

1 February 2017

1) The Economic Survey 2016-17, that was presented on 31 January 2017, has recommended which tool as an alternative to the various subsidy focused social welfare schemes? – **Universal Basic Income (UBI)**

Explanation: Universal Basic Income (UBI) is a form of social security in which all citizens or residents of a country regularly receive an unconditional sum of money, either from a government or some other public institution, in addition to any income received from elsewhere.

– The Economic Survey 2016-17 has stated that has recommended Universal Basic Income (UBI) as an alternative to the various subsidy focused social welfare schemes that aim to reduce poverty. However, the Survey also stated that the time is still not ripe for implementation of UBI in India.

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2) What is the projected Real GDP growth in 2017-18 is projected in the Economic Survey 2016-17 that was presented on 31 January 2017? – **6.75 – 7.5%**

Explanation: According to Economic Survey 2016-17, the adverse impact of demonetisation on GDP growth will be transitional. Real GDP growth in 2017-18 is projected to be in the range of 6.75 to 7.5%, once the cash supply is replenished.

– The Survey estimates the growth rate of the industrial sector to moderate to 5.2% in 2016-17 from 7.4% last fiscal. On the other hand the agriculture sector is estimated to grow at 4.1% in the current year up from 1.2% in 2015-16.

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3) India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) kicked off its operations by rolling out pilot services in which two cities on 31 January 2017? – **Raipur and Ranchi**

Explanation: India Post Payments Bank is the third entity to receive payments bank permit after Airtel and Paytm. On 31 January 2017 it rolled out its pilot services in two cities Raipur (Chhattisgarh) and Ranchi (Jharkhand)

– The bank will offer an interest rate of 4.5% on deposits up to Rs. 25,000; 5% on deposits of Rs. 25,000-50,000 and 5.5% on Rs. 50,000-1,00,000. Also 1,000 ATMs of India Post will be transferred to IPPB.

– The paid up equity of IPPB is Rs. 800 crore, of which the government has already infused Rs. 275 crore. It plans to have 650 branches across the country by September 2017.



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4) Former External Affairs Minister E. Ahamed, who suffered a cardiac arrest in the Parliament on 31 January 2017, passed away in the early hours of 1 February 2017. He was National President of which political party? – **Indian Union Muslim League (IUML)**

Explanation: E. Ahamed was the current National President of the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). He had suffered a cardiac arrest during President Pranab Mukherjee's address to joint sitting of both Houses of Parliament on 31 January 2017. He was taken to Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital in critical condition where he passed away on 1 February.

– Ahamed was elected to the Lok Sabha in 1991, 1996, 1998, 1999, 2004 and 2009. He served as the Minister of State for External Affairs between 2004 and 2009. Between 2009 and 2011 he was Minister of State for Railways. Later in 2011 he was again appointed Minister of State for External Affairs.

– He was elected to the Kerala Legislative Assembly in 1967, 1977, 1980, 1982 and 1987. From 1982 to 1987, he served as Cabinet Minister for Industries, Government of Kerala.

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5) What is the name of the Acting Attorney General who was removed by President Donald Trump on 30 January 2017 after she opposed his controversial immigration orders? – **Sally Yates**

Explanation: US President Donald Trump on 30 January 2017 fired the acting attorney general Sally Yates after she ordered Justice Department attorneys not to defend his controversial immigration orders. In a sharply worded statement the White House said – ‘The acting attorney general, Sally Yates, has betrayed the Department of Justice by refusing to enforce a legal order designed to protect the citizens of the United States’.

– Yates, a career government lawyer promoted by Barack Obama, had expressed doubts about the legality and morality of Trump’s decree, which has prompted mass protests.

– The order signed on 27 January 2017 had suspended the arrival of all refugees for a minimum of 120 days, Syrian refugees indefinitely and bars citizens from Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria and Yemen for 90 days.

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2-3 February 2017



1) Kuwait on 2 February 2017 prohibited migrants from which 5 Muslim countries from applying for visas and suspended visa issuance to nationals of these countries? – **Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran**

Explanation: The Kuwaiti government on 2 February 2017 announced that migrants from Syria, Iraq, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Iran have been prohibited from applying for visas. It thus suspended the issuance of visas for nationals of these 5 countries.

– Kuwaiti government told the would-be migrants from these 5 nations to not apply for visas, as it is worried about the possible migration of radical Islamic terrorists.

– It is worth mentioning that Kuwait was the only nation to prohibit the entry of Syrian nationals prior to US President

Trump’s executive action of temporarily banning seven Muslim-majority countries. The countries included in the US ban are Iraq, Syria, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Somalia and Yemen.

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2) The Income Tax Department on 31 January 2017 launched the massive operation to unearth unaccounted money by scrutinizing around 18 lakh persons around the country. What is the name given to this operation? – **‘Operation Clean Money’ (‘Swachh Dhan Abhiyan’)**

Explanation: ‘Operation Clean Money’ (‘Swachh Dhan Abhiyan’) is the name of the operation launched by the IT Department from 31 January 2017 that seeks to unearth unaccounted money from around 18 lakh persons who deposited amounts of 5 lakh or more between 9 November and 30 December 2016 but whose income profiles did not match the amounts deposited.

– The Department is scrutinising these accounts and have asked taxpayers to revert to their queries in 10 days.

– Operation Clean Money is basically a programming software which will be used to get answers on all the deposits made and after preliminary answers from the people. Then only, if need be, the IT Department will take legal action against those people.

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3) Britain moved one step closer to a final separation from the European Union as members of the UK parliament voted overwhelmingly in favour of allowing the government to begin Brexit negotiations. With passing of the associated bill British Prime Minister will get the authority to invoke which bill pertaining to formal process of leaving the EU? – **Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty**

Explanation: Members of the House of Commons on 1 February 2017 voted by 498 to 114 to advance the bill that would give Prime Minister Theresa May the authority to invoke Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, the formal process of leaving the EU.

– The bill now faces further scrutiny in the Commons and the House of Lords before it can become law. The government was expected to win despite the Liberal Democrats and Scottish National Party voting against it.

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4) Which new sub-brand was launched by Tata Motors on 2 February 2017 with the primary objective of regaining the lost ground in passenger vehicles segment? – **TAMO**

Explanation: In a bid to regain the lost ground in passenger vehicles segment, domestic auto major Tata Motors on 2 February 2017 launched a sub-brand TAMO. With the help of this sub-brand the company aims to introduce new technology equipped vehicles faster to the market.

– Under the TAMO sub-brand, the company, will launch vehicles that are low in volumes requiring low investment.

– Vehicles from TAMO will be in niche segment with technologies that are ahead of market and when proven successful they could be transferred to vehicles of the main Tata Motors brand.

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5) National Capital Region Transport Corporation, mandated with the responsibility of executing the Regional Rapid Transit System (RRTS) in NCR region, on 2 February 2017 got a new logo and tagline. What is this tagline? – **‘Gati Se Pragati’ (Progress with Speed)**

Explanation: The Logo and Tagline of National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC) selected through a contest on MyGov.com. It was released on 2 February 2017 by the Minister of Urban Development M.Venkaiah Naidu.

– NCRTC will be responsible for development, implementation and operation of RRTS which is based on suburban public transport system. RRTS will significantly reduce the travel time between important NCR towns. On completion, RRTS will emerge as the fastest, comfortable and safe mode of transport in NCR.

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6) Which Indian player achieved the World No. 1 ranking in the latest BWF World junior ranking, as disclosed on 2 February 2017? – **Lakshya Sen**

Explanation: The 15-year-old badminton player Lakshya Sen from Uttarakhand created history as achieved the World No. 1 ranking in the latest Badminton World Federation (BWF) World junior ranking.

– Lakshya has been training under the watchful eyes of 1980 All England champion Prakash Padukone at his Badminton Academy in Bangalore since he was 10. He is also being supported by the Olympic Gold Quest (OGQ).

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4-6 February 2017

1) Which northeastern state of the country witnessed violence during January-February 2017 due to local protests against the proposed civic bodies' elections? – **Nagaland**

Explanation: Nagaland witnessed a spate of violent incidents on 28 January and 2 February 2017 as the protests against the proposed civic bodies' elections in the state became violent. 2 persons were killed in the violence. Curfew and Section 144 were imposed in Dimapur and Kohima districts.

– The Nagaland government announced civic bodies' elections in December 2016 followed by the announcement of 33% reservation of seats for women. Various tribal bodies including 'Naga Hoho', the apex organisation of all major tribes, have been opposing the civic elections, which were due on 1 February 2017.

– Their contention is that granting reservation for women would infringe on Naga customary laws and tradition as protected under Article 371(A) of the Constitution of India. However, the local government postponed the civic elections indefinitely on 31 January 2017.

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2) Technology behemoth Apple Inc. will establish its new iPhone assembly unit in which state of India soon, as was announced by the state government on 2 February 2017? – **Karnataka**

Explanation: The Karnataka government on 2 February 2017 issued a release welcoming Apple's proposal "to commence initial manufacturing operations" in the state.

– Taiwanese company Wistron, an original equipment manufacturer (OEM) of Apple, will make the iPhones out of its facility in the city's industrial hub of Peenya.

– India will be only the third country globally to assemble iPhones, an indication of how important the country has become for one of the world's most valued companies.

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3) Tamil Nadu witnessed a huge spill during January-February 2017 as thousands of tonnes of crude oil and lubricants struck the coast of Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts posing an imposing environmental catastrophe. The oil spill had resulted from which oil tanker?

– **M T Dawn Kanchipuram**

Explanation: M T Dawn Kanchipuram, which was carrying 32,813 tonnes of petroleum, oil, and lubricants, suffered a rupture after it collided with another vessel named M T BW Maple in the early hours of 28 January 2017 near Kamrajhar harbour in Ennore.

– The rupture resulted in a massive oil spill. Kamarajar Port had immediately deployed oil boom around the vessel to contain seepage but still the seepage managed to wash ashore Chennai’s beaches and the beaches of the neighbouring and Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram districts.

– Groups including members from Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) and were formed and cleaning work was undertaken at different places of the shoreline. The total quantity of sludge which was removed till 2 February 2017 was 65 tonnes. But the sludge accumulation is still a huge environmental state for Eastern coastline.

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4) During February 2017 Indian Railways entered into an agreement with which entity for improving the safety standards? – **FS Italiane Group**

Explanation: In the wake of multiple cases of derailments, Indian Railways on 2 February 2017 inked a pact with the FS Italiane Group of the Italian Railways. The pact was signed by Renato Mazzoncini, CEO and Managing Director of Ferrovie dello Stato Italiane (Italian Railways) and A K Mittal, Chairman of Indian Railways.

– The company will provide all the technology developed with large-scale infrastructure and technological projects that have modernised Italy by connecting the country’s most important cities, Rome and Milan, in just three hours.

– The FS Italiane Group is a major international engineering, infrastructure and transport player and operates in more than 60 countries in over five continents.

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5) What is the name of the U.S. Federal Judge who on 3 February 2017 temporarily blocked President Donald Trump’s controversial immigration order?

– **Judge James Robart**

Explanation: Judge James Robart, who presides in Washington state, on 3 February 2017 blocked the travel ban order passed by

President Donald Trump. It is worth mentioning that he did not have to actually rule on the legality of Trump’s executive order barring people from seven countries from entering the United States.

– He questioned Department of Justice lawyer Michelle Bennett, who was representing the Trump administration, asking, “How many arrests have there been of foreign nationals from those seven countries since 9/11”? The Sept. 11 attack was one of the rationales behind the executive order, according to the Trump administration.

– Robart has been a federal judge in the US District Court for the Western District of Washington state since 2004, the year after Bush nominated him to the federal bench. He assumed senior status in 2016.

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7 February 2017

1) Which small banking entity became the newest entrant in India’s banking sector by soft launching with five branches in Bengaluru as a pilot project on 6 February 2017? – **Ujjivan Small Finance Bank**

Explanation: Ujjivan Small Finance Bank unveiled its first set of branches for public transaction on 6 February 2017 as it launched a pilot project of 5 branches in Bengaluru on this day. Thus it became the newest entry into India’s banking sector.

– Ujjivan is planning to become a leading mass market retail bank over the next five years by catering to the un-served and under-served customers. As per announcement made by the bank, it will offer interest rates of 4% on savings accounts and on fixed deposit and recurring deposit interest rates will be in range of 5.5-8%.

– Ujjivan Financial Services, a non-banking financial company, is the holding company of the bank. It was among the 10 entities to get license from the RBI late last year to commence small finance banking operations. The bank, backed by the UK’s

CDC Group, will roll out its branch network across the country from next fiscal (2017-18).

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2) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a single vaccine for dual protection against which two infections as part of Universal Immunization Programme on 5 February 2017, which will be the largest-ever vaccination campaign? – **Measles-Rubella (MR)**

Explanation: Under the newly launched dual-protection vaccination campaign, all children aged between 9 months and less than 15 years will be given a single shot of Measles-Rubella (MR) vaccination irrespective of their previous measles/rubella vaccination status or measles/rubella disease status. The campaign was launched on 5 February 2017 from Bengaluru (Karnataka).

– MR vaccine will be provided free- of-cost across the states from session sites at schools as well as health facilities and outreach session sites. It will be later unveiled all over the country and is expected to reach around 41 crore children across the country. This campaign will be the largest-ever campaign under the Universal Immunization Programme (UIP).

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3) Queen Elizabeth II, the world’s longest reigning sovereign, on 6 February 2017 became the first British monarch to complete 65 years on the throne. This historic day was celebrated as which Jubilee? – **Sapphire Jubilee**

Explanation: Queen Elizabeth II on 6 February 2017 became the first British monarch to celebrate the Sapphire Jubilee. She achieved this distinction as she completed 65 years of her ascension day. The day also coincided with the day her father, George VI, died.

– It was on the February 6, 1952 that her father died while at Sandringham. Princess Elizabeth, who was 25, was in Kenya on a royal tour with her husband Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, at the time.

4) On 5 February 2017 the foundation stone for the first-ever training centre dedicated for para athletes in the country was laid in which city by Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel? – **Gandhinagar (Gujarat)**

Explanation: The foundation station for India’s first-ever training centre dedicated for para athletes was laid on 5 February 2017 at Sports Authority of India (SAI) complex in Gandhinagar.

– It is worth mentioning that para athletes have won 4 medals at Rio Paralympics (Brazil) for India in 2016 and brought glory to the country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, after meeting with para athlete Devender Jhajharia gold medalist, had desired that a world class para athletic center be opened in India.

– The proposed center will be established with a budget of over Rs. 50 crore. It will have the world class facilities where para athletes will be trained for various international competitions including Asian Games, Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games.

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5) Which noted Indian-origin British sculptor was on 6 February 2017 named the winner of a prestigious \$1 million Genesis Prize by Israel for his commitment to Jewish values? – **Anish Kapoor**

Explanation: 62-year old sculptor Anish Kapoor, who spoke out against abhorrent government policies towards refugees, was named the recipient of this year’s Genesis Prize, dubbed Jewish Nobel.

– He joined Itzhak Perlman, former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg, and actor-director Michael Douglas as recipients of this prestigious award.

8-9 February 2017



1) Indian Railways on 8 February 2017 launched the first phase of the World's largest Station Redevelopment Programme (SRP). How many railway stations have been covered under the first phase of this ambitious programme? – **23**

Explanation: In order to transform the face of the Indian Railways, Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu on 8 February 2017 launched the first Phase of the Station Redevelopment Programme (SRP) comprising 23 major railway stations on Indian Railways network. This is the world's largest such programme in the world.

– In the first phase, 23 stations will be bid out some of which include Chennai Central, Ranchi, Udaipur City, Indore, Yesvantpur, Bangalore Cantt., Visakhapatnam, Howrah, Kamakhya, Faridabad, Jammu Tawi, Secunderabad, Vijayawada, Kozhikode and Bhopal. Railways will provide approximately 140 acres of encroachment free land at these stations to the private developers on a 45 year lease.

– Boston Consulting Group (BCG) is the strategic advisor for this program and based on the commercial assessment conducted by them and several rounds of discussions held with the developers and zonal railways.

– Overall 400 railway stations will be redeveloped under this ambitious programme. The redeveloped stations will improve passenger experience by providing amenities like digital signage, escalators / elevators, self-ticketing counters, executive lounges, luggage screening machines, walkways, holding areas for passengers, grand and distinctive roofing and flooring, free and paid Wi-Fi etc.

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2) For the first time in the country's history, 7 Supreme Court judges on 8 February 2017 convened in open court to initiate *suo motu* contempt action against sitting judge of the Calcutta High Court. What is the name of this judge? – **Justice C.S. Karnan**

Explanation: Justice C.S. Karnan, the sitting judge of the Calcutta High Court, came to news as a Bench comprising of seven senior-most Supreme Court judges convened an open court to initiate contempt proceedings against him on 8 February 2017. The Bench led by Chief Justice of India J.S. Khehar ordered Justice Karnan to appear in person before the Bench on 13 February 2017. Contempt proceedings were initiated for continuously levelling allegations against the Madras HC chief justice and other judges.

– Justice Karnan, who was a judge of the Madras High Court, was once summoned to the Supreme Court and warned in person by then Chief Justice of India T.S. Thakur for his offensive behaviour towards the Chief Justice of the High Court and for imputing casteist motives on his fellow judges.

– In February 2016 Justice Karnan had turned judicial hierarchy upside down by 'staying' his own transfer to the Calcutta High Court, forcing the Supreme Court to authorise a freeze on his functions as a judge.

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3) Union Government during February 2017 sold a 2% stake in which private entity to raise about Rs. 6,700 crore? – **ITC**

Explanation: As per information disclosed by some financial dailies on 7 February 2017, Indian Government sold a 2% stake in consumer goods and cigarettes maker ITC Limited to raise about Rs. 6,700 crore.

– State-owned Specified Undertaking of Unit Trust of India (SUUTI), which owned 11.12% of ITC as of end-December 2016, parted the stake via block deals in the market. Life Insurance Corp (LIC), which typically invests heavily in government divestments, bought the stake.

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4) Which state on 7 February 2017 became the first state in the northeast to implement e-Cabinet solution for the state cabinet members?
– **Arunachal Pradesh**

Explanation: e-Cabinet system is a web-based software system and is implemented by the Department of Information Technology and Communication. Using it the cabinet members can access the cabinet notes before the meeting. The entire business of the Cabinet can be conducted using the e-Cabinet solution.

– It will give remote access to the Ministers to view Cabinet notes and the same will be circulated well in advance for proper analysis and feedback.

– Once Arunachal Pradesh adopts the e-Cabinet system fully, the average length of the cabinet meetings will go down from 4-5 hours to just 30-90 minutes and the government can also eliminate the need to print and deliver thousands of pages of documents.

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5) Qatar Airways on 6 February 2017 launched the world's longest scheduled commercial airline flight that covers a distance of 14,535 kilometers in around 17 hours. This flight connects which cities?

– **Doha and Auckland**

Explanation: Flight QR920 of Qatar Airways touched down in Auckland (New Zealand) early on 6 February 2017 after covering a distance of 14,535 kilometers from Doha (Qatar). It thus became world's longest scheduled nonstop commercial airline flight.

– Qatar Airways' rival Emirates previously held the record for its route between Dubai and Auckland. That route is more than 300 kilometers shorter.

– The outbound journey of flight QR920 is scheduled to take 16 hours and 20 minutes on the Boeing 777-200LR. That's relatively short compared to the return trip of 17 hours and 30 minutes, which is slower because of headwinds.

10-11 February

1) Who was appointed as the 9th chairman of capital market regulator SEBI by the Union Government on 10 February 2017? – **Ajay Tyagi**

Explanation: The Union Government on 10 February 2017 appointed Ajay Tyagi as the ninth chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approved his appointment for a period not exceeding five years, or till the age of 65 years or until further orders, whichever is the earliest.

– Tyagi is currently the Additional Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs in the Finance Ministry. He will replace U K Sinha, who will step down on 18 February 2017.

– He is an Indian Administrative Officer (IAS) from the 1984 batch, Himachal Pradesh cadre. However, his only experience with capital markets has been his current appointment as Additional Secretary, a post he has held since October 2014.

– Tyagi will be the first chairman to get an initial five-year term since at least 2002.

SEBI's previous four chairmen were all appointed on an initial term of three years. Sinha, too, was appointed for a three-year term. However, his tenure was extended by two years in 2014, because of adverse market conditions and another year in 2015.

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2) The Union Cabinet on 8 February 2017 gave its clearance to the 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan' (PMGDISHA). What is the prime objective of the mission? – **To make 6 crore rural households digitally literate by March 2019**

Explanation: The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 8 February 2017 approved 'Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan'

(PMGDISHA) to make 6 crore rural households digitally literate.

– The outlay for this project is Rs. 2,351.38 crore to usher in digital literacy in rural India by March 2019. The announcement for this mission was made in the Union Budget of 2016-17.

– PMGDISHA is expected to be one of the largest digital literacy programmes in the world. Under the scheme, 25 lakh candidates will be trained in the year 2016-17, 2.75 crore in the 2017-18 and 3 crore in 2018-19.

– To ensure equitable geographical reach, each of the 250,000 Gram Panchayats would be expected to register an average of 200-300 candidates. Digitally literate persons would be able to operate computers/digital access devices (like tablets, smart phones, etc.), send and receive emails, browse internet, access Government Services, search for information, undertaking cashless transactions, etc.

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3) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept repo rate steady at 6.25% in its 6th Bi-Monthly monetary policy review on 8 February 2017. Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the remained unchanged at 5.75%. From which date all cash withdrawal limits will be removed, as announced by the RBI? – **13 March 2017**

Explanation: While reviewing the monetary policy, the RBI also raised cash withdrawal limits for savings accounts from the existing Rs. 24,000 to Rs. 50,000 per week from 28 February 2017. On the other hand all cash limits will be removed from 13 March 2017. The central bank had already removed all withdrawal limits from current accounts from 1 February 2017.

– On the monetary policy front the RBI almost shocked the markets as post long stint of shrinking economy and then demonetisation, industry was expecting at least 25 basis point reduction in repo rate.

– For the first half of the next financial year, the RBI has now projected inflation to be in the range of 4% to 4.5%, and in the range of 4.5% to 5% in the second half (of 2017-18).

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4) Japanese researchers have successfully gone past 5G data speeds to reach speeds that are 10 times faster than 5G. What is the name given to this blazing speed technique, which is undergoing trials right now? – **Terahertz (THz) Data Transmission**

Explanation: A research group of from Hiroshima University has developed a transmitter that achieves 105 gigabits per second throughput between 290 GHz to 315 GHz frequency range. This speed is almost 10 times the speed achieved for the 5G data speed.

– Where 4G LTE speeds peak out at 50 Mbps in most parts of the world, including in India, 5G data speeds have easily reached over 3 Gbps to 50 Gbps in trials conducted around the world before it launches globally in 2020.

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5) India's wheat imports rose above which level, which is the biggest in over a decade, as was disclosed in the data released during February 2016 by Thomson Reuters? – **5 million tonnes**

Explanation: According to the data released by Thomson Reuters, India has bought more than five million tonnes of wheat since mid-2016. This is India's biggest annual purchase in a decade. It is worth mentioning that India is the world's second largest consumer of wheat.

– The country began importing wheat around the middle of last year (2016) after two years of dry weather and unseasonal rains hit production.

– India bought 6.7 million tonnes of wheat in 2006-07, which is the largest import since then till date. The country has bought wheat mainly from Ukraine and Australia.

– The country is slowing down imports ahead of the harvest in April and purchases in the months ahead will depend on production this year.

6) Tata Group firm Indian Hotels Company Ltd (IHCL) will bring which two of its hotel brands under the 'Taj' brand as announced by the company on 9 February 2017? – **'Vivanta' and 'Gateway'**

Explanation: Under this new initiative, the company is upgrading all the 53 premium hotels of 'Vivanta' and 'Gateway' in India and abroad, and migrating them into Taj brand. Both these brands have 'existed for almost a decade. While Gateway was launched in 2008, Vivanta was introduced in 2010.

– These hotels will now be divided into four sub-categories – Taj Hotels, Palaces, Resorts and Safaris depending upon the location and nature of the properties.

– IHCL's strategy to upgrade and leverage on the Taj brand comes as at a time when the company is seeing growing threats from major international hotels in India in the recent past. After the merger between Starwood Hotels and Resorts, and Marriott International in September, Taj Hotels is no longer the largest hotel chain in India in terms of the number of rooms.

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7) Which US bank during Jan-Feb 2017 opened three employee-less completely automated branches, where customers can use ATMs and have video conferences with employees at other branches? –

Bank of America

Explanation: Bank of America Corp has opened three completely automated branches over the past month (January-February 2017). This development is being seen as another step towards reducing its overall branch count to cut costs even as it opens new branches in select markets.

– New branches are typically smaller, employ more technology, and are aimed at selling mortgages, credit cards and auto loans rather than simple transactions such as cashing cheques.

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8) Indian captain Virat Kohli make his name into history books once again as he scored his fourth Test double-century of the season on 10 February 2017 against Bangladesh. Whose record of scoring three double-centuries in a season he broke? – **Sir Don Bradman (Australia) and Rahul Dravid (India)**

Explanation: Virat Kohli broke cricket legend Sir Don Bradman and Rahul

Dravid's record of scoring 3 double-centuries in a season as he scored his fourth century of the season on 10 February 2017 against Bangladesh in the one-off Test match being played as Hyderabad. He thus became the first batsman to score double hundreds in four successive Test series.

– Kohli's double tons came in the series against the West Indies (200) in July 2016, New Zealand (211) in October 2016, England (235) in December 2016 and now Bangladesh (204). India declared the innings on 687 for 6.

– In the process Kohli also broke the record for most runs by a batsman in a home Test season, surpassing former team-mate Virender Sehwag's mark of 1105 runs in 2004-05.

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12-13 February

1) Hindustan Motors sold its iconic Ambassador brand of cars to which French automobile entity, as announced on 11 February 2017? – **Peugeot SA**

Explanation: Hindustan Motors on 11 February 2017 announced that the Ambassador brand has been sold to French automaker Peugeot SA for Rs. 80 crore. Peugeot has also signed an agreement with the CK Birla group for re-entering the Indian auto market with a plant in Tamil Nadu.

– Owned by the CK Birla Group, Hindustan Ambassador was manufactured at Uttarpara on the outskirts of Kolkata. It was one of the iconic names

in Indian automobile industry. Since 1958, when the Ambassador, based on Britain's Morris Oxford, started being manufactured in India, it was the emblem of high social standing. It was also seen as the symbol of a young independent India's economic freedom from British colonialism.

– Falling sales, mounting debt forced Hindustan Motors to discontinue the production of Ambassador at its Uttarpara plant in 2014. Manufactured from 1958 to 2014, it was the longest produced auto brand.

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2) What is the name of India's advanced interceptor missile that was successfully test fired on 11 February 2017 and with which the country took another step in its quest to develop a robust Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) shield? – **'Ashwin'**

Explanation: The homegrown Advanced Air Defence (AAD) interceptor missile, dubbed as 'Ashwin', intercepted a target, which was a hostile Ballistic Missile approaching from more than 2000 km away, mid-air on 11 February 2017.

– It destroyed the incoming missile in the endo-atmospheric region at a low altitude of less than 30 km. This successful test means that India is inching towards the capability to destroy any incoming missile from China and Pakistan endo-atmosphere at altitudes of 20-40 kilometers (12-24 miles).

– India began developing a multi-tiered ballistic missile defense (BMD) system in 1999, after the end of the Kargil War in reaction to Pakistan's growing missile arsenal.

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3) The Union Government has planned to establish which entity in an effort to integrate and streamline the long and arduous process of defence acquisitions, as announced on 9 February 2017? – **Defence Procurement Organisation (DPO)**

Explanation: A government appointed committee, headed by former Director of Indian Institute of

Management (IIM) Lucknow, Dr. Pritam Singh, on 9 February 2017 submitted a report on the modalities of setting up the DPO to Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

– An important recommendation of this committee is to establish a new procurement body – Defence Procurement Organisation (DPO) so as to simplify the purchase procedure of defence equipment.

– The DPO will be a vertical under the Defence Ministry and the philosophy is to integrate the processes without creating another bureaucracy framework.

– The Defence Procurement Process, which applies to all defence capital procurements, has been modified several times to bring in transparency and speed up acquisitions but it continues to be lengthy and complicated.

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4) A task force comprising members of various regulatory Ministries and enforcement agencies was established during February 2017 on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's directions for a major crackdown on shell companies. Who have been appointed joint chairmen of this task force? – **Revenue Secretary and the Corporate Affairs Secretary**

Explanation: The move to establish the task force came days after the government, during a small sample analysis of such companies, found that Rs. 1,238 crore in cash was deposited in these entities during the November-December 2016 period, after demonetisation.

– The task force will primarily act towards a major crackdown on shell companies, which are used for large-scale money laundering and tax evasion. About 560 beneficiaries, who laundered Rs. 3,900 crore, and 54 chartered accountants, who were involved in the racket, have already been identified.

– The agencies will invoke the stringent Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Amendment Act against the shell companies, freeze their accounts and strike off the names of dormant companies.

– Disciplinary action will be initiated against professionals abetting the companies and entry operators, who are used to launder unaccounted-for incomes into the banking system for projecting them as white money.

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5) Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin on 12 February 2017 created the record of claiming 250 Test wickets in least number of matches in his 45th Test. Whose record he broke? – **Dennis Lillee (Australia)**

Explanation: Legendary Australian fast bowler Dennis Lillee had completed the milestone in his 48th Test. On 12 February 2017 Ashwin's two wickets in the Bangladesh first innings in the one-off Test here helped him reach the coveted landmark.

– He is the sixth Indian bowler after Anil Kumble (619), Kapil Dev (434), Harbhajan Singh (417), Zaheer Khan (311), Bishan Singh Bedi (266) to reach to 250 Test wickets.

.....
14-15 February 2017,

1) The DRDO handed over the first indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) to the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 14 February 2017. With this India took a form step towards getting its own Eye in the Sky. Which entity has developed AWACS in association with the DRDO? – **Center of Airborne Systems (Bengaluru)**

Explanation: India's Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AWACS) has been developed by the Center of Airborne Systems in Bengaluru with the help of Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO).

– AWACS are radars mounted on an aircraft to provide seamless 360-degree coverage of the airspace. Built on an Embraer 145 platform, it can track over 500 targets simultaneously. It acts as a Command base in support for all Air-Defence operations.

– The AWACS project costs a total of Rs 2,400 crore. It will be capable of detecting in-coming drones, cruise missiles and fighter jets from countries like China and Pakistan.

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2) What is the name of Indian Navy's survey vessel that during February 2017 became India's first-ever green naval vessel? – **INS Sarvekshak**

Explanation: Indian Navy's survey vessel INS Sarvekshak created history as it became country's first green naval vessel.

It went green by installing a solar power system on board.

– The on-board solar power system works using sunlight and hence, is 100% reliable for power source that can be used for communication equipment, battery charging and general lightings onboard round the clock with battery outputs during the night.

– According to the Indian Navy, even if the system is used for 25 days in one year, the system can repay its cost in less than 10 years while protecting the nature. By installing the 5 KW solar power system, the vessel will be able to avoid around 165kg of carbon a day, 60,225 kg of carbon a year plus 22,995 litres of diesel.

– INS Sarvekshak is based at the Southern Naval Command in Kochi (Kerala).

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3) Michael Flynn, the National Security Adviser (NSA) of the United States, resigned from his post on 13 February 2017. What is the reason for his resignation that marked an extraordinarily early shakeup in President Trump's team?

– **His ties with Russia**

Explanation: National Security Adviser (NSA) Michael Flynn resigned on 13 February 2017 after reports that he misled the Trump administration officials about his contacts with Russia's ambassador to the United States.

– Flynn was a loyal Trump supporter throughout the campaign, but his ties to Russia caused concern among other senior aides.

– His departure less than one month into President Donald Trump’s administration marks an extraordinarily early shakeup in the president’s senior team of advisers.

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4) The Karnataka Assembly on 13 February 2017 passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017 so as to allow the buffalo race to be held unhindered in the state. What is the name of this traditional buffalo race? – **‘Kambala’**

Explanation: ‘Kambala’ is the name of the traditional buffalo and bullock-cart race that has been in several coastal districts of the state of Karnataka. The practice was banned by the High Court of Karnataka in its ruling of November 2016 in cruelty to animal case filed by the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).

– But on the popular sentiments of the people of the state, the Karnataka Assembly on 13 February 2017 passed the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017 to allow the practice of ‘Kambala’ without any legal hindrance.

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5) Which film won 5 awards including the Best Film award at 70th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) that was held on 12 February 2017? – **“La La Land”**

Explanation: Director Damien Chazelle’s musical “La La Land” dominated the 70th British Academy Film Awards (BAFTA) by taking five trophies, including the best film and best actress for Emma Stone. The film, which also won Chazelle a best director BAFTA, is expected to sustain its momentum at the Oscars to be held on 26 February 2017.

– British-Indian star Dev Patel came to limelight as he won the award in the best supporting actor category for “Lion”.

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6) A bill tabled in Parliament to give autonomy to the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), India’s premier B-

schools includes a proposal to drop the prefix ‘Rajiv Gandhi’ from the name of an IIM.

Which IIM is this? – **IIM Shillong**

Explanation: The Indian Institute of Management Bill, 2017 has proposed to drop the prefix ‘Rajiv Gandhi’ from the name of IIM-Shillong, leading the opposition to question why. It is worth mentioning that IIM Shillong is the only IIM in the country to be named after a personality. It started operations in 2008 as the Rajiv Gandhi Indian Institute of Management Shillong.

– If the name ‘Rajiv Gandhi’ is removed from its name, IIM Shillong will be the first instance of a Gandhi family name being dropped from a leading educational institution. However, the Narendra Modi-led NDA government has removed former Congress Prime Ministers’ names from various government schemes.

– The IIM bill, 2017, also proposes to change the name of IIM-Calcutta to IIM-Kolkata. Experts fear the move would not only erode the IIM-C brand value, but also lead to confusion since IIM-Kozhikode is also known as IIM-K.

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7) Which female singer swept the Grammy Award ceremony that was held on 12 February 2017 by winning as many as 5 Grammys? – **Adele**

Explanation: US singer Adele was the star of the night of the 59th Grammy Award ceremony on 12 February 2017 as she won 5 Grammys including the top 3 prizes – album, record and song of the year. She thus scored a big win over fellow American singer Beyonce.

– 28-year old Adele won all five Grammys for which she was nominated, including for her comeback album “25” and her soaring ballad “Hello.” She also became the first person in Grammy history to win the top three awards twice, following her wins for her last album “21” in 2012.

– Beyonce had gone into Grammy ceremony with a leading nine nominations for her powerful

“Lemonade” album about race, feminism, and betrayal.

16 February 2017

1) India’s space agency Indian Space

Research Organisation (ISRO) on 15 February 2017 created a world record by successfully launching 104 satellites in a single mission. Which country had its maximum 96 satellites in this launch? – **United States**

Explanation: ISRO created space launch history on 15 February 2017 as it successfully launched as many as 104 satellites through a single launch and thus creating a world record. It thus broke the record of Russian space agency which had launched 37 satellites through a single launch in 2014.

– The launch was done through PSLV-C37 in a single payload and it included the Cartosat-2 series and 103 co-passenger satellites. Out of 101 nano satellites, 96 were from the United States and one each from Israel, Kazakhstan, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Arab Emirates. This was the 39th launch of PSLV and was done through an XL variant weighing 320 tonnes and standing 44.4 metres tall.

– The earth observation satellite Cartosat-2 series weighed 714 kg. The total weight of all the satellites carried on-board was about 1,378 kg.

2) Seeking to create a global sized bank, the Union Cabinet on 16 February 2017 gave its go-ahead to the merger plan of State Bank of India (SBI) and its five associate banks. Which are these 5 associate banks? – **State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Travancore (SBT), State Bank of Patiala (SBP) and State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH)**

Explanation: The Union Cabinet had earlier in-principle cleared the merger proposal. The proposal had gone to the boards of various banks which have granted the approvals. The Cabinet

on 16 February 2017 gave its final go-ahead to this mega banking merger that will create a banking behemoth of global proportions in the country.

– With the merger of all the five associates, SBI is expected to become a global-sized bank with an asset base of Rs. 37 trillion (Rs. 37 lakh crore) or over \$555 billion, 22,500 branches and 58,000 ATMs. It will have over 50 crore customers.

– The merger is likely to result in recurring savings, estimated at more than Rs. 1,000 crore in the first year, through a combination of enhanced operational efficiency and reduced cost of funds. Existing customers of subsidiary banks will benefit from access to SBI’s global network.

– State Bank of India has about 16,500 branches, including 191 foreign offices spread across 36 countries. SBI first merged State Bank of Saurashtra with itself in 2008. Two years later, State Bank of Indore was merged with it.

3) An MP introduced a private bill in the Lok Sabha on 15 February 2017 that seeks to put a limit on the number of guests to be invited and dishes to be served in weddings to check the so-called ‘show of wealth’. The bill also proposes those spending above Rs 5 lakh to contribute towards marriages of poor girls. Who introduced this Bill? – Ranjeet Ranjan (Congress MP)

Explanation: Congress MP Ranjeet Ranjan (wife of MP Pappu Yadav) during February 2017 introduced the Marriages (Compulsory Registration and Prevention of Wasteful Expenditure) Bill, 2016 to be taken up as a private member’s Bill in the upcoming Lok Sabha session.

– The primary purpose of this Bill is to prohibit extravagant and wasteful expenditure on marriages and to enforce simpler solemnization.

– The Bill seeks that “if any family intends to spend more than Rs. 5 lakh towards expenditure on marriage, such family shall declare the amount proposed to be spent

in advance to the appropriate government agencies and contribute 10% of such amount in a welfare fund which shall be established by the appropriate government to assist the poor and Below Poverty Line (BPL) families for the marriage of their daughters”.

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4) Which airline became the 12th and the newest domestic airline in the country as it launched its commercial operations from 15 February 2017?
– **‘Zoom Air’**

Explanation: Zoom Air on 15 February 2017 became the 12th operational domestic airline carrier in the country as it started its commercial services with a flight to Durgapur via Kolkata from New Delhi.

– It is worth mentioning that the airline had flown its inaugural flight from the national capital to Durgapur’s Kazi Nazrul Islam Airport on 12 February 2017. Zoom Air is promoted by Gurgaon-based Zexus Air Services. Its entry is expected to intensify competition in the domestic aviation market, which is seeing over 20% growth over the last two years.

– The carrier would also operate flights to Amritsar, Surat and Bhavnagar from Delhi in the first phase of its operations with a fleet of three dry- leased CRJ 200LR planes.

– Other 11 domestic airlines operating in the country currently are – Air India, Jet Airways, Vistara, IndiGo, SpiceJet, GoAir, AirAsia India, Air Costa, TrueJet, Alliance Air and Air Carnival.

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5) What is the name given to the indigenously developed Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) System that was inducted into the Indian Air Force on 14 February 2016? – **‘Netra’**

Explanation: ‘Netra’ is the name of the home-grown eye in the sky, the Airborne Early Warning & Control (AEW&C) System, which was inducted into the Indian Air Force (IAF) on 14 February 2017. The System comprises of an array of computers on board an aircraft that is capable of

processing signals picked up by the radar atop the aircraft and identify up to 300 enemy targets.

– It has been developed by the DRDO. The original plan for design and development of such a force-multiplier for the IAF took shape after former Prime Minister the late Indira Gandhi had asked defence experts to design such a system early 1980s.

.....
17-18 February 2017

1) The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 16 January 2017 notified that it will reimburse banks the merchant discount rate (MDR) on debit cards used for payment of tax and non-tax dues to the government of India. This reimbursement will be applicable from which date? – **1 January 2017**

Explanation: The notification pertaining to the reimbursement of MDR to the banks is in line with the December 2016 decision of Union Government to absorb MDR charges on debit card transactions to encourage people to use digital payments.

– After demonetisation the government had asked banks to waive MDR or charges on debit card payments until 31 December 2016 to encourage more customers to use digital transactions.

– MDR is the commission paid by the merchant to the acquiring bank for every digital transaction allowed by the bank. Since 2012, the RBI has capped the MDR for debit card transactions up to Rs. 2,000 at 0.75% and at 1% for all transactions above Rs. 2,000.

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2) Who took over as the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 16 February 2017 after the state witnessed numerous political twists and turns due to political tussle amidst the ruling AIADMK? – **Edappadi K. Palaniswami**

Explanation: Edappadi K. Palaniswami took over as Tamil Nadu’s new Chief Minister on 16 February 2017. He and his 31-member Cabinet was administered the oath of office

by Governor Ch. Vidyasagar Rao. The new government was given 15 days to prove its majority in the state Assembly.

– Except the rebels O. Panneerselvam and K. Pandiarajan, Palaniswami retained the outgoing Council of Ministers. K. A.

Sengottaiyan was the only new inductee.

– It is worth mentioning that Palaniswami was elected ruling AIADMK's new

Legislature Party leader on 15 February 2017. Earlier AIADMK interim general secretary V.K. Sasikala, convicted by the Supreme Court in the disproportionate assets case on 14 February 2017, surrendered at a special court in Bengaluru and was sent to Central Prison at Parappana Agrahara on 15 February. Sasikala was eyeing the post of Chief Minister.

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3) The Supreme Court on 17 February

2017 came out with which important observation pertaining to 'National Song'?

– **'There is no concept of national song constitutionally'**

Explanation: The Supreme Court rejected a plea to direct the Central government to frame a national policy under Article 51A (fundamental duties) of the Constitution to promote and propagate the National Anthem, the National Flag and a 'national song'.

– The apex court observed – "Article 51A only mentions the National Flag and the National Anthem ('Jan Gan Man'). The Article does not refer to a national song (Vande Mataram)".

– The Court rejected the prayer of petitioner Ashwini Upadhyay, a BJP spokesperson. It also rejected a prayer to make the rendering of the National Anthem compulsory in offices, courts, legislative houses and Parliament.

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4) At least 76 people were killed and nearly 250 others were injured in Pakistan on 16 February 2017 when an Islamic State (IS) suicide bomber blew himself up inside the crowded shrine of revered Sufi Saint Lal Shahbaz Qalandar. This

famous shrine is located in which town of south Sindh province? – **Sehwan**

Explanation: The famous dargah of Sufi Saint Lal Shahbaz Qalandar is situated in Sehwan town of south Sindh province, some 200 Km northeast of Karachi. Shahbaz Qalandar was a renowned Sufi philosopher-poet of present-day Afghanistan and Pakistan.

– The attacker first threw a couple of grenades to cause panic and then blew himself up. Hundreds of devotees were present inside the premises of the vast mausoleum of Shahbaz Qalandar as the ritual Sufi dance, 'Dhamal', was taking place.

– The IS claimed responsibility for the attack on their Aamaq news agency, saying a suicide bomber had targeted a "Shiite gathering" at the shrine in Sindh.

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5) External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Vikas Swarup was on 16 February 2017 appointed India's High Commissioner to which country? –

Canada

Explanation: Vikas Swarup, a 1986-batch IFS officer, has been the External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson since April 2015 when India's external engagement witnessed a major traction. He has been credited with expanding Ministry of External Affairs (MEA's) social media outreach and handling sensitive issues deftly.

– It is worth mentioning that Swarup's debut novel Q & A was made into the Oscar-winning movie "Slumdog Millionaire".

– Gopal Baglay, who is Joint Secretary in the Pakistan, Iran, Afghanistan division in MEA, will succeed Swarup.

.....
19-20 February 2017

1) The Supreme Court has made it easier for the people of middle and lower income groups to approach it to avail legal aid as it launched a novel scheme on 16 February 2017. What is the

name of this ambitious scheme? – **Middle Income Group Scheme**

Explanation: Middle Income Group Scheme, introduced by the Supreme Court, is self-supporting and people whose gross income does not exceed Rs 60,000 per month or Rs 7,50,000 per annum can avail its services.

– The person desirous of availing the benefit of scheme shall have to fill up the prescribed form. A case will be registered under the MIG Legal Aid Scheme and forwarded to Advocate-on-Record/Arguing Counsel/Senior Counsel on the panel for their opinion.

– If Advocate-on-Record is satisfied that it is a fit case, then the society will consider that applicant is entitled to legal aid. The view expressed by Advocate-on Record will be final in determining eligibility of the applicant for obtaining the benefit under the scheme.

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2) What is the name of India's only live volcano that during February 2017 started spewing smoke and lava again? – **Barren Island Volcano**

Explanation: Barren Island Volcano situated in Andaman & Nicobar Islands is India's only live volcano. After lying dormant for 150 years, Barren Island volcano erupted in 1991 and has been showing sporadic activity since then.

– It became active once again in February 2017 as red lava foundations of Barren Island Volcano were spewing from the crater into the atmosphere and hot lava streamed down the slopes of it.

– The volcanic island is uninhabited and its northern part is, as the name suggests, barren and devoid of vegetation. Indian citizens can visit the island by chartered boats after obtaining permission from the forest department in Port Blair.

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3) The Hindu Marriage Bill 2017, the much-awaited landmark bill to regulate marriages of minority Hindus in Pakistan, was adopted by the Pakistani Senate on 17 February 2017. It is the

first elaborate Hindu community's personal law. What is the name of the leading Hindu lawmaker who played important role in this historic legislation? – **Ramesh Kumar Vankwani**

Explanation: Ramesh Kumar Vankwani, a leading Hindu lawmaker from the ruling Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), had been working relentlessly for three years to have a Hindu marriage law in the country.

– The Hindu Marriage Bill 2017 had already been approved by the lower house (National Assembly) on 26 September 2015 and was on 17 February 2017 passed by the Senate. It now just needs signature of the President, a mere formality, to become a law.

– It will be the first personal law for Pakistani Hindus, applicable in Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces. The Sindh province has already formulated its own Hindu Marriage Law.

– The bill paves the way for a document 'Shadi Parath' – similar to the 'Nikahnama' for Muslims – to be signed by a pundit and registered with the relevant government department.

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4) A contract between Nova Integrated Systems Ltd and Indian Navy for procurement of Surface Surveillance Radars (SSR) was concluded on 17 February 2017. What is an important fact associated with this procurement contract? – **This was the first naval contract in line with the Government's 'Make in India' initiative**

Explanation: Indian Navy on 17 February 2017 signed a contract with Nova Integrated Systems Ltd. That was the first contract concluded under the Buy and Make (Indian) Category, in line with the Government's 'Make in India' initiative.

– Under this contract, Surface Surveillance Radars (SSR) will be procured from Nova Integrated Systems Ltd., which is a fully owned subsidiary of Tata Advanced System Ltd.

– Nova Integrated Systems will indigenously manufacture these state-of-the-art radars in collaboration with

Terma, Denmark. The contract thus marks the entry of Indian private industry in production of hi-tech sensors for the Indian Navy.

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5) Anglo-Dutch FMCG company – Unilever plc. rejected a surprise \$143-billion takeover bid from which US food company on 17 February 2017? – **Kraft Heinz Co.**

Explanation: Kraft Heinz Co. had offered to pay \$50 per share for taking over Unilever plc., a proposal that was rejected by Unilever. While rejecting the offer, Unilever maintained that it saw no reason to discuss a deal which it said had no financial or strategic merit.

– If the takeover bid had materialized, it would have been the third-biggest takeover in history and the biggest ever acquisition of a UK-based company.

– Another important fact to mention here is that Kraft is smaller than Unilever, with a market value of \$106 billion as on 16 February 2017. It is 50.9% owned by billionaire Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway and 3G Capital.

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6) The Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat was inducted at a ceremony held on 18 February 2017. What is the name of this sailboat which will be used for first Indian all women circumnavigation of the globe expedition of the Indian Navy? – **'INSV Tarini'**

Explanation: 'INSV Tarini', the Indian Navy's second ocean going sailboat was inducted into service at a ceremony held at the INS Mandovi on 18 February. The first such sailboat is INSV Mhadei and INSV Tarini is almost identical to it.

– It is slated to be the sailboat platform for first Indian all women circumnavigation of the globe expedition of the Indian Navy. The boat has been built to a stock design by Van de Stadt, Netherlands called Tonga 56.

7) Ved Prakash Sharma, who passed away on 17 February 2017 in Meerut, was associated with which field? – **Hindi novels**

Explanation: Ved Prakash Sharma was a celebrated Hindi novelist and scriptwriter. He was a best-selling novelist and wrote 176 novels, mainly pulp-fiction, during his career spanning over 40 years.

– Some of his novels were adapted into successful films like "Bahu Maange Insaaf" (1985), "Anaam" (1992) and "Sabse Bada Khiladi" (1995). One of his books, "Wardiwala Gunda" (1992) broke all records and sold 15 lakh copies on its release.

21 February 2017

1) What is the name of the new quick response code based payment solution that was launched on 20 February 2017 and is being backed by the Union Government? – **BharatQR code**

Explanation: Retail electronic payments in the country are expected to become more seamless with the launch of BharatQR code on 20 February 2017. It is a quick response (QR) code mandated by the Union Government to enable digital payments without card swiping machines.

– BharatQR code is a common QR code jointly developed by all the four major card payment companies – National Payments Corp. of India (NPCI) that runs RuPay cards, MasterCard, Visa and American Express, under instructions from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). American Express is however not on-board this payment solution at present and will be its part in coming weeks.

– BharatQR code eliminates the need of entering the merchant's ID or phone number to make payments. The customers can simply make payments by scanning the QR code and entering the transaction amount. The amount gets transferred directly from the bank account without the need of a swiping machine.

– As a customer, to use Bharat QR code a customer needs to have a smart phone and

must download the bank app that is compatible with it.

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2) On 20 February 2017 who was elected as the new Chief Minister of Nagaland, a day after TR Zeliang resigned from the post? – **Shurhozelie Liezietsu**

Explanation: Naga People's Front (NPF) President Shurhozelie Liezietsu was on 20 February 2017 elected the new legislature party leader of the ruling Democratic Alliance and he will be the Chief Minister of Nagaland. Shurhozelie has been elected to the Nagaland assembly eight times from Northern Angami assembly constituency.

– Earlier on 19 February Chief Minister TR Zeliang had announced his resignation. It is worth mentioning that Nagaland has been in turmoil since January 2017 after the NPF-led government decided to hold local body elections in 12 towns across the state.

– For more than two weeks, the government machinery in Nagaland has been in a state of limbo following an indefinite shutdown.

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3) The 8th edition of Asian Winter Games was inaugurated in which Japanese city on 19 February 2017? – **Sapporo**

Explanation: The 8th Asian Winter Games were opened at the Sapporo Dome in Sapporo (Japan) on 19 February 2017. It was inaugurated by Japan Crown Prince Naruhito.

– The Games feature five sports, 11 disciplines and 64 events, and are expected to be the largest-ever of its kind, attracting around 1,500 participants from 30 countries (including India) and regions. Australia and New Zealand are making their first appearance at the Games after accepting an invitation from the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). Since Oceania does not have regional Winter Games, this is also first time the two countries are competing on snow and ice at a continental event.

– It is the third time that Sapporo is hosting the Asian Winter Games. The speed skating events of this edition will be held in Obihiro.

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4) During February 2017 Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli became the first Indian sports personality to strike an over Rs. 100-crore endorsement deal with a single brand. Which brand is this? – **Puma**

Explanation: Virat Kohli during February 2017 signed an eight-year deal with German sports apparel brand Puma worth Rs. 110 crore. He thus became the first Indian sports personality to strike an over Rs. 100-crore endorsement deal with a single brand.

– The Indian cricket captain is now set to join the likes of Usain Bolt, Asafa Powell and Thierry Henry, among others, as a global ambassador for Puma.

– Only Sachin Tendulkar and Mahendra Singh Dhoni have been in the Rs. 100-crore club through multi-year contracts with talent management agencies, but they have never been signed by a single brand for such a big amount.

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5) English all-rounder Ben Stokes emerged as the costliest player of IPL auctions of 2017, which were held on 20 February 2017. Which franchisee bought him for Rs. 14.5 crore? – **Rising Pune Supergiants**

Explanation: The England all-rounder Ben Stokes emerged the biggest purchase of the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction, as Rising Pune Supergiants (RPS) forked out Rs 14.5 crore for his services. This price was 7 times more than his base price. The deal also made him the costliest overseas player in IPL history and the second most overall, behind Yuvraj Singh who went to Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) for Rs. 16 crore in 2015.

– The second highest earner was Stokes' England team-mate Tymal Mills, who went to RCB for Rs. 12 crore in his first appearance in the

auction. The 10th auction season of IPL started from 20 February 2017 in Bengaluru.

22 February 2017

1) N. Chandrasekaran on 21 February

2017 took reins as the seventh Chairman of the 150-year old Tata Group. What is an important fact associated with his assumption of charge of Tata Group? – **He became the first-ever non-Parsi chairman of Tata Group**

Explanation: 54-year old Natarajan Chandrasekaran, popularly known as 'Chandra', officially took over as new

Chairman of the Tata group (Tata Sons) on 21 February 2017. He was appointed as Chairman after a stiff boardroom battle that saw the ouster of Cyrus Mistry as Tata Sons Chairman. He was the CEO and MD of TCS, prior to being selected for the top job in the Tata group.

– Chandrasekaran is the first chairman of Tata Sons with no family links to the Tatas, although he has spent all his working life at TCS. He is thus the first-ever non-Parsi Chairman of the iconic group that is in as diversified fields as salt, automobiles and software.

– Earlier 6 Chairmen of Tata Group are – Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata (1867–1904), Sir Dorab Tata (1904–1932), Nowroji Saklatwala (1932–1938), Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhoy Tata (1938–1991), Ratan Tata (1991–2012) and Cyrus Pallonji Mistry (2012–2016). However Ratan Tata looked as the interim Chairman from October 2016 to February 2017.

2) Which corporate entity on 20 February

2017 announced a historic Rs. 16,000 crore share buyback plan that is the biggest in Indian corporate history? – **TCS**

Explanation: Tata Group company Tata Consultancy Services on 20 February 2017 announced a plan to buy back up to 5.61 crore equity shares for an aggregate price not exceeding Rs. 16,000 crore. The move is

expected to put pressure on its peers Infosys and Wipro.

– This is biggest buyback in the history of India's capital markets, surpassing Reliance Industries' share repurchase of Rs. 10,400 crore in 2012.

– Indian IT companies, although flush with cash, have for long stayed away from returning capital to shareholders through a buyback. TCS, for example, is sitting on a cash pile of nearly Rs. 43,000 crore.

3) During February 2017 which private bank's foreign ownership again breached the 74% cap allowed by Indian laws after which the bank was again put back into the ban list? – **HDFC Bank**

Explanation: On 16 February 2017, the RBI had removed HDFC Bank from its foreign investment ban list as the aggregate foreign shareholding through ADR, GDR, FIIs, FPIs, FDI, NRIs and persons of Indian origin (PIOs) had fallen below the 74% cap set for private sector banks.

– But HDFC Bank's scrip registered a big rally on 17 February 2017 and subsequently around 1:39 pm, RBI came out with another statement on its website, putting HDFC Bank back into the ban list for hitting the investment cap of 74%.

– When a limit of 74% is achieved then the RBI through the exchanges notifies that no further buying should take place. In the case of HDFC Bank, the limit was breached even before the notification was released. Now the issue is being probed by the RBI and SEBI.

4) According to the latest production data released during February 2017, which country overtook Saudi Arabia as the world's largest crude oil producer in December 2016? – **Russia**

Explanation: Russia pumped 10.49 million barrels a day in December 2016, down 29,000 barrels a day from November 2016, while Saudi Arabia's output declined to 10.46 million barrels a day from 10.72 million barrels a day in November 2016. Thus during December

2016 Russia emerged as world's largest crude producer by overtaking Saudi Arabia.

– The US was the third-largest producer, at 8.8 million barrels a day in December compared with 8.9 million barrels a day in November 2016.

– This data was published on 20 February 2017 on the website of the Joint Organisations Data Initiative (JODI) in Riyadh. It is worth mentioning that Saudi Arabia and fellow producers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) had decided at the end of November 2016 to restrict supplies by 1.2 million barrels a day for six months starting 1 January 2017.

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5) Union Government during February 2017 launched a new resource-kit and a mobile application for adolescents as part of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) program. What are the title name of the resource-kit and mobile app? – **'Saathiya'**

Explanation: One of the key interventions under the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) program is introduction of the Peer Educators (Saathiyas) who act as a catalyst for generating demand for the adolescent health services. In view of this the Health and Family Welfare Department on 20 February 2017 launched the "Saathiya" Resource Kit including 'Saathiya Salah' Mobile App.

– The Saathiya resource kit has been launched to enable adolescents to communicate with the adolescents of their community. It is expected to answer all the queries in the minds of an adolescent in spite of the plethora of media (Magazines, TV, internet etc.) available.– In addition to the kit is the mobile app 'Saathiya Salah' (downloadable from Google play-store) which acts as a ready information source for the adolescents in case they are unable to interact with the Peer Educators.

– The Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) was launched in January 2014 to address and cater to the health and development needs of the country's adolescents.

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23 February 2017

1) Which important event associated with Sino-Indian bilateral relations was held on 22 February 2017? – **The first Sino-Indian Strategic Dialogue**

Explanation: The first-ever Strategic Dialogue between Indian and China was held in Beijing on 22 February 2017. Indian delegation was led by Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar while Chinese group was led by its top diplomat Yang Jiechi.

– The Strategic Dialogue covered many important issues such as differences over Jaish-E Mohammed (JeM) terrorist Masood Azhar and India's membership of the elite Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG).

– In the Dialogue, India hit out at China for demanding "solid evidence" for getting Azhar banned by the UN. Reacting to China's demand for 'solid proof' on Azhar, Jaishankar said the extent of Azhar's actions was "well- documented" and the "burden of proof" was not on India.

– Last year, China put a technical hold twice on India's application to the sanctions committee of the UN Security Council for imposing a ban on Masood Azhar's JeM and again blocked a resolution moved by the US, and backed by France and the UK, in January 2017.

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2) What is the name of the new botnet cleaning and malware analysis center launched on 22 February 2017 that aims to create a secure cyber space in India by detecting botnet infections and enable cleaning and securing systems of end users? – **"Cyber Swachhta Kendra"**

Explanation: "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" (CSK) that was inaugurated by Union IT minister Ravi Shankar Prasad on 22 February 2017 has been established in accordance with the objectives of the "National Cyber Security Policy", which envisages creating a secure cyber ecosystem in the country.

– This centre operates in close coordination and collaboration with Internet Service Providers and Product/Antivirus companies. The CSK website provides information and tools to users to secure their systems/devices. Additionally, the website also offers tools from Quick Heal antivirus to check infection on devices.

– Solutions includes virus and malware diagnostic tools, developed by Center for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC), such as AppSamvid or app white-listing tool and USB Pratirodh tool to control unauthorized usage of portable USB storage devices.

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3) Who was nominated as the new National Security Adviser (NSA) of the United States by President Donald Trump on 20 February 2017? – Lt Gen H.R. McMaster

Explanation: HR McMaster, an army lieutenant general whose unconventional career has earned him widespread respect in US defense circles, was on 20 February 2017 nominated as country's next National Security Adviser (NSA) by President Donald Trump.

– He will succeed the disgraced Michael Flynn, who was forced to resign earlier in February 2017 over revelations that he had lied to Vice-President Mike Pence about his calls discussing easing sanctions with Russia's ambassador.

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4) What is the name of the noted London-based architect firm that on 22 February 2017 submitted the final designs of Amaravati administrative city, the proposed capital of Andhra Pradesh? –

Norman Foster and Partners

Explanation: Norman Foster and Partners, which is the master architect of Andhra Pradesh capital Amaravati, submit the final designs of Amaravati administrative city on 22 February 2017.

– The work of designing the proposed city of Amaravati was entrusted to the firm earlier during 2016. AP Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu had asked the planners that Amaravati

should also reflect the cultural glory of India and in particular Andhra Pradesh.

– Apart from this, advices of historians, architects, art directors from film industry, officials, renowned writers, archaeological experts is also expected to be taken into consideration to build the capital city.

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5) Which railway zone scored the highest points among all 16 railway zones in the performance rating assigned by the Ministry of Railways, as announced on 21 February 2017? – South Eastern Railway (SER)

Explanation: Kolkata-headquartered South Eastern Railway (SER) scored the highest points among 16 railway zones in performance rating by the Ministry of Railways across different sectors like freight loading and passenger traffic.

– SER topped the chart with 75.48% marks as per performance from April, 2016 to December, 2016 among the 16 zones of the Indian Railways.

– It scored 9.95 out of 10 points in originating freight loading. In originating passenger traffic, the SER has scored 7.10 out of 10 points. In revenue earning, the SER scored 3.48 out of five points, while it got 2.12 out of 5 points in increase in average speed of freight trains.

24 February 2017

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1) In a major discovery, scientists have spotted seven Earth-sized planets, with mass similar to Earth, orbiting around a dwarf star the size of Jupiter. What is more important is that planets' temperature is low enough to make possible the presence of liquid water on their surface. What is the name of the dwarf star around which these 7 planets have been found? – Trappist-1

Explanation: According to a report published in 'Nature' magazine on 23 February 2017, in May 2016 scientists found three planets passing in front of Trappist-1, the dwarf star. Based on further monitoring

of the star from the ground and space, scientists have found four more 'exoplanets' orbiting this dwarf star.

– The star (Trappist-1) is low-mass and small. The seven stars around it could have some liquid water and maybe life. These planets are found in the habitable zone of the star. This is the first time scientists have found so many planets in the habitable zone of a star.

– Five planets have sizes similar to that of the Earth, while the remaining two are intermediate in size – between Mars and Earth.

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2) SBI's proposed merger with 5 of its associate banks will come into effect from which date, as was announced by the Union Government on 23 February 2017? – **1 April 2017**

Explanation: The Union Government on 23 February 2017 announced that 1 April 2017 will be the record date for the merger of State Bank of India (SBI) with five of its associate banks. The associate banks are State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur (SBBJ), State Bank of Mysore (SBM), State Bank of Travancore (SBT), State Bank of Hyderabad (SBH) and State Bank of Patiala (SBP).

– It means that from 1 April 2017 all shares of these associate banks would cease to exist as individual entities and would stand transferred to SBI. After the merger, SBI is set to be among the top 50 large banks of the world with an asset base of Rs. 32 trillion.

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3) Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu unveiled the coaches of the proposed Antyodaya Expresses at Delhi Safdarjung station on 22 February 2017. Antyodaya Express is an ambitious train project catering to which passenger segment? – **Unreserved passengers**

Explanation: Soon to be started Antyodaya Express series will a new series of fully unreserved trains that will provide many useful facilities to the common man like cushioned seats, aluminium composite panels, LED lights, potable water facility and mobile charging points. Besides, all coaches will be inter-linked.

– Ready to be pressed into service on busy routes, the first Antyodaya Express will be launched between Mumbai and Tatanagar, and the second will be between Ernakulam and Howrah shortly.

– Antyodaya Express series was announced in the Rail Budget of 2016-17 by Suresh Prabhu.

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4) Norway's telecom company Telenor on 22 February 2017 announced its decision to exit Indian telecom market. Which company is acquiring Telenor's Indian business? – **Bharti Airtel**

Explanation: Telenor is exiting its Indian telecom business, which it had entered in 2008 in partnership with Indian housing major Unitech. The business was then known as Uninor but due to mounting debt and low profitability Unitech sold its business to Telenor. Now Telenor has decided to exit the business completely and sell it to Bharti Airtel, India's largest telecom company.

– On its part, Bharti Airtel on 22 February 2017 announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement with Telenor South Asia Investments Pte Ltd to acquire Telenor (India) Communications Private Limited, which handles its telecom business in India.

– As part of the agreement, Airtel will acquire Telenor India's running operations in seven circles – Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, UP (East), UP (West) and Assam. Airtel will thus acquire Telenor's assets and customers, further augmenting Airtel's overall customer base and network.

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5) Which district of Gujarat became top potato producing district in India as it overtook Agra (Uttar Pradesh) in potato production, according to disclosures in Union Agriculture Ministry's data released during February 2017? – **Banaskantha district**

Explanation: Union Agriculture Ministry's 'District-wise Estimation of Production and Area of Fruits, Vegetables and Crops in India', that was

released during February 2017, has revealed that Banaskantha district of Gujarat has produced 17.10 lakh metric tonnes (MT) of potatoes during 2016. It is followed by Agra district of Uttar Pradesh which has produced 15.84 lakh MT of potatoes. Till now Agra had been No.1 in potato production.

– According to the data, the area of sowing was the highest in Muzaffarpur in Bihar (85,500 hectares), while Banaskantha was ranked third in the country on this count with a sowing area of 52,800 hectares. However, Banaskantha led in production.

– It is worth mentioning that 3 leading manufacturers of lip-smacking potato delicacies such as burger, French fries, potato wedges and chips source potato from farms of Deesa of Banaskantha district.

28 February 2017

1) Which film was won the Best Picture award at the 89th Academy Awards function that was held on 26 February 2017? – **'Moonlight'**

Explanation: *'Moonlight'*, the 2016 American drama film directed by Barry Jenkins, won the coveted Best Picture Oscar at the 89th Academy Awards function. The prestigious annual function was held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles. *'Moonlight'* thus beat the other favourite *'La La Land'*, which had won the top honours at BAFTA earlier.

– It is, however, worth mentioning that *'La La Land'* was initially declared as the Best Picture, but it was soon announced that there was an error and the Best Picture Award was, in fact, won by *'Moonlight'*.

While confusion prevailed for a while, the makers of *'La La Land'* graciously left the stage and made way for makers of *'Moonlight'*. It was later revealed that presenter Warren Beatty was given the wrong envelope.

2) Who won the Best Actor and Best Actress Award at the 89th Academy Awards? – **Casey**

Affleck (Best Actor) and **Emma Stone** (Best Actress)

Explanation: Casey Affleck received the Best Actor award for his role in *'Manchester by the Sea'* while Emma Stone got the Best Actress award for her role in *'La La Land'*. *'La La Land'* director Damien Chazelle won the Best Director award and at 32 became the youngest Best Director in Oscar history.

– *'La La Land'* was the most successful as it won 6 oscars while *'Moonlight'* won 3 oscars.

3) What history was created by Mahershala Ali on 26 February 2017 as he won the Oscar Award for best supporting actor at the 89th Academy Awards function? – **He became the first Muslim to win an Oscar**

Explanation: Mahershala Ali, who bagged the award for the Best Actor in a Supporting Role for his performance in *'Moonlight'*, became the first Muslim actor to win an Oscar.

– However, many Indians were disappointed that Dev Patel lost out the coveted award to Ali.

4) Which company on 27 February 2017 became the second company after TCS to cross Rs. 4 trillion mark in market capitalization? – **Reliance Industries Limited (RIL)**

Explanation: India's biggest company by revenue, Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL), on Monday crossed Rs. 4 trillion (Rs. 4 lakh crore) in market capitalisation. It thus became the second company after TCS to cross this mark. Currently, TCS has a total market cap of Rs 4.88 trillion.

– However RIL crossed this mark for the second time in history. Last time, the company was seen achieving this milestone on 18 January 2008.

– The rally in RIL scrip was mainly due to fact that Reliance Jio on 21 February 2017 announced that

it will end free data services and start charging its customers from 1 April 2017.

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5) The iconic Nokia 3310 phone made its comeback as the brightly coloured version of the phone was re-launched on 26 February 2017. What is the name of a new company led by ex-Nokia executives that launched this phone along with three new Android Nokia phones? – **HMD Global**

Explanation: Once the world's dominant phonemaker, Nokia in 2014 sold its by-then ailing handset operations to Microsoft for \$7billion.

– HMD Global, a new company led by ex-Nokia executives and backed by Chinese electronics giant Foxconn, in December 2016 took over the Nokia feature phones business and struck a licensing deal that gave it sole use of the Nokia brand on all phones and tablets for the next decade.

– The company launched the iconic and old favourite Nokia 3310 and three Android phones (Nokia 3, Nokia 5 and Nokia 6) at the Mobile World Congress 2017 in Barcelona on 26 February 2017. Nokia 3310 was a classic and sturdy phone of year 2000 that was a favourite of that era. The company re-introduced a brightly coloured version of this best-selling phone.

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6) Which team won the Hockey India League title for 2017 on 26 February 2017?

– **Kalinga Lancers**

Explanation: Bhubaneswar-based team Kalinga Lancers defeated Dabang Mumbai 4-1 to clinch their maiden Hockey India League (HIL) title on 26 February 2017. The final was played in Sector 42 stadium in Chandigarh.

– Dabang Mumbai and Kalinga Lancers had finished first and second respectively in the league phase of the tournament. In the final Lancers captain Moritz Fuerste scored two goals through penalty corners for his team while Australian

forward Glenn Turner contributed 2 points through a field goal. For Dabang Mumbai the lone goal came through Affan Yousuf via penalty corner.

– In HIL two points are awarded for a field goal while only one is given for scoring via a penalty corner.

25-27 February

1) The World Trade Organization's (WTO's) landmark Trade Facilitation

Agreement (TFA), which is expected to bring down the trade barriers globally, came into force from which date? – **23 February 2017**

Explanation: Ratified by 112 nations, more than two-thirds of all member nations, the TFA is expected to ease trade processes, bring down barriers to trade and enhance the capacity of the developing world to better engage with the global trading network.

– Part of the Bali Package of decisions agreed upon in 2013, the deal is a watershed moment in the organisation's history. This represents the first time that a comprehensive decision has been arrived at through consensus among nations cutting across the major geographical and political blocs.

– The 164 member nations of the WTO account for more than 97% of global gross domestic product (GDP) and 96.8% of global trade. Therefore, the TFA is expected to significantly change the global trade scenario.

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2) What is the name of the Indian engineer who was shot dead in an apparent incident of hate crime in Kansas in United States on 22 February 2017? – **Srinivas Kuchibhotla**

Explanation: 32-year old Srinivas Kuchibhotla of Andhra Pradesh, an aviation engineer at technology company Garmin, was killed, allegedly by Adam Purinton, a 51-year-old Navy veteran in Olathe city in Kansas, United States.

– Kuchibhotla and his friend Alok Madasani were in a bar when Purinto confronted them

with racial abuses. Both of them have been working on H1B visas. His body was brought to India on 26 February 2017.

– The FBI is investigating the case from all angles, including the possibility that the crime was motivated by racial hatred. The incident brought to focus the increasing incidents of race crimes in the U.S. after the bitter presidential election.

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3) Maruti Suzuki India has stopped selling one of its popular hatchbacks, as was announced by the company on 25 February 2017? – **‘Ritz’**

Explanation: Country’s largest carmaker Maruti Suzuki India Limited (MSIL) has stopped selling one of its popular hatchbacks ‘Ritz’ in both domestic and international markets. This was announced by the company during February 2017.

– Launched in 2009 in both petrol and diesel versions, the ‘Ritz’ was part of MSIL’s compact segment portfolio and sold a total of around 4 lakh units.

– The company now sells the newly-launched Ignis, Swift, Celerio, Dzire and Baleno in the compact segment, which witnessed 25.2% growth in sales to 55,817 units during January 2017 as against 44,575 in the year-ago month.

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4) Who was awarded the prestigious EY Entrepreneur of the Year for 2016 on 24 February 2017? – **Vivek Chaand Sehgal**

Explanation: Vivek Chaand Sehgal, the co-founder of auto components manufacturing company Samvardhana Motherson Group, was named the winner of the EY Entrepreneur of the Year for 2016. The group registered \$7.2 billion worth of revenue in 2015-16. Motherson Sumi Systems Ltd. is the flagship company of the group.

– Sehgal is also slated to represent India at the World Entrepreneur of the Year Award, to be held in June 2017.

– On the other hand, former Infosys Chairman and former Unique Identification Authority of India Chairman Nandan Nilekani was presented the Lifetime Achievement Award. Nilekani who was crucial to the rollout of the massive civil identification initiative Aadhaar has also been an advisor to the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).

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5) Who was conferred with the fourth edition of Yash Chopra Memorial Award on 25 February 2017? – **Shahrukh Khan**

Explanation: Shah Rukh Khan was conferred with the Yash Chopra Memorial Award on 25 February 2017. The award commemorates the iconic director-producer Yash Chopra by honouring excellence in various spheres of cinema like acting, music etc.

– The previous recipients of this award were Lata Mangeshkar, Amitabh Bachchan and Rekha.

– It is worth mentioning that Shah Rukh has featured in some of the biggest hits helmed by Yash Chopra like ‘Darr’, ‘Dilwale Dulhania Le jaayenge’, ‘Dil Toh Pagal Hai’, ‘Veer-Zaara’ and ‘Jab Tak Hai Jaan’.