



Gravity Produces Waves

Scientists have detected the gravitational ripples...

WORLD IN FOCUS

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Riddles

Where do pencils go for vacation... ▶

03

Jokes

In a school cafeteria, a teacher places a note... ▶

03

Did you know?

We actually do not see with our eyes... ▶

04

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Super Science

GRAVITY PRODUCES WAVES

Scientists have detected the gravitational ripples that were first predicted by Albert Einstein 100 years ago. These gravitational waves were the result of the collision of two massive black holes that took place over a billion light years away in the deep space. The discovery will usher in a new era in the research of the 'dark' side of the universe.

Immense amount of matter was converted into energy in a second, when the two black holes collided and spiralled into one another. The collision sent shock waves travelling across the space for over a billion years until they were picked up by the gravitational-wave instruments on Earth recently.

The gravitational waves are the first direct evidence of the pair of colliding black holes, which are so dense that they exert a gravitational force from which not even light can escape.

This direct detection of gravitational waves will now enable astronomers to look deeper into the universe and farther back in time. According to scientists, it now may even be possible to see the Big Bang!



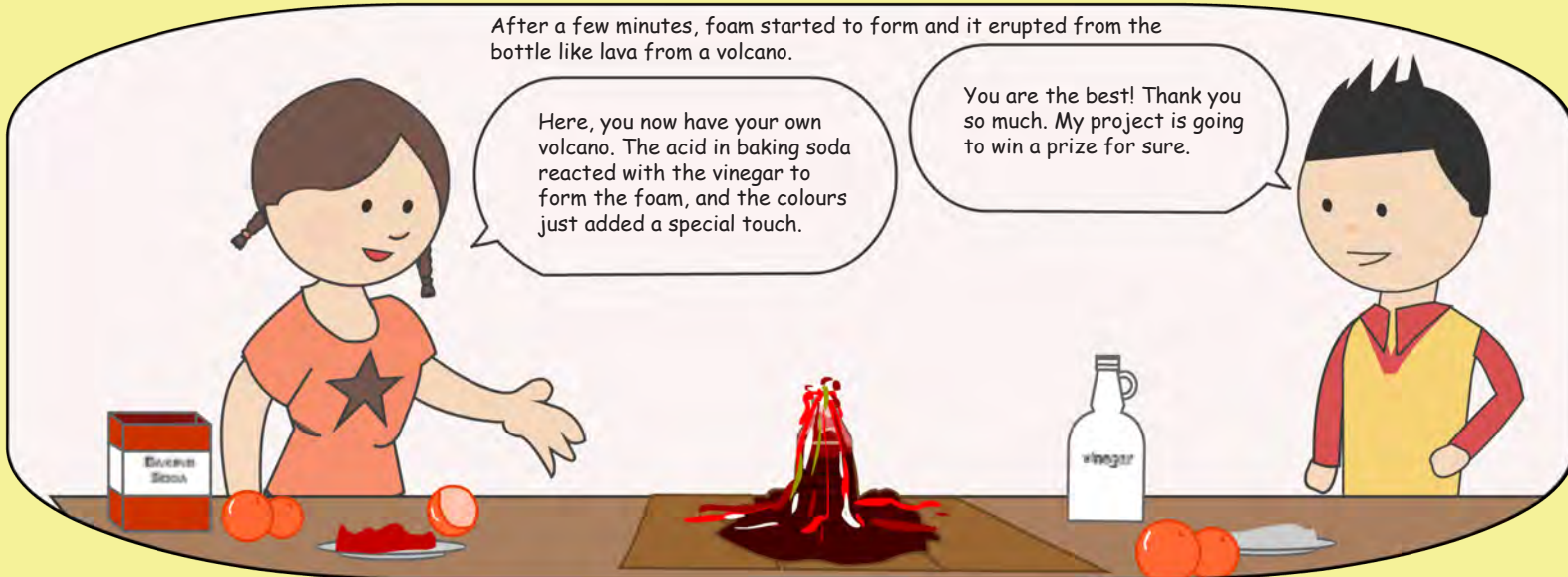


Comic Strip



BAIRA AND BELA

Baira was confused. He had to submit his science project and could not decide what to do. His sister, Bela, volunteered to help.





1. In a school cafeteria, a teacher places a note in front of a pile of apples, 'Take only one. God is watching.' Further down the line is a pile of cookies. A little boy makes his own note and places it in front of the cookies, 'Take all you want. God is watching the apples.'

2. A boy asks his father, 'Dad, are bugs good to eat?' 'That's disgusting. Don't talk about things like that over dinner,' the father retorts. After dinner he asks, 'Now, son, what did you want to ask me?' 'Oh, nothing,' the boy says. 'There was a bug in your soup, but now it's gone.'

3. Ram: 'It takes 15 trees to produce the amount of paper that we use to write one exam.' Shyam: 'Oh! We should then promote the noble cause of saving trees and say no to exams.'

4. Bob: 'I just fell off a 50 feet ladder!' Jim: 'Oh my God! Are you okay?' Bob: 'Yeah, it's a good thing I fell off the first step.'

5. Ramu: 'Where were you born?' Shomu: India. Ramu: 'Which part?' Shomu: 'My whole body.'

6. Q: What did the banana say to the doctor? A: 'I'm not peeling well.'

7. Patient: 'I get a terrible pain in my eyes when I drink a cup of coffee.' Doctor: 'Try taking the spoon out.'



8. Two lawyers were walking through the woods when they saw a fierce-looking bear. The first lawyer immediately opened his bag, took out a pair of sneakers and started putting them on. The second lawyer looked at him and said, 'Do you think you will be able to outrun the bear? That's impossible!' 'I know,' the first lawyer replied, 'but I only plan to outrun you.'

9. Q: What type of book has only characters and no story? A: A telephone book.

10. In the mathematics class, Ronnie asked the teacher, 'Ma'am, can I be punished for something I haven't done?' 'Of course not, Ronnie! That would be very unfair! But why did you ask me this?' replied the teacher. 'I haven't done my homework, Ma'am,' answered Ronnie with a relief.



Q: Why was 6 afraid of 7?

Q: What do elves learn in school?

Q: Where do pencils go for vacation?

Q: Why did the boy bring a ladder to school?

Q: Which flower talks the most?

Q: What did 0 say to 8?

Q: What did the mushroom say to the fungus?

Q: Why couldn't the pony sing himself a lullaby?

Q: A man arrived in a small town on Friday. He stayed for two days and left on Friday. How was this possible?

Q: Why did the girl smear peanut butter on the road?



Read the answers on next page



DID YOU KNOW?

1. We actually do not see with our eyes; we see with our brains. The eyes are basically the cameras of the brain. One-quarter of the brain is used to control the eyes.

2. Not all the taste buds are on our tongue; about 10 per cent are on the palate and the cheeks.

3. The length from our wrist to our elbow is the same as the length of our foot.

4. On an average, we speak almost 5,000 words a day—although almost 80 per cent of speaking is self-talk (talking to one's own self).

5. Our eyes are always the same size since birth.

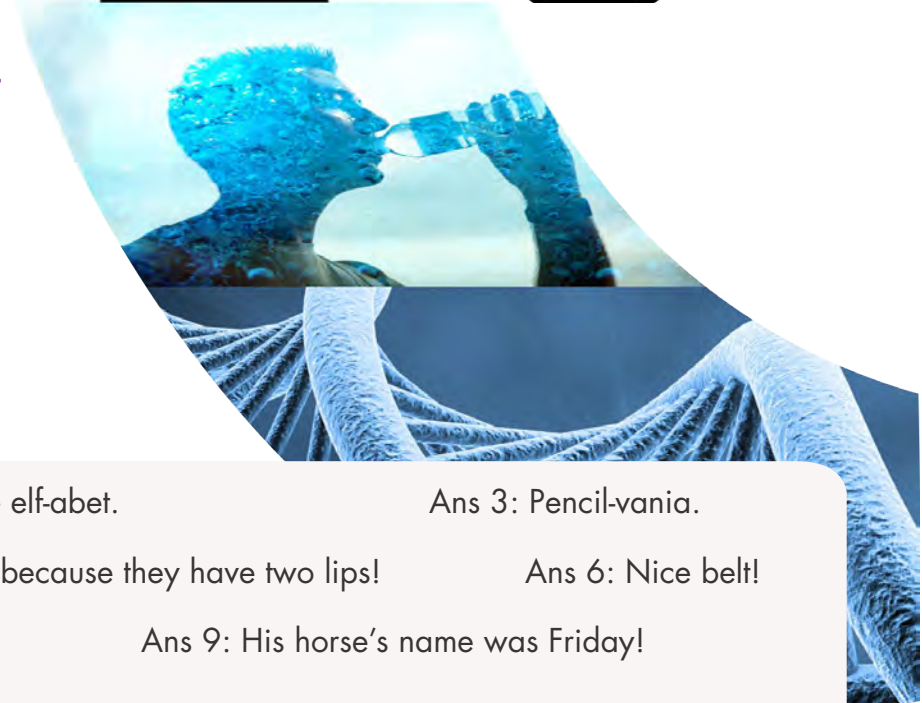
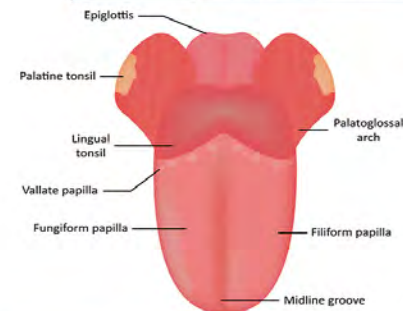
6. Infants blink only once or twice a minute while adults blink about 10 to 15 times per minute.

7. If the amount of water in our body is reduced by just one per cent, we will feel thirsty.

8. The muscle that lets our eye blink is the fastest muscle in our body. It allows us to blink 5 times a second. On an average, we blink 15,000 times a day. Women blink twice as much as men.

9. Fingernails grow nearly four times faster than toenails.

10. If our entire DNA is stretched out, it would be long enough to reach the Moon 6,000 times.



RIDDLES?

Answers

Ans 1: Because 7, 8, 9 (Sounds as seven ate nine).

Ans 2: The elf-abet.

Ans 3: Pencil-vania.

Ans 4: He wanted to go to high school.

Ans 5: Tulips, of course, because they have two lips!

Ans 6: Nice belt!

Ans 7: You're a fun guy [fungi].

Ans 8: He was a little hoarse.

Ans 9: His horse's name was Friday!

Ans 10: To go with the traffic jam!

Eight lesser known places in



1. HAFLONG

Haflong, a hill station in Assam, is also referred to as the land of 'blue hills'. The green valley and the hilly treks at Borai Hills are hotspots of adventure tourism events such as hang-gliding, paragliding and trekking.

2. Tawang Valley

The Tawang Valley, in Arunachal Pradesh, is a picturesque valley formed by the river of the same name. Situated in the valley, is the famous Tawang Monastery, perched on the spur of a hill, making it a popular tourist destination. The Nuranang Falls, which is located near the town of Jang and is 40 kilometres from Tawang town, is one of the spectacular waterfalls of Arunachal Pradesh. This waterfall is formed by the river Nuranang, which originates from the northern slopes of the Sela Pass. The pass at the elevation of 13,700 feet remains covered with snow for most part of the year.

3. Gurez

Gurez is considered to be one of the most picturesque valleys of Kashmir. Gateway to the ancient 'Silk Route', it is home to the famous pyramid-shaped 'Habba Khatoon' peak, which is named after a Kashmiri poetess. The beautiful Kishanganga River flows through the Gurez Valley.

4. Warwan Valley

The Warwan Valley is another lesser known place in Kashmir. The valley is at an altitude of approximately 7,000 feet from sea level and offers spectacular views of greenery, waterfalls and clear skies. It is bound by the Kashmir Valley on one side and Ladakh on the other side. On a moonlit night, one can enjoy the sheer beauty of the snow peaks of Zaskar Range and the Chenab River shimmering through the valley.



5. Kalimpong

Kalimpong, a hill station in West Bengal, is lesser known to the tourists from outside the eastern parts of India. Situated at an altitude of 4,101 feet, the town experiences a temperate climate throughout the year, which makes it a quiet retreat for all seasons. Kalimpong is famous for horticulture, especially for gladioli and orchids. The Lepcha Museum and the Zang Dhok Palri Phodang monastery are the two important cultural centres of Kalimpong.

6. Lepchajagat

Lepchajagat, in West Bengal, is a small village located very near to the hill town of Darjeeling. It is a dense forested area covered with pines, oaks and rhododendrons. Originally a hamlet of the Lepchas, the place is now a reserved forest area under the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation. Owing to its tranquility, diverse bird life and magnificent views of Kanchenjunga, Lepchajagat is an ideal place for relaxation and bonding with nature.

7. Tarkarli

Tarkarli is a village in Maharashtra located at the confluence of the Karli River and the Arabian Sea. It is a coral beach famous for its long coastline and sparkling clean water. The place is famous for adventure sports such as snorkeling and scuba diving.

8. Diveagar

Diveagar, located in Raigad district of Maharashtra, is a quaint place known for its beautiful beach, which is dotted with suru trees. The place is famous for the sand-bubble crabs, which are commonly found on the beach.



CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

January 2016

1 January 2016

An Indian-origin cancer research expert Harpal Singh Kumar receives Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II for his influential work on prevention and treatment of cancer.

2 January 2016

- Veteran CPI leader AB Bardhan (92) passes away in Delhi after a long illness.
- Jaish-e-Mohammed terrorists attack Pathankot Air Force Station, part of the Western Air Command of the Indian Air Force (IAF). Following this, a joint combing operation by the Armed Forces, police and security personnel is launched and the National Investigation Agency (NIA) takes over the probe.

4 January 2016

Former Defence Secretary Radha Krishna Mathur sworn in as the eighth Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India.

5 January 2016

The CRPF deploys about 300 women commandos for undertaking anti-Naxal operations in some states.

7 January 2016

- Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed (79) passes away in New Delhi after a brief illness.



- Economist Paul Kaba Thieba named as the Prime Minister of Burkina Faso by the President Roch Marc Christian Kaboré.

January 2016

8 January 2016

India and France start their eight-day counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency joint exercise Shakti-2016 in Rajasthan.

9 January 2016

A total of 9,892 women participated in Nati folk dance in their traditional colourful Kulluvi on October 26, 2015 during the International Dussehra Festival making it to the Guinness Book of World Records as the largest folk dance in the world because of the sheer number of participants.



12 January 2016

- In a rare occurrence 45 dead, short-finned pilot whales wash ashore in Thoothukudi district of Tamil Nadu. As many as 36 whales were rescued in a joint operation by several government agencies and pushed back into the sea.
- The Supreme Court stays a January 7 notification issued by the Centre allowing *jallikattu*, despite the ban imposed by the court in 2014 on the sport, which it called 'inherently cruel'.
- Kerala becomes the first state in the country to achieve 100 per cent primary education.

13 January 2016

Retired Lieutenant General Jacob-Farj-Rafael Jacob (92), hero of the 1971 Bangladesh Liberation War and former Governor of Goa and Punjab, passes away after a prolonged illness in New Delhi.

January 2016

14 January 2016

- The Union Government releases the draft for The Rights of Transgender Persons Bill, 2015. It states that transgender persons who by birth do not belong to Scheduled Castes or Scheduled Tribes may be declared as Backward Class.
- The Coast Guards of India and Japan conduct their 15th joint exercise off the coast of Chennai. India's Coast Guard vessel 'Samudra Pehredar' and the Japanese vessel 'Echigo' take part in the bilateral training called Sahyog-Kaijin 2016.

15 January 2016

- At the 61st Filmfare Awards in Mumbai, *Bajirao Mastani* wins the most awards including the Best Film Award. Moushumi Chatterjee is awarded the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2015.
- Sania Mirza and her Swiss partner, Martina Hingis, win the 2016 WTA Apia International Sydney title in the women's doubles category (tennis) in Sydney, Australia.

16 January 2016

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches Start-Up India initiative in New Delhi to augment the start-up industry in the country. On this occasion, the Prime Minister also unveils Start-Up India and Stand-Up India Action Plan, which contain many financial, policy and regulatory measures aimed at giving impetus to innovation and entrepreneurship in the country.
- Taiwan's Tsai Ing-wen, belonging to the main opposition party, the Democratic Progressive Party, becomes the first woman president of the country.

17 January 2016

- Zinnia flower blooms aboard the International Space Station (ISS).

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

January 2016

17 January 2016

- Rohith Vemula (26), a second year PhD student at the University of Hyderabad, who was active in student politics, commits suicide as he was depressed after his suspension and expulsion from the hostel.
- Anuradha Roy's novel *Sleeping on Jupiter* wins her the DSC Prize for South Asian literature.

18 January 2016

- Following the suicide of Rohith Vemula, a case is filed against four people, including Union Minister of State for Labour, Bandaru Dattatreya, and University Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Appa Rao.
- Delhi Acers beat Mumbai Rockets to clinch maiden Premier Badminton League title in New Delhi.

20 January 2016

- Hundreds of endangered Olive Ridley turtles, besides a bottlenose dolphin are found dead on Puri beach in Odisha.
- Rahul Thakkar, a computer engineering graduate from Mumbai University, wins an Oscar that honours scientific and technical achievement.
- At least 20 people, including two gunmen, were killed today when terrorists stormed the Bacha Khan University in Pakistan.

21 January 2016

- The government plans to use solar energy to power *charkhas* (spinning wheels) across the country to enable handspun khadi to become zero-carbon footprint green fabric of India.
- Veteran dancer and Padma Bhushan recipient, Mrinalini Sarabhai (97), passes away in Ahmedabad.



January 2016

22 January 2016

The HRD Ministry sets up a judicial commission to examine what led to the suicide of Dalit scholar, Rohith Vemula, in Hyderabad.

23 January 2016

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi releases the first set of 100 declassified files pertaining to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose at the National Archives of India in New Delhi in the presence of members of the Bose family.



- Manish Pandey's century in the fifth ODI in Sydney saves India from a complete whitewash. Australia wins the series 4-1.

24 January 2016

- Indian shuttler, P.V. Sindhu, clinches the Malaysia Masters Grand Gold title in Penang.
- India and France are set for a new partnership in counter-terror cooperation, the visiting French President, Francois Hollande (Chief Guest for the Republic Day functions), and Prime Minister Modi indicated.
- The Union Cabinet recommends imposition of President's rule on the Congress-ruled Arunachal Pradesh after it felt that the State was heading for a Constitutional breakdown.
- BJP president, Amit Shah, is re-elected, unopposed by his party for a full three-year term.
- A massive blizzard leaves 19 dead in the U.S. Washington DC was covered with two feet of snow.

January 2016

25 January 2016

The Mysuru-Varanasi Express becomes the country's first Braille-embedded train.

26 January 2016

- Lance Naik Mohan Goswami from the 9 Para (Special Forces) is awarded the Ashok Chakra, the country's highest peacetime gallantry award, posthumously, for his role in saving two colleagues during an encounter with militants in Kashmir last year.
- The Government announces 10 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan and 83 Padma Shree awardees. The list also includes 10 from the category of foreigners, NRIs and PIOs who have earned accolades on a global scale.
- President Pranab Mukherjee approves the Union Cabinet's recommendation for the imposition of President's Rule in Arunachal Pradesh.
- World record holder and Asian champion, Heena Sidhu, clinches the Olympic quota with her performance in women's air pistol in the Asia Olympic qualifying competition in Tughlaqabad.
- French contingent comprising 56 personnel of the 35th Infantry Regiment of 7th Armoured Brigade participate in the Republic Day parade.

27 January 2016

The Urban Development Minister Venkaiah Naidu announces a list of 20 cities, including Surat, Kochi, Udaipur, Bhopal, to build smart infrastructure.

29 January 2016

- The Indian women's cricket team create history by clinching its maiden T20 series win over Australia in Australia to take a 2-0 lead.



CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

January 2016

29 January 2016

- Martina Hingis and Sania Mirza win the 3rd Grand Slam in a row when they win the Australian Open.



30 January 2016

Angelique Kerber of Germany wins the Australian Open Women's trophy and the World No. 1 Novak Djokovic wins the men's trophy.



31 January 2016

At least 60 people are killed and 110 wounded in three bomb blasts near the revered Shia shrine of Sayyida Zeinab outside Damascus in Syria.



February 2016

1 February 2016

- Archana Ramasundaram is appointed as the Director General of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), the first woman to head a paramilitary force.
- The World Health Organization announces that the explosive spread of the Zika virus in the Americas is an 'extraordinary event' that merits being declared an international emergency.

2 February 2016

- The Union Health Ministry sounds an alert for Zika virus and appoints National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) as the nodal agency for investigation of any outbreak of the viral infection in India.
- The film *Titli* directed by Indian filmmaker Kanu Behl bags the Best First Foreign Film Award conferred by the French Syndicate of Cinema Critics 2016 (FSCC).

3 February 2016

- A major avalanche buries 10 soldiers under snow after their camp in the northern part of the Siachen Glacier is hit.
- The veteran Congress leader and former Lok Sabha Speaker Balram Jakhar (92) passes away.
- The Delhi government relents to the demands of the striking civic body employees by the announcement of the disbursal of nearly ₹ 700 crore including a loan of ₹ 551 crore.

4 February 2016

- Maharashtra Governor C. Vidyasagar Rao grants sanction to the CBI to prosecute former Chief Minister Ashok Chavan in the Adarsh Housing Society scam.
- The Supreme Court tells the BCCI to 'fall in line' and implement the reforms suggested by Justice R M Lodha panel for the Board's complete revamp or risk the court telling the panel to carry out its own suggestions.

5 February 2016

- The Finance Ministry withdraws exemption of 76 medicines from customs duty. The list includes 10 HIV drugs and at least four cancer drugs. The move would inflate the

February 2016

cost of essential lifesaving imported drugs.

- A UN panel has ruled that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange has been 'arbitrarily detained' in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, calling upon the UK and Sweden to end Assange's deprivation of liberty.

6 February 2016

- Well-known cartoonist Sudhir Tailang (55), who was suffering from a brain tumour, passes away in New Delhi.
- On a two-day visit to Sri Lanka, the External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj expresses support for the island nation's reconciliation and development policies.

7 February 2016

- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar rules out any troop withdrawal from the Siachen Glacier after the last week's avalanche claimed the lives of 10 soldiers.
- North Korea launches a long-range rocket in defiance of UN sanctions and just weeks after a nuclear bomb test.



11 February 2016

- The highly elusive 'gravitational waves' have finally been detected. After decades of search for these ripples in space-time, which Albert Einstein predicted exactly 100 years ago, scientists working with the gigantic optical instruments in the US called LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory), detected signals of gravitational waves emanating from two merging black holes 1.3 billion light years away arriving at

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

February 2016

their instruments on Earth.

11 February 2016

- Lance Naik Hanumanthappa Koppad, who miraculously survived six days under several feet of snow in the Siachen Glacier, admitted in a critical condition at the Army Research and Referral Hospital in New Delhi, passes away.
- Social networking giant Facebook pulls the plug on its controversy-ridden 'Free Basics' programme in India, days after telecom regulator TRAI barred operators from charging discriminatory rates for Internet access based on content.



13 February 2016

- The Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress decide to fight the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly elections together.
- Malayalam language and literature loses one of its most respected contemporary voices with the death of poet O N V Kurup (84) in Kerala. He was the recipient of the Jnanpith award and the Padma Vibhushan.
- Disappointed over a US decision to sell eight more F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan, India summons US Ambassador Richard Varma to the External Affairs Ministry to express 'displeasure' with the deal.



14 February 2016

Several political and film personalities, including Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Amitabh Bachchan have a narrow escape when a fire breaks out on stage during a cultural programme at the 'Make in India Week' event at Girgaum, Chowpatty in Mumbai.

February 2016

15 February 2016

- The Government plans to roll out a centrally sponsored Health Protection Scheme—a convergence of several current schemes to initially provide a minimum cover of ₹ 50,000 to around 40 crore people.
- President Pranab Mukherjee sacks Visva Bharati Vice-Chancellor Sushanta Duttagupta after a government panel found him guilty of misconduct and financial bungling.

17 February 2016

Director General (prisons) Alok Kumar Verma replaces B S Bassi as the New Delhi Police Commissioner.

18 February 2016

- The Supreme Court lifts its order to maintain status quo in Arunachal Pradesh, clearing the road for Governor J P Rajdhowa to recommend withdrawal of President's rule and for the formation of a new government of dissident Congress leaders backed by BJP MLAs.
- Army columns deployed at nine locations in Haryana and curfew is imposed in Rohtak and Bhiwani city limits with shoot-at-sight orders, after one person was killed in police firing as an agitation demanding reservation for Jats flared into violence.
- A few hours after President's Rule was revoked in Arunachal Pradesh, the dissident Congress leader, Kalikho Pul, sworn in as Chief Minister in the night.

19 February 2016

- Violence triggered by the Jat agitation for reservation spreads to more areas in Haryana with reports saying protesters set fire to vehicles and public and private property and blocked roads and the railway track. Four persons were reportedly killed and several injured in the State as security forces opened fire.
- US President Barack Obama signs into law a piece of legislation imposing new sanctions on North Korea for refusing to stop its nuclear weapons programme.

20 February 2016

Brendon McCullum blasts the fastest Test century to rescue New Zealand before Australia was reduced to 57 for one by the close of day one of the second Test match at

February 2016

Christchurch.

21 February 2016

- With militants taking the 'advantageous position' in the seven-storey Entrepreneurs Development Institute (EDI) at Sempora in Pulwama district of south Kashmir for over 28 hours, three Army personnel of the elite 9 PARA lose their lives while trying to storm the floor where the militants were holed up.
- Triple jumper Renjith Maheswary wins a silver medal to take India's medal tally to five in Asian Indoor Athletics Championships in Doha.

22 February 2016

All the three militants holed up in the five storey government building at Sempora district for more than 48 hours killed.

24 February 2016

Rohit Sharma's half century, Hardik Pandya's cameo and a disciplined performance by the bowlers help India register a 45-run win over Bangladesh in the Asia Cup opener in cricket in Mirpur.

25 February 2016

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu effects no hike in passenger fares, indicates cut in freight tariffs, admits that the global economic slowdown is hurting India's core sectors and points out that the looming impact of the Seventh Pay Commission made it one of the toughest times to formulate a Budget.

26 February 2016

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi urges the state governments to give priority to agriculture even as he pledged to "double the income of farmers" by 2022, to mark India's 75 years of independence.
- With a series of Assembly polls coming up, BJP turns its spotlight on the rural and farm sectors in the Union Budget 2016-17 presented in the Parliament.

29 February 2016

A double suicide bombing claimed by ISIL kills about 70 people in a Shiite section of the capital Baghdad, marking it the deadliest attack inside the city this year.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

March 2016

1 March 2016

- A Delhi court remands Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, facing sedition charges in connection with a controversial event organised in JNU campus, in judicial custody for 14 days.
- The Delhi High Court grants JNUSU President Kanhaiya Kumar interim bail for six months in a sedition case registered against him in connection with a controversial event organised in the university.

2 March 2016

An undersea quake of magnitude 7.9 hits Indonesia sending panicked residents of the city rushing from their homes.

3 March 2016

Martin Crowe (53), the former New Zealand cricket captain, dies of cancer.

4 March 2016

- The Election Commission of India announces the schedule for Assembly elections in four states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Assam and West Bengal) and one Union Territory (Puducherry) to be conducted in multiple phases from April 4 to May 16.
- P A Sangma (68), former Lok Sabha Speaker, a politician from the North-East, dies of a heart attack in New Delhi.
- Police search the home of Brazil's ex-President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva and detain him for questioning in a probe into a huge corruption scam.

5 March 2016

Shikhar Dhawan, Virat Kohli star as India beat Bangladesh to win sixth Asia Cup T20 title in Dhaka.



March 2016

6 March 2016

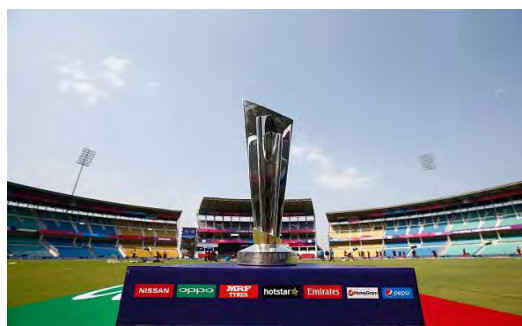
- India's first test tube baby, Harsha Chavda, delivers her own baby in Mumbai.
- Air India flies the 'world's longest' all-women operated and supported flight from New Delhi to San Francisco to celebrate International Women's Day.

7 March 2016

- Eighty-seven Indians, mostly fishermen, are handed over to India at the Wagah border after being released from prison. They were arrested in Pakistan for alleged territorial violation.
- Russian tennis star Maria Sharapova is notified by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) that she tested positive for a banned substance at the Australian Open in January.

8 March 2016

- Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley announces the withdrawal of the budget proposal on taxing Employees Provident Fund, following a backlash by several political parties.
- The sixth edition of T20 World Cup kicks off with a match between Zimbabwe and Hong Kong in Nagpur.



9 March 2016

Legendary British music producer George Martin (90) of the Beatles fame, passes away.

10 March 2016

Giving the go-ahead for the three-day World Culture Festival, to be organised on the fragile flood plains of the Yamuna, the National Green Tribunal asks the Art of Living Foundation to pay a fine of Rs 5 crore before the start of the event on March 11.

March 2016

11 March 2016

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the World Culture Festival, organised by the Art of Living (AOL) Foundation, led by Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, despite environmental controversy and unexpected rains.
- Air passengers will now get a higher compensation in case of death, injury, lost baggage or inordinate delay in flights as per the new Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill passed by the Parliament.

14 March 2016

A high-level inquiry committee formed to look into the February 9 incident on the JNU campus recommends rustication of Anirban Bhattacharya and Umar Khalid for a certain period for 'violating university rules'.



15 March 2016

Myanmar gets its first civilian President in decades after lawmakers elect Htin Kyaw, a close aide of Aung San Suu Kyi.

16 March 2016

- The Maharashtra Assembly unanimously suspends All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Muslimeen (AIMIM) MLA from Mumbai, Waris Pathan, accusing him of disrespecting the country, after he said he would not chant 'Bharat Mata ki Jai' even at the cost of his life.
- A bomb explodes inside a bus carrying government employees in Peshawar killing at least 17 people.

CURRENT EVENTS UPDATES

March 2016

16 March 2016

- In a blow to lenders’ recovery efforts, the auction of Kingfisher House, once the headquarters of Vijay Mallya’s long-grounded airline, turns out to be a damp squib with no bidders coming forward because of litigation fears and a high reserve price of ₹ 150 crore.

17 March 2016

- In a setback to Punjab, the Supreme Court orders maintenance of status quo on the land meant for the Sutlej–Yamuna Link canal after Haryana alleged that attempts have been made to alter its use by levelling it.
- Sukhvinder Singh (24), a national-level kabaddi player, shot dead by two men in Rithal village

18 March 2016

- The Congress rule in Uttarakhand suffers a setback as nine of its legislators rebel and join 28 BJP MLAs who staked claim to form a new government.
- The Supreme Court revokes its earlier order and allows photographs of Chief Ministers, Governors and Ministers to be carried in public advertisements.

19 March 2016

A day after the JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya were released on interim bail, a Delhi court grants bail to the former Delhi University lecturer S A R Geelani, arrested on sedition charges in connection with a controversial event organised at Press Club of India in New Delhi on February 10.

20 March 2016

A FlyDubai passenger jet crashes in southern Russia killing all 62 people on board, as it tried to land in bad weather in Rostov-on-Don.



March 2016

21 March 2016

- H S Prannoy clinches his second Grand Prix Gold badminton tournament title by notching up a straight-game victory over Marc Zwiebler of Germany in the summit clash of the Swiss Open.
- S S P Chawrasia wins the \$1.66 million Hero Indian Open golf title in New Delhi.

22 March 2016

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi makes it clear that his government has no plans to revisit the reservation policy for Dalits and other communities.
- To mark World Tuberculosis Day (March 24), Health Minister J P Nadda launches Bedaquiline—new drug for Drug Resistant TB—as a part of the national programme.
- President Obama and his family arrive in Cuba. It is the first time a sitting US President has visited the island nation since 1928.



26 March 2016

- The Speaker Govind Singh Kunjwal of Uttarakhand disqualifies nine Congress MLAs who had joined their BJP counterparts to dislodge the Harish Rawat government.
- President’s Rule imposed on Uttarakhand, a day before the Harish Rawat government is to face a test of strength in the Assembly, which has been placed under suspended animation.

27 March 2016

About 65 people killed and more than 200 injured when a suicide bomb rips through the parking lot of a crowded park in Lahore where Christians were celebrating Easter Sunday.

28 March 2016

- Indians in distress will soon be able to get help using a single number ‘112’ for all emergency services in the country, including the police, fire brigade and ambulance.

March 2016

- Kangana Ranaut picks up the Best Actress award for *Tanu Weds Manu Returns* and Amitabh Bachchan picks up the Best Actor Award for *Piku* at the 63rd National Film Awards.

29 March 2016

- The Uttarakhand High Court’s order directing the State Assembly to hold a floor test to ascertain the majority of ousted Chief Minister Harish Rawat is perhaps the rarest instance of such an interim relief being granted while the legislature is under suspended animation.
- The Haryana Assembly passes the Haryana Backward Classes (Reservation in Services and Admission in Educational Institutions) Bill, 2016, to provide reservation for Jats and five other communities in government jobs and education.

30 March 2016

- Kingfisher Airlines Chairman Vijay Mallya offers to pay banks ₹ 4,000 crore as partial settlements of the carrier’s debts and indicates to the Supreme Court that the atmosphere in India was too vitiated for him to immediately return.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi leaves for Brussels for the first leg of his three-nation tour of Belgium, United States and Saudi Arabia



31 March 2016

About 21 people killed and 88 injured as two parts of an under-construction 2.2-km-long Vivekananda Flyover collapsed in a congested market area in Burra Bazar, north Kolkata. The Army was called in for the rescue work.