

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF FEBRUARY 2016

Awards

The Telugu writer who has been awarded the 29th Moortidevi Award by Bharatiya Jnanpith for his novel Ananta Jeevanam – **Kolakaluri Enoch**

The veteran fashion designer who has been conferred Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur (Knight of the Legion of Honour), the highest French civilian distinction by the ambassador of France to India – **Manish Arora**

Defence

The Seventh Joint Military Training Exercise between the Indian Army and the Seychelles People's Defence Forces (SPDF) to be conducted at Seychelles Defence Academy (SDA), Victoria, Seychelles from 15 February to 28 February 2016 is named – **LAMITYE 2016**

The 14-day Indo-Nepal Combined Military Exercise being conducted at Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand from 08 February 2016 to 21 February 2016 – **Surya Kiran IX**

Persons

The General Secretary of Union of European Football Associations who has been elected the new President of FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association) – **Gianni Infantino**

The new Director General of Coast Guard to replace Vice Admiral HCS Bisht – **Rajendra Singh**

The new Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh (9th CM) – **Kalikhho Pul**

The chairman of Rasna International who has been named ambassador of the government's 'Make in India' initiative by the Government of India – **Piruz Khambatta**

Australia's next High Commissioner to India – **Ms. Harinder Sidhu**

The Chief of Army Staff of Nepalese Army who has been conferred the Honorary Rank of General of the Indian Army by the President of India – **General Rajendra Chhetri**

The Senior IPS officer who has become the first woman Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), (also the first woman to head a paramilitary force.) – **Archana Ramasundaram**

Obituary

The Indian vocalist of Hindustani music, Sangeet Natak Akademi award (2009), Padma Bhushan (2013) who passed away at the age of 107 on 18 Feb 2016 – **Ustad Abdul Rashid Khan**

The popular author of the novel To Kill a Mockingbird (winner of 1961 Pulitzer Prize) who passed away on 19 Feb 2016 – **Harper Lee**

The former Secretary General of the United Nations and the first from the African continent who passed away on 16 Feb 16 – **Boutros Boutros Ghali**

The well known Malayalam poet and lyricist, winner of Jnanpith Award (2007), Padma Shri (1998), Padma Vibhushan (2011) who passed away on 13 Feb 2016 – **O.N.V. Kurup**

The former Prime Minister of Nepal from February 14 to October 15 and also the President of Nepali Congress Party who passed away on 09 Feb 2016 – **Sushil Koirala**

The well-known Urdu poet, lyricist and novelist who passed away on 08 Feb 16 (He was awarded the Sahitya Akademi award in 1998 and Padma Shri in 2013) – **Nida Fazli**

The sixth person to walk on moon as the Lunar Module pilot of Apollo 14 in 1971 who passed away on 04 Feb 16 – **Edgar Mitchell**

The well-known cartoonist, a Padma Shri recipient of 2004 and author of "No, Prime Minister", a book of cartoons who passed away on 06 Feb 2016 – **Sudhir Tailang**

The former Speaker of Lok Sabha and Governor of Madhya Pradesh who passed away on 03 Feb 2015 – **Balram Jakhar**

Sports

The team which has won the Ranji Trophy cricket tournament for the 41st time defeating Saurashtra in the finals – **Mumbai**

The teams which have won the Federation Cup Volleyball Championship for Men and Women respectively (held at Tirupur, Tamil Nadu) – **Uttarakhand and Indian Railways**

The New Zealand cricketer who has scored the fastest century in test cricket by making it in 54 balls in a test match against Australia at Christchurch (breaking the record held jointly by Vivian Richards and Misbah-ul-haq in 56 balls) – **Brendon McCullum**

Places

The place in Rajnandgaon district of Chhattisgarh from where the Prime Minister has launched the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban (rural-urban) Mission – **Kurubhat**

The province of Pakistan which has become the first in the country to pass the Hindu Marriage bill allowing the Hindu community to register their marriages – **Sindh**

The place in Odisha where the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th refinery of Indian Oil Corporation – **Paradip**

The city of Taiwan which was recently hit by an earthquake killing around 40 people and injuring several others – **Tainan**

The venue of 4-day National Arogya Fair being organized by the Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa Rigpa and Homoeopathy (AYUSH) in collaboration with the State government of Uttarakhand and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) – **Dehradun**

The venue of Counter-Terrorism Conference 2016 inaugurated by the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee on 02 Feb 16 – **Jaipur**

Miscellaneous

The Asian country against which the United States of America has imposed unilateral sanctions to curb the country's controversial nuclear weapons program – **North Korea**

The public sector undertaking in which the Govt has decided to disinvest 5% of its holding through Offer for Sale (OFS) route at a base price of Rs 122 a share – **NTPC**

The Italian documentary film directed by Gianfranco Rosi which has won the Golden Bear Award at the 66th Berlin International Film Festival – **Fire at Sea**

The project launched by the Geological Survey of India targeting deep seated and concealed mineral deposits is named – **Operation Khanijkhaj**

The Indian smartphone company which has launched the cheapest smartphone in India Freedom251 prices at Rs.251 – **Ringing Bells Pvt Ltd**

The crude oil tanker owned by Elektrons Group which has become the first Indian tanker to load Iranian crude post removal of US sanctions against the Gulf nation – **Distya Akula**

The countries through which the first train from China to Iran completed its 14-day journey as a part of Belt and Road connectivity initiative along the New Silk Road – **Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan**

The British national morning newspaper published in London which has announced its decision to stop its print edition from late March 2016, but continue in an online form – **The Independent**

The twin Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO) detectors which detected gravitational waves from two black holes merging about 1.3 billion light-years from Earth are located in – **Livingston, Louisiana and Hanford, Washington**

The smallest revolver to be manufactured in India by Rifle Factory Ishapore is named – **Nidar**

The national oil company of UAE which has decided to agreed to store crude oil in India's maiden strategic storage and give two-third of the oil to it for free (India has strategic oil storage facilities at Visakhapatnam, Mangalore and Padur) – **ADNOC (Abu Dhabi National Oil Company)**

The theme of World Cancer Day observed on 04 February 2015 – **We Can I Can**

The 150 cc motorcycle made by Bajaj Auto Ltd from the metal of India's first aircraft carrier INS Vikrant has been named – **V**

The virus on which the World Health Organisation has declared a public health emergency because of its suspected links to birth defects (microcephaly) – **Zika virus**

Highlights of Railway Budget - 2016-17

Theme of the Budget : Overcoming challenges – Reorganize, Restructure Rejuvenate Indian Railways:
'चलो मिलकर कुछ नया करें'

Three pillars of the strategy i.e. नव अर्जन (New revenues), नव मानक (New norms), नव संरचना (New Structures)

For the unreserved passenger

Antyodaya Express unreserved, superfast service.

Deen Dayalu coaches – unreserved coaches with potable water and higher number of mobile charging points.

For the reserved passenger

Humsafar - fully air-conditioned third AC service with an optional service for meals

Tejas - will showcase the future of train travel in India. Will operate at speeds of 130 kmph and above. Will offer onboard services such as entertainment, local cuisine, WiFi, etc. through one service provider for ensuring accountability and improved customer satisfaction.

UDAY - overnight double-decker, Utkrisht Double-Decker Air-conditioned Yatri Express on the busiest routes, has the potential to increase carrying capacity by almost 40%.

Cleanliness - 'Clean my Coach' service through SMS.

Stoppages: convert all operational halts into commercial halts for the benefit of the common man.

Rail Mitra Sewa: expanding Sarathi Seva in Konkan Railway to help the old and disabled passengers.

Measures for Divyang: to provide at least one Divyang friendly toilet at each platform in A1 class stations during the next financial year and also ensure availability of wheelchairs in sufficient numbers at these stations.

Travel Insurance to passengers - to offer optional travel insurance for rail journeys at the time of booking.

Hourly booking of retiring rooms - will be handed over to IRCTC.

Janani sewa: children's menu items on trains, baby foods, hot milk and hot water would be made available.

SMART (Specially Modified Aesthetic Refreshing Travel) Coaches - design and layout of our coaches to ensure higher carrying capacity and provision of new amenities including automatic doors, bar-code readers, bio-vacuum toilets, water-level indicators, accessible dustbins, ergonomic seating, improved aesthetics, vending machines, entertainment screens, LED lit boards for advertising, PA system.

Undertaking Navarambh – a new beginning

Navinikaran - Structural Interventions Organisational Restructuring- proposed to reorganize the Railway Board along business lines and suitably empower Chairman, Railway Board.

Sashaktikaran – Improving our planning practices - To set up a Railway Planning & Investment Organisation for drafting medium (5 years) and long (10 years) term corporate plans.

Aekikaran – Consolidation: Forming a holding company of companies owned by IR.

Shodh aur vikas - Investing in the future: to set up a R&D organization, a Special Railway Establishment for Strategic Technology & Holistic Advancement, SRESTHA. RDSO will now focus only on day to day issues while SRESTHA would drive long term research.

Vishleshan – Analyzing data: a dedicated, cross functional team called Special Unit for Transportation Research and Analytics (SUTRA) would be set up for carrying out detailed analytics leading to optimized investment decisions and operations.

Navrachna – Innovation: by setting aside a sum of Rs. 50 crore for providing innovation grants to employees, startups and small businesses.

Avataran - Seven Missions for the transformation of IR. Missions will be headed by a Mission Director reporting directly to the Chairman, Railway Board.

- Mission 25 Tonne for 25 tonne axle load,
- Mission Zero Accident for safety,
- Mission PACE (Procurement and Consumption Efficiency),
- Mission Raftaar for higher speeds,
- Mission Hundred for commissioning 100 sidings/freight terminals,
- Mission beyond book-keeping for accounting reforms,
- Mission Capacity Utilisation to prepare a blueprint for making use of the capacity created once DFC is commissioned.

Academy Awards - 2016 (Oscars)

Best Picture : **Spotlight** (Directed by Tom McCarthy)

Best Actor : **Leonardo Dicaprio** for The Revenant

Best Actress : **Brie Larson** for Room

Best Director : **Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu** for The Revenant

Best Foreign Language Film : **Son of Saul** (Hungarian film)

Best Animated Film : **Inside Out**

Best Documentary : **Amy** directed by Asif Kapadia

Mercer's Quality of Living Rankings 2016 (230 cities)

Rank	City	Rank	City
1.	Vienna	139.	Hyderabad
2.	Zurich	144.	Pune
3.	Auckland	152.	Mumbai
4.	Munich	230.	Baghdad
5.	Vancouver		

12th South Asian Games - 2016

Held at **Guwahati** (Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium) and **Shillong** (Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium)

Held from : 5 Feb to 16 Feb 16

Name of the mascot: **Thikor** (a baby rhinoceros)

Mascot designed by : Kolhapur's Anant Khasbardar

Motto: **Play for Peace, Progress and Prosperity**

Logo designed by : NIFT's Abhijeet Krishna

Theme Song: **Ei Prithibi Ek Krirangan** (The world is a playground) written by Dr. Bhupen Hazarika (1926–2011).

Number of Sport Disciplines : 22

Medals Tally

Rank	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	India	188	90	30	308
2.	Sri Lanka	25	63	98	186
3.	Pakistan	12	37	57	106
4.	Afghanistan	7	9	19	35
5.	Bangladesh	4	15	56	75
6.	Nepal	3	23	34	60
7.	Maldives	0	2	1	3

8.	Bhutan	0	1	15	16
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Swachh Survekshan - 2016

In the Swachh Survekshan 73 cities were surveyed for cleanliness. 15 cities who scored more than 70% of the total marks of 2000 were categorized as Leaders, 20 cities with scores in the range of 60%-70% are Aspiring Leaders, those with scores in the range of 50%-60% are the cities who need to accelerate their efforts and cities who scored below 50% are named Slow Movers who need to work harder to improve sanitation. Mysuru was ranked No. 1 while Dhanbad was ranked at No. 73.

Leaders :

Rank	City	Rank	City
1.	Mysuru	9.	Pimprichindwad
2.	Chandigarh	10.	Greater Mumbai
3.	Tiruchirapalli	11.	Pune
4.	New Delhi Municipal Council	12.	Navi Mumbai
5.	Visakhapatnam	13.	Vadodara
6.	Surat	14.	Ahmedabad
7.	Rajkot	15.	Imphal
8.	Gangtok		

National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030

National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) 2016-2030, which outlines India's strategy for elimination of the disease by 2030 launched by the Health Minister on 11 Feb 16

The objectives of the NFME are to:

1. eliminate malaria from all low (Category 1) and moderate (Category 2) endemic states/UTs (26) by 2022;
2. reduce incidence of malaria to less than 1 case per 1000 population in all States/UTs and the districts and malaria elimination in 31 states/UTs by 2024;
3. interrupt indigenous transmission of malaria in all States/ UTs (Category 3) by 2027;
4. prevent re-establishment of local transmission of malaria in areas where it has been eliminated and to maintain malaria-free status of the country by 2030.

The milestones and targets are set for 2016, 2020, 2022, 2024, 2027 and 2030 by when the entire country has sustained zero indigenous cases and deaths due to malaria for 3 years and initiated the processes for certification of malaria elimination status to the country.

International Intellectual Property Index

Index released by **US Chamber of Commerce**.

The Index maps the IP environment in 38 economies around the world, collectively accounting for nearly 85% of global gross domestic product (GDP).

Each economy's score is based on 30 indicators spread across six categories—Patents, Copyrights, Trademarks, Trade Secrets, Enforcement, and International Treaties.

This is the fourth edition of the index titled **Infinite Possibilities**

Rank	Country	Score
1.	U.S.A.	28.61
2.	U.K.	27.53
3.	Germany	27.36
4.	France	27.22
22.	China	12.64
37.	India	7.05
38.	Venezuela	6.42

International Fleet Review 2016

Dates held: 04 to 08 Feb 16

Venue: Bay of Bengal off Visakhapatnam coast

Participating countries : **49**

Mascot: **Dolphin**

Theme: **United Through Oceans**

Vessel used by the President and the PM for review: **INS Sumitra**

Note: Pakistan was not among the 49 participating countries.

Manisha National Billiards and Snooker Championship 2016

Event	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Snooker	Aditya Mehta	Manan Chandra
Women's Billiards	Keerath Bandal	Arantxa Sanchis
Women's Snooker	Vidya Pillai	Ameesha Kamani

Zika Virus Fact Sheet

Key Facts

- Zika virus disease is caused by a virus transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes, mainly Aedes aegypti in tropical regions. This is the same mosquito that transmits dengue, chikungunya and yellow fever.
- People with Zika virus disease usually have a mild fever, skin rash (exanthema) and conjunctivitis. These symptoms normally last for 2-7 days.
- There is no specific treatment or vaccine currently available.
- The best form of prevention is protection against mosquito bites.
- Zika virus is an emerging mosquito-borne virus that was first identified in Uganda in 1947 in rhesus monkeys through a monitoring network of sylvatic yellow fever.
- It was subsequently identified in humans in 1952 in Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania.
- The virus has been strongly linked to microcephaly in babies
- Zika virus is diagnosed through PCR (polymerase chain reaction) and virus isolation from blood samples.

Abbreviations in News

NFME: National Framework for Malaria Elimination

LIGO: Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory

LI-FI: Light Fidelity

Current Affairs Questions

1. By which year does the National Framework for Malaria Elimination (NFME) target to eliminate malaria from the country?

a. 2024	b. 2030	c. 2022	d. 2026
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2. The much in news Article 377 is a part of which of the following documents?

a. Constitution of India	b. Criminal Procedure Code
c. Indian Penal Code	d. Civil Procedure Code
3. As per the Railway Budget 2016-17, which of the following is a double-decker train on busy routes intended to increase the carrying capacity by 40%?

a. UDAY	b. Humsafar	c. Tejas	d. Antyodaya
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4. Which of the following companies recently launched a motorcycle made from the metal of India's first aircraft carrier INS Vikrant?

a. Hero Motocorp	b. Honda	c. Mahindra	d. Bajaj
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5. Which of these diseases is caused by the zika virus?

a. Microcephaly b. Acromegaly c. Hypertrophy d. Macrocephaly

6. Brendon McCullum recently made the fastest century in test cricket by scoring it in ____ balls.

a. 52 b. 54 c. 55 d. 56

7. Nagoba Jatara which began recently in Adilabad district of Telangana is an important event of which of the following tribes?

a. Santhals b. Gonds c. Bhils d. Banjaras

8. Harper Lee, who passed away recently was the acclaimed author of which of the following books?

a. The Catcher in the Rye b. A Farewell to Arms
c. To Kill a Mockingbird d. Waiting for Godot

9. Recently Nada Kushti (an Indian wrestling sport) featured on the cover page of an international publication "Beyond the Body". In which state has the sport been traditionally played?

a. Tamil Nadu b. Maharashtra c. Karnataka d. Gujarat

10. Which of the following companies has launched the cheapest smartphone Freedom251 recently?

a. Ringing Bells b. Karbonn Mobiles c. Spice Digital d. Celkon

11. What kind of an animal was Thikor, the mascot for 12 South Asian Games concluded recently?

a. Tiger b. Elephant c. Hippopotamus d. Rhinoceros

12. Saab Group which has recently tied up with Indian company Kalyani Strategic Systems Ltd to form a JV in India for defence programmes is a ____ company.

a. French b. Swedish c. Norwegian d. German

13. Which of the following countries did not participate in the International Fleet Review 2016 held off the coast of Visakhapatnam recently?

a. China b. Sri Lanka c. Pakistan d. Bangladesh

14. Which of the following Indian companies has recently announced a breakthrough in developing the world's first Zika vaccine?

a. Bharat Biotech b. Shantha Biotech c. Panacea Biotech d. Monsanto Biotech

15. In the recent survey of 73 Indian cities for cleanliness "Swachh Survekshan – 2016", which city took the top and bottom positions respectively

a. Chandigarh and Malda b. Mysuru and Dhanbad

a. Zoya Akhtar b. Ram Madhvani c. Ketan Mehta d. Omung Kumar

26. Which city has the highest ranking among Indian cities in the Mercer's Quality of Living Rankings 2016?

a. Hyderabad b. Bengaluru c. Chandigarh d. Pune

27. Who of the following has been chosen to be ambassador of government's Make in India campaign?

a. Nandan Nilekani b. Sundar Pichai c. Piruz Khambata d. Kishore Biyani

28. Which of the following bagged the Best Picture Academy Award 2016?

a. The Revenant b. The Martian c. Bridge of Spies d. Spotlight

29. Who among the following is the new President of the FIFA?

a. Gianni Infantino b. Issa Hayatou c. Sepp Blatter d. David Chung

30. Who among the following has been awarded the 29th Moortidevi Award by Bhartiya Jnanpith?

a. Vishwanath Tirpathi b. Kolakaluri Enoch c. C Radhakrishnan d. Harprasad Das

Answers

1. (b) 2. (c) 3. (a) 4. (d) 5. (a) 6. (b) 7. (b) 8. (c) 9. (c) 10. (a) 11. (d) 12. (b) 13. (c)
14. (a) 15. (b) 16. (a) 17. (d) 18. (c) 19. (c) 20. (a) 21. (a) 22. (b) 23. (c) 24. (d) 25. (b) 26. (a)
27. (c) 28. (d) 29. (a) 30. (b)