

significance against the backdrop of continuing agitation by Madhesis', since the adoption of the Constitution on 20 September 2015, which led to death of around 50 civilians.

iii. The Madhesi people inhabit the flat southern region of Nepal known as the Madhesh. Their dissatisfaction with the new Constitution was with the fact that the Pahadi or hill communities, who constitute 50 percent of the population, got 100 seats in the parliament, while Madhesis' got only 65 seats.

iv. Madhesis' were also fighting against the Constitutional scheme related to proposed boundaries of the new provinces. Unlike the earlier structure in which majority Madhesis' were within a single administrative region, the new schemes proposes its split in two and force them to share their provinces with hill districts.

#### 4. SpaceX successfully launched and landed Falcon 9 rocket

i. American aerospace company SpaceX on 21 December 2015 achieved the historic feat of successfully launching and landing Falcon 9 rocket.



ii. The Falcon 9 rocket was successfully launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, carrying 11 satellites to low-Earth orbit and was also successfully landed after 10 minutes to the Earth.

iii. It is the first time in the history of rocketry that a rocket has returned back after delivering a spacecraft to its orbit, so that it could potentially fly again. This exercise of using reusable rockets will help in reducing the cost of access to space making explorations a more realistic goal.

iv. The 230-foot Falcon 9 blasted off from Launch Complex with 1.5 million pounds of thrust and carrying 11 commercial satellites. It marks the company's first flight since an accident in June 2015 that destroyed a cargo ship bound for the International Space Station.

v. Success of SpaceX's mission is significant as the NASA is heavily relying on this private company for transport to the International Space Station after the US Space Shuttle program ended in 2011.

#### 5. Delhi Government appointed Gopal Subramaniam Commission on DDCA scam

i. Delhi Government on 21 December 2015 appointed a one-member commission of inquiry on Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) scam. A decision in this regard was taken in a

cabinet committee meeting headed by the Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



ii. The commission will be headed by former Solicitor General Gopal Subramaniam. It will probe the alleged financial irregularities by the administrators of the DDCA.

iii. The commission was appointed on the basis of recommendation of the three-member committee headed by Chetan Sanghi. The committee was constituted to probe alleged financial irregularities in DDCA after the Chief Minister's office received serious complaints about its functioning.

iv. The committee, which submitted its report on 17 November 2015, suggested the Delhi Government to set up a commission under the Commission of Enquiries Act 1952 to probe affairs of the cricket administrators.

#### 6. 10th WTO Ministerial Conference adopted Nairobi Package

i. The five-day long 10th World Trade Organisation (WTO) Ministerial Conference concluded on 19 December 2015 in Nairobi, Kenya. The conference concluded with the adoption of the Nairobi Package that is aimed at benefitting organization's poorest members.



ii. The conference was attended by trade ministers of 162 member countries of the WTO. India was represented by Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Commerce & Industry Nirmala Sitharaman. It is for the first such meeting hosted by an African nation.

iii. The Nairobi Package contains a series of six Ministerial Decisions on agriculture, cotton and issues related to least-developed countries.

iv. The conference agreed on the timetable for implementing a landmark deal to eliminate tariffs on 201 information technology products valued at over 1.3 trillion US dollars per year.

v. Negotiations on the expanded ITA were conducted by 53 WTO members, including both developed and developing countries, which account for approximately 90 per cent of world trade in these products.



- ii. As per the report, oil and gas, combined, are expected to supply around 53 percent of the global energy demand by 2040. Global energy demand is set to increase by almost 50 percent in the period to 2040, with the overall energy mix continuing to be led by fossil fuels at almost 78 percent.
- iii. Medium-term oil demand is revised upward, compared to the WOO 2014, rising above 97 million barrels a day (mb/d) by 2020. Oil demand is projected to be at 110 mb/d by 2040.
- iv. Non-OPEC liquids supply increases from 56.5 mb/d in 2014 to around 60 mb/d in 2020, a downward revision of 1 mb/d compared to the WOO 2014. By 2040, non-OPEC liquids supply falls below 60 mb/d. OPEC crude expands by 10 mb/d to a level of 40.7 mb/d by 2040 – an increase of 1 mb/d compared with 2014 publication.
- v. The long-term value of the OPEC Reference Basket is assumed to rise from more than 70 US dollars per barrel in 2020 to 95 US dollars per barrel by 2040 (both in 2014 dollars). At the global level, oil-related investment required to cover future demand for oil over the forecast period 2015–2040 is estimated at almost 10 trillion US dollars, in 2014 prices.

#### 5. Indian American Rakesh K Jain selected for US National Medal of Science 2015

i. Indian American professor Rakesh K Jain was on 22 December 2015 selected for the National Medal of Science 2015 of United States (US). Jain is a professor at Harvard Medical School and Director of the Tumour Biology Laboratory at Massachusetts General Hospital.



- ii. He will receive the honour along with 16 other winners of the National Medal of Science and National Medal of Technology and Innovation at a White House ceremony in 2016. Professor Jain holds a B.Tech degree in Chemical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology- Kanpur.
- iii. Prof. Jain is regarded as a pioneer in the area of tumour micro-environment and widely recognized for his seminal discoveries in tumour biology, drug delivery, in vivo imaging and bioengineering. His work includes uncovering the barriers to the

delivery and efficacy of molecular and nano-medicines in tumours and developing new strategies to overcome these barriers.

iv. A mentor to more than 200 students from over a dozen different disciplines, he has received 75 awards from engineering and medical professional societies and institutions. He is a member of all three branches of the US National Academies- the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

v. The National Medal of Science was created by statute in 1959 and is administered for the White House by the National Science Foundation. Awarded annually, the Medal recognizes individuals who have made outstanding contributions to science and engineering.

#### 6. 30th National Consumers Right Day observed

i. 30th National Consumers Right Day was observed across India on 24 December 2015. The day provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of the consumer movement and the need to make every consumer more aware of their rights and responsibilities.



- ii. The Consumer Protection and Action Committee (CPAC) celebrated the day by distributing complaints forms, information brochures and other consumer rights literature freely to the public.
- iii. The day is being observed annually on 24 December, since the Consumer Protection Act, 1986 was enacted on 24 December 1986. The Consumer Protection Act was enacted with the objective of providing better protection of consumer's interest.
- iv. The act provides effective safeguards to the consumer, against various types of exploitations and unfair dealings, relying mainly on compensatory rather than a disciplinary or preventive approach. The act applies to all goods and services unless specifically exempted, which covers the private, public and cooperative sectors. It also provides speedy and inexpensive adjudication. The Act envisages the promotion and protection of rights of consumers such as Right to Safety, Right to be informed, Right to Choose and Right to be heard.

iv. On 26 December 2004, Indian Ocean tsunami claimed some 230000 lives which had its epicenter off the west coast of Sumatra, Indonesia. It affected lives and the natural environment in six countries in the region including India, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Thailand and Maldives.

#### 11. Biocon launched generic version of hepatitis-C drug Harvoni in India

- i. Biocon Limited on 24 December 2015 launched the generic version of hepatitis – C drug in the Indian market. The generic version of the drug named Harvoni will be sold under the brand name CIMIVIR-L.
- ii. The generic drug Harvoni is an improved version of Gilead's hepatitis-C drug Sovaldi or sofosbuvir and will come in fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir-sofosbuvir of 90mg and 400mg, respectively.



iii. The sale of ledipasvir-sofosbuvir combination was recently approved by the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI), which is being manufactured in India under a license from Gilead.

iv. Harvoni has been approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (USFDA) for the treatment of chronic hepatitis-C genotype-1 infection and it has shown high cure rates of around 90 percent.

v. Earlier in the year 2015, Biocon entered into a non-exclusive licensing agreement with Gilead Sciences to manufacture and market chronic hepatitis-C medicines, including Sovaldi and Harvoni, for India and 91 other developing countries by paying 7 percent royalty on sales.

vi. According to Biocon, the CIMIVIR-L, a once-a-day oral therapy, will offer a convenient, effective and safe alternative to people infected with the Hepatitis-C virus (HCV).

#### 12. Lok Sabha passed The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015

- i. The Lok Sabha on 22 December 2015 passed The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015. The Bill will allow doubling of wage ceiling for calculating bonus of factory workers.
- ii. The Bill seeks to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. The Bill 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha on 7 December 2015. It seeks to raise the eligibility limit for payment of bonus from a salary of 10000 rupees to 21000 rupees a month.
- iii. It seeks to raise this calculation ceiling of bonus to 7000 rupees per month or as per the minimum

wage notified for the employment under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 (whichever is higher).

iv. It seeks to mandate prior publication of rules made by the Union Government in the Official Gazette to allow for more public consultation. It will have retrospective effect and will come into force on 1 April 2015.



Daily GK Update: 25th December, 2015

#### 1. Modi inaugurates new Afghan Parliament built by India in Kabul

i. Prime Minister Modi received a warm embrace and welcome by Afghan president Ashraf Ghani in Kabul where he arrived on Friday for delegation-level bilateral talks and for inaugurating the new Afghan Parliament building. Calling India and Afghanistan's friendship antiquated and "bound by a thousand ties", Ghani thanked India for its "valuable assistance" as Afghanistan weathers "hard times".



ii. "Pleased to welcome PM Modi to Kabul. Though, India & Afghanistan need no introduction, we are bound by a thousand ties... We have stood by each other in the best and worst of times," Ghani tweeted.

iii. Delegation-level bilateral talks between the two countries were held at Dilkosha Palace, the Afghan presidential office. Modi later inaugurated the Afghan parliament building that was constructed by India at a cost of USD 90 million. The Prime Minister also addressed the two houses.

iv. Ghani and Modi toured the parliament building and arrived at the main session hall in the presence of the guests, including member of the Afghan parliament, Khaama press reported.

#### 2. IndianOil, Oil India sign MoU with Rosneft

i. Indian Oil Corporation and Oil India Ltd have signed a memorandum of understanding with Russian national oil company Rosneft for



### **PM NaMo inaugurates new building of Afghanistan Parliament in Kabul**

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new building of Afghanistan Parliament in the capital city Kabul built by India.
- ii. It was inaugurated during Narendra Modi's first official visit to Afghanistan after becoming Prime Minister.
- iii. He also named one block of Parliament as Atal Block after former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
- iv. Prime Minister also handed over 4 Mi-25 attack helicopters to Afghanistan Air Force symbolising a shift in India's position on supplying 'offensive' equipment.



### **Seychelles Govt allows India to build Naval Base on its Assumption Island**

- i. Seychelles government allowed India to build its first Naval Base on the Assumption Island in the Indian Ocean region (IOR) as a joint project between both countries.
- ii. In this regard, Seychelles government has allocated a plot of land on in its Assumption Island which will help to enhance mutual security along our western seaboard in IOR.
- iii. India's first Naval Base project has acquired significance following China acquiring its first African naval base in Djibouti (near Horn of Africa) in November 2014.



Daily GK Update: 28th December, 2015

### **1. Reliance Jio launched 4G telecom service**

- i. Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd (RJIL) or Reliance Jio on 27 December 2015 launched 4G telecom service. The service was launched at the Reliance Corporate Park in Navy Mumbai to mark the birth anniversary of Dhirubhai Ambani, founder of the Reliance Industries Limited (RIL).
- ii. However, at present, it is limited to 85000 employees and their families of the company, while the commercial services are expected to begin by April 2016.



- iii. It has three-pronged focus on broadband networks, affordable smart phones and the availability of rich content and applications. It offers a unique combination of telecom, high speed data, digital commerce, media and payment services.
- iv. It provides data services with a speed up to 1 gigabyte per second. Under the project, around 2.5 lakh kilometers of fibre optic cables were laid to connect 18000 towns and around 1 lakh villages across the country.
- v. It will offer broad band services to 10 crore mobile users and 2 crore households. Users will have the option to switch over to 5G services in future.

### **2. AP Government signed MoU with Microsoft India on technology initiatives**

- i. Government of Andhra Pradesh on 28 December 2015 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Microsoft India on a range of technology initiatives. The MoU was signed after a meeting between the Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Microsoft's CEO Satya Nadella in Hyderabad.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk  
Page 20 of 230



ii. The purpose of the MoU is to improve use of information and communication technologies, drive digital inclusion and provide IT-based decentralised citizen services. The initiatives will help in checking school dropouts, improving agricultural productivity and providing better citizen services.

iii. By applying Microsoft Azure Machine Learning and Advanced Visualization method, the company will provide technical knowledge to the AP Government and support building three proof-of-concept (PoC) solutions. The three PoC solutions are related to the fields of education, agriculture and eCitizen services.

iv. The PoC solutions will be built and deployed to address specific problems within each of the fields to achieve better outcomes for the State. For data gathering, analysis, predictive analysis and policy planning, the lab method will be used by the Microsoft India.

v. State Government's key IT executives will be trained on Microsoft technologies such as Cloud, Mobility and appropriate Microsoft Technology stack. The company will set up a Centre for Excellence (CoE) in Visakhapatnam.

### 3. Union Government announced 4 new IT-based initiatives for citizen-centric health services.

i. Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda on 25 December 2015 announced 4 new Information Technology-based initiatives to provide citizen-centric health services. The initiatives include three applications, namely, Kilkari, Mobile Academy and M-Cessation and a dedicated toll free number 1800-11-6666 which will provide round the clock counselling and treatment support services for TB patients.



ii. The initiatives were announced on the occasion of the Good Governance Day which is being celebrated annually to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

iii. Kilkari is an audio-based mobile service that delivers weekly audio messages to families about pregnancy, child birth and child care. Each pregnant woman and infant's mother would receive weekly voice messages relevant to the stage of pregnancy or age of the infant. Those who are registered in Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS), a web-enabled name-based system to monitor and ensure delivery of full spectrum of services to all pregnant women and children, will be benefitted from the service.

iv. Mobile Academy is a mobile-based application aimed at providing training services to 9 million ASHAs. This will aid in enhancing their interpersonal skills. Once registered, ASHAs can access the 240-minute course via their mobile phones. They can then complete the standardized course at their convenience. Digital bookmarking technology enables ASHAs to complete the course at their own pace.

v. M-Cessation will be an IT-enabled tool to help tobacco users to quit tobacco. Built on a helpline concept, it will register beneficiaries on the basis of a missed call. The counselling would be done through a two-way SMS process, the Minister informed.

### 4. Former CJ of Karnataka & Kerala High Courts Justice VS Malimath died

i. Former Chief Justice of Karnataka and Kerala High Courts Justice V S Malimath died on 22 December 2015 at Manipal hospital in Bengaluru. He was 85 years old and survived by wife Prema Devi V Malimath, a son and four daughters.



ii. He was born on 12 June 1929, secured first rank in LL.B. and had a post Graduate Diploma in Public International Law from University of London in 1952. He commenced practicing in the High Court of Bombay in 1952 and later shifted to Bengaluru in late 1956.

iii. He was appointed as a Judge in the Karnataka High Court in March 1970. Subsequently, he was appointed as Chief Justice of Karnataka High Court in 1984.

iv. Post retirement, he was appointed as Chairman of the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT). He served as a member of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). He headed the Committee on Reform of Criminal Justice System in India. He was the United Nations Representative to monitor human rights enforcement in Nigeria and Sri Lanka.

India. The Iranian side suggested participation of India's public and private sectors in development of Chahbahar Port and Chahbahar Free Trade Zone (FTZ) and in setting up industrial units in the FTZ. iv. India emphasized the need for early completion of all necessary procedures for India's participation in Farzad-B field and pointed out India's desire to participate in other oil and gas explorations in Iran as well. They reviewed works related to India's participation in Chahbahar – Zahedan -Mashhad railway line.

v. This is the first JCM since the conclusion of the Vienna Agreement. The agreement was reached between P5+1 countries and Iran on 14 July 2015 and paves the way for peaceful resolution of outstanding issues related to Iran's nuclear programme.

#### 4. Oscar-winning cinematographer Haskell Wexler passed away

i. Oscar-winning cinematographer Haskell Wexler died peacefully in his sleep on 27 December 2015 in California, US. He was 93. He was one of the America's most influential cinematographers. He was best known for his work in films like One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest and American Graffiti.



ii. He was born on 6 February 1922 in Chicago, US. He was known for his work on films like Coming Home and In the Heat of the Night. He had worked as director of photography on films including The Best Man and Mulholland Falls. He also produced and directed 1969's Medium Cool.

iii. He was also recognised for his documentary work on the Emmy-winning Paul Jacobs and the Nuclear Gang and Interviews with My Lai Veterans for which he won Academy Award.

iv. He won Oscar Awards for his films including Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf? (1966) and Bound for Glory (1976). He was first cinematographer to receive star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame in 1996.

#### 5. Report of Vijay Kelkar Committee on Revisiting & Revitalizing PPP Model released

i. The Union Ministry of Finance on 28 December 2015 released the report of the Committee on Revisiting and Revitalising Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model. The 9-member committee was headed by former Finance Secretary Vijay Kelkar and submitted its report on 19 November 2015.

ii. The committee was constituted on 26 May 2015 to review the experience of PPP Policy and suggest

measures to improve capacity building in Government for their effective implementation. More importantly, the committee recognized the PPP Model in infrastructure as a valuable instrument to speed up infrastructure development in India.



iii. Hence, it called for PPP contracts need to focus more on service delivery instead of fiscal benefits alone. The recommendations of the committee are of relevance to the overall growth of the economy as PPP projects have become the preferred mode to develop large scale infrastructure projects. iv. At present, over 12007 PPP projects are under implementation across the country, involving about 7.2 lakh crore rupees worth of investment. v. The committee recommended the Government may take early action to amend the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 which does not distinguish between genuine errors in decision-making and acts. This is necessary to make only malafide action by public servants punishable and not errors. vi. The committee strongly endorsed setting up of the "3PI" which can, in addition to functioning as a centre of excellence in PPPs, enable research, review and roll out activities to build capacity, etc. vii. The committee advised against adopting PPP structures for very small projects, since the benefits of delivering small PPP projects may not be commensurate with the resulting costs and the complexity of managing such partnerships over a long period.

#### 6. RBI released report of Deepak Mohanty Committee on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion

i. The Reserve Bank of India on 28 December 2015 released the Report of the Committee on Medium-term Path on Financial Inclusion. The committee was constituted on 15 July 2015 by the RBI with the objective of working out a medium-term (five year) measurable action plan for financial inclusion. The 14-member committee was headed by RBI Executive Director Deepak Mohanty.

ii. Banks have to make special efforts to step up account opening for females, and the Government may consider a deposit scheme for the girl child – Sukanya Shiksha - as a welfare measure. Given the predominance of individual account holdings (94 per cent of total credit accounts), a unique biometric identifier such as Aadhaar should be linked to each individual credit account.

ii. The awards conferred were based on the performance of the players and football clubs in 2015. Globe Soccer was created and built by BC Bendon Consulting to facilitate intercontinental dialogue among the main players in the football world, with opportunities to meet and discuss for the game's institutions, clubs, leagues and transfer market operators.

Best Player of the Year - Lionel Messi

Best President of the Year - Josep Maria Bartomeu

Best Club of the Year - F.C. Barcelona

Best Media Attraction in Football - F.C. Barcelona

Best Coach of the Year - Marc Wilmots

Best Agent of the Year - Jorge Mendes

Best Referee of the Year - Ravshan Irmatov

Best Academy of the Year - Benfica



Daily GK Update: 30th December, 2015

### 1. Sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik's Santa Claus sculpture featured in Limca Book of Records

i. Well-known sand artist Sudarsan Pattnaik's Santa Claus sculpture on 29 December 2015 found a place in Limca Book of World Records. Pattnaik claimed that he had created a 45 feet high sand Santa Claus at Puri beach on 24 December 2015, which was recognised as the largest sand Santa Claus as of today by the Limca Book of World Records.

ii. Pattnaik was assisted by 20 of his students from the Sudarsan Sand Art Institute of Puri to build the giant structure. It took him 22 hours to build the structure which will be on display till 1 January 2016.



iii. The artist had also created sculptures of Jesus and Mother Mary near Santa Claus. Pattnaik had

already created eight world records registered with the Limca Book of World Records.

iv. Sudarsan Pattnaik is a world-renowned Indian sand artist from Odisha. Born on 15 April 1977, he self-taught himself the art of sand sculpture. He established The Golden Sand Art Institute which is first of its nature in India.

v. His sculptures include environmental crisis, famous festivals, national integrity and religious tolerance. He has represented India in 50 international Sand Sculpture championship and festivals all around the world and won 27 championship prizes for the country.

vi. In 2013, he won gold medal at Saint Petersburg in 12th International sand sculpture competition at Russia. His sand sculpture on Black Taj Mahal earned him accolades all over the world. In 2014, he was awarded the Padma Shri by Government of India.

### 2. Cabinet clears formation of JVs between Indian Railways and states

i. The Cabinet on Wednesday approved the formation of joint venture companies with various state governments to mobilise resources for undertaking rail infrastructure projects.



ii. The initial paid-up capital of the Ministry of Railways will be limited to Rs. 50 crore for each state. The joint venture companies would be formed with equity participation from the Ministry of Railways and the state governments concerned. Each joint venture will have an initial paid-up capital of Rs. 100 crore and based on the projects to be undertaken, further fund infusion would be done on approval of the project.

iii. The joint ventures will be allowed to form project-specific special purpose vehicles with equity holding from other stakeholders such as banks, ports, public sector undertakings, mining companies, and others.

iv. "This would ensure greater participation of state governments in implementation of railway projects, both in terms of financial participation as well as the decision-making process. This will also facilitate faster statutory approvals and land acquisition," an official statement added.

v. Meanwhile, the Cabinet also approved signing of various memorandums of understandings in the

was Bad Magic in 2015. He was regarded as the godfather for rock n roll endurance and genres like thrash and speed metal.

#### 6. Noted Gujarati writer Raghuv eer Chaudhary selected for 51st Jnanpith award

i. Eminent Gujarati litterateur Raghuv eer Chaudhary was on 29 December 2015 selected for the 51st Jnanpith award for his contribution to the Indian literature.

ii. The decision was taken in a meeting of the Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by noted scholar Namwar Singh. Other members of the selection board are Shamim Hanfi, Harish Trivedi, Suranjan Das, Ramakant Rath, Chandrakant Patil, Alok Rai, Dinesh Misra and Leeladhar Mandloi.



iii. Chaudhary is the fourth Gujarati litterateur to bag this prestigious award after Uma Shankar Joshi (1967), Pannalal Patel (1985) and Rajendra Shah (2001).

iv. Born in 1938 in Gujarat, Raghuv eer Chaudhary is a novelist, poet, critic, a prominent figure on contemporary Gujarati literary scene and a Gandhian. His talent has been influenced by works of Govardhanram Tripathi, Kaka Kalelkar, Suresh Joshi, Prof Ramdarash Mishra and Prof GN D Cey. v. He authored more than 80 books and some of his notable novels include Amra, Venu Vatsala, Purvarang and Lagun, Manjyaa Vinay Churni, Padvanu. He also had worked as a columnist for numerous newspapers such as Sandesh, Janmabhumi, Nirikshaka and Divya Bhaskar. vi. He was a teacher at the Gujarat University until his retirement in 1998. He has received numerous awards including Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel Trilogy Uparvaas in 1977.

#### 7. China launched Gaofen-4 dual-use geostationary satellite

i. China on 29 December 2015 successfully launched Gaofen-4 Earth observation satellite toward a geostationary orbit from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in the south-western province of Sichuan. The Satellite was launched aboard a Long March-3B carrier rocket.



ii. Launched as a part of the China High-resolution Earth Observation

System (CHEOS), Gaofen-4 is located at the orbit 36000 kilometres away from the earth and moves synchronously with the earth.

iii. It can see an oil tanker on the sea with a huge CMOS camera, reaching the best imaging level among global high-orbit remote sensing satellites. It will be used for disaster prevention and relief, surveillance of geological disasters and forest disasters, and meteorologic forecast. It will offer optical spatial resolution of better than 50 metres and infrared sensing capabilities from geostationary orbit.

iv. It is designed to operate for eight years at an altitude of almost 36000 km above the Earth. The satellite was launched as a part of Gaofen project that aims to launch seven high-definition observation satellites before 2020. Gaofen-1, the first satellite of the project, was launched in April 2013.

#### 8. Veteran singer Subir Sen passed away



i. Veteran singer Subir Sen passed away on 29 December 2015 due to lung cancer in Kolkata. He was 81. He is survived by his wife and a daughter. Sen was condemned to be clone of senior and talented Hemant Kumar. From the 1950s till the 1980s, the melodious singer had sung a number of hit songs. He had also sung duets with Asha Bhonsle and Lata Mangeshkar.

ii. A hit film Aas ka Panchhi marked the peak of Sen's popularity. Similarly, Chhoti Bahen had several duets by him and Lata Mangeshkar which dominated the charts of the time.

iii. Some of Sen's well-known songs include Aa ja re nain dware from the Dev Anand-Waheeda Rehman starrer Roop Ki Rani Choron Ka Raja and Main rangeela pyar ka raahi in Chhoti Bahen.

iv. He was also known for his Bengali songs like Dhoronir pathay pathay, Monalisa tumi ki bolona and Saradin tomay cheye.

#### 9. Ex Chief of Indian Army General Om Prakash Malhotra passed away

i. General Om Prakash Malhotra, former Punjab Governor and ex-Chief of Army, passed away on 29 December 2015 due to old age. He was 93. He is survived by his wife and two children. General Om Prakash Malhotra was the 13th Chief of Army Staff of the Indian Army from 1978 – 1981.

will be available round-the-clock under which a real-time instant fund transfer system for inter-bank remittances is possible. The maximum cap of transaction will be 2 lakh rupees and charged at the rate of five rupees per transaction.

iv. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) is an umbrella organization for all retail payments system in India. It was set up with the guidance and support of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

v. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS) is one of the electronic funds transfer systems of India. It was started in November 2010. The service enables an instant, 24X7, interbank electronic fund transfer through mobile, internet and ATM.

### 5. World's largest blue star sapphire discovered in Sri Lanka

i. The world's largest blue star sapphire that weighs 1404.49 carats was discovered in a mine in Sri Lanka. The sapphire was found in August 2015 near Ratnapura city in the South of Sri Lanka.

ii. The stone is worth at an estimated cost of 100 million US dollars but could be valued up to 165 million US dollars.



iii. The sapphire has been named as The Star of Adam by its current owner. The name came from a Muslim belief that Adam arrived in Sri Lanka after being sent away from the Garden of Eden. As per the myth, Adam lived on the slopes of a mountain now known as Adam's Peak, about 15 miles from Ratnapura.

iv. The Star of Adam Sapphire has also been certified by the Gemology Institute of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

v. A star sapphire is a type of sapphire that has a star in the middle due to a light reflection phenomenon known as asterism. The value of a star sapphire depends on the weight of the stone and also on the body color, visibility, and intensity of the asterism.

### 6. CCI cleared Reliance Capital-Goldman Sachs deal

i. The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on 5 January 2016 gave its approval to Reliance Capital Asset Management's proposed acquisition of Goldman Sachs' mutual fund business in India for 243 crore rupees. CCI approved the acquisition as the deal may not have an adverse impact on competition in the country.



### Industries Limited

ii. After CCI's nod, Reliance Capital Asset Management (RCAM) will seek the final nod of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to complete the takeover.

iii. RCAM had announced the acquisition in October 2015. Under the deal, the company will acquire all 12 onshore mutual fund schemes of Goldman Sachs Asset Management India with total asset under management of 7132 crore rupees.

iv. The deal will also make Reliance MF the exclusive fund manager for the government's ambitious Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSE) Exchange.

v. The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. is an American multinational investment banking firm. It engages in global investment banking, securities, investment management and other financial services primarily with institutional clients.

vi. The firm provides mergers and acquisitions advice, underwriting services, asset management, and prime brokerage to its clients. The firm also engages in market making and private equity deals, and is a primary dealer in the United States Treasury security market.

### 7. Harper Lee's Go Set a Watchman topped 2015 US Bestseller List

i. The book Go Set a Watchman written by Harper Lee was in news in the first week of January 2016 as it topped the 2015 US bestseller list. Around 1.6 million copies of the book were sold in the USA since it was published in July 2015. The figures were based on US print unit sales reported to Nielsen.

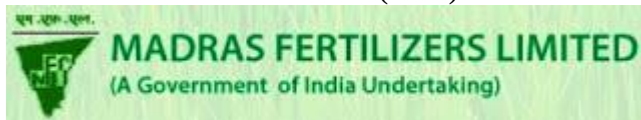


ii. Go Set a Watchman was published more than half a century after Harper's Pulitzer-winning first book, To Kill a Mockingbird, was published.

iii. The spike in the sales of Go Set a Watchman can be attributed to the fact that 89-year-old Harper Lee is now confined to a nursing home and may not publish a word in future.

iv. The second and third bestseller in the list was Jeff Kinney's Diary of Wimpy Kid series (1.48 million copies) and British author EL James' Grey:

Madras Fertilizers for a five-year term. In August last year, the government headhunter Public Enterprise Selection Board (PESB) had recommended the name of Khare for the post of CMD at Madras Fertilizers Ltd (MFL).



- ii. Khare will succeed I Vijay Kumar. His name was finalised after interviewing 7 shortlisted candidates. Khare was previously working with state—owned fertiliser firm Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers as Chief General Manager (Commercial).
- iii. “The President is pleased to appoint of A B Khare to the post of CMD, MFL in the pay scale of Rs. 75,000-90,000 for a period of five years with effect from the date of assumption of charge of the post or till the date of his superannuation, or until further orders, whichever is the earliest,” the Fertiliser Ministry said in an notification.
- iv. MFL was incorporated in 1966 as a joint venture between the Government of India and Amoco India, a subsidiary of Standard Oil Company of the USA. It is under the administrative control of the Fertiliser Ministry.

#### 12. Achyuta Samanta elected as General President of 105th Indian Science Congress

- i. Dr Achyuta Samanta was on 6 January 2016 elected as the General President of the 105th Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) which is scheduled for 2017-18. Samanta is also currently serving as member of Executive Council of Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA).



- ii. With this, Samanta becomes the second person from Odisha to be elected as President of the ISC in its 102 years history. On last occasion, Prof Prana Krushna Parija, eminent Odia scientist, was elected as President of the 47th Session of the ISCA in 1960.
- iii. He has been the member of Executive Council of ISCA since 2011. He has also been the member of many prestigious educational and other national level apex bodies, including UGC (2008-2014), AICTE, National Coir Board, CAPART and NCTE.
- iv. He was the only person from Odisha to be the member of both UGC and AICTE. Samanta has set up institutions like Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT) University and Kalinga Institute of Social Sciences (KISS), Bhubaneshwar.

#### 13. Noted Gujarati writer Labshankar Thakar passed away

- i. Noted Gujarati writer and poet Labshankar Thakar passed away on 6 January 2016 following prolonged illness in Ahmedabad. He was 80. He was a modernist author of Gujarati literature with influence of existentialism challenging traditional literature styles.



- ii. He was born on 14 January 1935 in Sedla village near Surendranagar in Gujarat. Some of his famous poems are Vahi Jati Pachhal Ramya Ghosha (1965), Manasni Vaat (1968), Mara Namne Darwaje (1972), Boom Kagalma Kora (1974), Pravahan (1986), Kalagranthi (1987). He wrote many plays including Asatyakumar Ekagrani Dharpakad, Make Believe (1967), Mari Jawani Maza (1973), Bathub ma Machhali (1982) etc.
- iii. He is also known for his novels Akasmat (1968) and Kon? (1968). Apart from being Gujarati poet, playwright and story writer he was also an Ayurvedic Practitioner. He also wrote several books on Ayurveda and also had published several magazines including Kavi and Unmoolan.
- iv. He had also been awarded several times for his works including Sahitya Akadami Award (1991) for his poetry, Sahitya Gaurav Puraskar (2002) of Gujarati Sahitya Parishad, Kumar Chandrak (1962), Mahmad Chandrak and Ranjitram Suvarna Chandrak (1981).

#### 14. Sam Pitroda appointed as Odisha Government's Technical Advisor

- i. Satyanarayan Gangaram Pitroda, popularly known as Sam Pitroda, on 6 January 2016 was appointed Technology Advisor to the Odisha Government. Pitroda was appointed as the technology adviser for development of telecom, electronics, IT, ITES sectors of the state.



- ii. Pitroda will have a key role in Vision 2036 for Odisha@100, as the state government is making a vision document for 2036 to celebrate the 100 years of state's formation. Born on 4 May 1942 in Titilagarh, Odisha, Sam Pitroda is a telecom engineer, inventor, entrepreneur and policymaker. In 1964, he travelled to Chicago to study electrical engineering.



iii. Sikri is a former Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of Gujarat cadre. He has held various positions in Centre as well as in his cadre state Gujarat. He superannuated as Secretary, Department of Justice on 31 July 2013.

iv. He had also been Secretary in the Union Ministry of women and child development, Registrar General of Census. He also served as the Collector of Rajkot and Jamnagar.

#### 9. Indigenously Built ASW Corvette INS Kadmatt commissioned in Visakhapatnam

i. Anti-submarine warfare (ASW) corvette INS Kadmatt was on 7 January 2016 commissioned in the Indian Navy at naval dockyard in Visakhapatnam by Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R K Dhowan. INS Kadmatt is the second ship of Project 28 (P28) class ASW corvettes and is the latest ship after Shivalik class, Kolkata class and INS Kamorta. In all these ships, an excessive amount of weapons and sensors had been integrated to provide a Common Operational Picture (COP).



ii. The ship was manned by 13 officers and 180 sailors with Commander Mahesh Chandra Moudgil as the first Commanding Officer. The ship is an integral part of the Eastern Fleet under the Eastern Naval Command to safeguard the Eastern Seaboard of India.

iii. It was designed 90 per cent indigenously by the Directorate of Naval Design (DND) and constructed by M/s Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd. Directorate of Naval Design (DND) is the Navy's Design Organisation undertaking indigenous design of all surface combatants.

iv. INS Kadmatt is named after one of the large islands amongst the Lakshadweep group of Islands off the west coast of India. The ship had been constructed using high grade steel (DMR 249A) produced in India. With a displacement of 3500 tonnes, the sleek and magnificent ship spans 109 meters in length and 14 meters at the beam.

#### 10. Operation Green Hunt to hunt Maoists

i. Operation Green Hunt, an all-out offensive by India's paramilitary forces and the state's forces against the Naxalites came in news on 8 January 2016. The operation which is believed to start in November 2009 along five states in the "Red Corridor" came in news after Maoists called a two-day bandh opposing it in Nuapada, Malkangiri and Kalahandi districts of Odisha.

ii. The bandh call was given by the Mainpur-Nuapada Divisional Committee of the CPI (Maoist). The Committee is protesting against the Operation by security forces against the ultras in the south-western part of the State.



iii. The term Operation Green Hunt was coined by the Chhattisgarh police officials to describe one successful drive against the Communist Party of India (Maoist) in the state. Later, the term was erroneously used by media to describe the wider anti-Naxalite operations.

iv. On the other hand, Union Government do not use the term Operation Green Hunt to describe its anti-Naxalite offensive. Earlier, the operation also came in news in December 2014 when the outlawed Communist Party of India (Maoist) claimed that the Sukma ambush was answer to Operation Green Hunt. Maoists killed at least 14 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel in Sukma district of south Chhattisgarh on 1 December 2014.

#### 11. Union Government allowed traditional bull-taming sports Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu

i. The Union Government on 8 January 2016 allowed the conduct of the traditional bull-taming sports, Jallikattu, in Tamil Nadu. The ban on the sports was lifted few days before the traditional harvest festival will begin in Tamil Nadu. Jallikattu is celebrated around pongal in southern state of Tamil Nadu.



ii. The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change issued a gazette notification with regard to holding traditional sports that use bulls as

performing animals including Jallikattu across India.

iii. The notification said that bulls can be exhibited and trained as performing animal at different events of different states as per the customs or tradition of any community.

iv. The events that use bulls as performing animals are Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu and bullock cart races in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Gujarat. But these events are allowed only in those districts where it is being traditionally held annually but with the permission of district collector or the district magistrate.

v. The notification also specifies that bullock cart race shall be organised on a proper track, which shall not exceed two kilometers. On the other hand, in case of Jallikattu, the moment the bull leaves the enclosure it shall be tamed within a radial distance of 15 metre.

## 12. Quikr acquired online real estate portal Commonfloor.com

i. Quikr on 7 January 2016 announced acquisition of the property search website Commonfloor.com for an undisclosed amount in a majority stock-swap transaction. Quikr bought the website in a distress sale orchestrated by Tiger Global Management Llc.



commonfloor

ii. After the deal, Quikr will be valued at about 1.5 billion US dollars based on the share-swap ratio. The merger is expected to be completed over the next two to three months. It will also give CommonFloor access to Quikr's 30 million consumers and harness the potential of the cross-category nature of the platform. QuikrHomes will benefit from CommonFloor's structured data and domain expert.

iii. Quikr is an Indian classified advertising platform. It was founded by Pranay Chulet in 2008. It is headquartered in Bangalore. It has listings in over 1000 cities in India in categories such as mobile phones, household goods, cars, real estate, jobs, services and education.

iv. CommonFloor.com is an Indian real estate portal founded in 2007 by three computer science graduates from IIT Roorkee and JSSATE. On 8 January 2015, CommonFloor received funding from Google Capital.

## 13. Miguel Tabuena won Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of the Month

i. The Philippines' Miguel Tabuena on 7 January 2016 was voted as the Hilton Asian Tour Golfer of Month for December 2015. Tabuena won the award ahead of Thailand's Phachara Khongwatmai and India's Himmat Rai. The trio were nominated by a selection panel before going into a voting process.

ii. Born on 13 October 1994, Miguel Tabuena is a Filipino professional golfer. As an amateur golfer, he won the events in Malaysia and Singapore and won the silver medal at the 2010 Asian Games in the men's individual event.

iii. He turned professional in 2011. He has played on the Asian Tour since 2011 and picked up his first win at the 2015 Philippine Open.

iv. He became the first Filipino to win his National Open since 2008.



Daily GK Update - Current Affairs 15th January 2016

## i. French soldiers to march down Rajpath on Republic Day 2016 along with Indian troops

The French soldiers will march down the Rajpath on Republic Day along with Indian troops in the presence of President Francois Hollande. Hollande is the Chief Guest for 26 January 2016 celebrations. This is the first time that a foreign army will participate in the 26th January Parade, since 1950.

ii. A French contingent, comprising 56 personnel of 35th Infantry Regiment of 7th Armoured Brigade, is already in the country to take part in a joint exercise, Shakti 2016, which began in Rajasthan on 8 January 2016. Some soldiers will also fly down from France to form a proper marching contingent.



iii. Earlier similar event occurred in France when Indian troops drawn from the three services (Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force) marched down the Champs Elysees in Paris along with

i. President Pranab Mukherjee on 7 January 2016 promulgated the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Ordinance, 2016 to make amendments to the Enemy Property Act, 1968.



ii. These amendments will help in dealing with the loopholes of the Enemy Property Act, 1968 and ensure that the enemy properties that have been vested in the Custodian remain so and they do not revert back to the enemy subject or enemy firm.

iii. Once an enemy property is vested in the Custodian, it shall continue to be vested in him as enemy property irrespective of whether the enemy, enemy subject or enemy firm has ceased to be an enemy due to reasons such as death and others.

iv. The law of succession does not apply to enemy property. There cannot be transfer of any property vested in the Custodian by an enemy or enemy subject or enemy firm and that the Custodian shall preserve the enemy property till it is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

v. The Union Government enacted the Enemy Property Act in the year 1968 that provided for the continuous vesting of enemy property in the custodian. The Union Government through the Custodian of Enemy Property for India is in possession of enemy properties spread across many states in the country. In addition, there are also movable properties categorized as enemy properties.

#### vi. Bhanumurthy is new COO of Wipro

i. A couple of days after naming Abidali Neemuchawala its new chief executive, Wipro, India's third largest information technology company, has made a few changes to its organisation structure.

ii. The Bengaluru-headquartered company has elevated company veteran Bhanumurthy B M as its chief operating officer (COO) and president apart from handing over a new role to G K Prasanna, who is presently heading Global Infrastructure Services as president and chief executive.



iii. Bhanumurthy, who joined Wipro in 1992, is presently the president and chief executive of business application services (BAS), the largest business line in the company which accounts for almost a half of its overall revenues. In his new role, all the services lines including BAS, global infrastructure services, product engineering services, analytics, application management services and business process services would report to Bhanumurthy.

iv. Under the new structure, Prasanna would head a newly created business unit, marketing, innovations and technology (MIT) as the president. MIT will comprise of the offices of the chief technology officer, chief information officer, marketing, strategic engagements (Advisor Relations and sales enablement functions) among others.

v. This new unit would focus on non-linear growth engines, products and platform-based services, integrated solutions, research, and new technologies, the company said confirming the developments.

#### vii. Sri Lankan parliament begins process to adopt new Constitution

i. Sri Lankan parliament today began a process to formulate a new constitution with Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe presenting a resolution to set up Constitutional Assembly of all members for the purpose.

ii. In a special session today, Wickremesinghe moved the resolution in parliament to set up Constitutional Assembly (CA) of all members and a steering committee of 17 members to draft the new constitution.



iii. "We will have the whole parliament formulating the constitution unlike the previous instances when the constitutions were drafted outside parliament," he said. The new constitution will replace the current executive president headed constitution adopted in 1978.

iv. The resolution noted that there shall be a Committee of Parliament referred to as the "Constitutional Assembly" which shall consist of all MPs, for the purpose of deliberating on, and seeking the views and advice of the people, on a new constitution for Sri Lanka, and preparing a draft of a Constitution Bill for the consideration of Parliament in the exercise of its powers under Article 75 of the Constitution.



i. The 11th World

Hindi Day was celebrated on 10 January 2016. To mark the occasion, Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) through its missions/posts abroad and the Department of Official Language (Rajbhasha) conducted special events to spread the greatness of the language.

ii. The day was first observed on 10 January 2006. And, it is in addition to the National Hindi Divas that is being celebrated annually on 14 September. National Hindi Divas is celebrated to mark the day, 14 September 1949, on which the Constituent Assembly adopted Hindi written in Devanagari script as the Official Language of the Union.

[Click Here To Read More](#)

#### 8. Noted Hindi writer Ravindra Kalia passed away

i. Noted Hindi writer and journalist Ravindra Kalia passed away on 9 January 2016 in New Delhi. He was 78. Kalia had been suffering from liver cirrhosis. The writer is known for his works like Nau Saal Chotti Patni and Ghalib Chutti Sharab.



ii. The former

Bharatiya Jnanpith director, Kalia was also the editor of several literary magazines, including Naya Gyanodaya. Born on 11 November 1938 in Jalandhar, Punjab, Kalia was mainly famous for writing stories, novels, memoirs and articles.

iii. The writer had been honoured with Uttar Pradesh (UP) Premchand Memorial Award, UP Sahitya Bhushan Award, UP Lohia Award, Punjab Government's Shiromani award and Padma Lal Bakshi Award of Madhya Pradesh Government.



9. 73rd Annual

#### Golden Globe Awards announced in California

i. The 73rd Annual Golden Globe Awards were announced on 11 January 2015 at Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, the US. These annual awards honour the best in Motion Pictures and Television for the year 2015.

ii. The Revenant won the Best Motion Picture – Drama while best Actor and best Director Awards were conferred to Leonardo DiCaprio and

Alejandro Inarritu for the same movie. Brie Larson won the best actress award for 'The Martian' Movie.

#### 10. 'Stand-up India' drive in the offing: Arun Jaitley

i. The Centre is planning to launch a "Stand-up India" drive to promote entrepreneurship among women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, according to Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.



ii. He was

speaking here on Sunday at the inaugural of the three-day Partnership Summit jointly hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry and the State Government. He said the Start-up India drive launched by the Centre had received tremendous response and "now we are planning a Stand-up India drive."

iii. He explained to the audience that the programme envisaged special assistance to women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to promote entrepreneurship. He said each bank branch in the country would have to give at least one loan to a woman, SC and ST entrepreneur to set up units.

iv. "There are 15 lakh branches in the country and we are sure the programme will make a big impact as the Mudra loan scheme did," he said.

#### 11. British singer Singer David Bowie dies at 69

i. British singer-songwriter David Bowie has died at the age of 69 after battling cancer for 18 months.

ii. "David Bowie died peacefully today surrounded by his family after a courageous 18 month battle with cancer. While many of you will share in this loss, we ask that you respect the family's privacy during their time of grief," read a statement posted on the singer's official social media accounts.



iii. Bowie had

turned 69 just two days ago. He is survived by two children Duncan Jones and Alexandria "Lexi" Zahra Jones and wife Iman.

iv. One of the most influence musical artistes of his generation, Bowie is known for his chameleon-like qualities as a performer that often blurred the lines between genders in an illustrious career that spanned four decades.

on construction machinery, materials, methods and projects.

ii. Shrikant Nivasarkar, President, PCERF, said, "In view of Government's mission of creating 100 smart cities, 'Constro 2016' will focus on two themes: 'Emerging Technologies for Smart City' and 'Skill Development'."

iii. The exhibition will provide an insight of the current state of the modern city and the measures that need to be taken to create a smart city. It will consist of six pavilions, and 250 stalls with a special focus on featuring the tools and materials connected with skill development.

iv. The other highlights include a seminar series and a display and demonstration of wall & floor tiling and bricklaying by Parshuram Naik, a bronze medallist who won the Bricklaying Medallion of Excellence in Brazil.

#### 4. Telangana became first State to make gender education compulsory at graduate level

i. Telangana became the first State in India to introduce compulsory gender education at the graduate level. In this regard, the state in second week of January 2016 introduced a bilingual textbook titled, Towards a World of Equals. The book was introduced on a pilot basis in engineering colleges affiliated to the Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University (JNTU-Hyderabad).



ii. The book discusses gender in its composite form without limiting itself to crime against women. The book attempts to cover information on unacknowledged women writers of Telangana to problems of sex selection and women's work in politics and economics.

iii. It also touches upon complex subjects like female-centric history and male-female relationships. The book is structured in simple language and form to suit under-graduates. The book discusses different strands of women's movements across the world, introducing students to political movements of Afro-American, Caribbean, African, Dalit and minority women.

iv. The book is coupled with a collection of visual teaching tools which include documentary films. The book is being taught over 14 weeks in a semester at the rate of two classes per week.

#### 5. Ashish Saraf appointed as Airbus Group's vice president

i. Airbus Group on 11 January 2016 announced the appointment of Ashish Saraf as Vice-President - Industry Development, Strategic Partnerships and Offsets.



ii. Saraf will look over the Group's existing Make in India initiatives and conceive new ones for all the businesses of Airbus Group India with the aim to increase their industrial footprint in the country. The move comes close on the heels of Airbus Group uniting its Divisions in India under a single company.

iii. Ashish Saraf holds an extensive experience in offsets, industrial relations, greenfield start-up development and strategic partnerships. Prior to joining Airbus Group, he was the India head of the Tata Sikorsky joint venture since 2010. He led Sikorsky's industrialisation and strategic partnerships in India.

iv. He started his career with Dassault Systems and Deloitte Consulting. He is an alumnus of the Symbiosis Institute of Business Management (SIBM), Pune and the National Institute of Technology (NIT), Nagpur.

#### 6. RINL inked MoU with Andhra Pradesh Government for investment of 38500 crore rupees

i. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, on 11 January 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh government.



ii. The MoU envisages investment of around 38500 crore rupees to take up various projects at Visakhapatnam. The deal was signed during the 22nd CII Partnership Summit & 1st Sunrise AP Investment Meet, which is being held in Visakhapatnam.

iii. The investments by RINL will include expansion capacity of Vizag Steel to 7.3 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) with a modernisation that may cost approximately 3600 crore rupees. At an investment of 3400 crore rupees, construction of Coke Oven Battery and other projects are also expected to be modernised.

programme, rehearsed for days and made it successful.

v. Similar folk dance was performed last year (2014) also in which 8,600 dancers participated and it was recorded in Limca book of World records.

#### 10. Balkrishna Garg conferred with 2015 Harikrishna Devsare Baalsahitya Award

i. Veteran hindi poet Balkrishna Garg was on 8 January 2016 conferred with the 2015 Harikrishna Devsare Baalsahitya Award in New Delhi. He received the award for his Baa Geet, which is a collection of poems for children.



- ii. The award was presented by Sahitya Akademi President Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari and National Book Trust (NBT) Chairman Baldeo Bhai Sharma.
- iii. It was the second award to be conferred since its inception in 2014 and consists of a cash prize of 75000 rupees, a shawl and a citation.
- iv. The award was instituted in the memory of Harikrishna Devsare, a renowned Hindi writer known for his work in the field of children's literature, who passed away in 2013.

#### 11. Barcelona superstar Lionel Messi wins Ballon d'Or award for world's best player for fifth time

- i. The Barcelona and Argentina forward finished ahead of Ronaldo and Brazil forward Neymar as he scooped the award for the fifth time overall, having previously won it four years in a row from 2009 to 2012. Messi helped Barcelona to a Spanish league, domestic cup and Champions League treble plus the Club World Cup and also led Argentina to the Copa America final, where they lost to Germany.
- ii. "It's incredible, much more than anything I dreamed of as a kid," said Messi as he received the award. "I want to thank my team-mates, without them none of this would have been possible." Barcelona's Luis Enrique was voted coach of the year.
- iii. United States World Cup winner Carli Lloyd, who scored a hat-trick in the final against Japan, was named women's player of the year. Ronaldo ended last season trophyless with Real Madrid, although he helped Portugal qualify for Euro 2016.
- iv. Neymar won a treble alongside Messi at Barcelona but had a less happy time with Brazil, receiving a four-match international ban after he was sent off during the Copa America. Brazilian footballer Wendell Lira received the Puskas Award

for best goal of the year, for his bicycle kick goal for Goianesia against Atletico-GO in March 2015.



Daily GK Update - Current Affairs - 13th January 2016

#### 1. Kerala Declared First State to Attain Total Primary Education

- i. Vice President Hamid Ansari today declared Kerala as the first state in the country to attain 'Total Primary Education', and described the achievement as 'historic.' "I believe that the date today is as historic for Kerala as April 18, 1991, the day Kerala was declared to be a fully literate state," he said.
- ii. "Kerala has set a model for the rest of the country to follow," the Vice President said. Noting that the achievement was another feather to the state's educational cap, he said the state was marking the successful culmination of its 'Athulyam' programme aimed at ensuring Total Primary Education in Kerala -- equivalent to Standard IV of formal education.



- iii. "This is the fructification of the continuing efforts under the Total Literacy Campaign through the well-planned and executed post-literacy activities and the Continuing Education Programme by the Kerala State Literacy Mission Authority (KSLMA) under the Government of Kerala," he said.
- iv. Ansari also said this remarkable educational achievement was a result of the enlightened political leadership of Kerala, the dedication of its public functionaries and the people of state who have come to value the importance of education. The declaration marks the culmination of the

for launching the Universal Account Number (UAN). The Union Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions will present the award in the 19th National Conference on e-governance to be held in Nagpur on 22 January 2016.

ii. The EPFO bagged the national award in the 'innovative use of technology in e-governance' category and the retirement body will get a cash prize of 200000 rupees.



कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि संगठन (श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)  
**Employees' Provident Fund Organisation**  
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)

iii. UAN is an e-initiative of EPFO, launched in July 2014. In this initiative, all active employees are provided a universal number which can be linked to various provident fund account numbers provided to them while working in different organisations  
iv. Statistically, 5.65 crore employees in 457000 organisations were allocated with UAN till November 2015. A single account number can be used through all of workers' employments with various organisations. It enables the employees to switch their provident fund deposits automatically, when they change their job, just by providing UAN to the new employer.

v. It also allows employees to have access to their provident fund account to view their balance and deposits on the portal, without going through the Employer. National Awards for e-Governance are presented every year to recognize and promote excellence in implementation of e-Governance initiatives.

#### 6. Conference of Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) on Afghan Peace and Reconciliation held in Islamabad

i. Conference of Quadrilateral Coordination Group (QCG) on Afghan Peace and Reconciliation process was held in Islamabad on 11 January 2016. The purpose of the conference was to explore ways to create consensus for talks between the Taliban and Afghanistan's government.

ii. The conference was participated representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the US. The group will again meet in Kabul on 18 January 2016 to hold discussions on a roadmap.

iii. The joint statement released after the discussions emphasised the immediate need for direct talks between the representatives of the Afghanistan government and representatives from Taliban groups. The talks for peace process aims at preserving Afghanistan's unity, sovereignty and territorial integrity.

iv. The four-nation group was set up in 2015 to expedite the process of reconciliation in the war-torn country after decades of bloodshed. The first round was held in July 2015 but the process was suspended in the same month after news of Taliban Chief Mullah Omar's death was announced.

v. The group also reiterated their commitment to the realization of objectives expressed in their statement from the quadrilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia Conference in Islamabad on 9 December 2015.

#### 7. Anil Ambani-led Reliance Group signed MoU to set up naval facility in Vishakhapatnam

i. Reliance Defence Ltd, a unit of Anil Ambani led Reliance Infrastructure Ltd led on 10 January 2016 signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh Government to set up a world class naval facility in the state.



ii. The announcement regarding the MoU was made at Andhra Partnership Summit in Visakhapatnam.

iii. The proposed facility will be established with an initial investment of 5000 crore rupees. And, it will be setup on the East Coast of India at Rambilli, which is 70 kilometers south of Visakhapatnam.

iv. Earlier, in March 2015, Reliance acquired the Pipavav shipyard on West Coast in Gujarat. These two facilities will build submarines and aircraft carriers and also provide services including maintenance and refitting of ships.

#### 8. Amitabh Bachchan made honorary life member of Mohammedan Sporting

i. Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan on 12 January 2016 was bestowed honorary life membership of Kolkata's soccer outfit Mohammedan Sporting. Sporting president Sultan Ahmed handed over the club's life membership to Bachchan.



ii. Bachchan was also invited to be the chief guest of the club's 125th anniversary gala event to be held later in 2016. Mohammedan Sporting Club was founded in 1891 at Kolkata. It is one of the oldest and leading football clubs in India. At present, the club plays in the I-League 2nd Division and premier division of Calcutta Football League(CFL).

iii. It was the first Indian club to win CFL in 1934 and continued their run till 1938 season. Before Independence, numerous triumphs against British teams earned the club huge support from every section of Indian society.

financial management advice apart from providing financial help. "We still believe we will be useful to the start-ups though we are not giving them financial help, because financing is not the only thing that start-ups need. What they really need is a lot of financial management advice. So, we hope this kind of service will help them a lot," she said.

iv. To a query, SBI Managing Director (National Banking Group) Rajnish Kumar said after Bengaluru, the bank is thinking of launching the project in Pune and NCR, as much of start-up activities are taking place in these three centres. Talking about the partnerships, Bhattacharya said the bank has been in touch with its mentors including former Infosysians Mohandas Pai and Nandan Nilekani who are guiding it on needs of start-up companies.

v. On SBI Exclusif, Bhattacharya said it proposes to bring to customers a completely different and new approach to interacting with the Bank. The customers will have access to a dedicated Relationship Manager to take care of all their banking and investment needs. Further, customers will have access to the best products across categories from market leading institutions as the bank has introduced an open platform, Bhattacharya said.

#### 5. Pilot project on DBT for kerosene to start soon: Pradhan

i. In order to cover more households under Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme, the union minister of state (Independent charge) for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Dharmendra Pradhan on Wednesday informed that kerosene consumers would be able to get their subsidy directly in their bank accounts. The Centre will rollout a pilot project in 33 districts across the country, he said.



ii. "We are especially working to further the reach of LPG connections in tribal and rural areas. In the coming days, all needy people who buy kerosene will get subsidy amount directly in their bank. We will start pilot scheme in 33 districts across the country including seven districts in Gujarat," Pradhan informed here after meeting the State Government officials.

iii. In order to chalk out a plan for seamless implementation, Pradhan met state minister for civil supplies Bhupendrasinh Chudasama along with

secretaries of the concerned departments and 7 district collectors from Gujarat.

iv. Pradhan maintained that Government of India's Petroleum and Natural Gas Department has the biggest Public Distribution System (PDS). "Daily 3 crore people in India visit petrol pumps, kerosene retailers, and LPG distributors to buy petroleum products. Government of India and various state governments are working on a detailed scheme to ensure smooth reach of petroleum products," he added.

v. The Ministry is currently focusing on increasing the reach of LPG connections in tribal and rural areas. In Gujarat, the pilot project of DBT scheme for kerosene will be taken up in seven districts having large tribal population. These districts will be Banaskantha, Chhota Udepur, Ahmedabad rural, Bharuch, Dang, Porbandar and Devbhumi Dwarka.



#### 6. R Shivakumar appointed Chairman of Assocham Karnataka

i. R Shivakumar, Chairman of Kumar Group of companies, Bengaluru, has been appointed as the Chairman of Assocham Karnataka Regional Council, the new regional outfit of Assocham, New Delhi.

ii. S Babu, Chairman of Ashwin Precision Products, has been appointed as Co-Chairman of Assocham Karnataka Regional Council.

iii. The new revamped regional council of Assocham in Karnataka is expected to play a significant role in the development of industry and trade in the state.

#### 7. Subhashini Vasanth honoured with Neerja Bhanot Award

i. Bengaluru-based activist Subhashini Vasanth on 13 January 2016 was honoured with Neerja Bhanot Award. She was presented the award for her endeavour to help people in distress and for empowering widows of martyrs and their families across the country. Bollywood actor Sonam Kapoor presented the award to Vasanth at a ceremony held in Chandigarh.



ii. Subhashini

Vasanth lost her husband Col Vasanth V, who was posthumously awarded the Ashok Chakra in 2008 for his selfless, supreme sacrifice while fighting terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. Since the death of her husband, she has been helping the families of martyrs.

iii. She started the Vasantharatna Foundation in memory of her husband. The foundation provides education scholarships, conducted empowerment programmes and outbound learning programmes for women and children. Subhashini is also a Bharatnatyam exponent known for her intense abhinaya and immaculate footwork. She and Veena Prasad have co-authored the biography of Col Vasanth, titled Forever Forty.

iv. The Neerja Bhanot Award is an award of recognition conferred once a year by the The Neerja Bhanot Pan Am Trust in India. It is awarded to an Indian woman, subjected to social injustice, who faces the situation with grit and determination and extends help to other women in similar distress.

v. The annual Neerja Bhanot Award was instituted in 1990 and named in honour of Senior Flight Purser, Neerja Bhanot, who saved hundreds of lives while sacrificing her own, during a Pan Am Flight 73 hijack at Karachi Airport in September 1986.

#### 8. Sachin opens railway police safety drive

i. Master blaster and former captain of the Indian cricket team Sachin Tendulkar on Wednesday launched two safety and awareness initiatives by the Mumbai Railway Police. Speaking on the occasion, Mr Tendulkar expressed concern over the number of fatalities on railway tracks each year and recalled an incident in his teenage years after which he had resolved never to cross railway tracks again.



ii. The two initiatives, SAMEEP (Safety Alert Messages Exclusively For Passengers) and B-SAFE, were launched at the Railway Police

headquarters in Wadi Bunder by Mr Tendulkar and Railway Police Commissioner Madhukar Pandey.

iii. "SAMEEP is an effort towards instant communication with railway passengers in case of any eventualities. As part of this initiative, we aim to send out text messages to passengers about important developments or disruptions, safety advisories, updates about women's security and accurate information about developments to dispel any rumours.

iv. B-SAFE is a prolonged multimedia awareness campaign to educate the public about various precautions they should take for safe commuting. The campaign will consist of putting up theme based posters across railway station platforms, distribution of pamphlets and awareness meetings of commuter associations, educational institutions, etc," Mr Pandey said.

v. Mr Tendulkar said the number of deaths on the tracks was worrying. "The general feeling is that crossing railway tracks will save us five minutes. But this also means that we are breaking the law and risking our lives for the sake of five minutes," he said.

#### 9. UNICEF presented David Beckham with Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award

i. David Beckham on 12 January 2016 was presented with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award at the sixth biennial UNICEF Ball in Los Angeles. Sir Elton John and David Furnish presented the award to Beckham at the event, honouring him for his tireless work to save and improve the lives of children around the world.

ii. Beckham has been a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador since 2005. In 2015, the footballer launched 7: The David Beckham UNICEF Fund, making a personal commitment to use his voice, influence and connections to raise vital funds and rally for lasting change for children.

iii. The Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award is named after Danny Kaye, star of Hans Christian Andersen and White Christmas. Kaye was one of the world's most beloved entertainers. He was the first ever celebrity representative for UNICEF, and was a Goodwill Ambassador from 1954 until his death in 1987.



Daily GK Update - Current Affairs - 15th January 2016

#### 1. DRDO successfully test-fired anti-tank missile Nag in Rajasthan

i. The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in the second week of



Daily GK Update - Current Affairs - 16th January 2016

### 1. Start up India: This is the beginning of big bang start up boom in India, says Softbank CEO

- i. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Saturday kick-started Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Start-Up India mission at Vigyan Bhavan in New Delhi. The Start Up India mission to be unveiled on Saturday envisages technology business incubators and research parks.
- ii. The Human Resource Development Ministry and the Department of Science and Technology have agreed to partner in an initiative to set up over 75 such startup support hubs in the National Institutes of Technology (NITs), the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs), the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) and NIPERs or National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research.



- iii. Organised by Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP), along with other key Indian startup ecosystem players, the Startup India, Standup India initiative aims to celebrate the country's entrepreneurial spirit, and create a strong ecosystem for fostering innovation and startups in India.
- iv. The event was inaugurated by finance minister Arun Jaitley, and was attended by the Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Nirmala Sitharaman, and the Minister of State for Finance Jayant Sinha. Around 40 top CEOs and startup founders and investors from Silicon Valley attended the event as special guests, and take part question and answer sessions at the event.

### 2. Narendra Modi initiative has Kochi's 'Startup Village' plotting more success

- i. Four years ago, an idea took root in Kerala's business capital of Kochi in the hope of attracting the best entrepreneurial minds among youngsters and creating successful start-ups. Startup Village (SV), as it was called, was a nascent idea then that drew not much attention.



- ii. But today, on the cusp of the launch of a nationwide campaign that aims to spawn startups across the country, Startup Village in Kochi sits pretty with a list of grand accomplishments and a grander vision.
- iii. In April 2012, Startup Village commenced operations as India's first public-private technological business incubator with the aim of creating at least 48 startup companies in five years. However, within three and a half years, it achieved its targets, becoming home to over 70 startups in typical incubation mode.
- iv. After its successful first phase, officials at SV are now excited about their next phase of expansion in which they aim for complete digitization of the incubation process right from filing applications to mentoring, resource allocation and final graduation. The target is to support 10,000 startup teams in the next five years.
- v. The 'Startup India' campaign that Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches on Saturday will be an added boost, top officials at SV told IndianExpress. Incubators like Startup Village have found favour among the administration at a time when startup companies like Flipkart, Snapdeal and Ola have made it big and entered the billion dollar club. With a young and aspiring demographic, many believe India can very well be the hotbed for enterprising startups that can contribute to national GDP as well as provide labour.

### 3. Chinese President Xi launches Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

- i. China-backed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), in which India and 56 countries have joined as founding members, was formally opened here today by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
- ii. "This is a historical moment," Xi said addressing the ceremony of the bank, which along with the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB) is expected to expand infrastructure financing, rivalling the World Bank and Asian Development Bank.

with assured in-a-month delivery. Flipkart currently also offers a wide range of automotive accessories as part of its endeavour to become a destination for all automotive needs.

iv. Designed in-house and engineered at Mahindra's world class research and development facility, the Mahindra Research Valley at Chennai, KUV100 is targeted at the youth and first time car buyers.

v. An indigenously developed monocoque SUV, the KUV100 will have many firsts to its credit including the first ground up petrol engine offering from Mahindra. In fact, all research & development activities for this compact SUV were aligned with global standards of quality, technology, testing norms, regulations and emissions from the very start.

#### 6. World Bank released report titled World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends

i. The World Bank on 14 January 2016 released a report titled World Development Report 2016: Digital Dividends in Washington DC, the USA. The report explored the impact of the internet, mobile phones, and related technologies on economic development across the world including India.

ii. Further, it concluded that potential gains from digital technologies are high, but often remain unrealized and proposed policies to expand connectivity, accelerate complementary reforms in sectors beyond information and communication technology (ICT), and address global coordination problems.



iii. In relation to India, the authors of the report that included Kaushik Basu, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of World Bank appreciated the Aadhaar scheme as it saved 1 billion US dollars by bringing down corruption.

iv. The world's offline population is mainly in India and China, but more than 120 million people are still offline in North America and the digital divide within countries can be as high as that between countries. Worldwide, nearly 21 percent of households in the bottom 40 percent of their countries' income distribution don't have access to a mobile phone, and 71 percent don't have access to the internet.

v. The increased connectivity has had limited effect in reducing information inequality. For example, there are more contributions to Wikipedia from Hong Kong, China, than from all of Africa combined, despite the fact that Africa has 50 times more internet users. Digital technologies, apart from resulting in economic benefits, influenced the

participation of women in the labor force, the ease of communication for people with disabilities, and the way people spend their leisure.

vi. By overcoming information barriers, augmenting factors, and transforming products, digital technologies can make development more inclusive, efficient, and innovative.

#### 7. Delhi-based writer Ankita Anand won the Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for work on Khap panchayats

i. An independent Delhi-based writer Ankita Anand on 14 January 2016 won the European Commission's prestigious Lorenzo Natali Media Prize for 2015 in Asia and the Pacific amateur category.

ii. She earned the award for her sensitive portrayal of life for young women facing the threat of the diktat of khap panchayats in Haryana with the title Stirrings beneath the peepul published in the journal The Equator Linel.



iii. Arison Tamfu, an editor for the Cameroon Journal, won the Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize for a critical investigative report on how UN Climate change negotiations that are calling on nations to switch from fossil fuels to renewable energy are going to affect the development of African communities living where the resources are found with the title Africa's billions might be buried forever.

iv. It is organized by the European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development since 1992. It is awarded to journalists for outstanding reporting on development and poverty eradication. The Prize is divided into two distinct categories: amateur and professional journalism. An independent jury will identify one winner per category and per region.

v. The Regions are Africa, the Arab world and the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe. Each winner of the prize will be granted 5000 Euros. The Lorenzo Natali Grand Prize of an additional 5000 Euros will be awarded to one of the winners.

#### 8. Dr Jancy James selected for Prof MV Pylee Award for the Distinguished Academician of India

i. Dr Jancy James, the first woman Vice Chancellor of Kerala, was on 15 January 2016 selected for the Prof MV Pylee Award for the Distinguished Academician of India. The award was instituted by Cochin University of Science and Technology in the name of MV Pylee. He is an Indian scholar,

## 1. PSLV-C31 successfully launched IRNSS-1E satellite

- i. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 20 January 2016 successfully launched the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) 1-E satellite. The satellite will provide navigation, tracking and mapping services to the Indian sub continent.
- ii. The satellite is the fifth of the IRNSS constellation. It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR), Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on-board the PSLV-C31. The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C31 was the 32nd consecutively successful mission of the PSLV. The 'XL' configuration of PSLV was used for this mission.



- iii. This is the eleventh time 'XL' configuration was flown, earlier ten being PSLV-C11/Chandrayaan-1, PSLV-C17/GSAT-12, PSLV-C19/RESAT-1, PSLV-C22/IRNSS-1A, PSLV-C25/Mars Orbiter Spacecraft, PSLV-C24/IRNSS-1B, PSLV-C26/IRNSS-1C, PSLV-C27/IRNSS-1D, PSLV-C28/DMC-B and PSLV-C30/ASTROSAT missions.

- iv. IRNSS-1E, weighing 1425 kg, is the fifth of the seven satellites constituting the IRNSS. IRNSS-1A, 1B and 1C and 1D, the first four satellites of the constellation, were successfully launched by PSLV in July 2013, April 2014, October 2014 and March 2015 respectively.

- v. The navigation payload of IRNSS-1E will transmit navigation service signals to the users. This payload will be operating in L5-band and S-band. A highly accurate Rubidium atomic clock is part of the navigation payload of the satellite.
- vi. It is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1500 km around the Indian mainland. It would provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Services (SPS), which will be provided to all users, and Restricted Services (RS) that will be provided to authorised users only.

## 2. Andhra Pradesh Government reconstituted the Commission for Backward Classes



- i. Andhra Pradesh Government on 18 January 2016 reconstituted the Commission for Backward Classes with immediate effect. AP Commission for Backward Classes (APCBC) will be a two member commission with Justice KL Manjunath, (Retd.) as its chairman and Member Secretary, APCBC as the other member.
- ii. The Chairman of APCBC shall hold office for a term of three years from the date of assumption of office. The Commission was not constituted since, 24 September 2011, when the previous commission term expired.
- iii. In compliance with the directions of the Supreme Court in Mandal Case (Indra Sawhney Vs Union of India 1992) to set up permanent B.C. Commissions, the Andhra Pradesh Commission for Backward Classes was constituted under the A.P. Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993 and started functioning from 31 March 1994.

## 3. Veteran Journalist Aroon Tikekar passed away

Senior journalist and scholar Aroon Tikekar passed away on 10 January 2016 in Mumbai. He was 82. Tikekar, who has written over 20 books, passed away due to breathing-related complications.



- ii. Aroon Tikekar worked as a college teacher for some years. Then, he became the Language and Literature Expert and Acquisitions Specialist at the US Library of Congress Office in New Delhi.
- iii. His career in newspapers started with a job as Reference Chief with the Times of India. As Archival Research Chief at the Times of India, he was responsible for writing the official history of the 150 years old newspaper.
- iv. From 1991 to 2002, he worked as an editor of the Marathi newspaper Loksatta. He is also the recipient of several literary and journalism awards.
- v. In June 2010, as President of the Asiatic Society of Mumbai, he inaugurated the Observer Research Foundation's Maharashtra@50 Study Centre. In October 2010, he lashed out against the University of Mumbai's decision to drop Rohinton Mistry's

flyovers in Marthandam and Parvathipuram, at an estimated cost of 2766 crore rupees. 39 NH projects for a length of 1974 kilometers at an estimated cost of 12000 crore rupees, which already are under progress.

v. 9 new NH projects for a length of 1300 kilometers at an estimated cost of 12500 crore rupees. 4 flyovers in Kanyakumari district in Ozhiginaseri, Vadaseri, Thuckalay and Chettikulam at a cost of 300 crore rupees.

#### 8. Light combat aircraft, Tejas to fly at Bahrain Air Show

i. Country's own fighter aircraft light combat aircraft (LCA), Tejas, will take part in the three-day Bahrain International Airshow starting from Thursday (January 21 to 23).

ii. "Two limited series production (LSP) aircraft will take part in the Bahrain International Air Show to enthral the visitors from various countries during the flying display through a series of aerobatic manoeuvres such as 8-g pull, vertical loop, slow fly past, barrel roll", said T Suvarna Raju, CMD, HAL.



iii. "It is important that indigenous aircraft fly outside India in international air-shows. HAL is proud to be associated with design, development and production of Tejas. We have state-of-the-art environmentally controlled dedicated Division at Bengaluru for production of LCAs," he added.

iv. Tejas is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, multi-role supersonic fighter. The Tejas light combat aircraft is a 4.5 generation aircraft with supersonic capability at all altitudes. It has the fly by wire, state of the art open architecture computer for avionics and better weapon and combat capability. With the advanced avionics, the pilot load is also reduced.

#### 9. Cabinet approves new power tariff policy

i. The Cabinet today approved a new power tariff policy that aims at promoting clean energy, better regulation of discoms, and faster roll-out of investments.

ii. "The Union Cabinet today approved a new power tariff policy which will promote clean energy, support the Swachh Bharat programme, better regulation for discoms, and encourage faster roll-out of investments in the sector," said a source after the Cabinet meeting here. Besides encouraging faster roll-out of investment, the new policy will reflect a concern for the environment and encourage renewable energy.



iii. It will also look to strengthen the regulatory mechanism so that discoms become more efficient and conscious towards their duties to consumers. In 2006, the Centre had approved the National Tariff Policy under the provisions of the Electricity Act, 2003.

iv. Indicating that the policy will focus on clean energy, Power Minister Piyush Goyal had recently said: "Now that we have a challenge to add 1.75 lakh MW of renewable energy, we are also bringing in certain more elements in the tariff policy which will promote renewable energy."

v. Under the policy, the power plants will have to use processed municipal waste water available in their vicinity (in 100 km radius). The proposed policy will bring in several unique aspects which have not been touched in the past. It will allow distribution companies to buy any amount of power produced from the waste.

#### 10. Mamta Binani elected President of ICSI

i. Mamta Binani has been elected President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2016. She took charge on January 19. A commerce and law graduate and a fellow member of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India, Binani was the all-India topper in the Intermediate examinations of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India, amongst all the lady candidates in India and had ranked 14th on an all-India basis.



**THE INSTITUTE OF  
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ii. In the final examinations, she stood all-India first in the subject 'Company Law'. She has been practising as a Company Secretary for over 19 years now. Binani has been an empanelled trainer with ICICI Bank, and also with the mutual fund industry. She is also associated with the financial sector, the education sector, and is an experienced mentor and counsellor to young professionals and students. She also serves as an independent director on a few of the boards.

iii. She has been the Chairperson of the Eastern India Regional Council of The Institute of Company Secretaries of India in 2010.

iv. Binani was also the first CS to be conferred the 'Bharat Nirman Awards' in 2010.

#### 11. Indian driver Jehan Daruvala won Lady Wigram Trophy motor race

i. Sahara Force India Academy racer Jehan Daruvala on 16 January 2016 won one of New Zealand's most prestigious events, the Lady Wigram Trophy. It was Daruvala's maiden victory

☐ None of these

5. Which one is not a basic property of transaction:

- ☐ Activity
- ☐ Atomicity
- ☐ Isolation
- ☐ Durability
- ☐ Consistency

6. The normal form which is based on the transitive dependency is

- ☐ third normal form
- ☐ second normal form
- ☐ first normal form
- ☐ fourth normal form
- ☐ none of the above

7. BCNF is an extended form of.....

- ☐ 1NF
- ☐ 2NF
- ☐ 3NF
- ☐ 4NF
- ☐ None of the above

8. In the \_\_\_\_\_ normal form, a composite attribute is converted to individual attributes.

- ☐ second
- ☐ first
- ☐ fourth
- ☐ third
- ☐ None of these

9. How many rules are there is E.F. Codd's Rule?

- ☐ 10
- ☐ 9
- ☐ 12
- ☐ 13

☐ 11

10. Which of the SQL statements is correct?

- ☐ SELECT Username, Password FROM Users
- ☐ SELECT Username AND Password FROM Users
- ☐ SELECT Username, Password WHERE Username = 'user1'
- ☐ SELECT Username AND Password FROM Users WHERE Username = 'user1'

☐ None of these

1. What is right way to Initialize array?

- ☐ int n{} = { 2, 4, 12, 5, 45, 5 };
- ☐ int n{6} = { 2, 4, 12 };
- ☐ int n(6) = { 2, 4, 12, 5, 45, 5 };
- ☐ int num[6] = { 2, 4, 12, 5, 45, 5 };

☐ All of the above

2. The space factor when determining the efficiency of algorithm is measured by

- ☐ Counting the minimum memory needed by the algorithm
- ☐ Counting the average memory needed by the algorithm
- ☐ Counting the maximum disk space needed by the algorithm
- ☐ Counting the maximum memory needed by the algorithm
- ☐ none of the above

3. A technique for direct search is

- ☐ Hashing
- ☐ Binary Search
- ☐ Tree Search

☐ Linear Search

☐ None of the above

4. Which of the following function is used to find the first occurrence of a given string in another string?

- ☐ strchr()
- ☐ strrchr()
- ☐ strnset()
- ☐ strstr()
- ☐ None of these

5. <b>tag makes the enclosed text bold. What is other tag to make text bold?

- ☐ <sup>
- ☐ <black>
- ☐ <strong>
- ☐ <emp>
- ☐ None of the above

6. The Internet was launched in 1969 when the United States funded a project that developed a national computer network called

- ☐ Web
- ☐ ISP
- ☐ CERN
- ☐ ARPANET
- ☐ None of the above

7. Design phase includes?

- ☐ data,architectural and procedural designs only
- ☐ architectural,procedural and interface design only
- ☐ data,architectural interface and procedural design
- ☐ data,architectural and interface design only
- ☐ None of these

8. Which of the following code creates an object?

2. Supreme Court imposed a ban on the registration of diesel-run private cars of the capacity of how much CC and above and SUVs?

Answer. 2000 CC

3. Tamil star Dhanush which song has surpassed 100 million views on Youtube since its release?

Answer. 'Kolaveri di'

4. Name the country which has begun building two modern military compounds on the far eastern Kuril islands.

Answer. Russia

5. U.S. magazine Time named which famous personality as its "Person of the Year 2015,"?

Answer. German Chancellor Angela Merkel

6. Name the Senior revenue service officer who was appointed as the Chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes.

Answer. Arun Kumar Jain

7. Who was crowned the Miss World 2015 at the Beauty of Crown Theater in Sanya, China?

Answer. Miss Spain Mireia Lalaguna Royo

8. Name the British Novelist who passed away following a brief illness in Winchester, Hampshire.

Answer. Peter Dickinson

9. Union Government requested the states and Union Territory to start which operation from 1 January 2016, which is a campaign to rescue/rehabilitate the missing children?

Answer. Operation Smile-II

10. The Union Government appointed whom to head the Judicial Committee which will look into the implementation of One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme for the ex-servicemen?

Answer. Justice L Narasimha Reddy

1. Who is sworn as the President of Argentina recently?

Answer. Mauricio Macri Blanco

2. Who was appointed as the Secretary General of the Commonwealth of Nations?

Answer. Patricia Scotland

3. In the Global Gender Gap Report 2015 by World Economic Forum, what is the rank of India in the list?

Answer. 108th

4. Where is the 2nd World Internet Conference was concluded recently?

Answer. Wuzen in China.

5. What is the India's Gross Domestic Product according to CSO in the second quarter (July-September) of 2015-16?

Answer. 7.4 percent

6. The Reserve Bank of India decided to grant in principle approval to which organization to function as the Bharat Bill Payment Central Unit (BBPCU) in Bharat Bill Payment System (BBPS)?

Answer. National Payments Corporation of India

7. Who became the 164th member of WTO recently?

Answer. Afghanistan

8. Which state becomes the first state to give its approval for turning around its ailing discoms by joining the Centre's ambitious UDAY (Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana) scheme?

Answer. Uttar Pradesh

9. The telecom wing of the Indian Railways, RailTel, has signed an agreement with the subsidiary of which company to provide Wi-Fi facilities at 400 stations across the country?

Answer. Google India

10. The Arvind Kejriwal led Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government has raised Delhi MLA's salaries by a how much percent?

Answer. 400%.

11. The Asian Development Bank kept its economic growth forecast for India at how much percent for the current financial year?

Answer. 7.4 per cent

12. Name the missile which was successfully test-fired by Pakistan which is a medium-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile which can carry nuclear warheads up to 2,750 km.

Answer. Shaheen-III

13. India with which country have identified 17 new areas for potential cooperation under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI)?

Answer. USA

9. Which company inaugurated a bio-CNG facility to create carbon neutral ecosystem in its World City?

Answer. Mahindra & Mahindra

10. What is the full form of SPMCIL?

Answer. Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India

1. Which institute of India inked a deal with Japan's Nikken Sekkei Research Institute (NSRI) to plan, design and implement smart technologies to develop sustainable habitats for India's smart city growth?

Answer. The Indian Institute of Technology-Kharagpur

2. Name the singer who was the daughter of Nat King Cole, who passed away at the 65 recently.

Answer. Singer Natalie Cole

3. India and China are deepening their engagement to facilitate which country's political transition, in tune with the evolution of a full-spectrum dialogue between the two countries, which includes counter-terrorism and emergence of new regional trade blocs?

Answer. Afghanistan

4. Who is the DG of Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) force?

Answer. Krishna Chowdhury

5. Name the mayor of a city Temixco of Mexico who was shot to death, less than a day after taking office?

Answer. Gisela Mota

6. Who is the Pakistan's powerful army chief who has vowed to rid the country from the scourge of terrorism, asserting that "all negative forces" would be scuttled?

Answer. General Raheel Sharif

7. Which country won the final of the SAFF Suzuki Cup football tournament against Afghanistan?

Answer. India

8. Who is the current BCCI ombudsman?

Answer. Justice A.P. Shah

9. Name the countries which are set to conduct a joint study to evaluate the impact of regional

trade blocs such as the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-centred Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP)?

Answer. India and China

10. Name the English cricketer who was regarded as one of the most talented up and coming players in the country, died at the age of 22?

Answer. Matthew Hobden

1. Where is the 103rd Indian Science Congress recently took place?

Answer. Mysuru

2. Confederation of All India Traders (CAIT) asked which Indian Film Industry actor to withdraw the name 'Khan market' from his shopping portal to protect the brand name of the national capital's upscale market?

Answer. Salman Khan

3. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis said that the Mumbai-Trans Harbour Link(MTHL) will be completed by which year?

Answer. 2019

4. Name the Star India off-spinner who has ended 2015 as the No. 1 Test bowler in the ICC rankings?

Answer. Ravichandran Ashwin

5. Who is the Former India player and Bengal captain announced his retirement from cricket recently?

Answer. Laxmi Ratan Shukla

6. Who won named as the 'BCCI Cricketer of the Year 2015'?

Answer. Virat Kohli

7. Who won the M.A. Chidambaram Trophy for the best women's cricketer?

Answer. Mithali Raj

8. Who will be presented with the Col. C.K. Nayudu Lifetime Achievement Award 2015?

Answer. Syed Kirmani

9. Name the Pakistani player who was included in the national cricket team squad after serving a five-year ban and jail time for indulging in spot-fixing during the 2010 tour of England?

Answer. Muhammad Aamir

10. What is the full form DDA?

Answer. Doha Development Agenda (DDA)

**9. Name the Indian Foreign Secretary who arrived in Sri Lanka to hold bilateral discussions with the island nation's leadership.?**

**Answer. S. Jaishankar**

**10. With which country, India signed a new social security agreement enabling people of both nations to avail retirement benefits in each other's country, a pact likely to boost bilateral business linkages?**

**Answer. Australia**

**1. Name the women tennis player who continued to top the women's double in the latest tennis WTA rankings?.**

**Answer. Sania Mirza**

**2. Who was awarded with FIFA women's world player of the year award for 2015?**

**Answer. Carli Lloyd**

**3. Who was awarded with the FIFA world player of the year award for a record fifth time this year?**

**Answer. Lionel Messi**

**4. Who has been appointed as the Flipkart Chief Executive Officer recently?**

**Answer. Binay B. Bera**

**5. Name the company which has decided to invest in SavvyMob, which offers an app to book hotels.?**

**Answer. Aarin Capital**

**6. Who will become the new CEO of Swedish home appliance maker Electrolux who will replace Keith McLoughlin?**

**Answer. Jonas Samuelson**

**7. As part of its attempts to make mutual funds reduce their exposure to one issuer or a sector in the debt schemes, SEBI Board has decided to amend the mutual fund regulations in which single issuer limit is reduced to how much percent of the net asset value (NAV) of the scheme?**

**Answer. 10 per cent**

**8. Name the company which said that it is buying Hollywood's Legendary Entertainment, the maker of films such as Batman, for \$3.5 billion in the first Chinese acquisition of a major U.S. film company?**

**Answer. Wanda Group**

**9. Who has been given the additional charge of CMD of NMDC?**

**Answer. Bharathi S. Sihag**

**10. Which bank said that it is planning to monetise non-core assets and list some of its subsidiaries for meeting capital needs as well as global risk norms, Basel III, which will kick in from March 2019?**

**Answer. SBI**

**1. Attackers set off suicide bombs and exchanged gunfire outside a Starbucks cafe in which country's capital in a brazen assault that police said "imitated" the recent Paris attacks and was probably linked to the Islamic State group?**

**Answer. Indonesia's Jakarta**

**2. Name the British actor, who was a classically trained stage star and screen villain in the Harry Potter saga and other films, died?**

**Answer. Alan Rickman**

**3. Name the marine who is going to face criminal trial for murder of two Indian fishermen in 2012 who was in news as the Supreme Court has allowed his stay in Italy for another three months?**

**Answer. Massimiliano Latorre**

**4. Which state has become India's first fully organic state by implementing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land?**

**Answer. Sikkim**

**5. Name the former president of the Tamil Nadu unit of Janata Dal (secular) who died of illness at a private hospital in Salem recently?**

**Answer. G.A. Vadivelu**

**6. After Bangalore and Delhi, taxi aggregator Uber would launch carpool service in which city of India this year, offering at least 30 per cent lower fares to those who share cab rides as part of efforts to check rising pollution?**

**Answer. Kolkata**

**7. Which bank became the first public sector lender to launch wealth management service, a space dominated by private and foreign players, to cater to fast-growing affluent segment of the country?**

**Answer. State Bank of India**

**Ques. : 2 Which of the following countries has topped the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business List 2016 released recently?**

- 1) China
- 2) US
- 3) Denmark
- 4) New Zealand
- 5) Singapore

**Ques. : 3 The Union Govt constituted a committee to simplify the provisions of the Income Tax Act, 1961 recently. The committee will be headed by**

- 1) RV Easwar
- 2) Ajit Prakash Shah
- 3) Ramanujam
- 4) VV Daga
- 5) Ajay Shankar

**Ques. : 4 Sri Lanka and India began their bilateral naval exercise SLINEX off \_\_\_\_\_ recently.**

- 1) Kochi
- 2) Chennai
- 3) Vishakhapatnam
- 4) Batticaloa
- 5) Trincomalee

**Ques. : 5 The eighth edition of National Seed Congress (NSC) began in which city recently to deliberate on advanced seed development technologies and regulatory measures?**

- 1) Bengaluru
- 2) Hyderabad
- 3) New Delhi
- 4) Jaipur
- 5) Chandigarh

**Ques. : 6 Who among the following was conferred with 2015 Hridaynath Mangeshkar Award in Mumbai recently?**

- 1) Amitabh Bachchan
- 2) Asha Bhosle
- 3) Subhash Ghai
- 4) AR Rahman
- 5) Anil Kapoor

**Ques. : 7 Which of the following states will host the South Asian Rugby 7's Championship in 2016?**

- 1) Himachal Pradesh
- 2) Jammu and Kashmir
- 3) Arunachal Pradesh
- 4) Haryana
- 5) Uttarakhand

**Ques. : 8 James Staley is the new CEO of which of the following multinational banks?**

- 1) JP Morgan

- 2) HSBC
- 3) Barclays
- 4) Citi Bank
- 5) Standard Chartered

**Ques. : 9 Sylvie Lucas was appointed as the Chair of the Inter-Governmental Negotiations (IGN) on UN Security Council (UNSC) reforms recently. She is the present ambassador of \_\_\_\_\_ to the UN.**

- 1) Belgium
- 2) Netherlands
- 3) Switzerland
- 4) Romania
- 5) Luxembourg

**Ques. : 10 Who among the following was elected as Nepal's first woman president recently?**

- 1) Bidhya Bhandari
- 2) Onsari Gharti Magar
- 3) Jaypuri Gharti
- 4) Shashi Shrestha
- 5) Durga Kumari BK

**ANSWERS**

1. 3) 130
2. 5) Singapore
3. 1) RV Easwar
4. 5) Trincomalee
5. 2) Hyderabad
6. 4) AR Rahman
7. 2) Jammu and Kashmir
8. 3) Barclays
9. 5) Luxembourg
10. 1) Bidhya Bhandari

**Ques. : 1 The Modi gov declared 31 Oct as "Rashtriya Ekta Diwas" (National Unity Day) to mark the birth anniversary of**

- 1) Bhagat Singh
- 2) Abul Kalam Azad
- 3) Subhas Chandra Bose
- 4) Jawaharlal Nehru
- 5) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

**Ques. : 2 In seven months of the current fiscal, the govt has been able to sell stake only in four companies to net Rs 12,600 cr which do not include**

- 1) Coal India
- 2) IOC
- 3) Dredging Corp
- 4) REC
- 5) PFC

**Ques. : 3 As per 2015 Melbourne Mercer Global Pension Index (MMGPI), the Indian retirement system ranks last while the retirement system of \_\_\_\_\_ ranks first.**

Q12. International Migrants Day has recently been observed across the world on which date?

- 1) 18 December
- 2) 20 December
- 3) 25 December
- 4) 18 November
- 5) None of these.

Q13. The Open Government Partnership (OGP) recently selected which Indian-origin World Bank official to lead the organization?

- 1) Ramaendra Pradhan
- 2) Sanjay Pradhan
- 3) Raju Pradhan
- 4) Munim Pradhan
- 5) None of these.

Q14. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released the final guidelines on computing interest rates on advances based on the Marginal Cost of Funds Methodology. The guidelines will come into effect from which date?

- 1) 1 April 2016
- 2) 10 April 2016
- 3) 31 March 2016
- 4) 1 September 2016
- 5) None of these.

Q15. World Trade Organisation (WTO) unanimously approved Afghanistan's WTO membership at the WTO's Tenth Ministerial Conference (MC10) in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya. With this Afghanistan becomes which member of WTO?

- 1) 165th
- 2) 163rd
- 3) 167th
- 4) 169th
- 5) None of these.

Q16. MLAs of which state's Assembly recently passed resolution to remove Speaker Nabam Rebia?

- 1) Arunachal Pradesh
- 2) U.P.
- 3) M.P.
- 4) Kerala
- 5) None of these.

Q17. Union Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas recently appointed a single-member committee to look into the dispute between Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) and Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on Krishna Godavari (KG) gas fields. The committee will be headed by \_\_\_\_\_?

- 1) Justice Ajit Prakash Shah
- 2) Justice H. L. Dattu

- 3) Justice R. M. Lodha
- 4) Raju Singh
- 5) None of these.

Q18. CII-ITC Sustainability Awards 2015 for Excellence in Sustainable Business conferred in various categories. Who was the chief guest of the award presentation ceremony?

- 1) Suresh Prabhu
- 2) Arun Jaitley
- 3) Rajesh Singh
- 4) Raju Singh
- 5) None of these.

Q19. Who has recently been appointed as Chief Information Commissioner (CIC)?

- 1) P. K. Mathur
- 2) R. K. Mathur
- 3) Ramendra Singh
- 4) Ramendra Pratap Singh
- 5) None of these.

Q20. Who received Garwood Award for 'Outstanding Global Leader in Open Innovation' from UC Berkeley-Haas School of Business today?

- 1) Pranab Mukherjee
- 2) Narendra Modi
- 3) Arun Jaitley
- 4) Suresh Prabhu
- 5) None of these.

1. Union Government has nominated which of the following to the Central Board of Directors of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

- ☐ Krishnakant Das
- ☐ P. Ratan Watal
- ☐ Shaktikanta Das
- ☐ Mahavir Das
- ☐ None of these

2. Who has recently been elected as the 54th speaker of the US House of Representatives?

- ☐ Raman Paul
- ☐ Paul Ryan
- ☐ Karim Shah
- ☐ Meena Paul
- ☐ None of these

3. The National Unity Day was observed across India on which date to commemorate the birthday of Sardar Vallabhai Patel?

- ☐ Narendra Nayak
- ☐ Mohit Singh
- ☐ None of these

**9. Tianhui-1C, a mapping satellite successfully launched by which country?**

- ☐ UK
- ☐ USA
- ☐ Japan
- ☐ China
- ☐ None of these

**10. Who has recently been elected as the President of the Guatemala?**

- ☐ Otto Perez Molina
- ☐ Soluna Samay
- ☐ Jimmy Morales
- ☐ Myrna Mack
- ☐ None of these

**11. BlackBerry has appointed Narendra Nayak as the Managing Director of its India operations to steer the Canadian handset maker's restructuring efforts. He replaces the \_\_\_\_\_?**

- ☐ Sunil Ramani
- ☐ Sunil Singh
- ☐ Sunil Lalvani
- ☐ Prashant Lalvani
- ☐ None of these

**12. Which Television channel claimed that it has emerged as the most watched Hindi channel in terms of time spent per viewer ahead of top General Entertainment Channels?**

- ☐ Zee News
- ☐ Doordarshan
- ☐ AAJ Tak
- ☐ ABP News
- ☐ None of these

**13. Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has announced that the Railways would soon start country's first-ever double decker Shatabdi Express that would ply between \_\_\_\_\_?**

- ☐ Mumbai and New Delhi
- ☐ Mumbai and Goa
- ☐ Mumbai and Ahmedabad
- ☐ Mumbai and Pune
- ☐ None of these

**14. Who has recently won 2015 Formula 1 United States Grand Prix title?**

- ☐ Fernando Alonso
- ☐ Kimi Raikkonen
- ☐ Lewis Hamilton
- ☐ Sebastian Vettel
- ☐ None of these

**15. Which Indian archer recently created history by winning a silver medal in the Archery World Cup Final medal in the compound section held in Mexico City?**

- ☐ Abhishek Verma
- ☐ Deepika Kumari
- ☐ Limba Ram
- ☐ Gyanant Talukdar
- ☐ None of these

**1. The Maharashtra government on recently constituted a task force for setting up an IFSC centre in Mumbai. IFSC stands for?**

- ☐ International Financial Service Centre
- ☐ India Financial Service Centre
- ☐ India Financial City Centre
- ☐ International Financial City Centre
- ☐ None of these

**2. Tech Mahindra and Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd, part of the Mahindra Group, recently acquired which Italian car designer which is well-known for designing cars for Ferrari, Maserati, Rolls-Royce and Cadillac?**

- ☐ Bollore Blucar
- ☐ Pininfarina
- ☐ Bertone
- ☐ Giugiaro
- ☐ None of these

Preview from Notesale.co.uk  
Page 158 of 230

☐ DICGC

☐ None of these

Ans. CRI Pumps Pump manufacturing major CRI Pumps has bagged 'Export Quality Excellence' award for the 11th time in a row. The Joint Managing Director of CRI Pumps, G Selvaraj, received the EEPC award given in recognition of the company's high quality and innovative pumping solutions from the Governor of Karnataka, Vajubhai Vala, at an award ceremony held in Bengaluru last week.

**6. Which of the following start-up has launched its brand 'Apna Ride' for utility bike rentals, targeted primarily at budget conscious bike enthusiasts?**

☐ Ola

☐ Uber

☐ Wicked Ride

☐ BlaBlaCar

☐ None of these

Ans. Wicked Ride Wicked Ride, a start-up founded in 2014 by Vivekananda H.R., Anil G and Varun Agni, has launched its brand 'Apna Ride' for utility bike rentals, targeted primarily at budget conscious bike enthusiasts. The service would be initially available at Bengaluru, Mysore and Jaipur and bookings can be done through [www.apnaride.com](http://www.apnaride.com).

**7. Who has recently grabbed a silver medal in the 18th edition of the Asian Luge Championship held in Nagano, Japan?**

☐ Rajesh Keshavan

☐ Trilok Singh

☐ Arvind Pratap

☐ Shiva Keshavan

☐ None of these

Ans. Shiva Keshavan Shiva Keshavan on 27 December 2015 grabbed a silver medal in the 18th edition of the Asian Luge Championship held in Nagano, Japan. The first place was claimed by defending champion Hidenari Kanayama of Japan. On the other hand, South Korea's Kim Dong-hyeon grabbed the third place.

**8. Which company has emerged as the country's biggest company in terms of annual revenue as per an annual list of 2015 Fortune 500 companies in India?**

☐ Indian Oil Corporation

☐ State Bank of India

☐ TCS

☐ Wipro

☐ None of these

Ans. Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) State-run Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) has emerged as the country's biggest company in terms of annual revenue as per an annual list of 2015 Fortune 500 companies in India. IOC topped the list for consecutive sixth year with annual revenue of Rs. 4,51,911 crore. IOC was followed by Mukesh Ambani-led private sector Reliance Industries at the second place with a revenue of Rs. 3,82,565 crore.

**9. MoboMoney is a prepaid wallet issued in the form of a Near Field Communication (NFC) contactless tag that could be used to 'Tap N Pay' for goods and services launched by?**

☐ Infosys

☐ Tech Mahindra

☐ TCS

☐ Wipro

☐ None of these

Ans. Tech Mahindra Tech Mahindra has launched first of its kind 'Tap N Pay' contactless digital payment wallet MoboMoney for the Indian masses. MoboMoney has been billed as India's first commercial NFC ecosystem rollout that would allow consumers to convert cash into e-cash for making payments. MoboMoney is a prepaid wallet issued in the form of a Near Field Communication (NFC) contactless tag that could be used to 'Tap N Pay' for goods and services.

**10. Sadhna Shivdasani (mononymously known as Sadhana) passed away recently. She was a famous \_\_\_\_?.**

☐ Lawyer

☐ Journalism

☐ Writer

☐ Actress

☐ None of these

Ans. actress Veteran Bollywood actress Sadhna Shivdasani (mononymously known as Sadhana) passed away in Mumbai, Maharashtra. She was 74. She was renowned for his style statement and acting prowess in Bollywood in the 1960s and 70s.

**11. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the new building of Afghanistan Parliament in the capital city Kabul built by India. He also named one block of Parliament as \_\_\_\_?.**

**whole policy term. The Name of the new endowment policy is?**

1. Jeevan Suraksha
2. Jeevan Labh
3. Jeevan Secure
4. Jeevan Data
5. None of these

**Ans. Jeevan Labh**

LIC is offering a 'New Year gift' to the public in the form of a limited-premium, non-linked and with-profit endowment assurance plan 'Jeevan Labh' from Monday. The highlight of the plan is that premium is payable for a limited period while risk is covered for the whole policy term. The plan is available from ages 8 to 59 years with a choice of policy term of 16, 21 and 25 years and premium-paying terms of 10, 15 and 16 years respectively. The maximum age at maturity is 75 years.

**9. Arunima Sinha, the amputee mountaineer who set a record by climbing the Mount Everest recently, conquered Mount Aconcagua located in which country?**

1. Russia
2. Argentina
3. China
4. Japan
5. None of these

**Ans. Argentina**

Arunima Sinha, the amputee mountaineer, who set a record by climbing the Mount Everest on 25 December 2015, conquered Mount Aconcagua in Argentina. Arunima started her mission on the morning of 12 December 2015 and hoisted the Indian tricolour on 25 December 2015. With this, Arunima has successfully completed the 5th summit of the Mission 7 Summits and also became the first female amputee to climb 5 Mountains of the World.

**10. India recently won of the South Asian Football Federation Cup (SAFF) championships by defeating which country?**

1. Pakistan
2. Iran
3. China
4. Afghanistan
5. None of these

**Ans. Afghanistan**

India on 3 January 2016 won of the South Asian Football Federation Cup (SAFF) championships. In the title clash played at Trivandrum International Stadium of Kerala, India defeated defending champions Afghanistan 2-1. India has been the most successful side in the tournaments history by

winning the title in seven of the 11 editions. Afghans won their first title in 2013.

**11. Sarosh Homi Kapadia passed away recently in Mumbai. He was a (an) \_\_\_\_\_?**

1. writer
2. Novelist
3. Former Chief Justice of India
4. Journalist
5. None of these

**Ans. Former Chief Justice of India**

Former Justice of India Sarosh Homi Kapadia passed away on 4 January 2016 in Mumbai. He was 68. Kapadia is survived by wife and a son and a daughter. He retired on 29 September 2012. During his tenure as CJI, he served as the Chairman of the General Council of the Gujarat National Law University and the Visitor of the National Law School of India University.

**12. Professional networking platform LinkedIn appointed which of the following as Country Manager for India?**

1. Akshay Singh
2. Akshay Kothari
3. Pradeep Kumar
4. Laxman Singh
5. None of these

**Ans. Akshay Kothari**

Professional networking platform LinkedIn today appointed Akshay Kothari as Country Manager for India, with immediate effect. India has one of the largest userbase for LinkedIn, which has more than 400 million members globally. Kothari replaces Nishant Rao, who quit the company in October last year to join cloud-based customer support software firm Freshdesk as its Chief Operating Officer

**13. Nokia Corporation recently announced that it completed the regulatory formalities for acquiring the telecom equipment company Alcatel-Lucent. Telecom Alcatel-Lucent is from which country?**

1. Finland
2. France
3. North Korea
4. China
5. None of these

**Ans. France**

Nokia Corporation on 5 January 2015 announced that it completed the regulatory formalities for acquiring the French telecom equipment company Alcatel-Lucent. The deal, worth 15.6 billion euro, was signed in 2014 and later approved by the European Commission. With this acquisition, Nokia holds 79.32 percent of outstanding Alcatel-Lucent shares

**Ans. T M Varghese Foundation**

*The book titled Jawaharlal Nehru and The Indian Polity in Perspective was released by Hamid Ansari on 12 January 2016 by the Vice President of India Hamid Ansari at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala. The focus of the book is on the role of Jawaharlal Nehru, India's first Prime Minister, on shaping the polity of modern India. It was published by T M Varghese Foundation.*

**10. Vice President Hamid Ansari declared Kerala as the first state in the country to attain 'Total Primary Education', and described the achievement as 'historic'. Kerala was declared fully literate state in which year?**

1. 1995
2. 2000
3. 1991
4. 2005
5. None of these

**Ans. 1991**

*Vice President Hamid Ansari today declared Kerala as the first state in the country to attain 'Total Primary Education', and described the achievement as 'historic.' "I believe that the date today is as historic for Kerala as April 18, 1991, the day Kerala was declared to be a fully literate state," he said.*

**11. Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh government. The MoU envisages investment of around Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ crore rupees to take up various projects at Visakhapatnam?**

1. 38500
2. 37500
3. 47500
4. 22400
5. None of these

**Ans. 38500**

*Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL), the corporate entity of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant, on 11 January 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Andhra Pradesh government. The MoU envisages investment of around 38500 crore rupees to take up various projects at Visakhapatnam. The deal was signed during the 22nd CII Partnership Summit & 1st Sunrise AP Investment Meet, which is being held in Visakhapatnam.*

**12. Nati is the folk dance of which places that recently finds Place in Guinness Book of World Records?**

1. Uttar Pradesh
2. Kerala
3. Tripura
4. Hamachal Pradesh
5. None of these

**Ans. Himachal Pradesh (Kullu)**

*The colourful Kullu folk dance (Nati), which saw participation of 20,000 dancers during Kullu Dussehra festival on October 26 last year, has entered the Guinness book of world records. In the Nati, 10,000 men and women attired in traditional Kullu dress performed at Dhalpur Ground during Kullu Dussehra festival on October 26 last year.*

**13. Which states has become India's first fully organic state by converting around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land into sustainable cultivation?**

1. Tripura
2. Manipur
3. Sikkim
4. Meghalaya
5. None of these.

**Ans. Sikkim**

*Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state by converting around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land into sustainable cultivation. "We have achieved fully organic status in the end of December. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will formally announce this at a sustainable agriculture conference in Gangtok on January 18," said Sikkim Organic Mission's executive director Dr Anbalagan.*

**14. Which of the following Banks launched its wealth management offering and inaugurated a dedicated branch for start-ups?**

1. Syndicate Bank
2. Central Bank of India
3. State Bank of India
4. Punjab National Bank
5. None of these

**Ans. State Bank of India**

*State Bank of India launched its wealth management offering and inaugurated a dedicated branch for start-ups here today. While the wealth management service 'Exclusif' is targeted at the fast-growing affluent segment in the country, 'SBI InCube' - the branch for start-ups - would offer advisory services to the budding entrepreneurs under one roof, SBI Chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya told reporters here.*

**15. Who was presented with the Danny Kaye Humanitarian Leadership Award at the sixth**

**11. Which of the following bank has recently launched India's first start-up exclusively bank branch?**

1. Punjab National Bank (PNB)
2. Punjab and Sindh Bank (P & Sindh B)
3. State Bank of India (SBI)
4. Indian Overseas Bank (IOB)
5. None of these

**Ans. State Bank of India (SBI)**

*India's largest public sector lender the State Bank of India (SBI), opened an exclusive branch to serve start-up companies in Bengaluru. This is the first of its kind branch opened by any bank in the country, chairman Arundhati Bhattacharya said. SBI also forayed into wealth management services for the first time by opening a dedicated branch for high networth individuals (HNI) in Bengaluru.*

**12. India's Anuradha Roy has won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016 for her which novel that deals with the subject of violence against women?**

1. Free press summer Fiction
2. Sleeping on Jupiter
3. An Atlas of impossible longing
4. The folded earth
5. None of these

**Ans. Sleeping on Jupiter**

*India's Anuradha Roy has won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature 2016 for her novel, sleeping on Jupiter, which deals with the subject of violence against women. At the Galle Literary Festival in Galle, about 130 km south of Colombo, Sri Lanka Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Saturday presented her the prize, which carried a cash award of \$50,000 and a trophy, according to a release.*

**13. Which of the following stock exchange will get its own postage stamp?**

1. MCX stock exchange
2. Bangalore stock exchange
3. Bombay Stock exchange (BSE)
4. Derivatives stock exchange
5. None of these.

**Ans. Bombay Stock exchange (BSE)**

*Asia's oldest stock exchange BSE will get its own postage stamp. In acceding to your request to have postal stamp, I am feeling happy, as it is the official recognition of the work you are doing," Prasad said at an event to launch BSE's free wi-fi services to public in Mumbai.*

**1. Chairperson of the Economic Intelligence Council (EIC) is \_\_\_\_\_?**

1. Finance Minister
2. Prime Minister
3. President
4. Cabinet Secretary
5. None of these

**Ans. Finance Minister**

*In order to facilitate coordination amongst the Enforcement Agencies dealing with economic offences and ensure operational coordination amongst them, a two tier system has been established by the Government of India with an Economic Intelligence Council at the Centre under the Chairmanship of Union Minister Finance, and 18 Regional Economic Intelligence Committees at different places in India.*

**2. The 18th Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was recently held at which Place?**

1. Hyderabad
2. New Delhi
3. Raipur
4. Jaipur
5. None of these.

**Ans. New Delhi**

*The 18th Session of the India-Iran Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) was held on 28 December 2015 in New Delhi. The session was co-chaired by External Affairs Minister of India (EAM) Sushma Swaraj and Ali Tayebnia, Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance of Iran. Both the leaders reviewed the progress in trade and economic cooperation and a number of related matters. They also discussed the possibilities in cooperation in railways, including by supply of rails, rolling stock and signaling.*

**3. The Union Ministry of Finance recently released the report of the Committee on Revisiting and Revitalising Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model. The 9-member committee was headed by?**

1. Vijay Kelkar
2. Arvind Subramanian
3. K M Mani
4. P Bhaskar
5. None of these

**Ans. Vijay Kelkar**

*The Union Ministry of Finance on 28 December 2015 released the report of the Committee on Revisiting and Revitalising Public Private Partnership (PPP) Model. The 9-member committee was headed by former Finance*

3. Uttarakhand
4. Jharkhand
5. None of these

**Ans. Jharkhand**

*Jharkhand became one of the very first states to officially join the UjwalDiscom Assurance Yojana (UDAY) central government's financial restructuring programme for discoms, which will offer the state a net benefit of approximately Rs 5,300 crore. The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Union Ministry of Power, Jharkhand department.*

**3.The Union government and the World Bank have signed an agreement of how much amount for a project named as Nai Manzil Scheme, for helping young people from minority communities complete their education and improve their employment opportunities?**

1. \$60-million
2. \$80-million
3. \$50-million
4. \$40-million
5. None of these

**Ans. \$50-million**

*The Union government and the World Bank signed a \$50-million credit agreement for a project aimed at helping young people from minority communities complete their education and improve their employment opportunities named NaiManzil Scheme.*

**4.Union Cabinet has given its nod for Civil Nuclear Cooperation deal with which country?**

1. Japan
2. Russia
3. Australia
4. China
5. None of these.

**Ans. Australia**

*The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister NarendraModi approved the India-Australia Civil Nuclear Cooperation deal that came into force on November 13, 2015. The deal along with the administrative arrangement for implementing the accord will bolster India's energy security by supporting the expansion of nuclear power in the country.*

**5.The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved introduction of Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) for technology upgradation in which of the following sectors?**

1. IT Sector
2. Automobile Sectors

3. Banking Sectors
4. Textiles industry
5. None of these.

**Ans. Textiles industry**

*The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved introduction of Amended Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (ATUFS) for technology upgradation of the textiles industry. Decision in this regard was taken by CCEA meeting chaired by the Prime Minister NarendraModi in New Delhi. The ATUFS replaces existing Revised Restructured Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (RR-TUFS) to give a boost to textile sector under Make in India campaign.*

**6.India's central bank has asked the lenders to open more brick and mortar branches in villages with no banking facilities and with a population of more than \_\_\_\_\_?**

1. 4000
2. 6000
3. 5000
- 4.2000
5. None of these

**Ans. 5000**

*India's central bank has asked the lenders to open more brick and mortar branches in villages with no banking facilities and with a population of more than 5,000. The banking regulator has asked banks to submit a roadmap on how many branches they will be opening by 31 March 2017.*

**7.Who has recently been appointed as the new CMD of defence PSU BEML Ltd?**

1. D.K. Malhotra
2. D.K.Hota
3. K M Mani
4. Rajesh Roshan
5. None of these

**Ans. D.K.Hota**

*The Public Enterprises Selection Board has recommended D.K.Hota to be the new CMD of defence PSU BEML Ltd. He is currently Director (HR) of the Bengaluru-based BEML. He has been on deputation at BEML from oil marketing major HPCL for the past two years.*

**8.Union Govt approves constitution of 69 bridges on Trilateral Highway in which country?**

1. Myanmar
2. China
3. Japan
4. Nepal
5. None of these

The Global Nutrition Report (GNR) and India Health Report on Nutrition, 2015 (IHR), offer a critical analysis of the state of nutrition in India. The first report, the India Health Report: Nutrition 2015 (IHR), provides easy-to-understand, State-wise data dashboards that give a comprehensive view of nutrition and its determinants. It looks at disparities in these outcomes and their multiple determinants across geographical regions, socio-economic classes, and demographic groups to help identify strategic choices for policy-making at the State level.

In turn, GNR assesses progress in reducing malnutrition for all 193 countries. It concludes that while India is on track to meeting only two of the eight global targets on nutrition, it has significantly improved its nutrition performance in the past 10 years. GNR notes that there has been a big increase in the number of countries on track to meet global nutrition targets, and encourages countries, including India, to establish specific and time-bound targets for malnutrition reduction that are consistent with the new Sustainable Development Goals. Together, these reports paint several pictures about India, a data-poor country. They portray one of great progress in improving nutrition across India; stunting among children, a marker of the most persistent types of malnutrition, has declined rapidly in the last ten years. And this decline has been faster than in many other countries. But as we dig deeper, there are diverse pictures about the life conditions of Indian children — positive stories about children's lives and futures in Goa, Kerala, Manipur and Tamil Nadu, but dismal ones in Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh. What cannot be debated is the reality of deep, systemic inequality; of inequality in the circumstances that children are born into, that they live and grow in. For those of us who are worried about India's economic growth, these are also pictures of inequality that point to how well these children will be able to contribute to India's economic growth and their own prosperity. Their poor nutrition stunts more than their bodies. It stunts their well-being, and, consequentially, that of their home States and their nation. Two other things, both related to inequality, stand out as well in the data. First, the data point to tremendous variability across States in delivering what should be universal, rights-based and already mandated health and nutrition services. For example, sample this for intra-State disparity. Food provided by the Integrated Child Development Services reaches barely 1 in 5 children in Uttar Pradesh but over 90 per cent in Odisha. Less than 33 per cent of children in Nagaland are fully immunised; in Goa, it is more than 90 per cent. Close to 80 per cent defecate in the open in Odisha; barely 2 per cent do so in Kerala. Why?

These are disparities across States that operate in the same national framework, and there is, let's face it, no good reason for this other than an inability or an unwillingness to invest in changing ground realities, for everyone and everywhere. This is not an insurmountable challenge and it's certainly an area where States can, if they want it, make dramatic change in short timeframes. Examples abound from within India. The data in the reports show that, clearly, the imperative for introspection, and looking within for solutions was never clearer. No child should go without basic health care, food security and things like water and a toilet. Indeed, no adult should either. No society should condone such inequalities in the basics. And no society has progressed without addressing these basics.

Source-The Hindu

1. What are the disparities that states are facing in the national framework?

I. Health and nutrition services

II. Variable food services

III. Inequality in education

a. III

b. II & III

c. I & II

d. I, II & III

e. none of the above

2. The Global Nutrition Report focuses mainly on the

a. Sustainable Development Goals

b. comprehensive view of nutrition and its determinants

c. India's economic growth

d. Intra-State variability

e. Progress in reducing malnutrition

3. Which of the following would be the suitable title?

a. State of nutrition in India

b. Global nutrition targets

c. Nutrition and its determinants

d. Progressive India

e. Inequality: A big challenge

4. According to author what is the biggest challenge that India is facing?

a. Reducing progress in malnutrition

b. Inability to invest in education and health services

c. unwillingness and inability to invest in basic facilities

d. High global nutrition targets

e. None of these

5. What is NOT TRUE according to the above passage?

I. Food provided by ICDS reaches to only few children in UP.

his chairmanship would review implementation of the policy on a regular basis for feedback and suggestions.

The start-up policy is the outcome of the state government's 'Karnataka I-4' initiative launched in 2014, spanning IT, IT-enabled services (back office and business process outsourcing), **innovation** and incentives.

The three-day annual event showcases the state's prowess in the knowledge sector, with over 2,000 firms, including 500 global IT majors, multinationals and offshore software development centres for services and products, operating from in and around this tech hub, providing 1.5 million direct jobs and 2.5 million indirect jobs.

"Bengaluru has the distinction of being the country's largest IT cluster, with 350 of the Fortune 500 firms locating their R&D and offshore development operations, thanks to its talent pool, research and academic institutions in the government and private sectors and best higher education system, including universities," the chief minister told about 500 delegates at the inaugural event.

The country's first electronic city, which was set up in the 1980s on the outskirts of southern Bengaluru across 400 acres of land, has become a major hub for about 200 software and hardware firms, including home-grown Indian IT **bellwethers** like Infosys and Wipro.

**-Source, The Statesman**

1. According to the passage, which of the following is not true?

- (1) Bangalore is a talent pool.
- (2) Recently Bangalore flagged off 18th edition of Bagaluru ITE biz 2015.
- (3) Siddaramaiah made a committee to startup which gives a unique idea how to start business.
- (4) Karnataka will create 6 lakh direct and 12 lakh indirect job.
- (5) None of these

2. According to the passage Which of the following is true?

- (1) Tech Savy of Karnataka will incubate about 20,000 start-up by 2030.
- (2) The start-up policy is the outcome of the state government Karnatak 1-4 intitutive lauched 2014.
- (3) Bengalure has distinction of being the Country's largest I.T Cluster with 350 of fortune 600 firm.
- (4) Country's first electronic city was setup 1990.
- (5) None of these

3. Which of the following would be the suitable title?

- (1) Bengaluru initiative in providing job
- (2) Tech-Savy Karnataka

(3) Karnataka is best in start-up policy.

(4) Karnataka's initiative to incubate entrepreneurs.

(5) No business in karnataka

4. According to author what we can say about Karnataka?

- (1) Karnataka is growing fast and implementing new policies day by day.
- (2) Karnataka chief minister is very knowledgeable and loyal towards his constituency.
- (3) Karnataka wants to promote entrepreneurship with creative idea including manufacturing, I.T. and biotechnology all together.
- (4) Karnataka is best place startup policy which is outcome of state government 1-4 initiative
- (5) None of these

**Directions (5to 7): Choose the word which is most OPPOSITE in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage.**

5. Ventures

- (1) Jeopard
- (2) hazard
- (3) peril
- (4) gamble
- (5) shield

6. Bellwethers

- (1) leader
- (2) Pacer
- (3) pacemaker
- (4) trail setter
- (5) imitate

7. Incubate

- (1) Endorse
- (2) uphold
- (3) patronize
- (4) underwrite
- (5) hinder

**Directions (8to 10): Choose the word which is most similar in meaning of the word printed in bold as used in the passage**

8. Innovation

- (1) clone
- (2) copy
- (3) wrinkle
- (4) replica
- (5) facsimile

9. Foster

- (1) forbid
- (2) snuff
- (3) suppress
- (4) oppose
- (5) boost

10. Enable  
 (1) disenfranchise  
 (2) impede  
 (3) preclude  
 (4) vest  
 (5) veto

Answers:

- 1.3  
 2.2  
 3.4  
 4.3  
 5.5  
 6.5  
 7.5  
 8.3  
 9.5  
 10.4

The Emperor had inherited a peaceful and prosperous kingdom at a young age after the untimely death of his father. A few months later a man arrived at court. He stated that he was from a far off land and had the gift of foresight. He impressed the Emperor with his witty remarks and was appointed a courtier. The Emperor and those at court all enjoyed hearing accounts of his travels. One day the newly appointed minister said, "Your Majesty, you are destined for great things. It is written in the stars. I have learnt the art of fortune telling. Do not be content with your kingdom alone. Travel, see the world and conquer."

There are many who are oppressed. They will call you for rescuing them from the tyranny of their rulers." The Emperor was stunned to hear this but he refused to discuss the matter at the time. The courtiers too were astonished to hear this and began debating among themselves. "It is true," they said, "Our Emperor's father was a great warrior and he ruled wisely. Perhaps there is truth in this." So the newly appointed courtier shrewdly planted the idea of waging war against other kingdoms at court. After hearing several repeated arguments in favour of this idea the Emperor finally agreed. He was a young man and a battle seemed to be exciting and an adventure. So the newly appointed minister planned the first campaign against a smaller neighbouring kingdom.

The Emperor knew the ruler was cruel and felt justified in waging war against him. Having the superior army he easily defeated the king. Everyone celebrated. But the campaign did not stop there. With every victory the new minister would urge the Emperor on to the next battle. The soldiers grew tired after over two years at war but did not complain out of respect and loyalty to their ruler.

Meanwhile the situation in his kingdom began to deteriorate. With no one to look after the daily administration and to resolve disputes, signs of neglect began to be seen. The Emperor was no longer bothered if he was freeing the oppressed when he attacked a kingdom. He would plunder their riches to fund his wars. The new minister who was in charge of these funds kept a large part for himself and grew richer.

An old man who had been a minister in the Emperor's father's court grew worried and decided to do something about this situation. A few days later when the Emperor was out riding in the forest he suddenly saw the old man. He greeted him like an old friend and inquired what he was doing there. The man pointed to two owls in the trees. "I am listening to their conversation". "What are they saying?" the Emperor asked unbelievably. "They are negotiating the marriage of their children. The first owl wants to know whether the other will be gifting his daughter fifty villages on her wedding day. To which the second one replied that he would have to gift her one hundred and fifty as the villages were in ruins and as such were worthless but with the Emperor as ruler there would be many such villages." When the Emperor heard this he realised the error of his ways. He returned home immediately and ordered the old minister putting him in charge of reconstructing the ruined villages and dismissed the fortune teller from his court.

1. Which of the following is TRUE in the context of the passage?

- 1) The Emperor's father inherited his kingdom at a very young age.
- 2) The soldiers followed the Emperor only because they were afraid of him.
- 3) It took time at first to convince the Emperor to conquer other kingdoms.
- 4) The Emperor was afraid to wage war against the neighbouring kingdom because its ruler was cruel.
- 5) After his father's death the Emperor had to wage many wars to ensure his kingdom remained peaceful.

2. What was the Emperor's reaction when he saw the old minister?

- 1) He was ashamed to see him because he had replaced him with a new minister.
- 2) He was relieved to see him because he wanted his advice.
- 3) He felt sorry for the old man because he was talking to birds.
- 4) He was pleased to see him.
- 5) None of these

3. What justification did the courtier give for attacking the neighbouring kingdom?