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# GK DIGEST : 21 TO 29 JAN 2016

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## Weekly GK Digest : 21 to 29 Jan 2016

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## **National Events**

### **1. JP Alex takes over as Airport Authority of India executive director**

- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) today said J P Alex has taken over as executive director of operations.

### **2. Book named 'Turbulent years' released**

- The second part of President Pranab Mukherjee's biography 'Turbulent years' was released yesterday. He has shared his political experiences in this book.

### **3. Rajasthan Government inks MoU to join UDAY Scheme**

- Rajasthan Government along with its power distribution companies (DISCOMS) has signed a MoU to join UDAY (Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana) Scheme.

### **4. Union Government launched National Job Portal for Persons with Disabilities**

- The Union Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaaarchand Gehlot on 27 January 2016 launched the National level Job portal for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs).

### **5. Sikkim becomes India's first fully organic state**

- Sikkim has formally become India's first fully organic state after it successfully implemented organic farming practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land.

### **6. SBI offers loans for women entrepreneurs under MUDRA scheme**

- The 'MUDRA' loan for women entrepreneurs or Boutique Finance for Women Entrepreneurs – a special loan scheme under Prime Minister MUDRA Yojana – has been launched for catering to the financial needs of women entrepreneurs.

### **7. Mamta Binani elected President of ICSI**

- Mamta Binani has been elected President of the Institute of Company Secretaries of India (ICSI) for 2016. She took charge on January 19.
- Binani was also the first CS to be conferred the 'Bharat Nirman Awards' in 2010.

### **8. Ravi Chellam took charge as Executive Director of Greenpeace India**

- Noted environmentalist Ravi Chellam on 20 January 2016 took charge as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India, a Non-Government Organisation (NGO). Chellam succeeds former Executive Director Samit Aich.

### **9. IRS Officer Atulesh Jindal appointed as Chairman of CBDT**

- Senior revenue service officer Atulesh Jindal on 21 January 2016 was appointed chairman of Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

### **10. Eminent Dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai passes away**

- Eminent dancer Mrinalini Sarabhai, wife of the late Dr Vikram Sarabhai, father of India's space programme, passed away here on Thursday following age-related health complications. She was 97.
- Ms Sarabhai, a Padma Bhushan awardee for her contributions to Bharatanatyam and other classical dance forms, was

hospitalised here on Wednesday, Kartikeya, said.

**11. Jayalalitha launches Amma Call Centre**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa today launched a round-the-clock call centre for ensuring fast response to grievances. The 'Amma Call Centre', which will work all through the year, was launched by the Chief Minister here through video-conferencing.

**12. Filmmaker Anil Ganguly Passed Away**

- Filmmaker Anil Ganguly passed away today at his residence here after a brief illness. Ganguly is a noted director and screenwriter, who worked in Hindi cinema from 1970s to the 90s.

**13. Najeeb Jung congratulates Delhi for winning best State Award**

- Lt Governor Najeeb Jung on Monday congratulated Delhi for winning the best State Award under the category of initiatives for Persons with Disabilities (PWD) and Electoral Roll Management on the National Voter's Day 2016.

**14. 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai**

- 150th birth anniversary of great freedom fighter LalaLajpatRai, also known as Punjab Kesri is being celebrated 28th January 2016.

**15. Malayalam actor Kalpana passed away**

- Famous Malayalam film actress KalpanaRanjani passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana due to a heart attack.

**16. EC celebrates 6<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day across India**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has celebrated the 6th National Voters' Day across the country. President also gave away Awards for Best Electoral Practices to Chief Electoral Officers, District Electoral Officers and other Officers involved in election management.

**17. Ministry of Shipping initiates Project Green Port**

- Weighing in the environmental perspective for sustained growth, the Ministry of Shipping has started 'Project Green Ports'.
- 'Project Green Ports' will have two verticals - one is 'Green Ports Initiatives' related to environmental issues and second is 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan'.

**18. Government Announces National Award for The Most 'Film – Friendly' State In India**

- Sunil Arora, secretary of information and broadcasting said that the award will be conferred for the first time at the 63rd National Film Awards to be in Delhi on 3 May 2016. The statement was issued by the Press Information Bureau on their official website.
- Film Facilitation Office was to be set up at the National Film Development Corporation of India (NFDC) under the supervision of the Ministry of I&B.

**19. Union Government launches Sahaj Scheme for online booking of LPG cylinders**

- Union Government has launched Sahaj Scheme for online booking of LPG cylinders. It was launched by Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas (Independent Charge) DharmendraPradhan

as part of Government's 2016-Year of the Consumers initiative.

**20. Government inks MoU to implement Action Plan for skill development in Telecom**

- Recently, The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has signed MoU with Department of Telecommunication (DoT) for Skill Development in Telecom Sector.
- Such MoU has signed to implement National Action Plan for Skill Development in Telecom Sector.

**21. 19<sup>th</sup> National Conference on e – Governance begins in Nagpur**

- 19th National Conference on e-Governance begins in Nagpur. The nineteenth edition of National Conference on e-Governance has begun on 21 January 2016 in Nagpur, Maharashtra.

**22. Veteran Journalist Aroon Tikekar passed away**

- Senior journalist and scholar Aroon Tikekar passed away on 19 January 2016 in Mumbai. He was 72. Tikekar, who has written over 20 books, passed away due to breathing-related complications.

**23. Union Government sanctioned 33000 crore rupees for infrastructure projects in Tamilnadu**

Union Government on 19 January 2016 sanctioned 33000 crore rupees for the development of infrastructure projects in Tamilnadu.

- Union Road Transport, Highways and Shipping Minister Nitin Gadkari announced the sanctioned amount and at his discretion, he announced additional 17000

crore rupees. With this, the total amount sanctioned was raised to 50000 crore rupees.

**24. Cabinet approves new power tariff policy**

- The Union Cabinet today approved a new power tariff policy which will promote clean energy, support the Swachh Bharat programme, better regulation for discoms, and encourage faster roll-out of investments in the sector.
- Under the policy, the power plants will have to use processed municipal waste water available in their vicinity (in 100 km radius). The proposed policy will bring in several unique aspects which have not been touched in the past. It will allow distribution companies to buy any amount of power produced from the waste.

**25. Bihar, Jharkhand to have six – lane highway: Cabinet**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on Wednesday approved six-laning of portions of the National Highway-2 (NH-2) in Bihar and Jharkhand, estimated to cost Rs.4,918.48 crore.
- The total length of the road will be approximately 222 km," the release said.
- The cost is estimated to be Rs.4,918.48 crore, including cost of land acquisition, resettlement and rehabilitation and other pre-construction activities.

**26. Army dogs march after 26 years in Republican day**

- After a gap of 26 years, 36 Indian canine soldiers, consisting of 24 Labradors and 12 German Shepherds, Tuesday marched down the majestic Rajpath during the 67th Republic Day parade.

**27. India Celebrates 67<sup>th</sup> Republic Day**

- India today celebrates its 67th Republic Day with President Francois Hollande as the chief guest. It was the fifth time a French president has been chief guest, the biggest honour India can bestow on a foreign leader.

**28. India's first blind friendly train flagged off**

- India's first blind friendly train, from Mysuru to Varanasi, made its maiden journey on Tuesday morning.

**29. Amitabh Bachchan, Priyanka Chopra replace Aamir Khan as 'Incredible India' brand ambassadors**

- The selection of the two actors follows the Centre's decision to discontinue the contract of actor Aamir Khan, who had angered the BJP-led government with his remarks on perceived intolerance in the country.
- Khan had promoted Indian tourism for a decade as the brand ambassador.

**30. PM Narendra Modi released book titled The Z Factor written by Subhash Chandra**

- The Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 20 January 2016 released a book titled The Z Factor: My Journey as the Wrong Man at the Right Time in New Delhi.
- The book is the autobiography of the promoter of Essel/ Zee Group Subhash Chandra. It is a candid memoir of a 'truly desi' self-made businessman who came to Delhi at age twenty with seventeen rupees in his pocket.
- Now, Subhash Chandra has a net worth of 6.3 billion US dollars and annual group revenues of about 3 billion US dollars.

**31. RBI seeks additional Rs. 26000cr for PSU Banks**

- The RBI has sought an additional Rs.26,000crore from the government by 2018 for capital infusion into Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) banks for implementing Basel-III norms in the banks.

**32. Ravindra Reddy, founder Chairman of MTAR, passed away**

- Ravindra Reddy, founder Chairman of MTAR, which supplies critical indigenously developed systems for India's space and nuclear programmes, passed away at the age of 77.

**33. Union Cabinet Clears President's rule in Arunachal Pradesh**

- Proposal in this regard has been forwarded to President Pranab Mukherjee after Union Government felt that Congress ruled state is heading for a constitutional breakdown.

**34. Tabla Maestro Pandit Shankar Ghosh passes away**

- Eminent tabla player Pandit Shankar Ghosh passed away in Kolkata, West Bengal following a prolonged illness. He was 80.

**35. 'Nai Manzil' scheme launched in Jammu & Kashmir**

- The 'NaiManzil' scheme has been launched, for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Dr. NajmaHeptulla, the Minister of Minority Affairs informed this while briefing the media on the new initiatives of the Ministry for the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

**36. Jan Dhan accounts deposits cross Rs. 30,000 cr.**

- Deposits in accounts opened under the government's flagship financial inclusion programme PradhanMantri Jan DhanYojana (PMJDY) have crossed the Rs. 30,000 crore mark.

**37. ONGC gets environmental clearance for project in Krishna – Godavari basin**

- State owned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) has received environmental clearance for a project in the Krishna-Godavari (KG) basin in Andhra Pradesh.

**38. PM declassifies 100 files relating to Netaji**

- Prime Minister NarendraModi today made public digital copies of 100 secret files relating to Subhas Chandra Bose on his 119th birth anniversary, which could throw some light on the controversy over his death.

**39. Former Deputy Speaker of Gujarat Assembly Nirmala Gajwani died**

- Former Deputy Speaker of Gujarat Assembly and Social Activist NirmalaGajwani passed away on 21 January 2016 in Rajkot, Gujarat. She was 87.
- Gajwani was the first lady Deputy Speaker of Gujarat legislative Assembly.

**40. BEPS guidelines of OECD to be implemented in India from 1 April 2016**

- The term BEPS is an acronym of Base Erosion and Profit Shifting and it was in news in the third week of January 2016 as India decided to implement these guidelines.

**41. Government mobilizes 900 kg of gold under monetization scheme**

- The government on Saturday said it had netted a hefty 900 kg of idle household and temple gold under the monetisation scheme and is hopeful that the number would rise further in future.

**42. Paranjay Thakurta appointed EPW Editor**

- The Sameeksha Trust, which runs the Economic and Political Weekly has appointed senior journalist ParanjayGuhaThakurta editor of the journal from April 1. This follows the resignation of Rammanohar Reddy from the post early this month.

**43. Rekha conferred with Yash Chopra Memorial Award**

- Veteran Bollywood actress Rekha was honoured with the third Yash Chopra Memorial Award in Mumbai on January 25, 2016.

**44. Martyred soldier who killed 10 guerrillas in J-K awarded Ashok Chakra**

- Lance Naik Mohan NathGoswami, who killed 10 guerrillas in 11 days before attaining martyrdom, was posthumously awarded Ashok Chakra -- the country's highest peacetime gallantry award -- by President PranabMukhejree on Tuesday.

**45. HCL Tech acquires P2P, HCL TSS for Rs. 1.01 billion**

- HCL Technologies, one of the leading software exporters, announced has acquired 100% stake in Point to Point and Point to Point Products (jointly referred to as P2P) and HCL Training and Staffing

Services (HCLTSS) for a consideration of approx Rs 1.01 billion.

**46. Cabinet approves raising of 17 Indian Reserve Battalions by J & K and LWE States**

- The Union Cabinet under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the raising of 17 India Reserve Battalions (IR Bns) by Jammu & Kashmir and Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected States.

**International Events**

**47. India has 2.36 lakh millionaires: Report**

- India is home to the fourth largest population of millionaires in the Asia-Pacific region, with 2.36 lakh such high net worth individuals, while Japan topped the list with 12.60 lakh people, a report says.

**48. Indian activist Henri Tiphagne selected for Amnesty International Human Right Award 2016**

- Indian lawyer and human rights defender Henri Tiphagne on 26 January 2016 was selected for the 8th Human Rights Award by Amnesty International Germany.

**49. India slips to 89<sup>th</sup> rank in Global Talent Competitiveness**

- India has slipped 11 places to rank 89th on a global index of talent competitiveness, a list which has been topped by Switzerland.

**50. UNWTO released World Tourism Barometer**

- The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) on 18 January 2016 released the World Tourism Barometer, which

reviewed trends in tourism at the regional and global level for 2015 and enumerated prospects for 2016.

**51. World Bank to for reconstructing Indira Gandhi Zoological Park**

- In a global first, the World Bank in third week of January 2016 decided to extend an assistance of 20 million US dollar to help reconstruct the Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP).

**52. PM Modi Second most popular world leader on FB**

- According to a study by PR firm Burson-Marsteller, PM Narendra Modi has over 31 million fans on his personal Narendra Modi page.

**53. The Eagles' guitarist Glenn Frey passed away**

- Glenn Frey, a founding member and guitarist of the Eagles, one of the most popular and commercially successful artists of the 1970s, passed away on 18 January 2016 in New York, the USA.

**54. World's oldest man dies at the age of 112 in Japan**

- The world's oldest man, Yasutaro Koide, died today at the age of 112 in central Japan, a local official said. Koide, born just months before the Wright brothers made their first successful flight, died in hospital in the central Japanese city of Nagoya.

**55. Halo Source appoints Tamal Chaudhuri as India Head**

- HaloSource Inc., a clean water technology solutions company trading on London's Alternative Investment Market, has appointed Tamal Chaudhuri as General



Manager, heading up the company's India operations.

**56. MoU between India & UK on Cooperation in Governance Reforms approved by Union Cabinet**

- The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Kingdom on cooperation in governance reforms is approved by the Union Cabinet on 20 January 2016. The MoU was signed in November 2015.

**57. Light combat aircraft, Tejas to fly at Bahrain Air Show**

Country's own fighter aircraft light combat aircraft (LCA), Tejas, will take part in the three-day Bahrain International Airshow starting from Thursday (January 21 to 23).

- "Two limited series production (LSP) aircraft will take part in the Bahrain International Air Show to enthral the visitors from various countries during the flying display through a series of aerobatic manoeuvres such as 8-g pull, vertical loop, slow fly past, barrel roll", said T SuvarnaRaju, CMD, HAL.
- Tejas is a single engine, light weight, highly agile, multi-role supersonic fighter. The Tejas light combat aircraft is a 4.5 generation aircraft with supersonic capability at all altitudes. It has the fly by wire, state of the art open architecture computer for avionics and better weapon and combat capability. With the advanced avionics, the pilot load is also reduced.

**58. Housing.com appoints co – founder Snehil Buxy as its chief product officer**

- Housing.com, an online real estate platform has appointed co-founder SnehilBuxy as its new chief product officer.

- Since the company's inception, he has played key roles, including leading the front-end team and spearheading product development, while also overseeing and driving different aspects of the business.

**59. ICICI Bank opens its first branch in South Africa**

ICICI Bank inaugurated its first full service branch at Sandton in Johannesburg becoming the first Indian private sector bank to open a branch in the African continent.

- The branch was inaugurated by President of ICICI Bank, Vijay Chandok.
- ICICI Bank's Johannesburg branch is an authorised financial services provider in South Africa licensed by the South African Reserve Bank, the bank said in a statement.

**60. India among top 5 most promising markets globally**

- According to the annual Global CEO survey of consultancy giant PwC, India has emerged as one of the five most promising markets for businesses globally as it offers one of the best opportunities for both domestic as well as global companies.
- The top five markets considered as most important for overall growth prospects by the respondents are USA, China, Germany, the UK and India.

**61. World Bank to provide \$250 – mn loan for Kosi Basin project**

- India signed a \$250 million loan agreement with the World Bank for Bihar Kosi Basin Development project, aimed at enhancing resilience to floods and increase agriculture productivity.
- The primary beneficiaries will be rural producers and households in the Kosi

- River Basin who are regularly exposed to floods, it added.
- It is a loan for an implementation period of 5 years and the Bihar government is the implementing agency.
- 62. Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur is the world's best hotel**
- According to travel website TripAdvisor, Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur is the world's best hotel of 2016.
  - Built over 15 years between 1928 and 1943 after its namesake, the Maharaja Umaid Singh, the palatial hotel is literally fit for an Indian king, as the sprawling property is the principal residence of the Jodhpur royal family.
  - The palace features 347 rooms.
- 63. Oscar for Indian – origin actor, producer Rahul Thakkar in technical category**
- Rahul Thakkar will be presented with the Technical Achievement Award for his contribution to cinema through "groundbreaking design", as announced on the official Oscar Awards website.
- 64. INDIA to be fastest growing economy in 2016: UN Report**
- India will be the fastest growing big economy in the world in 2016, as per recently released United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects 2016 report.
  - The report has projected India's growth rate by 7.3% in the year 2016 and 7.5% in 2017 slightly up from an earlier estimated 7.2% rate in 2015.
- 65. Moldovan Parliament appointed Pavel Filip as Prime Minister**
- Moldovan parliament on 20 January 2016 appointed Pavel Filip as the Prime Minister. He would be the third prime minister of Moldova in less than a year.
- 66. Mauritius offers bio farming technology to India**
- Eyeing greater economic cooperation with India, Mauritius offered transfer of bio-farming technology to the country along with enhanced cooperation in the healthcare sector.
- 67. 2015 declared the hottest year on record**
- It's official: 2015 was the hottest year on record. Global data show that a powerful system, marked by warmed waters in the tropical Pacific Ocean, helped to drive atmospheric temperatures well past 2014's record highs.
- 68. Google launches first public WiFi service in India**
- Google, in partnership with Indian Railways, launched its first free high-speed public WiFi service in the country at the Mumbai Central Railway Station today.
- 69. Denmark named world's best country for women**
- Denmark is the best country in the world for women to live in, according to a survey conducted by American media company US News and World Report.
- 70. Saudi King Abdullah Died at the age of 90**
- Saudi king Abdullah died at the age of 90. His brother Salman is the successor.
- 71. Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra banned from politics for five year**

- Thailand's Prime Ministers Yingluck Shinawatra banned from politics for five years after proceedings of criminal charges against her.
- 72. First Ministerial Meeting of Arab – India Cooperation Forum held at Manama**
- The first Ministerial Meeting of Arab-India Cooperation Forum was held Manama, capital city of Bahrain.
  - The meeting was inaugurated by Bahrain's Foreign Minister Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifa and was attended by representatives of 22 Arab League nations.
- 73. Tunisia imposes curfew as unrest grows over lack of jobs**
- Tunisia has imposed a nationwide overnight curfew after protests and violence against rising unemployment spread across the country.
- 74. India, France ink 14 pacts for cooperation various fields**
- India and France have signed 14 pacts for enhancing the bilateral cooperation various fields including defence, space, railways, education etc.
- 75. Coca Cola to launch dairy drinks in India**
- Coca-Cola beverage giant announced that it will launch milk - based beverages under the brand name "Vio".
- 76. International Customs Day observed on 26 January**
- The International Customs Day 2016 was observed across the world on 26 January 2016.
- 77. Marvin Minsky, Pioneer in Artificial Intelligence, passed away**
- Marvin Minsky, he combined a scientist's thirst for knowledge with a philosopher's quest for truth as a pioneering explorer of artificial intelligence, work that helped inspire the creation of the personal computer and the Internet, died on Sunday night in Boston.
- 78. French army first foreign contingent participate at Republican day**
- French Army soldiers today created history by marching down the Rajpath during the Republic Day parade, becoming the first foreign military contingent to take part in the celebrations.
- 79. American actor Abe Vigoda passes away**
- American actor Abe Vigoda best known for roles in The Godfather and Barney Miller, a sitcom of 1970s passed away in New Jersey, US.
- 80. India overtakes Thailand as World's largest Rice exporter**
- India has overtaken Thailand as the world's largest rice exporter in the year 2015 by shipping (exporting) 10.23 million tonnes of rice.
- 81. CERT – In inks cyber security agreements with 3 nations**
- Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has signed cyber security agreement with its counterparts in Malaysia, Singapore and Japan.
- 82. India and Armenia sign Protocol amending the India – Armenia Double Taxation Avoidance Convention**

- A Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention was signed by the Government of India and the Government of Armenia here today.

**83. India ranks 76 in Corruption Perception Index**

- The Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI) has put India at rank 76 out of 168 countries in its latest Corruption Perception Index.

**84. EF creates task force with Mark Carney & Raghuram Rajan**

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) has created a new task force with Bank of England Governor Mark Carney and his counterpart at the Reserve Bank of India, Raghuram Rajan.

**85. Apollo Munich ties up with Axis Bank for Policy distribution**

- Apollo Munich today announced its partnership with Axis Bank for offering bank customers customized insurance policies.

**Sports**

**86. ICC launches Cricket for Good & Team Swachh Campaign in partnership with UNICEF and BCCI**

- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has reaffirmed its commitment to the Spirit of Cricket and bringing about positive social change through the sport, by launching Cricket for Good, its CSR Programmer, in association with UNICEF.

**87. Australia clinched bilateral ODI cricket series against India**

- Australia has thrashed India by 4-1 in 5 match one day international series played in Australia.
- Indian batsman Rohit Sharma was declared man of the series for scoring 441 runs including two centuries.  
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**88. MRF becomes global partner for ICC**

- MRF Ltd has become a global partner for International Cricket Council (ICC) by signing a four- deal with the council that includes this year's ICC World Twenty 20 in India, next year's ICC Champions Trophy and ICC Cricket World Cup in 2019.
- As a global partner, MRF will have multiple branding opportunities at all match venues during the ICC World Twenty 20 and future ICC events.
- Other global partners for ICC include Emirates, Oppo and Nissan, he told newsmen on the announcement of the partnership.

**89. Nathan Hauritz announces retirement**

- Australia off-spinner Nathan Hauritz announced his retirement from competitive cricket on Tuesday, bringing the curtain down on a 15-year career during which he represented the national side in all three formats.
- The 34-year-old failed to take a wicket in that clash, against Perth Scorchers, and conceded 29 runs in his two overs.

**90. Uttar Pradesh won 2014 – 2015 Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy**

- Uttar Pradesh on 20 January 2016 won its maiden Mushtaq Ali T20 Trophy with a 38-run win over two- time champions

Baroda in the final played at the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai.

- It was Uttar Pradesh's ninth straight win in the tournament, including five in the preliminary league phase and three more in the super league stage.

**91. Lleyton Hewitt retired from International Tennis**

- An emotional Lleyton Hewitt brought the curtain down on his 18-year singles career as he lost to David Ferrer in the second round of the Australian Open.

**92. Chanderpaul retired from International Cricket**

- Shivnarine Chanderpaul has called time on his international career after making his debut nearly twenty two years ago. Chanderpaul notified West Indies Cricket Board (WICB) about his decision through an email.

**93. Purnima Venkata Sindhu won the 2016 Malaysia Masters Grand Prix Gold Badminton Title**

- In the final match played at Penang she defeated Scotland's Kirsty Gilmour (World No.20) by 21-15, 21-9 score.
- This was Sindhu's second title in Malaysia Masters Grand Prix which and earlier she had won in 2013.
- It was overall fifth career Grand prix gold title and first title of the season 2016.

**94. Indian Olympic Association signs IOS Sports & Entertainment as its marketing partner**

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) on Thursday announced that sports management firm IOS Sports & Entertainment will be its exclusive

commercial and marketing rights partner for the next two years.

**95. Sania Mirza, Martina Hingis storm into Australian Open semifinals**

- Indian tennis ace Sania Mirza and her Swiss partner Martina Hingis continued their winning streak as they defeated the German-American pair of Anna-Lena Groenefeld and Coco Vandeweghe to storm into the semifinals of the Australian Open women's double event on Tuesday.

**96. Australian batsman David Warner won Allan Border Medal 2016**

- Australian batsman David Warner on 27 January 2016 defeated captain Steve Smith for the prestigious Allan Border Medal for 2016.

**Science & Technology**

**97. CCEA approved setting up of over 5000MW of Grid – connected Solar PV Power Projects**

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) on 20 January 2016 gave its approval for setting up over 5000 MW of Grid-Connected Solar PV Power Projects on build, own and operate basis.
- The work will be implemented by Solar Power Developers (SPDs) with Viability Gap Funding (VGF) under Batch-IV of Phase-II of the Jawaharlal Nehru National Solar Mission (JNNSM).
- The total investments expected under the scheme is about 30000 crore rupees.

**98. TranServ launches India's first social mobile wallet Udio**

- India's digital payment startup company TranServ has launched country's first Social Mobile Wallet named Udio.

**99. ISRO, Kuwait Institute signed MoU on cooperation in space exploration**

- The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) and Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research (KISR) on 20 January 2016 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the exploration and use of outer space for peaceful purposes.
- It will allow use of data from Indian Remote Sensing (IRS) satellites by KISR for initiating a few research and application projects.

**100. PSLV – C31 successfully launched IRNSS – 1E satellite**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on 20 January 2016 successfully launched the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) 1-E satellite.

- The satellite will provide navigation, tracking and mapping services to the

Indian sub continent. The satellite is the fifth of the IRNSS constellation.

- It was launched from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR), Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh on-board the PSLV-C31.
- The Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C31 was the 32nd consecutively successful mission of the PSLV. The 'XL' configuration of PSLV was used for this mission.

**101. Scientist discover largest known solar system**

- Astronomers have discovered the largest known solar system in the form of gas giant located one trillion kilometers away.

**102. Cognizant acquires KBACE Technologies**

- United States (US) based software services exporter Cognizant Technology Solutions (CTS) has acquired cloud-based computing firm KBACE Technologies. KBACE Technologies' 400 consultants and implementation experts will become part of Cognizant.