

**Some Key Current Info-Bits at Random (February 16 – February 28)**

- **On February 16, India and Sri Lanka signs bilateral agreements**
  - The bilateral agreements were on *civil nuclear cooperation, cultural cooperation and cooperation in the field of Agriculture*. Besides, an agreement was also signed for Sri Lanka's participation in the Nalanda University Project.
  - India and Sri Lanka also agreed to expand defence and strategic cooperation, including a trilateral format with the Maldives.
- **Saurav Ganguly gets Honorary Life Membership of Marylebone Cricket Club**
- **Ancient Vishnu idol**, belonging to the era of King Harshvardhana (590-647AD), found in **Tran Taran, Punjab**
- **Dosmoche festival 2015** celebrated in **Ladakh**
- **Union Ministry of Finance imposes Anti-dumping duty on imports of graphite electrodes**
- **Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic** sworn in as **President of Croatia**
- **Rahul Kaiche** becomes the first cardiac surgeon in Maharashtra to use **titanium plates for coronary surgery**

- **India's first** air quality checking Mobile App **SAFAR-Air** launched
- Reserve Bank of India issues **Guidelines on Import of Gold** by Nominated Banks and Agencies
- **Snapdeal.com** acquires luxury fashion portal [www.exclusively.com](http://www.exclusively.com)
- Nuclear capable **Prithvi-II missile** test-fired from Chandipur in Odisha
- Union Government approves **Project-17A** worth 8 billion US dollar
- **Parliament of Thailand passed a law to ban commercial surrogacy for foreigners**
  - On February 19, Parliament of Thailand (National Legislative Assembly) passed a law banning commercial surrogacy, putting a halt on foreign couples seeking to have children through Thai surrogate mothers. The parliament voted 160 to 2 to pass the law.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched **Soil Health Card Scheme**
- Union Government launches **single window eBiz portal** to foster business environment
- India and the United States of America held **first ever bilateral dialogue on United Nations**

- **Union Government launches portal MADAD to redress consular grievances**
  - MADAD seeks to help Indian citizens living abroad to file consular grievances online on the services offered by the Indian Missions, Posts, Consulates and Embassy abroad.
  - The logo of MADAD depicts *two persons with a letter M in-between them and MADAD is written underneath.*
  - The tagline is *Because You Are Us*, means we are helping you because you are us.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi presents **Krishi Karman Awards 2013-14** to State Government functionaries
- **Tapan Misra** is new **Chief of ISRO's Space Application Centre** at Ahmedabad, Gujarat
- **International Mother Language Day observed on February 21**
- On February 22, **Anil Kumble** and **Betty Wilson** inducted into **ICC Cricket Hall of Fame**
  - Kumble and Wilson became the **77th** and **78th** inductees into the Hall of Fame.
- On February 22, **10th air show of Asia 'Aero India'** concludes at **Bengaluru**

- More than three lakh people paid a visit to the Air Force Station at Yelahanka, Bangalore to witness the *magnificent display of high end air crafts*.
- This was the **10th edition** of the mega event which is *held every two years*. It was inaugurated by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi on *February 18*.
- This event saw *more than three hundred foreign firms battling with each other* to orient themselves with the government's '**Make in India**' concept.
  
- **Anirban Lahiri wins Indian Open title of Golf**
  
- **Former President of Maldives arrested in Male under anti-terror law**
  - On February 22, former President of Maldives Mohamed Nasheed was arrested. *He was arrested under anti-terrorism laws after a court said that he might flee the country to avoid hearings on terrorism charges.*
  - He is facing criminal charges over his order to arrest a Criminal Court judge Abdulla Mohamed in January 2012.
  
- **Nitish Kumar takes oath as Chief Minister of Bihar**
  - He succeeded *Jitan Ram Manjhi* as the 34th, Chief Minister of Bihar.
  
- **Indian Army and State Bank of India inks MoU on Defence Salary Package**
  
- **Indo-Nepal joint military exercise Surya Kiran VIII starts in Nepal**

- **Union Ministry of Youth Affairs revises the National Sports Awards Schemes**
- **National Green Tribunal banned plying of Vintage cars on Delhi roads**
  - The National Green Tribunal was established on **October 18, 2010** under *the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010* for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection.
- **Chris Gayle of West Indies becomes the first cricketer to score Double Century in Cricket World Cup**
- **Rajendra K. Pachauri resigns as Chairperson of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change**
- **Rajya Sabha passes the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2014**
  - The bill seeks to modify the list of Scheduled Castes in *three states – Haryana, Karnataka, Odisha* and *one Union Territory – Dadra and Nagar Haveli*.
- **Delhi launches ‘mLiquorSaleCheck’ Mobile App to put cap on sale of illicit liquor**
  - The Delhi Government launched a mobile application ‘mLiquorSaleCheck’ for the benefit of the customers and to put a cap on sale of illicit liquor.
  - The App will provide detailed information about the liquor being sold in the city.

- **Google acquires Facebook mobile marketing startup Toro**
  - Toro Company is best known for its *Facebook ad campaigns*.
- **US announces to allow work permits to spouses of H-1B visa holders from May 2015**
- **Union Government accepts the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission** headed by former RBI Governor Dr. Y.V. Reddy
- **House of Lords passes a legislation allowing creation of babies using DNA of three people**
  - On February 24, House of Lords of the United Kingdom passed a legislation allowing creation of babies using DNA of three people, which is also called *mitochondria donation procedure*. The House of Lords voted in favour of the Bill that amends the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act (HFEA), 1990.
  - With this, **United Kingdom became the first country to legalise the creation of three-parent IVF designer babies** using Mitochondrial Donation Technique.
    - The first baby may be born as early as in 2016.
- **Russia and Cyprus signs an agreement to allow Russian navy ships to use Cypriot ports**
- **Union Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers declares 2015 as Year of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients**

- **Union Cabinet approves creation of two additional benches of the Authority for Advance Rulings**
  - Two additional benches of the AAR will be established in **New Delhi** and **Mumbai**.
  - *In order to provide the facility of ascertaining the Income-tax liability of a non-resident, a scheme of Advance Rulings was introduced in the Chapter XIX-B of the Income-Tax Act, 1961 and the Authority for Advance Rulings (AAR) was constituted in 1996.*
- **Clemson University honours Ratan Tata with Doctorate of Automotive Engineering**
- **US District Court orders Apple to pay 533 million US dollar to Smartflash in iTunes patent case**
- **FBI announces 3 million US dollar award for information on Evgeniy Mikhailovich Bogachev**
- **Union Railway Minister, Suresh Prabhu presents the Railway Budget 2015-16**
  - The Budget plans to invest around 8 lakh crore rupees over the next 5 year to rejuvenate the Indian Railways.
  - Prabhu gave 11 thrust areas to improve quality of life in train journeys which also includes *Swachh Rail - Swachh Bharat* drive.

- **Forbes releases Asia's 50 Power Businesswomen 2015 list**
- **Researchers from Australia unveiled world's first 3D printed jet engine**
- **On February 26, National Stock Exchange signs a MoU with the Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT) to establish an International Exchange in Gujarat**
- **On February 27, Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley presents Economic Survey of India 2014-15 in the Parliament**
  - *The Economic Survey reviews the developments in the Indian economy over the previous 12 months, summarises the performance on major development programmes and highlights the policy initiatives of the government and the prospects of the economy in the short to medium term.*
- **Justice Amitava Roy sworn in as Supreme Court judge**
  - With his elevation, the strength of the SC judges has gone up to 29.
  - *SC has a sectioned strength of 31 judges.*
- **BJP Government in Haryana raises cash reward under Inter-Caste Marriage Scheme from 50000 rupees to 1 lakh rupees**
- **28 February: International Rare Disease Day and National Science Day**
- **Union Government blocks private email network for official work**



- **Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley presents Union Budget 2015-16**
  - Gross tax receipts of 14.49 lakh crore rupees
  - Non-planned expenditure was 1312200 crore rupees
  - Corporate tax was reduced to 25 percent over next four years from existing 30 percent
  - Defence allocation for fiscal 2015-16 is 246727 crore rupees
  - 100 percent tax deduction for contribution to Swachh Bharat Fund
  - Service tax hiked by 14 percent
  - 34699 crore rupees allocated for MNREGA, which is highest ever allocation to the programme
  - Yoga was included in the ambit of charitable purposes under the Income Tax Act
  - Custom duty on 22 items will be reduced
  - Necessary to quote PAN for all purchases above 1 lakh rupees
  - AIIMS will be set up in five states
  - National skill development mission to be launched
  - By 2022 there is plan to produce 175000 MW renewable energy
  - Visa on arrival extended to 150 countries
  - 1000 crore rupees more allocated to Nirbhaya fund
  - Transport allowance increased to 1600 rupees per month
  - To enable minority youth, Nayi Manzil scheme will be started
  - At least 1 member of each family to have job by 2022
  - Electrification of remaining 20000 villages by 2020

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