

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF OCTOBER 2016

Awards

The Yazidi human rights activists who have been chosen for the 2016 Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament – **Nadia Murad Basee and Lamiya Aji Bashar**

The US writer who has become the first from his country to be awarded the Man Booker Prize for his racial satire The Sellout – **Paul Beatty**

The prominent British statistician who has been chosen for the first International Prize in Statistics by the International Prize in Statistics Foundation for his well-known Cox Model used in the analysis of survival data – **Sir David Cox**

The Professor at Ashoka University, Haryana who has been awarded the 2016 John F. Richards Prize by American Historical Association for her book Ashoka in Ancient India – **Nayanjot Lahiri**

Defence

The Indo-Nepal Joint Military Exercise held at Army Battle School, Saljhandi, Nepal from 31 Oct to 13 Nov was named – **Surya Kiran-X**

The fourth edition of the India-Sri Lanka Joint Military Exercise conducted at Sinha Regimental Centre in Ambepussa, Sri Lanka from 24 October to 06 November 2016 was named – **Mitra Shakti 2016**

The day long exercise on Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) held by Indian and Chinese armies in Ladakh under the provisions of Border Defense Cooperation Agreement, 2013 – **Sino India Cooperation 2016**

The second of the four follow-on Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (FO-WJFAC) (named after an island in the Nicobar group) which was commissioned into the Indian Navy at Visakhapatnam – **INS Tihayu**

Sports

The official mascot for the 2018 FIFA World Cup Russia unveiled by FIFA is named (The mascot is a wolf designed by Ekaterina Bocharova) – **Zabivaka**

The Portuguese professional football player (midfielder for Bayern Munich club) who has been chosen for the 2016 European Golden Boy Award – **Renato Sanches**

The rank of Indian football team (the best in 6 years) in latest rankings released by FIFA, the list is topped by Argentina, Germany and Brazil – **137**

The country which has won the first BRICS U-17 Football tournament held in Goa defeating South Africa in the finals – **Brazil**

Persons

The veteran Indian cricketer who has been named the Stroke Ambassador for India at the 10th World Stroke Congress by the Indian Stroke Association – **Sunil Gavaskar**

The committee which has submitted its report to the Union Water Resources Ministry concluding that Saraswati River so far considered mythical, actually existed was headed by – **KS Valdiya**

The former Portuguese Prime Minister who has been formally selected by the United Nations Security Council to be the next Secretary General succeeding Ban Ki-moon next year – **Antonio Guterres**

King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Chakri Dynasty, the world's longest serving head of state (having served for over 70 years), who passed away on 13 October 2016 was the king of – **Thailand**

The former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation who has become the first Indian to be inducted into the 2016 IAF Hall of Fame by the International Aeronautical Federation (IAF) – **Prof U.R. Rao**

The Chief Guest at 2017 Republic Day celebrations as announced by the Ministry of External Affairs, Gol – **Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**

The Indian wildlife Film-maker and elephant researcher who has been appointed Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National Order of Merit), one of the highest civilian recognitions of the French government – **Prajna Chowta**

Places

The state which has become the second state in the country to be declared open defecation free after Sikkim – **Himachal Pradesh**

The state which has launched Kausalya Setu, a skill development programme for Class 10 failed students – **Maharashtra**

The state in which the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has dedicated three hydro power stations – Kol Dam, Parvati Project and Rampur Hydro Station to the Nation – **Himachal Pradesh**

The city in Madhya Pradesh where the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated a war memorial Shaurya Stambh – **Bhopal**

The city in Jammu and Kashmir where the Union Cabinet has approved setting up Indian Institute of Management – **Jammu**

The city in which India's first international arbitration centre was inaugurated by Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis – **Mumbai**

The state which has become the first in the country implement Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) in Kerosene in four identified districts – **Jharkhand (in Chatra, Hazaribagh, Khunti and Jantara dists)**

The two Indian states which have become the first in the country to be declared ODF (Open Defecation Free) in urban areas on 02 October 2016 – **Andhra Pradesh and Gujarat**

Themes

The theme of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas observed on 31 October 2016 – **Integration of India**

The theme of the first World Sustainable Development Summit 2016 held from 05 to 08 October at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi (The 2016 'Sustainable Development Leadership Award' during the summit was conferred on Sikkim CM Shri Pawan Chamling) – **Beyond 2015: People, Planet & Progress**

Miscellaneous

The comic character who has been appointed United Nations' honorary ambassador in support of the UN's sustainable development goal number five – "to achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls" – **Wonder Woman**

The micro satellite launched by China from the experimental space lab Tiangong-2 to take photographs of Tiangong-2 and the Shenzhou 11 spacecraft is named – **Banxing-2**

The automobile company which has unveiled India's first indigenous circuit electric bus at its corporate office in Chennai – **Ashok Leyland**

The political party launched by human rights activist Irom Sharmila is named – **Peoples Resurgence and Justice Alliance (PRJA)**

The rank of India in the 2016 Global Hunger Index released by the International Food Policy Research Institute recently – **97th**

The public sector undertaking which has appointed Indian badminton star P.V. Sindhu as its brand ambassador – **Vizag Steel**

The high altitude research station established by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research (NCAOR) Goa in Spiti, Himachal Pradesh to better study and quantify the Himalayan glacier responses towards the climate change is named – **Himansh**

The airport which has been conferred with IBC award and Trophy for excellence in built environment in infrastructure projects at the 21st Annual Convention Inaugural function held in New Delhi – **Chandigarh International Airports Limited (CHIAL)**

The public sector bank which has become the first Indian bank to open a branch in Yangon, capital of Myanmar – **State bank of India**

The tributary of River Brahmaputra which has been blocked by China owing to construction of Lalho hydro-electric project on it – **Xiabubu River**

Important Days of October

<p>International Day of Older Persons: 01 Oct Established by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 1991</p>	<p>International Day of Non-Violence: 02 October 2016 Established by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2007</p>
<p>World Habitat Day: 1st Monday of October (03 October) Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Housing at the Centre First Observed in: 1986</p>	<p>World Space Week: 04 to 10 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Remote Sensing - Enabling our future First Observed in: 2000</p>
<p>World Teacher's Day: 05 October Established by : UNESCO Theme: Valuing Teachers, Improving their Status First Observed in: 1994</p>	<p>World Post Day: 09 October Established by : Universal Postal Union Theme: Innovation, Integration and Inclusion First Observed in: 1969</p>
<p>World Mental Health Day: 10 October Established by : World Health Organisation Theme: Psychological first aid First Observed in: 1992</p>	<p>International Day of the Girl Child: 11 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Girls' Progress = Goals' Progress: What Counts for Girls First Observed in: 2012</p>
<p>International Day Disaster Reduction: 13 Oct Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Live To Tell: Raising Awareness, Reducing Mortality First Observed in: 2010</p>	<p>World Sight Day: 13 October (2nd Thursday of October) Established by : International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness Theme: Stronger Together First Observed in: 2000</p>
<p>International Day of Rural Women: 15 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly First Observed in: 2008</p>	<p>World Food Day: 16 October Established by : Food and Agriculture Organisation Theme: Climate is changing. Food and agriculture must too First Observed in: 1980</p>
<p>International Day for Eradication of Poverty: 17 October Established by : United Nations General Assembly Theme: Moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms First Observed in: 1993</p>	
<p>United Nations Day: 24 October The day marks the coming into effect of the UN Charter (the founding document of UNO) in 1945. UN Day Concert was held at United Nations General Assembly Hall to celebrate and reflect on the work of the UN through the universal language of music, featuring the Hungarian State Opera with performances by soprano Andrea Rost and other notable artists. The theme of this year's concert is Freedom First.</p>	

Launch of GSAT-18

Launch date: 05 Oct 2016

Launched from: Guiana Space Centre in Kourou, French Guiana

Launched aboard: Ariane 5 ECA

GSAT-18 is India's latest communication satellite. Weighing 3404 kg at lift-off, GSAT-18 carries 48 communication transponders to provide Services in Normal C-band, Upper Extended C-band and Ku-bands of the frequency spectrum. GSAT-18 carries Ku-band beacon as well to help in an accurately pointing ground antennas towards the satellite. After its injection into GTO, ISRO's Master Control Facility (MCF) at Hassan took control of GSAT-18 and performed the initial orbit raising maneuvers using the Liquid Apogee Motor (LAM) of the satellite, placing it in circular Geostationary Orbit. The designed in-orbit operational life of GSAT-18 is about 15 years.

India vs New Zealand ODI Series

#	Venue	Winner	Man of the Match
1.	Dharamsala	India	Hardik Pandya
2.	Delhi	NZ	Kane Williamson
3.	Mohali	India	Virat Kohli
4.	Ranchi	NZ	Martin Guptill
5.	Visakhapatnam	India	Amit Mishra

Player of the Series - Amit Mishra

First Ever National Day of Ayurveda

Observed on 28 Oct 2016 on the occasion of Dhanwantari Jayanti.

Theme of the day: Madhumeh Mission.

National Dhanwantari Ayurved Awards

1. Prof. Premavati Tewari
2. Vaidya P.Y. Khadiwale
3. Vaidya P.R. Krishna Kumar

World Bank Doing Business 2017 Report

The World Bank's annual Doing Business 2017 report released recently recognizes India's achievements in implementing reforms in four of its ten indicators – Trading Across Borders, Getting Electricity, Enforcing Contracts and Paying Taxes. This is the first time in its history that India has been recognized for improvement in four indicators.

The Doing Business report ranks countries on the basis of Distance to Frontier, an absolute score that measures the gap between India and the global best practice. India's absolute score improved from 53.93 to 55.27 in the previous year.

Reforms Recognized by World Bank

1. On Getting Electricity, the report recognized the efforts of Tata Power in Delhi to make it faster and cheaper to obtain an electricity connection. These efforts, combined with efforts in Mumbai last year, have allowed India to improve its rank on this indicator from 137 in Doing Business 2015 to 26 in this year's report, a 111 rank improvement.
2. The report has also recognized the establishment of Commercial Divisions within the High Courts in Delhi and Mumbai to deal with commercial cases above Rs. 1 crore. This has allowed India to improve its rank by 14 places in 2 years.
3. In the area of Trading Across Borders, the report recognized the implementation of the Single Window Interface for Trade (ICEGATE), which integrates approvals and risk-based frameworks of customs and nine departments to provide traders with a single online interface for import clearances.
4. On Paying Taxes, the report recognized online filing and payment of returns at the Employee's Social Insurance Corporation.

Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index

NITI Aayog has launched an index to rank States and UTs that is based on implementation of seven provisions proposed under model APMC Act, joining eNAM initiative, special treatment to fruits and vegetables for marketing and level of taxes in mandis.

The Index is named as "Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index" and it has a score which can have minimum value 0 implying no reforms and maximum value 100 implying complete reforms in the selected areas. States and UTs have been ranked in terms of the score of the index.

Rank	State	Score	Rank	State	Score
1.	Maharashtra	81.7	25.	Tamil Nadu	17.7
2.	Gujarat	71.5	26.	Meghalaya	14.3
3.	Rajasthan	70	27.	Lakshadweep	7.4
4.	Madhya Pradesh	69.5	28	J & K	7.4
5.	Haryana	63.3	29.	Delhi UT	7.3
6.	Himachal Pradesh	59.5	30.	Puducherry	4.8

UDAN - Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik

UDAN launched by the Civil Aviation Minister Shri P Ashok Gajapathi Raju is an innovative scheme to develop the regional aviation market. The scheme UDAN envisages providing connectivity to un-served and under-served airports of the country through revival of existing air-strips and airports. The scheme would be in operation for a period of 10 years.

UDAN has a unique market-based model to develop regional connectivity. Interested airline and helicopter operators can start operations on hitherto un-connected routes by submitting proposals to the Implementing Agency. The operators could seek a Viability Gap Funding (VGF) apart from getting various concessions. All such route proposals would then be offered for competitive bidding through a reverse bidding mechanism and the route would be awarded to the participant quoting the lowest VGF per Seat. The operator submitting the original proposal would have the Right of First Refusal on matching the lowest

bid in case his original bid is within 10% of the lowest bid. The successful bidder would then have exclusive rights to operate the route for a period of three years. Such support would be withdrawn after a three year period, as by that time, the route is expected to become self-sustainable.

The selected airline operator would have to provide a minimum of 9 and a maximum of 40 UDAN Seats (subsidized rates) on the UDAN Flights for operations through fixed wing aircraft and a minimum of 5 and a maximum of 13 Seats on the Flights for operations through helicopters. On each such route, the minimum frequency would be three and maximum of seven departures per week. Route networks would also be encouraged under the scheme to achieve economies of scale and optimal usage of aircraft.

The fare for a one hour journey of appx. 500 km on a fixed wing aircraft or for a 30 minute journey on a helicopter would now be capped at Rs. 2,500, with proportionate pricing for routes of different stage lengths / flight duration.

[Kabaddi World Cup 2016](#)

Venue: The Arena (stadium), Ahmedabad.

Held from 07 Oct to 22 Oct 2016.

Winners: **India** (Captain - **Anup Kumar**).

Runners-up: Iran (Captain - Meraj Sheykh)

Participants: 12 (Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, Iran, Japan, Kenya, Poland, South Korea, Thailand, Argentina, United States).

[Kigali Agreement](#)

197 countries including India signed an agreement to amend the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda.

The agreement aims to phase out the use of hydrofluorocarbon or (HFC) gases, primarily found in air conditioners.

In the agreement, the countries have consented to reduce the use of HFCs by about 85% of their baselines by 2045.

The agreement binds India to reduce the use of HFC gasses by 10 per cent by 2032, while developed countries have to start making reductions by 2019. In exchange to this, India has agreed to a 'freeze year' of 2028 by when its HFC use cannot grow any further.

Since HFCs have several thousand times capacity in retaining heat in the atmosphere compared to carbon dioxide (CO₂), this step has the potential to prevent a rise of about 0.5 degrees Celsius in global temperatures by the end of the century. No other intervention comes even close in terms of returns offered, ease of implementation, or cost impacts.

The Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol is legally binding and will come into force from January 1, 2019.

Nobel Prizes 2016

#	Field	Winners	Contribution
1.	Medicine	Yoshinori Ohsumi	for his discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy.
2.	Chemistry	1. Jean-Pierre Sauvage 2. Sir J. Fraser Stoddart 3. Bernard L. Feringa	for the design and synthesis of molecular machines.
3.	Physics	1. David J. Thouless 2. Duncan M. Haldane 3. Michael Kosterlitz	for theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter.
4.	Literature	Bob Dylan (U.S.A.)	For having created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition.
5.	Peace	Juan Manuel Santos (Columbia)	for his resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end
6.	Economic Sciences	Oliver Hart and Bengt Holmstrom	for their contributions to contract theory.

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2015

Akademi Fellow: C.V. Chandrasekhar for Bharat Natyam

Krishna Bisht	Hindustani Music (Vocal)
Mashkoor Ali Khan	Hindustani Music (Vocal)
Kartick Kumar	Hindustani Music (Sitar)
Brij Narayan	Hindustani Music (Sarod)
R. N. Thyagarajan & R. N. Tharanathan (Joint Award)	Carnatic Music (Vocal)
Suguna Varadhachari	Carnatic Music (Vocal)
Lalgudi G.J.R. Krishnan	Carnatic Music (Violin)
Mamalam M.K. Siva	Carnatic Music (Nagaswaram)
Bhupinder Singh	Other Major Traditions of Music (Sugam Sangeet)
Hridayanath Mangeshkar	Other Major Traditions of Music (Sugam Sangeet)
Prafulla Kar	Other Major Traditions of Music (Sugam Sangeet)
Ranganayaki Jayaraman	Bharatnatyam
K. Kunhiraman Nair	Kathakali
G. Padmaja Reddy	Kuchipudi
Aloka Kanungo	Odissi
Sharodi Saikia	Sattriya
Mandakini Trivedi	Mohiniattam
Sadashiva Pradhan	Chhau
W. Lokendrajit Singh	Contemporary /Experimental Dance
Rajkumar Bharathi	Music for Dance
Nand Kishore Acharya	Theatre (Playwriting)
Shafaat Khan	Theatre (Playwriting)
Parvez Akhtar	Theatre (Direction)
Mushtaq Kak	Theatre (Direction)
Manoj N. Joshi	Theatre (Acting)

Himani Shivpuri	Theatre (Acting)
Pradeep Mulye	Theatre (Allied Theatre - Scenic Design)
Sarojini Nangiaramma	Major Traditions of Theatre (Kutiyattam)
Rani Balbir Kaur	Overall Contribution/Scholarships (Theatre)
Khuman Lal Saav	Folk Music (Chhatisgarh)
Ramchandra Singh	Folk Theatre (Bihar)
Khem Raj	Folk Dance (Jammu & Kashmir)
S. R. D. Prasad	Martial Arts (Kerala)
Chhaya & Maya Khutegaonkar (Joint Award)	Lavani (Maharashtra)
Gangmei Aluna Kabuini	Traditional Dance & Music (Manipur)
Paramjit Singh Sidhu	Folk Music (Punjab)
Sayeed Sabri Jaipuri	Qawwali (Rajasthan)
K K RAMACHANDRA PULAVAR PUPPETRY	Puppetry
T. N. Sankaranathan	Puppetry
Shanta Gokhale	Performing Arts (Overall contribution)
Chaman Lal Ahuja	Performing Arts (Overall contribution)

Books in News

Modi's Midas Touch in Foreign Policy written by Ambassador **Surendra Kumar**

The Ministry of Utmost Happiness written by **Arundhati Roy**

Current Affairs Questions

1. Which state tops the list of states in the Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index released by NITI Aayog recently?

- a. Gujarat b. Maharashtra c. Tamil Nadu d. Kerala

2. With which of the following fields was Yusuf Arakkal, who passed away recently, associated?

- a. Music b. Dance c. Painting d. Martial arts

3. GSAT-18, India's latest communication satellite was launched from which of the following places?

- a. Sriharikota b. Kourou c. Kasputin Yar d. Portugal

4. Which country recently became the first in the world to ban disposable plastic cups and plates?

- a. France b. Italy c. United Kingdom d. Spain

5. On which date is the World Teachers Day observed?

- a. October 2 b. October 4 c. October 5 d. October 8

6. Who was the Player of the Series in the recently concluded India – New Zealand ODI series?

- a. Amit Mishra b. Virat Kohli c. Hardik Pandya d. Rohit Sharma

7. Which State recently reorganised and increased the number of districts from 10 to 31?

- a. Haryana b. Chhattisgarh c. Telangana d. Jharkhand

8. Which country did India defeat in the finals to win the title in the Kabaddi World Cup 2016?

- a. Pakistan b. Iran c. Bangladesh d. Canada

9. Antonio Guterres, who will be taking over as the new Secretary General of the United Nations belongs to which country?

- a. Australia b. Austria c. Ghana d. Portugal

10. In which of the following fields has Juan Manuel Santos awarded the Nobel Prize?

- a. Medicine b. Literature c. Peace d. Physics

11. With which of the following sports is Neeraj Goyat associated?

- a. Boxing b. Archery c. Badminton d. Martial Arts

12. Which country won the first BRICS U-17 Football tournament held in Goa recently?

- a. Russia b. Brazil c. South Africa d. China

13. The airport in which of the following cities has become the second eco-friendly airport in the country, after Kochi?

- a. Madurai b. Hyderabad c. Vadodara d. Puducherry

14. King Bhumibol Adulyadej, the world's longest serving head of state passed away recently. He was the king of which of the following countries?

- a. Oman b. Indonesia c. Cambodia d. Thailand

15. In which of the following cities was a war memorial Shaurya Stambh inaugurated by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recently?

- a. Bhopal b. Indore c. Patiala d. Amritsar

16. Recently Rosneft Oil Co acquired Essar Oil. Rosneft is a company based in

- a. Sweden b. Russia c. Iran d. Saudi Arabia

17. Mitra Shakti 2016 was a joint military exercise conducted by India and –

- a. Singapore b. Bangladesh c. Sri Lanka d. Indonesia

18. India's first roll-on roll-off passenger ferry (Ro Pax) service is expected to be launched between Ghogha (Bhavnagar district) and Dahej (Bharuch) in Gujarat by April next year. The service will pass through

- a. Gulf of Khambat b. Gulf of Kutch c. Sir Creek d. Narmada River

19. Paul Beatty, who has been awarded the 2016 Man Booker Prize is the first writer from his country to be awarded the prize. To which country does he belong?

- a. Canada b. France c. USA d. Australia

20. What kind of animal is Zabivaka, the official mascot of 2018 FIFA World Cup to be held in Russia?

- a. Polar Bear b. Siberian Tiger c. Seal d. Wolf

21. HE-MRO Pvt Ltd, a joint venture of HAL and Safran Helicopter Engines (SafranHE), was inaugurated by the Defence Minister at Sattari District, North Goa recently. Safran Helicopter Engines is a company based in -

- a. Switzerland b. France c. Russia d. U.S.A.

22. The high altitude research station established by the National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research in Himachal Pradesh is named –

- a. Himansh b. Himadri c. Kailash d. Maitri

23. Which country recently unveiled the first image of its nuclear missile called the RS-28 Sarmat, also known as Satan-2?

- a. China b. North Korea c. South Korea d. Russia

24. Who of the following was conferred the 2016 Sustainable Development Leadership Award at the World Sustainable Development Summit 2016 held in New Delhi in October 2016?

- a. Jairam Ramesh b. Pawan Chamling c. Medha Patkar d. RK Pachauri

25. Air India recently flew the longest flight in the world with a flight distance of 9,389 miles. The flight was from New Delhi to

- a. Buenos Aires b. Washington D.C. c. San Francisco d. Los Angeles

Answers

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

Please mail your queries, suggestions and clarifications to admin@leadthecompetition.in