

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF MARCH 2016

Awards

The Indian writer and journalist who has been awarded the Windham Campbell Prize 2016 in the fiction category for his novel Em and the Big Hoom – **Jerry Pinto**

The Indian-origin student who has been awarded the inaugural Noor Inayat Khan Prize for her dissertation which was in “keeping with the spirit” of the famous World War II heroine by the Noor Inayat Khan Memorial Trust in London – **Geetakshi Arora**

The British mathematician who has been awarded the Abel Prize 2016 by the Norwegian Academy of Letters and Science for his solution to Fermat’s last theorem – **Sir Andrew Wiles**

The veteran Hindi film actor, director who has been chosen to be honoured with the Dadasaheb Phalke Award 2015 – **Manoj Kumar**

Defence

The indigenous Brahmaputra Class frigate which is representing the Indian Navy at Doha International Maritime Defence Exhibition (DIMDEX 16) being held at Qatar from 28 Mar to 02 Apr 16 – **INS Beas**

The venue of 9th edition of biennial Land, Naval and Internal Homeland Security Systems Exhibition (Defexpo India 2016) being held from 28 to 31 Mar 16 – **Naqeri Qitol in Quepem Taluka of South Goa**

The country in which the Indian Navy has deployed a P 8I maritime reconnaissance aircraft for surveillance in its Exclusive Economic Zone in accordance with the MoU between the two Governments - **Seychelles**

The fire power demonstration exercise of the Indian Air Force conducted at Pokhran in Rajasthan on 18 Mar 2016 was named – **Iron Fist 2016**

The two-day joint coastal security exercise conducted by the Coast Guard, Navy, Octopus (the elite anti-terrorist outfit of the State), local police, and Coastal Security Police in the 9 coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh – **Operation Hamla**

The first ever joint drill Border Security Force (India) and Border Guard Bangladesh conducted in the riverine borders of Sundarbans is named – **Sundarbans Maithri**

The fourth edition of the Indo-Indonesia Joint Training Exercise conducted from 10 to 23 March 2016 at Magelang, Indonesia – **Garuda Shakti**

The places in Arunachal Pradesh at which the Indian Air Force has reactivated two Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) – **Ziro and Along**

The Indian Navy sailing vessel aboard which an all-women crew of Naval officers completed their maiden voyage from Visakhapatnam to Goa – **INS Mhadei**

The multilateral military training exercise of 18 ASEAN plus countries conducted in Pune from March 2 to March 8 is named (Lt Col Sophia Qureshi led the Indian contingent at the exercise) – **Force 18**

Sports

The Indian badminton player who has won the men's singles title at the Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament defeating Marc Zwiebler of Germany in the finals – **H.S. Prannoy**

The Indian golf player who has won the Hero Indian Open 2016 golf tournament - **S.S.P. Chawrasia**

The athlete who has become the first Indian to win the Asian 20km Race Walk Championships in the event held at Nomi, Japan – **Gurmeet Singh**

The team which has won the Santosh Trophy Football tournament defeating Maharashtra in the finals – **Services**

The winners of All England Open Badminton Men's and Women's Singles of 2016 titles respectively – **Lin Dan (China) and Nozomi Okuhara (Japan)**

The South African track and field athlete who has become the first athlete to run 100 metres under 10 seconds, 200 metres under 20 seconds and 400m under 44 seconds – **Wayde van Niekerk**

The winner of Irani Trophy 2015-16 played between Rest of India and Mumbai at Brabourne Stadium, Mumbai – **Rest of India**

The kabaddi team led by Manpreet Singh and owned by Rajesh V Shah which has won the Pro Kabaddi League 2016 kabaddi tournament defeating U Mumba in the finals – **Patna Pirates**

Persons

The legendary playback singer of South Indian languages who entered the Guinness Book of World Records for having recorded upto 17,695 solo, duet and chorus backed songs in over six Indian languages as verified on 28 January 2016 – **P. Susheela**

The Dutch footballer, winner of Ballon d'Or in 1971, 1973 and 1974 and one of the most famous exponents of the football philosophy known as Total Football, who passed away on 24 March – **Johan Cruyff**

The well-known shehnai exponent (Sangeet Natak Akademi award 2009 and Banga Bhushan award in 2012) who passed away on 16 Mar 2016 – **Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan**

The acclaimed humanitarian, actor and writer, who has been appointed the new Goodwill Ambassador of United Nations Population Fund – **Ashley Judd**

The Burmese scholar and writer who has been chosen to be the first civilian President of Myanmar after more than 50 years – **Htin Kyaw**

The film actress and wife of the 40th President of United States, Ronald Reagan who passed away on 06 Mar 2016 at the age of 94 – **Nancy Reagan**

The inventor of e-mail and selector of the symbol @ for e-mails who passed away on 05 Mar 2016 – **Ray Tomlinson**

The former Speaker of Lok Sabha and Chief Minister of Meghalaya who passed away on 04 March 2016 (He was also the Presidential candidate against Shri Pranab Mukherjee in 2012) – **P.A. Sangma**

The former New Zealand cricketer and captain who passed away on 03 Feb 2016 – **Martin Crowe**

Places

The place in Uttarakhand at which the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and PM of Belgium Mr. Charles Michel, carried out the remote technical activation of a 3.6 metre optical telescope developed by Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences – **Devasthal**

The venue of 4-day National AROGYA Fair organised by the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India in association with Goa State Government and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) from 26 to 29 March 2016 – **Goa**

The venue of 8th BRICS Summit to be held from 15 to 16 October 2016 – **Goa**

The airport in Russia at which a Flydubai Boeing 737 plane crashed killing all the passengers on 19 Mar - **Rostov-on-Don**

The venue of 5th edition of India Aviation show being held from 16 to 20 March, with the theme 'India's Civil Aviation Sector: Potential a Global Manufacturing & MRO Hub – **Hyderabad**

The station in Chennai division of Southern Railway which has been inaugurated as the first common user Auto Hub of Indian Railways – **Walajabad**

Govt Programmes

The vaccine which has been launched by the Health Minister Shri JP Nadda as a part of Universal Immunisation Programme (to be introduced initially in Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha) -**Rotavirus Vaccine**

The new name of Govt's LED based Domestic Efficient Lighting Programme (DELP), which is currently being run successfully in over 120 cities across India – **Ujala (Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All)**

The project launched by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to make all National Highways railways crossing free by the year 2019 is named – **Setu Bharatam**

Days and Themes

The United Nations has declared the theme of International Women's Day on 08 March 2016 to be – **Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step it up for Gender Equality**

The theme of 9th Foundation Day of National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (NCPCR) dedicated to the Rehabilitation of Children in Conflict With Law (being observed on 5th March 2016) – **Naya Sawera**

Miscellaneous

The nuclear power plant in Gujarat at which one of the units had to be shut down due to leakage of heavy water – **Kakrapar Atomic Power Station**

The island nation of the Pacific Ocean which has filed cases against United Kingdom, India and Pakistan for having failed to carry out good-faith negotiations towards nuclear disarmament, as required under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty – **Marshall Islands**

The cities between which India's airlines Air India has operated the longest world's longest all-women-operated flight (The flight, which travelled a distance of around 14,500 kilometre in close to 17 hours, was operated as part of International Women's Day celebrations) – **New Delhi and San Francisco**

The PSU bank of India which has been given approval to operate in Myanmar by the Central Bank of Myanmar alongwith 3 other banks namely, Vietnam's Bank for Investment and Development, Taiwan's E.SUN Commercial Bank and South Korea's Shinhan Bank – **State Bank of India**

National Film Awards

#	Name of the Award	Name of the Film	Awardees
1.	Best Feature Film	Baahubali	Producer: Shobu Yarlagadda and Arka Mediaworks Director: SS Rajamouli
2.	Indira Gandhi Award for Best Debut Film of a Director	Masaan	Producer: Phantom Films Director: Neeraj Ghaywan
3.	Best Popular Film	Bajrangi Bhaijaan	Producer: Salma Khan, Salman Khan, Rockline Venkatesh Director: Kabir Khan
4.	Nargis Dutt Award for Best Feature Film on National Integration	Nanak Shah Fakir	Producer: Gurbani Media Pvt Ltd
5.	Best Film on Social Issues	Nirnayakam	Producer: Jairaj Films Director: VK Prakash
6.	Best Film on Environment Conservation/Preservation	Valiya Chirakulla Pakshikal	Producer: Ananthakrishna Pillai Director: Dr. Biju
7.	Best Children's Film	Duronto	Producer: Code Red Films Director: Soumendra Padhi
8.	Best Direction	Bajirao Mastani	Director: Sanjay Leela Bhansali

9.	Best Actor	Piku	Amitabh Bachchan
10.	Best Actress	Tanu Weds Manu Returns	Kangana Ranaut
11.	Best Supporting Actor	Visaaranai	Samuthirakani
12.	Best Supporting Actress	Bajirao Mastani	Tanvi Azmi
13.	Best Child Artist	Ben	Gaurav Menon
14.	Best Male Playback Singer	Katyar Kalijat Ghusli	Mahesh Kale
15.	Best Female Playback Singer	Dum Laga Ke Haisa	Monali Thakur
16.	Best Book on Cinema	Dr. Rajakumar Samagra Charithre	Author: Doddahulluru Rukkoji

This is only a selective list of awards. For complete awards please visit [Govt of India website](#)

HOCKEY INDIA 2nd ANNUAL AWARDS

Major Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award – **Late. Capt. Shankar Laxman**

Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award for Men – **P.R Sreejesh**

Dhruv Batra Player of the Year Award for Women – **Deepika**

Ashgabat Agreement

The Union Cabinet, chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has given its approval for India to accede to the Ashgabat Agreement, an international transport and transit corridor facilitating transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

Oman, Iran, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are the founding members of the Ashgabat Agreement. Kazakhstan later joined this arrangement. Accession to the Agreement would enable India to utilise this existing transport and transit corridor to facilitate trade and commercial interaction with the Eurasian region.

Ashgabat is the capital of Turkmenistan.

THE EXOMARS PROGRAMME 2016-2018

Goal of the Programme: To establish if life ever existed on Mars.

Programme launched by: European Space Agency (ESA) and Russian Federal Space Agency (Roscosmos) – jointly

First Mission: Launch of ExoMars Trace Gas Orbiter plus an Entry, Descent and landing demonstrator Module (EDM), known as Schiaparelli

First launch date: 14 March 2016

Second Mission: An ExoMars Rover

Second launch: Expected in 2018.

New Rates of Interest in Post Offices

Instrument	Old rate of interest	Rate of interest w.e.f. 01.04.2016 to 30.6.2016
Savings Deposit	4.0	4.0
1 Year Time Deposit	8.4	7.1
2 Year Time Deposit	8.4	7.2
3 Year Time Deposit	8.4	7.4
5 Year Time Deposit	8.5	7.9
5 Year Recurring Deposit	8.4	7.4
5 Year Senior Citizens Savings Scheme	9.3	8.6
5 year Monthly Income Account Scheme	8.4	7.8
5 Year National Savings Certificate	8.5	8.1
Public Provident Fund Scheme	8.7	8.1
Kisan Vikas Patra	8.7	7.8 (will mature in 110 months)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	9.2	8.6

13th Asia Cup – 2016

Venue : **Shere-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium** – Bangladesh

Teams : India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and UAE

Format : T20 – for the first time

Winner : **India**

Runner-up : Bangladesh

Player of the series : **Sabbir Rahman** of Bangladesh

Visitors' Award

Bestowed by the President of India, being the Visitor of all Universities

Visitor's Award for Best University – **Tezpur University**

Visitor's Award for Innovation – **Prof. Rakesh Bhatnagar** of Jawaharlal Nehru University for development of a genetically engineered vaccine and a therapeutic antibody against anthrax.

Visitor's Award for Research – Molecular Parasitology Group of Jawaharlal Nehru University for pioneering work in the area of molecular parasitology, especially anti-malaria, leishmaniasis and amoebiasis.

Launch of India's Sixth Navigation Satellite IRNSS-1F

Launch date – 10 March 2016

Launch Station – Satish Dhawan Space Centre SHAR, Sriharikota.

IRNSS-1F is the sixth of the seven satellites constituting the space segment of the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System. IRNSS-1A, 1B, 1C, 1D and 1E, the first five satellites of the constellation, were successfully launched by PSLV on 02 July 2013, 04 April 2014, 16 October 2014, 28 March 2015 and 20 January 2016 respectively.

IRNSS is an independent regional navigation satellite system designed to provide position information in the Indian region and 1,500 km around the Indian mainland. IRNSS would provide two types of services, namely, Standard Positioning Services (SPS) – provided to all users – and Restricted Services (RS), provided to authorised users.

IRNSS-1G, the remaining satellite of this constellation, is scheduled to be launched by PSLV in April 2016, thereby completing the IRNSS constellation..

ABBREVIATIONS IN NEWS

LASI : Longitudinal Ageing Study of India

ARIES : Aryabhata Research Institute of Observational Sciences

Current Affairs Questions

1. Which of the following teams won the Pro Kabaddi League tournament 2016?

- (a) U Mumba (b) Jaipur Pink Panthers (c) Patna Pirates (d) Puneri Paltan

2. At which of the following nuclear power plants in India one of the units had to be shut down due to a leakage of heavy water?

- (a) Kundankulam (b) Rawatbhata (c) Narora (d) Kakrapar

3. With which of the following sports is Armaan Ebrahim associated?

- (a) Golf (b) Car Racing (c) Billiards (d) Shooting

4. Which of the following films has been awarded the National Award 2016 for the Best Feature Film?

- (a) Baahubali (b) Bajrangi Bhaijaan (c) Bajirao Mastani (d) Piku

5. Which of the following has been awarded the Visitor's Award for the best university by the President of India?

- (a) Punjab University (b) Tezpur University (c) Delhi University (d) Annamalai University

6. Who is the director of the recently released movie Aligarh?

- (a) Ram Madhvani (b) Anurag Kashyap (c) Hanslal Mehta (d) Omung Kumar

7. 18 ASEAN countries recently participated in a multilateral training exercise in March 2016. At which of the following places was the exercise conducted?

- (a) Pune (b) Ranikhet (c) Jaisalmer (d) Jhansi

8. One Belt, One Road is a development strategy started by which of the following countries?

- (a) China (b) India (c) Greece (d) Great Britain

9. Which Indian public sector bank was recently accorded approval to operate in Myanmar?

- (a) Bank of Baroda (b) Punjab National Bank (c) Canara Bank (d) State Bank of India

10. Noted tennis player Maria Sharapova recently failed a drug test when she tested positive for which of the following drugs?

- (a) Adrafinil (b) Modafinil (c) Meldonium (d) Diamorphine

11. Who was the last President of United States to visit Cuba while in office?

- (a) Warren G Harding (b) Calvin Coolidge (c) Herbert Hoover (d) Woodrow Wilson

12. Who of the following won the men's singles title at the Swiss Open Grand Prix Gold tournament recently?

- (a) HS Prannoy (b) K Srikanth (c) Sourabh Varma (d) P Kashyap

13. Which of the following vaccines was included in the Universal Immunisation Programme of India recently?

- (a) BCG vaccine (b) Polio vaccine (c) Rotavirus vaccine (d) JE vaccine

14. At which of the following cities were the first ever Street Child Games 2016 held recently with slogan **I am somebody**?

- (a) Rio de Janeiro (b) Madrid (c) London (d) Moscow

15. The toll-free number 1800-111-1363 is the helpline number of -

- (a) Railway Protection Force (b) IRCTC
(c) Ministry of Women and Child Development (d) Ministry of Tourism

16. Ali Ahmad Hussain Khan, who passed away recently was associated with which of the following musical instruments?

- (a) Tabla (b) Sitar (c) Shehnai (d) Santoor

17. Under the Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 notified recently minimum thickness of plastic carry bags has been stipulated at -

- (a) 30 microns (b) 40 microns (c) 50 microns (d) 60 microns

18. Which of the following teams won the 2016 Santosh Trophy football tournament?

- (a) Railways (b) Maharashtra (c) Mizoram (d) Services

19. Vankor oilfield in which ONGC is picking up 15% stake is located in which of the following countries?

- (a) Russia (b) Kazakhstan (c) Saudi Arabia (d) Iran

20. Who of the following has been awarded the 63rd National Award for the Best Actress?

- (a) Deepika Padukone (b) Kangana Ranaut (c) Tanvi Azmi (d) Kareena Kapoor

21. Who of the following has been awarded the Hockey India's Dhruv Batra Player of the Year for Men 2016?

- (a) PR Sreejesh (b) Sardara Singh (c) Akashdeep Singh (d) Rupinder Pal Singh

22. Which of the following countries did India defeat in the finals to win the Asia Cup 2016?

- (a) Pakistan (b) Sri Lanka (c) Bangladesh (d) UAE

23. Which of the following satellites was launched in March 2016 as a part of Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS)?

- (a) IRNSS 1C (b) IRNSS 1D (c) IRNSS 1E (d) IRNSS 1F

24. Setu Bharatam is a programme launched by the Govt to make all National Highways free of railway crossings by the year –

- (a) 2019 (b) 2018 (c) 2020 (d) 2017

25. Air India recently operated the world's longest all-women-operated flight on the occasion of International Women's Day from New Delhi to –

- (a) New York (b) San Francisco (c) Toronto (d) Brasilia

Answers

1. (c) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (a) 5. (b) 6. (c) 7. (a) 8. (a) 9. (d) 10. (c) 11. (b) 12. (a) 13. (c)
14. (a) 15. (d) 16. (c) 17. (c) 18. (d) 19. (a) 20. (b) 21. (a) 22. (c) 23. (d) 24. (a) 25. (b)