

# Current Affairs: 25-31 October 2016

## Important Days

Date	Day	2016 Theme if any
27 October	World Day for Audiovisual Heritage	It's Your Story – Don't Lose It
29 October	World Stroke Day	Face the Facts: Stroke is Treatable
29 October	International Internet Day	-
31 October	World Thrift Day / World Savings Day	Grabbing hold of your financial future
31 October	World Cities Day	Inclusive Cities, Shared Development
31 October	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day)	Integration of India

- **First National Ayurveda Day** (every year on Dhanteras) - **28 October, 2016**. Theme: "Ayurveda for Prevention and Control of Diabetes."
- **Vigilance Awareness Week – From 31<sup>st</sup> October**

## Books & Authors

Book	Author
The Sellout	Paul Beatty
The Bangle Seller	Maya Kalyanpur
Making of Chandigarh: Le Corbusier and After	MN Sharma

## Obituaries

Legendary <b>footballer Carlos Alberto Torres</b> (72) passed away at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
<b>Freedom fighter Chandrakant Kenkre</b> (87) passed away in Shirodi, Goa.
Legendary Kashmiri <b>singer Raj Begum</b> (89) passed away in Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir.
<b>Japanese Prince Mikasa</b> (100), uncle of Emperor Akihito, passed away. He was the oldest imperial family member in the world.
<b>Rajpati Devi</b> (82), a five-time <b>Congress MLA</b> , passed away in Kanpur.
<b>Goa's first woman chief minister Shashikala Kakodar</b> (81) passed away.
Former <b>Cambodian Prime Minister Pen Sovann</b> (80) passed away.
<b>MN Sharma</b> (93), the <b>first chief architect of Chandigarh</b> , passed away. He recently wrote a book "Making of Chandigarh: Le Corbusier and After".
<b>Silvio Gazzaniga</b> (95), the <b>Italian sculptor</b> who designed and created the FIFA World Cup trophy in 1971, passed away.

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## Miscellaneous

- ✚ **India** has climbed 21 spots to **rank 87<sup>th</sup>** on the World Economic Forum's **Global Gender Gap Report 2016**.

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  - ✚ **Iceland topped the Global Gender Gap index** released by World Economic Forum.

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  - ✚ **Paul Beatty** became the first author from the United States (US) to be awarded the **Man Booker prize**, for his book, 'The Sellout'.

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  - ✚ The **Union Ministry of Urban Development** has signed a MoU with **National Buildings Construction Corporation (India) Ltd** and **Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** to redevelop colonies.

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  - ✚ **India and New Zealand** signed **three agreements** in the areas of double taxation avoidance, food security and sports.

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  - ✚ The **International Hockey Federation** has appointed New Zealand's **Jason McCracken** as its Chief Executive Officer.

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  - ✚ **Microsoft India** has launched its first full-scale **Cybersecurity Engagement Center (CSEC) in Delhi**, first-of-its-kind centre in India.

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  - ✚ **"Biotech-KISAN scheme"** has been launched to **empower small and women farmers**. KISAN = Krishi Innovation Science Application Network.

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  - ✚ India Meteorological Department (IMD) declared the deep depression over **East-central Bay of Bengal** intensified into **cyclone Kyant**.

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  - ✚ **Bank of America** unveiled a **virtual assistant called 'Erica'** which uses artificial intelligence.

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  - ✚ The **Uttarakhand High Court** ordered a complete **ban on the sale of whitener** in the state.

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  - ✚ **Mizoram and Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA)** inked an MoU called 'Record of Discussions' on 'Capacity enhancement for sustainable Agriculture and Irrigation Development in Mizoram'.

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  - ✚ **Akshat Prakash, student of Delhi Public School (DPS)** launched an initiative '**Bagit challenge**' to involve schools in the national mission towards cleanliness.

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  - ✚ **New species of millipede "Illacme tobini"** found lurking in the unexplored dark marble caves of Sequoia National Park in **California**.
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- ✚ **India** has emerged as the **third** (just behind US and UK) **largest startup base** and such ventures are poised to grow 2.2 times to reach 10,500 by 2020 according to “Indian Startup Ecosystem Maturing – 2016” report by Nasscom-ZINNOV.

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- ✚ **Malaika Vaz** won the 2016 **Wildscreen National Geographic Roar Talent Bursary Award** for her short-film “Waghoba” at Wildscreen festival held at Bristol, UK.

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- ✚ **Finolex Industries Ltd**, suppliers of PVC pipes & fittings for the agriculture and non-agricultural sectors in India, bestowed with the national record certificate by The **Limca Book of Records** for conducting the largest number of plumbers meets organised simultaneously across 26 states and 58 cities.

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- ✚ **Flipkart** Chief Financial Officer **Sanjay Baweja** has resigned from the company.

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- ✚ **Abhinay Srivastava** won the **first prize in the ‘Community Service Announcement’** category ‘Diary of a Tiger’ at the Asia-Pacific Broadcast Union (ABU) Prizes 2016 at Bali, Indonesia.

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- ✚ The one-man judicial committee chaired by Justice **L Narasimha Reddy** on **One Rank One Pension (OROP)** submitted its report to the Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

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- ✚ **India and South Korea** signed a revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (**DTAA**).

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- ✚ **MMTC** (Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India) has joined hands with **HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank and Andhra Bank** to retail gold coins with a new buyback option.

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- ✚ **MMTC** has tied up with **Indian Overseas Bank, Vijaya Bank, Federal Bank and YES Bank** to sell gold coins in denominations of 5 gm and 10 gm coin and 20 gm bar.

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- ✚ **Sunil Mittal** has been elected as **GSMA** (Global System Mobile Association) Chairman.

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- ✚ Dr. **Ajay M. Gondane** has been appointed as the next High Commissioner of **India to Australia**.

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- ✚ **Ericsson** has appointed **Borje Ekholm** as President and CEO.

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- ✚ Former Reserve Bank of India chief general manager **Salim Gangadharan** appointed as the next non-executive chairman of **South Indian Bank**.

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- ✚ Senior IPS officer **Karnal Singh** was appointed the chief of **Enforcement Directorate(ED)**, the agency entrusted with probing money laundering cases.

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- ✚ The ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (**AYUSH**) decided to observe **National Ayurveda Day every year on Dhanteras**.

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- ✚ The Ministry of **AYUSH** launched “**Mission Madhumeha through Ayurveda**” on first National Ayurveda Day, 28 October 2016.

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- ✚ Two Yazidi women, **Nadia Murad Basee and Lamiya Aji Bashar**, won Europe's top human rights award, the **Sakharov prize**.

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- ✚ **Punjab** Directorate won the 2016 **National Cadet Corp (NCC) National Games**.

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- ✚ Antarctica's **Ross Sea** declared **world's largest marine protected area**.

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- ✚ The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of PM Narendra Modi approved establishment of a **National Academic Depository (NAD)**.

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- ✚ The **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** recently declined to fund the \$14-bn Diemer- Bhasha dam situated in **Pakistan**.

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- ✚ **GMR** won **\$270 million (Rs 1,780 cr) arbitration award** in **Maldives** airport dispute.

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- ✚ **Sunil Gavaskar** has been named as the "**Stroke Ambassador for India**".

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- ✚ Union government constituted **Munialappa Committee** to monitor **bird flu** situation.

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- ✚ **Himachal Pradesh** declared **India's Second Open Defecation Free State** after Sikkim.

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- ✚ The Union Cabinet has cleared **2 percent hike in dearness allowance (DA)**. The hike will be effective from July 2016.

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- ✚ The fourth meeting of the **Nepal-India Joint Commission** held in **New Delhi**.

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- ✚ **IBM** has acquired **Sanovi Technologies** to support its cloud offerings.

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- ✚ Kolkata-based **Srei** launched "**iQuippo**", a digital marketplace for construction equipment machinery and services.

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- ✚ **ICICI Bank UK Plc** launched the online money transfer service called '**Money2India Europe**' to facilitate transaction from any bank accounts in Sweden, Norway and Denmark to any recipient account based in India.

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- ✚ **YES Bank** has tied up with **ToneTag**, a Mobile payment solutions startup.

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- ✚ **Thaawarchand Gehlot**, the Union Minister for Social Justice & Empowerment attended the **23rd Rehabilitation International World Congress at Edinburgh, Scotland**.

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- ✚ **Gambia** became the **third African country** to announce its **withdrawal from the International Criminal Court** after Burundi and South Africa.

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- ✚ **Kyrgyzstan's government resigned** after the president's party quit the ruling coalition. **President Almazbek Atambayev** signed an order on his government's resignation.

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- ✚ The 5th edition of the **India-China Cooperation Forum held in Shanghai**, attended more than 100 students and entrepreneurs from India and China.

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- ✚ **Haryana** Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar announced that the state government has decided to observe **2017 as the “GaribKalyan Varsh”**.

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- ✚ The **pensioners’ identity cards given to retired employees** will now have **national emblem** as the Home Ministry has cleared a proposal in this regard.

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- ✚ **India won its first ever International Medal in Roller Skating at Asian Championships in Lishui, People's Republic of China.**

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- ✚ **Bangladesh** introduced a temporary **ban on catching Hilsa fish** and arrested more than 900 fishermen.

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- ✚ According to the data given by the Registrar General of India (RGI), **Jammu and Kashmir** has surpassed Kerala as the state with the **highest life expectancy** in India.

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- ✚ **Uttar Pradesh** CM Akhilesh Yadav announced to **remove upper age limit for widows and divorced women** who are all applying for government jobs.

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- ✚ The **Odisha** government has come up with a new scheme named '**Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibir**' to provide legal assistance to the deprived sections of the society.

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- ✚ **India** has ranked very poorly at **133** in the **Global Youth Development index** covering 183 nations.

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- ✚ **Germany topped the Global Youth Development index.**

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- ✚ Union Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** has laid the foundation stone of **National Institute of Archaeology at Noida in Uttar Pradesh.**

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- ✚ The Institute of Indian Interior Designers (IIID) conducted India's first '**Design Yatra**' in **Kozhikode, Kerala.**

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- ✚ Union Cabinet given its ex-post facto approval to formation of the **Indian Institute of Science Education & Research (IISER) at Berhampur in Odisha** under the Societies Registration Act, 1860.

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- ✚ The RBI has permitted **startups** to raise **external commercial borrowings (ECBs) of up to USD 3 mn** in a financial year.

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- ✚ The **World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)** published reports on the anti-doping methods employed at **Rio 2016 highlighting “serious failings”**.

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- ✚ According to the report of Living Planet assessment by the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), **two-thirds of wild animals may go extinct by 2020.**

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- ✚ The Union Minister Dr. **Jitendra Singh** launched the **Employees Online (EO) App** of the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) in New Delhi.

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- ✚ The opposition leaders staged a general strike to push for a referendum on **removing President Nicolas Maduro from power in Venezuela**.
- 
- ✚ The **Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions, Act, 1988**, will come into effect from **November 1, 2016**.
- 
- ✚ **Kristalina Georgieva (Bulgaria)**, has been appointed chief executive of the **World Bank (WB)**.
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- ✚ **Sun Pharma** acquired 100 per cent equity in the US-based eye care specialist **Ocular Technologies**.
- 
- ✚ **India** won the 2016 **Asian Men's Hockey Champions Trophy** at **Kuantan, Malaysia**.
- 
- ✚ **Karnataka Bank** extended a warm felicitation to **Ananthakrishna**, non-Executive Chairman of the Bank, on his retirement.
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- ✚ **Reliance Industries Ltd** has received the delivery of world's first very large ethane carrying ships **Very Large Ethane Carriers (VLECs)** from Samsung Heavy Industries' shipyards, Korea.
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- ✚ **Y.K. Sinha**, High Commissioner of India inaugurated the **Rabindranath Tagore Memorial Library** and Resource Centre in Sri Palee College at Horana in **Sri Lanka**.
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- ✚ The Centre has decided to fix the **minimum wage for unskilled agricultural labour** in C-class towns in central sphere at **Rs. 350 per day**.
- 
- ✚ **Andhra Pradesh and Telangana** have jointly topped the 2016 all-India **ease of doing business index**.
- 
- ✚ First Workshop on the use of **IHSN Toolkit** was inaugurated by **D.V. Sadananda Gowda**, Minister for Statistics and Programme Implementation in **New Delhi**.
- 
- ✚ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval for signing and ratification of an agreement between **India and Estonia** on the **transfer of sentenced persons** under the Repatriation of Prisoners Act 2003.
- 
- ✚ **Haryana** became the first state to give the benefit of **7th Central Pay Commission (CPC)** to its employees with effect from January 1, 2017.
- 
- ✚ The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the **Rs 500-cr special horticulture package to Jammu & Kashmir**.
- 
- ✚ **G Balakrishna** won the **Mr Asia 2016** and "**Arnold Schwarzenegger of Whitefield**" titles in the Philippines.
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- ✚ **Vikram Chandra** stepped down as the group CEO and executive director of news broadcaster **NDTV**.
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- ✚ The week in which **31st October, the birthday of late Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** falls is observed as **Vigilance Awareness Week**.

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- ✚ 2016 Theme of Vigilance Awareness Week: “Public participation in promoting integrity and eradicating Corruption”.
- 
- ✚ Maharashtra topped NITI Aayog’s ‘Agricultural Marketing and Farm Friendly Reforms Index’.
- 
- ✚ Punjab government to observe **November 1** as ‘No Tobacco Day’.
- 
- ✚ **Jhulan Goswami** again became **world number 1 bowler** after seven years.
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- ✚ The **Delhi** government has announced a **three-tier air treatment system** to deal with rising air pollution in city.
- 
- ✚ The **Central Vigilance Commission (CVC)** has now made it mandatory for public sector banks to report to it all such matters involving funds over **Rs. 1 cr.**
- 
- ✚ **China’s J-20** stealth fighter is all set to make its first public flight soon.
- 
- ✚ **Uttar Pradesh** Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav inaugurated the **dedicated power supply minimum 18 hours** to every nook and corner of the state.
- 
- ✚ **UN General Assembly** committee voted to launch negotiations on a **new treaty banning nuclear weapons** despite strong opposition from the world’s nuclear powers.
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- ✚ India’s bio-pharma major **Biocon Ltd** has been ranked **among the world’s top 10 employers** in the biotechnology industry by an international science magazine.
- 
- ✚ **India and Russia** have given nod for the proposal to double the range of the **BrahMos**, world’s first supersonic cruise missile at the 16th Russia-India intergovernmental commission on military cooperation meeting.
- 
- ✚ The **World Bank** has appointed its first **adviser** undertook with promoting the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (**LGBTI**) issues in its development work.
- 
- ✚ Chief Minister of **Kerala** Pinarayi Vijayan has launched **paddy cultivation** in Aranmula Pancha near Cochin.
- 
- ✚ **Sania Mirza** retained **World Number One ranking in Women's Doubles** for 2nd consecutive year.
- 
- ✚ **Mariano Rajoy** re-elected as prime minister of **Spain**.
- 
- ✚ **The European Union (EU) and Canada** signed Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (**CETA**).
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- ✚ **Sharad Kumar** was given a second extension of one year by re-employing him as Director General of **NIA (National Investigating Agency)**.
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- ✚ **Lewis Hamilton** won the 2016 **Mexican Grand Prix** F1 championship.

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- ✚ **Turkey Police** detained the editor and several writers of opposition **newspaper Cumhuriyet** amid a crackdown on media.

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- ✚ India's **core sector output rose 5 per cent** in Sep 2016.

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- ✚ **Rishi Jaitly**, **Twitter's India head**, has quit the company.

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- ✚ India has signed an MoU with Palestine for setting up of **Palestine-India Techo-Park** at Ramallah in Palestine.

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- ✚ The **Indo-Nepal** Joint Military Exercise "**Surya Kiran-X**" has started at Army Battle School, **Saljhandi**, Nepal.

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- ✚ **Kylie Verzosa** from Philippines has been crowned **Miss International 2016** at the Tokyo Dome City Hall in Tokyo, Japan.

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- ✚ In the latest Forbes Fab 40 2016 list of the biggest sports brands in the world, **MS Dhoni** is slated at **No 10th spot in the top 10 athletes** and he remains the most valued Indian athlete in 2016.

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- ✚ **Russian spaceship Soyuz MS-01** successfully placed in the steppes of **Kazakhstan**.

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- ✚ **Ashok Chawla** has been appointed as an Additional Director (Non-Executive) of **Yes Bank**.

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- ✚ Indian National Award winning documentary "**Daughters of Mother India**" won the first prize in the Documentary Film category at the sixth **CAM International Film Festival in Cairo**.

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- ✚ **Diwali festival** was respected for the first time **at the United Nations**, with the world body's imposing headquarters in New York.

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- ✚ According to United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), **2016 has been the deadliest year for migrants** with a total of 3,740 people have died since January in the Mediterranean sea in the boat journey to Europe.

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- ✚ Cabinet approved **New Productivity Linked Reward (PLR) Scheme** for all Major Port Trusts and Dock Labour Board employees/workers for the years 2015-16 to 2017-18.

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- ✚ PM Narendra Modi inaugurated **Digital Exhibition - "Uniting India : Sardar Patel"** organized by the Ministry of Culture on the occasion of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in **New Delhi**.

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- ✚ Scientists at the **Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)** have developed a **new arhar (pigeon-pea) variety**.

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- ✚ Former general **Michel Aoun** elected as **Lebanon's president**.

- ✚ Finance minister Arun Jaitley released first instalment of special assistance of **Rs. 1,093.34 crore** out of Rs. 2000 crore to **Jammu & Kashmir** for repair and permanent restoration of damaged public buildings.

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- ✚ **India** elected as **chairman** of the **Association of Natural Rubber Producing Countries (ANRPC)** in the 39th Assembly Session held at Guwahati.

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- ✚ **Goa** will host the **47th International Film Festival** of India.

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- ✚ **Katherine Elizabeth Espín of Ecuador** has won the crown of 2016 **Miss Earth** at the Mall of Asia Arena, Philippines.

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- ✚ **Roger Federer topped the most valued athlete** globally in 2016 as per the Forbes Fab 40 list.

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**All the very best for exams!**

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