

Top Questions of December 2016

Q. Which state will host the National Games of 2022 as declared by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA)? – Meghalaya

Q) What is Easypay.?

Q. What is the connection between Kalam Island off Odisha and - Agni – 5

Q. Know about Anil Baijal, a 1969 batch IAS officer of UT cadre?

Q. What is Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)?

Q. What is 'Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process'?

Q. India in terms of the size of the economy overtook United Kingdom to emerge as the sixth largest economy in the world?

Q) Who was crowned Miss World 2016 - Stephanie Del Valle

Q) India's first ever 'Indian Institute of Skills' (IIS) will be established in which city of Uttar Pradesh? – Kanpur

Q) China operationalized world's longest bullet train network that is 2,252 kilometers in length, name two cities connected? – Shanghai and Kunming

Q) Role of Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) at Tuting – Arunachal Pradesh

Q) What is 'tag-free' Airports who became Tag-Free in India? – New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad

Q) What is Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code?

Q. Why Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1951 was cited recently by SC?

Q. What is 145 M777 ultralight howitzer guns and its significance with India and US.?

Q) Which is India's External Intelligence wing, and who was appointed as the new Chief of it? – Anil Dhasmana

Q) Russian Ambassador to Turkey Andrei Karlov was shot dead by a gunman in a shocking incident at a photo exhibition in Ankara.

Q) The first Humsafar Express, the new series of express trains for inter-city overnight journeys designed specifically for middle-class passengers, was launched by Indian Railways between which two destinations? – Gorakhpur and Anand Vihar (Ghaziabad)

Q) What is the name of the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa who is visiting the state of Arunachal Pradesh and its significance? – Urgyen Trinley Dorje

Q) Who was selected as the new Chief Justice of India on 6 December 2016? – Justice J.S. Khehar

Q) Name of the remote sensing satellite that was successfully launched by ISRO on and was the last launch of its 2016 itinerary? – Resourcesat-2A

Q) The government will observe B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary as 'Water Day' on 6 December 2016.

Q) What is – 'DigiShala'

1-2 December 2016

1) Which Code associated with quicker resolution of insolvency cases came into effect from 1 December 2016? –

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code

Explanation: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code became operational from 1 December 2016. It will help quicker resolution of cases pertaining to insolvency and liquidation and unlock the value of assets.

– The Code primarily seeks to consolidate and amend laws relating to reorganisation as well as insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time-bound manner. The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) has been set up under the Code and is headed by M.S. Sahoo.

.....

2) The Union Government on 30 November 2016 announced the setting up of a 13-member committee, including 6 Chief Ministers, to suggest an action plan to rapidly expand the use of digital payment platforms across the country. Who is heading this committee? –

Chandrababu Naidu (Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh)

Explanation: A 13-member Committee was constituted by the Union Government to come up with an action plan to rapidly expand the use of digital payment platforms across the country.

– It is being headed by Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu, who will act as Convener. The committee includes five other Chief Ministers – Odisha's Naveen Patnaik, Madhya Pradesh's Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Sikkim's Pawan Kumar Chamling, Puducherry's V Narayanasamy and Maharashtra's Devendra Fadnavis.

– NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant will function as the Member Secretary, while the planning body's Vice Chairman Arvind

Panagariya will be a member of the committee.

– The committee also includes 5 special invitees – former UIDAI chairman and Infosys co-founder Nandan Nilekani; Boston Consulting Group Chairman Janmejaya Sinha; netCORE MD Rajesh Jain; iSPIRIT co-founder Sharad Sharma and IIM-Ahmedabad professor Jayant Varma.

– The committee has been primarily tasked with examining existing global standards and best practices in the implementation of a cashless economy, and evaluating the benefits of adopting these standards in the Indian context.

– It will also have to come up with a roadmap for the expansion of digital payment platforms, the public outreach to popularize cashless transactions, the administrative setup required and identify potential bottlenecks.

.....

3) The Supreme Court in its historic order on 30 November 2016 ordered all cinema halls across the country to play the national anthem before the screening of films. The provision for showing respect to the national anthem has been enshrined in which Act of the Indian Constitution, as quoted by the apex court? – Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1951

Explanation: A Supreme Court Bench of Justices Dipak Misra and Amitava Roy gave order that all cinema halls in the country will necessarily play the national anthem before the screening of films and all present in the halls must stand up in respect till the anthem ended.

– The order also added that halls should also display the national flag on screen when the anthem is played.

– This historic order was given by the SC bench while hearing a plea to clarify when the national anthem should be sung. The PIL was filed by Shyam Narayan Chouksey seeking a set of parameters on what amounts to abuse of the anthem.

.....

4) India will acquire 145 M777 ultralight howitzer guns from which country as the pertaining agreement was signed on 30 November 2016 and which will be the first acquisition of howitzers after three decades? – United States

Explanation: India on 30 November 2016 formally signed the Letter of Offer and Acceptance (LoA) with the US government for the purchase of seven regiments of M777 'Ultra Light Howitzers'. 145 such guns will be purchased for \$737 million (Rs. 5000 crore) under the deal.

– These guns are called 'Ultra Light Howitzers' because at 4.2 tons, they weigh only a third of normal 155 mm howitzers. The guns, which can be carried under-slung by heavy lift helicopters like the Chinook, will give the army tremendous flexibility especially along the mountainous border with China.

– Under the deal, three M777 howitzers will be delivered within the next three months to allow high-altitude and desert trials with Indian-made ammunition.

– India signed its last howitzer contract in 1986 with Bofors of Sweden but a bribery controversy that broke in 1987 scuttled the acquisition of more guns. The Bofors howitzers played a decisive role in the 1999 Kargil War between India and Pakistan.

.....

5) The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on 30 November 2016 agreed to reduce its oil output by around 4.5%. This is the first output cut for OPEC countries since which year? – 2008

Explanation: OPEC, which is the most powerful association of oil producing countries of the world, agreed to undertake a reduction in production by around 4.5%, or about 1.2 million barrels per day. This decision was taken on 30 November 2016 at its annual meeting in Vienna (Austria).

– The proposal to reduce production was put by OPEC member Algeria. This is the first reduction in oil production by OPEC countries since 2008 and is in line with an accord reached in Algiers in September 2016.

– Saudi Arabia would take a big hit and will contribute around 0.5 million barrels per day (bpd) by reducing output to 10.06 million bpd. On the other hand Iran would freeze output at close to current levels of 3.797 million bpd and other members would also cut production.

– OPEC accounts for nearly a third of global oil production. The decision to reduce production has been taken in an effort to prop up oil prices, which have halved since mid-2014.

.....

6) Who was appointed as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) in place of Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh?
– Lt. Gen. A K Bhatt

Explanation: Lt. Gen. A K Bhatt was during November 2016 appointed as the country's new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO). He will be in charge

of all army operations including on the LoC which has seen heightened tension.

– Bhatt thus replaced Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh, who came into limelight during September 2016 when the Indian Army, under him, carried out surgical strikes at five separate locations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) to target terrorist launch pads.

– On the other hand Lt. Gen. Ranbir Singh was appointed as the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Mathura-based Strike 1 Corps, one of the three assault forces of the army, which is mandated to cross into Pakistan in a short notice.

.....
7) What is the name given to the rising cyclone in the Bay of Bengal that is barreling towards Tamil Nadu coast as on 1 December 2016? – 'Nada'

Explanation: 'Nada' is the name of the cyclone that emerged from a depression formed over the southwest Bay of Bengal during November 2016. It is on its way to the Tamil Nadu coast and is expected to make a landfall on 2 December 2016. However, the intensity of Nada was greatly reduced by the evening of 1 December.

– A cyclone warning was issued Chennai IMD area cyclone warning centre and the fishermen were advised not to venture into the sea.

– The cyclone is named Nada by Oman as per the cyclone naming convention followed by the South Asian countries.

3 December 2016

1) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 2 December 2016 revised the ceiling on issuance of securities under the market

stabilization scheme (MSS) to Rs. 6 trillion (Rs. 6 lakh crore). What was the existing MSS ceiling for 2016-17? – Rs. 30,000 crore

Explanation: After the withdrawal of the legal tender character of the 500 and 1,000 denomination notes with effect from 9 November 2016 there has been a surge in the deposits with the banks. Consequently, there has been a significant increase of liquidity in the banking system which is expected to continue for some time.

– Hence the ceiling on issuance of securities under the market stabilization scheme (MSS) was revised upwards to Rs. 6 trillion, from the previous limit of Rs. 30,000 crore.

– MSS bonds, which were introduced during former RBI governor Y.V. Reddy's tenure in 2005, are typically issued by the central bank to manage liquidity operations when intervening in the foreign exchange market.

– When the RBI buys dollars, it releases rupee liquidity in the system, which can then be mopped up by sale of MSS bonds.

.....
2) Four major cities of the world announced on 1 December 2016 that they will stop the use of all diesel-powered cars and trucks by year 2025. Which are these 4 cities? – Paris, Mexico City, Madrid and Athens

Explanation: The mayors of Paris, Mexico City, Madrid and Athens announced that they have agreed to ban the use of diesel vehicles in their cities by 2025. The ban will be implemented primarily to improve air quality.

– The commitment for diesel ban was made in a biennial meeting of city leaders, the C40 Meeting of Urban Leaders, held in

Mexico. The use of diesel in transport has come under increasing scrutiny in recent years, as concerns about its impact on air quality have grown.

– The diesel ban is hugely significant. Carmakers will look at this decision and know it's just a matter of time before other city mayors follow suit.

.....
3) What is the name of the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa who is visiting the state of Arunachal Pradesh, a visit likely to irritate China? – Urgyen Trinley Dorje

Explanation: Urgyen Trinley Dorje, the 17th Gyalwang Karmapa, is undertaking a visit of Arunachal Pradesh. It is worth mentioning that Dorje is one of the two major claimants to the seat of the Karmapa, the head of the Karma Kagyu school of Tibetan Buddhism.

– His visit to Arunachal was made possible by a recent decision by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) of Indian Government, which lifted restrictions on the religious head's travel within India.

– But this visit is expected to irritate China. The Karmapa had dramatically fled to India in 1999 to escape Chinese government restrictions on his religious studies. On the other hand China claims Arunachal Pradesh as an extension of its claim over Tibet, characterising Arunachal as 'southern Tibet'.

– The last visit to Arunachal Pradesh by a Karmapa was about 900 years ago, by the 3rd Karmapa, Rangjung Dorje, who died in 1339.

.....
4) Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn became Thailand's new King on 1 December 2016 as he succeeded his much-revered late father King Bhumibol Adulyadej. What is the new official name

of the new king? – King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun

Explanation: King Maha Vajiralongkorn Bodindradebayavarangkun is the name given to the Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn as he became the 10th monarch of the ruling Chakri dynasty. But he will also be known as Rama X. 10th

– The new king accepted the throne in a televised broadcast following an invitation from parliament, formalising his accession. However, new king's official coronation will not happen until after King Bhumibol's cremation, expected next year.

– His father, King Bhumibol, the world's longest-reigning monarch, died on 13 October 2016. Maha Vajiralongkorn was given the title of crown prince, making him the official heir, in 1972.

– Thailand's monarchy is protected from criticism by tough laws, which restrict media discussion about the royal family's role, including in the international press.

.....
5) Magnus Carlsen overwhelmed challenger Sergey Karjakin in the tiebreakers of the World Chess Championship to retain his World title. With this win, Carlsen has been World Chess Champion how many times? – Thrice

Explanation: Magnus Carlsen (Norway) won his third consecutive World Chess champion title as he defeated challenger Sergey Karjakin (Russia) in the tie-breaker on 30 November 2016.

– The tiebreakers were necessitated after the two chess grandmasters were tied after 12 closely fought games. The tiebreakers consisted of four games of high-speed chess, with each man given 25

minutes to complete his moves, plus an additional 10 seconds for every move made. While the first 2 games were drawn, Carlsen displayed his mastery by winning the last 2 games to emerge winner.

– Carlsen had won his first World championship title in 2013 when he humbled reigning world champion Vishwanathan Anand in Chennai to capture the title.

6) Bombay Dyeing Manufacturing Company, one of the oldest textile businesses in India, officially closed its manufacturing operations on 1 December 2016. However, the company will continue its retail operations. This iconic company had started its manufacturing operations in which year? – 1879

Explanation: Bombay Dyeing was established by Nowrosjee Wadia in 1879. The company was known for producing quality home textile products at two prime locations in Mumbai. The group is presently led by Nusli Wadia.

– But the high land cost, expensive finance and intense competition from the unorganised sector, besides growing imports from Taiwan, China and Bangladesh hit company's domestic textile production.

– In 2005, the company moved the manufacturing base from Mumbai to Ranjangaon near Pune. The Mumbai sites are being monetised as real estate assets. The company has now decided to close its textile manufacturing facility and focus on retail business. It will continue to focus on the retail business under 'Bombay Dyeing' brand. The company sells linens, towels, home furnishings, leisure clothing, kids wear for which it will purchase products from 10 vendors/suppliers.

4-5 December 2016

1) The sixth ministerial conference of the 'Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process' was held at which place in India on 3-4 December 2016? – Amritsar

Explanation: The 6th edition of Heart of Asia Summit – Istanbul Process was held in Amritsar (Punjab) on 3-4 December 2016. This was the first instance of the Summit being hosted in India. Around 40 countries and leading groupings like the European Union, deliberated on various challenges facing Afghanistan, including revival of a peace process in the conflict-ridden country.

– The Summit was jointly inaugurated by Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghani President Ashraf Ghani. Pakistani Prime Minister's Foreign Affairs Advisor Sartaj Aziz represented his country in the Summit.

– Both India and Afghanistan came out with stinging attack on Pakistan for its terror stance. They urged Islamabad to end its "selective" approach to fighting terror groups on its soil, and end "terror sanctuaries" for groups that target them.

– The Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process was launched in 2011 and the participating countries include Pakistan, Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, India, Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan and the United Arab Emirates.

– The platform was floated to encourage security, political and economic cooperation between Afghanistan and its neighbours.

2) Who resigned from the post of the MD and CEO of NSE, on 2 December 2016? –

Chitra Ramkrishna

Explanation: Chitra Ramkrishna resigned as Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Stock

Exchange of India (NSE), India's largest stock exchange. Her tenure was supposed to end in March 2018. Her resignation came just days before NSE's IPO.

According to media reports she had differences with the NSE board on key issues of listing of the exchange.

– A chartered accountant by training, Ramkrishna began her career with IDBI in 1983. She was one of the five people hand-picked by legendary S S Nadkarni, then chairman of IDBI, to set up NSE in 1992. She was appointed as the joint managing director of the exchange in September 2009 and was elevated to the post of MD & CEO in April 2013.

– Ramkrishna was the third woman to head an exchange in the Asia-Pacific region after Sri Lanka's Colombo Stock Exchange and China's Shenzhen Stock Exchange.

– Ramkrishna was the second-highest paid executive in the financial services industry, second only to Aditya Puri, MD of HDFC Bank, who took home Rs 9.7 crore in FY16.

3) Which country was removed as a member of South American trade bloc Mercosur during December 2016? –

Venezuela

Explanation: On 2 December 2016 Venezuela was notified that it is being kicked out of South America's trade group

Mercosur over its failure to comply with the pact's democratic principles and trade bylaws.

– In a letter addressed to Venezuela's Foreign Minister Delcy Rodriguez, Mercosur's member states, led by Brazil, said it had been stripped of membership rights immediately and that it will be required to renegotiate its membership. The Venezuelan government said it is being unfairly targeted by right-wing regional leaders and that it complies with bylaws.

– Mercosur was created as a customs union in 1991 by Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay. Venezuela became the group's fifth member in 2012.

– However, the bloc lost relevance as its members focused on selling commodities to a single client, fast-growing China. A wave of leftist leaders in the past decade also shifted focus away from trade to create a counterweight to U.S. influence in South America.

4) What could be the world's first polluted river was discovered by scientists recently. This river, contaminated about 7,000 years ago by Neolithic humans, has been discovered in which country? –
Jordan

Explanation: Professor Russell Adams from the University of Waterloo in Canada and colleagues, claimed to have discovered the world's first polluted river in the now-dry riverbed in the Wadi Faynan region of southern Jordan. The river is believed to have been polluted some 7,000 years ago by Neolithic human.

– They found evidence of early pollution caused by the combustion of copper. The findings shed light on a turning point in history, when humans began moving from making tools out of stones to making tools out of metal.

– According to Adams this region is home to the world's first industrial revolution. However, people paid a heavy price for

the increased metal production. Slag, the waste product of smelting, remained. It contained metals such as copper, lead, zinc, cadmium, and even arsenic, mercury and thalium. Plants absorbed these metals, people and animals such as goats and sheep ate them, and so the contaminants bioaccumulated in the environment.

.....

5) The Indian women's cricket team defeated which team in the finals of Asia Cup T20 Cup on 4 December 2016 to win sixth consecutive title?
– Pakistan

Explanation: The Indian women's team maintained its supremacy in the Asia Cup Twenty20 by beating Pakistan for its sixth title in as many editions in Bangkok on 4 December 2016.

– Veteran Mithali Raj, who was removed as Twenty20 captain before the start of the tournament, made a statement with an unbeaten 73 to guide India to 121 for five in 20 overs.

– The bowlers then bowled brilliantly to limit Pakistan to 104 for six, completing a 17-run win.

– With the memorable win, India also managed to maintain its enviable record in the continental event, having won all the six editions to have taken place so far.

.....

6-7 December 2016



1) Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J. Jayalalithaa passed away on 5

December 2016 after battling for life for

74 days in Chennai's Apollo Hospital. She was state Chief Minister for six terms.

When she became state's CM for the first time?
– 1991

Explanation: Jayalalithaa was one of India's most articulate and determined political personalities and a top film actress of the 1960s and 1970s. She showed enormous resolve in fighting one obstacle after another since the time she stepped into the world of politics in June 1982, under the mentorship of Chief Minister M.G. Ramachandran (MGR), the founder of the AIADMK and her lead co-star in 28 Tamil films. She was 68.

– In 1991 her alliance with the Indian National Congress enabled her to an incredible victory. The AIADMK alliance with the Congress won 225 out of the 234 seats contested and won all 39 constituencies in the centre. Thus she became Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister for the first time.

– Her second term was in 2001 after another Assembly win for AIADMK but had to resign in the same year due to a Supreme Court ruling against her. She however returned for the third term in 2013 after acquittal. Her fourth term was in 2011 when a 13-party alliance led by her won the Assembly Elections. But being sentenced for 4 years in an 18-year-old disproportionate assets case 2014 led to her resignation. Later she returned for her fifth term in 2015 after her acquittal in the same case.

– Her sixth and final term as Tamil Nadu CM began in May 2016 after her party won a historic win in Assembly Elections. She thus became the second Chief Minister after M. G. Ramachandran, to serve consecutive terms as Chief Minister.

– She was buried near the grave of his mentor M.G. Ramachandran on Chennai's

famous Marina Beach in the evening of 6 December 2016.

.....
2) Who took over as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 5 December 2016 after demise of CM Jayalalithaa? –

O. Panneerselvam

Explanation: O. Panneerselvam became the 20th Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu after he took oath in the early hours of 6 December 2016, just around two hours after death of the incumbent Jayalalithaa. He is a strong loyalist of Jayalalithaa and was looking after state's affairs after Jayalalithaa's condition worsened in the hospital.

– For Panneerselvam, it was the third oath as Tamil Nadu Chief Minister, once again in difficult circumstances. The other two times he was sworn in as a stop-gap Chief Minister when Jayalalithaa had to step down over corruption charges.

.....
3) Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi tendered his resignation for which reason on 5 December 2016?

– The constitutional referendum put forward by him was disapproved by Italian voters

Explanation: A constitutional referendum was held in Italy on 4 December 2016. The voters were asked whether they approve a constitutional law that amends the Italian Constitution to reform the composition and powers of the Parliament of Italy. It was aimed to carry out some ambitious reforms in the country was very important for Prime Minister Matteo Renzi.

– However, the constitutional referendum was rejected by voters, with 59.11% voters disapproving it. Opposition parties harshly criticised the bill, claiming that it

was poorly written and that it would have made the government too powerful.

– The outcome energised the anti-immigrant Northern League party, an ally of French far-right leader Marine Le Pen. The party called for an early general election in Italy.

.....
4) The foreign direct investment (FDI) in India crossed which milestone figure in September 2016, as disclosed during December 2016? – \$300 billion

Explanation: According to data disclosed during December 2016, India crossed the USD 300 billion foreign direct investment (FDI) milestone between April 2000 and September 2016. The cumulative FDI inflows during the period amounted to USD 310.26 billion.

– India crossed the USD 300 billion mark at a time when the global economic slowdown has had a dampening impact on FDI flows which are expected to fall this year (2016-17).

– Thirty three per cent of the FDI came through the Mauritius route, apparently because the investors wanted to take advantage of India's double taxation avoidance treaty with the island nation. India received USD 101.76 billion from Mauritius between April 2000 and September 2016.

– The other big investors have been from Singapore, the US, UK and the Netherlands.

.....
5) Who was selected as the new Chief Justice of India on 6 December 2016? – Justice J.S. Khehar

Explanation: Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar will be the next Chief Justice of India, after his appointment to the august post was

confirmed on 6 December 2016. He will be sworn in as the Chief Justice of India by President Pranab Mukherjee on 4 January 2017 and will replace Chief Justice T.S. Thakur.

– Justice Khehar will be the 44th Chief Justice of India. He will also be the first Supreme Court Chief Justice from the Sikh community.

– It is worth mentioning that Chief Justice Thakur had on 5 December 2016 written to the Union government recommending Justice Khehar's name for appointment as the next Chief Justice of India.

8 December 2016



1) What is the name of the remote sensing satellite that was successfully launched by ISRO on 7 December 2016 and was the last launch of its 2016 itinerary? – Resourcesat-2A

Explanation: Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched

'Resourcesat-2A', the remote sensing satellite from Sriharikota (Andhra Pradesh) on 7 December 2016. The launch was made through the PSLV-C36 rocket.

– After the launch, the 1,235-kg spacecraft started orbiting pole-to-pole at about 824 km from Earth. It was the 37th consecutive successful flight of the indigenous light-lifting rocket, the PSLV.

– The three cameras of different resolution on 'Resourcesat-2A' will give regular micro and macro information on land and water bodies below, farm lands and crop extent, forests, mineral deposits, coastal information, rural and urban spreads besides helping in disaster management.

– Resourcesat-2A is the third remote sensing satellite under 'Resourcesat' series. Resourcesat-1 was put in space in October 2003 and Resourcesat-2 in April 2011, each with a planned life of five years.

2) The six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), headed by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) governor Urjit Patel, on 7 December 2016 decided to keep the policy rate unchanged at 6.25%. What is the growth forecast for present fiscal (2016-17) as forecasted by the MPC? – 7.1%

Explanation: The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) expects that the growth rate for 2016-17 would be 7.1% as against its previous forecast of 7.6%. The new forecast thus reflects the downward sentiment, primarily due to ongoing demonetization drive.

– The MPC unanimously decided to keep the policy rate (Repo Rate) unchanged at 6.25%, considering the heightened uncertainty of volatility related to US rate hike and the demonetization drive. The financial markets were expecting at-least 25 basis point decrease in the rate.

– The RBI also expects that demonetization will lower the prices of perishables, could reduce inflation by 10-15 basis points by December 2016.



3) Famous political satirist and journalist Cho Ramaswamy passed away in the early hours of 7 December 2016. Apart from being a witty political commentator and theatre personality,

he was editor of Tamil magazine 'Thuglak'. What was his real name? – Srinivasa Iyer Ramaswamy

Explanation: Srinivasa Iyer Ramaswamy, popularly known as Cho Ramaswamy, was a multi-faceted personality. He was an accomplished actor, comedian, character actor, editor, political satirist, playwright and dialogue writer, film director and lawyer in Tamil Nadu.

– He was also the founder-Editor of 'Thuglak', a popular Tamil magazine. His popularity in the Tamil Nadu literary circles was mainly due to his impartial assessment of political issues. His political satire 'Mohamed Bin Thuglak' was a runaway success.

– Winner of the B.D. Goenka award for excellence in journalism, Cho was nominated to the Rajya Sabha by the BJP government led by A.B. Vajpayee.

4) The government will observe B R Ambedkar's birth anniversary as which national day, as announced by the Union Govt. on 6 December 2016? – 'Water Day'

Explanation: In view of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's contribution toward the country's water resources management, his birth anniversary (14 April) will be observed as Water Day. This was announced by Union Water Resources Minister Uma Bharti on 6 December 2016, his 61st death anniversary.

– Dr. Ambedkar, during his tenure as Member (Labour) of the Viceroy's Executive Council (1942-1946), had steered formation of an all-India policy for the development of water resources in the country. He had advocated the concept of River Valley Authority or corporation for integrated development of rivers.

– He also introduced the concept of multi-purpose development of river basins and his efforts in this direction culminated with multipurpose development of Damodar, Mahanadi and other rivers immediately after independence.



5) Who was named Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' for 2016, as announced on 6 December 2016? – Donald Trump

Explanation: US President-elect Donald Trump was named Time magazine's 'Person of the Year' for 2016. This announcement was made on NBC's "Today" show on 6 December 2016. Democrat Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton was the No. 2 finalist. She lost to Trump despite winning the popular vote.

– But Time magazine, while naming Trump for this coveted title, also called him the "President of the divided states of America." Trump was not happy about that title, but called his selection a "tremendous honor."

– The annual marketing gimmick has, since the 1920s, attempted to select a

single figure or a group that has influenced the year's events.

.....

6) Who was appointed new Prime Minister of France on 6 December 2016 to replace Manuel Valls after he quit the post to focus on Presidential elections? –
Bernard Cazeneuve

Explanation: Bernard Cazeneuve was on 6 December 2016 appointed new Prime Minister of France as Manuel Valls quit his post to focus on running for President in the country's coming elections.

– 53-year-old Cazeneuve is a close ally of President Francois Hollande and has become a popular figure in French politics as the champion of measures tackling extremism. Hollande is not running for re-election.

– Valls will be seeking the Socialist nomination for the vote, hoping to pit himself against conservative candidate Francois Fillon and Marine Le Pen, leader of the far-right Front National.

.....

9-10 December 2016

1) With the primary objective of hastening India's shift towards a cashless economy, the Union Government announced a slew of measures to encourage digital payments on 8 December 2016. Under the announcements, the monthly rental on point of service (PoS) terminals provided by state-owned banks has been capped at
– Rs. 100

Explanation: Discounts ranging between 0.5% and 10% were announced by the Union Govt. on 8 December 2016 to encourage digital transactions vis-à-vis physical currency for use of various services.

The incentives are mostly for services provided by Central public sector undertakings, public sector banks and the Railways. Following are the main steps taken by the Govt.

- The monthly rental on around 6,50,000 point of service (PoS) terminals provided by state-owned banks capped at Rs. 100
 - No service tax on digital transactions up to Rs. 2000
 - Online purchase of rail tickets to come with a free accidental insurance cover of Rs. 10 lakh. The Rail Ministry expects online ticket booking transactions from 58% to 78%
 - Discount of 0.75% on digital purchases of petrol and diesel from state-owned outlets
 - 0.5% discount for digital purchase of monthly and season tickets for suburban rail travel
 - Villages with population less than 10,000 to get two PoS machines each. There are around 1 lakh such villages with an approximate population of 75 crore
 - Kisan credit card holders to get Rupay Kisan cards
 - State-owned insurers to give 10% discount on online purchase of general insurance policy, 8% discount for life insurance policy
 - 5% discount on digital payments to railways for catering, accommodation, etc.
 - 10% discount on toll payments using RFID cards and fast tags
-

2) Former Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) SP Tyagi was arrested on 9 December 2016 for his alleged involvement in which case? –
The AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal

Explanation: Former Air Force Chief SP Tyagi was arrested on 9 December 2016 over alleged irregularities in the AgustaWestland VVIP chopper deal worth Rs. 3,600 crores, signed when the Congress was in power. He was arrested with his cousin Sanjeev Tyagi and lawyer Gautam Khaitan after hours of questioning.

– Tyagi headed the Indian Air Force between 2004 and 2007. Investigations have revealed that the Tyagis entered into a consultancy deal with middlemen in

2004, when Air Marshal Tyagi’s cousins were certain that he would be the next air force chief and in a position to influence the deal.

– S.P. Tyagi had been repeatedly questioned on the deal with UK-based helicopter maker AgustaWestland, in which kickbacks were allegedly paid to Indian officials and politicians to influence the contract for a dozen VVIP choppers for the President, Prime Minister and other top leaders of the country.

.....
3) Which High Court on 8 December 2016 came out with a scathing attack on the practice of ‘Triple Talaq’ saying this form of “instant divorce” is “cruel” and “most demeaning”? – Allahabad High Court

Explanation: The single judge Bench of Justice Suneet Kumar of the Allahabad High Court on 8 December 2016 said that Muslim law in the country are contrary to teachings of Quran and the Prophet and that the Constitution is supreme over personal laws of any community.

– It thus came down heavily on the practice of “triple talaq” (divorce by saying ‘talaq’ three times), saying this form of “instant divorce” is cruel and most demeaning, which impedes and drags India from becoming a nation.

– The bench observed that women cannot remain at the mercy of the patriarchal setup held under the clutches of sundry clerics having their own interpretation of the holy Quran.

– The observations were made while dismissing the writ of an elderly Muslim man who was seeking protection for himself and his second wife, half his age. The man submitted in the court that he had divorced his first wife through the custom of “triple talaq” and now felt threatened by relatives of his second wife and his own family.

.....
4) The United States’ administration on 8 December 2016 granted which status to India that is expected to fast-track cooperation and sharing of high-end US defence technology? – ‘Major Defence Partner’ of the U.S.’

Explanation: Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar and outgoing US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter on 8 December 2016 finalised the “Major Defence Partner” status to India.

– According to a joint-declaration “The designation as a Major Defence Partner is a status unique to India and institutionalises the progress made to facilitate defence trade and technology sharing with India to a level at par with that of the US’s closest allies and partners, and ensures enduring cooperation in the future”.

– It now needs to be formally passed by the two chambers of the Congress – the House of Representatives and Senate – before US President Barack Obama can sign it into law.

.....
5) What is the name of South Korean President who in a stunning development

was impeached on 9 December 2016? –
Park Geun-hye

Explanation: Park Geun-hye is the first woman President of South Korea. In a stunning and swift for her, South Korean lawmakers on 9 December 2016 impeached her amid protests that drew millions into the streets of capital Seoul.

- Park was allegedly involved in a case of collusion with a longtime friend to extort money from companies and to give that confidante extraordinary sway over government decisions.
- After the vote, country's No. 2 official, Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn was allowed to assume leadership until the Constitutional Court rules on whether Park must permanently step down. The court has up to six months to decide.
- Park will be formally removed from office if at least six of the Constitutional Court's nine justices support her impeachment, and the country would then hold a presidential election within 60 days.
- The handover of power prompted the prime minister to order South Korea's defense minister to put the military on a state of heightened readiness to brace for any potential provocation by North Korea.

6) The first American to orbit Earth passed away on 8 December 2016. What was his name? –
John Glenn

Explanation: John Glenn became the first-ever U.S. astronaut to orbit the Earth in 1962. This historic flight made him an all-American hero and propelled him to a long career in the U.S. Senate. He passed away on 8 December 2016 at the age of 95.

- It is worth mentioning that the Soviet Union leaped ahead of the U.S. in space

exploration by putting the Sputnik 1 satellite in orbit in 1957, and then launched the first man in space, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin on 12 April 1961.

- After two suborbital flights by Alan Shepard Jr. and Gus Grissom, it was up to Glenn to be the first American to orbit the Earth on 20 February 1962.

11-12 December 2016

1) What is the name of the new 24-hour TV channel launched during December 2016 by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with the primary objective of pushing digital transactions? – 'DigiShala'

Explanation: A new 24-hour satellite channel named 'DigiShala' was launched by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

- 'DigiShala' will enable and empower every citizen of the country, especially farmers, students, dalits and women in rural areas, to learn the usefulness and benefits of digital payment in our everyday life. The channel will inform and educate about various digital payment options through step by step demos of digital payments using UPI, USSD, Aadhaar-enabled payment systems, e-wallets and cards.

- The channel would be managed by Doordarshan (DD) and piggyback on its infrastructure. Originally it has only three to four hours of original content.

2) What is the name of the ambitious campaign of Nobel laureate Kailash Satyarthi launched by President Pranab Mukherjee on 11 December 2016 that aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged

children across the world? – '100 Million for 100 Million'

Explanation: '100 Million for 100 Million' is the name of the campaign that aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world, to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children and promote the right of every child to be safe, free, and educated, over the next five years. The campaign is the brain-child of Nobel Peace Prize winner Kailash Satyarthi.

– It was officially launched on 11 December 2016 by President Pranab Mukherjee at a programme organized by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

.....
3) What is the name of the chief of Pakistan's spy agency Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) who was removed from his post by country's new Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on 11 December 2016? – Lt. Gen. Rizwan Akhtar

Explanation: ISI Chief Lt. Gen. Rizwan Akhtar was removed from his post in a major reshuffle by Army chief General Qamar Javed Bajwa on 11 December 2016. Akhtar was appointed president of the National Defence University (NDU).

– According to media reports Lt. Gen. Naveed Mukhtar is the new ISI Chief. Mukhtar possess vast experience in the field of intelligence and has headed the counterterrorism wing of the spy agency in Islamabad. He was commissioned in the Armoured Corps regiment in 1983.

.....
4) Who was named new Prime Minister of Italy on 11 December 2016 to replace

Matteo Renzi who resigned after referendum defeat? – Paolo Gentiloni

Explanation: Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni was asked by Italian President Sergio Mattarella on 11 December 2016 to form a new centre-left government that will guide Italy to the elections that are due by February 2018. Gentiloni will have to get approval of the Parliament for his new government through voting on 14 December.

– He was entrusted with the task to form the new government following Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's resignation over referendum defeat. President Mattarella turned to Gentiloni after opposition parties rebuffed overtures about a possible national unity government. The president rejected opposition demands for an immediate election.

– The populist Five Star Movement, which has led calls for immediate elections, said it will boycott Parliamentary voting of 14 December because the new government would have no legitimacy.

.....
5) Which team won the International Premier Tennis League (ITPL) title for 2016 on 11 December 2016? – Singapore Slammers

Explanation: Singapore Slammers retained the International Premier Tennis League title with a majestic 30-14 victory over table-toppers Indian Aces in Hyderabad on 11 December 2016.

– Singapore Slammers' victory was powered by a brilliant 6-4 win by former World No. 1 Carlos Moya over Mark Philippoussis. Kiki Bertens continued the momentum by upsetting the local favourite Sania Mirza by 6-3.

– In the mixed doubles, Marcelo Melo and Bertens neutralised the power of Mirza

and her Indian partner Rohan Bopanna 6-1. In the last match Marcos Baghdatis (Cyprus) sealed an emphatic win with a 6-4 success over Feliciano Lopez.

– International Premier Tennis League (ITPL) is an annual tennis team league promoted by former Indian tennis ace Mahesh Bhupathi. It was founded in 2013 and features many top tennis players. The first ITPL title was won by Indian Aces in 2014 followed by two consecutive titles by Singapore Slammers in 2015 and now in 2016.

13 December 2016

1) What is the name of the severe cyclonic storm that made a landfall in Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh on 12 December 2016 and severely affecting Chennai? – 'Vardah'

Explanation: 'Vardah' is the name of the severe cyclonic storm that hit northern Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh on 12 December 2016. It developed over the southeast Bay of Bengal region around 5 days back as a low pressure area and upgraded into a severe cyclonic storm.

– 'Vardah' was initially expected made landfall in Andhra Pradesh and cross the coast between Nellore and Kakinada. But later it changed direction and targeted Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh instead. Heavy rainfall and gusty air lashed Chennai, Kanchipuram and Thiruvalluvar due to the storm. Chennai bore the brunt of the cyclone with suburban rail services completely suspended, runways shut and very limited buses plying on roads. At least 2 persons died as thousands of tree fell all over the city.

– The name 'Vardah' is given by Pakistan as per cyclone naming conventions and stands for red rose in Urdu.

2) Normal commercial traffic through the 57-km long Gotthard Base Tunnel, the world's longest rail tunnel, was commenced from 11 December 2016. This tunnel, which took 17 years to build, is situated in which country? – Switzerland

Explanation: The Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT) is situated in the Swiss Alps and connects Zurich to Lugano. The tunnel took 17 years to build, at a cost of over 12 billion Swiss francs. It was officially opened in June 2016 but regular passenger services have been started from 11 December.

– The GBT has surpassed Japan's 53.9 km Seikan tunnel as the world's longest train tunnel. The 50.5 km Channel tunnel connecting Britain and France has been bumped into third place.

– The ambitious GBT project has been praised across Europe for its pioneering efforts to improve connectivity from Rotterdam to the Adriatic.

– The Swiss-funded tunnel was largely made possible by technical advances in tunnel-boring machines, which replaced the costly and dangerous blast-and-drill method.

3) What is the number of a soon-to-be-commissioned nationwide toll-free helpline to educate people and provide support related to cashless mode of transactions? – 14444

Explanation: Union Government is in the process of commissioning a new nationwide toll-free helpline number that will seek to educate people and provide support related to cashless mode of

transactions. The Govt. has sought leading IT services and software association

Nasscom's help in providing support on a mass scale to people.

– The number 14444 has been assigned by the Department of Telecom (DoT). This toll-free number will thus be the latest addition to various tools already launched by the government to promote digital payments. The Government has already launched a TV channel ('Digishala') and a website ('CashlessIndia') to promote the cause of digital transactions.

.....

4) What is the name of the 5-month long initiative launched by the Madhya Pradesh Government on 11 December 2016 that aims at turning the Narmada river pollution free by seeking public participation and creating awareness? – 'Narmada Seva Yatra'

Explanation: 'Narmada Seva Yatra' (NSY) is the name of the new initiative launched by the Madhya Pradesh Government. The initiative seeks to turn the Narmada into a pollution free and unceasing river. NSY was launched by MP Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan at Amarkantak on 11 December 2016.

– The NSY will create awareness about the conservation of the river and will cover more than 1,900 kilometres in 16 districts of the state. Under the initiative trees will be planted along the banks of the Narmada and sewage water will be treated before it flows into the river.

.....

5) Who was sworn-in as new Prime Minister of New Zealand on 12 December 2016 to replace John Key? – Bill English

Explanation: Bill English, who was Finance Minister till now, became the new Prime Minister of New Zealand on 12 December

2016. He replaced the much-popular John Key, who shocked the nation by resigning due to family reasons a few days ago.

– The centre-right National Party caucus unanimously backed English at a meeting on 12 December. Hours later he was administered the oath of office. State Services Minister Paula Bennett was named as deputy leader.

– English has been in parliament since 1990 and was previously leader of the National Party in 2002 when it suffered its worst election defeat.

.....

6) According to media reports, which Scandinavian country is facing the unique problem of running out of its garbage and is now importing it to run its recycling plants? – Sweden

Explanation: Sweden has run out of garbage and is being forced to import it from other countries to keep its state-of-the-art recycling plants going. The garbage is needed in large quantities as the country sources almost half of its electricity from renewables.

– Sweden was one of the first countries to implement a heavy tax on fossil fuels in 1991. The country's recycling system is so sophisticated that only less than 1 per cent of its household waste has been sent to landfill last year. However, the need of garbage import is just of temporary nature.

14-15 December 2016



1) Which South-American country ordered demonetization of its largest denomination currency note on 11 December 2016 in an effort to target the alleged cash hoarding and huge inflation in the country? – Venezuela

Explanation: Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on 11 December 2016 signed an emergency decree ordering the country's largest banknote, the 100 bolivar bill, taken out of circulation. The government is of the view that this will thwart the cash hoarders in Colombia.

– It is worth mentioning that Venezuela is the midst of an economic crisis and crippled with the world's highest inflation. The country is preparing to issue new banknotes and coins in values up to 200 times the highest denomination currently available. The 100 bolivar bill is worth fewer than three cents of a dollar at current market rates. One bill can barely cover the cost of a piece of candy.

– The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecast the inflation rate will hit 475% by the end of this year. Falling prices for Venezuela's crucial oil exports have caused a shortage of dollars in the country, driving up prices of imports of food, medicine and other crucial goods.

.....

2) What is the main recommendation of the Watal Committee on Digital Payments which submitted its report to the Union Government during December 2016? – An independent payments regulator within the framework of the RBI should be established

Explanation: The Union Government in August 2016 had constituted a committee to suggest ways to encourage India's movement towards a cashless economy. This committee was headed by former finance secretary Ratan Watal. The committee came out with its recommendations during December 2016.

– The committee has recommended that payments regulations should be independent of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) but should come under its framework. It has thus mooted the creation of a Payments Regulatory Board (PRB) within the central bank- an independent decision making body having some members from outside RBI.

– The panel has also suggested strengthening the payment and settlements Act to include clauses for consumer protection. These include ensuring that the customer is not liable for losses arising from unauthorized transactions, as well as an option to approach the regulator for grievances. It has also sought to address issues on data protection and security.

– The report has recommended opening up of the payment systems like the real-time gross settlement system (RTGS) even to non-bank payment service providers.

.....

3) What is India's position in the list of the world's largest defence spending countries, as disclosed in IHS Jane's latest annual Defense Budgets report? – Fourth

Explanation: IHS Jane's latest annual Defense Budgets report released during December 2016, India has overtaken Saudi Arabia and Russia to become the fourth-largest spender in the world. During 2016 India spent \$50.67 billion on defence sector, as against \$46.6 billion spent during 2015. If the pound continues to weaken, India will spend more on defense than the U.K. by 2018.

– At \$622 billion in 2016, the U.S. is still the world leader in defense spending, with its budget accounting for about 40% of the global total. China is at second place with spending worth \$191.75 billion. It is followed by the United Kingdom, which spent \$53.81 billion on defence spending during 2016. India is now at fourth place and is followed closely by Saudi Arabia (48.68 billion) and Russia (\$48.44 billion).

– On the other hand global defence expenditures rose to \$1.57 trillion during 2016 from \$1.55 trillion in 2015, primarily due to the fact that Asian nations are ramping up defence expenses on growing nervousness around the South China Sea.

.....

4) During December 2016 the Syrian government troops recaptured major parts of which strategic city from the rebels that fell out into rebel hands in 2012 in one of the early setbacks to the regime of President Bashar al-Assad? – Aleppo

Explanation: Aleppo is the largest city of Syria. It has been the center of military confrontation between Syrian armed forces under President Bashar al-Assad and Syrian opposition (including Free Syrian Army and Sunni fighters). The battle of Aleppo began on 19 July 2012 as opposition forces captured major parts of the city to give a big blow to government forces.

– By 13 December 2016 the government forces were able to capture major eastern parts of the city and within a few weeks are expected to take control of complete city. Syrian government offensive was supported by Russia, who carried airstrikes over the rebels.

– Talks between rebels and the Russian military led to the ceasefire deal. The UN Security Council held an emergency meeting on 13 December 2016 to address the situation. The battle for Aleppo has been a humanitarian disaster. The rebels accuse the regime of indiscriminate bombing and killing civilians, while the government says it had no option but to move in as the city was controlled by “terrorists”.

.....

5) Which cricket stadium in India is poised to replace Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) as the world's biggest cricket stadium in terms of seating capacity, as reported in the media during December 2016? – Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium (Ahmedabad)

Explanation: The Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium in Motera, Ahmedabad will replace Australia's Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) to become world's biggest cricket stadium in terms of seating capacity. This stadium will take that record after the new renovated venue opens up in two year time. L&T will undertake the expansion project.

– Motera's seating capacity will go up from present 54,000 to seat about 1,10,000 that will put MCG's 100,024 in the shade.

.....

16-17 December 2016

1) The first Humsafar Express, the new series of express trains for inter-city overnight journeys designed specifically for middle-class passengers, was launched by Indian Railways on 16 December 2016. This first Humsafar train is between which two destinations? – Gorakhpur and Anand Vihar (Ghaziabad)

Explanation: The Indian Railways launched the AC III tier Humsafar Express on 16 December 2016 as promised by the railway minister Suresh Prabhu in the railway budget this year. Humsafar Express, made up entirely of AC III coaches, targets middle class passenger group for inter-city overnight journeys.

– The first Humsafar Express, with 16 AC III tier coaches and two power cars, runs between Gorakhpur and Anand Vihar in Ghaziabad in Uttar Pradesh. It was flagged off by Rail Minister Suresh Prabhu through video conferencing.

– The train features numerous features meant to provide luxury to middle-class passengers such as CCTV, Global Positioning System (GPS)-based passenger information system, mobile and laptop charging points, integrated braille display for the visually impaired, smoke detection and suppression system and a high quality exterior and interior design among others.

– The first group of Humsafar coaches, including power cars, has been manufactured at Modern Coach Factory in Raebareli, Uttar Pradesh.

2) From 15 December 2016 which seven airports of India became ‘tag-free’ for hand baggage as part of the trials to scrap security stamping procedure? – New

Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad

Explanation: The procedure of putting tags on passengers’ hand baggage and then stamping these tags was done away at seven airports – four metro cities (New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata), Bengaluru, Hyderabad and Ahmedabad from 15 December 2016.

– The move follows a decision by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), which handles the security at airports, to do away with stamping of cabin baggage tags.

– India has the system of stamping boarding pass and hand baggage since 1992 and this system is unique to the country only.

3) The Supreme Court on 15 December 2016 ordered closure of all liquor shops along national and state highways in the country. This order will come into effect from which date? – 1 April 2017

Explanation: A bench led by Chief Justice of India T S Thakur on 15 December 2016 directed the Central and state governments to “cease and desist” from issuing liquor licenses situated on national and state highways. It said that no new license for a liquor-vend along highways shall be granted henceforth.

– Further, the court added that no liquor shops should even be visible from highways and no such shop should be allowed at least within a radius of 500 metres. The court highlighted the significance of road safety and menace of drunken driving while issuing the order.

– The bench set a deadline of 1 April 2017 for expiry of all existing licences and directed the authorities to ensure strict compliance with its order.

.....
4) On 14 December 2016 which country was removed from India's tax blacklist after the Indian Government agreed to changes in the double taxation avoidance agreement (DTAA) with this country? –

Cyprus

Explanation: The Indian government on 14 December 2016 rescinded a notification blacklisting the Mediterranean island nation Cyprus, providing relief to investors who route their investments through it.

– This means that investors can hope for some relief from the Indian tax department for investments routed through Cyprus in the intervening three-year period that attracted some of the stringent provisions like increased withholding tax requirements.

– It is worth mentioning that on 1 November 2013 Cyprus was listed as a “notified jurisdiction” for not providing financial information sought by the Indian government.

.....
5) Who was appointed as the new Chairman of state-owned behemoth Life Insurance Corp. of India (LIC) during December 2016? – V.K. Sharma

Explanation: The Union Govt. on 14 December 2016 appointed V.K. Sharma as the new Chairman of Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) of India. He has been appointed for a period of 5 years. Sharma had been serving as LIC's managing director since November 2013.

– He replaced S.K. Roy who retired from the post in September 2016.

– Having joined LIC as a direct recruit officer in 1981, Sharma has served as the

chief executive of its mortgage subsidiary LIC Housing Finance Ltd and zonal manager in charge of the south zone.

– LIC is the largest financial institution in the country with over Rs. 22 trillion in assets, which is over 15% of India's gross domestic product (GDP) of Rs.134 trillion.

.....
6) What is the name of the enhanced version of Pakistan's indigenously-designed cruise missile capable of hitting targets at 700 km that was successfully test-fired by Pakistan Army on 14 December 2016? – 'Babur'

Explanation: The missile called 'Babur' named after Mughal invader and founder of the dynasty of same name, the missile is part of Babur Weapon System version- 2 and is an enhanced version of the earlier missile.

– It is a low flying, terrain hugging missile, which carries certain stealth features and is capable of carrying various types of warheads.

– 'Babur' is equipped with state-of-the-art navigational technologies of Terrain Contour Matching (TERCOM) and all time Digital Scene Matching & Area Co-relation (DSMAC), which enables it to engage various types of targets with pinpoint accuracy even in the absence of GPS navigation.

– It is capable of hitting hit targets at 700 km with all kinds of warheads, bringing many Indian cities within its range.

.....
7) Which Indian woman cricketer was the only one from the country to be named in the ICC's Women's Team of the Year 2016, which was announced during December 2016? – Smriti Mandhana

Explanation: Indian batswoman Smriti Mandhana created history as she was named in the Women's Team of the Year

2016, the International Cricket Council (ICC) announced on 14 December 2016. It was the first time ever that ICC announced a team of year for women.

– The team was selected on the basis of player's performance between 14 September 2015 and 20 September 2016, which included the ICC Women's World Twenty20 and the ICC Women's Championship. West Indies' Stafanie Taylor was chosen as captain of this team.

18-19 December 2016



1) India defeated which team in the finals of the Junior Hockey World Cup 2016 on 18 December 2016 to win the prestigious title for the second time? – Belgium

Explanation: India defeated Belgium by 2-1 in the finals of the Junior Hockey World Cup 2016 to become the first host team to win the title. This was Indian hockey's first-ever world-level title in 15 years, the last being its maiden win in the same competition in 2001.

– In the final India attacked from the word go and kept the pressure throughout the match on first-time finalists Belgium. In terms of possession, circle entries, and shots on target, India dominated every department of the game.

– Gurjant Singh gave India the lead through a brilliant reverse hit in the 8th minute. Simranjeet doubled the lead in 22nd minute. Belgium scored their goal in the dying seconds through Fabrice van Bockrijck but it only changed the scoreline, not the result.

– Enrique Gonzalez de Castejon of Spain was named player of the tournament while Edward Horler (England) was the leading scorer with 8 goals.

– The 2016 Men's Hockey Junior World Cup was the 11th edition of the Hockey Junior World Cup (for men) and was played at Lucknow's Major Dhyani Chand Stadium from 8 to 18 December 2016.

2) The Union Govt. notified the new Income Declaration Scheme (IDS) along with other provisions of the Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016 on 16 December 2016. The scheme came into effect from 17 December 2016. What is the deadline to declare unaccounted income under this scheme? – '31 March 2017'

Explanation: Tax evaders can declare their unaccounted income till 31 March 2017 under the government's new income disclosure scheme (IDS), officially known as the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana.

– This is the second such income disclosure scheme brought in by the government this year, and the first after the cancellation of old high-value banknotes on 8 November 2016, gives tax evaders another chance to come clean. The first scheme closed on 30 September 2016.

– Under the scheme, a declarant of undisclosed income needs to pay a tax of 30%, a penalty of 10% and a Pradhan

Mantri Garib Kalyan Cess of 33% on the tax, all of which add up to around 50%.

– In addition, the declarant will have to deposit 25% of the undisclosed income in the zero-interest 'Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Deposit Scheme' for four years.

The declarant needs to furnish his/her permanent account number (PAN) while making the declaration. Part of the proceeds of the scheme will be used for welfare schemes for the poor.

.....
3) The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2016 was passed by Parliament as the Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 16 December 2016. This bill is replacing the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995. Under the new act, the total types of disabilities mentioned are – 21

Explanation: The types of disabilities under Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2016 have been increased from existing 7 to 21. Apart from this, the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.

– Speech and Language Disability and Specific Learning Disability have been added for the first time. Acid Attack Victims have been included. Dwarfism, muscular dystrophy have has been indicated as separate class of specified disability. The New categories of disabilities also included three blood disorders, Thalassemia, Hemophilia and Sickle Cell disease.

– Additional benefits such as reservation in higher education, government jobs, reservation in allocation of land, poverty alleviation schemes etc. have been provided for persons with benchmark disabilities and those with high support needs.

4) On 17 December 2016 who was appointed the next Chief of the Indian Army, an appointment which became controversial as it was done by superseding two senior Lt. Generals? – Lt. General Bipin Rawat

Explanation: Lt. General Bipin Rawat was appointed as the next Chief of the Indian Army on 17 December 2016. His appointment became a controversial one, as it was done superseding two senior-most Lt. Generals, Praveen Bakshi and P. M. Hariz.

– Lt. Gen Rawat, who is currently Vice Chief of Army Staff, will take over as the 26th Chief after Gen. Dalbir Singh Suhag retires on 31 December 2016. Rawat is an Infantry officer, having been commissioned in the Fifth Battalion of the Eleven Gorkha Rifles.

– The only other time the senior-most officer has not been appointed Chief was in 1983, when Lt. Gen S.K. Sinha was overlooked for the post in favour of Gen. A.S. Vaidya.

– It is worth mentioning that Lt. Gen Bakshi, who heads the Kolkata-headquartered Eastern Command, is from the Armoured Corps. On the other hand, Lt. Gen Hariz, who is from the Mechanised Infantry, heads the Pune-headquartered Southern Command.



5) Who was appointed the next Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 17 December 2016? – Air Marshal B.S. Dhanoa

Explanation: Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa will be the 22nd Chief of the Indian Air Force (IAF), replacing Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha who retires at the end of the year.

– Commissioned in the IAF in June 1978 as a fighter pilot, he is a Qualified Flying Instructor and has flown various types of fighter aircraft in his distinguished career. During the Kargil operations, he commanded a fighter squadron and himself flew numerous night strike missions over mountainous terrain. He was till now Vice Chief of the IAF.

– Prior to being appointed Vice Chief, he was Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South-Western Air Command.

.....
6) Who was appointed as the new Chief of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the external intelligence wing of India? – Anil Dhasmana

Explanation: Anil Dhasmana will take over the reins of the Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the organisation that looks after the external intelligence of the country. He will succeed Rajinder Khanna who completes his tenure this year end.

– Dhasmana, a 1981-batch officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, has been with RAW for the last 23 years during which he has served on important desks including Pakistan.

.....
7) Who was appointed as the next Chief of the Intelligence Bureau on 17 December 2016? – Rajiv Jain

Explanation: Jharkhand cadre IPS officer Rajiv Jain has been appointed as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB). He is currently serving as the Special Director in the IB.

– A recipient of President’s Police Medal, the 1980-batch officer has served in various departments of the IB including the sensitive Kashmir desk. He was advisor to the previous NDA government’s interlocutor on Kashmir K C Pant when talks were held with separatist leaders like Shabbir Shah.

– Jain will take over on 1 January 2017 after the incumbent Dineshwar Sharma completes his two-year tenure on 31 December 2016.

.....
8) Indian professional boxer Vijender Singh defeated which boxer Tanzanian boxer by a technical knock-out on 17 December 2016 to successfully defend his WBO title? – Francis Cheka

Explanation: Indian star boxer Vijender Singh’s juggernaut in professional boxing rolled on as he won his eighth consecutive bout of his career on 17 December 2016. He defeated Tanzanian boxer Francis Cheka by a technical knockout (TKO) to retain WBO Asia-Pacific Super Middleweight title.

– Vijender landed the winning blow in the third round of what was to be a 10-round contest with Cheka. It is worth mentioning that Vijender has now won all his eight bouts since he turned professional on October 2015. Of these, 7 wins have been by knockout.

20 December 2016

1) What is the name of the Russian Ambassador to Turkey who was shot dead by a gunman in a shocking incident at a photo exhibition in Ankara on 19 December 2016? – Andrei Karlov

Explanation: Russian Ambassador to Turkey Andrei Karlov was several minutes into his speech at the embassy-sponsored exhibition in the Turkish capital, Ankara, when the gunman fired at least eight shots in the evening of 19 December 2016. Karlov died immediately.

– The gunman was later identified as an off-duty Turkish policeman Mevlüt Mert Altıntas. After killing the Ambassador he shouted “Don’t forget Aleppo, don’t forget Syria!” and “Allahu Akbar”.

– The assassination took place after several days of protests by the Turkish people over Russian involvement in the Syrian Civil War and the battle over Aleppo.

.....
2) Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of India’s first ever ‘Indian Institute of Skills’ (IIS) in which city of Uttar Pradesh on 19 December 2016? – Kanpur

Explanation: In line with his vision of making India the skill capital of the World by empowering its youth to be more employable and self-sustainable, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 December 2016 laid the foundation stone of country’s first ‘Indian Institute of Skills’ (IIS) in Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh.

– The IIS was conceptualized by Prime Minister during his visit to Singapore’s Institute of Technical Education (ITE). The IIS is being established by Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in partnership with ITE.

.....
3) What is the interest rate on EPF deposits for the current fiscal (2016-17) as agreed upon by the Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of the retirement body EPFO on 19 December 2016? – 8.65%

Explanation: The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO’s) apex decision making body, the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), on 19 December 2016 decided to lower the interest rate to 8.65% for the current fiscal (2016-17) from 8.8% in 2015-16.

– As per the EPFO income projections, retaining 8.8% rate of interest for the current fiscal would have left a deficit of Rs. 383 crore.

– In September 2016, the Government reduced interest rates on small savings schemes marginally by 0.1% for the October-December quarter of 2016-17, which resulted in lower returns on PPF, Kisan Vikas Patra, Sukanya Samriddhi Account, among others.



4) India notched up its highest Test score in an innings (759 for 7) as Karun Nair became the second Indian to score triple century in a Test match in the ongoing Test match against England in Chennai’s MA Chidambaram Stadium on 19 December 2016. What was India’s highest test score till now? – 726 for 9 (declared)

Explanation: India bettered its highest score in a Test innings on 19 December 2016 as it amassed 759 runs for the loss of 7 wickets (innings declared) in the fifth Test match of the ongoing Test series against England. India’s previous best was 726 for 9 (declared) against Sri Lanka at Mumbai’s Wankhede Stadium in 2009.

– India’s record innings was helped primarily by batsman Karun Nair, who in just his third Test innings, struck an unbeaten 303. He thus became just the second Indian batsman to score a triple century in a Test match. Virendra Sehwag has achieved this distinction twice. Karun also became the first player to convert his maiden Test century into a triple ton. Batsman K.L. Rahul had earlier contributed 199 runs in Indian score.

.....

5) Which team won the Hero Indian Super League (ISL) title for 2016 on 18 December 2016? – Atletico de Kolkata

Explanation: Atletico de Kolkata defeated hosts Kerala Blasters in the final of 2016 Hero Indian Super League (ISL) on 18 December 2016 at Kochi to win its second ISL title.

– The final was decided in the shoot-out after the teams finished level 1-1 in extra-time. Kolkata prevailed in the shoot-out by 4-3 as Kerala team sunk to another heartbreaking defeat in final. The two had met in the ISL’s inaugural edition in 2014 and Kolkata had triumphed then too with a last-minute goal.

The final was played in Kochi’s Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

.....



6) Stephanie Del Valle was crowned Miss World 2016 in a glittering ceremony held in Washington D.C. on 19 December 2016. She is from which country? – Puerto Rico

Explanation: Stephanie Del Valle of Puerto Rico was crowned Miss World 2016 as she edged out runners-up from the Dominican Republic and Indonesia to win the top prize in the 66th edition of the Miss World pageant held in the US.

– She was crowned by Miss World 2015 Mireia Lalaguna of Spain. She thus became the second titleholder from Puerto Rico after Wilnelia Merced won the title in 1975.

– First runner-up was Yaritza Miguelina Reyes Ramirez of the Dominican Republic, followed by Miss World Indonesia Natasha Mannuela. Miss Philippines Catriona Elisa Gray and Miss Kenya Evelyn Njambi also made it to the final five. Indian contestant Priyadarshini Chatterjee could not make it into the top 10.

.....

21-23 December 2016

1) The Union Government on 21 December 2016 approved cadre review and formation of the Indian Enterprise Development Service (IEDS) in the Office of the Development Commissioner, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME Ministry). What will be the primary function of this proposed service? – To achieve the vision of Startup India, Stand-up India and Make in India

Explanation: The decision to create the new cadre – Indian Enterprise Development Service (IEDS) was taken at a meeting of the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 21 December 2016.

– The creation of IEDS is expected to not only strengthen the organisation, but will help achieve the vision of Startup India,

Stand-up India and Make in India. It is also expected to enhance the capacity and efficiency of the MSME Ministry and also help in achieving growth in the MSME sector through a focussed and dedicated cadre of technical officers.

– The IEDS, to start with, will have a cadre strength of 617 officers, 6 of which will be at the level of joint secretaries.

.....
2) India recently overtook which major country in terms of the size of the economy to emerge as the sixth largest economy in the world as reported on 19 December 2016? – United Kingdom

Explanation: In a major achievement, India has managed to overtake its erstwhile colonial master United Kingdom in terms of the size of the economy – the first time after nearly 150 years. This was mainly due to Britain’s recent Brexit-related problems and India’s rapid economic growth.

– Due to nearly 20% decline in the value of the pound over the last 12 months, UK’s 2016 GDP of GBP 1.87 trillion converted to \$2.29 trillion at exchange rate of GBP 0.81 per \$1, whereas India’s GDP of INR 153 trillion converted to \$2.30 trillion at exchange rate of INR 66.6 per \$1.

– Furthermore, this gap is expected to widen as India grows at 6 to 8 per cent p.a. compared to UK’s growth of 1 2% p.a. until 2020, and likely beyond.

.....
3) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 21 December 2016 imposed penalty on which 5 foreign banks for violation of its instructions on reporting requirements of the FEMA? – Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Bank of America, Bank

of Tokyo Mitsubishi and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS)

Explanation: The 5 foreign banks – Deutsche Bank, Standard Chartered Bank, Bank of America, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) were fined by the RBI for violation of its instructions on reporting requirements of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999 (FEMA).

– Deutsche Bank has been imposed fine of Rs 20,000, while Bank of America, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, Royal Bank of Scotland and Standard Chartered Bank have been fined Rs 10,000 each.

– The penalties have been imposed in exercise of the powers vested in the Reserve Bank under the provisions of Section 11(3) of FEMA 1999, taking into account, the violations of the instructions/ directions/ guidelines issued by the RBI, from time to time.



4) Lieutenant Governor of Delhi Najeeb Jung submitted his resignation to the Government of India

on 22 December 2016. He has been occupying this post since – July 2013

Explanation: In a surprise move, Delhi’s Lieutenant Governor Najeeb Jung resigned from his post on 22 December. He said he would be returning back to his first love, academics.

– He took over as the 20th Lieutenant Governor of Delhi from Tejendra Khanna in July 2013. He had particularly tense relations with Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal.



5) Who became only the third Indian player ever to win the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy after being named the ICC Cricketer of the Year besides the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year for 2016 on 22 December 2016? – Ravichandran Ashwin

Explanation: Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin created history as he became just the third Indian cricketer to win the coveted Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for 2016. He was named for this coveted award after being named the ICC Cricketer of the Year besides the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year.

– Ashwin thus followed in the footsteps of Rahul Dravid (2004) and Sachin Tendulkar (2010), while other recipients of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy include Andrew Flintoff and Jacques Kallis (joint-winners in 2005), Ricky Ponting (2006 and 2007), Shivnarine Chanderpaul (2008), Mitchell Johnson (2009 and 2014), Jonathan Trott (2011), Kumar Sangakkara (2012), Michael Clarke (2013) and Steve Smith (2015).

– He was also adjudged the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year, which has made him only the second India player after Dravid (2004) to bag the two coveted prizes in the same year.

24-31 December 2016

1) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 30 December 2016 launched a new mobile app for enabling simpler payments without cash. What is the name of this

app that supports USSD payments and works even on basic phones? – Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)

Explanation: Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM) is the name of the newest mobile app of the Union Government on 30 December 2016 that is expected to make digital payments simpler. The app, launched by PM Narendra Modi, has been positioned to play a big role in the government's push for digital transactions.

– The BHIM app is named after Dr. B.R. Ambedkar.

– BHIM allows customers to transact electronically without having to use a credit or debit card, or by creating and storing a mobile wallet. All UPI (United Payments Interface)-connected banks accept BHIM. Even banks not connected to UPI can receive money through BHIM through IFSC, an 11-digit code assigned to every bank branch by the Reserve Bank of India.

– Even without a smartphone, anyone can use BHIM to make payments by dialing *99# from any kind of mobile phone (number registered with the bank).

– BHIM is now available as an Android version download now, and iOS is coming soon. There is a Rs. 10,000 per transaction limit, and Rs. 20,000 per day for BHIM.

2) What is the name of India's longest range nuclear capable missile that was successfully tested by the DRDO on 26 December 2016? – Agni-5

Explanation: Agni-5, India's longest range nuclear capable intercontinental surface-to-surface ballistic missile, was successfully test fired from the Kalam Island off Odisha coast on 26 December 2016 by the Defence Research and

Development Organisation (DRDO). It was the first test of the Agni-5 missile after India became a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR).

– Agni-5 has a range of over 5,000 km and can carry about a 1,000-kg warhead. It gives India the strategic depth it needs to contain its enemies. It can target almost all of Asia including Pakistan and China and Europe.

– The 17-metre long Agni-5 Missile weighs about 50 tonnes and is a very agile and modern weapon system.

.....

3) Who was chosen for the Jnanpith Award for 2016 – India’s highest literary award, as announced on 23 December 2016? – Shankha Ghosh (Bangla)

Explanation: Veteran Bengali poet Shankha Ghosh was chosen for year

2016’s Jnanpith Award. This announcement was made by the Jnanpith Board in New Delhi on 23 December 2016.

– 84-year-old Shankha Ghosh is considered to be a stalwart in modern Bengali literature and a leading authority on Rabindranath Tagore.

– He was conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2011 and the Sahitya Akademi award in 1999. His award will be the 52nd edition of Jnanpith Award.

.....

4) Who was appointed as the new Lt. Governor of Delhi by the Union Government on 29 December 2016? – Anil Baijal

Explanation: Anil Baijal, a 1969 batch IAS officer of UT cadre, was on 29 December 2016 appointed as the new Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.

– He was the Union Home Secretary in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee-led government. He is currently associated with the Vivekananda International Foundation. He replaced Najeeb Jung, who resigned from the post a few days ago.

– Baijal’s appointment came against the backdrop of a tumultuous working relationship between his predecessor Najeeb Jung and the Arvind Kejriwal government.

.....



5) Who was appointed as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 28 December 2016 to take the vacant post created due to Urjit Patel’s elevation to Governor’s post? – Viral V. Acharya

Explanation: Viral V. Acharya was appointed as one of the four deputy governors of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 28 December 2016. The RBI had a vacancy for Deputy Governor after Urjit Patel was promoted to Governor during September 2016.

– RBI currently has three other deputy governors – SS Mundra, NS Vishwanathan and R Gandhi.

– 42-year old Acharya is a 1995 graduate from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Mumbai and then went on to earn a PhD in finance from NYU-Stern in 2001. He presently teaches Economics at the Stern School of Business in New York University.

.....

6) During December 2016 which private sector bank launched 'Eazypay'- mobile app for merchants? – ICICI Bank

Explanation: On 27 December 2016 ICICI Bank launched 'Eazypay' – a new mobile app for merchants to receive payments. This app is designed to help merchants and businesses collect payments using UPI, credit or debit cards, Internet banking.

– Eazypay is designed to facilitate merchants and businesses like e-commerce companies, telesales companies, to collect payments where the buyer and the seller are not physically present at the same location.

– Any merchant who has a current account with ICICI Bank can use the app to receive payments in store, or during home delivery of goods, through the Unified Payments Interface (UPI), credit or debit card, internet banking, and the banks digital wallet Pockets.

.....
7) Which state will host the National Games of 2022 as declared by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on 27 December 2016? – Meghalaya

Explanation: Meghalaya will host the 2022 National Games. This was announced in the annual general body meeting of the Indian Olympic Association held in Chennai on 27 December 2016. The games will feature 32 Olympic and 8 non-Olympic games.

– Till date, only two states in the North East have hosted the National Games – Manipur in 1999 and Assam in 2007.



8) Sunder Lal Patwa, who passed away on 28 December 2016, was a former Chief Minister of which state? – Madhya Pradesh

Explanation: Sunder Lal Patwa, the two-time Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, passed away on 28 December 2016. He was 92.

– He was chief minister twice from 20 January 1980 to 17 February 1980 when he was in the Janata Party and then from 5 March 1990 to 15 December 1992 when he led the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP).

– He started his political career in 1951 with Jana Sangh, which later merged with the Janata Party. He was imprisoned for seven months for participating in RSS movement in 1948. During emergency he was detained under MISA from June 1975 to January 1977.

– In 1999, he won Hoshangabad Lok Sabha and became a minister in Vajpayee Government from 1999 to 2001.

.....
9) During December 2016 China operationalized world's longest bullet train network that is 2,252 kilometers in length. This ambitious high speed train network connects which two cities? – Shanghai and Kunming

Explanation: The 2,252 km-long Shanghai-Kunming high-speed train line links

China's prosperous eastern coast to the less-developed southwestern part of the country. It is the world's longest high-speed railway network.

– This network traverses the five provinces of Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Hunan, Guizhou and Yunnan and cuts travel time from Shanghai to Kunming from 34 to 11 hours. The highest speed on this network will be 330 km per hour.

.....

10) The newly-constructed Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) at Tuting was inaugurated on 27 December 2016. This ALG is situated in which state?

–
Arunachal Pradesh

Explanation: Tuting Advanced Landing Ground (ALG) is situated in Upper Siang district of Arunachal Pradesh. It is hardly 30 kms from the international boundary with China. It was inaugurated on 27 December by Arunachal's then Chief Minister Pema Khandu.

– The ALG at Tuting, located at an elevation of 1240 metres on the Eastern Himalayas, is under the control of Air Force Station, Jorhat.

– Tuting is the sixth ALG in Arunachal Pradesh that was inaugurated in the past one year after they were reconstructed and expanded. Apart from defence purposes, this ALG will also be used for civilian use in the interest of people living in the far-flung regions of the state.

– It is worth mentioning that Mechuka, Aalo, Pasighat, Ziro and Vijoyagar are other ALGs in Arunachal Pradesh.

.....

EDGE ACADEMY