



## CURRENT AFFAIRS (MARCH - 2017) :

### National

- ⇒ The President of Kenya Uhuru Kenyatta made a state visit of India. He attended the Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017 and held talks with the Indian Prime Minister, the President and the Vice-President. This was the first state visit of the President of Kenya to India in 36 years. The two countries signed two agreements on agricultural cooperation and in the Line of Credit for \$100 million for agricultural mechanism.
- ⇒ Portugal Prime Minister Antonio Costa, who traces his roots to Goa, made a seven-day state visit to India. He held talks with the Prime Minister, the President and the Vice-President of India and attended the Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas in Bangaluru as the Chief Guest. In the last leg of his visit to India, he was in Goa and spent some time at his ancestral place.
- ⇒ The Prime Minister Narendra Modi, during the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention at Bangaluru, announced the launching of VAJRA (Visiting Advanced Joint Research) Faculty scheme by the Department of science and Technology. It will enable the NRIs and overseas scientific community to participate and contribute to research and development in India.
- ⇒ As a part of the 8th edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit (VGGGS), the Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Nobel Prize exhibition christened as 'Ideas Changing the World' at Science City in Ahmedabad. During the five-week long exhibition set-up by the Nobel Foundation, the Nobel laureates interacted with students, scientists, industry leaders and policy makers. The Nobel Prize Series 2017 was conducted for the first time in India.

### International

- ⇒ Finland has become the first country in Europe to pay its unemployed citizens a basic monthly income of 560 euros (\$ 587) in a unique social experiment. The amount will be paid to randomly selected 2000 citizens for a period of two years.
- ⇒ Turkey has dismissed more than 8,000 civil servants for alleged ties to terrorist organisations in the latest purge under a state of emergency imposed following the failed July 2016 coup attempt.
- ⇒ The United Nations General Assembly has recognised the year 2017 as the 'International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development'.
- ⇒ Norway has become the first country in the world to cease FM (Frequency Modulation) radio broadcasting and switched to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB).
- ⇒ The Japanese PM Shinzo Abe visited Pearl Harbour, the US naval base where he offered sincere and everlasting condolence to the victims of Japan's air

attack on the base 75 years ago during the World War II.

### Economy

- ⇒ Under the money circulation and credit control policy of the RBI, the existing rates (as on 27.03.2017) 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*) : 20.5%
  - \* 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%.
  - \* MCLR: 7.75% - 8.20%.(*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*).
- ⇒ According to the draft Quarterly Employment Survey 2017 by the Labour Bureau, the total estimated employment in eight key sectors stood at 205.22 lakh. Out of it, 199.66 lakh workers (97.29%) are employees and only 5.56 lakh workers (2.71%) are self-employed. Manufacturing continues to account for the highest number of employees at 101.17 lakh workers, followed by the education sector employing 49.98 lakh workers. The gender break-up says that males account for 72.15% (148.07 lakh) against 27.85% (57.15 lakh) female workers.
- ⇒ The Chandrababu Naidu Committee, constituted by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi after demonetization, has submitted its report. Among other recommendations, the committee recommended a banking transaction tax on cash transaction of ₹ 50,000 and above to curb cash use.
- ⇒ The RBI extended the period of enhanced Prepaid Payment Instruments (PPI) limit of ₹ 20,000 as part



- of efforts to promote digital payments. PPIs are methods that facilities purchase of goods and services against the value stored on such instruments. The value stored on such instruments represents the value paid for by the holder by cash, by debit to a bank account or by credit card.
- ⇒ The Cabinet has given its in-principle approval for listing of all the five public sector general insurance companies in the stock exchange. They are – New India Assurance Company Ltd., United India Insurance Company Ltd., Oriental Insurance Company Ltd., National Insurance Company Ltd. and General Insurance Company of India.
  - ⇒ The General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR), which seeks to check tax evasion and avoidance will kick in from April 1, 2017.
  - ⇒ World Economic Forum has published 'Inclusive Growth and Development Report 2017'. The report measured the economic development, other than GDP alone, of 79 developing economies. India was ranked 60th in the index.
  - ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a mobile app named BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) for the Unified Payment Interface (UPI) in order to make digital payments a 'habit' and make the country a cashless economy. The BHIM app does not even require an internet connection since it can also work on simple feature phones.
  - ⇒ Google India CEO Sundar Pichai announced key initiatives named 'My Business' and 'Digital Unlocked' for the small and medium businesses in India. 'My Business' would help small businesses set-up website from their mobile devices. 'Digital Unlocked' is an educational programme in association with FICCI and Indian School of Business. The programme will impart mobile and online courses to help small businesses.
  - ⇒ Twitter and ICICI Bank announced a partnership that integrates a slew of digital customer care support features for the bank. It will benefit millions of its customers with direct online response to their queries and feedback in real time.
  - ⇒ India has been placed at the 92nd place on the global index of talent competitiveness that measures how countries grow, attract and retain talent. The list is topped by Switzerland, followed by Singapore and the United Kingdom.
  - ⇒ According to a study released by rights group Oxfam, India's richest 1% people now holds 58% of the country's wealth. The list is led by Reliance Industries' Chairman and MD Mukesh Ambani (\$ 19.3 billion), followed by Sun Pharma MD Dilip Shanghvi (\$ 16.7 billion) and Wipro Chairman Azim Premji (\$ 15 billion). The total wealth in the country is estimated as \$ 3.1 trillion and the total global wealth is \$ 255.7 trillion.
- In global scenario, the richest persons' list is led by Bill Gates (\$ 75 billion), followed by Amancio Ortega (\$ 67 billion) and Warren Buffett (\$ 60.8 billion).
- ⇒ According to the JLL's fourth annual City Momentum Index, six Indian cities found their places in the list of 30 most dynamic cities of the world that have the ability to embrace technological change, absorb rapid population growth and strengthen global connectivity. Bangaluru topped the list. Other Indian cities in the list are Hyderabad (5th), Pune (13th), Chennai (18th), Delhi (23rd) and Mumbai (25th).
  - ⇒ China has begun its first freight train service to London from Yiwu, a market town in Zhejiang province. The train will travel for 18 days over more than 7,500 miles (12,000 km) to reach Britain from China. It will pass through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Belgium and France before arriving London.
  - ⇒ China has launched the world's longest bullet train network of more than 20,000 kms connecting almost all provinces. Recently China launched its longest bullet train 'Shangri-la of the World' which runs from Kunming, the capital of Yunnan Province to Beijing – a distance of 2760 km covered in 13 hours.
  - ⇒ The Beipanjiang Bridge, the world's highest river bridge (565 m) has been inaugurated in China. It connects the two mountainous provinces of Yunnan and Guizhou.
  - ⇒ Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has announced mobile TV services 'Ditto TV' and limited 'fixed mobile telephony' (FMT), an app that virtually turns mobiles into cordless phones working in sync with land-lines within home premises.
  - ⇒ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) approved the merger of online travel firm MakeMyTrip's Indian travel business with rival Ibibo Group. Under the deal, MakeMyTrip will own the businesses of Ibibo Group including goibibo, redBus, Ryde and Rightstay.
  - ⇒ London's insurance giant Lloyd has received the license from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) to set up its first branch in India at Mumbai.
  - ⇒ Transparency International (TI), a global watchdog, has published the corruption Perception Index (CPI), 2016. According to the report, no country gets close to perfect clean. The TI's scale indicates 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). Out of 176 countries surveyed, India's rank moved down from 76th to 79th with a score of 40. The global average score is 43.
  - ⇒ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas inaugurated oil and gas conservation campaign 'Saksham-2017' at Dimapur, Nagaland. The objective behind this campaign is to spread the awareness on fuel conservation so as to minimise the wastage of petroleum products. It is to be noted that India is



- the third largest global consumer of petroleum and imports 80% of the crude oil to meet the demand.
- ⇒ India signed a deal with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to fill half of an underground crude oil storage facility at Mangalore in Karnataka. This deal is a part of New Delhi's strategic petroleum reserve system, an emergency underground storage of 36.87 million barrels of crude oil which can supply about 10 days of the country's average daily oil demand.
  - ⇒ The government has imposed anti-dumping duty on jute products imported from Bangladesh and Nepal, as dumping of jute-goods from those countries are suppressing the prices and progress of domestic jute industries.
  - ⇒ The Union Government has transferred the advising role of the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) on utilisation of the proceeds from disinvestments to the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA).
  - ⇒ The Expert Group set up to prepare Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) has submitted its report to the Ministry of Rural Development. The expert group was headed by former Finance Secretary Sumit Bose.
  - ⇒ The World Economic Forum (WEF), NITI Aayog, World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) and Cornell University will work together to develop an 'India Innovation Index' to provide impetus to States to drive innovative spirit.
  - ⇒ The consumers of cooking gas (LPG) now gets a discount of ₹ 5 per cylinder on online booking and payment.

## Sports

- ⇒ Gujarat won its maiden Ranji Trophy by defeating Mumbai at the Holkar Stadium, Indore.
- ⇒ India clinched the Under 19 Asia Cup cricket by defeating Sri Lanka. Abhishek Sharma was the captain of the Indian team.
- ⇒ The Indian women's football team clinched the South Asian Football Federation (SAFF) Cup for the 4th consecutive time by defeating Bangladesh at Kanchenjunga Stadium, Siliguri.
- ⇒ The Rest of India led by Cheteshwar Pujara successfully defended the Irani Cup cricket by defeating the Ranji Champion Gujarat.
- ⇒ Switzerland's Roger Federer emerged champion of the Australian Open Men's Singles tennis title beating Spain's Rafael Nadal. In the women's final, Serena Williams of America clinched the Australian Open title by defeating her elder sister Venus Williams. Serena became the most Slam singles titles champion in the Open Era, leaving behind Germany's Steffi Graf (22 Grand Slams) on top. It was Serena's 23rd Grand Slam Women's Singles title triumph. Australian Open Women's title is also known as Daphne Akhurst Trophy.
- ⇒ Chennai Smashers emerged champion of the Premier Badminton League-2 beating Mumbai Rockets in New Delhi.
- ⇒ Sania Nehwal clinched the Malayasia Masters Grand Prix Gold Women's Singles title.
- ⇒ PV Sindhu clinched the Syed Modi International Badminton Championship Women's Singles title in Lucknow. Sameer Verma won the Men's Singles crown.
- ⇒ Farrukh Amonotov of Tajikistan clinched the 15th Parsvnath Delhi International Open Chess crown.
- ⇒ In the 67th Senior National Basketball Championship, Uttarakhand won the Men's title and Kerala won the Women's title.
- ⇒ Sports Minister Vijay Goel has constituted a nine-member committee to frame comprehensive National Sports Development Code across sports disciplines. The committee is headed by the Sports Secretary Injeti Srinivas and its members include Abhinav Bindra, Prakash Padukone and Anju Bobby George. It is to be noted that the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) recently appointed Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Singh Chautala as life presidents. But later the IOA was forced to revoke the controversial decision.

## Awards

- ⇒ The 62nd Jio Flimfare Awards were conferred at the Dome, National Sports Club of India (NSCI), Mumbai. Main awardees were –
  - Best Flim – Dangal
  - Best Actor (Male) – Aamir Khan for Dangal
  - Best Actor (Female) – Alia Bhatt for Udda Punjab
  - Best Director – Nilesh Tiwari for Dangal
  - Critics Award for Best Actor (Male) – Manoj Bajpayee for Aligarh and Shahid Kapoor for Udda Punjab
  - Best Film People's Choice – Khamakha
  - Best Short Film – Chatney
  - Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award – Shatrughan Sinha
  - Best Music Director – Pritam for Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
  - Best Male Playback Singer – Arijit Singh for Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
  - Best Female Playback Singer – Neha Bhasin for Sultan's 'Jag Ghoomeya'.
- ⇒ Priyanka Chopra has been awarded with the People's Choice Award for the favourite dramatic TV actress category for her role in 'Quantico' in Los Angeles. This is the second People's Choice Award for her as she had claimed her first one in 2016 as the Favourite Actress in a New TV Series category for her role in Quantico.
- ⇒ Nineteen soldiers that undertook the surgical strike across the Line of Control, have been given Kirti Chakra while their commanding officers have been given Yudh Sewa Medal.



- ⇒ ISKCON's Govardhan eco village at Wada taluka in Thane district of Maharashtra has been conferred the United Nations award for taking innovative measures of 'sustainable tourism in India'.
- ⇒ Cristiano Ronaldo, the captain of Portugal football team was conferred his fourth FIFA Player of the Year (Men's) honour. Carli Lloyd of the USA won FIFA Women's Player of the Year honour.
- ⇒ Iris Mittenaere, Miss France won the Miss Universe title for 2016 in Manila.

## Persons

- ⇒ Alok Kumar Verma, the Delhi Police Commissioner, has been appointed Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ⇒ Justice Mian Saqib Nisar is the new Chief Justice of Pakistan.
- ⇒ Anil Baijal, former Home Secretary, has been appointed new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.
- ⇒ Shah Rukh Khan was given honorary doctorate degree by Maulana Azad National Urdu University for his contribution in the promotion of Urdu language.
- ⇒ Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE Crown Prince was the Chief Guest at the 68th Republic Day Parade.
- ⇒ David R Syiemlieh is the new Chairman of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). He succeeded Alka Sirohi.
- ⇒ Natarajan Chandrasekaran has been selected as the next executive chairman of Tata Sons. He will replace Cyrus Mistry who was shunted in October 2016.
- ⇒ Anurag Thakur, the President of the Board of Control for cricket in India (BCCI) and Ajay Shirke, BCCI Secretary, have been sacked for they failed to implement the reforms recommended by the Justice Lodha Committee.
- ⇒ J.S. Khehar was sworn in as the 44th Chief Justice of India (CJI). He succeeded Justice Tirath Singh Thakur.
- ⇒ Nikki Haley is the first Indian-American to be the next US Ambassador to the United Nations.
- ⇒ Ranveer Singh – Brand ambassador of Thums Up (Coca Cola).
- ⇒ Akshay Kumar – Brand ambassador of Tata Motors.
- ⇒ Virat Kohli – Brand ambassador of Gionee mobile.

## Died

- ⇒ Om Puri, the legendary actor and the recipient of two National Awards and two Filmfare Awards, died at the age of 66.
- ⇒ Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran's ex-President, passed away.
- ⇒ Engene Cerman of the USA, the last man to set foot on the moon, died recently.
- ⇒ William Peter Blatty, the author of the novel 'The Exorcist' and writer of its Oscar winning big screen adaptation, passed away.

- ⇒ Surjit Singh Barnala, the former Punjab Chief Minister passed away.
- ⇒ Sundarlal Patwa, former MP Chief Minister, died recently.
- ⇒ Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan, the noted sitar player passed away.
- ⇒ Alexander Kadakin, the Russian Ambassador to India passed away.
- ⇒ C V Vishveshwara, who did pioneering work on black holes, died recently. He was also called the 'Black Hole Man of India'.
- ⇒ Naqsh Lyallpuri, a renowned Urdu poet Jaswant Rai Sharma (original name), died recently.
- ⇒ Tony Atkinson, an eminent British economist passed away.

## Miscellaneous

- ⇒ Indian Standard on gold hallmarking has been revised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS). Now, the hallmarked gold jewellery will be available in three grades – 14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat. For 22 carat gold jewellery 22 K will be marked in addition to 916, i.e., (22 K 916); for 18 carat gold jewellery 18K will be marked in addition to 750, i.e., (18 K 750) and for 14 carat gold jewellery 14 K will be marked in addition to 585, i.e., (14 K 585).
- ⇒ The Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar launched a dedicated web portal 'ShaGun' for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. ShaGun aims to capture and showcase innovations and progress in Elementary Education sector of India by continuous monitoring of the flagship scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. ShaGun is coined from the words 'Shala' meaning education and 'Gunvatta' meaning quality. Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan is a centrally sponsored scheme providing universal access to education to children in the age group of 6 to 14 years of age.
- ⇒ The Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal launched the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) Web Portal and Mobile App. UDAY is a financial turnaround and revival package for electricity distribution companies (DISCOMS) initiated by the government with the intent to find a permanent solution to the financial mess that the power distribution is in.
- ⇒ Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated refurbishment, renovation and a water filtration plant at the Katas Raj Hindu Temple in Chakwal district in the Punjab province of Pakistan.
- ⇒ India and Pakistan exchanged the lists of their nuclear installations under a bilateral agreement that bars them from attacking each other's atomic facilities. This was the 24th consecutive exchange of such lists between the two countries.
- ⇒ The government of India and the IDA (International Development Authority), a soft loan window of the





- World Bank, signed a \$ 48 million 'Nagaland' Health Project' to improve the health service in Nagaland.
- ⇒ INS Vikramaditya, India's biggest aircraft carrier has become the first Indian warship to have an ATM. The ATM is run by SBI through satellite.
  - ⇒ India's 2nd Scorpene class submarine 'Khanderi', built at Mazagaon dock in collaboration with a French company DCNS, has been launched and will be commissioned in December 2017. The first one was 'Kalvari'.
  - ⇒ Bihar claimed to have formed the world's longest human chain ever made to support the prohibition of liquor enforced in the State. Over three crore people took part in the human chain formed across the entire state to spread awareness about the evil of liquor in the society.
  - ⇒ The Ken-Betwa river linking project, India's first river interlinking project has received formal environmental, forest and tribal clearance. It will connect the Ken river in Madhya Pradesh and the Betwa river in Uttar Pradesh.
  - ⇒ Power Minister Piyush Goyal unveiled the world's largest street light replacement programme in South Delhi Municipal Corporation (SDMC). In this programme, two lakh LED lights will replace the existing inefficient lamps.
  - ⇒ The West Bengal State Department of Fisheries has announced the catching, buying and selling of Hilsa fish that weighs less than 500 grams as illegal. Hilsa has become the first fish to get a legal protection.
  - ⇒ Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state. Around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land was gradually converted to certified organic land by implementing organic practices.
  - ⇒ Haryana, notorious for its skewed sex ratio and patriarchal mindset, saw a historic turnaround. The sex ratio at birth in the state (914) touched the 900 mark (for every 1000 male child) for the first time in almost two decades.
  - ⇒ The Border Security Force (BSF) launched operation 'Sard Hawa' at the western international border with Pakistan. The purpose of the operation is to keep a hawk's eye to check the instances of infiltration due to dense fog in the area.
  - ⇒ The Supreme Court has directed the Kerala government to release entire ₹ 500 crore compensation to over 5000 victims who were affected due to Endosulfan. The major number of victims were reported to be affected in Kasargod district where Endosulfan was aerielly spread by a state-owned company on cashew plantations.
  - ⇒ The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) member-countries have finalised MoUs for cooperation in small and medium sized enterprises (SME) sector. IORA is an international organisation consisting of coastal states bordering the Indian Ocean.
  - ⇒ Gurugram, Haryana, is going to set up a pilot corridor for the 'Caterpillar Train' or C-Train, a new concept for urban mass-transit solution which won a global award at the MIT in the USA.
  - ⇒ According to the 'Annual Reading Trends Report for 2016' conducted by Amazon India, Delhi has emerged as the most well-read city in India for the fourth consecutive year with Bangaluru and Mumbai taking the second and third spots respectively.
  - ⇒ Prasar Bharati hosted the first edition of the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) International Television Dance Festival at Hyderabad.
  - ⇒ The World's first 'Gender Literature Festival' will be held in Patna.
  - ⇒ The scientists have named three relatively little-known diseases – MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome), Lassa fever and Nipah virus as the next potential global health emergency threat. Vaccines for their prevention are being tried to develop.
  - ⇒ A 'leap second' was added to the Indian clock. As the atomic clock at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) in New Delhi struck 23 : 59 : 59 on December 31, 2016, it was programmed to add an extra second to 2017 to compensate for a slowdown in the Earth's rotation.
  - ⇒ 104th Indian Science Congress was held at the Tarakarama Stadium of Sri Venkateswara University in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The Theme was 'Science and Technology for National Development'.
  - ⇒ A Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) was signed between the Ministry of Railway and the government of Jharkhand for developing railway infrastructure in the state.
  - ⇒ To encourage people help accident victims, the Delhi government has approved Good Samaritan Policy. Under this, a monetary incentive of ₹ 2000 and an appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims.
  - ⇒ The Union government has achieved its target of providing 1.5 crore free LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to the BPL households in less than 8 months.
  - ⇒ The government has announced that liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) consumers will get a discount of ₹ 5 per cylinder when they buy and pay for the cooking gas online.
  - ⇒ India is actively discussing the possible sale of the indigenously developed Akash surface-to-air missile systems to Vietnam. India will also begin training Vietnamene fighter pilots on its Sukhoi-30 MKI fighter jets from this year.
  - ⇒ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2nd edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. Raisina Dialogue is an annual conference, envisioned to be India's flagship conference of geo-politics and geo-economics.



# EXCELLENT TUTORIAL

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

- ⇒ Tamil Nadu Governor Vidyasagar Rao promulgated an ordinance lifting a nearly three-year old ban on the traditional bull-taming sport 'Jallikattu'.
- ⇒ Scientists from IIT Kharagpur have found that India has lost more than 250 sq. km. of its coastline due to rising sea levels and increased erosion. The suspected culprit is the 7000 km away Antarctic region, which generates high waves and stormy winds which take only 4-5 days to reach the Indian coast.
- ⇒ Karang, a small lake-island in Loktak lake in Manipur has been declared as the first cashless island in India under the Digital India Scheme.
- ⇒ The 10th edition of Jaipur Literature Festival was held at the iconic Digg Palace in Jaipur with the theme of 'Freedom to Dream : India at 70'.
- ⇒ Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has announced a ₹ 100 crore prize for any scientist from Andhra Pradesh who wins a Nobel Prize.
- ⇒ Dharmasala has been announced as the second capital of Himachal Pradesh, besides Shimla.
- ⇒ Kangra of Himachal Pradesh has become the first district in India to geo-tag 100% of the assets generated under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The geo-tagging of assets under MGNREGA is being done as to ensure online recording of the assets generated under various welfare programmes.
- ⇒ The USA has lifted a 20-year economic embargo on Sudan.
- ⇒ The Supreme Court dismissed a PIL Challenging income tax exemptions granted to donations made to political parties.
- ⇒ The world famous 11-day annual festival Bargarh Dhanua Jatra, which chronicles the birth of Krishna and his childhood Leelas has been celebrated in Odisha.
- ⇒ Madhya Pradesh government inaugurated a first-of-its-kind scheme of the country named 'Digital Dakiya' in Indore to encourage cashless transaction in the State. Under the scheme, a Digital Postman, referred as Digital Dakiya would visit door-to-door in both urban and rural areas to train households specially women and elderly people about digitised transactions.
- ⇒ The 20th edition of the National Conference for e-Governance 2016-17 was held in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The theme of this year's conference was 'Internet of Things and e-Governance'.
- ⇒ India's first 2G (second generation) ethanol bio-refinery will be set up by Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd at Bhatinda in Punjab. It will produce ethanol from sugarcane and other agricultural residues for doping in petrol. Ethanol Blended Petrol (EBP) aims to dope 10% ethanol in petrol in near future to address the growing environmental concerns.

## **Books & Authors :**

- ⇒ Cyber Pathshala – Tarun Vijay
- ⇒ The People's President : Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam – S M Khan
- ⇒ Jinnah Often Came to Our House – Kiran Doshi
- ⇒ Half of What I Say – Anil Monon
- ⇒ The Adivasi will Not Dance – Hansda Sowvendra
- ⇒ The Island of Lost – Manjula Padmanabhan
- ⇒ An Era of Darkness : The British Empire in India – Shashi Tharoor
- ⇒ Not Dead Yet – Phil Collins
- ⇒ Durbar – Tavleen Singh
- ⇒ The Unsuitable Boy – Karan Johar
- ⇒ Living with Tigers – Valmik Thapar

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