

## January 31 - 12th Raising Day Celebration of NDRF held



The 12th Raising Day celebration of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was held in the national capital on 31st Jan.

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh presented the Jeevan Raksha Padak awards and Distinguished Service

Medals to the NDRF personnel.

- He also released the NDRF pictorial book and souvenir to mark the occasion.
- The NDRF raised on January, 2006, is a specialised force capable of responding to any type of disaster in the country and abroad.
- It is strategically deployed across the nation as per the vulnerability profile of the country.
- Over the years, the NDRF has proved itself a vibrant force in the country which provides prompt assistance in search and rescue, mass evacuation and immediate relief to victims in case of natural or man-made disasters.
- So far, the NDRF has responded to over one thousand operations and rescued around four lakh 73 thousand victims.

## RBI removes cash withdrawal limit on current accounts



The Reserve Bank of India lifts restrictions on daily withdrawal of money from ATMs (automated teller machines) starting 1 February 2017.

- The announcement was made through a circular issued on 30 January 2017. According to the notice, the decision was taken after a review of the pace of

demonetisation.

- RBI has asked all banks to set their own daily limit as they did before the demonetisation of old high denomination currency notes on 8 November 2016.
- The RBI will also be removing all limits on cash withdrawals from current accounts, cash credit accounts and overdraft accounts.
- The weekly limit of Rs 24000 on savings bank accounts will continue to

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hold for now but is under consideration for withdrawal in the near future.

- Along with this, the RBI has also urged all banks to encourage their constituents to move towards digitisation of payments and switch the mode of payment from cash mode to non-cash mode.

### Abhinav Bindra, Pulella Gopichand part of TOP task force



The Union Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports constituted a Task Force to prepare an action plan for 2020, 2024 and 2028 Olympic games.

- An announcement in this regard was made by the Union Ministry of State (Independent Charge) for Youth Affairs and Sports Vijay Goel on 30 January 2017.

- Pulella Gopichand-Olympian and coach
- Abhinav Bindra-Olympic gold medalist
- Rajesh Kalra-Chief Editor, Times Group Online
- Om Pathak-School Sports Promotion foundation
- Viren Rasquinha-CEO – Olympic Gold Quest
- S. Baldev Singh (Hockey)-Coach
- Prof GL Khanna-Professor and Dean (Exercise and Physiology), Faculty of Applied Sciences, Manav Rachna International University, Faridabad
- Sandeep Pradhan-Director General, Sports Authority of Gujarat (Member Convenor)

### ISRO to launch 104 satellites in one go on February 15



ISRO centres here are focussed on the next commercial launch of a record 104 satellites at one go on board its Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C37) from Sriharikota by Feb 15.

- It will be followed by the launch of the South Asian satellite in March this year, which is

pegged as the Prime Minister's pet project.

- In the payload of 104 satellites, 101 will be foreign satellites including the latest addition of a nano-satellite.
- Remaining three will be Indian satellites including the Cartosat series-2D with remote sensing high resolution camera which finds its application in defence and strategic purposes.
- Till now, ISRO has launched the maximum 20 satellites at one go and it was on

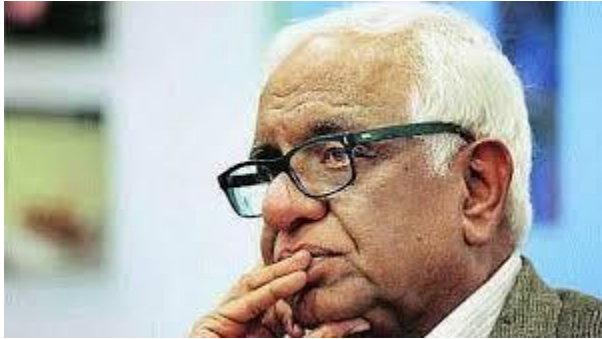
**SPORTS**

**SPACE  
SCIENCE**

board PSLV-C34 on June 22 last year.

- While, Russia has launched a record 37 satellites in a single mission in 2014 and the US space agency NASA had launched 29 satellites at one go.

### **Vikramjit Sen Appointed DDCA administrator**



Delhi High Court appointed Justice (Rtd) Vikramjit Sen as the new administrator of DDCA, replacing retired Justice Mukul Mudgal who did not wish to continue in the post.

- They also ordered audit of the accounts of the years of 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15

of Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA) by an external auditor.

- The bench also said that Justice Sen will call for a meeting of DDCA members for reconstituting the cricketing body's working and sports committees.
- Thereafter, the administrator will meet the Registrar of Companies prior to holding of elections to elect the office bearers of DDCA.
- The directions, among many others, came on DDCA's plea against appointment of an arbitrator to oversee its functioning.
- The bench said it is going to monitor the matter and said the administrator can file periodic reports if required.

### **Amulya Kumar Patnaik Appointed Delhi Police Commissioner**



The Union Home Ministry on 30 January 2017 announced the appointment of Amulya Kumar Patnaik as the Delhi Police Commissioner.

- Patnaik, a 1985 batch Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre IPS officer, is currently

posted as Special Commissioner of Police (Administration).

- The Government of India constituted the Delhi Police Commission headed by Justice G.D. Khosla in the year 1966.
- The Commission was constituted to go into the Problems faced by Delhi Police.

## **APPOINTMENTS**

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- On the basis of the Khosla Commission Report, 4 Police districts, namely, North, Central, South and New Delhi were constituted.
- The Commission also recommended the introduction of Police Commissioner System, which was adopted from 1 July 1978.

## Supreme Court appoints four member committee to run BCCI affairs



The Supreme Court (SC) on 30 January 2017 appointed former Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) Vinod Rai as the head of four-member Committee of Administrators to run

Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

- The other three members of the Committee are noted historian Ramachandra Guha, former Indian women's cricket team captain Diana Edulji and IDFC Limited's Managing Director Vikram Limaye.
- The order was given by a three-judge Bench headed by Justice Dipak Misra. The other two judges were Justices A M Khanwilkar and D Y Chandrachud.
- The Bench rejected the suggestion of Attorney General Mukul Rohatgi to appoint Secretary of Union Sports Ministry as one of the administrators.
- The Bench states that its 18 July 2016 judgement had specifically debarred ministers and government servants from holding any office in the BCCI.

## New Species of Songbird discovered



Researchers exploring fragmented forests of the highest ranges of the Western Ghats have designated two new endemic genera and a new species of songbird.

- The research published in the latest issue of BMC Evolutionary Biology was undertaken by V. V. Robin; Sushma Reddy; C .K. Vishnudas; Pooja Gupta; Frank E. Rheindt; Daniel M. Hooper and Uma Ramakrishnan.
- The species in the Montecincla genera include Montecincla jerdoni, Montecincla cachinnans, Montecincla fairbanki and Montecincla

**APPOINTMENTS**

**DISCOVERY**

- meridionalis belongs to Montecinclla genus.
- Sholicola major and Sholicola albiventris belongs to Sholicola genus.
  - Another lucky break was the discovery of old forgotten specimens in the Trivandrum Natural History Museum.
  - Ms. Ramakrishnan expressed the hope that the the knowledge of their distinct evolution and ecology would help to increase conservation efforts.



### **On This Day**



On 31 January 1966, Russia launched Luna 9 towards moon. Luna 9, internal designation Ye-6 No.13, was an unmanned space mission of the Soviet Union's Luna programme. On 3 February 1966 the Luna 9 spacecraft became the first spacecraft to achieve a soft landing on the Moon, or any planetary body other than Earth, and to transmit photographic data to Earth from the surface of another planetary body.

**ON THIS DAY**