draw. Karan Nair was adjudged the Man of the Match in the fifth Test for a triple century. India's captain Virat Kohli was adjudged the Man of the Series. Alastair Cook was the captain of the English team.
- ⇒ Former Union Minister Praful Patel has been re-elected President of the All-India Football Federation for the third consecutive term.
- ⇒ Atletico de Kolkata defeated Kerala Blasters to win the Indian Super League (ISL) 2016 for the second time in its three seasons. Mumbai City's Amrinder Singh got the Golden Glove honour.
- ⇒ India clinched the FIH Junior Hockey world Cup defeating Belgium at the Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, Lucknow. It was India's second FIH Junior World Cup since 2001. Harjeet Singh was the Captain of India.
- ⇒ Two-time World Chess Champion Magnus Carlsen of Norway won the third title beating Russian Challenger Sergey Karjakin in New York.
- ⇒ Pankaj Advani clinched his 11th World Billiards Championship title in Bangaluru by defeating Peter Gilchrist in the final.
- ⇒ Indian Oil defeated Bharat Petroleum to clinch the 121st Beighton Cup Hockey Championship at the SAI Complex, Kolkata.
- ⇒ Arjun Bhati, a 12-year-old boy won the Kids Golf World Championship 2016 in Malaysia.



# EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

Jadavpur : 9433267091, 033-24187224; Dumdum : 8013736754, 033-25485020 ; Nagpur : 9975017525

## Awards

- ⇒ At the 10th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) in Brisbane, Australia, Manoj Bajpayee won the Best Performance by an Actor Award for his role as Professor Siras in the film Aligarh.
- ⇒ The 2016 SASTRA-Ramanujan award for mathematics was presented to Maksym Radziwill of McGill University, Canada and Kaisa Matomaki of the University of Turku, Finland at Kumbakonam. Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu is the home town of Ramanujan.
- ⇒ Stephanie Del Valle of Puerto Rico has been crowned the Miss World, 2016 at the MGM National Harbor near Washington DC.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ Onir, the Indian filmmaker, won the Hollywood Independent Documentary Award for his Indo-Australian documentary 'Raising the Bar' in the category of 'Best Foreign Documentary Feature'.
- ⇒ Uttar Pradesh's Commercial Tax Department was honoured with the highest award under the Digital India Scheme of the Central government.
- ⇒ Mohan Bagan and Chennaiyin FC striker Jeje Lalpekhua was declared the All India Football Federation's (AIFF) Player of the Year for 2016.
- ⇒ Usain Bolt, the legendary Jamaican sprinter has been honoured with the IAAF Male Athlete-of-the-Year for the sixth time.
- ⇒ Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia has been named the IAAF Female Athlete of the Year.
- ⇒ The International Cricket Council (ICC) annual awards for 2016 were announced. Ravichandran Ashwin was named ICC Cricketer of the year to win the coveted Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy. He was also declared the ICC Test Cricketer of the year. Ashwin is the only second Indian cricketer after Rahul Dravid (2004) to claim the top two ICC honours in the same Year.
  - Cricketer of the Year and Test Cricketer of the Year – R. Ashwin.
  - ODI Cricketer of the Year – Quinton de Kock (South Africa).
  - Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year and T20 Cricketer of the Year – Suzie Bates (New Zealand).
  - Emerging Cricketer of the Year – Mustafizur Rahman (Bangladesh).
- ⇒ Noted Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh has been chosen for the prestigious Jnanpith Award for 2016 by the Jnanpith award jury chaired by the writer Namwar Singh.
- ⇒ The second Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Indologist Award for the year 2016 was awarded to Prof. Yu Long Yu of China. He is Professor and Director at the Centre for Indian Studies, Shenzhen University.

- ⇒ Portuguese Player Cristiano Ronaldo of Real Madrid won the prestigious Ballon D'Or Award for the fourth time by beating his rival Lionel Messi of Barcelona.
- ⇒ P.V. Sindhu, the Rio Olympic silver medallist, won Badminton World Federation's (BWF) Most Improved Player of the Year in Dubai.

## Persons

- ⇒ Justice J. S. Khehar is the new Chief Justice of India. He replaced Justice T. S. Thakur.
- ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been ranked 9th among the most powerful in the world by Forbes magazine. Modi has raised his profile as a global leader in recent years during official visits with Barack Obama and Xi Jinping. The list is topped by Vladimir Putin, followed by Donald Trump.
- ⇒ Lt. General Bipin Rawat has been appointed new Chief of Army Staff.
- ⇒ Birendra Singh Dhanoa is the new Chief of the Air Staff. He replaced Air Marshal Arup Raha.
- ⇒ Najeeb Jung, the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, resigned.
- ⇒ George Yeo, the Chancellor of Nalanda University submitted his resignation to the President Pranab Mukherjee.
- ⇒ Matteo Renzi, the Prime Minister of Italy resigned after suffering a crushing defeat in a referendum over constitutional reform.
- ⇒ Park Geun-hye, the President of South Korea has been impeached on corruption charges.
- ⇒ Rex Tillerson is the new US Secretary of State.
- ⇒ Priyanka Chopra, former Miss World and noted actress, has been appointed Brand Ambassador of Assam Tourism.
- ⇒ Priyanka Chopra has been named the 'Goodwill Ambassador' of the UNICEF.
- ⇒ Rajiv Jain is the new Intelligence Bureau (IB) Chief.
- ⇒ Anil Kumar Dhasmana is the new head of External Spy Agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).
- ⇒ John Key, the Prime Minister of New Zealand resigned simply because he got bored being at the highest position for the last eight years.
- ⇒ V.K. Sharma has been appointed Chairman of LIC of India.
- ⇒ Antonio Guterres, the ex Prime Minister of Portugal, has been sworn in as the ninth UN Secretary General. He succeeded Ban Ki-moon.

## Died

- ⇒ J. Jayalalithaa, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu died of a heart attack. She was laid to rest at Marina Beach near her mentor and AIDMK founder MG Ramchandra's memorial.
- ⇒ Cho Ramaswamy, a veteran thespian (related to drama), an actor, editor, lawyer and writer passed away.
- ⇒ Zsa Zsa Gabor, the Hungary-born legendary Hollywood actress passed away.
- ⇒ Henry Heimlich, who came up with a technique that saved thousands of choking victims, died recently. His simple technique called 'the Heimlich Manoeuvre' saved the diners who otherwise have died due to choking of food in the throat.



⇒ Anupam Mishra, a renowned environmentalist, passed away.

## **Miscellaneous**

- ⇒ The 6th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference was held in Amritsar. The conference was jointly inaugurated by Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani and Indian PM Narendra Modi. As many as 40 nations and groupings participated in the conference.
- ⇒ India and Vietnam signed an agreement on cooperation in peaceful use of atomic energy. Three new agreements were also signed with an aim to enhance aviation links, energy efficiency and promote parliamentary cooperation. Vietnam became the 14th nation to get into a nuclear partnership with India.
- ⇒ The Lok Sabha unanimously passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2016. The Bill had earlier been passed by the Rajya Sabha unanimously. The Bill has increased the number of categories of disabled persons from 7 to 21 and raised reservation for such persons from 3% to 4%.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court banned States and Union Territories from granting licences for the sale of liquor along National and State highways across the country. Moreover, existing licences will not be renewed after March 31, 2017.
- ⇒ The Supreme court recently gave a verdict that Indian airmen can't keep a beard as it is against their service rules.
- ⇒ The President Pranab Mukherjee, on his 81st birthday launched a '100 million for 100 million' campaign. This aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world, to end child labour, child slavery and violence against women.
- ⇒ The National Green Tribunal has directed the Rajasthan government to cancel allotment of salt pans in the Sambhar Salt Lake that fall within the wetland. It also directed the Rajasthan government not to make any further allotment of new salt pans within the wetland area.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court recently ruled that horse-racing in the form of 'tonga race' in Rajasthan cannot be banned in the name of cruelty to animals, as Jalli Katty or torture to bulls is banned in Tamil Nadu. The apex court ruled that the horses are biologically equipped for racing and their anatomy enables it to make use of speed which can be usefully used for racing, etc., unlike bulls.
- ⇒ The Union government launched the 'Accessible India Campaign' (Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan) that seeks to make at least 50% of all government buildings in the national capital and all State capitals fully accessible for the disabled by July, 2018.
- ⇒ France has opened the world's first solar panel road in a Normandy village.
- ⇒ The fifth edition of the India-Arab Partnership Conference was held in Muscat, Oman from December 14 to 15, 2016. Theme of the conference was 'Partnership towards innovation and cooperation in IT'.

- ⇒ The Union Minister for Human Resources Development, Prakash Javadekar launched 'Vittiya Saksharta Abhiyan' to encourage, create awareness and motivate all people around them to use a digitally enabled cashless economic system for transfer of fund.
- ⇒ Switzerland opened regular rail service through the world's longest tunnel, i.e., Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT), carrying passengers deep under the Swiss Alps from Zurich to Lugano. The 57 km GBT took 17 years to be completed.
- ⇒ The World Bank has paused the Indus Water Treaty initiated by India and Pakistan to resolve differences over the usage of the waters of the river Indus. India's Kishanganga Hydroelectric Plant on the Kishanganga river and Ratle Hydroelectric plant on the Chenab river and Pakistan's Neelum-Jheelum Hydropower Plant are in questions.
- ⇒ The government has formed an inter-ministerial task force to look into all the strategic aspects of Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary Nripendra Mishra will head the task force.
- ⇒ India is looking to have South China Sea countries such as Vietnam, Malaysia and Philippines use the tsunami early warning system developed by India.
- ⇒ In celebration of the 50th anniversary of United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), India hosted the two-day conference 'Global Standards for Rule-based Commerce' at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the conference.
- ⇒ According to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI), 2016 released by a Sydney based think tank Institute for Economics and Peace, India has been ranked 7th in terms of the impact of terrorism in 2015. According to the report, India experienced about 797 terrorist attacks in 2015 causing 289 deaths. Iraq topped the list followed by Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan.
- ⇒ Hematite stone paintings and inscriptions on rocks of Mesolithic Age, also called Middle Stone Age, have been discovered on the banks of Chambal river in Bundi, Kota and Bhilwara in Rajasthan.
- ⇒ The World Ayurveda Federation organised the 7th World Ayurveda Congress at Science City, Kolkata. The Ministry also organised AROGYA Expo at Science City to facilitate development and growth of AYUSH system of medicine.
- ⇒ The 7th edition of EKUVERIN military exercise between India and Maldives was held at Kadhdhoo, Laamu Atoll in Maldives.
- ⇒ The 5th edition of INDRA NAVY exercise, an annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Russian Navy was conducted in the Bay of Bengal.
- ⇒ The 2016 edition of the annual bilateral maritime exercise between Indian Navy and Royal Navy, UK was conducted at Mumbai and Goa.
- ⇒ The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has formally inscribed Yoga in its representative list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.



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- ⇒ The Border Security Force (BSF), the biggest border guarding force in the world celebrated its 51st Anniversary of Raising Day. On this occasion, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh presented prestigious “Maharana Pratap Trophy- 2016” on the BSF Punjab Frontier. BSF came into being on December 1, 1965.
- ⇒ The government of Assam has initiated a project titled Sustainable Action for Climate Resilient Development in Majuli to make the river island Majuli the country’s first ever Carbon Neutral district by 2020.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ 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 recently released 2016 IHS Jane’s Defence Budgets report, India has become the world’s fourth largest defence spender. United States, China, and the UK remain the top three defence spenders in the world. In 2016, the total global defence spending increased to \$1.57 trillion.
- ⇒ Scientists for the first time have detected trace amounts of ammonia in the upper troposphere, the lowest atmospheric layer of Earth. The ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) was released into the atmosphere as agricultural emission from livestock farming and fertilisation.
- ⇒ The International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is observed annually on December 9 to raise public awareness of corruption and what people can do to fight it. The 2016 Theme was “United against corruption for development, peace and security”.
- ⇒ 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. It is an experimental space scavenger that aims to study possibility of getting rid of space junk (debris) left into orbit by earlier space exploration missions.
- ⇒ TeamIndus, a private aerospace startup company is planning to send a spacecraft to the moon aboard an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) rocket. It will be India’s first private moon mission to be launched. TeamIndus is Bengaluru-based private aerospace company. It is led by Rahul Narayan.
- ⇒ Punjab Government has launched country’s first amphibious bus project at the Harike wetland near Amritsar. The amphibious bus named as “Harike Cruise” travels on land and as well as in water. Harike Wetland (also known as Hari-ke-Pattan) is the largest wetland in northern India.
- ⇒ A deep water port built in Myanmar’s Sittwe by India is ready to be commissioned. This will open Kolkata-Mizoram trade route via Myanmar. 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.
- ⇒ According to the India Social Development Report (SDR) 2016, about 45% of all persons with disabilities (PWD) in India are illiterate.
- ⇒ Hailakandi district of Assam has become the first district to pay wages to tea garden workers through individual bank accounts.
- ⇒ The Union Cabinet has approved MoU signed between ISRO and United States Geological Survey (USGS) for Cooperation in the exchange and use of US Land Remote Sensing Satellite Data.
- ⇒ Haryana became the first state in the country to launch Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) initiative for safety of women. It was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar.
- ⇒ The Madras High Court has banned all unauthorised Sharia courts in mosques across Tamil Nadu, saying centres of worship were only to be used for religious purposes.
- ⇒ Scientists including those from India have found a huge ‘dead zone’ of an estimated 60,000 square kilometres in Bay of Bengal. Dead Zone is an area in water body that contains little or no oxygen (or they are hypoxic) in bottom and near-bottom water.
- ⇒ The Union Power Ministry is going to launch new mobile application GARV-II to provide real time data of all six lakh villages of the country. The purpose of the mobile application is to ensure transparency in implementation of rural electrification programme.
- ⇒ State-owned power producer National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and aluminium producer National Aluminium Co. Ltd (NALCO) have signed MoU to establish a 2.4 giga watt (GW) Coal based power project at Gajmara, Odisha.
- ⇒ Rajasthan Government has launched Annapurna Rasoi Scheme to provide quality meal at cheap price to poor and needy on lines with Tamil Nadu Government’s Amma canteens.
- ⇒ The people in Kargil district of Jammu and Kashmir celebrated Losar festival. Losar is a Tibetan word which means ‘new year’.
- ⇒ The Hornbill Festival began in the Naga Heritage village of Kisama. It is also called as the ‘Festival of Festivals’.
- ⇒ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs is going to launch “Vanjeevan”, the National Resource Centre (NRC) for Tribal Livelihood issues in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
- ⇒ The Union Government is going to observe birth anniversary of the father of Indian Constitution B R Ambedkar (April 14) as “Water Day” in the country.
- ⇒ World War II Vintage Jeep Rally was held in Manipur.
- ⇒ Asia’s first cycle highway has been inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh. The 207 km long cycle highway runs between Etawah and Agra.

## Books & Authors :

- ⇒ Death is Not the Answer – Anjali Chhabria
- ⇒ Deep Singh Blue – Ranbir Singh Sidhu
- ⇒ Rain – Sriram Subramaniam

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