

GK Digest: January 2017

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Current Affairs

PM launches UPI based mobile payment app called BHIM

- Urging people to make digital payments a "habit" to make the country a cashless economy, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched a mobile app for the Unified Payment Interface (UPI).
- The application, which will be common across all banks and financial institutions, is called BHIM (Bharat Interface for Mobile).
- The BHIM app will empower the poorest of the poor
- It is for the small merchant, farmers in far-flung areas, tribals.
- Adding that the BHIM app doesn't even require an Internet connection since it can also work on simple feature phones
- Aadhaar-based payments system would be added to the app in the next two weeks

Tax treaty with Singapore amended to bring parity with Cyprus, Mauritius

- India has amended its over two-decade old tax treaty with Singapore that will allow it to tax capital gains on investments from the South East Asian nation, a significant milestone in plugging round-tripping of funds after changes to treaties with Mauritius and Cyprus.
- Short-term capital gains in India face tax at the rate of 15% while there is an exemption for long-term gains.
- A statement from Singapore government said the updated DTAA preserves the existing tax exemption on capital gains for shares acquired before 1 April 2017, while providing a transitional arrangement for shares acquired on or after 1 April 2017.

Lionel Messi named World's Best Playmaker of 2016 by IFFHS

- Five-time Ballon d'Or winner Lionel Messi was named the World's Best Playmaker for the second consecutive year by International Federation of Football History & Statistics (IFFHS).
- Messi topped the list with 172 points followed by Andres Iniesta (66 points) and Toni Kroos (45 points). Notably, this year's Ballon d'Or winner Cristiano Ronaldo does not feature in the list

BITS students develop first aid app with Red Cross Society

- Six students from the Birla Institute of Technology and Science have developed a first-aid app in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society.
- The Android-based app contains instructions and information regarding medical emergencies. Other features include a one-tap call feature to connect with the National Emergency Helpline and using GPS on the phone to locate all the nearest hospitals.

World's highest bridge opens in China

- The highest bridge in the world, set at a height of 1,854 feet, opened to traffic in China on Thursday.
- The 1,341-metre-long Beipanjiang Bridge, soars over a river and connects the Guizhou and Yunnan mountainous provinces.
- It has reportedly reduced travel time from four hours to one hour. It cost \$144 million (over Rs. 977 crore) to build, Chinese media reported.

First transgender principal of an Indian college quits

- The first transgender principal of an Indian college, Manabi Bandopadhyay, submitted her resignation, ending her 19 month-long tenure as the head of Krishnagar Women's College in West Bengal.
- Manabi cited indiscipline and lack of cooperation from students and colleagues as the reason behind the decision. "I was tired of...regular agitations...by students and teachers," she said.

Sindhu unveiled as official face of 2nd Int'l Kite Festival

- Rio Olympics silver medal-winning shuttler PV Sindhu was unveiled as the official face of the 2nd International Kite Festival to be held from 12th to 17th January in Hyderabad.
- The festival is organized by Telangana Tourism and Incredible India, among others, to celebrate Sankranti.
- The state Tourism Minister Azmeera Chandulal was also present at the announcement ceremony.

7-year-old Kush creates history in Youth Chess Championship

- Seven-year-old Kush Bhagat created history after winning three gold medals in the 1st Western Asia Youth Chess Championship in Al Ain Chess Club in UAE.
- The 2nd class student from Mumbai became the only Indian to win in all three categories - rapid, blitz and standard - in the competition.

- Kush won against 158 participants from 20 different countries.

centre for international and domestic arbitration”

Sorin Grindeanu named Romania's new Prime Minister

- Romania's President Klaus Iohannis on Friday named Sorin Grindeanu from the ruling Social Democrat party as the country's new prime minister.
- Grindeanu now faces a confidence vote in parliament on his programme and cabinet nominees. Earlier, President Iohannis had turned down the party's first choice Sevil Shhaideh, an economist who would have become Romania's first female Muslim PM.

Institutionalisation Of Arbitration Mechanism: Justice Srikrishna To Head The Committee

- The Union Government has constituted a High Level Committee in the Ministry of Law and Justice to be headed by former Supreme Court Justice, BN Shrikrishna.
- According a press note published at the Press Information Bureau website, this committee will review the institutionalization of Arbitration Mechanism in India.
- Apart from Justice(retd) BN Shrikrishna as its Chairman, the committee will comprise of another former Supreme Court judge RV Raveendran, Justice S. Ravindra Bhat of the Delhi High Court, Senior Advocate K.K. Venugopal, PS Narasimha, Additional Solicitor General of India, Senior Advocate Indu Malhotra, Araghya Sengupta, Director, Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy, a representative of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), a representative of Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Secretary, Department of Legal Affairs as its members.
- The committee will look into various factors to accelerate arbitration mechanism and strengthen the arbitration ecosystem in the country. It will also examine specific issues and roadmap required to make “India a robust

Amul's 'India 3.0' book launched

- Covering topical grounds and popular incidents from the contemporary context, Indian dairy cooperative Amul launched the updated edition of 'Amul's India 3.0'.
- The book was unveiled by social commentator Santosh Desai, Amul's Managing Director R.S. Sodhi, and journalists Indrajit Hazra, Rahul Da Cunha and Jai Arjun Singh. They shared many insights and observations shared about the iconic 'Amul Girl'

Central Board Of Direct Taxes Signs 2 Unilateral Advance Pricing Agreements

- The Central Board of Direct Taxes or CBDT has signed two more unilateral advance pricing agreements (APAs) with Indian taxpayers as it looks to reduce litigation by providing certainty in transfer pricing.
- The two APAs signed on Thursday pertain to the information technology and automobile sectors. The international transactions covered in these agreements include software development services, IT enabled services, manufacturing and business support services
- With this, the total number of APAs entered into by the CBDT has reached 117. This includes 7 bilateral APAs and 110 Unilateral APAs.

State Bank of India ties up with Magicbricks.com

- State Bank of India BSE 0.89 %, the country's largest bank has tied up with online classifieds portal magicbricks.com, to conduct joint marketing activities and help rejuvenate the real estate sector.
- To kick start the MOU, SBI and Magicbricks are launching the “Seal the Deal” campaign. Under Seal The Deal, SBI and Magicbricks will be hosting a mega online property show for SBI Approved Projects. This will be the first housing carnival in the industry at this scale.
- Seal The Deal will showcase SBI Approved Projects on the Magicbricks platform. Builders

are expected to provide great deals for the same which will in turn provide the much needed fillip to the real estate sector.

Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurates six major Railway projects

- Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu inaugurated six major Railway projects in Kerala including the dedication of the newly-built 9.6-km long Tiruvalla-Chengannur double line which would ease the heavy rail traffic congestion in the Ernakulam-Kottayam-Kayamkulam section.
- Prabhu also inaugurated infrastructure facilities at Kozhikode, Palakkad, Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram railways stations through video conferencing from Kozhikode.
- A new platform was launched at Palakkad station, high-speed public WiFi service was made available at Thrissur station.
- The minister also launched an escalator each in Thrissur and Thiruvananthapuram stations besides laying foundation stone for the extension of Foot Overbridge at Kozhikode railway station.
- Now the number of free wi-Fi enabled railway stations in the state has increased to five. The service was launched earlier in Ernakulam, Thiruvananthapuram, Kollam and Kozhikode stations.

Swachh Swasth Sarvatra Scheme launched

- The government on Thursday launched the 'Swachh Swasth Sarvatra, an initiative to achieve better health outcomes through improved sanitation, increased awareness and healthy lifestyles.
- The scheme was jointly introduced by the Health, Water and Sanitation and Human Resource Development Ministries to mark the 'Good Governance Day
- The Health Ministry also announced setting up of Community Health Centres and a grant of Rs 10 lakh each for these facilities to achieve benchmarks of hygiene and sanitation.

Delhi registers India's highest per capita income

- National capital Delhi has registered the highest per capita income among all states and union territories of the country, during 2015-16 at about ₹2,80,000.
- Delhi's per capita income is over three times the national average.
- It is followed by Chandigarh and Sikkim with per capita incomes of ₹2,42,386 and ₹2,27,465, respectively.

Haryana police gets India's 1st digital investigation centre

- The Haryana police have set up the country's first centre for digital investigation and training in Gurugram in a bid to enhance cyber policing and monitor social media content.
- Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar inaugurated the facility on Wednesday but refused to share details of the centre terming it a 'confidential' matter concerning police investigation.

'Dangal' voted 2016's Best Film by Indian film critics' poll

- Actor Aamir Khan's sports drama 'Dangal' was named the Best Film of 2016 in the year-end 'Film Companion Critics' Poll' in which 23 Indian film critics voted.
- While actor Manoj Bajpayee was named the Best Actor for 'Aligarh', Alia Bhatt was voted the Best Actress.
- Meanwhile, Ram Madhvani, who made his directorial debut with 'Neerja' was voted the Best Director.

Winter Festival begins in Mount Abu

- The two-day annual Winter Festival began in Mount Abu. A procession to Nakki Lake and a boat race were held on the first day of the festival, which has been organised by the Rajasthan government.

- A cricket match, a tug of war, a live performance and a fireworks display are among the activities scheduled for the second day.

Government launches IVRS platform to tackle call drops

- In a bid to tackle the call drop menace, government has launched an Integrated Voice Response System (IVRS) system at multiple locations including Delhi and Mumbai to obtain direct feedback from subscribers on call quality.
- The feedback will be shared with operators so they can take corrective steps in the problem areas and address the issue of call drops. The IVRS system will be extended to the entire country

Bhel commissions another 600 Mw thermal unit in Telangana

- State-run power equipment maker Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (Bhel) on Thursday said it has successfully commissioned another 600 Mw coal-based thermal power plant in Telangana.
- Bhel-built 600 Mw rating sets comprise a 4 cylinder turbine designed in-house. So far, the company has contracted 21 sets of 600 Mw each, of which 17 have already been commissioned. A large number of similar sets ensure easy availability of spares and operator's familiarity.
- The company is a major contributor to Telangana's power sector with over 85% of the coal-based power stations, amounting to 5,740 Mw.

BoB signs MoU with HFL to provide dairy loans to farmers

- State-run Bank of Baroda and Heritage Foods Ltd (HFL) today signed a Memorandum of Understanding to provide dairy loans to farmers through the lender's branches across the country.
- Heritage Foods is in the business of procurement, processing and sale of milk and milk products.

South Indian Bank unveils mobile banking app for NRIs

- South Indian Bank has introduced a full-fledged NRI-focused mobile banking application called SIB Mirror+ across major mobile platforms.
- The new app was launched after the path-breaking 'E-Lock' feature that provided a single tap solution to fully secure all digital transaction from frauds.
- SIB Mirror+ equips the customers to perform almost all banking transactions from their smart phones. The app comes with self-registration facility for ease of activation and utilises NEFT facility for interbank fund transfers.

World Bhojpuri Conference begins in Varanasi

- The four-day World Bhojpuri Conference began in Varanasi on Thursday. High Commissioner of Mauritius to India, Jagdishwar Goburdhun, earlier said people from 18 countries will discuss issues like culture and religion.
- He said the Bhojpuri Ratna and World Bhojpuri Karmayogi awards will be conferred on Mauritius PM Anerood Jugnauth, MP Manoj Tiwari and Bollywood actor Amitabh Bachchan, among others.

Viral Acharya appointed as RBI Deputy Governor

- The government on Wednesday appointed Viral Acharya as the Deputy Governor of the RBI.
- He will be joining the ranks of NS Vishwanathan, SS Mundra, R Gandhi as one of four Deputy Governors under RBI Governor Urjit Patel. Acharya has been serving as a Professor of Economics at the New York University Stern School of Business since 2008.

Former IAS officer Anil Baijal to succeed Jung as Delhi lieutenant governor

- Former Union home secretary Anil Baijal was on Wednesday appointed the new lieutenant

governor of Delhi in place of Najeeb Jung who resigned recently.

- President Pranab Mukherjee, who is on a 10-day southern sojourn, gave his assent to the Centre's recommendation for acceptance of outgoing Jung's resignation and naming Bajjal as his successor.
- Bajjal, a 1969 batch IAS officer, was home secretary in 2004 when the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government was in office. His tenure was cut short by the UPA government, which, soon after taking over in May 2004, shunted him out.

Former World No 1 Tennis Player Ana Ivanovic announces retirement

- Former world No 1 Ana Ivanovic on Wednesday announced her retirement from tennis, admitting that the physical toll of the circuit had proved too much.
- The 29-year-old Serbian held the top spot for 12 weeks in 2008, the season when she claimed her sole Grand Slam success by winning the French Open.
- She announced at the time that she had taken the decision to stop playing until 2017 on medical advice over a recurring wrist injury, with a problematic toe also needing surgery.

China launches high-resolution remote sensing satellites

- China has successfully launched a pair of high-resolution remote sensing satellites to get commercial images.
- The satellites were launched Wednesday from the Taiyuan Satellite Launch Centre in Shanxi Province, state-run Xinhua news agency reported.
- The satellites, SuperView-1 01/02, blasted off at 11:23 am Beijing time on the back of a Long March 2D rocket.

Ronaldo, Santos honoured at Globe Soccer Awards

- Real Madrid star Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal's Euro 2016-winning coach Fernando Santos scooped the top prizes at the seventh edition of the Globe Soccer Awards in Dubai.

- Ronaldo claimed the best player award after helping his country land their first major title at this year's European Championship and firing Real to a record 11th European Cup triumph.

India eases visa process for Bangladeshis

- India has eased the process of procurement of Indian tourist visas for Bangladeshis by allowing those with confirmed travel tickets to submit their visa applications directly without prior appointment starting January 1, 2017.
- "The date of journey should be after 7 days but within one month of submission of the visa application form," said the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

Ronaldo wins European Sportsman of the Year award

- Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo has been voted the European Sportsman of the Year by the Polish news agency PAP.
- The Real Madrid forward pipped British tennis player Andy Murray and Hungarian swimmer Katinka Hosszu.
- The 31-year-old forward helped Real Madrid lift their 11th Champions League title alongside leading Portugal to their maiden European Championship.

Harsh Vardhan inaugurates National Children's Science Congress

- Union Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the 24th National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) at Vidyapratisthan's Institute of Information Technology in Baramati.
- The Minister said the Centre would provide all necessary support to the growth of science and technology in the country.

Green Ganesha awards given out

- The ninth edition of Times Green Ganesha culminated with an awards ceremony in Mumbai.
- Minister of state (environment) Pravin Potte-Patil, Maharashtra Pollution Control Board

(MPCB) member-secretary Anbalagan and MPCB PRO Sanjay Bhuskute presided over the awards and felicitated winners.

- With the win, the world number 534 takes away \$1440 in prize money along with 18 ATP ranking points.

Mumbai's Tata Hospital records 100% cashless transactions

- Tata Memorial Centre Cancer Hospital, the country's best-known address for cancer care, has achieved 100% "cashless" transactions by using exclusive hospital-specific pre-paid 'smartcard', said a press release from the ministry of health and family welfare.
- The hospital, which functions under the aegis of the department of atomic energy, allows patients to not only use the smart card to make cashless payments but even allows them to access their electronic medical records.

Integrated tiger habitat conservation project launched in Karnataka

- Wildlife conservation has received a boost with the launch of an integrated tiger habitat conservation project around M.M.
- Hills and Cauvery wildlife sanctuaries in Chamarajanagar district, with support from the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN).
- The project aims to conserve forest habitats by assisting in the sustainable development of communities living in and around the protected areas.
- It is being implemented by the Nature Conservation Foundation, Mysuru, and the Wildlife Trust of India in association with the Forest Department.

First Indian to get Aadhaar card & her village are truly 'cashless'

- Tembhli village in north Maharashtra became famous as India's first Aadhaar village before receding into the shadows.
- Tembhli, Ranjana's remote village in north Maharashtra, about 470km from Pune, briefly became famous as India's first Aadhaar village
- Congress-led govt had chosen Tembhli in Nandurbar district, north Maharashtra to launch the Aadhaar project.

Punjab to Get its First Bioethanol Plant at Bathinda

- Union food processing minister laid the foundation stone of Punjab's first second-generation Bioethanol plant at Talwandi Sabo in Bathinda district.
- Deputy CM Punjab S. Sukhbir Singh Badal and Minister of State, Petroleum & Natural Gas Sh. DharmendraPradhan also joined her.
- Built up at 49 acres of land, the 500 crore plant offers a practical solution to the problem of stubble burning by converting crop residue to Ethanol.
- The state of the art bioethanol plant offers a long-term solution to farmer's challenge of disposing off crop residue.
- Using an efficient technology, agriculture waste is converted into fuel grade ethanol, offering a permanent solution to the age-old practice of crop residue burning.

Yuki Bhambri clinches ITF Hong Kong F4 Futures title

- Yuki Bhambri clinches ITF Hong Kong F4 Futures title Indian tennis player Yuki Bhambri on 25 December 2016 won the title of the \$10000 ITF Hong Kong F4 Futures.
- It is the first singles trophy of the season. It was his 11th title on the ITF Pro Circuit.
- The third seed from India defeated the tournament's number two Shintaro Imai of Japan 6-4, 7-5. Bhambri won 75% of his first service points and broke serve three times to lock victory in one hour and 54 minutes.

Karnataka govt launches 25 bio-diesel buses in the state

- In an effort to reduce pollution caused by diesel buses, Karnataka State Road Transport

Corporation (KSRTC) has launched 25 bio-diesel buses in the state.

- These eco-friendly buses will ply on four routes, including Tirupati and Chennai.
- Costing around Rs. 90 lakh each, bio-diesel buses eject 60-70% less emissions than diesel buses and would reportedly save the Corporation Rs. 80 lakh each year.

RIL-ONGC: Justice Singhvi appointed arbitrator

- The oil ministry has appointed G.S. Singhvi, a former Supreme Court judge and Competition Appellate Tribunal chairman (Compat), as the government's arbitrator in a \$1.55 billion dispute with Reliance Industries Ltd (RIL) over alleged extraction of gas from a reservoir connected to that of state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. on the east coast.
- Singhvi, who retired from Compat earlier this month, will consult an arbitrator chosen by RIL for identifying a third neutral arbitrator and the place of arbitration

Odisha govt to launch DAMAN programme for malaria control

- The Odisha government has decided to launch a new malaria control programme, Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (malaria control in inaccessible areas) DAMAN, with a total spending of 120 crore rupees for five years.
- The programme will be implemented in 8 thousand villages of all 79 blocks of eight high malaria endemic southern districts - Koraput, Malkangiri, Nabarangapur, Kalahandi, Rayagada, Gajapati, Nuapada and Kandhamal with an annual expenditure of 24 crore rupees.
- The Odisha government has decided to launch a new malaria control programme, Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (malaria control in inaccessible areas) DAMAN, with a total spending of 120 crore rupees for five years.

Govt launch mobile App 'Smart Consumer' & OCMC to provide speedy redressal of consumer grievances

- The government launched a host of online initiatives yesterday including a mobile App 'Smart Consumer' and an 'Online Consumer Mediation Centre (OCMC)' to provide speedy redressal of consumer grievances.
- The initiatives were unveiled by Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan at a function in New Delhi on the occasion of National Consumer Day on Saturday. A helpline 14404 was also launched for consumer related grievances

Haryana connects 100 villages with Wi-Fi services

- Haryana government connected 100 villages with Wi-Fi services and decided to rename all common service centres and E-disha centres as "Atal Seva Kendras", which will provide e-services to people.
- Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar also launched 'Knowledge Warehouse', which will promote start-ups through video-conferencing.
- He also conducted the draw of the digital transaction award scheme.

Govt observes 'Good Governance Day' on December 25

- 'Good Governance Day' is being observed by the government on the occasion of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee's birth anniversary.
- A 100-day campaign will be launched across the country on the theme of good governance on the occasion, Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu said.
- Under the campaign, MPs will travel across India to highlight the Centre's key initiatives, he added.

Dinanath Bhargava who sketched National Emblem dies aged 89

- Dinanath Bhargava, a co-artist in the team that sketched the National Emblem 'Lion Capital of Ashoka', died at the age of 89 in Indore.
- Bhargava was reportedly suffering from cardiac ailments.
- Born on November 1, 1927, Bhargava was in his early twenties when he was chosen in the team,

which also designed the pages of the Constitution's manuscript.

PM Modi lays foundation stone of Pune Metro Rail

- PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Pune Metro project's Phase-I.
- PM Modi said the government is actively working on the Rurban Mission, which caters to the places that are urbanising quickly.
- The government needs to improve the quality of life in villages as well as mitigate the challenges that the urban areas are facing, he added.

Virat Kohli tops the list of Lord's Top 20 Players of 2016

- Indian Test skipper Virat Kohli has featured on top of the Lord's Cricket Ground's Top 20 Players of 2016.
- Kohli is this year's top scorer across the three formats of the game with 2595 runs in 41 innings.
- Ravichandran Ashwin (3), Ajinkya Rahane (13) and Cheteshwar Pujara (18) were the other Indians who made it to the list.

Obama signs defence bill, enhances cooperation with India

- US President Barack Obama has signed a \$618-billion (around Rs. 42 lakh crore) defence policy bill, which "enhances security cooperation between the US and India", according to Senate defence committee chief John McCain.
- The bill also provides aid for Pakistan, on the condition that it can prove it is taking "demonstrable steps" against the militant Haqqani network.

Govt partners with Google for online consumer protection

- Google India has partnered with the Ministry of Consumer Affairs for a campaign called 'Digitally Safe Consumer' to help protect consumer interest online.
- The company has said it will provide training material to over 1,200 consumer organisations

and consumer affairs departments of all Indian states.

- Google is also working with schools to spread awareness about internet safety among the youth.

Solar power project starts at Bengaluru airport

- In an initiative to harness renewable energy, a 3.5 MW solar power project was inaugurated on at the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) airport in Bengaluru, according to reports.
- The project is reportedly spread over 23 acres of land with around 12,985 solar modules. Notably, HAL is aimed at establishing 50 MW of renewable energy in the next two years.

External Affairs Ministry launches 'Twitter Seva' platform

- Expanding its social media outreach, the Ministry of External Affairs launched a 'Twitter Seva' service.
- This move will centralise its grievance redressal mechanism by bringing over 200 social media handles, including those of Indian Missions and regional passport offices, under one platform.
- Further, it will provide for the prompt resolution of grievances on a real-time basis.

Agni 5, India's Longest Range Nuclear Capable Missile, To Be Tested Today

- Agni-5, India's longest range nuclear capable missile, will be tested at Kalam Island off the Odisha coast today by the Defence Research and Development Organisation or DRDO.
- The Agni 5 missile, with new technology for navigation and guidance, gives India the strategic depth it needs to contain its enemies, say scientists. After a few more trials, it will soon join India's military arsenal.

Kirloskar Vasundhara awards for four environmentalists

- Ayyappa Masagi, Vengurla's Ramdas Kokare, Pune-based Central Water and Power Research

Station and filmmaker Subbiah Nallamuthu are set to be recognized for their contributions to the environment.

- They will receive the prestigious Kirloskar Vasundhara awards at the 11th edition of the Kirloskar Vasundhara International Film Festival, to be held in Pune from January 4-11.
- The theme of the festival is 'Save River, Save Life'.

Pune smart city mission project gets three awards

- The Pune city has won three awards for Smart City project in a competition organised by Business-World Awards 2016.
- The first award for 'Innovative Smart Solution - Knowledge and Intellectual Category' was awarded to Pune Lighthouse Project, while the second award for 'Innovative Smart Solution - Infrastructure' was given to Pune Smart City 24x7 water supply initiative.
- The Pune Care App got the third award of 'Innovative Smart Solution - Social'

Assam launches health insurance scheme Atal-Amrit Abhiyan

- Assam's BJP led government on Sunday rolled out 'Atal-Amrit Abhiyan' health insurance scheme which will provide coverage against several critical illnesses.
- Launched to mark the 92nd birthday of former prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the scheme will offer coverage against 437 illnesses in six disease groups, namely, cardiovascular, cancer, kidney, neo-natal, neurological conditions and burns.
- Both Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Above Poverty Line (APL) families .

KVGB launches 'Bank Sakhi' scheme

- The Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) has come out with an innovative method of employing women in villages.
- Bank chairman S. Ravindran said that the bank would appoint women business correspondents

called "Bank Sakhi" in select villages where this scheme would be implemented.

- To start with, the bank had hired 11 "Bank Sakhis" and had plans to appoint a minimum of 50 such women in different districts, he said.
- It would be possible to ensure greater participation in financial inclusion by engaging women in villages. A "Bank Sakhi" is someone who has been a member of a self-help group involved in conducting banking and book-keeping activities of the group.

Cabinet nod to name irrigation scheme after Parbati Giri

- To appease the agitating peasants of western Odisha, the state government announced to name Rs 6,600 crore mega lift irrigation scheme after popular freedom fighter Parbati Giri.
- A proposal in this regard was approved at the state cabinet meeting headed by chief minister Naveen Patnaik.
- Giri, born in Bargarh district is known for his contribution to the freedom movement of the country. For his unconditional support to the poor and downtrodden communities, she is also known as the Mother Teresa of Odisha.

India beat Sri Lanka to clinch third straight U-19 Asia Cup

- The Indian Under-19 cricket team beat Sri Lanka by 34 runs to win the 2016 edition of the Youth Asia Cup, their third consecutive title win.
- Driven by 70s from Himanshu Rana and Shubman Gill, India posted 273/8 in 50 overs.
- In Sri Lanka's innings, Rahul Chahar's figures of 3/22 in 10 overs helped India clinch the title.

Kapil Sharma ranked 11th in Forbes India Celebrity 100 list

- Comedian Kapil Sharma has been ranked eleventh in the Celebrity 100 list of 2016 by Forbes India.
- He has been ranked seventh in terms of fame, beating the likes of Aamir Khan, Deepika Padukone and Priyanka Chopra

- His total earnings were estimated to be Rs. 30.17 crore, which is higher than the earnings of a few Bollywood actors.

Sunny Leone to receive PETA's Person of the Year award

- Actress Sunny Leone will receive PETA's Person of the Year award for her dedication to promoting the rescue of homeless dogs and cats, as well as her compassion for animals abused and killed for their skin.
- "Sunny Leone's kindness proves she is as beautiful on the inside as she is on the outside," said Sachin Bangera of PETA.

Indian wins gold at Asian Luge Championships in Japan

- India's Shiva Keshavan won a gold medal at the Asian Luge Championships in Japan. This is his third gold in the tournament's history, with his tally including four silvers and two bronze medals since 2005.
- Keshavan, a five-time Winter Olympian, is India's only professional luge player and holds the Asian speed and time records in the sport.

Delhi named India's most well-read city of 2016 by Amazon

- Delhi has emerged as the country's most well-read city the fourth consecutive year with Bengaluru and Mumbai taking the second and third spot, according to Annual Reading Trends Report 2016 by Amazon.
- For the first time, Karnal, Vadodara and Patna made it to the top 20 cities, having bought more books than cities like Coimbatore, Visakhapatnam and Lucknow this year.

PM Narendra Modi Will Lay Foundation For Rs. 3,600 Crore Shivaji Memorial

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a day's visit to Maharashtra, where he will lay the foundation stone for the grand memorial of Maratha warrior king Chhatrapati Shivaji

Maharaj and the metro rail projects in Mumbai and Pune

- He will proceed to the site in the Arabian Sea off Mumbai coast, where the state government is planning to build a mega memorial for Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
- The main feature of the Shivaji memorial, slated to cost Rs. 3,600 crore, will be a 192-metre-tall statue of the iconic Maratha king. The site is a rocky outcrop, roughly 1.5 km from the Raj Bhavan shore.

Sunam's railway station to be named after martyr Udham Singh

- The Punjab government has finally notified the name of the railway station in Sunam town, Sangrur district, as Sunam Udham Singh Wala, just a couple of months ahead of the assembly elections.
- The town was changed from just Sunam to Sunam Udham Singh Wala in January 2006, but the state government had not taken up the matter of changing the railway station's name since then with the Centre.

Agra-Lucknow Expressway to open for commuters

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav's ambitious new Agra-Lucknow Expressway, which was inaugurated in November, is open for commuters from Friday
- The 302-kilometre-long six-lane expressway, which is India's longest, is expected to considerably reduce the travel time between Lucknow and Delhi which usually takes 12 to 14 hours.

Salman Khan tops 2016 Forbes India Celebrity 100 List

- Salman Khan has replaced Shah Rukh Khan to rank in the top spot in Forbes India's annual Celebrity 100 list. Shah Rukh Khan has ranked second in the list and Virat Kohli, who has had a dream year, ranked in third.
- The list is compiled based on two parameters: estimates of entertainment related earnings

and estimates of fame. The period under consideration was 1 October 2015 to 30 September 2016

Ravichandran Ashwin named ICC Cricketer of the Year

- Indian all-rounder Ravichandran Ashwin has been named the ICC Cricketer of the Year and Test Cricketer of the Year during the year-end ICC awards.
- Ashwin, the top-ranked Test bowler and all-rounder, scored 612 runs and took 72 wickets in Tests this year, including eight five-wicket hauls.
- He is also the only Indian in the ICC Test team of the year.

Virat Kohli named captain of ICC ODI Team of the Year

- Virat Kohli has been named the captain of the ICC ODI Team of the Year, which also features Indian batsman Rohit Sharma and all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja.
- The team, announced as part of the ICC Awards on Thursday, also features South Africa's AB de Villiers for the sixth straight year.
- Kohli has been featured in the team for the third time.

Government launches Google Toilet Locator app

- Union Minister Venkaiah Naidu on Thursday launched the 'Google Toilet Locator' mobile application as part of the 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan' to help people locate the nearest toilet.
- As per reports, the toilet locator will have details on location of all toilets in Delhi-NCR and Madhya Pradesh for now, to be followed by other states soon.

Misbah-Ul-Haq wins ICC Spirit of Cricket Award

- Pakistan captain Misbah-Ul-Haq became the first Pakistani player to win the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award.
- The previous winners of the award include MS Dhoni (2011), Daniel Vettori (2012), Mahela Jayawardena (2013), Katherine Brunt (2014) and Brendon McCullum (2015).
- "I feel honoured and humbled to have won the ICC Spirit of Cricket Award", said Misbah.

South Africa's de Kock named ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year

- South African wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock has been named the ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year. De Kock has scored a total of 857 runs in 17 ODIs this year, which also includes three centuries.
- He is also a part of the ICC ODI Team of the Year, after featuring earlier in it in 2014.

National Mathematics Day celebrated on December 22

- National Mathematics Day is celebrated on December 22, since 2012, after former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh made the declaration, to pay tribute to S Ramanujan and celebrate his birth anniversary.
- Ramanujan is known for his contributions to the theory of numbers and compiling over 3,000 mathematical results and equations.
- Notably, his 129th birth anniversary was observed on the day.

Argentina win FIFA Team of the Year title

- Argentina claimed the 'Team of the Year' title after finishing top of the FIFA rankings of the year with 1,634 points.
- Argentina's rivals Brazil ended the year in the second position with 1,544 points while World Champions Germany finished third with 1,433 points.
- Last year's winner Belgium ended the year in the fifth position with 1,368 points.

India's first Beer Mile festival to be held in Bengaluru

- Bengaluru will host India's first 'Beer Mile Run', wherein a participant will be required to drink a pint of beer, run a quarter mile, and then repeat the process until a mile is completed.
- Prizes to fastest runners in different categories will be awarded.
- The event, which is scheduled for January 15, 2017, will also offer food, music, and games.

Roger Federer named 2016's 'Most Stylish Man' by GQ

- Seventeen-time Grand Slam winner Roger Federer was named the 'Most Stylish Man' of 2016 by GQ, a leading men's magazine.
- The magazine described Federer as "quietly elegant tennis pro who favours neutral suits and the occasional pop of colour on the court".
- Roger Federer beat Tim Hiddleston in the final round by more than 60% of fan votes.

American Tourister appoints Kohli as its brand ambassador

- Samsonite-owned American Tourister has appointed India's Test captain Virat Kohli as its brand ambassador.
- "Virat is a global youth icon and is the poster boy for all those who thrive on...ability to be ready for anything that life throws at them," Samsonite South Asia's COO said.
- Notably, Kohli is the first Indian brand ambassador of the global luggage brand.

China launches satellite to monitor global CO2 emissions

- China has launched atmospheric CO₂-monitoring TanSat satellite in an effort to curb and monitor greenhouse gas emissions.
- The 635-kg satellite will measure global carbon dioxide levels every 16 days over the next three years and help policy makers and scientists gather independent climate change data.
- Notably, China is the world's largest emitter of CO₂.

Jeje wins best footballer of the year award by AIFF

- Indian forward Jeje Lalpekhlu was named 2016's AIFF Player of the Year, an award given to the best footballer in the country.
- "It's the award which every Indian footballer looks forward to...I am thankful to all my coaches who put their faith on me," said Jeje
- The 25-year-old who hails from Mizoram will be awarded a prize of Rs. 2.5 lakh.

Trump picks Peter Navarro, 'Death by China' author, for trade advisory role

- US President-elect Donald Trump has picked Peter Navarro, economist and author of 'Death by China', to head the newly-formed White House National Trade Council.
- Navarro also made a film describing China as a threat to US economy and suggested a stepped-up engagement with Taiwan, defying 'one China' policy.
- Trump's team praised Navarro as a "visionary" who will expand US growth.

World's first solar road opens in France

- The world's first solar road made with 30,000 square feet of solar panels has been opened in the French village of Normandy.
- The one-kilometre long road took five years and cost \$5.2 million to develop.
- It will be used for a two-year test period to check if it can generate enough energy to power street lighting in the village.

Google Completes The Target Of 100 WiFi Railway Stations, Newest One In Ooty

- Google, in collaboration with Railtel rolled out free WiFi service at Udhagamandalam (Ooty) station in Tamil Nadu, taking to 100 the railway stations where it offers high speed internet to an estimated 10 million people.
- In January, Google launched its first free WiFi services at Mumbai's Mumbai Central station.
- According to Google, over 10 million people who pass through these stations every day now have an access to fast Internet speed to stream (or offline) an HD video, research their destination or download a new book or game for the journey ahead.

Girija Vaidyanathan's appointment as new chief secretary of Tamil Nadu

- Girija Vaidyanathan, Additional Chief Secretary and Commissioner of Land Administration, has been appointed Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu in place of P. Rama Mohana Rao
- Ms.Vaidyanathan will also hold full additional charge of Vigilance Commissioner and Commissioner for Administrative Reforms.

Sangita Kumari clinch bronze

- Sangita Kumari scored twice as India defeated Korea 3-0 to clinch the bronze in the fourth Women's Under-18 Asia Cup hockey tournament
- Sangita scored in the 55th and 58th minutes after Ritu had put India ahead in the 45th minute in the bronze-medal play-off.

Mary Kom, Vikas Krishan get awards at AIBA 70th anniversary

- The legendary M C Mary Kom and former Asian Games gold medallist Vikas Krishan shone brightly at the International Boxing Association's 70th anniversary gala in Montreux, Switzerland, picking up different awards for their performances.
- While five-time world champion and Olympic bronze medallist Mary Kom was presented the AIBA Legends award for her trailblazing boxing career, Vikas was handed the APB (AIBA Pro Boxing) Best Boxer trophy.

Two-day meeting of GST Council begins in Delhi

- The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council begins its two-day meeting in New Delhi to consider the model laws and iron out differences on the issue of jurisdiction over assesses in the new indirect tax regime.
- GST Council in its last meeting had cleared 20 chapters of the model GST law and today they will discuss the remaining seven chapters.

- The government has time till September 16 next year to implement the GST Act as per the Constitution Amendment Bill passed by both the Houses

Messi won FIFA Best Player award

- Reports claim that Real Madrid forward Cristiano Ronaldo has beaten Barcelona's Lionel Messi to 2016's FIFA Best Player of the Year award.
- The award is set to be announced on January 9 with FIFA already having announced Ronaldo, Messi and Antoine Griezmann as the award's top 3 contenders.
- Notably, Ronaldo claimed his fourth Ballon d'Or award earlier this month.

China bans sharing user-generated content on social media

- China has banned internet users from posting user-generated audio or video, reportedly one of few sources of information outside state-controlled media.
- China already has one of the strictest censorship worldwide, ranking only behind countries like North Korea and Syria.
- The ban comes after a draft law was passed, giving police censorship powers in case of natural disasters.

Japan successfully launches solid fuel rocket

- Japan's space agency announced that it successfully launched a 26-metre-long rocket named Epsilon-2, which put a satellite that helps study radiation belts in orbit.
- Epsilon-2 is part of a new generation of solid propellant rockets which can reduce launch costs up to one-third.
- Reduction in cost can allow countries to put more communication and weather satellites in space.

Priyanka 1st Indian to be made Pantene's global ambassador

- Actress Priyanka Chopra has become the first Indian to be appointed as the global ambassador of the hair care brand 'Pantene'.
- "Her strength & confidence inspires us!" tweeted the brand while making the announcement.
- Calling the brand a "favourite around the world", Priyanka added, "I love that Pantene celebrates and advocates that being strong is beautiful."

Independent director Nusli Wadia removed from Tata Steel board

- Tata Steel said its independent director Nusli Wadia was removed from the company's board, with 90.8% of shareholders voting to ouster him during an extraordinary general meeting.
- The move comes barely three days after ousted Tata group chairman Cyrus Mistry resigned from all companies listed under the group amid an ugly boardroom battle.

China launches satellite to monitor global carbon emissions

- China launched a global carbon dioxide monitoring satellite to understand climate change, hours after it lifted nearly a week-long red alert for the worst smog that engulfed about 40 cities in the country.
- The 620-kg satellite TanSat was put into orbit by Long March-2D rocket from Jiuquan Satellite Launch Centre in north-west China's Gobi Desert early Thursday morning.

Team Indus, Japan's Hakuto combine for Moon mission

- Team Indus will carry a robotic rover developed by Hakuto, the Japanese team in the Google Lunar XPrize competition, to the Moon aboard the former's spacecraft.
- Bengaluru-based Team Indus, the only Indian team in the competition to land a privately funded craft on the Moon, recently contracted with ISRO to launch its craft around December 28 next year.

Digital payment promotion schemes to be launched in 3 cities of Punjab

- The Centre has selected Amritsar, Ludhiana and Jalandhar for launching the 'Lucky Grahak Yojana' and 'Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana' to promote digital payments in Punjab.
- Additional Chief Secretary Finance Satish Chandra, after a video conference with Union Cabinet Secretary Pradeep Kumar Sinha and his counterparts in other state governments, said the Centre has launched Lucky Grahak Yojana to encourage consumers and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana to encourage merchants for the transition to digital payments.

Bengaluru to get India's second sericulture centre

- Union minister for Textiles Smriti Irani is set to launch India's second centre of excellence for sericulture in Bengaluru on Tuesday to boost the silk industry, according to reports.
- India's first such centre was set up in Ranchi by the Central Silk Board. Reportedly, the country is currently importing nearly 4,000 metric tonnes of high quality raw silk from China.

India's boxing fed gets permanent membership in world body

- The International Boxing Association (AIBA) on unanimously voted to induct the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) as one of its permanent members.
- India was provisionally suspended in December 2012 for "possible manipulation" in the erstwhile Indian Amateur Boxing Federation's elections.
- AIBA's chief also congratulated the BFI for organising and conducting the Nationals.

Govt launches GARV-II app for tracking rural electrification

- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power Piyush Goyal launched the 'GARV-II' app that will provide real-time data on electrification of 6

lakh villages, with 15 lakh habitations, across the country.

- Adding that the application will provide village-wise and habitation-wise data covering 17 crore people, Goyal added that the government aims to achieve '24x7 Power for All'.

SBI launches digital wallet MobiCash in alliance with BSNL

- India's largest lender State Bank of India, in partnership with state-run telco BSNL has launched its mobile wallet application 'State Bank MobiCash' for smartphones as well as feature phones.
- It will enable users to deposit cash through BSNL retail outlets and withdraw funds from their accounts.
- This comes amid the government pushing for shift to cashless economy following demonetisation

Maharashtra forest department's 24x7 helpline

- The Maharashtra forest department will launch a state-wide call centre facility from January 6.
- It will operate from Goregaon in Mumbai and is currently functioning on a trial basis.
- Citizens will soon be able to call on a 24x7 toll free number (1926) to lodge complaints or get information about a variety of issues related to forests and wildlife

First Nepali transgender model to walk at Lakmé Fashion Week

- Anjali Lama is set to be the first Nepali transgender model to walk the ramp at the upcoming Lakmé Fashion Week in February 2017.
- Anjali Lama was born in Nuwakot district as a boy and was named Nabin Waiba.
- She has also been the subject of a documentary titled 'Anjali: Living Inside Someone Else's Skin'.

Odisha Cabinet approves mega lift irrigation projects

- The state cabinet today approved the proposal to award works for 54 more schemes under the

Mega Lift Irrigation Scheme in four clusters to irrigate about 62,000 hectares. The projects will cost Rs 1796.27 crore.

- The schemes will cover 23 blocks in five districts of Sundargarh, Jharsuguda, Ganjam, Kalahandi and Nuapada. Larsen and Toubro

Jaipur Wax Museum at Nahargarh Fort Inaugurated

- Bollywood actor Govinda inaugurated the Jaipur Wax Museum on Saturday at the 18th-century Nahargarh Fort, which overlooks the city.
- The museum houses wax sculptures of around 25 personalities, including actor Amitabh Bachchan and warriors Maharana Pratap and Sawai Jai Singh.
- Govinda said, "I hope there will more activities like this in Jaipur."

Justice JS Khehar to be the 1st Sikh Chief Justice of India

- President Pranab Mukherjee on Monday cleared the appointment of Justice JS Khehar as the next Chief Justice of India, and the first from Sikh community.
- Justice Khehar will be sworn in as the 44th CJI on January 4, 2017. He will have a short tenure of about seven months until August 28, 2017, following which he will retire.

Priyanka chosen as Assam's tourism ambassador for 2 years

- Actress Priyanka Chopra has been appointed Assam's tourism brand ambassador for two years.
- The state's Finance and Tourism Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said, "She is coming to Guwahati on December 24 when we will formally appoint her as our brand ambassador."
- Sarma added that Priyanka will visit Assam several times in the next few months to take part in shoots.

Karun Nair fastest Indian to score maiden 200 in Tests

- Karun Nair became the fastest Indian to score maiden double ton in Tests, reaching the milestone in his career's third innings during the ongoing Chennai Test against England.
- Nair surpassed Vinod Kambli, who took four innings to score a double ton. This is also Nair's maiden Test ton, with his previous best innings score being 13.

Dictionary Merriam-Webster has named "surreal" as its word of the year

- The lexicographer selected surreal - which means "unbelievable, fantastic" - after spikes in searches following terrorist attacks and the US election.
- The attacks in Brussels, the Bastille Day massacre in Nice and the attempted coup in Turkey all saw an increase in how often people searched for the word
- "Surreal" is also defined as meaning "marked by the intense irrational reality of a dream", according to Merriam Webster.

Lakshmi Bai awards, 7 more Yash Bhartis given away

- Chief minister Akhilesh Yadav was on a spree of awards distribution on Monday, giving away Rani Lakshmi Bai award to 88 women achievers and 306 women village pradhans and Yash Bharati to seven more achievers from the state.
- Receivers of Rani Lakshmi Bai Bravery Award include Prachi Sharma and Pratibha, two pilots of Lucknow Metro for being the first train operators during the trial run in December.

Punit Goenka honoured with Business Today 'Best CEO Award'

- Punit Goenka, Managing Director and CEO of Zee Entertainment Enterprises Ltd (ZEEL) has been honoured with the Business Today 'Best CEO Award' in the Media and Entertainment category for 2016

- The methodology of Business Today's Best CEO Awards focused on the operational performance of companies and their shareholders returns which was conducted by BT's Knowledge support partner for the process PwC India.

Miss Puerto Rico crowned Miss World 2016

- Stephanie Del Valle from Puerto Rico was crowned Miss World 2016 here, with representatives from Dominican Republic and Indonesia the runners-up. India's Priyadarshini Chatterjee only made it to the top 20.
- Miss World 2015 Mireia Lalaguna Royo crowned the 19-year-old Stephanie, the second Puerto Rican to hold the title after Wilnelia Merced won it in 1975, at the event's grand finale held at the MGM National Harbor

India crowned junior Hockey World Cup champions

- India was crowned junior Hockey World champions after defeating Belgium 2-1 in the final in Lucknow.
- Gurjant Singh opened the scoring in the 8th minute while Simranjeet Singh added another in the 22nd-minute.
- Fabrice Van Bockrijck scored Belgium's solitary goal in the final minute. This is India's second junior World Cup title after first winning it in 2001.

India, Tajikistan sign pact to limit terror-funding

- India and Tajikistan on Saturday signed four pacts including one to share financial intelligence to counter money laundering and financing of terrorism to strengthen defence cooperation.
- The pacts were signed after PM Narendra Modi and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon discussed multiple issues including radicalisation. Terrorism undermines all developmental efforts, Rahmon said.

Developer of life saving technique 'Heimlich' dies aged 96

- Henry Heimlich, the doctor who came up with the Heimlich manoeuvre which saved thousands of choking victims, died of a heart attack on Saturday aged 96.
- Heimlich came up with the technique in 1974 after reading about high death counts in restaurants caused by diners choking on food.
- Heimlich won the prestigious Lasker Award for public service in 1984.

Bali named most popular year-end destination in Asia

- The island of Bali has been picked by travelling reviewer website TripAdvisor as the most popular year-end destination for South East Asian travellers.
- The list, which mentioned places suitable for travel during December 1, 2016 and February 28, 2017, also included Luzon island in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Bangkok and Tokyo.

Jodhpur listed in top 10 preferred tourist places for 2017

- Jodhpur has been listed among the top ten preferred destinations for travellers in 2017, according to 'TripAdvisor Travellers' Choice Awards for Destinations on the Rise'.
- The list is based on feedback from travellers and the booking interest for the destination.
- The list was topped by San Jose del Cabo in Mexico, followed by Kihei in Hawaii and Baku in Azerbaijan.

42nd annual cake show begins in Bengaluru

- The 42nd annual cake show organised by the National Consumer Fair recently began in Bengaluru.
- The collection includes a 14 feet by 7 feet 'London Tower Bridge', which took about 65 days to make.
- The show further displays cakes designed in the form of a 'Chinese Dragon', 'Aladdin and Magic Carpet', and 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

5th edition of India's International Clown Festival begins

- The fifth edition of the 'International Clown Festival' recently began across five places including Mumbai, Hyderabad, Bengaluru and Vadodara.
- The festival is an annual event that aims to promote the 'art of clowning and circus skills'.
- This year's festival, which is based on the theme of Christmas, will run until December 25.

Real Madrid crowned Club World Cup champions

- Real Madrid were crowned as the Club World Cup champions after defeating Japan's Kashima Antlers 4-2 in the final's extra-time.
- The scoreline read 2-2 at the end of the 90 minutes, after Karim Benzema and Cristiano Ronaldo scored for Madrid on either side of Gaku Shibasaki's brace.
- Ronaldo scored twice in extra-time to win the title for Madrid.

Priyanka ahead of Depp, DiCaprio on IMDb most popular list

- Actress Priyanka Chopra has been ranked 55th on IMDb's most popular celebrities' list, ahead of Hollywood celebrities like Jennifer Aniston, Emma Watson, Leonardo DiCaprio and Johnny Depp among others.
- She is reportedly the only Indian to have featured on the list. Algerian actress Sofia Boutella, who will be next seen in 'The Mummy', topped the list.

Paris opens 'world's largest non-permanent indoor ice rink'

- A 2,700-square-meter skating space, which is being considered the world's largest non-permanent indoor ice rink, recently opened at the Grand Palais in Paris.
- Over 100 workers constructed the ice rink, which will remain open until January 2.
- The rink was inaugurated by a show featuring skating stunts and acrobatics as part of the 'Grand Palais des Glaces' festival.

Harvard creates world's smallest radio receiver

- Harvard engineers have created the world's smallest radio receiver, whose building blocks are crystal defects the size of two atoms in diamonds.
- The minuscule radio can withstand extremely harsh environments due to diamond's inherent strength, researchers said and added that the receiver could have various applications ranging from a Venus probe to a pacemaker in a human heart.

Himachal Pradesh 6th state to attain 100% Aadhaar coverage

- Himachal Pradesh has achieved 100% Aadhaar saturation on the basis of the 2015 population, making it the sixth state to achieve the milestone. Delhi, Telangana, Haryana, Punjab and Union Territory Chandigarh have already achieved full coverage.
- Aadhaar numbers have been generated for 72,52,880 residents in the state. Special arrangements have been made to maintain this achievement in future.

Vijender knocks out Cheka to retain Asia-Pacific title

- Indian boxer Vijender Singh retained his WBO Super Middleweight Asia-Pacific title after knocking out Tanzania's Francis Cheka in the title fight in Delhi.
- Vijender has now extended his unbeaten run in professional boxing to eight bouts.
- The 31-year-old boxer knocked out Cheka in the third round to post his seventh knockout victory.

Bipin Rawat named new Army chief, BS Dhanoa new IAF head

- The government on announced the appointment of Lieutenant General Bipin Rawat as the new Indian Army Chief and Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa as the new Indian Air Force Chief.

- Rawat, who belongs to the 5th Battalion of 11th Gorkha Rifles, will take over from Dalbir Singh Suhag, while Dhanoa, a Kargil war veteran, will replace Arup Raha.

Rajiv Jain to be new IB chief, Anil Dhasmana to head RAW

- Jharkhand cadre IPS officer Rajiv Jain was on appointed as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB) while Anil Dhasmana will head external intelligence agency RAW.
- Jain, who is at present serving as the Special Director in the IB, will take over on 1 January after the incumbent Dineshwar Sharma completes his two-year tenure on 31 December.

BBC Sports Personality of the Year awards 2016

- ANDY MURRAY collected his third Sports Personality of the Year award from Lennox Lewis with an added dose of déjà vu.
- The tennis titan claimed his third gong after successes in 2013 and 2015 and the boxing fan was handed the trophy by one of his sporting heroes – but it looked oddly familiar.

Mumbai's Elphinstone Road station to be renamed Prabhadevi

- The Maharashtra Assembly has unanimously passed a resolution of renaming the Elphinstone Road railway station to Prabhadevi and adding 'Maharaj' to the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport.
- The resolution was moved by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis in the Assembly and got the support of all parties.
- These recommendations are awaiting approval from the central government.

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and Chandigarh have already achieved full coverage.

Under this program number of workshops were held.

Parliament passes Persons with Disabilities Bill, 2016

- The Lok Sabha today passed "The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill - 2016". The Bill will replace the existing PwD Act, 1995, which was enacted 21 years back. The Rajya Sabha has already passed the Bill on 14.12.2016.
- The types of disabilities have been increased from existing 7 to 21 and the Central Government will have the power to add more types of disabilities.
- Reservation in vacancies in government establishments has been increased from 3% to 4% for certain persons or class of persons with benchmark disability.

Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana comes into effect

- The Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) notified along with other provisions of Taxation Laws (Second Amendment) Act, 2016 came into effect from 17 December 2016. It will remain open until March 31, 2016.
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PMGKY stands for Pradhan Matri Garib Kalyan Yojana. This Yojana was launched in 2015. The objective behind this Yojana is to improve the financial position of the poor people. It is basically a poverty alleviation program.

RBI lowers charges on debit card payments to promote digital transactions

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) limits the Merchant Discount Rates (MDR) for debit card transactions up to Rs. 1,000 at 0.25% and for transactions above Rs. 1,000 and up to Rs. 2,000 at 0.5% in order to promote greater adoption of digital payment methods. Moreover, RBI also has asked banks and prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuing entities not to levy any charges for transactions upto Rs. 1000 settled using Immediate Payment Service (USSD) based *99# and Unified Payment Interface (UPI) systems.

Indian appointed to Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee

- A noted Indian-American expert on India-US civil nuclear deal has been re-appointed to the Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee of the US Department of Commerce.
- Vijay Sazawal's appointment to Civil Nuclear Trade Advisory Committee (CINTAC) was announced by US Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker along with 38 other members.
- "Maintaining US leadership in the nuclear industry is critical to our country's economic vitality and to global efforts to combat climate change," Pritzker said.

UK becomes first country to approve three-parent babies

- Britain has become the first country in the world to legally offer "three-parent baby" fertility treatments after regulators gave the green light.
- The technique, which uses DNA from two women and a man, would allow mothers who carry disease-causing mutations in their mitochondrial genes to give birth to children free of the illness.

Oracle CEO Safra Catz joins Trump's advisory team

- One of the biggest American computer technology company Oracle's CEO Safra Catz will be joining US President-elect Donald Trump's advisory team.
- Catz was one of the several top technology executives who recently met Trump in New York. The CEOs of Tesla, Uber, PepsiCo and other companies have also joined Trump's advisory team.

Parliament clears Disabilities Bill

- The chances of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill (2014) being discussed by the Upper House were looking slim.
- The Bill was passed without discussion with 119 amendments. The Bill will protect approximately 2.68 crore people with disabilities in the country.
- The Bill has been praised for bringing in a more nuanced and expansive understanding of disability, as it now recognizes 19 conditions, including autism, Parkinson's Disease and the impact of acid attack – far more than the seven that were in the first version of the Persons with Disabilities Act (1995).

Bharatanatyam guru receives Nadhabrahmam title

- Bharatanatyam guru K. Kalyana Sundaram, director, Sri Rajarajeswari Bharathi Natya Kala Mandir, Mumbai, was conferred the title of Nadhabrahmam at the inauguration of Narada Gana Sabha's Isai Natya Nataka Vizha.
- The sabha also presented Senior Musician award to renowned vocalist Suguna Varadachari and Tirunelveli P. Subramania Iyer Award to Thavil vidwan Thirupungur T.G. Muthukumarasamy.

V K Sharma appointed LIC chief for 5 years

- Government Wednesday appointed V K Sharma as the chairman of state-owned behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) for five years.
- Managing Director at LIC, Sharma was already acting as chairman since September 16 when the

then chairman S K Roy was relieved of his duties.

Saurabh Varma appointed as Publicis Communications' India CEO

- Publicis Communications announces the appointment of Saurabh Varma as CEO of Publicis Communications India.
- Varma's appointment comes on top of his existing responsibilities as CEO of Leo Burnett's South Asia operations, and he will be based in Mumbai.
- Varma was appointed CEO of Leo Burnett India in 2013 and a year later was elevated to a South Asia role.
- He has about 20 years of industry experience, seven of which were spent as Chief Strategy Officer for South Asia, in Singapore.

Sulabh founder Bindeshwar Pathak appointed as NALSA member

- Noted social reformer and founder of Sulabh International, Bindeshwar Pathak, has been nominated as a Member of the Central Authority of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA).
- Chief Justice of Jharkhand High Court, Justice Virendra Singh, was also nominated as a member along with Pathak, by the Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India.

Kochi to get India's first transgender school

- Kochi's Sahaj International School will be inaugurated on December 30 to become India's first transgender school.
- Led by six transgenders working with the TransIndia Foundation, the school will initially have 10 children.
- The students, including a migrant and a disabled person, have been selected from various sections of the transgender community.

Suzie Bates 1st woman to win ICC ODI and T20I Player of Year

- New Zealand women's team captain Suzie Bates became the first female cricketer to win both ICC's ODI and T20I Player of the Year awards.
- Bates, who had previously won the ODI Player of the Year award in 2013, won her maiden T20I Player of the Year award this year.
- Bates was 2016's highest run-scorer in T20Is and second-highest in ODIs

Mumbai airport first in India to introduce self bag-drop

- Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport became India's first airport to introduce self bag-drop facility.
- This will allow passengers who have already checked in online to quickly tag and drop their baggage before heading directly to the gate.
- This facility is currently available to passengers of Air India, Jet Airways, SpiceJet, and Indigo.

Akhilesh lays foundation stone of Noida-Gr Noida metro link

- Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav laid the foundation stone of the 15-km-long metro link from Noida's Sector 71 to Greater Noida's Knowledge Park-V through a video conference from Lucknow.
- The CM also inaugurated the 3.9 km Botanical Garden-Kalindi Kunj metro project, on which trials are underway.
- This metro link is expected to open by April 2017, officials said.

Gujarat-born 1970s activist on BBC's influential women list

- A Gujarat-born activist who led a campaign against low pay to women workers at a UK factory in the 1970s has been included in BBC's most influential women of the past 70 years list.
- Jayaben Desai, known as the sari-clad leader, was one of the seven women on the list topped

by Margaret Thatcher, Britain's first female Prime Minister.

- US Federal Reserve System raises base interest rate by 25 p.p to 0.5-0.75%
- The US Federal Reserve System acting as the national central bank has raised the base interest rate by 25 percentage points to 0.5-0.75%, the regulator said in a statement after the meeting of its management.
- This is the first time the US Federal Reserve System raised the rate this year.

Vasundhara Raje launches Annapurna Rasoi Yojana

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has gone the Amma way.
- Amma canteens offer affordable hygienic food to the less privileged in Tamil Nadu, Vasundhara Raje government has introduced Annapurna Rasoi Yojana in Rajasthan.
- Breakfast shall be made available at Rs 5 and nutritious food for Rs 8.

NITI Aayog announces daily, weekly, and mega-awards on digital transactions to promote cashless payments

- The National Institute for Transforming India(NITI) Aayog, the government's policy think-tank, on Thursday announced a lottery with daily, weekly and mega awards for consumers and merchants, to encourage a transition to digital payments .
- The awards will be offered through two schemes - the Lucky Grahak Yojana for consumers, and the Digi-dhan Vyapar Yojana for merchants at an estimated cost of Rs 340 crore, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant said.
- Both the schemes will cover small transactions between Rs 50 and Rs 3,000 to encourage every section of the society+ to move to digital payments, Kant explained.
- Andy Murray wins SJA British Sports Awards 2016 Sportsman of the Year
- Andy Murray added another prestigious title to his incredible haul for 2016 as the world tennis

No.1 was named the SJA British Sports Award Sportsman of the Year.

- Murray, 29, reigned supreme after an unforgettable year that saw him win Wimbledon, the Rio Olympics and end the year as the best male tennis player on the planet.

Hyundai India wins Indian Manufacturer of the Year award

- The Indian arm of the South Korean carmaker, Hyundai Motor India, was today awarded with the "Indian Manufacturer of the Year – 2016" award by Frost & Sullivan at the India Manufacturing Excellence Awards 2016.
- The award is the highest recognition given to any manufacturer India for its excellent manufacturing techniques.
- Hyundai India was adjudged the winner of the prestigious award out of 93 entries that were selected from a shortlist of 102 sites

Indian named in first-ever ICC Women's Team of the Year

- Opener Smriti Mandhana is the lone Indian in ICC's first-ever women's team of the year. Mandhana, who is the second Indian to play in Australia's Women's Big Bash League, made 320 runs in eight ODIs and 286 in 17 T20Is this year.
- The team comprises three Kiwi players, two each from Australia, England and West Indies and one South African.

Olympian Shiva Thapa wins gold in national boxing c'ships

- Two-time Olympian and World Championships' bronze medalist Shiva Thapa won a gold medal at the National Boxing Championships, his first in the lightweight (60 kg) category, in Guwahati.
- Meanwhile, Commonwealth Games silver medalist and Olympian L Devendro Singh won a silver in his 52 kg category, while Services Sports Control Board won the overall title.

PV Sindhu wins Most Improved Player of the Year award

- Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu was honoured with the Most Improved Player of the Year award by Badminton World Federation on Monday.
- In 2016, Sindhu won her maiden Superseries title and also qualified for the World Superseries Finals for the first time.
- Sindhu started 2016 as 12th ranked and achieved her career-best rank of 7 in December.

Larry Page named world's most powerful CEO by

- Google's parent company Alphabet's CEO Larry Page has been named the world's most powerful CEO by Forbes, with his company having a market capitalisation of over \$550 billion.
- Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon's Jeff Bezos have been ranked second and third respectively.
- Tesla's Elon Musk and Walmart's Doug McMillon have also featured on the list.

Vladimir Putin named World's Most Powerful Person by Forbes

- Russian President Vladimir Putin has been named as the World's Most Powerful Person by Forbes, for the fourth consecutive year.
- "From the motherland to Syria to the US presidential elections, Russia's leader continues to get what he wants," the magazine said.
- US President-elect Donald Trump bagged the second spot.

PM Modi in top 10 of Forbes' Most Powerful People list

- PM Narendra Modi was ranked 9th on Forbes' list of World's Most Powerful People.

- Taking note of PM Modi's efforts to curb corruption and his demonetisation move, Forbes wrote, "Modi has raised his profile as a global leader in recent years."
- He has emerged as a key figure in the international effort to tackle climate change, Forbes added.

India tops Asia in innovation chart

- India has topped Asia in innovation and has emerged as the third biggest country worldwide in terms of new innovation centres, according to research by consulting firm Capgemini.
- Bengaluru, where 3 new innovation centres opened between March and October, was ranked fifth among top innovation hubs globally.
- This is partly due to government policies and other initiatives, the report added.

Rahman's soundtrack for Pele biopic in Oscars' 1st shortlist

- Music composer AR Rahman's soundtrack for footballer Pele's biopic 'Pele: Birth of a Legend' has been selected in the first shortlist for 'Best Original Score' by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences for the Oscars 2017.
- Rahman's song 'Ginga' is also in the running for Best Original Song. Earlier, Rahman won two Oscars in these categories in 2009.

IIT Bombay's Techfest 2016 to begin from December 16

- The 20th edition of Asia's largest science and technology festival, Techfest organised by IIT Bombay is scheduled from December 16-18.
- Techfest will host personalities like Rakesh Sharma, the first Indian in space, with exhibitions like mind-controlled drones and bionic arms.
- All events at the Techfest will be free, including performances by TVF and other international artists.

Mumbai teacher nominated for Global Teacher Prize 2017 in UK

- An Indian physics teacher has made it to the list of top 50 contenders from around the world for The Global Teacher Prize 2017 by Varkey Foundation for her experiential method of teaching physics.
- The Principal of Mumbai's MET Rishikul Vidyalyaya was shortlisted from over 20,000 nomination

Mumbai firm's study on sex trafficking wins European award

- A study conducted by Mumbai-based consultancy company Final Mile on the trafficking of sex workers from West Bengal to Mumbai has won the ESOMAR excellence award for the best paper.
- The study found that most of the girls are sent to the city by their fathers, who are misled into believing that their daughters will get employment or get married.

Shahid, Sonam named PETA's hottest vegetarians of 2016

- Actors Shahid Kapoor and Sonam Kapoor have been named the hottest vegetarians of 2016 by animal rights organisation PETA India.
- The winners were decided via a poll wherein people cast their votes on PETA India's website.
- Shahid and Sonam beat other celebrities including Amitabh Bachchan, Alia Bhatt, Kangana Ranaut and Sunny Leone to emerge as the winners.

Saina named Integrity Ambassador by Badminton World Fed

- Indian shuttler Saina Nehwal has been named an 'Integrity Ambassador' by the Badminton World Federation to promote "clean, fair and honourable sport."

- BWF chose five players as ambassadors, who were announced before the Dubai World Superseries Finals on Tuesday.
- The players, part of BWF's 'i am badminton' campaign, will act as "role models through their conduct on and off court."

India becomes world's 4th largest defence spender

- India has surpassed Russia, France, Japan and Saudi Arabia to become the world's fourth largest defence spender, claimed the 2016 Jane's Defence Budgets report.
- With an expenditure of over Rs.3 lakh crore in 2016, India is now behind the US, China and the UK.
- The report further estimated that India will surpass the UK in defence spending by 2018.

Priyanka appointed UNICEF Global Goodwill Ambassador

- Priyanka Chopra has been announced as the UNICEF Global Goodwill Ambassador to promote child rights at the UNICEF 70th anniversary event.
- She was presented as the ambassador by former footballer David Beckham and actress Millie Bobby Brown.
- "I look forward to working with my fellow advocates to...ensure that we build a world where children's rights are...protected," she wrote.

Zuckerberg named America's Richest Entrepreneur under 40

- Facebook's 32-year-old Co-founder and CEO Mark Zuckerberg, with a net worth of \$50 billion, has topped Forbes' list of America's Richest Entrepreneurs Under 40 years of age for this year.
- Zuckerberg is followed by another Facebook Co-founder Dustin Moskovitz and Uber Co-founder Garrett Camp.

- Snapchat Co-founder Evan Spiegel and Instagram Co-founder Kevin Systrom also made it to the list.

Gujarat tops list of states in LED bulb distribution

- Gujarat tops the list of states in distribution of LED bulbs as part of country-wide campaign for reducing power consumption, according to a senior official.
- Gujarat has distributed 2.70 crore LED bulbs till December 12 from the date of its launch earlier this year, he added.
- Maharashtra, ranked second, has distributed over 2 crore LED bulbs so far.

Malaysia enthrones new King Sultan Muhammad V

- Malaysia on Tuesday installed its 15th king, Sultan Muhammad V, in a ceremony marked by honour guards and Islamic prayers in the national palace in Kuala Lumpur.
- The Sultan is reportedly known for his relaxed persona, and is interested in reading and extreme sports.
- The ruler of Malaysia is changed every five years between rulers of its nine states.

Yes Bank partners with Grofers to home deliver cash

- Yes Bank has tied-up with grocery delivery startup Grofers to deliver up to Rs. 2,000 cash to customers when they order grocery worth minimum Rs. 1,000 online.
- The service, which is open to all bank account holders, is currently operational in Mumbai, Gurugram and Bengaluru. Grofers delivery executives will carry Yes Bank PoS machines that users can swipe to get cash.

2 Indian-origin entrepreneurs in America's richest under 40

- Two Indian-origin businessmen have been included in Forbes' list of America's wealthiest entrepreneurs under the age of 40. Biopharmaceutical company Roivant Sciences Founder Vivek
- Ramaswamy ranked 24th on the list with a net worth of \$600 million, while Instacart Founder Apoorva Mehta ranked 31st on the list with an estimated worth of \$360 million.

Trump names ExxonMobil CEO Tillerson as Secretary of State

- US President-elect Donald Trump has picked oil giant Exxon Mobil's CEO Rex Tillerson as the next Secretary of State.
- Trump's team also dismissed concerns over Tillerson's close ties with Russia. Tillerson, who was awarded Russia's Order of Friendship in 2013, has opposed US sanctions against Russia and has connections with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

La La Land wins 'Best Picture' at Critics' Choice Awards

- The Ryan Gosling and Emma Stone starrer 'La La Land' won the 'Best Picture' and seven other awards at the 22nd Critics' Choice Awards.
- Casey Affleck won the Best Actor award for 'Manchester by the Sea' while Natalie Portman was named the Best Actress for her role in 'Jackie'.
- Meanwhile, 'Game of Thrones' won the award for 'Best Drama Series'.

Indian wins first place for 'Animal Portraits' by Nat Geo

- Coimbatore-based Varun Aditya recently won the first prize in National Geographic's 'Nature

Photographer of The Year' contest in the 'Animal Portraits' category.

- He was awarded for a photo titled 'Dragging You Deep into the Woods', featuring a 20-centimetre Green Vine snake, found in Amboli, Maharashtra.
-
- The self-taught photographer usually focuses on wildlife, nature and landscape photography.

EU, Cuba sign first agreement on political cooperation

- The EU has signed a deal with Cuba on political dialogue and cooperation, with Cuba being the only Latin American country to lack such an agreement earlier.
- This comes after EU repealed its 1996 policy
- which stated that Cuba must improve its human rights conditions before normalisation talks with EU.
- The deal covers issues like trade, human rights and immigration.

Cristiano Ronaldo named world's best footballer of 2016

- Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo was named the world's best footballer of 2016 after winning the Ballon d'Or award on Monday.
- The 31-year-old forward led Portugal to their maiden EURO triumph and also helped Real Madrid win the Champions League this year.
- Ronaldo, who has now won the award four times, is second on the all-time winners' list behind Argentina's Lionel Messi.

Bill English appointed New Zealand's new PM

- Bill English has officially become New Zealand's new Prime Minister after John Key resigned from his post last week.
- English, who earlier served as the Finance Minister and Deputy PM, is a social conservative

and has voted against euthanasia, same-sex marriage and abortion.

- Notably, he had led his party to their worst election defeat in the country's history in 2002.

WORLD BILLIARDS: Pankaj Advani clinches title

- Despite being far from his best, Pankaj Advani held his nerve and played the big points well to scale another peak at a place he calls his second home, the Karnataka State Billiards Association.
- In the IBSF World Billiards Championship points format final, which never rose to any great heights and one that had the big crowd disappointed, the all-conquering Advani outplayed an off-colour Peter Gilchrist of Singapore 6-3 to annex a mindboggling 12th World billiards crown and 16th overall.

António Guterres sworn in as the new UN Chief

- Former Portuguese PM António Guterres was sworn in as the 9th UN Secretary-General at the UN headquarters in New York.
- Guterres (67), who had earlier served as the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, replaced South Korea's Ban Ki-moon.
- Guterres said, "our duty is to work together to move from fear of each other, to trust in each other."

Akbar elected as the president of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India

- Akbar Ebrahim has been unanimously elected as president of the Federation of Motor Sports Clubs of India in the 43rd AGM held in Chennai on Monday.
- Former president J Prithviraj of Coimbatore was elected as vice-president.
- Eight clubs were also elected to the FMSCI council.

Government to launch helpline number 14444 for e-payments

- The government will launch a nationwide toll-free helpline 14444 within a week to provide support related to cashless transactions, reports said.
- The 'Cash Mukh Bharat Abhiyan Helpline' will help people find suitable options depending on whether they have a smartphone or not.
- Earlier this week, the government launched a new television channel and a website to promote digital payments.

Govt launches TV channel 'DigiShala' for cashless lessons

- The Centre has launched a 24-hour free-to-air TV channel named 'DigiShala' to educate people about digital payments in order to move towards a cashless economy.
- The channel, available in Hindi and English on DTH service, will be airing shows targeted at the rural and suburban population to inform them about various aspects of going digital through talk shows and demonstrations.

Civil engineer becomes 1st Indian to win medal at Mr Olympia

- Mumbai's Iqbal Sayed, who works as a civil engineer with Reliance Infrastructure and Mumbai Metro, became the first Indian to win a medal at the Mr Olympia event, after securing a silver medal in the event.
- Sayed beat participants from 20 countries to finish second in the Olympia Amateur Asia 2016's Classic Bodybuilding category.

UNICEF founded on Dec 11 in 1946

- The UN General Assembly on December 11, 1946 voted to establish the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF), to bring life-saving aid and protection to children in the aftermath of World War II. UNICEF grew into a vocal advocate of children's rights during the 1970s and is currently working across 190 countries for child rights.

World's longest tunnel opens for service in Switzerland

- The world's longest tunnel was officially opened on Sunday for regular rail service in Switzerland.
- The 57-kilometre-long Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT) will allow transporting passengers under the Swiss Alps from Zurich to Lugano, 30 minutes faster than earlier.
- The GBT took around 17 years and over ₹79,600 crore to build.

Paolo Gentiloni to be appointed new Italian PM

- Italian President Sergio Mattarella on Saturday asked Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni to take over as the Prime Minister and form the new government.
- Gentiloni's new role will not be official until he chooses his cabinet and secures a vote of confidence in parliament.
- This comes after former PM Matteo Renzi resigned when his nationwide referendum on constitutional reforms was defeated.

President Mukherjee inaugurates vintage carpets museum

- President Pranab Mukherjee on Sunday inaugurated a museum for vintage tapestries and carpets in the Marble Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- It will exhibit Zardozi canopies from the early 1900s, a collection of Buddhist art, and assorted gifts presented to different Presidents.
- The inauguration was organised to mark the 81st birthday of the President of India.

Prez launches campaign to end child labour on his 81st b'day

- Pranab Mukherjee launched a campaign, on his 81st birthday, to end child labour, child slavery and violence against children.
- He launched the '100 Million for 100 Million Campaign' organised by The Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.

- The effort to mobilise 100 million youth for shaping a better future of 100 million underprivileged children is the beginning of a change, he said.

Tribal hockey tournament with 1,458 teams inaugurated

- Biju Patnaik Rural Hockey Championship, a hockey tournament featuring 1,458 teams involving 25,000 tribal youth was flagged off by Vice President Hamid Ansari and Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik on Saturday in Rourkela.
- The three-month long tournament has been organised to encourage the tribal youth to take up sports and will be held across 32 venues in the Maoist-infested areas.

Narmada Sewa Yatra begins from Amarkantak

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Sunday kick-started five-month-long 'Narmada Sewa Yatra' from Amarkantak, from where the river originates

- Mr. Chouhan planted saplings near the bank of the Narmada River.
- The nearly 3500-km-long Yatra is aimed at making the Narmada, the life line of Madhya Pradesh, pollution free.

Govt launched TV channel 'DigiShala' for cashless lessons

- The Centre has launched a 24-hour free-to-air TV channel named 'DigiShala' to educate people about digital payments in order to move towards a cashless economy. The channel, available in Hindi and English on DTH service

Kanpur's Anandeshwar Temple adopts e-wallets for donation

In the wake of Centre's demonetisation move, Anandeshwar Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Kanpur city has applied for card swiping machines to help devotees donate through debit and credit cards. Temple is also accepting donations via Paytm.

India, Vietnam sign Civil Nuclear deal

- India and Vietnam have signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement.
- With this, Vietnam became 14th country with which India has signed the civil nuclear deal. The MoU in Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy was signed by Sekhar Basu, Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy and Pham Cong Tac, Vietnam's Deputy Minister of Science and Technology in New Delhi.

Union Government scraps import duty on wheat

The Union Government has waived the import duty on wheat to zero from 10 per cent for an indefinite period. This move aims to improve domestic availability in the wake of rising prices and concerns about the wheat crop in 2016-17.

Japan launches 'magnetic fishing net' to collect space garbage

- Japan on Friday launched a spaceship carrying a 700-metre-long tether to pull some of the space debris from Earth's orbit out into the atmosphere.
- The Japanese space agency, JAXA, will pilot its "electrodynamic tether" for the first time. It is one of many possible solutions that have been proposed to deal with space garbage.

India, Vietnam sign civil nuclear cooperation deal

- India and Vietnam on Friday signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement for the peaceful use of atomic energy.
- Three other agreements to enhance aviation links, jointly work in the area of energy efficiency, and to promote parliamentary cooperation were also signed.

CBI arrests former Air Force chief SP Tyagi in AgustaWestland bribery case

- In a sudden and first of its kind action, the CBI on Friday arrested former Air Force Chief SP Tyagi, his cousin Sanjeev, and a lawyer in the sensational Rs 450 crore bribery case in the procurement of 12 VVIP helicopters from UK-based AgustaWestland during the UPA-2 government.

India ranks 7th in 2016 Global Terrorism Index

- According to the 2016 Global Terrorism Index (GTI) India was ranked 7th among 163 countries in the list of most impacted by terrorism in 2015. The fourth edition of the index was released by Sydney-based think-tank Institute for Economics & Peace. India is one of six Asian countries ranked in the top 10 nations most impacted by terrorism.

Ranveer part of Men Of The Year list by Man's World magazine

- Actor Ranveer Singh has featured on the cover of 'Man's World' as he is part of the 'Men Of The Year' list by the magazine. Ranveer was called one of 'The Outliers' by the magazine.

44 fake accounts with Rs100 crore found in Axis Bank branch

- Income Tax officials have allegedly discovered 44 fake bank accounts in raids conducted on an Axis Bank's branch in Chandni Chowk, New Delhi. The fake accounts were created using forged documents and demonetised currency worth Rs100 crore was deposited in them.

Government decides to print plastic currency notes

The government on Friday informed the Parliament that a decision has been taken to print plastic currency notes. Further, the process of procurement of material for the same has been initiated, Minister of State for Finance Arjun Ram Meghwal stated.

Union Government announces package for promotion of digital & cashless economy

- Govt introduces a package of incentives for promotion of digital and cashless economy
- 0.75% discount on purchase of petrol/diesel through digital means
- Deployment of 2 POS devices each in 1 Lakh villages with population of less than 10,000
- Discount upto 0.5% for monthly or seasonal tickets from January 1, 2017, if payment is made digitally
- All railway passengers buying online ticket shall be given free accidental insurance cover of upto Rs. 10 lakh

Uttarakhand HC orders liquor ban in three districts

- Uttarakhand High Court on Thursday banned liquor in Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, and Chamoli districts of the state.
- The court also announced a ban on liquor and tobacco products within a radius of 5 kilometers from prominent Sikh shrines – Reetha Sahib and Hemkunt Sahib.

World Bank cancels Rs.674 crore loan to Pakistan

- The World Bank has cancelled a \$100 million (around Rs.674 crore) loan promised to Pakistan for a natural gas efficiency project, citing a lack of interest by the Pakistani gas distribution company. The project was aimed at reducing losses of gas in the pipeline system. Rating the project "unsatisfactory",

Trump appoints former WWE CEO as Small Business Admin head

- US President-elect Donald Trump has picked ex-CEO of WWE Linda McMahon to head the government's Small Business Administration.

Paris made public transport free to tackle air pollution

- French capital Paris has implemented an odd-even scheme starting Tuesday, and allowed commuters to use public transport for free.

Bluetooth 5 with double speed, 4 times longer range launched

- Bluetooth Special Interest Group, the not-for-profit corporation that oversees the development of Bluetooth standards, has officially adopted 'Bluetooth 5' after its introduction in June. The latest version claims four times the range, twice the speed and eight times the amount of data in broadcast messages.

FSSAI bans use of newspapers for packing food

- The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) on Wednesday issued an advisory stating it has decided to ban the use of newspapers for wrapping and packing of food items.
- Newspaper ink can contaminate food items.

India removes import duty on wheat

- India has scrapped its 10% import duty on wheat after droughts in the past two years depleted stocks,

RBI keeps key rates unchanged in fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review

- Reserve Bank of India in its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review kept the short-term lending rate unchanged. It was a surprise for markets.
- RBI has also lowered its forecast for India's gross domestic product (GDP) growth to 7.1% for this fiscal and said demonetisation would lead to a short-term disruption in economic activity.

Donald Trump is Time magazine's Person of the Year

- US President-elect Donald Trump has been named Time magazine's Person of the Year for 2016.
- The annual cover on which the magazine recognises the person who "for better or for worse ... has done the most to influence the events of the year"

Union Cabinet approves Pune Metro Rail Project

- The Union Cabinet today approved the development of phase-I of Pune Metro Rail Project which will cover a length of 31.25 km at the total completion cost of Rs. 11,420 crore and comprising two corridors Corridor-1 (Pimpri Chinchwad Municipal Corporation to Swargate) and Corridor-2 (Vanaz to Ramwadi)

Venezuela to print 20,000-bolivar note

- Venezuela will launch a new 20,000-bolivar banknote to help people struggling with large bundles of currency notes during the country's economic crisis.
- The biggest denomination banknote currently in circulation is 100 bolivars.

Remote sensing satellite Resourcesat-2A successfully launched

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched remote sensing satellite Resourcesat-2A into its dedicated orbit.

- It was launched onboard of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)-C36 from first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota. It was PSLV's 38th flight and XL version of the rocket was used. It was the 37th consecutive successful flight of the rocket.

Why blind can't identify notes of recent years: HC asks RBI

- The Bombay High Court has sought a reply from the RBI within six weeks over the alleged difficulty faced by blind persons in identifying currency notes and coins of recent years. While hearing a petition filed by National Association for the Blind, the HC also allowed the petitioner to file a rejoinder within two weeks of RBI filing its reply.

SC ruled that Horse racing not animal cruelty

- The Supreme Court has ruled that horse racing is not animal cruelty. While Jallikattu(Bull Racing), has been ruled out as illegal because it needs torture to bulls. This observation was made by a Bench of Justices A.M. Khanwilkar and D.Y. Chandrachud on a petition challenging a Rajasthan High Court's order banning tonga races in the State.

'Pink' ranks 1st on IMDb's Top 10 Indian Movies in 2016 list

- The Amitabh Bachchan starrer movie 'Pink' has ranked first in the list of 'Top 10 Indian Movies in 2016' by IMDb, an online database for films. Akshay Kumar's 'Airlift' ranks second on the list while 'Dear Zindagi' comes in third. The list has been curated based on ratings by IMDb users.

Shah Rukh Khan named Kids' Ikon of the Year by Nickelodeon

- Actor Shah Rukh Khan was named 'Kids' Ikon of the Year' at Nickelodeon's Kids Choice Awards. Actor Salman Khan won the Best Actor award for his film 'Sultan', while Deepika Padukone was named Best Actress for historical romance film 'Bajirao Mastani'.

BRICS nations to share tax information automatically to eliminate tax evasion

- The BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) countries have agreed to share tax information to ensure the fairness of the international tax system. The decision in this regard was taken at the meeting of Heads of Revenue of BRICS Countries in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Bernard Cazeneuve named new French PM

- French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve was appointed the Prime Minister on Tuesday after PM Manuel Valls resigned to seek the Socialist Party's ticket in 2017 presidential elections, officials said.

Justice JS Khehar will be the next Chief Justice of India

- Chief Justice of India TS Thakur has recommended Supreme Court judge Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar as his successor after his retirement on January 3, 2017. Justice Khehar, who will be India's 44th Chief Justice, will hold the office until August 27, 2017.

Banks will bear losses in case of online security breach: RBI

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has clarified that banks will have to bear the full losses in the event of any security breach or compromise in

the authorised card network. Banks issuing the cards will offer the 'payment authentication solutions' of the respective card networks on an optional basis to their customers.

Flipkart founders Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal named 'Asians of the Year'

- After Time Magazine put Flipkart Founders – Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal – on the list of 100 Most Influential People in the world, the Straits Times of Singapore has chosen them for the prestigious "2016 Asian of the Year" as part of a group called the "The Disruptors."
- We accept this honor on behalf of all Indians," Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal said in a joint statement in Bengaluru.

Google launches personal safety app 'Trusted Contacts'

- Google has launched a new personal safety app called 'Trusted Contacts' that lets users share their location with trusted people in everyday situations and emergencies.
- The app works even without the internet or when a user is unable to reach the phone. The app can also automatically share the user's location when they do not respond within a reasonable timeframe.

PM Modi wins reader's poll for TIME's Person of the Year

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has won the reader's poll for the TIME's Person of the Year with 18% votes in his favour, beating Barack Obama, Donald Trump and Julian Assange, each with 7% votes. Modi also fared above personalities like Hillary Clinton and Mark Zuckerberg.
- However, the magazine's editors will declare the final Person of the Year on December 7.

'Pink' named Best Film at Star Screen Awards 2016

- Courtroom drama film 'Pink' was named the Best Film at the 22nd edition of annual film awards show Star Screen Awards.
- The film also won awards for Best Actor, Best Editing and Best Dialogue, bagging four awards in total. Meanwhile, Ram Madhvani won the Best Director award for his biographical film 'Neerja'.

Big B, Alia win best acting awards at Star Screen Awards

- Amitabh Bachchan was named Best Actor for courtroom drama film 'Pink' while Alia Bhatt won the Best Actress award for crime-drama 'Udta Punjab' at Star Screen Awards 2016.
- Sushant Singh Rajput won Best Actor Critics' Choice Award for biopic 'MS Dhoni: The Untold Story'.
- Meanwhile, Swara Bhaskar won Best Actress Critics' Choice Award for comedy drama film 'Nil Battey Sannata'.

Airtel names Sunil Taldar as CEO of DTH business

- Telecom major Bharti Airtel on Monday announced the appointment of Sunil Taldar as the Chief Executive Officer and Director for its DTH business.
- Taldar will take over Shashi Arora, who after serving for approximately five years as CEO, has moved as MD and CEO of Airtel Payments Bank.
- Notably, Airtel digital TV had 1.24 crore customers in quarter ended September.

Rekha gets Lifetime Achievement Award at Star Screen Awards

- Actress Rekha was presented with the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 22nd edition of Star Screen Awards on Sunday.
- Deepika Padukone presented the award to the veteran actress while Sonam Kapoor paid tribute to her and performed on her songs.
- Later, Rekha joined Sonam onstage and danced to her song 'Pardesia' from the 1979 film 'Mr. Natwarlal'.

Amazon launches global startup program 'Launchpad' in India

- E-commerce major Amazon on Monday launched its global startup program 'Launchpad' in India, an online portal featuring over 400 products from different startups including 25 Indian startups.
- The program will also help Indian startups to sell their products overseas. First started in 2015, Amazon Launchpad is now available in seven regions.

Beyoncé's 'Formation' best song of 2016: Time Magazine

- Singer Beyoncé's song 'Formation' has been named the 'best song' of 2016 by 'Time' magazine.
- The song's video also features a cameo of Beyoncé and Jay Z's daughter, Blue Ivy Carter.
- 'The Sound' by English rock band 'The 1975' and 'Not Above That' by American singer Dawn Richard were ranked second and third on the list respectively.

Alexander Van der Bellen elected Austrian President

- Independent candidate and pro-European Alexander Van der Bellen has won Austria's re-run presidential election with around 53.5% votes.
- Bellen won against anti-immigration and eurosceptic Norbert Hofer who conceded defeat saying he was "endlessly sad". Bellen had won an earlier election in May by a narrow margin after which it was declared void by the Constitutional Court due to irregularities.

Tamil Nadu CM J Jayalalithaa passes away: Apollo Hospitals

- The Apollo Hospitals in Chennai today announced the demise of state Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.
- The AIADMK leader, aged 68 years, suffered a cardiac arrest on Sunday and was put on a life-

support system at the Apollo Hospital in Chennai. Jayalithaa, who was first appointed in 1991, was appointed the state's Chief Minister six times.

Samuel L Jackson to get Lifetime Achievement Award at DIFF

- Actor Samuel L Jackson will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) at the opening of the festival on December 7.
- The 67-year-old actor will be part of an interactive session with fans on December 9.
- He is known for his role as 'Ultimate Nick Fury' in Marvel films and for films like 'Pulp Fiction'.

Indian contestant Srinidhi Shetty wins Miss Supranational

- India's representative Srinidhi Shetty has been crowned Miss Supranational 2016, an international beauty pageant.
- This marks the second time that India has won the pageant following the win by Asha Bhat in 2014.

India, Qatar sign 4 pacts on visa, cyberspace, investments

- India and Qatar on Saturday signed four agreements on visas, cyberspace, and investments following delegation-level talks led by PM Narendra Modi and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.
- This is the third high-level bilateral engagement between the two countries in the past two years, which underlines India's growing ties with Qatar.

Italy PM Renzi to resign as reform referendum fails

- Italian PM Matteo Renzi has said that he would submit his resignation on Monday after nearly 60% voters rejected reforms that would have drastically reduced the role of the country's Senate.
- "I lost even if I do so with a knot in my throat I am not a robot," Renzi said while accepting responsibility for failure in the nation-wide referendum.

The Heart of Asia conference in Amritsar

- The 6th Ministerial Conference of Heart of Asia summit was held in Amritsar and was attended by over 40 delegates, including 14 from southeast and central Asian member countries.
- Under the 'Amritsar Declaration' adopted at the summit, terrorism was declared the biggest threat to the peace, stability, and prosperity of the Asian nations.

Amazon launches in-house fashion brand 'Myx' in India

- The Indian arm of e-commerce major Amazon has launched its second in-house private fashion label, an ethnic wear brand for women called 'Myx'.
- Amazon India had launched its menswear brand 'Symbol' in September.
- Flipkart-owned Myntra owns 11 private labels, including Hrithik Roshan's HRX and Virat Kohli's Wrogn.

ISRO to launch remote sensing satellite on Dec 7

- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) on Sunday announced that it is all set to launch PSLV-C36 carrying 1,235 kg remote sensing satellite RESOURCESAT-2A from the spaceport of Sriharikota on December 7.
- The satellite would carry a high-resolution Linear Imaging Self Scanner camera, medium-resolution LISS-3 camera and an advanced wide

field sensor camera that operates in various bands.

Website to educate women on legal rights launched in India

- Tasmania-based Women's Legal Service has launched a website for Indian women to educate them about their legal rights in partnership with TRS Law Offices.
- The website, 'Girlsgottaknow.in', has different heads such as relationships, employment, partying, renting, and money.
- Each of these sections has a brief description about the situation and legal options available.

Bird festival organised in Uttar Pradesh

- A three-day bird festival is being organised by the Uttar Pradesh government in Chambal.
- The festival was inaugurated by Cabinet Minister Abhishek Mishra. Tim Appleton, who reportedly started the world's first bird fair in England, was also present during the inauguration.
- The festival will feature talks by prominent ornithologists and workshops by professional photographers.

First Asian-American to win Olympic gold passes away at 96

- Two-time Olympic gold medallist diver Sammy Lee died aged 96 on Friday in Newport Beach due to pneumonia.
- Lee, a Korean-American, became the first ever Asian-American to win an Olympic gold medal for the US after winning gold in the 1948 London Olympics.
- Lee, also a physician, notably served in the US Army Medical Corps in the Korean War.

India defeat Pakistan to win sixth straight Women's Asia Cup

- India clinched the Women's T20 Asia Cup 2016 after defeating Pakistan by 17 runs in the final in Bangkok on Sunday.
- Batting first, India posted a total of 121/5 driven by opener Mithali Raj's unbeaten 73 runs off 65 balls.
- Pakistan were held at 104/6 with Ekta Bisht taking 2 scalps, giving India their sixth successive Asia Cup title.

Officers, Sailors And Civilians Celebrate Navy Day

- Navy Day is celebrated on December 4 every year to celebrate the Indian Navy's achievements and commemorate the sacrifices made by their personnel.
- The Indian Navy celebrates the day to commemorate the launch of Operation Trident against Pakistan on 4th December, 1971
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Indian Navy personnel on the occasion of Navy Day

Messi, Ronaldo, Griezmann shortlisted for FIFA Best Player

- Griezmann was Euro 2016's top-scorer. The 23-player list was shortlisted following votes from national team captains, coaches and select media persons.
- Winner to be announced on January 9.

Hornbill Festival begins in Nagaland

- The Hornbill Festival began in the Naga Heritage village of Kisama. The festival coincides with the Statehood Day of Nagaland which is observed on December 1.

75% of old notes deposited in Banks

- With almost a month remaining to deposit old currency notes, about 75% of the old Rs.500 and Rs.1000 notes in circulation have reportedly been deposited into the banking system.

Union HRD Ministry launches Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan

Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA) was launched by the Union Ministry for HRD to bring awareness about the cashless economic system. It was launched by Union HRD minister Prakash Javadekar in New Delhi. It is the campaign by Higher Educational institutions for the digital economy.

Rakesh Asthana takes additional charge as Director of CBI

- The Union Government has given senior IPS officer Rakesh Asthana additional charge of the post of Director, Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). He took charge following the retirement of Anil Sinha.

BSF celebrates 51st Raising Day

The Border Security Force (BSF), the biggest border guarding force in the world celebrated its 51st Anniversary of Raising Day. Various cultural programmes were organised for BSF veterans and personnel during the Raising Day celebrations. On this occasion, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh presented prestigious "Maharana Pratap Trophy-2016" on the BSF Punjab Frontier.

Selfie camera 'BeautyPlus Me' named top app by Google India

- Google India has named selfie editing and camera app 'BeautyPlus Me' as the most popular Android app of 2016 on Google Play.
- It was followed by media company Viacom 18's 'Voot TV Shows Movies Cartoons' content streaming app and Google's own video calling app 'Duo'.
- Fashion app 'Mr Voonik' and 'Tap Emoji Keyboard' rounded off 2016's top trending Android apps.

Hornbill Festival begins in Nagaland

- The Hornbill Festival began on Thursday in the Naga Heritage village of Kisama, coinciding with Nagaland Statehood Day.
- The annual festival aims to promote tourism in the state and pays tribute to the Hornbill, revered by the Nagas.
- There are dances, sports, games, food fairs and crafts during the ten-day festivities.

National Stock Exchange CEO Chitra Ramkrishna quits

- Managing Director and CEO of the National Stock Exchange (NSE) Chitra Ramkrishna is stepping down from her post, citing personal reasons, India's biggest bourse said on Friday.
- Further, current NSE President J Ravichandran has been appointed interim CEO with immediate effect.
- This comes amid the stock exchange preparing to hit the market with its initial public offering (IPO).

'Deadpool' named most popular film of 2016 by Google

- The Ryan Reynolds starred superhero film 'Deadpool' emerged as the most popular film of 2016, according to Google Play's "Best of 2016" list.
- Space opera epic 'Star Wars: The Force Awakens' came second, while animated film 'Zootopia' was ranked third.
- 'Captain America: Civil War' and 'Batman v Superman: Dawn Of Justice' completed the top five.

Google announces best Android apps of 2016

- Search engine giant Google has named face swapping Android app 'Face Changer 2' as the best app of 2016 on the Google Play platform,
- It is followed by selfie editing app 'Lumyer' and podcast radio music app 'Castbox'. Niantic's app

- 'Pokémon Go' has been named the best gaming app for the year.

Emirates launches world's shortest service on largest plane

- Emirates on Thursday launched the world's shortest scheduled service on an Airbus A380, flying it from Dubai to Doha within 80 minutes.
- The 378-kilometre route is the shortest on which an Airbus A380, the world's largest passenger aircraft, is used.
- The double-decker aircraft has 14 first class suites, 76 business class flat-bed seats and 429 economy class seats.

India's football federation wins Asian award

- The All-India Football Federation won the Asian Football Council's Developing Member Association of the Year Award in Abu Dhabi.
- The award is given on the basis of organisation of courses, seminars and competitions, grassroots, youth development and women's programmes and special projects
- In 2014, AIFF had earlier won the AFC President's Recognition Award for grassroots football.

Chandigarh launches ambulance service for animals

- The Animal Husbandry Department on Thursday launched an ambulance service for pets and small animals in Chandigarh.
- The ambulance, which is equipped with first aid and emergency medication, will transport sick and injured animals to nearby Government Veterinary Hospitals.
- "This... ambulance will operate at a nominal fare of ₹300 per to-and-fro trip", said an official statement.

Twitter changes product head for third time in a year

- Microblogging platform Twitter has appointed Keith Coleman as head of its product team, the third executive to lead the division in less than a year.
- The company confirmed that it has acquired Coleman's consumer mobile app startup Yes.
- Twitter itself has been rumoured to be up for sale and reportedly hired bankers last month to field acquisition offers.

Maharashtra's Dhasai village becomes completely cashless

- Dhasai village in Maharashtra has become India's first cashless village starting December 1, as claimed by its residents.
- This comes in the light of PM Narendra Modi's demonetisation move.
- Point of Sale (PoS) machines were provided to around 100 traders by an NGO in collaboration with Bank of Baroda and villagers were informed about various features of the machines.

F1 world champion Nico Rosberg announces retirement

- Less than a week after winning the world championship at the Abu Dhabi Grand Prix, Mercedes driver Nico Rosberg announced his retirement from Formula One with immediate effect.
- Rosberg's father Keke Rosberg had won the championship in 1982, and Nico Rosberg's F1 championship made him only the second son of a champion to take the title since 1950.

Dictionary names 'Xenophobia' as Word of the Year for 2016

- Online English source for word meanings, Dictionary has named 'Xenophobia' as Word of the Year for 2016.
- Xenophobia refers to the fear or hatred of foreigners, people from different cultures or strangers.
- According to Dictionary, the word was most looked up by users after Brexit, or when UK

voted to leave the European Union, and during US presidential elections.

'Salman appointed ambassador of BMC's Swachh Bharat Mission'

- According to reports, Salman Khan has been appointed the ambassador of Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation's drive against open defecation and litter.
- Salman's non-profit organisation 'Being Human Foundation' will reportedly donate five mobile toilets to the BMC, to be placed at Bandstand, Mumbai.
- He will meet the Municipal Commissioner to discuss the anti-open defecation campaign, reports added.

Free Charge partners Mumbai Police for traffic fine payments

- In the wake of demonetisation, Snapdeal-owned digital payments platform FreeCharge has tied up with Mumbai Police for digitally collecting traffic fines from offenders.
- About 500 e-challan devices have been provided at various traffic chowkis across the city.
- An e-challan will be generated against the offenders and will be instantly sent to their mobile phones.

Akhilesh Yadav flags off Lucknow metro

- Uttar Pradesh CM Akhilesh Yadav on Thursday flagged off the Lucknow metro train, whose trial run will take place on 8.5km stretch.
- According to an official, they completed the metro work in 26 months, which is a record for any metro rail project in India.
- Further, the metro train service will be made available for the people after March 2017.

Delhi girl becomes India's first female pro poker player

- Muskan Sethi, a 27-year-old from Delhi, is India's first female professional poker player.

- She has been playing professionally since 2012 and participated in World series of Poker, World Poker Tour and European Poker Tour as the first Indian female professional.
- Muskan won an all-expenses-paid trip to Barcelona in 2014 after finishing fourth among 700,000 players at the PokerStars Championship.

Pakistan to host first Davis Cup tie in 13 years

- Pakistan will host its first Davis Cup tie in 13 years on home soil against Iran in February next year.
- Pakistan Tennis Federation said the visiting team will be provided with the same level of security as visiting foreign leaders.
- Notably, international cricket teams have refused to play in Pakistan after an attack on the Sri Lankan team in 2009.

Nihonium becomes Asia's 1st Periodic Table element discovery

- Periodic Table element with atomic number 113, Nihonium (Nh) has become the first ever element to be discovered by an Asian country after it was officially revealed by the IUPAC on Wednesday.
- Along with three other elements that helped to complete the Periodic table, Nihonium was discovered and proposed by the RIKEN collaboration team in Japan in December last year.

Indian startup signs contract with ISRO for mission to moon

- Bengaluru-based aerospace startup Team Indus has become the first private entity to secure a dedicated Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle from ISRO.
- Team Indus is the only Indian team in Google's \$20 million Lunar XPRIZE competition to become the first privately funded team to land a robot on the Moon that successfully travels 500 meters.

Katy Perry honoured with humanitarian award at UNICEF event

- Singer Katy Perry was honoured with the 'Audrey Hepburn Humanitarian Award' for her work as UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador at a UNICEF event in New York.
- She was presented the award by 2016 Democratic US Presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. "We need to come together united for the best," Katy said while accepting the award.

Didi Chuxing CEO named Forbes Asia's Businessman of the Year

- Cheng Wei, Co-founder and CEO of Chinese ride-hailing giant Didi Chuxing has been named Forbes Asia's 2016 Businessman of the Year.
- Led by the 33-year-old entrepreneur, Didi Chuxing acquired its rival Uber's China business earlier this year.
- The service, which lets users hail taxis, private cars, limousines and commuter buses, reportedly commands 85% of China's ride-sharing market.

UNESCO includes Yoga in Intangible Cultural Heritage list

- The UNESCO on Thursday included Yoga in its 'List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity', MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup said. "A universal affirmation of India's cherished heritage," he added.
- Notably, UNESCO also included Beer culture in Belgium, Bhojpuri folk songs in Mauritius, and Carnival of Granville in France among others on the list this year.

Two women drivers steer Lucknow's first Metro train

- The first Lucknow Metro train, whose trial run was flagged off and it was driven by two women operators - Pratibha and Prachi.
- "The Lucknow Metro Rail Corporation is a progressive and coherent organisation which

believes in giving opportunities to both boys and girls," LMRC MD Kumar Keshav said.

- Reportedly, nearly 20% of Metro drivers recruited by LMRC are women.

Carlsen wins third consecutive World Chess Championship

- Norwegian chess grandmaster Magnus Carlsen beat Russian grandmaster Sergey Karjakin on Wednesday to clinch his third consecutive World Chess Championship.
- Carlsen and Karjakin were tied at six each before Carlsen claimed the championship by beating the Russian 3-1 in the four-game rapid chess tiebreaker.
- Carlsen last defeated Vishwanathan Anand in both the 2013 and 2014 World Chess Championships.

Thailand's Crown Prince formally proclaimed as King Rama X

- Thailand's Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn was formally proclaimed as King Rama X, the 10th king of the Chakri dynasty, in a televised ceremony.
- Vajiralongkorn was proclaimed king after he accepted the invitation from the country's parliament.
- The coronation ceremony for King Rama X will take place next year after his recently-deceased father, King Bhumibol Adulyadej's cremation.

SC orders National Anthem to be played at all cinema halls

- The National Anthem should be compulsorily played at all cinema halls across the nation before movie screenings, the Supreme Court ordered on Wednesday.
- It should be accompanied by the National flag onscreen and any abridged version of the Anthem would not be permitted. Everyone present in the halls must rise and pay respect to the National Anthem, the court added.

PM Modi greets Nagaland on 53rd statehood day

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday greeted the people of Nagaland on the state's 53rd statehood day. "Statehood Day wishes to people of Nagaland, a state known for scenic beauty and talented citizens who will take it to new heights of progress," PM Modi tweeted. It was on this day in 1963 that Nagaland became the 16th state of India.

India signs ₹5,000-cr deal to buy M777 Howitzer guns from US

- India on Wednesday signed a ₹5,000-crore deal with the US to buy 145 M777 lightweight Howitzer guns for the Army. The deal was approved by Defence Ministry in October to strengthen the Army, which has reportedly been facing a crunch in this weaponry segment. While 25 guns will come in ready-to-use condition, the remaining 120 will be assembled in India.

Indian football association nominated for AFC award

- The All India Football Federation has been nominated for the Asian Football Confederation's Member Association

Deepika named International Woman of the Year by Esquire

- Deepika Padukone was awarded the title of 'International Woman of the Year' at the Esquire 'Man At His Best Awards' 2016 held in Dubai. Deepika was seen in a tuxedo by fashion designer Monisha Jaising and accessories from Italian luxury brand 'Bulgari'. She will be seen next in 'xXx: The return of Xander Cage', which will mark her Hollywood debut.

Tendulkar's autobiography wins 'Book of the Year' award

- Sachin Tendulkar's autobiography 'Playing It My Way' has won the Crossword Book of the Year Award in the autobiography category. The book

(Developing) Award for 2016 alongside Vietnam and Malaysia. The award is given to a member association in recognition of its professional administration and governance as well as its contribution to the development and promotion of the sport at all levels within the country.

Japan hosts ice skating's Grand Prix

- The Japanese city of Sapporo hosted the 2016 NHK Trophy, which is the last of the six events in the 2016-17 ISU Grand Prix of Figure Skating events. The disciplines at the event included men's singles, ladies' singles, pair skating, and ice dancing. Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu and Russia's Anna Pogorilaya won the men's and women's event respectively.

7-year-old Kashmiri wins gold at Asian Karate Championships

- Hashim Mansoor, a seven-year-old boy from Kashmir's Bandipora district, has won a gold medal at the Asian Youth Karate Championships in New Delhi. Mansoor won the gold in the sub-junior category (below 25 kg) after defeating a Sri Lankan opponent in the final. Mansoor has now qualified for the World Championship, to be held next year in September.

was co-written by cricket historian Boria Majumdar and released in November 2014. Earlier, the book had entered the Limca Book of Records for the 'Bestselling Adult Hardback on Release', logging most orders on the first day of publication.

Team India wins 15 medals at International Memoriad Games

- The Indian contingent has won 15 medals including three gold medals at the International Memoriad Games in Las Vegas emerging as the top medal-winning nation at the event. The Memoriad Games, which are held to test memory, mental calculation and photographic reading, includes events like calendar dates

calculation, 8x8 digit multiplication and 8-digit square root calculation among others.

- Ranveer Singh was named the 'International Man of the Year' at the 2016 Esquire 'Man At His Best Awards' held in Dubai. "I am merely a work in progress... [F]or the moment if you... want to see a man at his best -meet me five shots down at the dance floor at the after-party," he said du

Ranveer named International Man of the Year by Esquire

- ring his acceptance speech.

Important Appointments in India - 2016

NOVEMBER 2016

| INDIA | | |
|--------|---------------------------|---|
| SL. NO | NAME OF THE PERSON | DESIGNATION & DEPARTMENT |
| 1. | Bishyadip Dey | Ambassador of India to the Commonwealth of Dominica |
| 2. | Vinod Rai | Chairman of the Fund Trustee and Advisory Commission (FTAC), Kerala |
| 3. | M Rajeshwar Rao | Executive Director of RBI |
| 4. | S Gopakuamr | MD of GIC Housing Finance |
| 5. | Pankaj Dubey | CEO of Eicher Polaris |
| 6. | Ajit Narayanan | CTO of Myntra |
| 7. | Harish Bhat | Tata Sons Chairman |
| 8. | Pawan Goenka | MD of Mahindra & Mahindra |
| 9. | R Subramania Kumar | MD & CEO of Indian Overseas Bank |
| 10. | Vani Venkatesh | CEO of Bharti Airtel Retail |

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| 11. | Kamala Harris | First Indian-American US Senator |
| 12. | N V Srinivasan | Indo- American Chamber of Commerce President |
| 13. | Upma Chowdhury | First Woman Director of LBSNAA |
| 14. | Narinder Batra | President of International Hockey Federation |
| 15. | Pankaj R Patel | President of FICCI |
| 16. | Ratnesh Kumar | MD & CEO of Bank of Baroda Capital |
| 17. | Parminder Singh | MD of Twitter Indian |
| 18. | Anand Mahindra | Executive Chairman of Mahindra & Mahindra |
| 19. | Gutam Kumra | McKinsey & Company's India Managing Director |
| 20. | Siby Sebastian | CEO of SBM Bank (Mauritius), India |
| 21. | Meriamma Koshy | New President of Hockey India |
| 22. | Devraj Anbu | Chief of Northern Command |
| 23. | Saptarshi Roy | Director of NTPC |
| 24. | Ishaat Hussai | Chairman of TCS |
| 25. | Sanjiv Arora | Ambassador of India to |

| | | |
|--------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | | Lebanon |
| WORLD | | |
| 26. | Susan Kiefel | Chief Justice of Australia (First Woman) |
| 27. | Saad Hariri | Prime Minister of Lebanon |
| 28. | Aniruddha Rajput | UN's top body of legal expert member |
| 29. | Kim Byong-Joon | Prime Minister of South Korea |
| 30. | Debbie Hockley | President of New Zealand Cricket Board |
| 31. | Dr. Seema Verma | 2 nd Indian-American to be nominated to top Administrative post |
| 32. | Guy Ryder | Director General of International Labour Organization (ILO) |
| 33. | General Qamar Javed Bajma | Pakistan Army Chief |

OCTOBER 2016

| INDIA | | |
|--------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| SL NO. | NAME OF THE PERSON | DESIGNATION & DEPARTMENT |
| 34. | Arundhati Bhattacharya | Chairperson of Ste Bank of |

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|-----|---------------------------|---|
| | | India |
| 35. | Ashok Chawla | Non- Executive Chairman of YES Bank |
| 36. | Pervez Ahmed | Chairman & CEO of J&K Bank |
| 37. | Sushil Chandra | Chairman of CBDT |
| 38. | Jawhar Sircar | CEO of Prasar Bharati |
| 39. | Dipanjan Basu | CFO of Myntra |
| 40. | S Sivakumar | Full time member of 21 st Law Commission |
| 41. | Ashish Vohra | CEO of Reliance Nippon Life Insurance |
| 42. | Salim Gangadharan | Executive Chairman of South Indian Bank |
| 43. | Asha Kharga | Marketing head of Axis Bank |
| 44. | Ajay Kumar Bhalla | Director General of Foreign Trade |
| 45. | Somesh Sharma | President of INS |
| 46. | P V Sindhu | Brand Ambassador of Bank of Baroda |
| 47. | Dr. Ajay M Gondane | High Commissioner of India to Australia |
| 48. | K Srikant | Brand Ambassador of Bank of Baroda |

GK Digest: January 2017

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|--------------|----------------------------|--|
| 49. | G Mahalingam | Whole time member of Market regulator of SEBI |
| 50. | Saina Nehwal | IOC's Athletes Commission |
| 51. | Anurag Thakur | ICC's Financial & Commercial Affairs Committee |
| 52. | Geeta Phogat | DSP in Haryana Police |
| 53. | Raghunathan | National President of AIMO |
| 54. | A K Sharma | Command of the White Knight 16 Corps |
| 55. | Roopa Ganguly | MP of Rajya Sabah |
| WORLD | | |
| 56. | Mariano Rajoy | Prime Minister of Spanish |
| 57. | Michel Aoun | President of Lebanon |
| 58. | B V R Mohan Reddy | Honorary Consul of Germany |
| 59. | Dip Kumar Upadhyaya | Nepal's envoy to India |
| 60. | Abdelilah Kaljulaid | President of Estonia |

SEPTEMBER 2016

| INDIA | | |
|---------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| SL NO. | NAME OF THE PERSON | DESIGNATION & DEPARTMENT |
| 61. | K K Aggarwal | National President of IMA |

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|-----|----------------------------|--|
| 62. | Arun Goyal | Additional Secretary of GST Council |
| 63. | Virat Kohli | Brand Ambassador of Punjab National Bank |
| 64. | Alka Sirohi | Chairman of UPSC |
| 65. | Yashvardhan Sinha | India's High Commissioner to UK |
| 66. | Vidyasagar Rao | Governor of Tamil Nadu (Acting) |
| 67. | R Subramania Kumar | Executive Director of Indian Overseas Bank |
| 68. | Taranjit Singh | High Commissioner of India to Sri Lanka |
| 69. | Mukund Choudhuri | CMD of MOIL |
| 70. | Junaid Ahmad | World Bank head in India |
| 71. | Sanjiv Singh | Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation Limited |
| 72. | Dilip Mandal | MD & CEO of IDBI Asset Management Company |
| 73. | Sudip Bandyopadhyay | Chairperson of the Committee on Railway |
| 74. | V K Sharma | Chairman of LIC |
| 75. | C K Asnani | Chairman of UICL |

| | | |
|--------------|-------------------------|---|
| 76. | P V Bharathi | Executive Director of Canara Bank |
| 77. | V Shanmuganathan | Governor of Arunachal Pradesh |
| 78. | Ajay Singh | President of Boxing Federation of India |
| 79. | O P Singh | Director General of CISF |
| WORLD | | |
| 80. | Jim Yong Kim | President of World Bank (2 nd time) |
| 81. | Ravi Reddy | Head of International Society for Blood Transfusion |
| 82. | Ajei Gopal | CEO of ANSYS |
| 83. | Michel Temer | President of Brazil |
| 84. | Lee Jae-yong | Director of Samsung Electronics |
| 85. | Riyadh Mathew | Chairman of PTI |

Latest List of Indian banks - Their Heads and Head Office (Dec 2016)

| Name of the | Head | Year of | Head Office |
|-------------|------|---------|-------------|
|-------------|------|---------|-------------|

| Banks | | Establishment | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| Allahabad Bank | Rakesh Sethi | 24 April, 1865 | Kolkata, West Bengal |
| Andhra Bank | Suresh N. Patel | 20 November, 1923 | Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh |
| Bank of Baroda | P.S. Jayakumar | 20 July, 1908 | Vadodara, Gujarat |
| Bank of India | Melwyn O. Rego | 7 September, 1906 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| Bank of Maharashtra | R K Gupta | 16 September, 1935 | Pune, Maharashtra |
| Bank of Rajasthan | Shri Govind Ram Seksaria | 1943 | Udaipur, Rajasthan |
| Canara Bank | Rakesh Sharma | 1906 | Bengaluru, Karnataka |
| Central Bank of India | Rajeev Rishi | 21 December, 1911 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| Corporation Bank | Jai Kumar Garg | 12 March, 1906 | Mangalore, Karnataka |
| Dena Bank | Ashwani Kumar | 26 May, 1938 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| Federal Bank | Shyam Srinivasan | 1945 | Kerala |
| HDFC Bank | Aditya Puri | August, 1994 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| ICICI Bank | Chanda Kochhar | Jun, 1994 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| IDBI Bank | Kishor Kharat | July, 1964 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| Indian Bank | Mahesh Kumar Jain | 15 August, 1907 | Chennai, Tamil Nadu |
| Indian Overseas Bank | R. Koteeswaran | 10 February, 1937 | Chennai, Tamil Nadu |
| J & K Bank | Mushtaq Ahmad | 1 October, 1938 | Sri Nagar, J & K |
| Karur Vysya Bank | K Venkataraman | 1916 | Karur, Tamil Nadu |
| Lakshmi Vilas Bank | Parthasarathi Mukherjee | 3 November, 1926 | Karur, Tamil Nadu |
| Oriental Bank of Commerce | Animesh Chauhan | 19 February, 1943 | Gurgaon, Haryana |
| Punjab and Sind Bank | Jatinder Bir Singh | 24 June, 1908 | New Delhi, India |
| Punjab National Bank | Usha Ananthasubramanian | 19 May, 1894 | New Delhi, India |
| State Bank of India | Arundhati Bhattacharya | 1 July, 1955 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| State Bank of Hyderabad | Shri Santanu Mukherjee | 8 August, 1941 | Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh |
| State Bank of Mysore | N. Krishnamachari | 2 October, 1913 | Bengaluru, Karnataka |

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| State Bank of Patiala | S. A. Ramesh Rangan, | 1917 | Patiala, Punjab |
| State Bank of Travancore | Jeevandas Narayan | 12 September, 1945 | Trivandrum, Kerala |
| South Indian Bank | V. G. Mathew | 1929 | Thrissur, Kerala |
| Syndicate Bank | Arun Shrivastava | 1925 | Manipal, Karnataka |
| UCO Bank | Ravi Krishan Takkar | 6 January, 1943 | Kolkata, West Bengal |
| Union Bank of India | Arun Tiwari | 11 November, 1919 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |
| United Bank of India | P. Srinivas | 1950 | Kolkata, West Bengal |
| Vijaya Bank | Kishore Kumar Sansi | 1931 | Bengaluru, Karnataka |
| Yes Bank | Rana Kapoor | 2004 | Mumbai, Maharashtra |

Heads of Important International Organizations : December 2016

| Name | Name of Organization |
|-----------------|---|
| Mr. Ban Ki Moon | Secretary General, United Nation Organization |

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|-------------------------|--|
| Mr. Ban Ki Moon | First Day Secretary general UNO |
| Dr. Jim Yong Kim | President World Bank (International Bank For Reconstruction & Development) |
| Ms. Christine Lagarde | Managing Director, International Monetary Fund |
| Ms. Irina Bokova | Director General , UNESCO |
| Mr. Mukhira Kituyi | Secretary General UNCTAD |
| Ronny Abraham | President , International Court of Justice (Latest update) |
| Mr. Mr. Takehiko Nakao | President, Asian Development Bank |
| Ms. Baroness Patricia | Secretary General, Commonwealth |
| Mr. Roberto Azevedo | Director General , WTO |
| Mr. Zaheer Abbas | President International Cricket Council |
| Mr. Shashank Manohar | Chairman of ICC Cricket Council |
| Mr. Yukia Amano | Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) |
| Sushil Koirala | Chairman , SAARC |
| Ms. Phumzile Mlambo | Nqcuca - Head of UN Women |
| Mr. Arjun Bahadur Thapa | Secretary General, SAARC |
| Mr. Salil Shetty | Sec, Gen, Amensty International |

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Ms. Helen Clerk | Director General of UNDP |
| Mr. Klaus Schweb | Chairman, WEF (World Economic Forum) |
| Mr. David Richardson | CEO of Int. Cricket Council |
| Mr. Hassan Rouhani | Chairperson/ Secretary Gen. of NAM |
| Mr. Thomas Bach | President International Olympic Committee |
| Mr.N.Ramachandran | President of Indian Olympic Association |
| Prince Zeid Hussein | UN High Commissioner for Human Rights |

18 Interesting Facts about Indian Railways

- India has the Second Largest Railway network in Asia after China and 4th Largest in the world.
- Indian Railway Started in 1853 (April) : From Mumbai to Thane
- Longest Railway Station Platform of the World : Gorakhpur (UP)
- Longest Railway Bridge Above Water in India : Vikramshila Setu (River Ganges)
- Longest Railway Zone in India : Northern Railway
- Longest (Maximum) Distance Travelling Train : Vivek Express (from Dibrugarh, Assam to Kanyakumari, Tamilnadu)
- World's Longest Railway Route : Trans Siberian Railway (From Leningrad to Vladivostok)
- World's Fastest Train : Japan's Maglev Bullet train
- India's Fastest Train : New Delhi – Bhopal Shatabdi Express
- First Metro Train of the World : London
- First Metro Train in India: Kolkata
- First Electric Train of India : Deccan Queen (between Bombay and Pune)
- Konkan Railway extends from Roha, (Maharashtra) to Madgaon (Goa)
- Konkan Railway passes from Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka and Kerala
- In India 8 Cities have Metro Trains till January 2016

- Indian Railway Board was established in 1905
- Indian Railway was Nationalized in 1950

Total Number of Railway Zones in India : 17 (list enclosed)

| Railway Zone | Headquarters |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Northern | Delhi |
| North Eastern | Gorakhpur |
| Northeast Frontier | Guwahati |
| Eastern | Kolkata |
| South Eastern | Kolkata |
| South Central | Secunderabad |
| Southern | Chennai |
| Central | Mumbai |
| Western | Mumbai |
| South Western | Hubli |
| North Western | Jaipur |
| West Central | Jabalpur |
| North Central | Allahabad |
| South East Central | Bilaspur |
| East Coast | Bhubneswar |
| East Central | Hajipur |
| Kolkata Metro | Kolkata |

Persons and Places in News - 10th Dec to 25th Dec 2016

- PERSONS IN NEWS
- Antonio Guterres - New secretary general of UN
- The oath was administered to him by President, UNGA: Peter Thomson.
- He succeeds Ban Ki-moon.
- He has previously served as UN high commissioner for refugees.
- Remember this way - Antenna connects us to radio waves. Antonio will connect the world now.
- 2016 FIFA Ballon d'Or award goes to - Cristiano Ronaldo
- FIFA Ballon d'Or award is an annual award given by FIFA to best male player in previous year.
- Remember this way - d'Or award goes to Ronal 'do'.
- World's most powerful people list of Forbes - PM Modi ranks 9th
- Putin tops the chart again.
- 2nd place goes to Trump and 3rd to Angela Merkel.
- Mark Zuckerberg stands right behind Mr Modi at 10th rank.
- Remember this way - Year 2016 - sum of digits is 9. Hence, Modi stands at 9th. (*Mitron, hum rule follow karengel!*)
- New Chief of Intelligence Bureau - Rajiv Jain
- IB is India's internal intelligence agency.
- Remember this way - Ab IB ke sare raaz, raaz hi rahenge kyonki Rajiv aa gya hai.
- Next air chief of Indian Air Force - Birender Singh Dhanoa (BS Dhanoa)
- He was the vice chief of AIF before this appointment.
- Remember this way - BS Dhanoa will rule the Blue Sky(BS) of India now.
- Renowned Tamil Poet & Philosopher's saint Thiruvalluvar's Statue unveiled in Haridwar
- He is the author of the book 'Tirukkural' which is a work on Ethics.
- His other statues are in Kanyakumari and London.
- Remember this way - Mug it up and question yourself -why a Tamil's poet statue in Haridwar?
- New Chief of Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) - Anil Dhasmana
- RAW is the primary foreign intelligence agency of India under direct command of Prime Minister.
- Remember this way - धास् 'Dhasmana' heads RAW, धव्सत हonge sab!

2016 SASTRA- Ramanujan award goes to Kaisa Matomaki, Maksym Radziwill

Its an annual award established by SASTRA university in 2005, given to young mathematicians.

December 22 is observed as National Mathematics Day.

Remember this way - Both the awardees have M in their name. Relate it with Mathematics.

2016 Jnanpith award goes to - Bengali Poet Shankha Ghosh

Jnanpith award is India's highest literary honor

Remember this way - Bengal is famous for writers and football anyway and Ghosh are usually Bengali.

Miss world 2016 - Stephanie Del Valle

Miss Puerto Rico (country), Stephanie Del Valle was crowned Miss world at 66th edition of the event held in USA.

Remember the movie: Del valle Dulhaniya le jayenge!

Places in News

- India's first amphibious bus project launched by Punjab Govt
- Launched at Harike wetland, near Amritsar.
- Remember this way - Punjab is otherwise known as land of 5 rivers. So Punjab takes the lead in showing how to drive in water.
- World's longest rail tunnel, Gotthard Base Tunnel, starts service in Switzerland
- GBT is world's longest and deepest railway tunnel with a length of 57 kms.
- It travels through Alps mountain range.
- Remember this way -Switzerland got it hard- GottHard Tunnel!
- Rio de Janeiro, Brazil accorded UNESCO world heritage status
- Rio had hosted 2016 summer olympics and 2014 FIFA world cup.
- It has been awarded this status due to its extraordinary fusion of man made and natural beauty, rainforests and beaches.
- India's 1st 2G Ethanol Bio-Refinery to be set up in Bathinda, Punjab
- HPCL is setting up this project at the cost of Rs 600 crores.
- 2nd gen ethanol can be prepared from woody crops, biomass, agricultural residue.
- Remember this way - Punjab tops in agriculture so raw material required will be in plenty over there.
- Important Parliamentary Acts related to Banking sector in India

| Name of the Act | Year of Promulgation |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|
| Societies' Registration Act | 1860 |

| | |
|---|------|
| Negotiable Instruments Act | 1881 |
| Co-operative Societies Act | 1912 |
| Provident Funds Act | 1925 |
| Reserve Bank of India Act | 1934 |
| Insurance Act | 1938 |
| Central Excise Act | 1944 |
| Public Debt Act | 1944 |
| International Monetary Fund and Bank Act | 1945 |
| Employees' State Insurance Act | 1948 |
| Banking Regulation Act | 1949 |
| Chartered Accountants Act | 1949 |
| Contingency Fund of India Act | 1950 |
| Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act | 1952 |
| State Bank of India Act | 1955 |
| Life Insurance Corporation Act | 1956 |
| Securities Contract Act | |
| Companies Act | |
| Central Sales Tax Act | |

| | |
|---|------|
| State Bank of Hyderabad Act | |
| State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act | 1959 |
| Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation Act | 1961 |
| Customs Act | 1962 |
| Unit Trust of India Act | 1963 |
| Nationalization of Banks Act (<i>But government decided to nationalize 14 major commercial banks on 19th July, 1969.</i>) | 1964 |
| Banking Laws (Application to Co-operative Societies) Act | 1965 |
| PPF Act | 1968 |
| General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Act | 1972 |
| Regional Rural Banks Act | 1976 |
| Prize Chits and Money Circulation Scheme (Banning) Act | 1978 |
| Export-Import Bank of India Act | 1981 |
| NABARD Act | 1981 |
| Chit Funds Act | 1982 |
| General Insurance Business (Nationalization) Amendment Act | 1985 |

| | |
|--|------|
| Securities and Exchange Board of India Act | 1992 |
| Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act | 1999 |
| Foreign Exchange Management Act | 1999 |
| Prevention of Money Laundering Act | 2002 |
| Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act | 2002 |
| Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act. (Colloquially, <i>SARFAESI Act</i>) | 2002 |
| Government Securities Act | 2006 |
| Securities Laws (Amendment) Act | 2014 |
| The Regional Rural Banks (Amendment) Act- Diluted the sharing pattern by limiting the composite share of central govt. and sponsor bank to 51% | 2014 |
| The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act- Pushed FDI limit to 49% | 2015 |

List of Army Operations of India and other countries

| Name of Operations | Year | Explanation |
|--------------------|------|--|
| First Kashmir War | 1947 | It is an Indo - Pakistan war in 1947 - 1948. Location of the war was in Kashmir. |

| | | |
|---------------------------|------|--|
| Operation Polo | 1948 | The code name Operation Polo was given by Indian armed forces. The location of this war was Hyderabad. By winning this war Indian army forces were getting success in ended the rule of the Nizam. |
| Operation Vijay | 1961 | The code name Operation Vijay was given by Indian armed forces. The location of this war was Goa. This operation made our India free from Portugal. |
| Sino – Indian War | 1962 | It is also known as The Sino – Indian Border Conflict. This war was held between India & China. |
| Second Kashmir War | 1965 | The location of this war was South Asia. This war was held between India & Pakistan. |
| Bangladesh Liberation War | 1971 | This war was held between India & Pakistan. India got victory in this war |
| Siachen Conflict | 1980 | This war was held between India & Pakistan. This war was for Siachen glacier which is in Kashmir. |
| Operation Blue Star | 1984 | The code name Operation Blue Star was given by Indian armed forces. The location of this war was Harminder Sahib in Amritsar, Punjab. This war was for removing the leader |

| | | |
|--------------------|------|--|
| | | Jarnail Singh Bhindrawala. |
| Operation Woodrose | 1984 | The code name Operation Woodrose was given by Indian armed forces. This operation was carried out by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, just after a month of "Blue Star" happened. |
| Operation Meghdoot | 1984 | The code name Operation Meghdoot was given by Indian armed forces. After this Indian Army Force got to hold all of the Siachen glaciers and also all of its tributary glaciers. |
| Operation Rajiv | 1987 | The code name Operation Rajiv was given by Indian armed forces. The location of this war was Siachen Glacier. This war was held between India & Pakistan. India got the victory in this war. |
| Operation Pawan | 1987 | The code name Operation Pawan was given by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force. The location of this war was Sri Lanka. India got the victory in this war. |
| Operation Viraat | 1988 | The code name Operation Viraat was given by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force. The location of this war was Shri Lanka. IPKF launched two operations in 1988. |

| | | |
|---------------------|------|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Operation Viraat · Operation Trishul <p>These were launched against (LTTE) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.</p> |
| Operation Trishul | 1988 | <p>The code name Operation Trishul was given by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force. The location of this war was Shri Lanka. IPKF launched two operations in 1988.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Operation Viraat · Operation Trishul <p>These were launched against (LTTE) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.</p> |
| Operation Checkmate | 1988 | <p>The code name Operation Checkmate was given by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force. This operation was launched by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force against (LTTE) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. Its motive was to boycott the (LTTE) Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. This war ended in a victory of (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force.</p> |
| Operation Cactus | 1988 | <p>The code name Operation Cactus was given by The IMF. The location of this war was Indian Ocean (Maldives). When coup'd Etat was failed to the intervention of Indian</p> |

| | | |
|-------------------------|------|--|
| | | Army. Then IMF gave the code name as Cactus operation. |
| Operation Vijay | 1999 | The code name Operation Vijay was given by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force. This war was held between India & Pakistan. The location of this war was Kargil, Jammu - Kashmir. India got possession on Kargil after this war. |
| Operation Parakram | 2001 | The code name Operation Parakram was given by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force. The location of this war was Kashmir. This war was held between India & Pakistan. As a result of this war was actually retreating between both countries. |
| Operation Black Torrado | 2008 | The code name Operation Black Torrado was given by (IPKF) The Indian Peace Keeping Force. The location of this war was Mumbai. It was a Bombay attack by 10 members of Lashkar-e-Taiba. Lakshar - e- Taiba was the militant organization of Pakistan. |
| Operation Surya Hope | 2013 | The code name Operation Surya Hope was given by Indian Armed Force. This operation was held for helping |

| | | |
|--|------|--|
| | | the people of Uttrakhand from the effect of North India Floods. |
| Operation All – Out | 2015 | It was launched by the chief of army staff General Dalbir Singh Suhag to eliminate Bodo Militants. |
| Operation Maitri | 2015 | This operation was launched by Indian Army force.the motive of this operation was to relief Nepal from Nepal government. |
| Indian Counter – Insurgency Operation in Myanmar | 2015 | The location of this war was Myanmar border. This war was the biggest attack on India after Kargil war. |

ICC Awards ODI and Test Teams: 2016

| Name of Award | Awardee | Country |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year <u>and</u> ICC Test Cricketer of the Year | Ravichandran Ashwin | India |
| ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year | Quinton de Kock | South Africa |
| ICC Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year | Suzie Bates | New Zealand |
| ICC Emerging Cricketer of | Mustafizur Rahman | Bangladesh |

| | | |
|--|-------------------|--------------|
| the Year | | |
| ICC Twenty20 International Performance of the Year | Carlos Brathwaite | West Indies |
| ICC Women's T20 Cricketer of the Year | Suzie Bates | New Zealand |
| David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year | Marais Erasmus | South Africa |
| ICC Spirit of Cricket Award | Misbah-ul-Haq | Pakistan |

ICC ODI Team of the Year 2016

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Virat Kohli (captain) | India |
| Rohit Sharma | India |
| Ravindra Jadeja | India |
| David Warner | Australia |
| Mitchell Marsh | Australia |
| Mitchell Starc | Australia |
| Quinton de Kock (wicketkeeper) | South Africa |
| Kagiso Rabada | South Africa |
| Imran Tahir | South Africa |

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| AB de Villiers | South Africa |
| Jos Buttler | England |
| Sunil Narine | West Indies |

ICC Test Team of the Year 2016

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| R. Ashwin | India |
| Alastair Cook (captain) | England |
| Joe Root | England |
| Jonny Bairstow | England |
| Ben Stokes | England |
| Adam Vogge | Australia |
| David Warner | Australia |
| Mitchell Starc | Australia |
| Steve Smith | Australia |
| Kane Williamson | New Zealand |
| Rangana Herath | Sri Lanka |
| Dale Steyn | South Africa |

List of Current Heads of International Organisations

| Appointment (Office) | Head |
|---|--------------------------|
| Managing Director, (IMF) | Christine Lagarde |
| Director General, UNESCO | Irina Bokova |
| Director General, WHO | Dr. Margaret Chan |
| Director General, International Labour Organisation | Guy Ryder |
| President, World Bank | Dr. Jim Yong Kim |
| Executive Director, (UNICEF) | Anthony Lake |
| UN High Commissioner for Refugees | Filippo Grandi |
| President, Asian Development Bank | Takehiko Nakao |
| Director - General, WTO | Roberto Azevedo |
| Secretary-General, (NATO) | Jens Stoltenberg |
| Executive Director, UNFPA | Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin |
| Secretary-General, ASEAN | Le Luong Minh |
| Secretary-General, SAARC | Arjun Bahadur Thapa |
| Deputy Secretary General, UN | Jan Eliasson |
| Secretary General, United Nations | Antonio Guterres |

Heads of Important Organizations in India

| Appointment (Post) | Name |
|--------------------------------|--|
| President of India | Pranab Mukherjee |
| Prime Minister of India | Narendra Modi |
| Vice President of India | Mohammad Hamid Ansari |
| Indian Air Chief | Marshal Arup Raha (till 2016) Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa (from January 1, 2017) |
| Indian Army Chief | General Dalbir Singh (till 2016) General Bipin Rawat (from January 1, 2017) |
| Indian Navy Chief | Admiral Sunil Lanba |
| Chief Justice of India | Jagdish Singh Kehar |
| Attorney General of India | Mukul Rohatgi |
| Solicitor General of India | Ranjit Kumar |
| Lok Sabha Speaker | Sumitra Mahajan |
| Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker | M. Thambidurai |
| Rajya Sabha Chairman | Mohammad Hamid Ansari |
| Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairman | P. J. Kurien |
| Reserve Bank of India Governor | Urjit R. Patel |
| RBI Deputy Governors | S. Mundra, R Gandhi, N S Vishwanathan |

| | |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| SEBI Chairman | Upendra Kumar Sinha |
| Controller and Auditor General of India CAG | Shashi Kant Sharma |
| NITI Aayog Chairperson | Prime Minister Narendra Modi |
| NITI Aayog CEO NITI Aayog Vice Chairperson | Amitabh Kant Arvind Panagariya |
| Chief Election Commissioner of India | Nasim Zaidi |
| Election Commissioners of India | Achal Kumar Jyoti & Om Prakash Rawat |
| Central Vigilance Commissioner | K V Chowdary |
| Democrats and Dissenters Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) | R. K. Mathur |
| Finance Commission of India Chairman | Dr. Y. Venugopal Reddy |
| Law Commission of India Chairman | Balbir Singh Chauhan |
| National Commission for Backward Classes Chairperson | Justice V.Eswaraiah |
| NASSCOM Chairman | B. V. R. Mohan Reddy |
| National Commission for Women (NCW) Chairperson | Lalitha Kumaramangalam |
| National Commission on Farmers (NCF) Chairman | M. S. Swaminathan |
| National Human Rights Commission Chairman | Justice H. L. Dattu |

| | |
|--|----------------------|
| ASSOCHAM President | Sunil Kanoria |
| Board of Control for Cricket in India BCCI President | Anurag Thakur |
| Border Security Force BSF Director General | K.K Sharma |
| Central Board of Direct Taxes CBDT Chairperson | Sushil Chandra |
| Central Bureau of Investigation CBI Director | Anil Kumar Sinha |
| Central Industrial Security Force CISF Director General | OP Singh |
| Central Reserve Police Force CRPF Director General | K.Durga Prasad |
| Competition Commission of India CCI Chairman | Devender Kumar Sikri |
| Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) Chief | Rajinder Khanna |
| Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) President | Pankaj R Patel |
| Food Corporation of India (FCI) Chairman & MD | Yogendra Tripathi |
| Indian Space Research Organisation ISRO Chairman | A S Kiran Kumar |
| Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) Chairman | T.S. Vijayan |

| | |
|--|---|
| National Security Advisor (NSA India) | Ajit Doval |
| National Security Guard (NSG) Director General | R C Tayal |
| Prasar Bharati: Chairman Prasar Bharati: CEO | Dr A Surya Prakash Jawhar Sircar |
| Railway Protection Force (RPF) Director General | Rajiv Ranjan Verma |
| Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India | Sailesh |
| Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) Chairman | Ram Sewak Sharma |
| Staff Selection Commission SSC Chairman | Ashim Khurana |

Awards and Honours in India 2016-17

List of Arjuna Awards Winners 2016

| S.No | Name | Sports |
|------|-----------------|-----------|
| 1 | Ajinkya Rahane | Cricket |
| 2 | Amit Kumar | Wrestling |
| 3 | Apurvi Chandela | Shooting |
| 4 | Gurpreet Singh | Shooting |

| | | |
|----|---------------------|---------------------|
| 5 | Sandeep Singh Maan | Para Athletics |
| 6 | Shiva Thapa | Boxing |
| 7 | Sourav Kothari | Billiards & Snooker |
| 8 | Soumyajit Ghosh | Table Tennis |
| 9 | Ritu Rani | Hockey |
| 10 | Subrata Pal | Football |
| 11 | Rajat Chauhan | Archery |
| 12 | Raghunath Vokkaliga | Hockey |
| 13 | Lalita Babar | Athletics |
| 14 | Virender Singh | Wrestling |
| 15 | Vinesh Phogat | Wrestling |

List of Dhronacharya Awards Winners 2016

| S.No | Name | Sports |
|------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 | Shri Nagapuri Ramesh | Athletics |
| 2 | Shri Sagar Mal Dhayal | Boxing |
| 3 | Shri Raj Kumar Sharma | Cricket |
| 4 | Shri Bishweshwar Nandi | Gymnastics |
| 5 | Shri S. Pradeep Kumar | Swimming (Lifetime) |

| | | |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| 6 | Shri Mahabir Singh | Wrestling (Lifetime) |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|

Padma Vibhushan Awardees

| SNo. | Name | Field of Contribution | Native State |
|------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Ms. Yamini Krishnamurthi | Art- Classical dance | Delhi |
| 2 | Shri Rajinikanth | Art-Cinema | Tamil Nadu |
| 3 | Smt. Girija Devi | Art-Classical Vocal | West Bengal |
| 4 | Shri Ramoji Rao | Literature & Education-Journalism | Andhra Pradesh |
| 5 | Dr. Viswanathan Shanta | Medicine- Oncology | Tamil Nadu |
| 6 | Shri Shri Ravi Shankar | Spiritualism | Karnataka |
| 7 | Shri Jagmohan | Public Affairs | Delhi |
| 8 | Dr.Vasudev Kalkunte Aatre | Science & Engineering | Karnataka |
| 9 | Shri Avinash Dixit (Foreigner) | Literature & Education | USA |
| 10 | Late Shri Dhiru Bhai Ambani (Posthumous) | Trade & Industry | Maharashtra |

Padma Bhushan Awardees

| S.No | Name | Field of Contribution | Native State |
|------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| 1 | Shri Anupam Kher | Art-Cinema | Maharashtra |
| 2 | Shri Udit Narayan Jha | Art-Playback Singing | Maharashtra |
| 3 | Shri Ram V. Sutar | Art-Sculpture | Uttar Pradesh |
| 4 | Shri Heisnam Kanhailal | Art-Theatre | Manipur |
| 5 | Shri Vinod Rai | Civil Service | Kerala |
| 6 | Dr. Yarlagadda Lakshmi Prasad | Literature & Education | Andhra Pradesh |
| 7 | Prof. N. S. Ramanuja Tatachaya | Literature & Education | Maharashtra |
| 8 | Dr. Barjinder Singh Hamdard | Literature & Education - Journalism | Punjab |
| 9 | Prof. D. Nageshwar Reddy | Medicine- Gastroenterology | Telangana |
| 10 | Swami Tejomayananda | Spiritualism | Maharashtra |
| 11 | Shri Hafeez | Architecture | Maharashtra |
| 12 | Shri Ravindra Chandra Bhargava | Public Affairs | Uttar Pradesh |
| 13 | Dr.Venkata Rama Rao Alla | Science & Engineering | Andhra Pradesh |
| 14 | Ms. Saina Nehwal | Sports-Badminton | Telangana |

| | | | |
|----|---|---------------------|-------------|
| 15 | Ms. Sania Mirza | Sports-Tennis | Telangana |
| 16 | Ms. Indu Jain | Trade & Industry | Delhi |
| 17 | Late Swami Dayanand Sarawasati (Posthumous) | Others-Spiritualism | Uttarakhand |
| 18 | Shri Robert Blackwill(Foreigner) | Public Affairs | USA |
| 19 | Shri Pallonji Shapoorji Mistry(Person Of Indian Origin) | Trade & Industry | Ireland |

Padma Shri Awardees

| S.No | Name | Field of Contribution | Native State |
|------|------------------------------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Smt. Prathibha Prahlad | Art- Classical Dance | Delhi |
| 2 | Shri Bhikhudan Gadhvi | Art- Folk Music | Gujarat |
| 3 | Shri Sribhas Chandra Supakar | Art- Textile Designing | Uttar Pradesh |
| 4 | Shri Ajay Devgan | Art-Cinema | Maharashtra |
| 5 | Ms. Priyanka Chopra | Art-Cinema | Maharashtra |
| 6 | Pt. Tulsidas Borkar | Art-Classical Music (Harmonium instrument) | Goa |
| 7 | Dr. Soma Ghosh | Art-Classical Vocal | Uttar Pradesh |

| | | | |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 8 | Shri Nila Madhab Panda | Art-Film Direction and Production | Delhi |
| 9 | Shri S.S. Rajamouli | Art-Film Direction and Production | Karnataka |
| 10 | Shri Madhur Bhandarkar | Art-Film Direction and Production | Maharashtra |
| 11 | Prof. M. Venkatesh Kumar | Art-Folk Arts | Karnataka |
| 12 | Ms. Gulabi Sapera | Art-Folk Dance | Rajasthan |
| 13 | Smt. Mamta Chandrakar | Art-Folk Music | Chhattisgarh |
| 14 | Ms. Malini Awasthi | Art-Folk Music | Uttar Pradesh |
| 15 | Shri Jai Prakash Lekhiwal | Art-Miniature Painting | Delhi |
| 16 | Shri K. Laxma Goud | Art-Painting | Telangana |
| 17 | Shri Bhalchandra Dattatray Mondhe | Art-Photography | Madhya Pradesh |
| 18 | Shri Naresh Chander Lal | Art-Theatre & Cinema | Andaman & Nicobar |
| 19 | Shri Dharendra Nath Bezbaruah | Literature & Education | Assam |
| 20 | Shri Prahlad Chandra Tasa | Literature & Education | Assam |
| 21 | Dr.Ravindra Nagar | Literature & Education | Delhi |

| | | | |
|----|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 22 | Shri Dahyabhai Shastri | Literature & Education | Gujarat |
| 23 | Dr.Santeshivara Bhyrappa | Literature & Education | Karnataka |
| 24 | Shri Haldar Nag | Literature & Education | Odisha |
| 25 | Shri Kameshwaram Brahma | Literature & Education - Journalism | Assam |
| 26 | Prof. Pushpesh Pant | Literature & Education- Journalism | Delhi |
| 27 | Shri Jawaharlal Kaul | Literature & Education- Journalism | Jammu & Kashmir |
| 28 | Shri Ashok Malik | Literature & Education | Delhi |
| 29 | Dr.Mannam Gopi Chand | Medicine-Cardio Thoracic Surgery | Telangana |
| 30 | Prof. Ravi Kant | Medicine-Surgery | Uttar Pradesh |
| 31 | Prof. Ram Harsh Singh | Medicine- Ayurveda | Uttar Pradesh |
| 32 | Prof. Shiv Narain Kureel | Medicine- Paediatric Surgery | Uttar Pradesh |
| 33 | Dr.Sabya Sachi Sarkar | Medicine -Radiology | Uttar Pradesh |
| 34 | Dr. Alla Gopala Krishna Gokhale | Medicine-Cardiac Surgery | Andhra Pradesh |
| 35 | Prof. T.K. Lahiri | Medicine-Cardio Thoracic Surgery | Uttar Pradesh |
| 36 | Dr. Praveen Chandra | Medicine-Cardiology | Delhi |

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| 37 | Prof. (Dr) Daljeet Singh Gambhir | Medicine-Cardiology | Uttar Pradesh |
| 38 | Dr.Chandrasekar Shesadri Thoguluva | Medicine-Gastroenterology | Tamil Nadu |
| 39 | Dr. (Mrs.) Anil Kumari Malhotra | Medicine-Homeopathy | Delhi |
| 40 | Prof. M.V. Padma Srivastava | Medicine-Neurology | Delhi |
| 41 | Dr. Sudhir V. Shah | Medicine-Neurology | Gujarat |
| 42 | Dr. M. M. Joshi | Medicine-Ophthalmology | Karnataka |
| 43 | Prof. (Dr) John Ebnezar | Medicine-Orthopaedic Surgery | Karnataka |
| 44 | Dr. Nayudamma Yarlagadda | Medicine-Paediatic Surgery | Andhra Pradesh |
| 45 | Shri Simon Oraon | Other -Environment Conservation | Jharkhand |
| 46 | Shri Imitiaz Qureshi | Other-Culinary | Delhi |
| 47 | Shri Piyush Pandey | Others-Advertising & Communication | Maharashtra |
| 48 | Shri Subhash Palekar | Others-Farming | Maharashtra |
| 49 | Shri Ravinder Kumar Sinha | Others-Wildlife Conservation | Bihar |
| 50 | Dr. H.R. Nagendra | Others-Yoga | Karnataka |

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|----|--|----------------------------|----------------|
| 51 | Shri M. C. Mehta | Public Affairs | Delhi |
| 52 | Shri M. N. Krishna Mani | Public Affairs | Delhi |
| 53 | Shri Ujjwal Nikam | Public Affairs | Maharashtra |
| 54 | Shri Tokheho Sema | Public Affairs | Nagaland |
| 55 | Dr. Satish Kumar | Science & Engineering | Delhi |
| 56 | Dr.Mylswamy Annadurai | Science & Engineering | Tamilnadu |
| 57 | Prof. Dipankar Chatterji | Science & Engineering | Karnataka |
| 58 | Prof.(Dr.) Ganapati Dadasaheb Yadav | Science & Engineering | Maharashtra |
| 59 | Smt. (Prof.) Veena Tandon | Science & Engineering | Meghalaya |
| 60 | Shri Onkar Nath Srivastava | Science and Engineering | Uttar Pradesh |
| 61 | Ms. Sunita Krishnan | Social Work | Andhra Pradesh |
| 62 | Shri Ajoy Kumar Dutta | Social Work | Assam |
| 63 | Shri M. Pandit Dasa | Social Work | Karnataka |
| 64 | Shri P. P. Gopinathan Nair | Social Work | Kerala |
| 65 | Smt. Madeleine Herman de Blic | Social Work | Puducherry |
| 66 | Shri Srinivasan Damal | Social work | Tamil Nadu |

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| | Kandalai | | |
| 67 | Shri Sudhakar Olwe | Social Work | Maharashtra |
| 68 | Dr. T.V. Narayana | Social Work | Telangana |
| 69 | Shri Arunachalam Murugantham | Social Work | Tamil Nadu |
| 70 | Ms. Deepika Kumari | Sports-Archery | Jharkhand |
| 71 | Shri Sushil Doshi | Sports-commentary | Madhya Pradesh |
| 72 | Shri Mahesh Sharma | Trade & Industry | Delhi |
| 73 | Shri Saurabh Srivastava | Trade & Industry | Delhi |
| 74 | Shri Dilip Sanghvi | Trade & Industry | Maharashtra |
| 75 | Dr. Keki Hormusji Gharda | Trade & Industry | Maharashtra |
| 76 | Late Shri Prakash Chand Surana (Posthumous) | Art -Classical Music | Rajasthan |
| 77 | Late Shri Saeed Jaffrey(NRI and Posthumous) | Art-Cinema | United Kingdom |
| 78 | Shri Michael Postel (Foreigner) | Art-Archaeology | France |
| 79 | Shri Salman Amin Sal Khan (Person of Indian Origin) | Literature & Education | USA |
| 80 | Smt. Hui Lan Zhang (| Others-Yoga | China |

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| | Foreigner) | | |
| 81 | Shri Predrag K. Nikic (Foreigner) | Others-Yoga | Serbia |
| 82 | Dr.Sundar Aditya Menon (NRI) | Social Work | UAE |
| 83 | Shri Ajaypal Singh Banga (NRI/PIO) | Trade & Industry | USA |

National Bravery Awards 2016

| S.No | Name | Award |
|------|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1 | Abhijit KV | General National Bravery Award |
| 2 | Bhimsen | General National Bravery Award |
| 3 | Beedhovan | General National Bravery Award |
| 4 | Joena Chakbraborty | General National Bravery Award |
| 5 | Chongtham Kuber Meitei | General National Bravery Award |
| 6 | Maurice Yengkhom | General National Bravery Award |
| 7 | Sarwanand Saha | General National Bravery Award |

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|----|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 8 | Muhammad Shamnad | General National Bravery Award |
| 9 | Shivampet Ruchitha | Geeta Chopra Award |
| 10 | Mohit Mahdenrda Dalvi | General National Bravery Award |
| 11 | Vaibhav Ramesh Ghangare | General National Bravery Award |
| 12 | Nilesh Revaram Bhil | General National Bravery Award |
| 13 | Sai Krishna Akhil Kilambi | General National Bravery Award |
| 14 | Dishant Mehndiratta | General National Bravery Award |
| 15 | Anandu Dillep | General National Bravery Award |
| 16 | Kashish Dhanani | General National Bravery Award |
| 17 | Nithin Philip Mathew | General National Bravery Award |
| 18 | Shivansh Singh | Bharat Award |
| 19 | Gaurav Kawduji Sahastrabuddhe | Bharat Award |
| 20 | Abinash Mishra | General National Bravery Award |
| 21 | Angelica Tynsong | General National Bravery |

| | | Award |
|----|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 22 | Arjun Singh | Sanjay Chopra Award |
| 23 | Aromal SM | Bapu Gaidhani Award |
| 24 | Ramdinthara | Bapu Gaidhani Award |
| 25 | Rakeshbhai Shanabhai Patel | Bapu Gaidhani Award |

The Asian Awards 2016

| S.No | Name | Award |
|------|--------------------|---|
| 1 | Mother Teresa | Founder's Award |
| 2 | Anil Agarwal | Entrepreneur of the Year |
| 3 | Shri Prakash Lohia | Business Leader of the Year |
| 4 | Son-Heung-Min | Outstanding Achievement in Sports |
| 5 | Naughty Boy | Outstanding Achievement in Music |
| 6 | Kunal Nayyar | Outstanding Achievement in Television |
| 7 | Shuji Nakamura | Outstanding Achievement in Science and Technology |
| 8 | Asif Khapadia | Outstanding Achievement in Cinema |
| 9 | Osman Yousefzada | Outstanding Achievement in |

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|----|--------------|---|
| | | Art & Design |
| 10 | Rami Ranger | Outstanding Contribution to the Community |
| 11 | Vikram patel | Chivas Social Entrepreneur of the Year |

Dada Saheb Phalke Awards 2016

| S.No | Name | Award |
|------|----------------------|---|
| 1 | Sikander Kher | Best Actor Male for Tere Bin Laden- Dead or Alive |
| 2 | Richa Chaddha | Best Actress Masaan |
| 3 | Sooraj Barjatya | Best Memorable film "Prem Ratan Dhan Payo |
| 4 | Shabana Azami | Best Supporting actress "Neerja") |
| 5 | Annu Kapoor | Best R.J. |
| 6 | Indra Krishnan | Best Actress Female T.V. |
| 7 | Sameer Dharmadhakari | Best Actor Male T.V |
| 8 | Deepak Dobriyal | Best Supporting Actor "Tanu Weds Manu Returns |
| 9 | Shoojit Sarkar | Best director 'Piku' |
| 10 | Amitabh Bhattacharya | Best Lyrics "Dilwale" |

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|----|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 11 | Pritam | Best Music "Dilwale" |
| 12 | Kamini Kaushal | Life Time Achievement award |
| 13 | Bappi Lahiri | Life Time Achievement award |
| 14 | Palak Muchal | Best Singer Female |
| 15 | Rashmi Sharma | Best Producer T.V. |
| 16 | Swaraj Singh | Best Stage Actor |
| 17 | Sooraj Pancholi & Athiya Shetty | Best Pair- Debut |
| 18 | Amit Khanna | Best Photographer- Still Photography |
| 19 | Ganesh Acharya | Best Choreographer |

Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2016

| S.No | Name | Award |
|------|-----------------------------|--|
| 1 | Sharodi Saikia | Dance - Sattriya |
| 2 | Smt. Suguna Varadachari | Carnatic Music - Vocal |
| 3 | Vidwan Lalgudi GJR Krishnan | Carnatic Music - Instrumental (Violin) |
| 4 | Manoj Joshi | Theatre - Acting |
| 5 | R.N. Tharanathan | Carnatic Music - Vocal |
| 6 | Ranganayaki Jayaraman | Dance - Bharatanatyam |

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|----|-----------------------|---|
| 7 | K Kunhiraman Nair | Dance - Kathakali |
| 8 | Mandakini Trivedi | Dance - Mohiniattam |
| 9 | R.N. Thyagarajan | Carnatic Music - Vocal |
| 10 | Brij Narayan | Music - Instrumental (Sarod) |
| 11 | G Padmaja Reddy | Dance - Kuchipudi |
| 12 | Mashkoo Ali Khan | Hindustani Music - Vocal |
| 13 | Sadashiva Pradhan | Dance - Chhau |
| 14 | Himani Shivpuri | Theatre - Acting |
| 15 | Kartik Kumar | Hindustani Music - Instrumental (Sitar) |
| 16 | Khuman Lal Saav | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre |
| 17 | Mushtaq Kak | Theatre - Direction |
| 18 | Parvez Akhtar | Theatre - Direction |
| 19 | Krishna Bisht | Hindustani Music - Vocal |
| 20 | Chhaya khutegaonkar | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre |
| 21 | Gangmei Aluna Kabuini | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre |

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|----|-----------------------------|---|
| 22 | Maya Khutegaonkar | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre |
| 23 | S R D Prasad | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / D |
| 24 | Ramchandra Singh | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre |
| 25 | Ustad Sayeed Sabri- Jaipuri | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre |
| 26 | Pammi Bai | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / Dance and Theatre |
| 27 | Khem Raj | Other Traditional / Folk / Tribal / Music / |

Nobel Prize 2016

| S.No | Field | Name | Contribution |
|------|-----------|--|---|
| 1 | Physics | David J. Thouless; Duncan Haldane; and John M. Kosterlitz | Theoretical discoveries of topological phase transitions and topological phases of matter |
| 2 | Chemistry | Jean-Pierre Sauvage, Sir J. Fraser Stoddart and Bernard L. Feringa | Design and synthesis of molecular machines" |

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|---|------------------------|--|---|
| 3 | Physiology or medicine | Yoshinori ohsumi | Discoveries of mechanisms for autophagy |
| 4 | Literature | Bob dylan | new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition |
| 5 | Peace | Juan manuel santos | Resolute efforts to bring the country's more than 50-year-long civil war to an end. |
| 6 | Economics | <u>Oliver Hart</u> and Bengt Holmström | Contract theory |

58th Annual Grammy Awards 2016

| S.No | Category | Name |
|------|----------------------------|---|
| 1 | Record of the Year | Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars, "Uptown Funk" |
| 2 | Album of the Year | Taylor Swift, 1989 |
| 3 | Best New Artist | Taylor Swift, 1989 |
| 4 | Best Rock Performance | Alabama Shakes, "Don't Wanna Fight" |
| 5 | Best Musical Theater Album | Hamilton |
| 6 | Song of the Year | Ed Sheeran, "Thinking Out Loud" |

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|----|----------------------------------|--|
| 7 | Best Country Album | Chris Stapleton, Traveller |
| 8 | Best Rap Album | Kendrick Lamar, To Pimp a Butterfly |
| 9 | Best Pop Duo/Group Performance | Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars, "Uptown Funk" |
| 10 | Best Rap/Sung Collaboration | Kendrick Lamar feat. Bilal, Anna Wise & Thundercat |
| 11 | Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album | Tony Bennett & Bill Charlap, The Silver Lining: The Songs of Jerome Kern |
| 12 | Best Pop Solo Performance | Ed Sheeran, "Thinking Out Loud" |
| 13 | Best Rap Song | Kendrick Lamar, "Alright" |
| 14 | Best Alternative Music Album | Alabama Shakes, Sound & Color |
| 15 | Best Rock Album | Muse, Drones |
| 16 | Best Rap Performance | Kendrick Lamar, "Alright" |
| 17 | Best Rock Song | Alabama Shakes, "Don't Wanna Fight" |
| 18 | Best R&B Album | D'Angelo and the Vanguard, Black Messiah |
| 19 | Best Urban Contemporary Album | The Weeknd, Beauty Behind the Madness |
| 20 | Best R&B Performance | The Weeknd, "Earned It (Fifty |

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| | | Shades of Grey)" |
| 21 | Best R&B Song | D'Angelo and The Vanguard, "Really Love" |
| 22 | Best Traditional R&B Performance | Lalah Hathaway, "Little Ghetto Boy" |
| 23 | Best Dance/Electronic Album | Skrillex and Diplo, Skrillex and Diplo Present Jack Ü |
| 24 | Best Dance Recording | Skrillex and Diplo With Justin Bieber, "Where Are Ü Now" |
| 25 | Best Music Video | Taylor Swift feat. Kendrick Lamar, "Bad Blood" |
| 26 | Best Country Duo/Group Performance | Little Big Town, "Girl Crush" |
| 27 | Best Country Song | Little Big Town, "Girl Crush" |
| 28 | Best Music Film | Amy Winehouse, Amy |
| 29 | Best Rap/Song Collaboration | Common & John Legend, "Glory" |
| 30 | Best Pop Vocal Album | Taylor Swift, 1989 |
| 31 | Best Country Solo Performance | Chris Stapleton, "Traveller" |
| 32 | Best Contemporary Christian Music Album | Tobymac, This Is Not a Test |
| 33 | Best Roots Gospel Album | The Fairfield Four, Still |

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| | | Rockin' My Soul |
| 35 | Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album | Pitbull, Dale |
| 36 | Best Latin Pop Album | Ricky Martin, A Quien Quiera Escuchar (Deluxe Edition) |
| 37 | Best Comedy Album | Louis C.K., Live at Madison Square Garden |
| 38 | Best Spoken Word Album | Jimmy Carter, A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety |
| 39 | Score Soundtrack for Visual Media | Birdman |
| 40 | Best Gospel Album | Israel & Newbreed, Covered: Alive Is Asia [Live] (Deluxe) |
| 41 | Best Gospel Performance/Song | Kirk Franklin, "Wanna Be Happy?" |
| 42 | Best Contemporary Christian Music Performance/Song | Francesca Battistelli, "Holy Spirit" |
| 43 | Best Contemporary Classical Composition | Stephen Paulus, Paulus: Prayers & Remembrances |
| 44 | Best Classical Solo Vocal Album | Joyce DiDonato and Antonio Pappano, Joyce & Tony – Live From Wigmore Hall |
| 45 | Best Classical Instrumental Solo | Augustin Hadelich, "Dutilleux: Violin Concerto, |

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| | | L'Arbre Des Songes" |
| 46 | Best Chamber Music/Small Ensemble Performance | Eighth Blackbird, "Filament" |
| 47 | Best Choral Performance | Charles Bruffy, "Rachmaninoff: All-Night Vigil" |
| 48 | Best Opera Recording | Saito Kinen Orchestra; SKF Matsumoto Chorus & SKF Matsumoto Children's Chorus, "Ravel: L'Enfant Et Les Sortilèges; Shéhérazade" |
| 49 | Producer of the Year, Classical | Judith Sherman |
| 50 | Best New Age Album | Paul Avgerinos, Grace |
| 51 | Best Surround Sound Album | Roger Waters, Amused to Death |
| 52 | Best Orchestral Performance | Boston Symphony Orchestra, "Shostakovich: Under Stalin's Shadow - Symphony No. 10" |
| 53 | Best Classical Compendium | Giancarlo Guerrero, Paulus: Three Places of Enlightenment; Veil of Tears & Grand Concerto |
| 54 | Best Regional Roots Music Album | Jon Cleary, Go Go Juice |
| 55 | Best Folk Album | Béla Fleck & Abigail |

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| | | Washburn |
| 56 | Best Blues Album | Buddy Guy, Born to Play Guitar |
| 57 | Best Bluegrass Album | The Steeldrivers, The Muscle Shoals Recordings |
| 58 | Best Americana Album | Jason Isbell, Something More Than Free |
| 59 | Best American Roots Song | Jason Isbell, "24 Frames" |
| 60 | Best American Roots Performance | Mavis Staples, "See That My Grave Is Kept Clean" |
| 61 | Best Tropical Latin Album | Rubén Blades With Roberto Delgado & Orchestra, Son De Panamá |
| 62 | Best Regional Mexican Music Album (Including Tejano) | Los Tigres Del Norte, Realidades - Deluxe Edition |
| 63 | Best Children's Album | Tim Kubart, Home |
| 64 | Best World Album | Angélique Kidjo, Sings |
| 65 | Best Reggae Album | Morgan Heritage, Strictly Roots |
| 66 | Best Latin Jazz Album | Eliane Elias, Made in Brazil |
| 67 | Best Large Jazz Ensemble Album: | Maria Schneider, The Thompson Fields |
| 68 | Best Jazz Instrumental Album | John Scofield, Past Present |

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| 69 | Best Jazz Vocal Album | Cécile McLorin Salvant, For One to Love |
| 70 | Best Surround Sound Album | James Guthrie and Joel Plante, Amused To Death |
| 71 | Best Remixed Recording, Non-Classical | Mark Ronson feat. Bruno Mars, "Uptown Funk (Dave Audé Remix)" |
| 72 | Best Engineered Album, Non-Classical | Alabama Shakes, Sound & Color |
| 73 | Best Historical Album | Various artists; The Basement Tapes Complete: The Bootleg Series Vol. 11 |
| 73 | Best Boxed or Special Limited Edition Package | Various Artists, The Rise & Fall Of Paramount Records, Volume Two (1928-32) |
| 74 | Best Album Notes | Joni Mitchell, Love Has Many Faces: A Quartet, A Ballet, Waiting To Be Danced |
| 75 | Best Recording Package | Sarah Dodds, Shauna Dodds & Dick Reeves; Asleep at the Wheel, Still the King: Celebrating the Music of Bob Wills and |

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| | | His Texas Playboys |
| 76 | Best Arrangement, Instruments and Vocals | Maria Schneider, "Sue (Or In A Season Of Crime)" |
| 77 | Best Arrangement, Instrumental or A Cappella | Avi Kaplin, Kirstin Taylor, Kevin K.O. Olusola; "Dance Of The Sugar Plum Fairy" |
| 78 | Best Instrumental Composition | Arturo O'Farrill and the Afro Latin Jazz Orchestra, "The Afro Latin Jazz Suite" |
| 79 | MusiCares Person of the Year | Lionel Richie |

Recent National and international awards 2016

| S.No | Name of the Award | Recipient |
|------|--|--|
| 1 | Lifetime Achievement Award at Dubai International Film Festival | Rekha (Veteran actress) |
| 2 | The world's third largest startup base | India (US and UK stands in the first and second position respectively) |
| 3 | Rio Paralympics silver medalist, who honored with Rs. 4 crore cash reward by P Narendra Modi | Deepa Malik |
| 4 | German Green Talent Award | Shamik Chowdhury (Indian researcher) |

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| 5 | Prestigious award for outstanding work in the field of e-governance at the 'State of the States Conclave 2016' | Haryana government |
| 6 | The highest-paid woman in music for 2016 in Forbes' annual list. | Taylor Swift |
| 7 | Rashtriya Kalidas Samman by Madhya Pradesh Government | Raj Bisaria and Banshi Kaul |
| 8 | Australian of the Year Local Hero' award 2017 | Tejinder Pal |
| 9 | La Liga's best player for 2015-16 season | Cristiano Ronaldo |
| 10 | Tata Literature Live! Lifetime Achievement Award | Amitav Ghosh |
| 11 | Reporters without Borders (RSF)-TV5 Monde prize' | Hadi Abdullah |
| 12 | Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Governance for year 2016 | Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) |
| 13 | Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award at the ATP awards | Roger Federer |
| 14 | Uttarakhand Ratna award | Harish Rawat (Uttarakhand Chief Minister) |

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|----|--|--|
| 15 | Goldsmiths Prize | Mike McCormack (Solar Bones author) |
| 16 | 'Doodle 4 Google' 2016 contest | Anvita Prashant Telang (fromPune) |
| 17 | Global Citizen Award | Imtiaz Sooliman |
| 18 | Tata Literature Live! Poet Laureate Award 2016 | Gulzar (Lyricist-writer) |
| 19 | World's best airline for the 4th consecutive year | Air New Zealand |
| 20 | The oldest woman to Space | Peggy Whitson (NASA astronaut, at an age of 56 years) |
| 21 | Winner of SumitraCharat Ram Award for lifetime achievement in the field of Indian classical music. | Pt Hari Prasad Chourasia (Noted flautist) |
| 22 | Winner of the prestigious Mother Teresa International Award | Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan (UAE Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, by the Mumbai-based NGO Harmony Foundation.) |
| 23 | 'Artist of the Year' at the 2016 American Music Awards (AMAs) | Ariana Grande (Singer) |
| 24 | 'Favorite Female Artist - Pop/Rock' at the 2016 American Music Awards (AMAs) | Selena Gomez |

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|----|--|---|
| 25 | 'Video of the Year' award at the 2016 American Music Awards (AMAs) | Justin Bieber (for his track 'Sorry') |
| 26 | first World Sanskrit Award | Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Princess of Thailand) |
| 27 | International Maritime Organization (IMO) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea | Captain Radhika Menon |
| 28 | International Press Freedom Award | Malini Subramaniam (Indian Journalist, for her reporting from the Naxal-infested Bastar area) |
| 29 | Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize | Akshaya Mukul (Senior journalist, for his book "Gita Press and the Making of Hindu India") |
| 30 | Winner of 10th Asia Pacific Screen Award in Best Actor Category | Manoj Bajpayee (Bollywood actor) |
| 31 | Winner of at the prestigious UNESCO Salon Youth Video Competition 2016 | 'Magical Piano', a short film by the Toonz Media Group (Dr Avaneesh, Head of Development, Toonz Media Group received the award from Salon Films Chairman Fred Wang) |
| 32 | Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) 'Distinguished Indologist' Award | Prof. Yu Long Yu (Chinese professor) |
| 33 | Golden Peacock award at the 47th International Film | Iranian film "Daughter" (directed by Reza Mirkarimi) |

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| | Festival of India (IFFI) | |
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SAHITYA AKADEMI AWARDS WINNER LISTS 2016

The Sahitya Akademi has announced the lists of name of the Author. The award was given for the contribution in 24 Languages. It Includes the books of 5 Novels, 8 Poetry , 2 Criticism ,7 Short Stories , 1 Play and 1 Essays.

Winner Lists of Sahitya Akademi Award 2016

| Name of the Author | Title | Contribution | Language |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|----------|
| Gita Upadhyay | Janmabhumi Mero Swadesh | Novel | Nepali |
| Jerry Pinto | Em and the big Hoom | Novel | English |
| Nasira Sharma | Paarijat | Novel | Hindi |
| Boluwaru Mohammad Kunhi | Swatantryada Ota | Novel | Kannada |
| Edwin J.F.D'souza | Kale Bhangar | Novel | Konkani |
| Papineni Sivasankar | Rajanigandha | Poetry | Telegu |
| Nand Javeri | Akhar Katha | Poetry | Sindhi |
| Jnan Pujari | Meghmalar Bhraman | Poetry | Assamese |
| Gobinda Chandra Majhi | Nalha | Poetry | Santali |
| Anju (Anjali Narzary) | Ang Maboroi Dong Dasong | Poetry | Bodo |

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|----------------------------|--|---------------|------------|
| Prabha Varma | Shyamamadhavam | Poetry | Malayalam |
| Kamal Vora | Anekek | Poetry | Gujarati |
| Sitanath Acharya | Kavyanirjhari | Poetry | Sanskrit |
| Aziz Hajini | Aane Khane | Criticism | Kashmiri |
| Nizam Siddiqui | Mabad-e-Jadidiat Se Naye Ahed Ki Takhliqiyat Tak | Criticism | Urdu |
| Shyam Darihare | Barki Kaki at Hotmail Dot Com | Short Stories | Maithili |
| Paramita Satpathy | Prapti | Short Stories | Odia |
| Moirangthem Rajen | Cheptharaba Eshingpun | Short Stories | Manipuri |
| Chhatrapal | Cheta | Short stories | Dogri |
| Vannadhasan | Oru Siru Isai () | Short Stories | Tamil |
| Bulaki Sharma | Muradjat Ar Dujee Kahaniyan | Short Stories | Rajasthani |
| Asaram Lomate | Aalok | Short Stories | Marathi |
| Swarajbir | Masia Di Raat | Play | Punjabi |
| Nrasinghaprasad Bhaduri | Mahabharrater Astadashi | Essays | Bengali |

Famous Books, Authors and Biographies: For Upcoming Exams

Books - Autobiography

| Book | Author | Autobiography of |
|--|-------------------|--|
| Anything but Khamosh | Bharti S. Pradhan | Shatrughan Sinha |
| Playing it My Way | Boria Majumdar | Sachin Tendulkar |
| Six Machine (I Don't Like Cricket ... I Love It) | Chris Gayle | Chris Gayle |
| AB The autobiography | AB De Villiers | AB De Villiers's |
| Ace Against Odds | Sania Mirza | Sania Mirza |
| Unbreakable | Mary Kom | Mary Kom |
| Courage & Commitment | Margaret Alva | Margaret Alva (Veteran Congress leader) |
| Dreaming Big: My Journey to Connect India | Sam Pitroda | Sam Pitroda |
| Driven: The Virat Kohli Story | Vijay Lokapally | Virat Kohli |

Books – Authors – Awards (2016)

| Book/Contribution | Author | Award |
|-------------------|--------|-------|
|-------------------|--------|-------|

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|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| Playing it my way | Sachin Tendulkar Boria Majumdar | Crossword Book of the Year |
| Gita Press and the Making of Hindu India | Akshaya Mukul | Shakti Bhatt first book prize |
| Poetic expressions for traditional American songs | Bob Dylan | Nobel Prize in Literature 2016 |
| The Vegetarian | Han Kang (Author), Deborah Smith (Translator) | Man Booker International Prize 2016 |
| The Sellout | Paul Beatty | Man Booker Prize 2016 |
| The Sympathizer | Viet Thanh Nguyen | Pulitzer Prize for Fiction 2016 |
| A God in Ruins | Kate Atkinson | Costa Novel Prize |
| Distinguished Academician of India | Jancy James | Prof M V Pylee Award |
| Anu Band | Ela Bhatt | SEWA Award |
| Ashoka | Professor Nayonjot Lahiri | John F. Richards Prize |
| Love of Indian history | Aditi Krishnakumar | Scholastic Asian Book Award |

50 Most Famous Books of 2016

| Book | Author |
|------|--------|
|------|--------|

| | |
|--|-------------------------|
| An Era of Darkness: The British Empire in India | Shashi Tharoor |
| The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad | Twinkle Khanna |
| 'Death under the Deodars: The Adventures of Miss Ripley Bean' | Ruskin Bond |
| Rajiv Gandhi assassin, hidden truths | Nalini |
| Conflicts of Interest: My Journey through India's Green Movement | Sunita Narain |
| Ashoka in Ancient India | Nayanjot Lahiri |
| The Ministry of Utmost Happiness | Arundhati Roy |
| The Sleepwalker's Dream | Dhrubajyoti Borah |
| The Adivasis will Not Dance | Hansda Sowendra Shekhar |
| Chain of Custody | Anita Nair |
| Tiger: The Life of Tipu Sultan | Kate Brittlebank |
| The Burning Forest: India's War in Bastar | Nandini Sundar |
| The Great Derangement: Climate Change and the Unthinkable | Amitav Ghosh |
| The Ocean of Churn: How the Indian Ocean Shaped Human History | Sanjeev Sanyal |
| Rage of the River: The Untold Story of Kedarnath Disaster | Hridayesh Joshi |
| 1991: How PV Narasimha Rao Made | Sanjaya Baru |

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| History | |
| Not War Not Peace: Motivating Pakistan to Prevent Cross-Border Terrorism | George Perkovi & Toby Dalton |
| Sleepwalking to Surrender: Dealing With Terrorism in Pakistan | Khaled Ahmed |
| The Deed of Words: Two Considerations on Politics of Literature | Pothik Ghosh |
| Being the Other: The Muslim in India | Saeed Naqvi |
| Homo Deus: A Brief History of Tomorrow | Yuval Noah Harari |
| Democratic Dynasties; State, Party and Family in Contemporary Politics | Ed Kanchan Chand |
| Democrats and Dissenters | Ramachandra Guha |
| India Conquered: Britain's Raj and the Chaos of Empire | Jon Wilson |
| Not Out: The Incredible Story of The IPL | Desh Gaurav Sekhri |
| The Rise and Fall of Nations: Ten Rules of Change in the Post-Crisis World | Ruchir Sharma |
| Citizen and Society | Hamid Ansari (Vice President) |
| One Indian girl | Chetan Bhagat |
| The Ocean of Churn: How the Indian Ocean Shaped Human History | Sanjeev Sanyal (Indian economist) |
| India Rising: Fresh Hope, New Fears | Ravi Velloor |

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| Maoism in India and Nepal | Ranjit Bhushan |
| Old History, New Geography | Jairam Ramesh |
| India's Long Road: The Search for Prosperity | Vijay Joshi |
| She Walks, She Leads | Gunjan Jain |
| Bicycle Dreaming | Mridula Koshy |
| Things That Can and Cannot Be Said | Arundhati Roy and John Cusack |
| The Games: A Global History of the Olympics | David Goldblatt |
| Shashi Kapoor: The Householder, the Star | Aseem Chhabra |
| The Unseen Indira Gandhi | Dr KP Mathur |
| Who Moved My Interest Rate | Duvvuri Subbarao (former Governor of RBI) |
| Ringside With Vijender | Rudraneil Sengupta |
| Blood on my Hands: Confessions of Staged Encounters | Kishlay Bhattacharjee |
| The Making of India: The Untold Story of British Enterprises | Kartar Lalvani |
| India vs Pakistan. Why Can't we just be Friends? | Pakistani Ambassador to the U.S. Husain Haqqani |
| Who was Shivaji? | Govind Pansare |

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| Endurance: My Year in Space & Our Journey to Mars | Scott Kelly |
| Framed as a Terrorist | Mohammad Aamir Khan |
| Standing Guard: A Year in Opposition | P Chidambaram |
| Life Mantras | Subrata Roy |
| And Then There Were None | Agatha Christie |

List of Lifetime Achievement Awards 2016 Winners

| Awardee | Name of Lifetime Achievement Award | Category/Field/Genre |
|---------------------|---|---|
| Moushumi Chatterjee | Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award | Acting |
| Amitav Ghosh | Tata Literature Live | Outstanding contribution to the Indian literary space |
| Aditya Puri | Financial Express Best Bank Awards | Banking |
| Judith Kerr | The BookTrust | Children's writer |
| Sunil Gavaskar | Sports Journalists' Association of Mumbai | Completed a memorable 50-year connect with the Indian cricket |
| Rekha | Screen Lifetime Achievement Award | Acting |

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| Lord Narendra Babubhai Patel | Asian Achievers Awards | Work in the medical profession and public life in Britain |
| Ruskin Bond | Times Lit Fest | Literature |
| Sam Pitroda | American Society of Engineers of Indian Origin (ASEI) 31st annual convocation | Engineering |
| Pandit Hariprasad Chaurasia | Sumitra Charat Ram Award | Indian classical music |
| Ruskin Bond | Raymond Crossword Book Award | Literature |
| Usha Venkateswar | Maya Rao lifetime achievement award | Choreography |
| Kwon-taek | International Film Festival of India | Contribution in Korean cinema |
| Jiri Menzel | International Film Festival of Kerala | active representative of new wave cinema in Czech Republic |
| Mukesh Chatter | TiE Boston Lifetime Achievement Award | High-tech entrepreneurship |
| Samuel L Jackson | Dubai International Film Festival (Diff) | Actor |
| Gabriel Yared | Dubai International Film Festival (Diff) | Composer |
| Rekha | Dubai International Film Festival (Diff) | Actor |
| BS Chandrasekha | Sports Writers' | Sports writer |

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| | Association of Bangalore | |
| N Chandra | 8th Goa State Film Festival | Film Industry |
| Mumtaz Madhvani. | Arts for India charity and awards | Charity |
| Dame Joan Collins | Arts for India charity and awards | Charity |
| Srinivasan K Swamy | Advertising Agencies Association of India | Outstanding contribution to the advertising industry |
| Y K Hamied | Forbes India Leadership Awards | Pioneering work at Cipla |
| Jackie Chan | Lifetime achievement Oscar | Contribution to film |
| Uttam Singh | Lata Mangeshkar Award for Lifetime Achievement | Music |
| Mohan Babu | 63rd Britannia Filmfare Awards South | Actor |
| Kuldip Nayar | Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards | Journalism |
| Sharmila Tagore | 28th Pune festival | Actor |
| Rishi Kapoor | Indian Film Festival of Melbourne 2016 | Actor |
| Prem Chopra | 7th Jagran Film Festival | Actor |

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| Satti Geetha | The Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award | Athletics |
| Sylvanus Dung Dung | The Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award | Hockey |
| Rajendra Pralhad Shelke | The Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award | Rowing |
| Rahul Bajaj | Zee Business Lifetime Achievement Award | Entrepreneurship |
| Sridevi | International Indian Film Academy Awards | Acting |
| Balbir Singh | Indian of the Year | Hockey |
| Sylvanus Dung Dung | Dhyan Chand Lifetime Achievement Award | Hockey |
| BBC Sports Personality 2016 | Michael Phelps | Swimmer |

List of Important Days With Themes

| Date | Day observed | Theme |
|-------------|---------------------------|--|
| 25 January | National Voters day | Democracy and Electoral Participation |
| 26, January | International Customs day | Digital Customs Progressive Engagement |

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| 30, January | World Leprosy day | To live is to help to live |
| 04, February | World Cancer day | We can I can |
| 13, February | World Radio day | Radio in Times of Emergency and disaster |
| 20, February | World Day of Social Justice | A Just Transition: Environmentally sustainable economies and Societies |
| 08, March | International Women's day | Pledge for Parity |
| 24, March | World TB Day | Unite to end TB |
| 07, April | World Health day | Beat Diabetes |
| 22, April | World Earth day | Trees for the earth |
| 18, April | World Heritage day | The Heritage of Sport |
| 01, May | International Labour day | Celebrating the International Labour Movement |
| 08, May | World Red Cross day | Everywhere for every one |
| 17, May | World Telecom day | ICT entrepreneurship for social impact |
| 31, May | Anti-Tobacco day | Get ready for Plain Packaging |
| 11, July | World Population day | Investing in Teenage girls |
| 15, July | World Youth Skills day | Skills development to improve |

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| | | youth employment |
| 12, August | International Youth day | Road to 2030: Eradicating Poverty and Achieving sustainable consumption and production |
| 08, September | World Literacy day | Reading the past, Writing the Future |
| 21, September | World Peace day | The Sustainable development goals Building blocks for peace |
| 26, September | World Environmental Health day | Tobacco Control:: A response to the global tobacco pandemic |
| 27, September | World Tourism day | Tourism for All, Promoting Universal Accessibility |
| 29, September | World Heart day | Light your heart empower your life |
| 29, Septemebr | World Maritime day | Shipping: Indispensable to the world |
| 05, Ocober | World Teachers day | Valuing Teachers, improving their status |
| 24, October | United Nations day | Freedom First |
| 05, November | Tsunami Awareness day | Effective Education and Evacuation drills |
| 10, November | World Science Day for peace and development | Celebrating Science Centres and Science Museums |
| 14, November | World Diabetes day | Eyes on Diabetes |
| 20, November | Universal Children's day | Stop Violence against the |

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| | | Children |
| January 9 | NRI Day or Pravasi Bhartiya Diwas | Apna Bharat Apna Gaurav |
| January 25 | 'National Voters' Day | Inclusive and Qualitative Participation' |
| March 4 | National Safety Day | Strengthen Safety Movement to Achieve Zero Harm |
| April 5 | National Maritime Day | Ease of doing business in the maritime sector |

Medals won by Indians in 2016

NOVEMBER 2016

| SL NO. | NAME | DATE | MEDAL ACHIEVED |
|--------|---------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Sachin Singh | 27 th November 2016 | 3 rd Indian Boxer to wins GOLD Medal at the AIBA Youth World Championships |

OCTOBER 2016

| SL NO. | NAME | DATE | MEDAL ACHIEVED |
|--------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 2. | Jitu Rai | 6 th October 2016 | Won a SILVER Medal in the 50-meter pistol events of the ISSF World Cup Final at Bologna, Italy |
| 3. | Luv Singh, Josil, Naveen Kumar | October 2016 | Won Four Medals(including |

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| | and Dalmiya | | One GOLD medal) in the TAFISA World Games in Jakarta, Indonesia |
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SEPTEMBER 2016

| SL NO. | NAME | DATE | MEDAL ACHIEVED |
|--------|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 4. | Devendra Jhajharia | 13 th September 2016 | Won GOLD medal at the Paralympics |
| 5. | Mariyappan Thangavelu | September 2016 | Won GOLD medal at the Rio Paralympics |
| 6. | Deepa Malik | 12 th September 2016 | Won SILVER medal at the Paralympics |
| 7. | Anu Chutia, Rajkumar Devi, Alena Reji, Deborah Herold, Nayana Rajesh and Kezia Vargheese | September 2016 | Won 3 GOLD medal, 2 SILVER medal and 1 BRONZE medal in the Track Asia Cup 2016, New Delhi |

AUGUST 2016

| SL NO. | NAME | DATE | MEDAL ACHIEVED |
|--------|-----------------------|------------------------------|---|
| 8. | Man Kaur | 30 th August 2016 | Won GOLD medal at the American Masters Games in the 100-meter dash |
| 9. | Yogeshwar Dutt | 25 th August 2016 | BRONZE medal from the London Olympics has been upgraded to SILVER |

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| | | | medal |
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Awards and Honours in 2016 (Sep to Dec)

NOVEMBER 2016

| SL. NO. | AWARDS | WINNER |
|---------|--|---|
| 1. | Global Citizen Award 2016 | Imtiaz Sooliman (An Indian-origin man from South Africa) |
| 2. | Goldsmiths Prize | Mike McCormack (Solar Bones Author) |
| 3. | Uttarakhand Ratna Award | Harish Rawat (Chief Minister of Uttarakhand) |
| 4. | Tata Literature Live- Poet Laureate Award 2016 | Gulzar (Lyricist- writer) |
| 5. | Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize | Akshaya Mukul (Senior Journalist, for his book "Gita Press and the Making of Hindu India") |
| 6. | Golden Peacock Award at the 47 th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) | Iranian Film " Daughter "(Directed by Reza Mirkarimi) |
| 7. | Life Time Achievement Award at Dubai International Film Festival | Rekha (Veteran Actress) |
| 8. | German Green Talent Award | Shamik Chowdhury (Indian Researcher) |
| 9. | Highest-Paid woman in music for 2016 in Forbes' | Taylor Swift (Earn \$170 million between 1 st June, 2015 to |

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| | annual list | 1 st June, 2016) |
| 10. | Rio Paralympics Silver Medalist, who honored with Rs. 4 Crore cash rewards by PM Narendra Modi | Deepa Malik |
| 11. | La Liga's best player 2015-2016 season | Cristiano Ronaldo |
| 12. | 'Australian of the year Local Hero' Award 2016 | Catherine Keenan (Former Journalist, Art writer & Literary editor) |
| 13. | Reporters without Borders (RSF)- TV5 Monde Prize | Hadi Abdullah (Syrian freelance journalist) |
| 14. | 'State of the States Conclave' 2016 | Haryana Government |
| 15. | Stefan Edberg Sportsmanship Award at the ATP awards | Roger Federer |
| 16. | The prestigious Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Governance for the year 2016 | Steel Authority of Indian Limited (SAIL) |
| 17. | World's best airline for the 4 th consecutive year | Air New Zealand |
| 18. | Nominated for the People's Choice Award for 2 nd time | Priyanka Chopra (Bollywood Actress) |
| 19. | 'Artist of the Year' at the 2016 American Music | Ariana Grande (Singer) |

| | Award | |
|---------------------------------|---|---|
| 20. | The prestigious UNESCO Salon Youth Video Competition 2016 | 'Magical Piano' , a short film by Toonz Media Group |
| Latin Grammy Awards 2016 | | |
| 21. | Record of the Year | Carlos Vives & Shakira, "La Bicicleta" |
| 22. | Best Singer Song-writer album | Julieta Venegas, AlgoSucedo |
| 23. | Song of the Year | "La Bicicleta" Andrés Castro, Carlos Vives & Shakira |
| 24. | Best Rock Album | Los Fabulosos Cadillacs, La Salvación De Solo Y Juan |
| 25. | Best Alternative Music Album | IllyaKuryaki & The Valdrramas, L.H.O.N |
| 26. | Best Alternative Song | "VezPrimera" Carla Morrison (Song writer) |

OCTOBER 2016

| SL. NO. | AWARDS | WINNER |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|
| 27. | World Bank's Award of Excellence | Almatti Dam (One of the largest reservoirs in Karnataka) |
| 28. | Man Booker Prize 2016 | Paul Beatty |
| 29. | Sakharov Prize 2016 | Nadia MuradBasee & LamiyaAji Bashar (Yazidi women) |

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| 30. | National Award for "Ishaqzaade" | Parineeti Chopra (Bollywood actress) |
| 31. | "Special Award of Excellence in MSME lending" | State Bank of Patiala |
| 32. | European Golden Boy Award 2016 | Renato Sanches |
| 33. | Lemenson-MIT Prize 2016 | Ramesh Raskar (Founder of the camera culture research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) Media lab & Associate Professor of media Arts and Sciences) |
| 34. | "Outstanding Celebrity Woman of the Year" 2016 | Aishwarya Rai Bachchan |
| 35. | IBC Award and Trophy for Excellence | Chandigarh International Airports Limited (CHIAL) (A joint venture company of Airport Authority of India and State of Punjab & Haryana) |
| 36. | "Actor of the Millennium" in BBC poll | Amitabh Bachchan |
| 37. | 28 th Jimmy George Foundation Award 2016 for the best sports person of Kerala | P R Sreejesh (India Hockey team Captain) |
| 38. | Mark Twain Prize for American Humour | Bill Murray (Comedian) |
| 39. | The prestigious APJ Abdul | Roshan Sori (A 13-years old boy from Chandigarh for suggesting an |

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| | Kalam IGNITE Award | idea for a software to immediately register a vote given through an electronic voting machine) |
| 40. | Mathrubhumi Literary Award 2016 | C Radhakrishnan (Eminent writer) |
| 41. | 'Woman of the Year" by Billboard | Madonna (American singer, songwriter) |
| 42. | John F Richards Prize | Nayanjot Lahiri (Professor of History) |
| 43. | The prestigious 2016 Sustainable Development Leadership Award | Pawan Chamling (Chief Minister of Sikkim) |
| 44. | Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight in the National order of Merit) | Prajna Chowta (Film-maker and Elephant researcher) |
| 45. | The 2016 Seven Star Luxury Hospitality and Life Style Award at Marbella in Spain | Maharajas' Express |

SEPTEMBER 2016

| SL. NO. | AWARDS | WINNER |
|---------|--|--|
| 46. | 2016 UNESCO Confucius Prize for Literacy | The Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) OF Malappuram, Kerala |
| 47. | "Best Horticulture State"2016 | Haryana |

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| 48. | Rajbhasha Kirti Puraskar (Region C) for the year 2015-2016 | Vijaya Bank (Bagged 2 nd Prize) |
| 49. | The prestigious Heritage Heroes Award | Bibhuti Lahkar (Indian ecologist and conservation activist) |
| 50. | Honorary Academy (Oscar) Award for extraordinary achievements in the Movies | Jackie Chan (Movie star, Writer, Director and Martial Artist) |
| 51. | Best Film Award at the First BRICS Film Festival, New Delhi | Thithi (Acclaimed Kannada movie) |
| 52. | Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Krishi Puruskars 2016 | Radhan Mohan Singh (Union Agriculture Minister) |
| 53. | Moortidevi Award of Bharatiya Jnanpith | Prof. Kalakaluri Enoch (Telegu writer) |
| 54. | The prestigious N Mohanan Suvarna Mudra Award 2016 | M Leelavathy (Eminent Malayalam Critic and Academician) |
| 55. | 10 th Annual Clinton Global Citizen Award | Adi Godrej (Chairman of Mumbai-based Godrej Group) |
| 56. | The prestigious J.C Daniel Award for Overall Contribution to the Malayalam Film Industry | K.G George (Veteran award-winning film Director) |
| 57. | Miss Japan 2016 | Priyanka Yoshikawa (Indo Japanese) |

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| 58. | 'Golden Lion' award for the best film at the 73 rd Venice International Film Festival | "The Woman Who Left" , directed by Lav Diaz |
| 59. | 9 th Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016 | ODISHA |
| 60. | "Banga Bibhushan" conferred by West Bengal Government | Lata Mangeshkar (Legendary Singer) |
| 61. | "Life Time Achievement Award" in UK | Lord Narendra Babubhai Patel |
| 62. | 'Best Businessman' at the annual 'GQ Men of the Year Award' 2016 | Vijay Shekhar Sharma |
| 63. | "Lalit Arapan Samman" 2016 | Shubha Mudgal (Hindustani classical singer) |