

THE HINDU REVIEW: JUNE 2016 for SBI PO MAINS & Other Examinations

National Current Affairs

- ◆ India has joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) as a full member. India's entry into the regime as its thirty-fifth member will enable India to buy high-end missile technology and also enhance its joint ventures with Russia.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the 'Smart City Mission' involving 83 projects from 20 different cities in the country. The ambitious mission of Union Government was launched at a function held at Pune's Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex one year after it was announced.
- ◆ Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off a maiden train on 81-km railway line between Sonipat and Jind and stressed on the need to create infrastructure to promote growth and to meet future challenges.
- ◆ India has been ranked 105th out of 130 countries on the World Economic Forum's Human Capital Index, which measures countries' ability to nurture, develop and deploy talent for economic growth. Finland topped the index.
- ◆ The World Bank Group has signed an agreement with the International Solar Alliance (ISA), to collaborate on increasing solar energy use around the world with the goal of mobilising \$1 trillion in investments by 2030. The ISA is a group of 121 countries led by India and is headquartered in India.
- ◆ As per the recently released 2016 World Investment Report, India ranks 10th in FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) inflows. Topped by USA. Maharashtra Government has accorded minority status to Jews in the state as per the provisions of the Maharashtra State Minorities Commission Act, 2004.
- ◆ Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off a new train service between Danapur and Saharsa in Bihar through video-conferencing at Rail Bhawan in New Delhi with an aim to connect every region of the country with the rail network.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena have inaugurated Duraipappah Stadium in Jaffna which was renovated by India.
- ◆ India and South Korea launched a platform named 'Korea Plus' to promote and facilitate investments from the east Asian country.
- ◆ The first timetabled freight train, named 'Cargo Express', from Delhi to Bengaluru was flagged off.
- ◆ Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, the Minister of State (I/C) for Petroleum and Natural Gas will represent India at the St

Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF) to be held in Russia.

- ◆ India has pledged a financial assistance of Rs 48.84 million to Nepal for the construction of a Koteswara Multiple Campus building in the capital Kathmandu.
- ◆ Railway Ministry launched passenger service initiatives namely- a Janani Sewa for mothers.
- ◆ India has joined a group of nearly 40 countries that have signed a Europe-led clampdown on tax evasion and corruption.
- ◆ Nepal's Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Kamal Thapa completed his three-day visit.
- ◆ The US has returned over 200 stolen cultural artifacts to India, some dating back 2,000 years. The estimated cost of these artifacts is around US\$ 100 million.
- ◆ The Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) and the US firm Westinghouse have agreed to begin engineering work for six nuclear power plant reactors in India.
- ◆ India and the US have announced the setting up of two financial assistance programmes worth \$60 million for supporting India's much-needed clean energy initiatives including in solar power and other renewables.
- ◆ Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has flagged off the inaugural run of the Tiger Trail Circuit Train from Delhi Safdarjung Station.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghanistan President Dr Ashraf Ghani jointly inaugurated the Afghan-India Friendship Dam with in Herat province in Western Afghanistan.



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- ◆ In recently released 2015 Good Country Index (GCI), India has been placed at 70th position in the list of 163 countries. The list has been topped by Sweden as the best country in the world.

- ◆ India became the co-chair of Working Group on Maritime Situational Awareness under Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS).

International Current Affairs

- ◆ The United Kingdom has voted by 52 % to 48 % to leave the European Union after 43 years in a historic referendum. Now total members in EU is 27-nation.
- ◆ Mahasthangarh, the 3rd century BC archaeological site in Bogra, Bangladesh, has been declared as the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SARRC) cultural capital for the year 2016-17.
- ◆ The Colombian government and FARC guerrillas have declared the final day of one of the world's oldest wars with the signing of a ceasefire agreement to end more than 50 years of bloodshed. The signing ceremony held at Havana was witnessed by Colombian president Juan Manuel Santos, FARC chief Timoleón Timochenko Jiménez.
- ◆ Sri Lankan Parliament unanimously passed the Right to Information (RTI) bill with amendments. The bill that seeks to restore transparency and good governance in the country was adopted without a vote in the Parliament after two days of debate.
- ◆ The China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved first set of loans totaling US 509 million dollars to finance projects in four countries namely- Bangladesh, Pakistan, Indonesia, and Tajikistan.
- ◆ Washington DC-based the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has cleared the payment of \$501 million for Pakistan.
- ◆ The United States plans to provide more than 3 billion dollars a year in support for the Afghan national security forces from 2018 through 2020.
- ◆ Rio de Janeiro's governor declared a state of financial emergency.
- ◆ North America to have its first sanctuary for dolphins. This is announced by Baltimore's National Aquarium.
- ◆ Israel has been elected to chair a UN committee for the first time in 71-year history.
- ◆ Pakistan has topped the list of 19 countries figuring in the 2016 Malware Infection Index (MII) in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ◆ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has approved 1.5 billion US dollar loan to Sri Lanka.
- ◆ The World Health Organization (WHO) has announced that Thailand has become the first Asian country to eliminate mother-to-child HIV transmission.
- ◆ Norway became the first country to prohibit deforestation.

States in India Current Affairs

- ◆ Odisha government has approved a proposal of the Panchayati Raj department to add 500 new gram panchayats before the 2017 three-tier panchayat polls.
- ◆ ADB is multilateral lending agency based in Manila, Philippines, has approved a 500 million dollars loan to

build a bridge across the Ganga River in Bihar. The loan funds will be used to build 9.8 km road bridge in Bihar on the Ganga River.

- ◆ Andhra Pradesh became the 13th State to sign the agreement and formally join the Central scheme for reviving financially-stressed electricity distribution utilities, called the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY).
- ◆ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the newly constructed headquarters of Jharkhand's special anti-Maoist force 'Jharkhand Jaguar' in Jharkhand's capital city Ranchi. The headquarters will pave the way for the further strengthening of the force.
- ◆ Majuli was in news as the Government of Assam approved its up gradation as a district. With this approval, Majuli has become the first island district in the country.
- ◆ To commemorate the International Day of Yoga, Andhra Pradesh Postal circle have organized the programme of releasing the booklet for public and stamps on yoga for Philatelists.
- ◆ Mori village in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh will be developed as a smart village of global standards by using digital tools, real-time information, and uninterrupted internet connectivity.
- ◆ In Assam, the annual Ambubachi Mela at Kamakhya temple begun.
- ◆ Nagpur and the Chinese city of Jinan have become 'sister cities' after signing a pact which allows for the exchange of ideas and technology in the field of education, urban planning, youth affairs, and sports.
- ◆ Centre approves a proposal for Greenfield Electronic Park in Odisha.
- ◆ Andhra Pradesh is the first State to have obtained a telecom licence and it can issue phone numbers starting with the '797' series from August this year.
- ◆ During the recent event in District Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, 3,049 people registered their spot in the Guinness book of world records for performing largest Karma Naach dance ever.
- ◆ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar inaugurated 'Child Labour Tracking System (CLTS)'.
- ◆ Gujarat island Shiyal Bet gets electricity for first time.
- ◆ Sikkim became the first state in India to have an open government data portal linked 'sikkim.data.gov.in'.
- ◆ Telangana State will be setting up a 'Pharma City' on 12,500 acres of land in Rangareddy and Mahbubnagar districts.
- ◆ 37.5 crores sanctioned by the Union Urban Development Ministry for development of Machilipatnam town under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) scheme.
- ◆ In Bihar, Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has flagged off Champaran Satyagrah Express train. The train will run between Bapudham, Motihari to Anand Vihar, Delhi.

- ◆ Maharashtra government has decided to celebrate the 21st day of every month as Yoga day across all schools, colleges and universities in the state.
- ◆ Odisha becomes first Indian state to give pension and food benefits to transgenders.
- ◆ The Haryana Government launched Asia's First Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme at Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre, Pinjore.
- ◆ Himachal Pradesh became the first state in the country to have a State Data Centre (SDC).
- ◆ Guwahati has become the first city in the country to have its own 'city animal' with Kamrup metropolitan district administration declaring Gangetic River Dolphin as its mascot.

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- ◆ The government and multilateral lending agency Asian Development Bank (ADB) has signed a \$120 million loan agreement to improve irrigation and water management infrastructure in Odisha.
- ◆ Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has launched Right to Public Grievance Redressal Act. The act seeks disposal of peoples' complaints or redressal of grievances from Government officials within 60-days.
- ◆ Mori village in East Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh will be developed as a smart village.
- ◆ Maharashtra Government appointed taskforce headed by agriculture expert Kishore Tiwari to address agrarian issues.
- ◆ Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav appointed a judicial commission to probe into the recent Mathura violence hours which will be headed by Justice Mirza Imtiyaz Murtaza.

New Appointments/Persons Resigned

- ◆ Nokia has announced the appointment of Sanjay Malik as the head of Indian market, effective August 1.
- ◆ The Prime Minister of United Kingdom (UK) David Cameron announced his resignation hours after the Brexit vote that favoured leaving the European Union (EU). During the campaign, Cameron-led Conserve Party advocated for remaining with the EU.

- ◆ South African Indian-origin lawyer Yasmin Sooka has been appointed to chairman of three member UN commission (committee) to monitor the human rights situation in South Sudan.
- ◆ Former BCCI President and former International Cricket Council Chairman N Srinivasan has re-elected as the president of the Tamil Nadu Cricket Association (TNCA) for the 15th consecutive term.
- ◆ Anju Bobby George and Pulella Gopichand have been named as the members of Khelo India.
- ◆ The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) has cleared the appointment of NS Vishwanathan as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). He will succeed H R Khan.
- ◆ The Union government has appointed Mr. Sujoy Bose as the Chief Executive Officer of National Investment and Infrastructure Fund (NIIF) Ltd.
- ◆ Gudni Johannesson has won the Iceland's presidential election. He is a history professor who ran as an independent in the election and was able to secure 39.1% of the vote. He will succeed Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, who served 20 years as head of state.
- ◆ V Sasi of the CPI (M), representing the Chirayinkeezh constituency, has been elected the Deputy Speaker of the 14th Kerala Legislative Assembly.
- ◆ Suzuki Motor Corp has appointed Toshihiro Suzuki, son of Chairman Osamu Suzuki, as its next chief executive effective the same day, as the Japanese automaker attempts to recover from a vehicle testing scandal.
- ◆ Two women, Noor Huda Roslan and Nenny Shuhaidah Shamsuddin have been appointed as judges of Malaysia's Islamic Shariah High Court for the first time in the history of the judiciary of the Muslim-majority country.
- ◆ Rodrigo Duterte was sworn in as the 16th president of the Philippines and promised to make sweeping changes to the country's political system. Maria Leonor Robredo was sworn in as Vice President.
- ◆ SoftBank Group has named Ken Miyauchi as its new President and Chief Operating Officer after the resignation of Nikesh Arora.
- ◆ S.K. Roy, the head of state-run Life Insurance Corp (LIC), the biggest single investor in the country, has tendered his resignation two years before his term was due to end.
- ◆ India's lone athletics World Championship medal winner Anju Bobby George has resigned as President of the Kerala Sports Council.
- ◆ Aweek Sarkar has resigned as the Editor-in-Chief of Ananda Bazaar Patrika (ABP) and The Telegraph. However, he would continue as the chairman of the group.
- ◆ World's leading payments platform PayPal has announced the appointment of Anupam Pahuja as the Managing Director (MD) and Country Manager for its India operations.
- ◆ Virginia Raggi elected as the Rome's first female mayor.

- ◆ Businessman Bipin R Patel was appointed as the President of Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCI) for the term 2016-17.
- ◆ Former BJP MP Chetan Chauha has been appointed as the Chairman of the prestigious National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT).
- ◆ UN Women announces Anne Hathaway as 'goodwill ambassador' to promote gender equality.
- ◆ Supriya Sahu was appointed as Director General of Doordarshan.
- ◆ Sunil Bharti Mittal, founder chairman of Bharti Enterprises, has been elected as the head of International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), based in Paris, France.
- ◆ Senior legal service officer Suresh Chandra was appointed as Union Law Secretary.
- ◆ Fijian diplomat Peter Thomson has been elected as the President of 71st session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).
- ◆ Kolhapur-headquartered RBL Bank (formerly known as The Ratnakar Bank Limited) appointed Brijesh Mehra as the head of corporate banking at RBL.
- ◆ Germany's largest lender, Deutsche Bank has announced that Gunit Chadha, who is serving as Chief Executive officer for Asia-Pacific region would leave the company next month on 17th of July.
- ◆ Ranu Langthasa appointed as chairperson of NC Hills Autonomous Council in Assam.
- ◆ Justice Rakesh Ranjan Prasad became the Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
- ◆ Satya Pal Jain, the additional Solicitor General of India and former Parliamentarian has been appointed as a part-time member of the 21st Law Commission of India.
- ◆ Dr. M Beena, appointed as the Managing Director of the Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA)
- ◆ V Vaithalingam, Congress leader and former Chief Minister elected as the Speaker of the legislative Assembly of Puducherry.
- ◆ G Ragesh Chandra has been designated as Secretary to Puducherry Chief Minister V Narayanasamy.
- ◆ State-run firm Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL), Chairman and Managing Director, Narendra Kumar Yadav has resigned.
- ◆ Per Lodin, Major General of Sweden, was appointed as the Head of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP).
- ◆ Jet Airways chairman Naresh Goyal has been re-elected to IATA's (International Air Transport Association) Board of Governors.
- ◆ Tamil Nadu appointed P Rama Mohana Rao as the new Chief Secretary of the state.
- ◆ G Kalyanakrishnan has taken over as New Chief Executive of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC), Hyderabad.
- ◆ Dr. Shahid Rasool has taken charge as the new director of the Commonwealth Educational Media Centre for Asia (CEMCA).
- ◆ Ashok Ganapathy has appointed as the Director of Bharti Airtel Ltd.
- ◆ Adobe has announced the appointment of Kulmeet Bawa as Managing Director (MD) for South Asia.
- ◆ Bollywood actress Dia Mirza has named as the ambassador for Swachh Saathi (student internship) programme.
- ◆ Congress Legislature Party leader V Narayanasamy has sworn in as Chief Minister of the Union Territory of Puducherry.
- ◆ P Dhanapal and Pollachi V Jayaraman were unanimously re-elected as Speaker and Deputy Speaker respectively.
- ◆ Senior IPS officer Navin Agarwal was appointed as Director General (DG)/ Chief Executive Officer (CEP) of National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA).
- ◆ Nikesh Arora resigned as the Representative Director, President and Chief Operating Officer (COO) of SoftBank Group (SBG).
- ◆ Indian-origin diplomat Kamala Shirin Lakshmir nominated as the next American Ambassador to Malaysia.
- ◆ Indian-origin diplomat Kamala Shirin Lakshmir nominated as the next American Ambassador to Malaysia by US President Barack Obama.
- ◆ Facebook India has appointed Umang Bedi as managing director.

Banking Current Affairs

- ◆ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has released its much awaited 'Vision-2018' document. The 'Payment and Settlement Systems in India: Vision-2018' aims at building best of class payment and settlement systems for a 'less-cash' India and ensuring access to mobile banking services to even basic phone users. The current vision document is focussing on improving the infrastructure and regulations in the country to reduce cash transactions and increase use of technology.
- ◆ The State Bank of India (SBI) was named in the Hall of Shame list of 158 banking institutions that have invested billions of dollars in companies making cluster bombs.
- ◆ South India Bank has announced the launch of its Remit2India Service. Currently, south Indian Bank's facility is available for remittance from Europe, Australia, UAE, and Singapore.
- ◆ India's largest public sector lender State Bank of India (SBI) has created a dedicated IT innovations and startup fund and have set aside Rs 200 crore for investment in promising startups.
- ◆ The cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the takeover by State Bank of India (SBI) of several subsidiaries.
- ◆ DCB Bank has launched Bengaluru's first ATM that accepts Aadhaar number and Aadhaar fingerprint (biometric) instead of ATM/Debit Card and PIN to dispense cash.

- ◆ A small regional Florida bank, Stonegate Bank has made history by issuing the first credit card that can be used in Cuba.
- ◆ DBS Bank India appointed Mr. Niraj Mittal as the Managing Director and Head of Institutional Banking for the country.
- ◆ State Bank of India (SBI) and Spain's Caixa Bank signed a pact to provide loans to Indo-Spanish joint ventures and local enterprises.
- ◆ Axis Bank has launched India's first internationally-listed certified green bond to finance climate change solutions around the world at London Stock Exchange (LSE).
- ◆ Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan has announced the Second Bi-monthly Monetary Policy Statement for the year 2016-17 & kept the repo rate unchanged at 6.5%, reverse repo rate stays at 6.00 %, and CRR remains at 4%.
- ◆ RBI formulated the Scheme for Sustainable Structuring of Stressed Assets (S4A) as an optional framework for the resolution of large stressed accounts.

Economy Current Affairs

- ◆ The Cabinet approved the implementation of the recommendations of the Seventh Central Pay Commission. The report recommended a 14.27 percent hike in basic pay at junior levels, 23.55 per cent overall hike in salaries, allowances and pension.
- ◆ Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has released a commemorative silver coin to mark the 300th martyrdom day of Sikh General Banda Singh Bahadur.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of Fund of Funds for Startups (FFS) at Small Industries Development Bank of India (Sidbi) for contribution to various alternative investment funds (AIF).
- ◆ The government has also approved a Rs 6,000 crore special package for textiles & apparel sector to create one crore new jobs in 3 years, attracting investments of \$11 billion and generating \$30 billion in exports.
- ◆ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved the development of four laning of Hubli-Hospet Section of NH-63 in Karnataka.
- ◆ Union Government approves 100% FDI under government approval route for Food products, Defence Sector, Pharmaceutical Sector, Aviation Sector, Animal Husbandry & Single Brand Retail Trading.
- ◆ The Union Finance Ministry has announced that non-resident Indians (NRIs) can now open National Pension Savings (NPS) accounts online i.e. through eNPS if they have Aadhaar Card or Permanent Account Number (PAN) card.
- ◆ Govt decides to allow export of 10% missile systems to friendly countries.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet approved Rs 2,070-crore highways project in Punjab to ensure faster movement of traffic between Chandigarh and Ludhiana.

- ◆ Markets regulator SEBI placed a stricter KYC norms and disclosure regime for Participatory Notes.

Business Current Affairs

- ◆ Technology services provider Tech Mahindra Ltd (TechM) has acquired UK-based digital transformation firm The BIO Agency Ltd. The acquisition was carried out in an all-cash deal for an enterprise value of up to 45 million pounds.
- ◆ Exide Life Insurance has announced that they have signed India's ODI and T20 cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni as its brand ambassador.
- ◆ E-commerce major Flipkart and Royal Enfield have entered into collaboration where flipkart will sell complete range of accessories of Royal Enfield.
- ◆ Tata Advanced Systems Limited (TASL) and Boeing have celebrated the foundation laying of a new facility in Hyderabad for its joint venture named Tata Boeing Aerospace (TBAL).

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- ◆ Microsoft is going to acquire professional social platform LinkedIn in all cash transaction valued at \$26.2 billion.
- ◆ Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd (TPREL) acquired the renewable energy (RE) subsidiary of Delhi-based Welspun Renewables Energy Pvt Ltd (WREPL).
- ◆ The World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim has slashed the global growth forecast of 2016 by 0.5 % to 2.4 %. India's growth projections to 7.6% for 2016-17 and 7.7% in 2017-18.
- ◆ India has been ranked 141 on the 2016 Global Peace Index, falling behind countries like Burundi, and Serbia on the 163-country list. Iceland topped the list.
- ◆ According to recently released BP Statistical Review of World Energy India has surpassed Japan to become the world's third-largest oil consumer.
- ◆ Asian Development Bank has approved a USD 100 million (around Rs. 660 crores) loan to strengthen a key irrigation system and improve water management in the Vennar sub-basin of Cauvery Delta in Tamil Nadu.
- ◆ In 2016 rankings, Walmart has topped the Fortune 500 list for the fourth consecutive year.

- ◆ Businessman Vijay Mallya declared as a Proclaimed Offender by a special court for the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Mou/Agreements Signed

- ◆ India and Switzerland have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish formal cooperation in the fields of skills development and vocational and professional education and training.
- ◆ Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Advertising Standards Council of India (ASCI) signed MoU with each other to put check on the issues of misleading as well as uncorroborated advertisements in the food and beverage sector.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC). It will facilitate sharing of experience and expertise of both the parties in the area of recruitment.
- ◆ The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has signed MoU with the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), a policy research institution, to launch a new 'Initiative on Solar for Healthcare'.
- ◆ The Government approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Tanzania for bilateral cooperation in water resources management and development.
- ◆ The Maharashtra government is reportedly planning to sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Tata Power for sourcing 1,000 MW from the upcoming Dherand Thermal Project.
- ◆ The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and India Ports Global Private Limited (IPGPL) have signed a MoU for implementation of additional works on the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTP) in Myanmar.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has given its approval to the signing of a Protocol amending the Agreement between India and Belgium for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Steinbeis GmbH Co. KG, Germany for technology transfer and resourcing in manufacturing, including sub-sectors of Capital Goods.
- ◆ India and Thailand have signed two agreements in culture and educational sectors to boost bilateral ties.
- ◆ MoU for the cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sector signed between India and Taiwan. Air Services Agreement was also signed between them.
- ◆ MoU between Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Canadian Space Agency (CSA) on cooperation in the field of outer space was approved.

- ◆ Tech-based car-hailing company Uber has entered into an agreement with Tata group to help its drivers own Indica and Indigo cars with less hassle.
- ◆ Ministry of railways has signed an agreement with Government of Odisha for the formation of a joint venture Company to develop the railway infrastructure in the state.
- ◆ India and Ghana signed three bilateral agreements to strengthen co-operation in varied fields.
 - ✚ Visa waivers for holders of diplomatic and official passports
 - ✚ Setting up a Joint Commission
 - ✚ Collaboration in diplomatic training
- ◆ Food Corporation of India (FCI), a state-run organization has signed an agreement with the Adani group for construction of two silos to store wheat.
- ◆ Internet search engine Google and Tata Trusts' joint initiative Internet Saathi was launched in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- ◆ The Indian government and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed an agreement for a \$200 million loan to upgrade 176-km roads in Jharkhand.
- ◆ India and Qatar have signed seven agreement in various fields to boost bilateral ties which includes investment on tourism and trading enhancement.
- ◆ India and Namibia signed two Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on capacity building for civil servants of Namibia and to set up of centre of excellence in Information and Communications Technology (ICT).
- ◆ India-Bangladesh transit facility under the revised Inland Water Transit and Trade Protocol became operational between Kolkata-Ashuganj-Tripura.
- ◆ India-US inked 8 MoUs to boost economic growth & sustainable development.
- ◆ India signed a MoU with USA to facilitate hassle-free entry of Indians into America at selected airports.

Summits

- ◆ Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the 22nd meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council at Ranchi, Jharkhand. The meeting is chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- ◆ Vice President Hamid Ansari has inaugurated a two-day international conference on 'Yoga for Body and Beyond' in New Delhi.
- ◆ A two-day meeting of heads of state of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) under the presidency of Uzbekistan to be held in Tashkent.
- ◆ Minister of State for AYUSH, Shripad Yesso Naik, has inaugurated a National Health Editors' Conference in New Delhi.
- ◆ FICCI, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) will be the national partner for the 8th Vibrant Gujarat Summit. Theme of the summit will be 'Connecting India to the World'.

- ◆ Asia's largest annual security forum Shangri-La Dialogue was inaugurated in Singapore to talk about security issues in the Asia-Pacific region.

Obituaries

- ◆ NEIL O'BRIEN, a leader of the Anglo-Indian community who is credited with pioneering quizzing in the country, passed away in Kolkata.
- ◆ Veteran Malayalam theatre artist and poet Kavalam Narayana Panicker has passed away in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. He was 88 years old.
- ◆ Xerxes Sapur Desai, the man who founded India's largest watchmaker company 'Titan Co Ltd', has passed away following a prolonged illness in Bengaluru. He was 79 years old.
- ◆ The Chairman of Naga National Council (NNC) Isak Chishi Swu has passed away in New Delhi after a prolonged illness. He was 87.
- ◆ Renowned sculptor and painter KG Subramanyan passed away in Vadodara, Gujarat following a brief illness. He was 92.
- ◆ Noted Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah has passed away following a brief illness at Ragannagudem, Telangana. He was 61.
- ◆ Renowned Educationalist Jeppiaar passed away.
- ◆ Famous Television actress Ann Morgan Guilbert died after battling with cancer. She was 87.
- ◆ Assam Pradesh Congress President (APCC) Anjan Dutta has passed away in New Delhi. He was 64 years old.
- ◆ Distinguished Hindi writer, activist, thinker and cultural personality Mudrarakshasa has passed away after following a prolonged illness in Lucknow. He was 82 years old.
- ◆ Donald Carr, the former captain of England Cricket team passed away.
- ◆ Veteran theatre actor Achyut Lahkar has passed away at the age of 85 years old.
- ◆ The former Chairman of Karnataka Bank Mr. M.S. Krishna Bhat has passed away in Mangaluru. He was 78 years old.
- ◆ Canada's Ice-hockey icon Gordie Howe has passed away at the age of 88 years.
- ◆ Veteran journalist Inder Malhotra has passed away in Delhi at the age of 86 years.
- ◆ In Madhya Pradesh, ruling BJP MLA Rajendra Dadu died in a road accident. He was 62 years old.
- ◆ Former Kerala Assembly Speaker T S John has passed away at a hospital at Chertala in Alapuzha.
- ◆ Veteran journalist KK Katyal has passed away after a brief illness in Delhi. He was 88 years old.
- ◆ American mixed martial arts fighter Kimbo Slice has passed away in Florida. He was 42 years old. His real name was Kevin Ferguson.
- ◆ Chess grandmaster Victor Korchnoi has passed away in Wohlen, Switzerland. He was 85 years old.

- ◆ Amber Gurung, the renowned Nepali musician, and composer of the country's national anthem has passed away.
- ◆ Eminent actress and theatre personality Sulabha Deshpande has passed away in Mumbai. She was 79 year old.
- ◆ India's first Mr Universe Manohar Aich has passed away in Kolkata. He was 104 year old.
- ◆ Noted Telangana poet and lyricist Guda Anjaiah passed away.
- ◆ Manimala Devi, veteran Odia actress, passed away recently.

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Sports Current Affairs

- ◆ Former Spinner Anil Kumble will be the new coach of Indian Cricket Team. The decision of his selection was taken in the BCCI working committee meeting in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh.
- ◆ Russian hockey winger Artemi Panarin, playing for the Chicago Blackhawks, has won the 2015-2016 Calder Memorial Trophy. The announcement was made by the US National Hockey League (NHL).
- ◆ Grand Master Harika Dronavalli added another feather to her cap by winning the best women's player award in the Eurasian Blitz chess tournament in Kazakhstan.
- ◆ The BCCI is set to introduce a new Twenty20 event, to be branded as mini IPL, outside India in September.
- ◆ Defending champion Chile won the 2016 Copa America Football tournament by defeating Argentina in a penalty shootout.
- ◆ Lionel Messi has announced his retirement from international football after Argentina crashed to an upset defeat against Chile in the final of the Copa America.
- ◆ The Argentina women's team has claimed a record seventh International Hockey Federation (FIH) Champions Trophy title with a 2-1 win over reigning World and Olympic champions, the Netherlands, in the final at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre.
- ◆ According to ICC Ranking released in Dubai, India has maintained its number three position in the ICC ODI team rankings which is being headed by world

champions Australia. In the MRF Tyres ICC Player Rankings for ODI batsmen, India's Virat Kohli is placed second while South Africa's AB de Villiers has continued to lead the ODI batsmen chart while his countryman Hashim Amla is placed third. ICC Player Rankings for ODI bowlers which is being headed by West Indian Sunil Narine and in the MRF Tyres ICC Player Rankings for ODI all-rounders, Bangladesh's Shakib Al Hasan leads the ODI all-rounders ranking.

- ◆ India's leading food products company Amul has signed up as the official sponsor for the Indian contingent to the Rio Olympics 2016.
- ◆ Sanjeev Rajput, a doyen shooter of India bagged a silver medal for India in men's 50-metre rifle 3 position event at the ongoing series of sport activities of ISSF World Cup in Baku.
- ◆ The All India Football Federation is set to launch a football promotion programme in October targeting 11 million children across India.
- ◆ British tennis star Andy Murray has created history after he fought back to win the Queen's Club tournament for a record fifth time defeating Milos Raonic in a pulsating final on 19 June 2016.
- ◆ India has won the three-match T20 series against Zimbabwe 2-1. In the third and final match played at Harare, India defeated Zimbabwe by a narrow three-run margin. Man of the series award won by Barinder Sran (an Indian bowler).
- ◆ BCCI suspended and issued show-cause notices to the top Goa Cricket Association officials, who were arrested for alleged misappropriation of organization funds.
- ◆ International Cricket Council (ICC) has suspended Sri Lanka's fast bowler Shaminda Eranga from bowling.
- ◆ The Indian mixed recurve team of Deepika Kumari and Atanu Das has won silver at the Archery World Cup in Antalya, Turkey.
- ◆ Mercedes' German driver Nico Rosberg won the European Grand Prix.
- ◆ Australia has won the Hero Hockey Champions Trophy 2016 by defeating India at the Lee Valley Hockey and Tennis Centre in London.
- ◆ The Rio 2016 organising committee revealed the official slogan for the first Olympic and Paralympic Games in South America – "A new world".
- ◆ India is set to make its maiden appearance in the Under 17 Futsal World Cup, Paraguay as a wild card to take part in the event.
- ◆ Indian men's 4x400m relay team has created a new national record.
- ◆ USA Women's won gold in FINA Women Water Polo World League.
- ◆ Usain Bolt won the inaugural Jamaica National Racers Grand Prix.
- ◆ Mercedes racing driver Lewis Hamilton won the Formula 1 Canada Grand Prix title.

- ◆ Indian ace badminton player, Saina Nehwal won her second Australian Open title by defeating China's Sun Yu in the finals.
- ◆ Real Madrid Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first athlete from a team sport in almost 20 years to top Forbes annual list of the World's Highest-Paid Athletes.
- ◆ Russian tennis player Maria Sharapova was banned for two years by the International Tennis Federation.
- ◆ Eden Gardens to host India's 1st pink ball match
- ◆ World number one Novak Djokovic beat Britain's Andy Murray 3-6, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4 to win his first French Open title and complete the career Grand Slam.
- ◆ According to Forbes Magazine report, Serena Williams has overtaken Maria Sharapova as the world's highest-paid sportswoman.
- ◆ The founder and chairperson of Reliance Foundation, Nita Ambani nominated as a candidate to be a new member of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) headquartered at Lausanne, Switzerland.

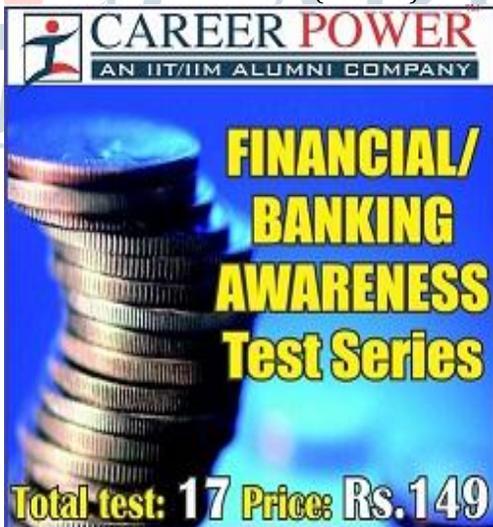
Important Days

- ◆ International Yoga Day observed on 21st June with the theme "Connect the Youth". The Union Government organized the event titled 'The National Event of Mass Yoga Demonstration' at Chandigarh.
- ◆ World Refugee Day is observed on 20 June 2016.
- ◆ International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict was observed on 19 June 2016.
- ◆ World Day to Combat Desertification (WDCD) 2016 was observed on 17 June.
- ◆ World Elder Abuse Awareness Day was observed globally on 15 June.
- ◆ 14 June observed as the World Blood Donor day.
- ◆ World Day against Child Labour observed on the 12th of June. The theme was 'End child labour in supply chains - It's everyone's business.'
- ◆ The World Oceans Day observed globally on 8th June. The theme of this year is "Healthy Oceans, Healthy Planet".
- ◆ World Environment Day (WED) was observed globally on 5 June 2016 with theme Zero tolerance for the illegal trade in wildlife.
- ◆ City of Nawab's -Lucknow, India will host the junior men's hockey World Cup this year.

Defence Current Affairs

- ◆ Heralding a new era of DRDO-Academia Partnership, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Jadavpur University (JU), Kolkata to establish the Jagadish Chandra Bose Centre for Advanced Technology (JCBCAT).
- ◆ The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Union Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has given its approval for the purchase of 145 Ultra-Light Howitzers (ULH) guns from the US. This will cost around 750 million dollars.

- ◆ Indigenously-built heavyweight anti-submarine torpedo Varunastra has been successfully inducted in the navy, making India one of the 8th countries to have the capability to design and build such a system.
- ◆ Ballistic missile Barak-8 was successfully tested from Balasore district of Odisha.
- ◆ Public sector aerospace Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has unveiled indigenous Basic Trainer Aircraft (BTA) Hindustan Turbo Trainer-40 (HTT-40) in Bengaluru.
- ◆ The first 3 female pilots of IAF are: Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh.
- ◆ Russia launched the most powerful nuclear icebreaker named Arktika. The Project 22220 vessel is 189.5 yards long and 37.1 yards wide.
- ◆ The Joint military exercise named Malabar Exercise begins between India, Japan and US near the South China Sea.
- ◆ Union Home Ministry has decided to form new reserve battalion. It will be called Maharana India Reserve Battalion.
- ◆ The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) members and partners launched Anaconda-16 Exercise, the biggest ever joint military exercise in Poland.
- ◆ Exercise Desert Eagle II, the second in the series of bilateral exercises between Indian Air Force (IAF) and United Arab Emirates Air Force (UAE AF) concluded.



Science & Tech. Current Affairs

- ◆ A booster for NASA's Space Launch System (SLS), the most powerful rocket in the world, has been successfully tested, an advance that may pave the way for future human exploration in deep space, including the journey to Mars.
- ◆ China has successfully launched its second Shijian-16 series satellite for space research and experiments.
- ◆ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has launched a record 20 satellites in a single mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

- ◆ The International Astronomical Union named a 9.8 kilometers wide crater on Mars as Langtang, a popular trekking site in Nepal.
- ◆ Chinese supercomputer Sunway TaihuLight with 93 petaflop/second speed was declared as the world's fastest supercomputer.
- ◆ US scientists team has created the world's first microchip that has 1,000 processors and is thought to be the fastest chip designed in a university lab. It is named as the "KiloCore" chip.
- ◆ United State based private space transport service company SpaceX successfully launched two commercial satellites viz. EUTELSAT 117 West B and ABS-2A.
- ◆ China launched its the 23rd Satellite called BeiDou Navigation Satellite System.
- ◆ Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched a record 20 satellites in a single mission from the Satish Dhawan Space Center in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh.

Awards & Recognition

- ◆ IIT-Kanpur professor Sanjay Mittal has been awarded the twenty-fifth GD Birla Award for Scientific Research for the year 2015. He has been bestowed with this award for his significant contributions have been in the area of Mechanics.
- ◆ The 2016 IIFA awards which are officially known as the 17th International Indian Film Academy Awards (IIFA 2016) held in Madrid, Spain between 23 to 26th of June.
- ◆ In 2016 IIFA awards, Bollywood stars, Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh bagged the Best Actor (Female) and Best Actor (Male) trophy at the 17th IIFA extravaganza for their performance in "Piku" and "Bajirao Mastani" respectively. While, Sanjay Leela Bhansali won the Best Director for "Bajirao Mastani" and "Bajrangi Bhaijaan" was named the Best Film at a glittering ceremony in Spain.
- ◆ National Indian Students and Alumni Union (NISAU) have awarded Spiritual leader Sri Sri Ravi Shankar with an Honorary Fellowship in the UK for his contributions to world peace and culture.
- ◆ Two Indians, Kartik Sawhney, and Neha Swain, have won the 2016 Queen's Young Leaders award in the United Kingdom which has been presented by Queen Elizabeth at the British monarch in Buckingham Palace.
- ◆ An Indian social entrepreneur Zubaida Bai, has been named among 10 "champions and pioneers" by United Nation chief Ban Ki-moon under the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative that calls on companies to align with universal principles of human rights, environment, and anti-corruption.
- ◆ Five-time World Champion Viswanathan Anand was conferred the "Honoris Causa" Doctor of Science by Indian Institute Of Technology (IIT) during its 49th convocation ceremony.
- ◆ Four Indian-Americans have been honoured with prestigious Great Immigrants: The Pride of America

Award 2016. Four Indian-Americans are Sunder Pichai, Hari Sreenivasan, Vikram Malhotra & Bharati Mukherjee.

- ◆ 'Thithi', a Kannada film won the best film award and best script writers award at the Asia New Talent Awards in the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival.
- ◆ Kerala Tourism won four awards at 'FilmAT' which is one of the biggest international film festivals dedicated to tourism, art and ecology in Poland.
- ◆ Karnataka Bank Ltd has bagged CFBP (Council for Fair Business Practices) Jamnalal Bajaj award for fair business practices.
- ◆ Canadian poet, novelist and environmental activist Margaret Atwood was awarded the 2016 PEN Pinter Prize.
- ◆ Pune-based diabetes specialist Shashank S Shah was conferred with the Vivian Fonseca Scholar Award 2016.
- ◆ President Pranab Mukherjee has been awarded the highest civilian award of Ivory Coast, 'the National Grand Crois'.
- ◆ Home Ministry has proposed instituting 'yoga medals' for central paramilitary troops for displaying exceptional skills in the discipline.
- ◆ The National Award for Best Performing Central PSU conferred to The Airports Authority of India (AAI) for its Roof Top Solar Power initiatives.
- ◆ 'Sansad Ratna' awards given to Member of Parliaments. The winners are:
 - ◆ PP Chaudhary
 - ◆ Heena Vijaykumar Gavit
 - ◆ Shrirang Appa Barne,
 - ◆ Raajeev Shankarrao Satav,
 - ◆ Shivaji Adhalrao Patil and
 - ◆ P Rajeev.
- ◆ Tata Power Solar has bagged the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) award for rooftop solar power projects.
- ◆ An Indian American author Mr. Akhil Sharma has won the prestigious 2016 International DUBLIN Literary Award for his novel 'family life'.
- ◆ Eminent Indian-origin professor Lord Kumar Bhattacharyya has been awarded the prestigious Regius Professorship in Manufacturing by Queen Elizabeth II for his outstanding contribution in manufacturing.
- ◆ Indian Olympic Association president N. Ramachandran has been awarded with the prestigious Olympic Order by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for his outstanding services to the Olympic movement.
- ◆ Deshauna Barber, a serving Army Reserve officer of United States (US), has crowned as the Miss USA 2016.
- ◆ Renowned Indian sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik has won the gold medal in people's choice prize at world championship festival of sand sculpting Russe, 2016, which was held in Bulgaria.
- ◆ Mohun Bagan announced that it will honour country's only Dronacharya football coach Syed Nayeemuddin with the Mohun Bagan Ratna.

- ◆ Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree awarding the Order of Friendship to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

Current Schemes/App/Portal/Programmes Launched by State & Central Govt.

- ◆ Union Government has launched a pilot programme to run two-wheelers on Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) in New Delhi to curb air pollution in cities. The project was jointly launched by Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar at the CGO Complex CNG station.
- ◆ Governor of Nagaland and Assam P B Acharya has launched women helpline number - 181 in the premises of District Hospital Dimapur in Nagaland and also inaugurated Sakhi, a one stop Centre, intended to support women affected by violence both in private and public spaces under one roof.
- ◆ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched a new scheme Kalinga Siksha Sathi Yojana with an aim to provide education loan at 1 % interest to students for pursuing higher studies. Under this scheme, poor students aspiring to pursue professional and technical education can now avail themselves of study loan up to 10 lakh rupees at 1% interest rate.
- ◆ As a measure for counter operation during Natural calamities, exercise 'Jalrahat' commenced at Narangi Cantt in Assam which is a joint initiative by State Govt and Armed Forces for relief during floods.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal of extending the deadline for implementing the Ujjwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) by a year to March 31, 2017.
- ◆ The Punjab government has launched a special fund "Mukh Mantri Punjab Hepatitis C Relief Fund" to provide free treatment for patients affected by Hepatitis C.
- ◆ The Assam Government has launched a unique initiative 'Maitree Ek Gyan Yatra' to link primary schools to high schools to colleges.
- ◆ Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram and Oil Minister Dharmendra Pradhan have launched the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana to provide free of cost LPG cooking gas connections to women from BPL households in Sambalpur, Odisha.
- ◆ Union Minister of State for Power, Coal and New and Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal has launched 'URJA'-Urban Jyoti Abhiyaan Mobile app.
- ◆ Human Resource Development Minister Smriti Irani has launched Vidyanjali, a school volunteer programme in New Delhi. Through Vidyanjali, the government aspires to bring change in the quality of education in schools.
- ◆ The "HelpAge SOS-Save our Seniors App" was launched by Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry Kiran Bedi. This app has 24x7 functionality and aims at helping elders in distress at any given time.
- ◆ Minister for Power, Coal and New & Renewable Energy Piyush Goyal has launched 'Surya Mitra' mobile app at the national workshop on rooftop solar power in New Delhi.
- ◆ Government has launched a campaign 'Swachh Yug', a collaborative effort of three Union Ministries, to bring about behavioral change among people staying in villages along the holy river.

- ◆ Rajasthan Government has launched mobile application RajVayu for sharing information about air quality index of Jaipur, Udaipur and Jodhpur.
- ◆ Haryana Government has launched Asia's first 'Gyps Vulture Reintroduction Programme' at the Jatayu Conservation Breeding Centre at Pinjore.
- ◆ Prime Minister Narendra Modi outlined RAPID, a five-point charter for tax administrators to reform and to expand the net base of the direct tax. The Prime Minister outlined the RAPID as
 - R - Revenue, - A - Accountability,
 - P - Probity, - I - Information
 - D - Digitization.
- ◆ Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal Khattar laid foundation stone of Jai Jawan Awas Yojna (JJAY) at Bahadurgarh, Haryana.

Miscellaneous/Books/Visits/Power Plants Current Affairs

- ◆ State-run Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has commissioned two units of 14 Megawatts each at Salma Hydro Electric Project in Afghanistan.
- ◆ Six Indian World War I (WW-I) heroes have become part of Britain's new digital archive.
- ◆ The book titled A Life in Diplomacy was released which is written by former Indian diplomat Maharajkrishna Rasgotra.
- ◆ Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will embark on a five-day visit to China starting from 23rd of June, where he will attend the first annual meeting of the board of governors of the 100-billion US dollar Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- ◆ The Union Government has banned the use of potassium bromate (KBrO₃) as a food additive on the recommendation of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).
- ◆ The Union Ministry of AYUSH Ministry has released a Yog Geet (Yoga song) for celebrating the second International Yoga Day on 21 June 2016. It has been

- produced and written by Dheeraj Saraswat. Music Director of the song was Sumanto Ray.
- ◆ A bronze statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose has been unveiled at the Indian cultural centre premises in Malaysia in the presence of nine Indian National Army (INA) veterans.
- ◆ Prime Minister of Thailand, Prayuth Chan-ocha, arrived in New Delhi for a three-day visit.
- ◆ Jal Marg Vikas is a project on the river Ganga that is being developed between Allahabad and Haldia to cover a distance of 1620 kilometers.
- ◆ The Union Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) has launched a scheme for setting up of 1000 Mega Watt (MW) Wind Power Project connected to transmission network of Central Transmission Utility (CTU).
- ◆ President Pranab Mukherjee began his six-day three-nation visit to Ghana, Ivory Coast and Namibia.
- ◆ A selection committee has been appointed to shortlist candidates for the RBI's governors post. This is headed by the cabinet secretary - P K Sinha.
- ◆ A report titled Road Accidents in India 2015 released. Mumbai city had the highest number of road accidents while Delhi had the highest number of deaths due to road accidents.
- ◆ Four Indian women, including SBI Managing director Arundhati Bhattacharya and ICICI Bank Managing director Chanda Kochhar, are in the new list of Forbes' world's 100 most powerful women. Topped by German Chancellor Angela Merkel.
- ◆ The Rajiv Gauba Committee on Decongestion of Traffic in Delhi submitted its report to the Union Ministry of Urban Development.
- ◆ The Unseen Indira Gandhi which is authored by Dr KP Mathur released.
- ◆ Sachin Tendulkar's name to be used in Kerala Government's Anti-Drug Campaign.

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