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## History of January 16

- ◆ **1769** : For the first time, organized horse racing was organized in Calcutta.
- ◆ **1761** : The British removed French control over Pondicherry.
- ◆ **1992** : An extradition treaty was signed between Britain and India.
- ◆ **1989** : The Soviet Union announces its plans for a two-year manned mission to Mars.
- ◆ **2003** : Indian-origin Kalpana Chawla went on her second space journey.

## Current Affairs Related to 16 January

- ◆ **NewSpace India Limited** is planning to launch GSAT-20 satellite. The satellite will be launched on SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket in the second quarter of 2024. It will be wholly owned, operated and financed by NSIL.
- ◆ **Indian Railways, a major player in the transportation sector, has reaffirmed its commitment towards environmental sustainability** by renewing its MoU with the Confederation of Indian Industry. The collaboration aims to reduce energy and water consumption, ultimately reducing greenhouse gas emissions. This is the third consecutive term of partnership between Indian Railways and CII. The railway network has set an ambitious pace to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030 while strengthening its dedication to sustainable practices.
- ◆ **REC Limited, a unit of the Power Ministry, has signed an MoU with Rail Vikas Nigam Limited** to provide financial assistance of Rs 35,000 crore for various infrastructure projects over the next 5 years. The MoU was formalized through signatures of key personalities, with REC Director Shri Ajoy Chaudhary and RVNL Director Shri Rajesh Prasad playing key roles in signing the agreement.
- ◆ **Researchers from the prestigious Indian Institute of Technology Madras and Mandi** have made a significant achievement in the field of biotechnology. They have successfully metabolically engineered plant cells to boost the production of the anti-cancer drug camptothecin.
- ◆ **The Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, Government of India** has launched Prema: An Experiential Learning Programme. This program is the cornerstone of the National Education Policy 2020. The goal is to provide a meaningful, unique and inspiring experience to all participants. Prema is a week long residential program for selected students of classes IX to XII.
- ◆ **India has appointed seven skilled civil servants to important posts abroad, showcasing the country's global involvement.** Notably, Shri Vikas Sheel, a seasoned bureaucrat, now Executive Director of the Asian Development Bank in Manila, emphasizes India's commitment to international development. Vikas Sheel, a 1994 batch Indian Administrative Service officer, is now the Executive Director at ADB. He brings valuable experience from his current role as Additional Secretary and Mission Director of Jal Jeevan Mission and contributes to India's representation in this prestigious institution.
- ◆ **The Union Cabinet has recently approved declaring Ayodhya Airport as an international airport,** an important development for the city. The airport will be named Maharishi Valmiki International Airport, Ayodhyadham, reflecting the historical and cultural importance of the region.
- ◆ **The Indian Space Research Organization achieved a significant milestone by successfully testing a 100W series Polymer Electrolyte Membrane Fuel Cell based power system in its orbital platform, POEM3.** This remarkable achievement occurred on the PSLV-C58 mission, which is an important step in the evaluation of fuel cell technology for future space missions. The primary objective of the experiment was to evaluate the operation of polymer electrolyte membrane fuel cells in the challenging environment of space.
- ◆ **Similipal Kai Chutney from Mayurbhanj district of Odisha received the Geographical Indication tag.** This chutney is made from red weaver ants. This chutney is popular in the region due to its healing properties. This chutney is considered important for the nutritional security of the tribal people.
- ◆ **Randhir Jaiswal took charge as the official spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs.** Shri Jaiswal has served in the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations in Portugal, Cuba, South Africa and New York.



## National & International Current Affairs

### 1. When is National Startup Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 15th January (B) 16th January  
(C) 17th January (D) 18th January

**(B)** Prime Minister Narendra Modi declared 16 January as National Startup Day in the year 2021. Since then various events and programs are organized by government and NGOs to appreciate and promote the Indian startup ecosystem.



### 2. When is Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrated every year?

- (A) 16th January (B) 17th January  
(C) 18th January (D) 19th January

**(A)** Martin Luther King Jr. Day is celebrated every year on 16 January. This day commemorates his life and work, which he dedicated to the service of others, not only as a Padi but also as a civil rights activist. He naturally managed the spiritual life of the people, but he also gave practical help to the people in times of need and distress.



### 3. Recently, which country will export 10000 MW electricity to India in the next 10 years?

- (A) Sri Lanka (B) Bangladesh  
(C) Nepal (D) India

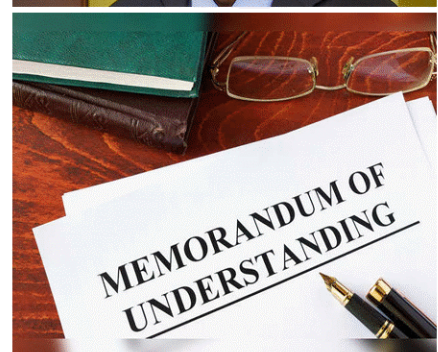
**(C)** Nepal will export 10,000 MW electricity to India in the next 10 years. According to Sandeep Kumar, Joint Secretary of the Nepali Energy Ministry, this is a 25-year deal, under which 10,000 MW of hydro power will be exported to India in the first 10 years, after which this agreement will be automatically renewed every 10 years.



### 4. Recently, in which state NHPC will construct Kappa Hydro Storage Project?

- (A) Rajasthan (B) Gujarat  
(C) Kerala (D) Telangana

**(B)** Recently, NHPC has signed a preliminary agreement to invest Rs 4000 crore in the 750 MW Kappa Pumped Hydro Storage Project at Chhota Udaipur, Gujarat. Taking a step towards clean and green energy, NHPC signed an MoU with Gujarat Power Corporation for investment in Kappa Pumped Hydro Storage Project, a company statement said.



### 5. Who has recently been selected as Puberty Athlete of the Year 2023?

- (A) Virat Kohli (B) Rohit Sharma  
(C) Pat Cummins (D) Novak Djokovic

**(A)** Recently, veteran Indian cricketer Virat Kohli has been awarded the prestigious title of Pubity Athlete of the Year for 2023 with a remarkable victory over Argentina's World Cup-winning captain Lionel Messi by a margin of 78.22 in the final votes.





**6. Who has recently been included in the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank?**

- (A) Dr. Rajeev Shah (B) Paul Lynch  
(C) Adrian Cruz (D) None of these

**(A)** Recently, Indian-American Chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation, Dr. Rajeev Shah, has been nominated to the Board of Directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System appointed Shah as a Class C director for a three-year term ending December 31, 2026.



**7. In which state have more than 50% complaints of crime against women been registered recently?**

- (A) Madhya Pradesh (B) Chhattisgarh  
(C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Rajasthan

**(C)** Recently, more than 50% complaints of crimes against women were registered in the state of Uttar Pradesh. More than 16 thousand cases of crimes against women were registered in this state. According to the data released by the National Commission for Women, 28,811 complaints of crimes against women were received from across the country in the entire year.



**8. Who has recently been appointed CEO of the Indian Olympic Association?**

- (A) Sanjay Singh (B) Raghuram Iyer  
(C) Sanjeev Khanna (D) None of these

**(B)** Recently the Indian Olympic Association has appointed Raghuram Iyer as CEO. Raghuram Iyer has a lot of experience in the sports management field. He has served as the CEO of Indian Premier League teams Rajasthan Royals, Lucknow Supergiants and Rising Pune Supergiants.



**9. Recently India and which country have signed an agreement to increase cooperation in the hydrocarbon sector?**

- (A) Guyana (B) Canada  
(C) Australia (D) China

**(A)** Recently, Cabinet gives green signal to India-Guyana MoU for cooperation in hydrocarbon sector Union Cabinet approved an MoU between Guyana Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and Natural Resources to promote cooperation in the value chain of hydrocarbon sector.



**10. Who has recently started the program from Panchayat to Parliament?**

- (A) Narendra Modi (B) Amit Shah  
(C) Om Birla (D) Rajnath Singh

**(C)** Recently, Parliament hosted an event titled Panchayat Se Sansad Tak for over 500 women representatives from diverse backgrounds of Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies. From Panchayat to Parliament aims to empower and support women grassroots leaders.

