







## CURRENT AFFAIRS CAPSULE DECEMBER 2016

### Awards and Honours

- Anuradha Paudwal given honorary D.Litt
  - o Noted playback singer Anuradha Paudwal will be conferred with honorary D. Litt degree by the D Y Patil University on its 5th convocation ceremony.
  - o The degree is being conferred on Paudwal for her outstanding contribution in popularising Sanskrit shlokas.
  - She is National Award recipient & also the four-time winner of prestigious
     Filmfare Award.
- SRK Receives Honorary Doctorate
  - o Bollywood's superstar Shah Rukh Khan has received an honorary doctorate from Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) in Hyderabad.
  - o Chancellor Zafar Sareshwala conferred the 'honorius causa' (doctor of letters) on Khan and Rekhta Foundation founder Sanjiv Saraf.
  - They were honored for their extraordinary contribution in promotion of the Urdu language and culture through his films.
- Shankha Ghosh Chosen for Jnanpith Award
  - The 52nd Jnanpith Award for 2016 will be conferred on eminent Modern Bengali Poet Shankha Ghosh.
  - o The decision was taken in a meeting of Jnanpith Selection Board chaired by noted scholar, writer and critic Prof. Namwar Singh.
  - o Shankha Ghosh is a prolific poet, critic and academician.
  - Adim lata -gulmomay, Murkho Baro, Samajik Noy, Baborer Prarthana are some of his classic creations.
- MS Dhoni, Sarbjit Make it to Oscars List
  - o Indian biopics MS Dhoni:The Untold Story & Sarbjit have made it to the long list of 336 feature films eligible for the Oscars.
  - o The Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences released the list of films in contention for the best picture Oscar.
  - o Indian-American filmmaker Mira Nair's Queen of Katwe is also part of the list.
  - o The list also includes La La Land, Moonlight, Arrival & Hacksaw Ridge.
- Vannadasan Wins Sahitya Akademi Award













- o Tamil literary writer, Vannadasan from Tirunelveli region won has the country's highest literary award—Sahitya Akademi Award this year.
- o He was selected for his short story collection, Oru Siru Isai.
- He was recipient of 'Kalaimamai Award, Thamil Perayam Award & Ilakkiya Sinthanai Award' for his literary works.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is a literary honor in India & was established in 1954.
- BEML Conferred CEPM Fellowship Award
  - BEML Ltd, a defence public sector undertaking, has been conferred with CEPM Fellowship Award-2016.
  - The company bagged the award for its recognition and commitment in transforming and driving organisational capabilities through human centric approach.
  - o The award was given at the 24th global symposium.
  - Deepak Kumar Hota, CMD, BEML received the award from Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog.
- Cristiano Ronaldo wins Ballon d'Or 2016
  - The 31-year-old is now one behind Barcelona's Messi, who took the honour for a fifth time last year.
  - o Ronaldo helped Real Madrid win last season's Champions League and scored three goals as Portugal won Euro 2016.
  - o He has now won the Ballon d'Or in 2008, 2013, 2014 and 2016, with Messi the only other recipient of the award since winning it for the first time in 2009.
- 3 Indian origin Bag \$1 L US Scholarship
  - Three Indian-origin teenagers in the US have bagged a scholarship for their innovative research in the 17th annual Siemens Math, Science & Technology Competition.
  - Shriya & Adhya won the competition for their project on Novel Approach to Schizophrenia Diagnosis.
  - o Vineet Edupuganti won for developing an ingestible battery.
  - o It could transform the way doctors diagnose health problems in the body.

### • Sunil Gavaskar Bestowed SJAM's Award

 Sunil Gavaskar was conferred with the Golden Jubilee Lifetime Achievement Award by the Sports Journalists' Association of Mumbai (SJAM) in Mumbai.



















- o The award was presented by former India captain Ajit Wadekar & former India player Madhav Apte.
- o Gavaskar was presented with a citatation & a certificate which has details of all his 34 centuries.
- o Indian coach Anil Kumble was present at the event.
- Kerry Awarded French Legion of Honor
  - o U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry is now an officer in France's Legion of Honor.
  - o He was conferred for his contribution in peace effort.
  - o France, the Foreign Ministry said he earned the distinction for his indefatigable efforts in favor of peace.
  - Kerry has visited Paris countless times as secretary of state for high-level diplomatic meetings on Syria, Ukraine and other hotspots.
- TN Recommend Jaya Name for Bharat Ratna
  - The Tamil Nadu Cabinet decided to recommend late AIADMK supremo Jayalalithaa for 'Bharat Ratna', the highest civilian honour of the country.
  - o It also proposes to the Centre to install her life-size bronze statue in Parliament complex.
  - o The meeting was chaired by CM O Panneerselvam.
  - o It was also proposed to raise a memorial building for the leader at the MGR Memorial site.
- Donald Trump TIME Person of the Year
  - US President-elect Donald Trump was named by Time magazine as its Person of the Year 2016 for his stunning upset victory in the US Presidential election.
  - o The first runner-up for Person of the Year is Trump's rival in the presidential elections Hillary Clinton.
  - o The second runner-up are online hackers.
  - o PM Modi was among the 11 candidates shortlisted by Time for its annual honour.
- Deepika Voted Sexiest Asian Woman
  - Deepika Padukone has dethroned four-time winner Priyanka Chopra to become the Sexiest Asian Woman of 2016.
  - o Deepika has won this title for the first time, while Priyanka had held the number one spot for the last two years.
  - o The list was made by UK-based newspaper Eastern Eye.













- Priyanka took the second spot, while Alia Bhatt made it to the top 10 at number 5.
- Big B, Alia Win Top Honours
  - o Courtroom drama "Pink" swept the Star Screen Awards with megastar Amitabh Bachchan bagging the best actor award for the film.
  - o Actress Alia Bhatt picked up the best actress for her performance in "Udta Punjab".
  - o Produced by Shoojit Sircar & directed by Aniruddha Roy, "Pink" was adjudged the best film.
  - The Lifetime Achievement Award was handed over to yesteryear Bollywood diva Rekha.
- Vijaya Bank Bags SME Award
  - Vijaya Bank has been adjudged 'Best Bank for SME Lending' by Assocham.
  - The award was received by Kishore Sansi, Managing Director & CEO of the bank.
  - The award was given under 'Best SME Lending' category for public sector banks at the fourth SMEs Excellence Award function in New Delhi.
  - o The Bank's SME lending grew in the FY 2015-16 from Rs 9426 Crores to Rs 10387 Croresi.e, growth of 10.20%.
- MSME Award for Corporation Bank
  - o Corporation Bank has bagged the 'Best MSME Bank Award 2016' instituted by Assocham.
  - o Jai Kumar Garg, MD and CEO of the bank, received the award.
  - o Corporation Bank has established 177 specialised branches for focused lending to the MSME segment.
  - The Best MSME Bank Award seeks to identify and honour banks and provide role models of best practices in MSME lending.
- Flipkart Founders Named Asians of Year
  - o Sachin Bansal & Binny Bansal, founders of Flipkart, have been jointly named "Asian of the Year 2016" by Singapore-based newspaper The Straits Times.
  - The award recognises entrepreneurs operating at the frontiers of technology's interface with business who have launched companies that have disrupted traditional business model.
  - o In 2014, PM Narendra Modi was felicitated with the award.
- BEML Bags CII National Quality Award

















- BEML Ltd has bagged the 'CII National Quality 2016 Award'.
- o The award has been jointly instituted by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Export Import Bank (EXIM).
- Deepak Kumar Hota, CMD, BEML, received the award at a function held at Bengaluru.
- BEML won the award for practising various EFQM Models (European Foundation for Quality Management) and achieving results.
- Helen Marten Wins Turner Prize 2016
  - o Sculptor Helen Marten has won the 2016 Turner Prize for contemporary art.
  - o Marten was the youngest of the shortlisted artists, was announced as the winner at Tate Britain in London.
  - o The prestigious prize is awarded to a British artist, under the age of 50;
  - o It is the second major prize in the space of a month for Marten, who also won the inaugural Hepworth Prize.
- Gangadhar Award for Leeladhar Jagoori
  - Eminent Hindi poet Leeladhar Jagoori would be honoured with the prestigious
     Gangadhar National Award for the year 2015.
  - o The award, carrying a cash prize of Rs. 50,000, a shawl and citation would be presented to Jagoori by Sambalpur University in January next year.
  - o The prestigious award was instituted by Sambalpur University in 1989.
  - o Jagoori will be the 25th recipient of the the award.
- Kehkashan Wins Children's Peace Prize
  - A 16-year-old Indian environmental activist based in the UAE has won this year's prestigious International Children's Peace Prize for her fight for climate justice
  - o Kehkashan Basu was presented the award by Bangladesh's Nobel peace laureate Mohammad Yunus at a glittering ceremony in The Hague.
  - Yunus won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006 for his efforts for economic and social development.
- Modi Wins TIME Magazine Readers' Poll
  - o PM Modi has won the online reader's poll for TIME magazine's Person of the Year 2016.
  - He defeated out other world leaders like Donald Trump, Barack Obama & Vladimir Putin.
  - o Mr Modi won with 18% of the vote when the poll closed.













- o Time's editors will decide the final Person of the Year later this week.
- o But the online poll results provide a look at how the world sees these figures.
- Kolkata Receives Award on Climate Change
  - o Kolkata, along with 10 other cities from across the globe, has been honoured with the best cities of 2016 award.
  - o The award is in recognition of its inspiring and innovative programme with regard to solid waste management.
  - o Kolkata is the only Indian city to receive the prestigious award. It received the award during the C40 Mayors Summit held in Mexico City.

## Books and Authors

- 3 books on Rashtrapati Bhavan released
  - 3 books on Rashtrapati Bhavan 'Life at Rashtrapati Bhavan'; 'Indradhanush Volume II' & 'Rashtrapati Bhavan: From Raj to Swaraj' were released at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
  - The President said the books released were important to document the multidimensional aspects of Bhavan.
  - His objective has always been to demystify life and events in Rashtrapati Bhavan and open it to the public.

# **Business and Economy**

- Mother Dairy Launch Aadhaar-enabled Mode
  - o Mother Dairy has introduced Aadhar enabled payment system(AEPS) in more than 1,000 milk booths & 'Safal' retail stores.
  - The service was commissioned in association with CSC e-Governance Service India Ltd under the aegis of Department of Electronics and Information Technology (Deity).
  - o The AEPS mode of payment does not require any physical cash or card to make the transactions.
- RBI Notifies Closure of Old Notes
  - o RBI has notified the closure of the deposit and exchange of the old notes.
  - o With the closure of the facility all banks should report information on collection on December 30, itself.



















- o From next week onward, those still holding the scrapped currency can deposit it only with the RBI till March 31, 2017.
- o The govt had on Nov 8 announced that Rs 500 &1,000 notes were no longer the legal tender.
- President Clears Currency Ban Ordinance
  - o President Pranab Mukherjee gave his assent for the promulgation of the Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Ordinance, 2016.
  - o The Union Cabinet had earlier approved the ordinance.
  - It provides for making holding of old 1,000 & 500 rupee notes after 31st of March next year a offence.
  - o It will attract a fine of 10 thousand rupees or five times the cash held, whichever is higher.
- India, Singapore Signs Protocol on DTAA
  - o India and Singapore have amended the DTAA for the avoidance of double taxation and prevention of fiscal evasion by signing a Third Protocol.
  - o This is in line with India's treaty policy to prevent double non-taxation, curb revenue loss and check black money.
  - o India had amended the DTAA with Mauritius and Cyprus.
  - Double taxation avoidance agreements will block the routes to evade taxations.
- CBDT Extends Deadline for Tax Scheme
  - o The scheme for resolving tax disputes introduced by the govt in June this year has been extended by one more month till Jan 31.
  - o The Direct Tax Dispute Resolution Scheme seeks not just to settle disputes in retrospective taxes, but end nearly 2.6 lakh pending tax cases.
  - o The scheme provides for waiving interest & penalties if the principal amount involved in retrospective tax cases is paid.
- Withdrawal Limit from ATMs Increased
  - o RBI has increased the daily limit of ATM withdrawal to Rs 4500 from current Rs 2500 with effective from Jan 1, 2017.
  - There has been no change in the weekly withdrawal limit, which stands at Rs 24,000, including from ATM, for individuals and Rs 50,000 in case of small traders.
  - o Following demonetisation of old notes limits had been imposed on withdrawal of cash from banks as well as ATMs.













- Apple plans to make iPhones in Bengaluru
  - o Apple plans to make iPhones for the Indian market in Bengaluru.
  - o Wistron, a Taiwanese OEM maker for Apple, is setting up a facility in Peenya, the city's industrial hub, to manufacture the iPhones.
  - o The facility will start production from next April, according to industry sources.
- India gearing to recapitalise its banks
  - o India's banks need a cash injection, and 2017 looks like the year that they will get it.
  - The country reckons ailing state lenders need at least 1.8 trillion rupees (\$27 billion) or more to shore up their balance sheets and meet global capital requirements.
  - Non-performing and stressed assets at state lenders already stood at almost
     15 percent of total loans at the end of March.
- FIPB clears FDI proposals
  - Inter-ministerial body FIPB approved six investment proposals, including that of Sanofi Synthelabo India, Star Den Media Services and Idea Cellular Infrastructure Services.
  - o Proposals are worth foreign investment of Rs 1,200 crore.
  - o The Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB), headed by Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das.
- CBDT signs two more APAs
  - o The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has signed two more advance pricing agreements (APAs), taking the total number of such pacts to 117.
  - The two APAs signed today pertain to the Information Technology and automobile sectors of the economy.
  - The international transactions covered in these agreements include software development services, IT enabled services and business support services.
- Lakshmi Vilas Bank to raise ₹600 cr
  - o Lakshmi Vilas Bank has launched QIP to raise over ₹599.88 crore by issuing 4.25 crore shares in domestic or international markets.
  - o The Committee of Directors for Capital Raising of the bank approved the floor price for the QIP issue at ₹141.15 per equity share.
  - o The bank had informed that it will raise funds in one or more public or private offerings in domestic and/or international markets.
- Ambuja Cement, ICICI enter into pact



















- o Ambuja Cement has tied up with ICICI Bank to drive cashless transactions among its business partners retailers, contractors and masons.
- o It will help them open current accounts for regular business transactions.
- o Post-demonetisation, construction activity, especially in rural and semi-urban areas, has been facing several challenges as it mostly deals in cash.
- RBI warns of further rise in bad loans
  - o RBI has released its Financial Stability Report (FSR) December 2016.
  - It has said that banks, particularly public sector banks, continue to face significant levels of stress.
  - The banking stability indicator (BSI) shows that the risks to the banking sector remained elevated due to continuous deterioration in asset quality, low profitability and liquidity.
- RBI Allows Banks to Include Unlisted Cos
  - o The RBI has allowed banks to facilitate issuance of prepaid payments instruments (PPIs) to unlisted corporates, public entities.
  - Banks may include other entities/employers such as unlisted corporates, public organisations like municipal corporations for onward issuance to their staff or workers.
  - Pre-paid payment instruments helps purchase of goods and services against the value stored in it.
- Govt Grants Rs 200 cr for Dyeing Units
  - o The Centre has sanctioned ₹200 crores for Tirupur's dyeing industry that was on the verge of closure due to severe financial crisis.
  - o Tirupur is a hub of the textile processing and knitting industry providing employment to over five lakh persons
  - o It contributes 22% of India's total garment exports.
  - o The ₹200 crore assistance is in the form of an interest free loan to be converted into grant.
- Cabinet Okays Sale of First Pharma Firm
  - o The Union Cabinet has approved the sale of India's first pharmaceutical company Bengal Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals as well as Hindustan Antibiotics.
  - o This is the second strategic sale approval after 12 years.
  - The first one was in Sept when the Cabinet had cleared the strategic sale of Bharat Pumps & Compressors.













- o BCPL was set up in 1892 by eminent scientist Prafulla Chandra Ray.
- Twitter Partners with ICICI Bank
  - o Twitter & ICICI Bank announced a partnership that integrates a slew of digital customer care support features for the bank.
  - o It will benefit customers with direct online response to their queries and feedback in real-time.
  - o Customers can now use these functions to resolve their banking related queries
  - o ICICI Bank is the first bank in India to implement the new features to its Twitter account.
- SIB Launches Mobile Banking App
  - o South Indian Bank has introduced a NRI-focused mobile banking application called SIB Mirror+ .
  - SIB Mirror+ equips the customers to perform almost all banking transactions from their smart phones.
  - o The app comes with self-registration facility for ease of activation.
  - The innovative feature Social Money allows customers to transfer money from & to their friends through social media channels.
- NSE Files IPO Papers with Sebi
  - o The National Stock Exchange (NSE) filed draft papers with market regulator SEBI for its much-awaited IPO.
  - The IPO is expected to be one of the biggest in recent times, with an estimated size of over Rs, 10,000 crore.
  - o The offer may give the exchange a valuation of Rs. 50,000-55,000 crore.
  - o NSEs IPO would be the biggest initial public offering after Coal India.
- Cabinet Approves Note Ban Ordinance
  - The Cabinet approved promulgation of an Ordinance to make possession of a large number of scrapped banknotes of old 1,000 & 500 rupee a penal offence after March 31st.
  - The possession will attract a monetary fine of Rs10,000 or five times the cash held.
  - A maximum of 10 banned notes may be allowed to be held by any person.
  - o The Ordinance will come into force once it gets Presidential assent.
- Bank of Maharashtra Adopt a Village



















- Bank of Maharashtra, has adopted the village of Malangaon,in Sangli district,
   Maharashtra.
- o It aims to make it a completely cashless village.
- o The bank Business Correspondents did door to door campaigns across the village to enroll the people through Aadhaar linked bank accounts to enable them to make payments digitally.
- o The bank also conducted various educational initiatives in the village.
- Paytm to Invest ₹50 crore
  - o E-wallet major Paytm would invest ₹ 50 crore to set up a 100-member strong merchant help desk to educate them on various aspects of digital payments.
  - Under this program, merchants will be educated on all the important aspects
     & also dispelling a lot of myth around safety, security and delay in money transfer.
  - o Paytm currently has over 1.5 million merchants on its platform.
- Farmers Get 60 more Days to Repay Loans
  - o The Reserve Bank gave an additional 60 days to repay their crop loans due in November-December.
  - o Prompt repayment would be eligible for the extra 3 per cent interest subsidy.
  - According to the Interest Subvention Scheme for the year 2016-17, besides subvention of 2 per cent per annum, an additional interest subvention of 3 per cent is provided for prompt payment.
- Nedumkayam 1st Digital Tribal Colony
  - o The Nedumkayam tribal colony at Nilambur in Malapuram District of Kerala has become the first cashless and digital tribal colony in the country.
  - o The declaration was made after adequate training for the entire tribal people.
  - The training was completed with the support of National Service
     Scheme, volunteers of an Arts and Science College at Kondotty & Jan Sikshan
     Sansthan.
- Tata Motors Signs up Akshay Kumar
  - Tata Motors roped in Bollywood star Akshay Kumar as brand ambassador for its commercial vehicle (CV) business unit.
  - Besides products and solutions, he will be actively involved in a host of innovative marketing and customer experience initiatives.
  - o Akshay's popularity will further help complement & articulate the future direction of the Tata Motors commercial vehicles brand.













- BMW to Recall 1.93 lakh Cars in China
  - German automaker BMW will recall 1,93,611 cars in China over a defect in their airbags.
  - o About 1,68,861 imported cars manufactured between December 9, 2005 and December 23, 2011 as well as 2,4,750 sedans will be recalled from August 1, 2017.
  - When the driver and front passenger airbags of the affected vehicles inflate,
     the gas generators inside may become damaged and cause flying debris.
- First Case Under the Bankruptcy Code
  - ICICI Bank Ltd has filed an application in the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) against Innoventive Industries Ltd to initiate a corporate insolvency process under the new bankruptcy law.
  - o This is the first case in India filed under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
  - o The Pune-based steel products maker had debt of Rs955 crore at the end of September.
- Indian Banks May Raise \$30 billion
  - o Indian banks need around USD 90 billion additional capital by March 2019.
  - One-third of this amount is expected to be raised through bonds, says a report.
  - o Indian banks are likely to become more active in the Additional Tier 1 (AT1) market in 2017, after issuing around USD 2.8 billion so far in 2016,
  - o Banks need around USD 90 billion in extra capital by March 2019 to support credit growth.
- Households Own 61.5% of Bank Deposits
  - o The RBI has said households owned the majority of deposits, 61.5% of the total bank deposits of Rs 98,41,290 crore.
  - The government sector and the private corporate sector followed contributing
     12.8 per cent and 10.8 per cent, respectively.
  - o A majority (63.8 per cent) of the deposits was term deposits.
  - The combined share of current and savings deposits increased to 36.2 per cent in 2016.
- KVG Bank Launches Bank Sakhi Scheme



















- o The Karnataka Vikas Grameen Bank (KVGB) has come out with an innovative method of employing women in villages to promote and popularize cashless transaction.
- o The bank launched a scheme named 'Bank Sakhi' at a programme.
- Under the initiative, the bank would APPOINT women business correspondents called "Bank Sakhi" in select villages where this scheme would be implemented.
- Govt Set up 1st 2G Ethanol Bio-Refinery
  - o The foundation stone of India's first 2G (Second Generation) Ethanol Biorefinery was laid at Tarkhanwala village in Bathinda, Punjab.
  - Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL) is setting up this project at a cost of 600 crore.
  - o HPCL's bio-refinery will produce 100 kilolitres of ethanol per day.
  - o It will be sufficient to meet the 26% of the ethanol blending requirement of Punjab.
- Snapdeal Launches 'Cash@Home' Service
  - o Snapdeal announced the launch of a 'Cash@Home' service, which allows users to order Rs 2,000 cash and get it delivered at their doorstep.
  - o The launch of the cash on demand service is intended to further help our consumers tide over any cash crunch.
  - o Snapdeal will be using the cash that it receives through Cash on Delivery.
  - o Snapdeal will charge a nominal amount of Rupee 1 as convenience fee
- India May Clock GVA Growth of 6.6%
  - o India's gross value added growth is likely to be at 6.6 per cent in 2016-17.
  - According to ICRA economic activity will take more time to normalise following the government's move to demonetise high-value notes.
  - o The report said that the currency liquidity is likely to improve significantly by the end of Jan 2017.
  - o The loss of income in some sectors is likely to weigh on capacity utilisation
- Govt Launches Grahak & Digi-Dhan Yojana
  - o The Government launched the Lucky Grahak Yojana for Consumers and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana for Merchants.
  - The schemes are aimed at encouraging people to move towards use of digital transactions.
  - o The primary aim of these schemes is to incentivize digital transactions.













- Under Lucky Grahak Yojana Daily reward of Rs 1000 will be given to 15,000 lucky Consumers for a period of 100 days.
- IDFC Bank Unveils Aadhaar Pay
  - o IDFC Bank has announced the nation-wide launch of aadhaar-linked cashless merchant solution.
  - Aadhaar Pay, launched by the govt has been developed by IDFC Bank in association with UIDAI and the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
  - o Aadhaar Pay will enable millions of merchants across the country to facilitate cashless purchases for customers in a cost effective and scalable way.
- RGA Gets Final Nod from IRDAL
  - o The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has granted a Certificate of Registration to the Reinsurance Group of America (RGA) to set up a branch in India.
  - o IRDAI has approved the R3 license to the re-insurer.
  - o RGA has been operating in India since 2001 as a foreign reinsurer.
  - RGA is globally strong in actuarial, underwriting & product development segments.
- China Slaps GM with \$29-mn Fine
  - China slapped a \$29-million fine on General Motors Co. for antitrust violations.
  - The largest US automaker is accused of setting minimum prices on some models in its SAIC General Motors joint venture.
  - o GM punished dealers who sold cars for less than the prices set by the Detroitbased automaker.
  - o This is the first time China has fined GM, the second-largest foreign carmaker in China by sales.
- SBI Adopt Shirki to Make it Cashless
  - State Bank of India (SBI) has adopted Shirki village in Pen taluka in Maharashtra for driving the Aadhaar-based merchant payment.
  - o Under this initiative, the merchants in this village have been provided with simple android phones with a USB-based fingerprint capture device.
  - The only precondition is that the merchant needs to have a bank account, with an Aadhaar number seeded.
- Govt Launch App Smart Consumer & OCMC



















- o The government launched a host of online initiatives including a mobile App Smart Consumer & an Online Consumer Mediation Centre (OCMC).
- o It aims to provide speedy redressal of consumer grievances.
- o A helpline 14404 was also launched for conusmer related grievances.
- o The initiatives were unveiled by Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan on the occasion of National Consumer Day.
- Allahabad Bank Merges AllBank Finance
  - Allahabad Bank said it has merged its wholly-owned subsidiary AllBank Finance with itself.
  - o The merger was okayed at the Board of Directors meeting of the bank.
  - AllBank Finance is the merchant banking arm of Allahabad Bank & also holds licence for debenture trusteeship.
  - o BFL offers various merchant banking services such as IPO management, debt/loan syndication, investment advisory.

### • ONGC Acquires GSPC's Stake in KG Block

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has acquired 80% stake in Gujarat government run Gujarat State Petroleum Corporation's (GSPC) KG-OSN-2001/3 block.
- ONGC has bought the entire 80% Participating Interest (PI) of GSPC along with operatorship rights, for \$ 995.26 million for the Deen Dayal West Field in the Block.
- o The trial gas production from Deen Dayal West Field has already begun.
- Yes Bank raises Rs3,000 crore via bond
  - o Private sector Yes Bank has raised Rs3,000 crore from bonds to fund business expansion.
  - o With this capital raising, the bank's Tier-I Capital Ratio will be at 12 per cent including profits and adjusted for pro-rata dividend
  - o The Basel-III compliant additional Tier-1 (AT1) Bonds will be listed on the BSE.
  - o its proceeds will qualify for Basel III Tier-I Capital.
- ICICI Bank Launches EazyPay App
  - o ICICI Bank has launched a mobile application eazypay for merchants that allows consolidation of all modes of payment.
  - o It includes digital wallets, Unified Payments Interface (UPI), QR code, and credit & debit cards













- The app eazypay is designed for business, allows multiple users to connect to the same account.
- o This makes it possible to be used for cash-on-delivery payments.
- Deutsche Bank Agrees \$7.2bn Penalty
  - o Germany's Deutsche Bank says it has agreed a \$7.2bn payment to US authorities over an investigation into mortgage-backed securities.
  - o The agreement is less than the \$14bn the US asked Deutsche Bank to pay in Sept to settle the claims.
  - o Deutsche Bank would pay a civil monetary penalty of \$3.1bn & provide \$4.1bn in consumer relief.
  - Several banks in the US have been subject to investigations.
- Italy Approves Bailout for Oldest Bank
  - o Italy's government approved a state bailout for Monte dei Paschi di Siena after the world's oldest bank failed to secure backing from private investors.
  - Prime Minister Paolo Gentiloni had authorised a 21 billion dollars fund to support Italy's embattled banking sector.
  - o The announcement came after Monte dei Paschi had failed to raise 5 billion euros from private investors.
- Saudi Arabia Projects \$53bln Deficit
  - o Saudi Arabia cabinet has projected a 2017 Budget deficit of about \$53 bln
  - o This year's deficit will be \$79 bln down 8.9% from 2016's budget forecast.
  - Expenses next year will reach \$237 bln against revenues of \$184 bln
  - The world's biggest oil exporter froze major building projects, salaries in the wake of last year's record deficit. Spending is expected to come in at 825 bln Riyals.
- Council Clears Primary Drafts of GST Law
  - The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council approved the primary drafts of Central GST & State GST laws.
  - Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that the CGST & GST draft laws comprise
     197 provisions and five schedules.
  - o The CGST is to be approved by Parliament while the SGST to be approved by States legislative Assemblies.
  - o The states will be fully compensated for any loss of revenue for five years.
- Nusli Wadia Voted Out of Tata Motors



















- Shareholders of Tata Motors have voted to remove independent director Nusli
   Wadia from the board of directors.
- o He was removed at an extraordinary general meeting.
- During which 71.20% of the shareholders voted in favour of a resolution moved by Tata Sons to remove Mr Wadia as independent director of Tata Motors.
- Earlier Wadia was removed as independent director from the board of Tata
   Steel.
- Cisco Inks MoU with MeitY
  - Cisco has signed a MoU with Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) for cyber security cooperation.
  - o Under the MoU, Cisco and Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) will establish a threat intelligence sharing program.
  - The Security and Trust Office (STO) in Gurgaon will help the govt shape the national cyber security strategy.
  - o This is the third STO for Cisco, after France & Germany.

### Sun Pharma to Buy Novartis' Cancer Drug

- Sun Pharmaceutical Industries has agreed to buy cancer product Odomzo from Novartis for \$175 million.
- o The closing of the transaction is subject to anti-trust clearances.
- o Odomzo was approved by the US Food and Drug Administration in July 2015.
- o It is indicated to treat patients with locally advanced basal cell carcinoma that has recurred following surgery or radiation therapy.
- Govt Waives Transaction Fee on IMPS.NEFT
  - Finance Ministry has asked PSU banks to restrict fees on payments through IMPS & UPI to the extent that is applicable for NEFT fund transfer of over 1,000 rupees.
  - o IMPS is an interbank electronic instant mobile money transfer service.
  - o The UPI app enables customers to make online as well as offline payment.
  - o For USSD above 1,000 rupees, a further discount of 50 paise on these rates will apply.
- NDB Grants USD 72 mln Loan to China
  - o The New Development Bank (NDB) has provided USD 72 million loan for a solar project in China.
  - o This is the bank's first loan agreement with the communist giant.













- o The Ioan agreement was signed by Shi Yaobin, Vice Minister of the Chinese Ministry of Finance and NDB President K V Kamath.
- o Under the framework of the Project, a solar photovoltaic power plant will be built in Lingang Industrial Area.
- Guj Announces Aerospace & Defence Policy
  - o The Guj govt has announced Aerospace and Defense Policy 2016
  - India is eyeing an estimated \$250 billion investment in aerospace and defense sector. Govt will give land at 50% for setting up units & 100% rebate of stamp duty
  - It will also give 100% relief in taxes for a period of 10 yrs & exemption in electricity duty. With this policy the govt expects to attract 10-15% investment in Guj
- Cabinet Approves Creation of IEDS
  - Cabinet approves creation of Indian Enterprise Development Service (IEDS) in the Office of Development Commissioner (MSME) under the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.
  - o The measure will enhance the capacity and efficiency of the organization
  - It also help in achieving growth in MSME sector through a focussed and dedicated cadre of technical officers.
- US Puts Alibaba Back on Blacklist
  - o Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba Group is back on the US government's annual list of "notorious markets" that sell pirated goods.
  - o The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative said that Alibaba's on-line marketplace Taobao sells "high levels" of counterfeit goods.
  - USTR took Alibaba off the blacklist in 2012, but several U.S. trade groups successfully sought to get it reinstated.
- Hershey Names Michele Buck as Next CEO
  - U.S. chocolate maker Hershey named Chief Operating Officer Michele Buck as its chief executive and president, effective March 1.
  - She will succeed John Bilbrey, who said in October he would retire as CEO and president.
  - o Bilbrey will continue as the non-executive chairman.
  - Buck has joined Hershey in 2005 & was the architect of the company's expansion into broader snacking categories.
- RBI Modifies Old Currency Deposit Rules

















- o The Reserve Bank of India has done away the restrictions placed on deposit of over Rs 5,000 in the scrapped Rs 500 and Rs 1000 notes.
- o The restrictions are not applicable if the deposits are made into fully compliant Know-Your-Customer (KYC) accounts.
- The RBI on December 19 had said deposits of over Rs. 5,000 in old notes could be made only once till December 30.
- RBI Imposes Penalty on 5 Foreign Banks
  - RBI imposed monetry penalty on five authorised dealer banks for violation of norms.
  - A penalty of Rs 10,000 each has been imposed on Bank of America, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi, The Royal Bank of Scotland, Standard Chartered Bank.
  - o While the Deutsche Bank hass been fined Rs 20,000.
  - o Reserve Bank came to the conclusion that the violations were substantiated and warranted imposition of penalty.
- RCom Sells 51% Stake in Tower Business
  - Reliance Communications has sold its tower business to Brookfield Infrastructure for \$1.6 billion or Rs 11,000 crore.
  - o RCom will also receive Class B non-voting shares in the new Tower company.
  - o The transaction will represent the largest ever investment by any overseas financial investor in the infrastructure sector in India.
  - o RCom will utilize the upfront cash payment to reduce its debt.
- India Becomes Sixth Largest Economy
  - o India surpassed its colonial masters, the United Kingdom, to become the world's sixth-largest economy in GDP terms.
  - o India is now behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany, and France.
  - The milestone is a symbol of India's rapid economic growth and, conversely, the U.K.'s post-Brexit slump.
  - The UK's economy is expected to grow by 1.8 percent this year & slow down to 1.1 percent in 2017.
- Note Ban Could Bring Banks Windfall
  - o The note ban has the potential to drive big treasury gains for Indian banks, says a report from rating agency India Ratings.
  - Banks are likely to see register Rs. 38,200 crore of potential treasury gains for the current financial year (2016-17) which will be their highest ever.













- o Banks are currently facing significant challenges, from bad assets to weak credit growth to capital requirement.
- Zuckerberg Posts Video of Jarvis
  - o Mark Zuckerberg has posted the video of his new housemate: Jarvis, an artificial intelligence assistant.
  - o Jarvis can control appliances, play music, recognize faces and, perhaps most impressively, entertain his toddler.
  - o The Facebook founder spent 100 hours putting together the virtual assistant named after the artificial intelligence system in "Iron Man".
- Facebook Charged on WhatsApp Takeover
  - European Union antitrust regulators have charged Facebook Inc with providing misleading information during its takeover of WhatsApp.
  - o The statement of objections sent to Facebook will not have an impact on the approval of the \$22 billion merger in 2014.
  - Facebook had indicated in its notification of the acquisition that it would be unable reliably to match the two companies' user accounts.
- Volkswagen to pay another \$1 Billion
  - Volkswagen has agreed to buy back or fix the remaining diesel cars caught up in its emissions cheating scandal, at an expected cost of about \$1 billion.
  - o The settlement involves Volkswagen and the federal government, and covers about 80,000 Volkswagen, Audi and Porsche cars.
  - o The agreement addresses vehicles that were not included in Volkswagen's agreement in June to pay nearly \$15 billion.
- Major overhaul continues in Twitter
  - o Twitter's Chief Technology Officer (CTO) Adam Messinger and its Vice President for products Josh McFarland have quit.
  - Twitter's Chief Operating Officer (COO) Adam Bain who was in charge of the micro-blogging website's revenue business also decided to leave the company.
  - As of the third quarter of 2016, the microblogging service averaged at 317 million monthly active users.
- Amul ties up with MobiKwik for e-payment
  - o Domestic mobile wallet platform MobiKwik has tied up with Indian dairy cooperative Amul to help customers make cashless payments at its outlets.



















- o The facility can be used at 7,000 Amul outlets and three lakh Amul multibrand outlets and retailers across the country,
- o MobiKwik has added 1,50,000 retailers to its network in November and has a network reach of over 2,50,000 retailers in India.
- · Airtel to get Orascom's stake in MENA
  - o Bharti Airtel has said that its subsidiary Network i2i has entered into a definitive agreement with Egyptian firm Orascom.
  - o The move is done to acquire the latter's entire equity stake in Middle East North Africa Submarine Cable Systems (MENA-SCS)
  - MENA-SCS is operational in connecting Mumbai, Oman, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Italy.
- Govt Revises NEIIP, 2007
  - o The govt has revised the North East Industrial and Investment Promotion Policy. All payments will me made through Direct Benefit Transfer
  - The subsidy for the new industrial units going for substantial expansion will be limited to Rs 5cr per industrial unit operating in manufacturing sector & Rs
     3cr per industrial unit operating in services sector
- IMF Chief Convicted Over Payout
  - A special French court convicted the IMF Christine Lagarde of negligence for her role in a controversial 2008 arbitration award to a businessman.
  - o Lagarde approved an award of €404m to businessman Bernard Tapie for the disputed sale of a firm.
  - o She was France's finance minister at the time, was spared punishment.
  - o She began her second five-year term at the IMF last February,.
- Softbank Invest in 1bn Satellite Startup
  - Japanese technology giant Softbank is investing \$1bn in US space start-up OneWeb.
  - OneWeb is working on satellites that will help bring faster internet to developing countries.
  - Softbank's investment will give it a 40% stake in the Florida-based firm, making it the biggest shareholder.
  - o The deal will create about 3,000 jobs.
  - o Florida-based OneWeb is a direct rival to Elon Musk's SpaceX.
- Less Tax for Traders on Digital Pymt













- FM Arun Jaitley has said that small traders with a turnover of up to 2 crore rupees will pay less tax if they accept payments through banking & digital means.
- He said, in 2016-17 budget, small traders who did not maintain proper accounts, were presumed to have earned 8% income or profit for tax purposes.
- o But if they use digital modes, their income will now be presumed to be 6% of the turnover.
- MetLife Launch VR-based Customer Service
  - PNB MetLife has announced the launch of a virtual reality-based customer service platform conVRse.
  - o This is the first time virtual reality is being used in the insurance industry.
  - o Customers need to visit select PNB MetLife branches and wear the VR headset to get their service requirements addressed.
  - o It will make customers take informed decisions and experience enhanced service quality.
- Amazon India Introduces Online Wallet
  - o Amazon India has launched its online wallet Amazon Pay Balance, in a bid to increase cashless transactions.
  - o It will helps customers store balances for essential items and solves the pain point of tendering exact amount of cash at the time of delivery.
  - o It can be credited with money using internet banking and credit or debit card
  - o The balance amount will be refunds to the user's bank account.
- Mistry Steps Down from All Tata Boards
  - o Cyrus Mistry stepped down from the board of all Tata Group companies, eight weeks after he was ousted as the Chairman of Tata Sons.
  - o Mistry said he would now take the battle to the court, where he expected the rule of law to be upheld.
  - The move comes after three Tata Group entities showed Mistry the door at their respective EGMs.
  - o Mistry was replaced by his predecessor Ratan Tata on Oct 24
- RBI Chief to Brief Parliamentary Panel
  - o Reserve Bank Governor Urjit Patel will brief the Parliamentary Committee on Finance about the demonetisation process & its impact.
  - o The Govt has taken a host of measures for promote digital payment.



















- o RBI last week said that 12.44 lakh crore rupees in demonetised notes have been collected at banks.
- o Also, banks have issued 4.61 lakh crore rupees to the public.
- EPFO Lowers Interest Rate on EPF
  - o The Employees Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO has lowered the interest rate on provident fund deposits to 8.65 per cent for the current fiscal, from 8.8 per cent in 2015-16.
  - o The decision was taken by EPFO's apex decision making body, the Central Board of Trustees (CBT), headed by the Labour Minister.
  - o The move is in line with the falling rate regime which has seen RBI cut key lending rates.
- IMF Chief Lagarde to Hear Trial Verdict
  - o IMF MD,Christine Lagarde will learn the verdict in her trial for approving a massive state payout to a tycoon when she was French finance minister
  - o At the heart of the case is Lagarde's decision to allow a dispute with Bernard Tapie to be resolved by arbitration in 2007
  - Her later failure to contest the huge award linked to the flamboyant businessman's sale of the Adidas to Credit Lyonnais
- 19 Insurers Remained Profitable in FY16
  - o Of the 24 life insurance companies operating in India, only 19 insurers remained profitable in 2015-16.
  - This was according to the annual report by Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India.
  - o During 2015-16, the life insurance industry reported profit after tax at 7,415 crore rupees.
  - o The life inflation adjusted insurance premium in India increased by 7.8 percent.
- Pankaj Takes over as President of FICCI
  - Zydus Cadila Healthcare Chairman and Managing Director Pankaj R Patel took over as the President of the FICCI for 2016-17.
  - o Patel brings with him over 35 years of professional experience.
  - He is also the chairperson of the Board of Governors of the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, IISER, Kolkata.
  - o He is also the chairman of the Finance Committee of the IIM, Ahmedabad.
- Ukraine Nationalises Largest Lender













- Ukraine has nationalised the country's largest bank in an attempt to avert a financial meltdown.
- o The govt moved to take over PrivatBank after rumors that the lender was heavily burdened by bad debts.
- o The decision falls in line with IMF demands for Ukraine to stabilise its financial sector in order to achieve sustainable growth.
- PrivatBank controls one-third of the country's deposits.
- Yes Bank Partners with Ola
  - Yes Bank has partnered with Ola to provide Cash-on-Demand at Customer's doorstep.
  - Customers will be able to use the Ola App to book a cab & opt for Cash at their Doorstep which will be enabled using PoS Machines powered by Yes Bank.
  - o The service will be available across 10 cities.
  - o It will available in Mumbai, Delhi, Bengaluru, Chennai, Pune, Kolkata, Chandigarh, Ahmedabad, Hyderabad & Jaipur.
- Rahil Appointed as Audi India Head
  - Audi, the German luxury car manufacturer, has appointed Rahil Ansari as the Head of Audi India, effective February 1, 2017.
  - He replaces Joe King, whose tenure ended.
  - o He has previously served as Director of Network Development for Audi India.
  - o He has a broad range of experience in finance, sales, network development, retail operations and after sales business.
- HDFC Get RBI Nod to Raise Rs 3,000 crore
  - o HDFC gets RBI approval to raise Rs 3000 crore more via masala bonds.
  - o It has already raised Rs 5,000 crore through the 'masala bond' route.
  - Masala bonds are bonds issued outside India but denominated in Indian Rupees, rather than the local currency.
  - o Unlike dollar bonds, where the borrower takes the currency risk, masala bond makes the investors bear the risk
- RBI Lowers Charges on Card Payments
  - The Reserve Bank announced special measures to be adopted between 1st Jan 2017 & 31st March 2017 in order to incentivise greater adoption of digital payment methods.



















- o It has asked issuing entities not to levy any charges for transactions upto 1000 rupees.
- o RBI has advised banks to cap the Merchant Discount Rates for debit card transactions upto 1000 rupees at 0.25% of the transaction value.
- SBI Launches State Bank MobiCash
  - o The SBI, in partnership with BSNL launched its mobile wallet application 'State Bank MobiCash'.
  - o It will allow users to deposit cash through BSNL retail outlets & withdraw funds from their account.
  - o The new wallet services will initially be available in Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana & Bihar.
  - o It will be expanded pan-India by the end of December
- India to Receive Euro 1 billion Loan
  - In order to facilitate integration of large scale renewable generation capacity,
     a system has been identified as a part of 'Green Energy Corridors'.
  - o Intra-State Transmission System & Inter-State Transmission System is being implemented by Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd.
  - o For the funding of green energy corridors 'KfW Germany' is providing soft loan to the tune of Euro 1 billion.
- Niti Aayog announces two award schemes
  - Niti Aayog announced awards for people making payments through digital means.
  - o The scheme runs from Dec 25, 2016, to April 14, 2017.
  - o On April 14, a mega award of Rs 1 crore will be announced for consumers.
  - This announcement comes days after the finance ministry declared multiple incentives ranging from discounts on fuel, highway toll and railway tickets for those using digital payment modes.
- India: one of fastest-growing countries
  - o India remains one of the fastest-growing countries in the world, the White House said.
  - o The report says that economic growth in India continues at a solid pace of a projected 7.4 per cent over the four quarters of 2016.
  - o Inefficiencies remain in the public sector, with India's poor still lacking healthcare coverage, educational attainment, and access to financial services, the report said.













- Trade Deficit Widens in November
  - o The country's trade deficit ballooned to \$13 billion in November.
  - o The highest since \$13.08 billion in July 2015, and sharply wider than the \$10.41 billion gap in October.
  - o The trade deficit in November 2015 was \$10.47 billion.
  - o For the third consecutive month, exports recorded a positive growth of 2.29 per cent year-on-year to \$20 billion.
- Govt Appoints Sunil Arora as IICA DG
  - o Sunil Arora has been appointed as the Director General and CEO of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).
  - He retired as I&B Secretary earlier this year and was also serving as an advisor at Prasar Bharati.
  - IICA focuses on matters impacting functioning of corporates and works towards capacity building with various stakeholders.
  - o IICA under the Corporate Affairs Ministry.
- Karnataka Bank Raises ₹659 cr Capital
  - o The bank had come out with a rights issue in the ratio of one share for every two shares held on the record date at ₹70 per share.
  - The rights issue had opened for subscription on Nov 7 & closed on Nov 28.
  - o A rights issue is an issue of rights to a company's existing shareholders that entitles them to buy additional shares directly from the company in proportion to their existing holdings.
- Cyprus Removed from India Tax Blacklist
  - o Cyprus has been formally removed from India's tax blacklist.
  - The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has issued a notification, rescinding it's executive order blacklisting the island nation from November 1, 2013.
  - o Cyprus was the only country to have been blacklisted by India as a noncooperative jurisdiction.
  - o The decision comes on the heels of the two countries firming a new tax treaty
- India, ASEAN Set Target of \$100 b Trade
  - o India and ASEAN have set a target of trading at 100 billion dollar to be achieved by 2020.
  - o Currently the trade between ASEAN and India is 57 billion dollars.
  - o ASEAN and India will celebrate its 25th anniversary in 2017.
  - o It will be attended by the head of states of all the ASEAN countries.

26 | Page

















- Showcasing movies of ASEAN countries and India will also be a part of the celebrations.
- IBBI Notifies Norms for Liquidation
  - The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) notified regulations for liquidation process.
  - o An insolvency professional is barred from acting as a liquidator unless that individual is independent of the corporate debtor concerned.
  - Among others,advocates,ca,company secretaries & cost accountants with 15 years of experience in their respective fields can serve as insolvency professional.
- India Tops Asia in Innovation Chart
  - o India has emerged as the most preferred destination for innovation in Asia and third biggest globally.
  - o India has been ranked as the No. 1 innovation destination in Asia and No. 2 in the world for new innovation centres.
  - Bengaluru leads the Indian challenge on innovation and is ranked 5th hub at global level.
  - o Nine new innovation centres were opened in the country during the period.
- India Sign Grant Agreement with the IBRD
  - o India has signed a Grant Agreement of USD 5.19 million with International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD).
  - The agreement was signed for additional Financing for Financing Energy
     Efficiency at MSMEs Project- Programmatic Framework for Energy Efficiency.
  - o The agreement signed was a part of the parent project India: Financing Energy Efficiency at MSME Project (FEEMP).
- Canara Bank Raises Rs 1,000 cr
  - Canara Bank has raised Rs 1,000 crore by issuing Basel-III complaint tier-I bonds.
  - o In October, the board of Canara Bank had permitted it to raise additional tier-I capital funds for an amount not exceeding Rs 2,500 crore.
  - o The capital is being raised to maintain healthy CRAR during the current financial year.
  - o Indian banks are expected to fully comply with Basel-III standards by March 2019.
- US Raises Key Interest Rate by 0.25%













- The US Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark interest rate by 0.25%.
- o It was just the second time in a decade that the Fed has raised rates.
- The central bank voted unanimously to raise the key rate to a range of 0.5% to 0.75%, citing a stronger economic growth &rising employment.
- Fed chairwoman Janet Yellen said the economic outlook was highly uncertain
   & the rise was only a modest shift.
- Govt Appoints V K Sharma as LIC chief
  - o Government has appointed V K Sharma as the Chairman of state-owned behemoth Life Insurance Corporation (LIC) for five years.
  - He was already acting as chairman since September 16 when the then chairman S K Roy was relieved of his duties.
  - o He has been serving as LIC's MD since November 2013.
  - o Roy had resigned in June, nearly two years ahead of his retirement.
- VG Kannan Appointed CEO of IBA
  - V G Kannan took charge as Chief Executive of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).
  - o He succeeds M V Tanksale who demitted office as Chief Executive after being at the helm for three years.
  - He had retired as Managing Director & Group Executive (Associates & Subsidiaries) of State Bank of India.
  - o IBA is a self-regulatory organisation of banks.
  - o The 70-year old body has 237 members.
- Demands for anti-dumping duty on steel
  - Director General Anti Dumping has recommended anti dumping duty in the form of a reference price on import of colour coated steel exported from China and EU region into India.
  - The reference price is at \$849/tonne which translates to a landed price of about Rs 58000/tonne at the port.
  - o The recommendation has been forwarded to ministry of finance for issuing corresponding custom notification.
- India world's 4-largest defence spender
  - o India has broken into the world top-five defence spenders' club.
  - Asia's 3rd-largest economy spent \$50.6 billion in 2016, up from \$46.6 billion last year.



















- India now has the 4th-largest defence budget, followed by Saudi Arabia and Russia, according to the 2016 Jane's Defence Budgets Report, released by research firm IHS Markit.
- o Russia which was 4th last year slipped to the 6th spot.
- Retail inflation at record low in Nov
  - o The Consumer Price Index (CPI)-based inflation fell to 3.63 per cent in November a record low in the new series from 4.2 per cent in October.
  - o The main reason for contraction in demand was demonetisation, said analysts.
  - o This comes after 8 November when Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the old series of ~500 and ~1,000 notes to be illegal tender.
- India: first to discount online payments
  - o India become the first nation to subsidise the use of digital cash.
  - o The government unveiled a raft of measures including discounts on online payments for insurance policies, rail tickets & highway toll charges.
  - Arun Jaitley announced 10% off on insurance policies, highway usage and concessions on train travel
  - o The government has also waived service tax on online transactions below 2,000 rs.
- Satyam Bansal exits Flipkart
  - o Satyam Bansal, Chief of Staff for Executive Chairman & co-founder of Flipkart exits Flipkart after a 3 year stint to join Hotstar.
  - His exit comes in the wake of strong speculation that Flipkart's investors are actively looking to bring in professional management to run India's largest ecommerce firm.
  - Satyam joined Flipkart as Associate Director of strategic product partnerships in 2013.
- 6 automotive testing centres in country
  - o India is creating 6 automotive testing, validation and research & development centres in the country.
  - o National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project is a joint initiative between Centre, state governments and Indian automotive industry.
  - It aims at creating core global competencies in the automotive sector
     & facilitating seamless integration of the auto sector with the world.
- Akbar Ebrahim is new FMSCI president













- Veteran Akbar Ebrahim has been elected as the FMSCI president, replacing
   Zayn Khan to lead the Indian motorsport governing body.
- o Ebrahim was elected president at the FMSCI Annual General Meeting, which was held in Chennai.
- o Ebrahim replaces Khan, who took charge in September last year following the sudden death of incumbent R Bharath Raj.

### • ADB slashes India's growth to 7%

- Asian Development Bank has trimmed its 2016 growth estimate for India to 7
   % from previous 7.4 % on account of demonetisation, weak investment & agricultural slowdown.
- o But India's growth forecast for 2017 was kept at 7.8 %.
- "Economic growth in developing Asia remains broadly stable, but a slight slowdown in India has trimmed the region's growth outlook for 2016," said the new ADB report.
- Tata Trusts, UP Govt Join Hands
  - Tata Trusts have tied up with Uttar Pradesh govt to leverage digital platforms to strengthen the public distribution system (PDS).
  - Under the Agreement, Tata Trusts have installed electronic Point of Sale devices (ePOS).
  - o It will ensure operation of an Aadhaar-enabled Public Distribution System (AePDS).
  - o ePOS Scheme is a part of the MoU signed between UP Govt & Tata Trust.
- Govt Scraps Wheat Import Duty
  - o The central government has slashed the import duty on wheat from 10 percent to nil.
  - o The notification scrapping the wheat import duty was tabled by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
  - o In September, the government had lowered wheat import duty to 10 per cent from 25 per cent till February 2017.
  - o Private traders have imported 1.72 million tonnes (mt) of wheat so far.
- Iran Seals \$17 billion Boeing Deal
  - o Iran signed a \$16.6 billion deal for 80 Boeing passenger jets.
  - o It would be the biggest package of firm contracts with Western companies since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution.
  - o The Boeing deal was subject in part to further agreements on financing.

















- o The deal is viewed as a crucial political test for the President Rouhani, who has been criticized by hardliners opposed to opening up to the West.
- Venezuela Orders 100-unit Banknotes Out
  - Venezuela President Nicolas Maduro signed an emergency decree ordering the country's largest banknote, the 100 bolivar bill, taken out of circulation.
  - The announcement came as the government of Venezuela is in the midst of an economic crisis .
  - o It prepares to issue new banknotes and coins in values up to 200 times the highest denomination currently available.
- Samsung to Disable Note 7 in the U.S.
  - Samsung Electronics said that a software update for Galaxy Note 7 will be released mid-December in the US preventing them from charging and functioning.
  - o More than 93% of all recalled Galaxy Note 7 devices had been returned as a part of its exchange program in the United States.
  - The U.S. Transportation Dept & other agencies in October ordered Galaxy
     Note 7 owners from carrying the devices.
- Sadakal Gujarat' Inaugurated by Rupani
  - A two-day 'Sadakal Gujarat' event was inaugurated by CM Vijay Rupani at the Assi Ghat.
  - The Gujarat govt decided to celebrate its annual 'Gujarat Sadakal' event in PM Modi's Lok Sabha constituency this time.
  - o The event organised every year in different states aims at bringing the Gujarati community together.
  - o While inaugurating the event, the Gujarat CM hailed Modi's demonetisation move.
- Watal Panel on Digital Pymts Give Report
  - A committee, which was set up to suggest ways to make India a digital payment economy submitted its report to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
  - The panel, headed by former finance secretary Ratan P Watal, was set up in August.
  - The 11-member committee included H R Khan, CBDT & UIDAI Chairperson & heads of Indian Banks' Association, Nasscom, Internet and Mobile Association of India.
- Watal Panel on Digital Payments -2













- o The panel recommended medium-term measures for encouraging digital payments, in line with global best practices.
- It has also recommended need for changes in the regulatory mechanism under various laws, relevant for the purpose of promotion of payments by digital modes.
- o It also suggested ways for leveraging Aadhaar or any other proof of identity for authentication of card/digital transactions.

### China to Launch Yuan's Direct Trading

- o China will launch direct trading of yuan with 7 more currencies on its interbank foreign exchange market.
- o The seven currencies are Swedish krona, Hungarian forint, Danish krone, Polish zloty, Mexican peso, Turkish lira & Norwegian krone.
- o The move will bring the number of currencies that are allowed direct trading with the yuan to 23.
- o The direct trading will help facilitate bilateral trade.
- Non-OPEC Oil Producers to Cut Output
  - o OPEC has persuaded 11 non-members to cut oil production.
  - o It is aimed at draining a worldwide oil glut and boosting low prices that have squeezed government finances in Russia and Saudi Arabia.
  - o Non-members agreed to cut 558,000 barrels per day for six months starting Jan. 1.
  - o Those non-member cuts come on top of an OPEC decision Nov. 30 to reduce member output by 1.2 million barrels a day.
- Twenty-First Century Fox to Buy Sky
  - Rupert Murdoch's Twenty-First Century Fox Inc has proposed buying the
     61% of British pay-TV firm Sky Plc it does not already own for around \$14 billion.
  - o The plan would strengthen the position of James Murdoch who is both chief executive of Fox & chairman of Sky.
  - o Owning Sky would give Fox control of a pay-TV network spanning 22 million households in Britain, Ireland, Austria, Germany & Italy.
- India, US Strike 1st Bilateral APA
  - o India & the US have reached a deal for the first bilateral advance pricing agreement(APA).
  - o It will enable American firms to ascertain tax liabilities beforehand.

















- The bilateral APA to be entered into involves a multinational company of the US and its Indian subsidiary.
- o Bilateral APAs are expected to reduce the transfer pricing disputes that arise in respect of international transactions.
- Rabi Crops Stands at 472 lakh Hectares
  - o Rabi crops have been sown in over four crore 72 lakh hectares till date
  - o It is more than 34 lakh hectares during the corresponding period last year.
  - o Wheat has been sown in over two crore 25 lakh hectare.
  - Over one crore 21 lakh hectare area has been covered under the cultivation of pulses.
  - o The coarse cereals have been sown in over 44 lakh hectare, Oilseeds in 72 lakh hectare.
- Maruti, Ola Forge Tie-up
  - Maruti Suzuki has tied up with Ola, signing a MoU to train driver partners under the 'Maruti Ola Training Program'.
  - o The company targets training nearly 40000 drivers in safe driving over the next 3 years.
  - o Under the program, the drivers will be trained at Maruti's driving schools.
  - o The company would also help them get commercial driver licences.
- Indirect Tax Mop-up Grows 26.2%
  - o Government's revenue collection in April to Nov saw indirect tax-mop up growing at an impressive 26.2% while that of direct tax came in at 15.12%.
  - o Total direct & indirect tax collections at the end of Nov stood at Rs 9.64 lakh crore, 59% of the Rs 16.26 lakh crore target for 2016-17.
  - o Direct tax includes corporate & personal income tax.
  - o Indirect tax include excise, service tax & Customs duty.
- Industrial Output Contracts 1.9% in Oct
  - o The country's industrial output contracted 1.9 per cent in October this year.
  - o This was mainly due to a sharp decline in the production of capital goods, and poor performance of the manufacturing sector.
  - o Factory output, as measured by the Index of Industrial Production, IIP, had grown 0.7 per cent in September this year, and 9.9 per cent in October last year.
- Coca-Cola CEO Muhtar Kent to Step Down













- Coca Cola CEO Muhtar Kent will step down and be replaced by president James Quincey.
- o Quincey has worked for Coca-Cola for 20 years.
- He will assume responsibility for one of the most recognized brand names in the world.
- Only Apple, Google and Microsoft have more valuable brands, according to Forbes.
- o Kent was paid a total of \$14.6 million last year, according to regulatory filings.
- SBI Sells 4 pct Stake in SBI Life
  - State Bank of India (SBI) said that the executive committee of its central board has approved the divestment of 3.9% stake in SBI Life Insurance Company Ltd to KKR and Temasek
  - o The bank plans to divest 39 million shares at a price of Rs 460 per share.
  - o The bank stands to earn Rs 1,794 crore for its stake sale.
  - o This divestment values the life insurance company at Rs 46,000 crore.
- Govt Decides to Print Plastic Currency
  - o The central government had decided to print plastic currency notes.
  - o It has been decided to print banknotes based on plastic or polymer substrate.
  - The RBI for long has been planning to launch plastic currency note after field
  - o Plastic notes have an average life span of about five years and are difficult to
  - o Also, currency notes made of plastic are cleaner than paper ones.
- Two Banks of Abu Dhabi to Merge
  - Stockholders of the National Bank of Abu Dhabi and First Gulf Bank,approved to merge into the biggest bank of all Gulf Countries with an asset of \$ 178 billion.
  - o After the merger the combined company will be named as NBAD.
  - The chairman of the new firm is slated to be Sheikh Tahnoon bin Zayed Al Nahyan.
  - He now serves as both chairman of FGB and as the national security adviser of the UAE.
- Paytm CEO Sells 1% Stake to Raise Funds
  - Paytm founder and CEO Vijay Shekhar Sharma has raised Rs 325 crore by selling one percent of his stake in One97 Communications.



















- o One97 Communications is the Paytm's parent company.
- o The money he raises will be used to fund Paytm's upcoming payments bank.
- o After selling his stake to an undisclosed shareholder, he now owns 20.33 percent in One97.
- Service Tax on Card Payments Waived Off
  - o The Central government decided to waive off the service tax on debit and credit card transactions of up to Rs 2000.
  - o The government has been taking steps to promote cashless or digital transactions to take India towards a less-cash economy.
  - o The finance Ministry had further instructed the PSU and private banks to take out the transaction costs for all online transactions via debit cards.
- Digital Push:Govt Announces New Measures
  - o Govt announced several incentives on payments made through digital modes.
  - o Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said, petroleum companies will offer a discount of 0.75% on diesel and petrol to consumers who pay through digital means.
  - o 0.5% discount who will buy monthly seasonal tickets.
  - Passengers will get 10 lakh rupees free accident insurance cover on booking of Railway ticket through online mode.
- Govt Announces New Measures-2
  - Purchasing of new insurance policy of PSUs online will be cheaper as people will be get 10% discount on General Insurance & 8% in life insurance.
  - A discount of 10% will be available to users for payment of toll at Toll Plazas on National Highways using RFID card Fast Tags.
  - o The Minister said, the moves are aimed at cutting out cash transactions and implement cashless economy.
- India-UK Ease of Doing Business Conf.
  - The India-UK Conference on Ease of Doing Business has been jointly inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, India, Shri Ramesh Abhishek & British High Commissioner Sir Dominic Asquith in New Delhi
  - o The partnership is important because of the role that the business environment plays in encouraging trade & investment
- Nabard to Fund 2 lakh PoS Deployment









get test series at flat ₹250





- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has announced that it will provide 2 lakh Point of Sale (PoS) devices in villages having population of 10,000.
- o Over one lakh villages have been selected for the purpose.
- NABARD chairman Mr. Bhanwala said the project likely to cost about 120 crore rupees
- o NABARD will also help in the procurement of EMV chip and PIN-based RuPay Kisan Cards
- IDFC Bank Appoints Veena Mankar
  - The board of directors of IDFC Bank has approved appointment of Veena Mankar as Non-Executive Chairperson.
  - o The appointment is subject to approval by the Reserve Bank of India.
  - o Mankar started her career in 1975 with ICICI, the erstwhile development finance institution.
  - o She set up and headed the Indian Representative Office of West LB, a German State-owned bank.
- Mahila E-haat Ties with India Post, SBI
  - The Women and Child Development Ministry has tied up with India Post and State Bank of India.
  - Its objective is to offer more payment options to buyers and simplify shipping of products bought from Mahila E-haat.
  - o The tie-up with India Post will help women selling products on the forum.
  - o Mahila E-haat", launched in March, was set up for the socio-economic empowerment of women.
- IOC,BPCL,HPCL Sign Deal
  - o The three OMCs signed a MoU for a consortium agreement to set up the country's most ambitious 60 million tonnes mega refinery project.
  - There is a primary agreement over choosing a location in the Konkan region in Maharashtra.
  - o At present HPCL Ltd, BPCL Ltd and IOC will be the equity partners.
  - o IOC will hold 50% stake in the project, while the remaining two will hold 25% stake each.
- BSE's INDIAINx Ties Up With DGCX



36 | Page















- INDIAINx has signed an agreement with Dubai Gold and Commodity Exchange (DGCX) to reach out to the global traders in a wide range of products including the trading in INR-USD contract.
- o India International Exchange being set up by the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).
- o INDIAINx will offer derivative exchange in rupee-dollar contracts, products on gold, silver, copper and crude oil.
- CCEA Extends Existing Subsidy Rates
  - o The Cabinet has approved the proposal of half yearly review of Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS) rates for Phosphatic & Potassic (P&K) fertilizers for 2016-17.
  - o It has been decided to roll over the existing subsidy rates for another six months.
  - o It has also been decided to ensure that any fall in the prices should be reflected by the fertilizers companies with subsequent reduction in MRPs.
- RBI Keeps Key Policy Rates Unchanged
  - o The RBI announced that the repo rate would remain unchanged at 6.25 per cent.
  - Consequently, the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 5.75 per cent, and the marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.75 per cent.
  - o RBI has decided to withdraw the incremental Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) from Dec 10.
  - o The RBI also lowered GDP growth estimate to 7.1% in 2016-17.
- Cabinet Approves Reforms to Boost Emp
  - o The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi gave its approval to the reforms to boost employment generation & exports in the Made-ups Sector.
  - o Several interventions have been approved in a time bound manner within the approved budget of 6 thousand six crore rupees for the apparel package.
  - o Its objective of creating large scale direct & indirect employment of upto11 lakh persons over the next 3 years.
- India Born Bali Padda to Head Lego
  - o The LEGO Group has announced that Bali Padda, current COO, is appointed CEO of the company as of January 1, 2017.
  - Bali Padda takes over from Jorgen Vig Knudstorp who will head up the new entity LEGO Brand Group.













- Bali Padda has been with the LEGO Group for 14 years and is at present heading up Operations.
- Lego is a line of plastic construction toys that are manufactured by The Lego Group.
- Yes Bank Launches SIMsePAY
  - Yes bank has launched SIMsePAY in Itanagar, a unique innovation that allows any acct holder to do money transfers,pay bills, and other services without the need for a smartphone or Internet
  - The bank launched the services today with the Arunachal Cooperative Apex Bank Ltd It is the 3rd launch after Dehradun last week and 2nd in Khagria, Bihar
  - o The offering is based on a frugal sim-sleeve tech
- RBI Eases Two-Factor Authentication
  - o The RBI has removed the so-called two-factor authentication for online card transactions involving sums up to Rs2,000.
  - o In a move aimed at simplifying and encouraging electronic payments.
  - o Currently, any online transaction involving a card requires users to first enter card details wait for a OTP to be sent to their mobile phone & then use this number to complete the purchase.
- Bank of Baroda Cuts Lending Rate by 0.2%
  - o State-owned Bank of Baroda cut benchmark lending rates by 0.2 per cent.
  - o The new marginal cost of funds based lending rate (MCLR) will be effective November 1.
  - The bank has reduced (MCLR) by 0.2 per cent from 9.25 per cent to 9.05 per cent for 1-year tenure,
  - o Banks have moved to MCLR as their new benchmark lending rate from June, replacing the base rate system for new borrowers.
- RBI to Launch New Rs.100 Note Soon
  - o The RBI said it will soon put into circulation Rs. 100 denomination notes in market with enlarged identification features.
  - The notes with '2016' printing year will be similar in design with the existing Rs. 100 notes.
  - o It will have ascending size of numerals in the number panels & bleed lines.
  - All the banknotes of Rs. 100 issued by the Bank in the past will continue to be legal tender.















- Venezuela Suspended from Mercosur
  - o The South American nations has suspended Venezuela from the Mercosur trade bloc for violating the bloc's democratic principles.
  - The Foreign Ministers of the founding members of Mercosur-Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay & Uruguay reached the decision to revoke the Mercosur membership of Venezuela.
  - Mercosur is a sub-regional bloc of South American countries established in 1991 to promote free trade.
- PM Modi Inaugrates Petrotech 2016
  - o The 12th International Oil and Gas Conference, PETROTECH-2016 was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in the national capital.
  - o The theme of the Conference is Hydrocarbons to fuel the future Choices and Challenges.
  - The conference aims to explore areas of growth in petroleum technology, exploration, drilling, production and processing, refining and other related issues.
- Amazon Launches Its Startup Program
  - Amazon launched it's startup programme 'Launchpad' in India to support Indian startups and scale up their business.
  - Launchpad will help startups launch, market, and distribute their products to
     Amazon customers across India and around the world via a dedicated store.
  - o It will be an exclusive corner for Indian Startups to get access to big consumer markets nationally and internationally.
- Islamic Bank to Offer Loan for TAPI
  - Saudi Arabia-based Islamic Development Bank had agreed to provide USD 500 million loan to part-finance the USD 15 billion TAPI natural gas pipeline project.
  - o TAPI is the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan- Pakistan-India project.
  - o TAPI Pipeline Co is in talks to rope in Saudi Fund for Development and the Japanese govt.
  - o It will transport gas from Turkmenistan's Galkynysh fields to Fazilka in India.
- 5th GST Council Meet Concludes
  - o The 5th Goods and Services Tax Council Meet concluded in New Delhi.
  - o Finance Minister Arun Jaitley expressed optimism that the critical issues in GST will be resolved soon, to roll out the GST regime on time.













- o The next meet is scheduled on December 11th and 12th & the drafts are expected to be approved.
- o He expressed hope for a positive result on the cross empowerment issue in the next meet.
- IDS Disclosure Revised Upwards
  - o Income Tax department revises upwards income disclosed under IDS to 67 thousand 382 crore, from Rs 65 thousand 250 crore earlier.
  - o It will fetch the government a little over Rs 30,000 crore in direct tax revenue.
  - o Among the declarations received, there were two sets of declarations of high value which were not taken on record in the above figure.
- Sunil Taldar Appointed CEO of Airtel DTH
  - o Bharti Airtel has appointed Sunil Taldar as CEO & Director, DTH.
  - o He will be a member of the Airtel management board.
  - He takes over from Shashi Arora, who has moved to a new role as MD & CEO,
     Airtel Payments Bank.
  - In the past, he has held several leadership positions across multiple geographies including India, China and Singapore.
- MMTC to Tie-up with SBI
  - o Public sector company MMTC will tie-up with the State Bank of India (SBI) to sell government-minted "Indian Gold Coin".
  - o The state-run bullion trader, which has already tied up with over half a dozen banks, has so far sold one lakh pieces of "Indian Gold Coin".
  - The coin is India's first-ever sovereign gold offering and the only one to be hallmarked by Bureau of Indian Standards for purity.
- E-payments if Contract Exceeds Rs 5,000
  - o The Finance Ministry made it mandatory for all govt departments to make payments above Rs 5,000 through e-Payment facility & not cash.
  - o This move is intended to bring about a complete digitisation of payments
  - To attain the goal of complete digitization of government payments, the ministry has lowered the amount for making such payments from Rs 10,000 to Rs 5,000.
- YES Bank, Ola Join Hands
  - o YES Bank has partnered Ola to set up mobile ATMs for cash withdrawal.
  - o The service will be made available in over 30 locations across 10 cities.



















- Customers can swipe debit cards of any bank to withdraw an amount of up to Rs. 2,000 per card.
- o This is enabled using Point of Sales machines available in Ola cabs stationed near YES Bank branches across locations in these cities.
- NITI Aayog to Encourage Digital Payment
  - Niti Aayog is providing financial support to incentivise the district administration to reach out to the general public & encourage them to shift to cashless payments.
  - As per the plan, an incentive of Rs 10 will be given to the district administration for every individual who has shifted to digital payment mode and
  - o It has made at least two digital transactions for day-to-day activities.
- RBI Issues Guidelines on Large Exposure
  - o The RBI announced the final guidelines on its large exposures framework.
  - These guidelines are aimed at significant tightening of norms pertaining to concentration risks of banks.
  - o The guidelines come into effect from March 31, 2019.
  - According to the guidelines, a large exposure is defined as any exposure to a counter-party or parties which is equal to 10% of the bank's eligible capital base.
- New Rs 20, Rs 50 Currency Notes Soon
  - The Reserve Bank said it will soon issue new currency notes of R20 and R50 with numerals in ascending size in the number panels and without intaglio printing.
  - o All the existing Rs 50 and Rs 20 banknotes will continue to be legal tender.
  - o It will bear the signature of governor Urjit R Patel.
  - o The Rs 20 note will have an inset letter 'L' in both the number panels.
- India Gets Past \$300-b FDI Mark
  - India crossed the \$300-billion foreign direct investment (FDI) milestone between April 2000 & Sept 2016.
  - o Around 33% of the FDI came through the Mauritius route, apparently because the investors wanted to take advantage of double taxation avoidance treaty.
  - o India received \$101.76 billion from Mauritius between April 2000 & Sept 2016.
  - o The other big investors have been from Singapore & the US.
- BoB Raises Rs 1,000 cr



41 | Page











- o Bank of Baroda has raised Rs 1,000 crore by issuing bonds that are compliant with global capital adequacy norms or Basel III.
  - The bank has issued & alloted bonds with issue size of Rs 1,000 crore.
- o The bonds will carry interest rate of 8.5 per cent.
- o Another state owned lender, State Bank of Travancore, said it will raise Rs 600 crore by issuing such bonds.
- Rs 1.64 cr undisclosed income in JDA
  - The Income Tax department has detected undisclosed monies of Rs 1.64 crore in the Jan Dhan Accounts.
  - o Other "inconsistencies" have also been found in its countrywide investigations into the sudden popping up of suspicious amounts in Jan Dhan accounts.
  - o Jan Dhan accounts have a deposit limit of Rs 50,000.
- Now people can withdraw cash from OLA
  - o Now customers can withdraw money from OLA Cabs.
  - o Chennai-based Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) in association with OLA Cabs has launched mobile ATM service in Chennai on Saturday.
  - Customer/Public can withdraw an amount of Rs 2,000 through the Indian Overseas Bank micro ATM, around 10 cabs are arranged for which covered various parts of the city.
- GST roll-out from April in jeopardy
  - o The Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council has failed again, to break the deadlock between the Centre and the states.
  - o The deadlock is on the control of assessees under the new indirect tax regime.
  - GST Bills, scheduled to be placed before Parliament during the ongoing winter session, will not be passed.
  - o This will surely lead to break of April 1 deadline for rolling out GST.
- Rs 2.5 Lakh Crore May Not Be Deposited
  - State Bank of India has estimated that money worth Rs 2.5 lakh crore may not come back into the banking system post demonetisation of high-value notes.
  - o As per the SBI analysis, the market estimate of Rs 14.18 lakh crore currency is based on March 2016 data
  - o SBI noted that going by data as on November 9, the amount of high currency denomination notes was Rs 15.44 lakh crore.
- 27 senior PSU bank officials suspended



















- Action has been taken against 33 officials of PSU banks in the aftermath of demonetisation of high-value banknotes.
- o These officials were found violating norms laid down by the Reserve Bank of India.
- o The suspensions come amid reports of income tax raids conducting search and seizure places at many places including Rs 5.7 crore cash in new currency notes recovered in Bengaluru.
- Govt brings bonds for demonetised funds
  - Govt. has created provisions to issue special bonds to absorb the temporary surplus with banks created by nationwide deposits of demonetised currency.
  - o The bonds created worth up to Rs 6 lakh crore to soak currency worth Rs 8 lakh crore of demonetised funds.
  - o The RBI will sell the bonds, called Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS), to banks on behalf of the government.
- Govt. for rolling out GST by Sep 2017
  - o Finance minister Arun Jaitley said on Friday that there is a Constitutional compulsion to roll out the Goods and Services Tax.
  - He asserted that the government's intention is to kick off the ambitious reform by April 1.
  - He added that GST has to be in place before September 16 (2017), otherwise the country doesn't run.

### HC rejects Mallya's application

- o The high court has rejected the interlocutory application filed by Vijay Mallya, seeking for recall of the October 20, 2016.
- The order was order for framing charges against him in relation to the contempt petition filed by consortium of banks which lent money to his nowdefunct Kingfisher Airlines.
- The court has asked Mallya's counsel to communicate to him, while asking for his presence
- Reliance could be fined Rs 500 for ads
  - o Reliance Jio's controversial decision to use PM Modi's photograph in front-page newspaper ads could receive a paltry fine of Rs. 500.
  - The Emblems and Names (Prevention of Improper Use) Act 1950 prohibits the improper usage of emblems and names for professional and commercial purposes.













- o Any person who contravenes the provisions shall be punishable with fine which may extend to 500 Rs.
- Agriculture down as Rabi sowing falls
  - o This year's rabi production, wheat sowing was down 8.25% from normal until Friday.
  - o The area sown of all rabi crops was only two-thirds of the normal rabi area.
  - o There are only two weeks to go before the sowing season ends.
  - o Analysts have said the latest data released by the ministry of agriculture confirmed that demonetisation had impacted sowing adversely
- NITI Aayog meets telcos for Aadhaar
  - o NITI Aayog is soon planning to meet telecom companies to enable Aadharenabled online transactions through mobile phones.
  - It is concurrently working on developing a common mobile phone app that can be used by shopkeepers and merchants for receiving Aadhaar-enabled payments.
  - The 12-digit number has already been issued to 1.08 crore people and 99 per cent of adults have been covered.
- Govt. tells SC on Demonetisation
  - The central government on Thursday said that its decision to demonetise Rs
     500 and Rs 1,000 currency notes did not violate the fundamental rights of the people.
  - o Govt. has said that it has only imposed "reasonable restrictions" in pursuance to its objective of eliminating black money and counterfeit currency.
  - o It also defended its decision to introduce Rs 2,000 denomination currency notes.
- Crisil downs GDP growth to 6.9% for 2017
  - o CRISIL has lowered the country's GDP growth forecast by 100 basis points to 6.9% from 7.9% earlier for the current fiscal.
  - o The agency said consumer price index (CPI)-based inflation to be at 4.7% as compared to its earlier estimate of 5%.
  - o CRISIL noted that there is uncertainty on how much time it will take for the economy to return to 'business as usual'
- 500 gm worth gold not to be seized



















- There would be no seizure of gold jewellery and ornaments to the extent of 500 grams per married women.
- o 250 gm per unmarried women and 100 gm per male member of the family will not be seized either.
- o It is clarified that the jewellery/gold purchased out of disclosed income will not be chargeable to tax.
- India to require 884 mt of coal in 2017
  - o India's annual coal requirement for the current financial year has been pegged at 884.87 million tonnes (mt).
  - o The estimate was presented by Coal Minister Piyush Goyal said in a written reply to Lok Sabha.
  - The demand for coal is not estimated separately for state and Union Territories, he added.
  - o Coal produced in the country during 2015-16 was to the tune of 639.23 mt.
- RBI Governor, Secy. to explain impact
  - o Two parliamentary committees, have decided to call RBI Governor Urjit Patel to examine the "monetary policy" of the Centre.
  - o He along with two secretaries will assess the "impact of demonetisation".
  - Department of Economic Affairs Secretary Shaktikanta Das and Financial Services Secretary Anjuly Chib Duggal in the first week of January to discuss the issue.
- OPEC to Oil Cut With Russia Since 2001
  - o OPEC has agreed its first oil output cuts since 2008 after Saudi Arabia accepted "a big hit" on its production.
  - Saudi also dropped its demand on arch-rival Iran to slash output, pushing up crude prices by around 10%.
  - o Fast-growing producer Iraq also agreed to curtail its booming output.
  - Saudi Arabia will take the major share of cuts by reducing output by 0.5 million bpd to 10.06 million bpd.
- RBI caps withdrawals on Jan Dhan account
  - o Reserve Bank of India has placed fresh curbs on cash withdrawals. Account holders can withdraw a maximum of Rs 10,000 per month
  - o Withdrawal limit is Rs 5,000 from non KYC accounts.
  - o The move has been taken on concern over Jan Dhan Yojana bank accounts being used for money laundering.













 As against this customers can withdraw up to Rs 24,000 every week from regular bank accounts.

## • Old notes can't be used at petrol pumps

- o The government has said the old Rs 500 notes will be accepted at petrol pumps and for airline tickets only till December 2.
- o On November 24, the exemptions for acceptance of Rs 500 had been extended till December 15 in certain transactions.
- o It is learnt that the government assessed that many such exemptions blocked new currencies from reaching to the public.
- Reliance Jio Free Usage Offer Extended
  - o Reliance Chairman Mukesh Ambani said that the free services under Reliance Jio Welcome Offer have been extended till March 31, 2017.
  - Mukesh Ambani also announced that Reliance Jio users will now have a daily FUP limit of 1GB, which if exhausted will result in slower speeds.
  - He also added that Jio now fully supports MNP so all customers can retain their number while migrating to Jio.

# Days and Events

- 25th-Dec: Good Governance Day
  - o Good governance day is observed every year on 25th of December.
  - It is being observed today to mark the birthday of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.
  - o The government would be launching a 100 day campaign across the country on the theme of good governance.
  - o Ministers and Members of Parliament will travel across the country and attend programmes highlighting the government's key initiatives.
- National Mathematics Day Observed
  - o National Mathematics Day is being celebrated all across the country on 22
  - o The day was first introduced by Manmohan Singh on 26 Feb, 2012.
  - The Indian mathematical genius Srinivasa Ramanujan was born on 22 Dec 1887.
  - o The mathematician compiled about 3,900 results & nearly all his claims have been proven correct.















- o Some of his famous results are the Ramanujan prime & theta function.
- Vijay Diwas Observed Across the Country
  - o People across the country observe 45th anniversary of Vijay Diwas
  - o On this day, nation remembers martyrs, who laid down their lives during Indo-Pak War of 1971.
  - o It was the first major victory for a young Indian democracy and helped strengthen the confidence of the leadership.
  - o On 16 December 1971, Chief of Pakistan forces General Niazi, along with 93000 troops surrendered unconditionally.
- Kochi-Muziris Biennale 2016
  - o The celebration of contemporary art in South Asia, the 108-day-long, third edition of Kochi-Muziris Biennale commenced at Kochi at 12 dec.
  - o "Forming in the pupil of an eye", KMB 2016 will features performances and productions of 97 artists from 31 countries.
  - o The theme was chosen because the eye is the only reflective organ in the body and it reflects as much back into the world as it takes.
- 10th-Dec :Human Rights Day
  - o Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December.
  - o It commemorates the day on which, in 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
  - o It recognizes inherent dignity and the equal and inalienable rights of mankind as the foundation of justice, freedom and peace in the world.
  - o The theme for 2016 is "Stand up for someone's rights today!".
- 9 Dec:International Anti-Corruption Day
  - o International Anti-Corruption Day has been observed annuallyon 9 December.
  - o Theme for this year is United against corruption for development, peace and security.
  - o On 31 October in 2003, the UN General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
  - The Assembly also designated 9 December as International Anti-Corruption
     Day, to raise awareness of corruption.
- Joint Maritime Exercise Konkan16 Begins

The annual bilateral maritime exercise Konkan 16 between the Indian Navy and the Royal Navy has begun in Mumbai. It will be held from Dec 5-16













It will be conducted in 2 phases in Mumbai and Goa. The first phase (5-9 Dec) will be held in Mumbai. The second phase is a LIVE EXERCISE will be held from 12-16 Dec at Goa. It involves interaction between the Indian Marine Commandos and the Royal Marines

- April 14 to be Celebrated as Water Day
  - Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development & Ganga
     Rejuvenation Uma Bharti has announced that 14th April will be celebrated as
     "Water Day" on the occasion of BR Ambedkar's birthday
  - She said in the coming days water is going to become an important agenda of the govt
  - She also said there was need to reform water resources management & those misusing this resource should be punished
- 6th- Dec:Mahaparinirvan Diwas
  - o Mahaparinirwan Diwas is observed across India on 6 December.
  - o Dr. Ambedkar died on this day in 1956.
  - o Since then, Mahaparinirvan Diwas is observed every year to pay him tributes.
  - o Dr BR Ambedkar is popularly known as Babasaheb.
  - He was a jurist, economist, politician and a social reformer who campaigned against social discrimination of Dalits, women and labourers.
- International Year of Soil observed
  - o International Year of Soil(IYS) is observed on Dec 5 annually. It was declared by the 68th session of the United Nations General Assembly on Dec 20th, 2013.
  - The purpose of the IYS is to raise awareness worldwide of the importance of soils for food security, agriculture, as well as in mitigation of climate change, poverty alleviation, and sustainable development.
- India celebrates Navy Day
  - India celebrates Navy Day on 4th December to celebrate Navy's role in 1971 Indo-Pakistan war when missile boats carried out a daring attack on Karachi harbour.
  - At least 24 ships and 17 naval aircraft are expected to participate in in 2016
     Navy Day demonstration.
  - o Prime Minister Narendra Modi saluted the bravery of the naval forces through twitter.



















- World AIDS Day 2016
  - o According to a UNAIDS report, more number of people are on HIV treatment, leading to fewer number deaths.
  - However, it continues to be a major health challenge looming over the world with a cure yet to be discovered.
  - Nearly 37 million people living with the virus at the end of 2015, according to the World Health Organisation.

## Defence

- CM Khandu Inaugurates 6th ALG in Tuting
  - o The Indian Air Force Advanced Landing Ground, ALG at Tuting in Arunachal Pradesh has become functional.
  - o The ALG was inaugurated by State Chief Minister Pema Khandu.
  - o The strategic location of Tuting ALG will make it a launching pad for the IAF operations as well as a facilitator to the Administration.
  - With ALGs being operationalised in Tuting, Mechuka, Aalo, Pasighat, Ziro & Vijoynagar.
- India Test-Fires Agni-5 Missile
  - o India successfully test-fired intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-5.
  - o The missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation.
  - o The three-stage solid propellant Agni 5 missile is capable of striking a target more than 5,000 kilometres .
  - o It is about 17 metre long, 2 metre wide and has launch weight of around 50 tonnes.
- DRDO Tests Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon
  - o The Defence and Research Development Organization, DRDO has successfully flight tested the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon, SAAW.
  - o The flight test was conducted at the integrated test range in Chandipur, Odisha.
  - o SAAW is an indigenously designed and developed 120 kilogram class smart weapon.













- It is capable of engaging ground targets with high precision up to a range of 100 kilo metres.
- India Tests 'Nirbhay' Cruise Missile
  - o India conducted the flight test of indigenously-designed and developed long range subsonic cruise missile Nirbhay from the ITR at Chandipur in Odisha.
  - o The test had failed like most of the earlier launches.
  - o The sophisticated missile has a strike range of 1,000 km.
  - o It is powered by a solid rocket motor booster, with a turbo-fan engine is guided by a highly advanced inertial navigation system.
- Indo-Russian Naval Exercise Begins
  - o India & Russia started the 9th edition of Indra Navy-16,a bilateral exercise between the navies of the two allies.
  - o The primary aim of the exercise is to increase interoperability among the two navies.
  - o Indra Navy epitomises the strong long-term strategic relationship between the two countries.
  - The exercise is taking place in two phases the Harbour at Visakhapatnam
     & the Sea off the coast.
- 7th Indo-Maldives military exercise
  - o 7th edition of Exercise EKUVERIN will be held from 15 to 28 Dec 2016 at Kadhdhoo, Laamu Atoll, Maldives.
  - The Exercise is a 14 day platoon level joint military exercise between the Indian Army & the Maldives National Defence Force conducted on a yearly basis.
  - o The aim of the exercise is to conduct military training with emphasis on amphibious & counter insurgency/ counter terrorism operations.
- US Tags India Major Defence Partner
  - India has been designated as a major defence partner of the United States.
  - o This was announced in the India-US joint statement.
  - The designation institutionalizes the progress made to facilitate defence trade
     & technology sharing with India to a level at par with that of the US' closest
     allies.
  - o Both sides exchanged views on regional security issues including the threat posed by terrorism.
- US Congress for defence ties with India

















- President Barack Obama's and US Secretary of Defense Ashton Carter's pro-India defence policy is about to be enshrined into US legislation.
- This week, top US lawmakers from both houses of Congress the Senate and the House of Republicans — jointly agreed to an amendment in a major budget Bill.
- o The bill will formalise and consolidate India's status as a major US partner.
- India inks Rs 5,000 crore deal with US
  - o India and the US today inked a nearly Rs 5,000 crore deal for 145 M777 ultralight howitzers.
  - o This is the first deal for artillery guns since the Bofors scandal in 1980s.
  - o Howitzers will be mostly deployed near the borders with China.
  - o The deal was inked as a two-day meeting of the 15th India-US Military Cooperation Group (MCG) began here.

## International Affairs

- Romania's Grindeanu Named PM-Designate
  - Romania's president accepted Sorin Grindeanu for the post of prime minister.
  - Grindeanu is a mathematician and former deputy mayor of the city of Timisoara.
  - He is a member of the Social Democratic Party that won December 11 elections,
  - o He now faces a confidence vote in parliament on his programme and cabinet nominees
  - o Earlier president rejected the nomination of Shhaideh for the post.
- China Announces Ban on Ivory Trade
  - China has announced a ban on all ivory trade &processing activities by the end of 2017.
  - o The move follows a resolution at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (Cites) in South Africa in October.
  - China has the biggest ivory market in the world.
  - o A surge in the killing of elephants over the past seven years has seen populations across Africa shrink by a third.
- World's Highest Bridge Opens in China













- o China has opened the world's highest bridge sitting at 1,854 feet above the ground.
- Stretched across a giant mountain overpass, the Beipanjiang Bridge cost a staggering £120million.
- o The giant Beipanjiang Bridge is the highest on the planet & is open to traffic.
- o The structure overtakes the Sidu River Bridge, which is also in China, beating it by a mere five metres to become the highest bridge.
- China Again Blocks UN Ban Against Azhar
  - China has yet again blocked a proposal at the United Nations to list Jaish-e-Muhammad's Chief Masood Azhar as a global designated terrorist.
  - China is the lone member among the 15-member UNSC to oppose the ban on Azhar.
  - o Earlier, China had twice imposed technical hold on the Indian proposal.
  - India's proposal was submitted in February to the 1267 Sanctions Committee of the UN Security Council.
- Venezuela Extends Money Swap Deadline
  - Venezuelan President has again extended the deadline to withdraw from circulation the country's most common currency note.
  - o The deadline had been set for 2 Jan but will now be on 20 Jan.
  - o Mr Maduro said he did not want Venezuelans to worry about exchanging the currency near the New Year festivities.
  - Venezuelans had been initially given 72 hours in mid-December to swap their 100 bolivar notes.
- Obama expels 35 Russian diplomats
  - o The Obama administration on Thursday announced its retaliation for Russian efforts to interfere with the US presidential election.
  - o It ordered sweeping new sanctions that included the expulsion of 35 Russians.
  - US intelligence services believe Russia ordered cyber-attacks on the Democratic National Committee (DNC), Hillary Clinton's campaign and other political organizations.
- Russia to respond to diplomat expulsion
  - Russia has promised to respond to the expulsion of 35 of its diplomats from Washington
  - US has announced sanctions against nine entities and individuals including two Russian intelligence agencies, the GRU and the FSB.



















- President Barack Obama had vowed action against Russia amid US accusations that it directed cyber-attacks against the Democratic Party and Hillary Clinton's campaign.
- Poland buys Da Vinci and collection
  - o The Polish government has purchased a private art collection, including one of Leonardo da Vinci's most famous paintings, for a fraction of its value.
  - o The Czartoryski collection of about 86,000 pieces, based in the city of Krakow, includes da Vinci's Lady with an Ermine and works by Rembrandt.
  - Lady with an Ermine, painted in 1490, is one of only four portraits of women by Da Vinci.
- Russia-Turkey brokered truce holding
  - o A new nationwide ceasefire between Syrian government forces and rebel groups appears to be largely holding.
  - o The deal includes many rebel groups but not jihadists such as so-called Islamic State, or the Kurdish YPG.
  - o Unlike previous ceasefires, this has not come out of US and Russian bilateral spadework, but from a new understanding between Moscow and Ankara.
- Pak PM Inaugurates Chashma Nuclear Proj
  - Pakistan PM Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the Chashma Nuclear Project III, having a capacity of generating 340 megawatts of electricity.
  - o The 340MW power plant is a joint collaboration of Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission & China National Nuclear Corporation.
  - o This is the third project after successful operation of Chashma-I & Chashma-II projects.
  - o Chashma IV Project is to be completed in 2017
- China Begins Transport Water from Tibet
  - o China started transporting bottled water to other parts of the country by charter trains from the Himalayan rivers in Tibet.
  - o A train full of Tibetan bottled water left Lhasa, the provincial capital of Tibet Autonomous Region.
  - o It is the first of a regular set of cargo trains to bring bottled drinking water from Tibet.
  - o Tibet, often called Asia's Water Tower, is rich in water resources.
- Colombia Approves Peace Deal Amnesty













- The Colombian Congress has approved a law offering amnesty to some of those accused of minor crimes in the country's decades-long civil conflict.
- President Juan Manuel Santos hailed it as a the first step towards the consolidation of peace with the Farc guerrilla group.
- o The amnesty is part of a revised deal agreed after the original pact with the Farc was rejected in a popular vote.
- Japan PM Offers Pearl Harbor Condolences
  - o Japanese PM Shinzo Abe has visited the US naval base at Pearl Harbor.
  - He offered "sincere and everlasting condolences" to the victims of Japan's attack on the base 75 years ago.
  - o Mr Abe was accompanied by US President Barack Obama, making the visit the first by the leaders of both countries.
  - o Japan devastated much of the base, killing more than 2,400 Americans.
- Former Sri Lankan PM Wickremanayake Dies
  - o Former Sri Lankan Prime Minister Ratnasiri Wickremanayake passed away.
  - o Wickremanayake is a senior member of the Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) and was serving as a senior advisor to President Maithripala Sirisena.
  - He was appointed Prime Minister by former President Mahinda Rajapaksa on November 21, 2005.
  - o He had earlier served as Prime Minister from August 2000- December 2001.
- China Tests New Stealth Fighter
  - o China successfully tested its newest twin-engine radar-evading stealth fighter of the fifth generation,
  - o The newest version of the J-31 now renamed the FC-31 Gyrfalcon -- took to the air for the first time
  - The new FC-31 has better stealth capabilities & improved electronic equipment.
  - o The jet is manufactured by Shenyang Aircraft Corp.,a subsidiary of the Aviation Industry Corp of China.
- Saudi Launches Campaign to Collect Fund
  - Saudi Arabia has launched a fundraising campaign for Syrians displaced by a five-year civil war.
  - More than 11 million Syrians around half of the population have been displaced by the fighting, which began in 2011 and has killed more than 300,000 people.



















- Saudi Arabia has been one of the main supporters of rebels fighting to topple
   Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.
- China Passes Environment Tax Law
  - o China has passed a new law to levy environment tax on polluters, specially on heavy industries.
  - o The Environment Tax Law was adopted by the legislature.
  - o The law will enter into force on January 1, 2018.
  - o The tax rate will be 1.2 yuan per unit of atmospheric pollution, 1.4 yuan per unit of water pollution, 5 yuan per tonne of coal waste & 1,000 yuan per tonne of hazardous waster.
- Super Typhoon 'Nock-Ten' Makes Landfall
  - o A typhoon Nock-ten slammed into central part of the Philippines bringing strong winds & heavy rains and cutting off power.
  - o Typhoon Nock-ten was packing maximum sustained winds of 185 kph with gusts up to 255 kph when it made landfall over Catanduanes province.
  - o Around 218,000 people fled to evacuation centres.
  - o In the past 65 years, seven typhoons have struck the Philippines on Christmas Day.
- German town evacuated on Christmas Day
  - o Thousands of people in the southern German city of Augsburg left city after they were forced from their homes while authorities disarmed a large II World War aerial bomb.
  - The bomb was uncovered last week during construction work in the city's historic central district.
  - o Police said Christmas Day was the best time to defuse it because there is less traffic and people can stay with relatives.
- Mexico's 'Volcano of Fire' Erupts
  - Mexico's renowned Colima volcano has erupted a second time.
  - o It was just months after another eruption forced the evacuation of more than 350 people.
  - o The most recent eruptions sent plumes of ash and smoke billowing 2500m into the air.
  - o The Colima volcano, also known as the 'Volcano of Fire', is one of the most active volcanoes in central America.
- Sri Lanka Claims Tallest Christmas Tree













- o In Sri Lanka, a 73-meter Christmas tree, claimed to have broken previous records, was unveiled in Colombo on Christmas eve.
- The tree has beaten the existing Guinness record.
- The tree is 18 meters taller than the current record holder in a Chinese city.
- The tree's steel-and-wire frame is covered with a plastic net decorated with more than 10 lakh natural pine cones, 6 lakh LED bulbs.
- Obama Signs \$618 billion Defence Bill
  - o US President Barack Obama has signed a \$618 billion defence policy bill which when in place, will enhance security cooperation with India.
  - The National Defence Authorization Act (NDAA) was passed by both the House and the Senate with veto-proof majorities earlier this month.
  - o It enhances security cooperation between the US and India, under the 'Supporting Allies and Partners' section.
- Donald Trump to Dissolve Foundation
  - President-elect Donald Trump said he will dissolve his charitable foundation.
  - It aims to eliminate any conflicts of interest before he takes office next month.
  - The revelation comes as the New York attorney general's office investigates the foundation following reports that foundation spending went to benefit Trump's campaign.
  - o Mr. Trump said he will pursue philanthropic efforts in other ways
- Typhoon Nock-Ten Threatens Philippines
  - o A super typhoon with winds of 150mph looks likely to hit the Philippines east coast on Christmas Day.
  - o With winds of up to 150mph (240km/h), Nock-Ten is due to make landfall in the Bicol region.
  - Dozens of ports have been closed, as officials warn of potentially deadly twometre (6.6ft) waves.
  - o In October, Super Typhoon Haima hit the country, killing at least four people.
- UN Urges End to Israeli Settlements
  - o The UN Security Council has passed a resolution urging an end to illegal Israeli settlements after the US refused to veto it.
  - The UN resolution was passed by 14 votes to zero, with one abstention.
  - The US has traditionally sheltered Israel from condemnatory resolutions.
  - Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu said he would not abide by the vote.
  - About 500,000 Jews live in about 140 settlements.



















- Japan, UK Sign MoU on Nuclear Cooperation
  - o The MoU on cooperation in the nuclear sphere was signed by Japanese Minister Hiroshige Seko & UK Business Secretary Greg Clark.
  - They agreed that their governments will seek to conduct technological research on scrapping the damaged Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant and decontamination near the facility.
  - o They also agreed to discuss planned construction of a nuclear power station in the UK.
- Japan Approves Biggest Defence Budget
  - Japan cabinet approved it's biggest annual defence budget in the face of North Korea's nuclear and missile threats and a territorial row.
  - o The Cabinet approved 43.6 billion dollars in defence spending for the fiscal year starting in April.
  - o It is up 1.4% from the initial budget for the current fiscal year.
  - It marks the fifth straight annual increase & attempt to build up Japan's military.
- US Returns Some Land on Japan's Okinawa
  - o The U.S. military announced the return to the Japanese govt of the largest tract of land in more than 40 years.
  - o It will reduce American-administered areas on the southern island of Okinawa by 17 percent.
  - PM Shinzo Abe & the U.S. ambassador to Japan attended the ceremony in Tokyo.
  - o The U.S. retained control of Okinawa after its World War II victory,returning the islands to Japan only in 1972.
- Dubai Opens Multi-Theme Based Parks
  - o Motiongate, the largest multi-themed leisure and entertainment destination has been opened in Dubai, UAE.
  - o The theme park unites three Hollywood movie studios namely Columbia Pictures, DreamWork Animation and Lionsgate.
  - Motiongate, Dubai is spread across five zones.
  - The destination is spread across 30.6 million square feet, with over 100 rides,
     themed retail, dining.
- Japan Cancels Failed Monju Reactor













- o Japan is a scrapping an experimental reactor which has worked for just 250 days of its 22-year lifespan and cost \$9bn (£7.2bn).
- o The Monju reactor, in western Japan's Fukui city, was designed to burn most of its own spent fuel.
- o It eliminate the need to deal with the nuclear waste.
- But it suffered its first problems months after it went live, and has not worked properly since.
- No VoA in Hong Kong for Indians
  - o Two of the hottest international destinations for Indians, Thailand and Hong Kong have taken diametrically opposite views on visitors from the country.
  - Thailand has either waived or halved visitor visa fees for Indians for three months.
  - o Hong Kong now wants them to take pre-authorisation and has withdrawn the visa-on-arrival facility for Indians.
- Obama bans future oil leases in Atlantic
  - Barack Obama designated the bulk of U.S.-owned waters in the Arctic Ocean and certain Atlantic Ocean off limits to future oil and gas leasing.
  - o The move helps put some finishing touches on Obama's environmental legacy.
  - o It will also test President-elect Donald Trump's promise to unleash the nation's untapped energy reserves.
- Sao Tome cuts ties with Taiwan
  - The government of Sao Tome and Principe has cut diplomatic ties with Taiwan according to the officials.
  - o China welcomed the decision by the African island nation saying it was "back onto the correct path of the One China principle".
  - Sao Tome suspended ties with China in 1997, after choosing to officially recognise Taiwan.
- 31 Dead in Mexico Fireworks Market Blast
  - A massive explosion gutted Mexico's biggest fireworks market on Tuesday, killing at least 31 people and injuring 72, the authorities said.
  - The conflagration in the Mexico City suburb of Tultepec set off a series of multicolored blasts all over the capital.
  - o The market had been packed with customers buying pyrotechnics for traditional end-of-year festivities such as Christmas and New Year.
- IS responsible for Berlin attack



















- o The Islamic State group claimed responsibility on Tuesday for a truck attack on a crowded Berlin Christmas market.
- o The attack was done on popular market by the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in the heart of former West Berlin that left 12 dead and 48 injured.
- o It was the first mass casualty attack by Islamic extremists carried out on German soil.
- UNSC Backs Sending Observers to Aleppo
  - o UN Security Council members have unanimously voted in favor of a resolution to send observers to Syria's Aleppo to monitor the ongoing evacuations there.
  - o The resolution which was proposed by France urges those involved in the evacuations to report on the fate of people who have remained in the city.
  - Last week, the Syrian govt reached an agreement with armed groups to evacuate the city.
- China Returns Seized US Sea Drone
  - A US underwater drone seized by the Chinese navy in the contentious South China Sea has now been returned.
  - o The drone was handed over some 92km north-west of Subic Bay in the Philippines.
  - o China seized the vehicle in international waters, in one of the most serious confrontations between the powers in decades.
  - o China has claimed territorial rights over most of the South China Sea.
- Russia Ambassador to Turkey Assassinated
  - o The Russian ambassador to Ankara died after being shot in a gun attack in the Turkish capital.
  - o Andrei Karlov was attacked at the opening of an art exhibition in Ankara.
  - o The Russian president, Vladimir Putin, called the killing a "provocation" aimed at sabotaging a rapprochement between Moscow and Ankara.
  - o The attacker was killed by Turkish special forces after they surrounded the gallery.
- Trump Wins Electoral College Vote
  - o Donald Trump surpassed the necessary 270 votes in the Electoral College, taking the next step in the official process to become President.
  - o Trump received 304 electoral votes to Hillary Clinton's 227.
  - o The Electoral College results will be officially certified Jan 6 during a joint session of Congress.













- o The result will be officially announced on 6th Jan in a special joint session of Congress.
- UNSC to Vote on Aleppo Observers
  - o The UN Security Council will vote on a French proposal to send observers to the flashpoint Syrian city of Aleppo.
  - o The council will meet to decide on the draft resolution, despite resistance from Russia, Syria's ally and a veto-wielding Security Council member.
  - o France circulated a draft text stating that the council is alarmed by the worsening humanitarian crisis in Aleppo.
- Venezuela Delays Banknote Withdrawal
  - Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro has delayed the withdrawal of the 100bolivar banknote until 2 January.
  - o The sudden change of policy comes after days of economic chaos.
  - He claimed his country had been the victim of international sabotage, which
     had prevented new 500-bolivar notes arriving in time.
  - Many Venezuelans have spent several days in long queues trying to swap the old notes.
- Pakistan successfully test-fires Babur
  - Pakistan conducted a successful test of an enhanced version of the indigenously developed Babur Cruise Missile.
  - Babur Weapon System-2 incorporates advanced aerodynamics and avionics that can strike targets both at land and sea with high accuracy, at a range of 700 km.
  - o It is a low flying, terrain hugging missile, which is capable of carrying various types of warheads.
- 5.0 magnitude earthquake strikes Chile
  - o A magnitude 5.0 earthquake has occurred on the coast of Chile, in the northern region of Coquimbo.
  - o The US Geological Survey said that the quake hit early morning today at a depth of just over 28 kilometers.
  - The National Seismological Center of the University of Chile put the earthquake's magnitude at 5.2, saying that it was also felt in the coastal region of Valparaiso.
- China 'seizes US vessel' in S China Sea



















- o The Chinese navy seized the US underwater research vessel in the South China Sea.
- o The device, dubbed an "ocean glider", was used to test water salinity and temperature, officials say.
- o The US has issued a formal request to China to deliver an unmanned underwater drone that was seized in international waters, US officials say.
- Putin and Erdogan push for Syria talks
  - o President Vladimir Putin said he and his Turkish counterpart Tayyip Erdogan are working to organise a new series of Syrian peace talks without the involvement of the US or the UN.
  - o In a snub to Washington, Putin made clear that the initiative was the sole preserve of Moscow and Turkey.
  - o Putin, wants new peace talks in Kazakhstan.
- Beijing to implement 'odd-even' scheme
  - Beijing city will implement the road rationing scheme "odd-even" from tonight and suspend schools bracing for heavy smog after the Chinese capital issued its first red alert for air pollution this year.
  - o The red alert is being activated from 8 PM (local time) and is expected to be lifted on December 21.
  - o Public transportation will be arranged with more buses running for longer.
- EU Agrees to Extend Russia Sanctions
  - European Union leaders agreed extend economic sanctions against Russia over the turmoil in Ukraine until mid-2017.
  - o The decision was expected and the formal process to extend the sanctions on Russia's defense, energy and financial sectors will take place early next week.
  - o The bloc slapped sanctions on Russia after it annexed Ukraine's Black Sea peninsula of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014.
- Amina is UN Deputy Secretary-General
  - o New UN Secretary-General António Guterres announced Nigeria's Environment minister, Amina Mohammed as his Deputy Secretary-General.
  - o Mohammed served as UN under-secretary-general & special adviser on post-2015 development planning to Ban Ki-moon.
  - She was instrumental in bringing about the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the sustainable development goals.
- Rio Gets UNESCO World Heritage Status













- Brazil's Rio de Janeiro, nicknamed the Marvelous City, officially entered the UN's list of world heritage sites in recognition of its soaring granite cliffs, urban rainforest & beaches.
- Rio got a big tourism boost during the 2014 football World Cup & this August's Olympic Game.
- o However, persistent high crime, last year's Zika epidemic & political instability have hurt the city's image.
- Brazil Approves 20-yr Spending Freeze
  - Brazil's Senate approved a 20-year govt spending freeze billed as the centerpiece of austerity reforms aimed at restoring economic health of the country.
  - o The upper house voted 53 to 16 to lock in the spending ceiling.
  - President Michel Temer said tough measures are needed to get Brazil's finances back under control.
  - o The vote means that the spending cap is now mandated by the constitution.
- Guterres Sworn in as New UN Chief
  - o Antonio Guterres was sworn in as the ninth secretary-general of the United Nations.
  - He was former Portuguese PM, takes over from Ban as the ninth United Nations chief on January 1.
  - o Ban's second five-year term ends on December 31.
  - Guterres laid out three priorities for change during his five-year term: work for peace, supporting sustainable development and improving internal management.
- Nooyi on Trump's Advisory Council
  - o Indra Nooyi, the India-born CEO of PepsiCo & Travis Kalanick, co-founder of taxi-hailing service Uber, have joined the President-elect's Trump business advisory council.
  - o Trump's business council is headed by Stephen Schwarzman, co-founder of global investment firm Blackstone.
  - o Trump's business council is packed with top honchos of America's biggest private companies.
- Cairo bombing: IS claims responsibility
  - o The Islamic State group claimed responsibility on Tuesday for a bomb attack on a Cairo church that killed 25 people.



















- IS identified the suicide bomber who carried out Sunday's attack by the pseudonym Abu Abdallah al-Masri in a statement circulated on social media on Tuesday.
- o The group said it would continue attacks against "every infidel and apostate in Egypt, and everywhere".
- Spain to shorten 11-hour working day
  - o Spain's 11-hour stretch working day could be abandoned as the government seeks to bring the country into line with the rest of Europe.
  - o The employment minister announced a push to let Spaniards knock off at 6pm, rather than the current 8pm.
  - o The government is also willing to consider improving work-life balance, reversing the Franco-era decision that put Spain in the wrong time zone.
- Cuba, EU, Sign Cooperation Pact
  - o Cuba and the EU signed a historic accord designed to strengthen ties.
  - o The accord will form the legal platform for future ties between Brussels and Havana.
  - o It also aims at supporting economic development, promoting democracy and human rights on the island.
  - The new pact must now be ratified by national and regional parliaments in all EU member states before it can enter completely into force.
- India offers tsunami alert:SCS countries
  - o India is looking to have South China Sea countries such as Vietnam, Malaysia and Philippines to use the tsunami early warning-system developed by it.
  - o After 2004 Tsunami, India has put in place its own tsunami-alert system.
  - Scientists at the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services have developed a technique that uses mathematical modelling to estimate an earthquake.
- UK heads for warmest Christmas Day ever
  - o UK will have the warmest Christmas Day ever after a spell of unseasonably mild weather.
  - o The previous peak is believed to have been 16C in Teignmouth, Devon, last year.
  - o Ladbrokes slashes odds of previous high being beaten by mild weather.
  - o Last year central England had the hottest December in 350 years.
- Brazil president accused of donation













- o Brazil's president, Michel Temer, is facing allegations that he solicited £2.3m (\$2.9m) in illegal campaign donations in 2014.
- o In a poll 63% of Brazilians said they wanted Temer to resign for new elections.
- Temer took over as president earlier this year after Rousseff was ousted in a controversial impeachment process.
- Wonder Woman loses job as UN ambassador
  - o Wonder Woman's tenure as a United Nations honorary ambassador will come to an abrupt end on Friday.
  - Less than two months after the appointment of the comic book character sparked outcries of protest.
  - o The superhero's appointment as UN honorary ambassador to fight for gender equality prompted angry criticism that the choice sent the wrong messages.
- Trial of Jakarta governor Ahok begins
  - o The blasphemy trial of Jakarta's Christian governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama has opened amid tight security and mobs of Islamic hardliners chanting for his arrest
  - Hundreds of protestors, some dressed in white Muslim garb, gathered outside the court.
  - o Ahok has caused intense anger in Indonesia over recent months after he referred to a verse in the Qur'an on the campaign trail in September.
- Paolo Gentiloni Named as Italy's New PM
  - Paolo Gentiloni has been named as Italy's new Prime Minister following reformist leader Matteo Renzi's resignation.
  - He served as the Foreign Minister under Renzi &was asked by President Sergio Mattarella to form a new centre-left government
  - o He is a loyalist from Mr Renzi's Democratic Party.
  - o He faces a banking crisis & a rise in popular support for anti-establishment and eurosceptic parties.
- EU, Mali Sign Deal to Return Migrants
  - The European Union signed an agreement with the Malian Govt with an objective of enabling the return of migrants who have reached Europe's shores.
  - o And whose asylum requests have been refused.
  - o The agreement seeks to address the root causes of illegal migration &to enable the return from Europe of Malian migrants.



















- The agreement came after a summit in the Maltese capital Valletta in Nov 2015.
- Pakistan Names New ISI chief
  - o Pakistan has named a new head of its powerful military Inter-Services Intelligence agency (ISI).
  - Lt. Gen Naveed Mukhtar was appointed as director-general of the ISI, replacing Lt. Gen Rizwan Akhtar.
  - o The head of the ISI occupies one of the most important posts in Pakistan.
  - The agency has long been accused of supporting Islamist militants targeting India.
- Bill English Sworn in as New Zealand PM
  - New Zealand, governing National Party has officially appointed Bill English to succeed John Key as PM.
  - o It follows Mr Key's surprise resignation last week.
  - Social housing Minister Paula Bennett has been named as Deputy Prime Minister.
  - The appointments were confirmed after a meeting of the National Party's caucus.
  - o Mr English is currently Finance Minister & Deputy Prime Minister.
- Romania Elects New Parliament
  - o Romanians vote in a parliamentary election that is likely to hand power back to the leftist Social Democrats (PSD).
  - o PSD is led by Liviu Dragnea.
  - The PSD campaigned on a promise to spend on welfare to address low living standards.
  - Opinion polls show leftists could garner 40 to 44% in the vote, followed by their center-right rivals National Liberal Party (PNL) with about 18 to 27 percent.
- Viola 1st Canadian Woman on Banknote
  - A black civil rights leader who led a struggle against anti-black segregation
     & racism in Canada in the 1940s will be the first Canadian woman to figure on a banknote.
  - o Viola Desmond will appear on the Canadian \$10 bill.
  - She will replace the nation's first prime minister John A Macdonald who will be moved to a higher bill - when new banknotes go into circulation in 2018.













- China Launches New Cargo Service
  - o China has launched a new cargo service connecting Tibet & Nepal.
  - o New rail and road cargo service launched with the objective to enhance trade.
  - o A train carrying products covered the 5,200-kilometer distance between Guangzhou, capital of Guangdong Province & Xigaze in Tibet.
  - o The trucks are responsible for the remaining 870 kilometer of the journey.
- Akufo-Addo Wins Presidential Election
  - o Ghana's main opposition leader Nana Akufo-Addo won the country's President national election, defeating President John Mahama.
  - o Akufo-Addo defeated President Mahama by 53.8 percent to 44.4 percent.
  - He served as foreign minister and attorney general in the NPP government that ruled between 2001 and 2009.
  - He twice previously lost close battles for the presidency.
- Canada Reach Carbon Agmt with Provinces
  - o The Canadian govt has agreed a deal with eight of the country's 10 provinces to introduce its first national carbon price.
  - o Under his plan, carbon pollution would cost C\$10 a tonne in 2018, rising by C\$10 a year until it reaches C\$50 in 2022.
  - o The provinces can either implement a carbon tax or a cap & trade market.
  - Canada announced it would phase out the use of coal-fired electricity by 2030.
- Vietnam Begins Dredging on SCS Reef
  - o Vietnam has begun dredging work on a disputed reef in the South China Sea.
  - Vietnam has emerged as China's main rival in the South China Sea, actively asserting sovereignty over both the Paracel and the Spratly groupings in their entirety.
  - o Taiwan also claims both, but its position is historically aligned with Beijing.
  - Vietnam has added about 120 acres of land to its South China Sea holdings.
- Park Impeached in Parliamentary Vote
  - o South Korean lawmakers voted overwhelmingly to impeach President Park Geun-hye.
  - Members of parliament voted by secret ballot with 234 in favor & 56 opposed.
  - Park's duties were immediately assumed by PM Hwang Kyo-ahn on an interim basis.















- She is accused of colluding with a friend, both of whom have been indicted by prosecutors.
- o The Constitutional Court must decide whether to uphold the motion
- India-Arab Partnership Conference
  - o The 5th India-Arab Partnership Conference will be in Muscat, Oman.
  - o The conference is jointly organised by the Oman Foreign Ministry, Arab League Secretariat and the Ministry of External Affairs in India.
  - o The most important part of the partnership conference is economic cooperation.
  - o The theme of the conference is 'Partnership towards innovation and cooperation in Information Technology'.
- EU Unveils 321-million-euro 'Space Egg'
  - o The EU unveiled its futuristic new €321 million headquarters in Brussels, saying it symbolised 'joy'.
  - A glass lantern-shaped structure inside a cube made of recycled window frames sourced from across the 28-nation bloc.
  - o The Europa building has been dubbed the "Space Egg".
  - o The European Council is due to hold its first full meetings in the new Europa building in January.
- Theresa May Wins Brexit Timetable Vote
  - o British PM Theresa May won a vote in Parliament backing her timetable for negotiating Britain's exit from the European Union.
  - o MPs voted in the House of Commons 461 to 89 in favour of May triggering Article 50 by the end of March 2017.
  - The Supreme Court in London continues to hear a case to establish the extent of British PM's power in launching into a Brexit without parliamentary approval
- EU Negotiator Sets Brexit Deal Deadline
  - European Union Chief negotiator on Brexit, Michel Barnier has said that Britain will have to secure an agreement on its departure from the EU by October 2018.
  - o Barnier announced the schedule of negotiations.
  - He said if British PM Theresa May notifies the EU of the country's departure by the end of March as scheduled, negotiations will need to be completed by October 2018.













- Shavkat Wins Uzbek Presidential Election
  - o Uzbekistan's Shavkat Mirziyoyev has won a crushing presidential election victory to succeed the late strongman Islam Karimov.
  - o The Central Election Commission said Mirziyoyev scooped 88.6 percent of the vote.
  - o Mirziyoyev was named as his prime minister in 2003.
  - o Uzbekistanis the Central Asia's most populous nation & is rich in natural resources & borders Afghanistan.
- Bernard Cazeneuve Named French PM
  - The French president, François Hollande, has named Bernard Cazeneuve to head the French govt as prime minister until a general election next May.
  - He was interior minister, replaced Manuel Valls, who resigned after announcing his bid to become France's next president.
  - o He was one of Hollande's most loyal lieutenants.
  - o He was generally unknown in France until named government spokesman in 2012.
- Israel Moves To Legalise Settlements
  - The Israeli parliament has given preliminary approval to a controversial bill that would legalise thousands of homes built in the occupied West Bank.
  - The bill's main backer called it the start of Israel's annexation of most of the territory.
  - o Critics of Israel and Palestinians have called it a land grab.
  - o The bill still needs to pass three readings in parliament to become law
- Russia, China Veto UN Resolution
  - o Russia & China have vetoed a draft resolution at the UN Security Council that called for a seven days ceasefire in Syria's embattled city of Aleppo.
  - Russia said the document infringed the council rule allowing countries 24 hours to consider the final wording.
  - o The US dismissed this as a made-up alibi, saying Russia wanted to preserve recent military gains by Syrian government troops in Aleppo.
- Final Adjeu to Fldel Castro
  - Cubans bid a tearful adieu to iconic communist leader Fidel Castro on Sunday as his ashes were entombed in a massive stone next to national heroes in Santiago de Cuba.



















- o President Raul Castro placed his brother's cedar urn inside the tall round monolith near the mausoleums of 19th century.
- o Castro had died on November 25 at age 90.
- o The burial marked the end of nine days of national mourning.
- Italy PM Resigns after Referendum Defeat
  - o Italian PM Matteo Renzi has resigned after suffering a heavy defeat in a referendum over his plan to reform the constitution.
  - o With most ballots counted, the No vote leads with 60% against 40% for Yes.
  - o The turnout was nearly 70%, in a vote that was seen as a chance to register discontent with the prime minister.
  - o PM Renzi was the only premier left in Europe with a vision for the EU's future.
- Austria's Norbert Hofer Concedes Defeat
  - o Austria's Norbert Hofer conceded defeat in his bid to become Europe's first far-right president.
  - o Projections showed he was lagging behind in a bitterly fought election re-run.
  - Greens-backed independent Alexander Van der Bellen swept 53.3% of the votes against 46.7% for his rival from the anti-immigration Freedom Party,FPOe.
  - o Hofer's likely defeat will see EU leaders breathe a sigh of relief.
- New Zealand PM Announces his Resignation
  - New Zealand Prime Minister John Key unexpectedly announced his resignation.
  - o He said it is the right time to leave politics.
  - o He had recently marked his eighth anniversary as prime minister and 10th year as leader of the centre-right National Party.
  - o He came into politics relatively late, entering parliament in 2002 and assuming leadership of the National Party four years later.
- Bilawal Bhutto to contest in 2018
  - Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairman Bilawal Bhutto Zardari has announced that he will contest elections from his mother's constituency Larkana in 2018.
  - o Bilawal, the son former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, has said that he will contest by-elections or general elections.
  - o Bilawal is the nominal chief of the PPP and his father Asif Ali Zardari wields real influence in the party.
- US pledges \$900mn to Pakistan













- The US House of Representative has passed a defence bill that pledges \$900 million in economic and other assistance to Pakistan.
- o A significant portion of this is dependent of a Pentagon certification that the country is taking demonstrable steps against the dreaded Haqqani Network.
- The US National Defence Authorisation Act for 2017 was passed in the House of Representatives yesterday.

## • Malaysian PM against Rohingya 'genocide'

- o Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak led a protest rally Sunday against what he called a "genocide" of Myanmar's Muslim Rohingya minority.
- He urged Asian neighbours and the UN to step up the pressure to stop the violence.
- o The plight of Rohingya in predominantly-Buddhist Myanmar has galvanized Muslims in Southeast Asia and beyond.
- Sartaj Aziz Meets Prez Ashraf Ghani
  - Pakistan Prime Minister's Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz today met Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.
  - o The meeting took place on the sidelines of the Heart of Asia conference.
  - o Both men discussed ways to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan.
  - The HoA launched in 2011 includes Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, India, Iran, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, CARs, Azerbaijan and UAE.

### • Italy decides PM's future via referendum

- o Italians vote on Sunday in a referendum on constitutional reform which will decide the political future of PM Matteo Renzi.
- o Financial markets and Europe's politicians fear victory for the opposition 'No' camp could trigger political instability.
- o This renewed turmoil can affect Italy's battered banks, pushing the euro zone towards a fresh crisis.
- Gambia's President election stuns nation
  - o Opposition candidate Adama Barrow hailed a "new Gambia" on Friday after he pulled off a stunning presidential election victory.
  - o His win put an end to the 22-year rule of Yahya Jammeh.
  - o Gambians took to the streets to celebrate the biggest upset in the west African nation since Jammeh seized power in a 1994 coup.
- UK backs India's bid for UNSC



















- British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson on Friday supported India's quest for permanent membership of the UN Security Council.
- o He called for its expansion to include India for a more "realistic" re-alignment of the world order.
- o Johnson also said as Britain leaves the European Union (EU), it would look to engage deeply with Asia.

### • Trump speaks with Taiwan's president

- o President-elect Donald Trump spoke Friday with the president of Taiwan, a move that will be sure to anger China.
- o It is highly unusual, perhaps unprecedented, for a US president or presidentelect to speak directly with a leader of Taiwan
- o Taiwan is a self-governing island with which the US broke diplomatic ties with in 1979.
- Iran appeals against violation of N-Deal
  - o U.S. Senate gave Congress' final approval to an extension of the American sanctions against Iran.
  - o Iran is threatening to retaliate after the U.S. Senate gave Congress' final approval.
  - o Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has said that he considered the sanctions bill a breach of the nuclear deal and threatened retaliation.
- Retd. General to lead Pentagon
  - Breaking once more from presidential custom, Donald Trump is turning to a military man to to lead the Pentagon.
  - U.S. military retired Gen. James Mattis will be the first career officer to do so since just after World War II.
  - o Mattis, 66, is a Marine Corps general who retired in 2013 after serving as commander of the U.S. Central Command.
- French Prez Hollande rules out 2017 run
  - o France's President Francois Hollande announced in a surprise televised address that he would not seek a second term in next year's presidential election.
  - o Announcement has come a few days after Hollande's No. 2, PM Manuel Valls expressed to compete in next month's Socialist primary.
  - o Hollande has made the decision acknowledging his unpopularity might and its cost to Socialist party the Elysee.
- Yoga in Unesco's cultural heritage list













- o Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage has inscribed yoga in UNESCO's Representative List.
- o The move is being seen as a diplomatic triumph for India.
- UNESCO has recognised yoga's role as a social practice, an oral tradition and a system of ancient and scientific knowledge.
- Clinton leads Trump in popular vote
  - US Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton's popular lead over President-elect
     Donald Trump surpassed 2.5 million votes as ballots are still being tallied.
  - o Clinton has won 48.1 per cent of the vote so far, while Trump's share of the vote so far is 46.4 per cent.
  - o Trump won the Election clinching crucial 270 Electoral College votes.
  - o He has 306 Electoral College votes to Clinton's 232.
- Saudi deserts receive sudden Snowfall
  - The deserts of Saudi Arabia were covered in layers of snow on Wednesday after temperatures dropped to as low as -3 degrees Celsius.
  - The region usually receives moderate rainfall until October, though the showers have continued to prevail.
  - As the country is known for its hot weather and desert safaris, people in Saudi are taking pleasure in this sudden weather change.
- Vajiralongkorn: New King of Thailand
  - Opening a new chapter for the powerful monarchyCrown Prince Maha
     Vajiralongkorn was proclaimed king of Thailand on Thursday.
  - o Vajiralongkorn, 64, who inherits one of the world's richest monarchies as well as a politically troubled nation.
  - o He becomes Rama X of Thailand's Chakri dynasty, but will not formally be crowned until after his father's cremation, next year.
- UN slaps new sanctions on North Korea
  - o The UN Security Council has imposed new sanctions on North Korea aimed at cutting the Asian country's annual export revenue by a quarter.
  - The move came in in response to Pyongyang's fifth and largest nuclear test in September.
  - The US-drafted resolution also bans North Korean copper, nickel, silver and zinc exports - and the sale of statues.
- Castro takes final voyage across Cuba



















- o A military jeep carried the ashes of Fidel Castro along streets lined with hundreds of thousands of flag-waving Cubans in Havana.
- o After two days of tributes to the late communist icon in Cuba's capital, the "caravan of freedom" departed on a 950-kilometer journey.
- o Cubans were observing the fifth of nine days of mourning for Castro following his death on Friday at age 90
- Dutch MPs Approve Ban On Burga Wearing
  - Dutch MPs on Tuesday voted by a large majority to approve a ban on wearing the full-face burga.
  - o The ban will apply in some public places such as schools and hospitals.
  - o Those flouting the ban would face a fine of up to around \$430.
  - o The motion was approved by a majority of 132 out of the 150-seat house including Prime Minister Mark Rutte's ruling Liberal-Labour coalition.
- Saudi Prince on Women Drivers
  - o A billionaire Saudi prince has taken a striking stance against one of his country's long-held codes: prohibiting women to drive.
  - o The opinion was stated by Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, a member of the Saudi royal family.
  - Saudi Arabia is the only control in the world where women are not allowed to drive.
- US Spokesperson on demonetisation
  - United State Department Deputy Spokesperson Mark Toner has praised the demonetisation move taken by Indian govt.
  - o He said that the action to demonetise high value currency was "an important and necessary step" to crack down on "corruption and tax dodging,"
  - o However, Mr Toner did acknowledge that "it was an inconvenience" for Americans in India requiring "a little bit of adjustment".
- US election: Recount in Wisconsin
  - o The first candidate-driven statewide recount of a presidential election in 16 years has begun in Wisconsin.
  - o Donald Trump won by less than a percentage point over Hillary Clinton.
  - o Clinton lost to Trump by about 22,000 votes in Wisconsin.
  - o The recount was requested by Green Party candidate Jill Stein.

## National Affairs













- Anil Baijal Takes Oath as Delhi Lt.Gov
  - o Anil Baijal took oath as new Lieutenant Governor of Delh.
  - o Earlier, President Pranab Mukherjee approved his appointment.
  - Mr. Baijal, a 1969 batch IAS officer, had served as Union Home Secretary under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government besides holding key positions in other ministries.
  - o His appointment came after the sudden resignation of Najeeb Jung from the post.
- Govt Issues 1.5 cr LPG Connections
  - The Govt has met the 1.5-crore target for LPG connections under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) in the 2016-17 financial year.
  - o This Target was achieved within a span of less than eight months since the launch of the scheme.
  - Since the launch of the PMUY, the LPG coverage across the country has increased to 70% as of December 1, 2016 from earlier 61% as of January 1, 2016.
- Akhilesh Yadav Expelled from SP
  - Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav has been expelled from the Samajwadi Party for six years by his father and party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav.
  - Mulayam also expelled Ram Gopal Yadav from the party on disciplinary grounds.
  - o The SP chief accused Ram Gopal of indulging in anti-party activities.
  - o He also accused Ram Gopal Yadav of hurting the interests of chief minister.
- PM Modi Launches 'BHIM' Mobile App
  - o PM Modi launched a mobile app Bharat Interface for Money, BHIM.
  - o The app will facilitate digital cash transactions with only a thumb print after the bank account is linked with Aadhaar gateway.
  - o Payments through the new system can be made by just a thumb impression.
  - o The new indigenously developed payment app BHIM has been named after the main architect of Indian constitution, Dr B R Ambedkar.
- Nuke Club May Allow India's Membership
  - A new draft proposal circulated among Nuclear Suppliers Group member states could pave the way for India to become a member of the elite club.



















- o The American push for India to become a full-fledged member of the NSG would now have to be pursued by the incoming Trump Administration.
- India's NSG membership is an unfinished agenda of the India-US relationship of the outgoing US President
- PM to launch Swasth Sarvatra initiative
  - Swachh Swasth Sarvatra initiative, aimed at strengthening health centres in open defecation-free blocks, will be launched by the Union Health Ministry.
  - The objective is to strengthen community health centres in 708 open defecation-free blocks across the country to achieve higher levels of cleanliness.
  - o Under it, 10 lakh rupees of assistance will be given to the community health centres.
- First transgender principal resigns
  - o India's first transgender college principal Manabi Bandopadhyay has resigned after about one-and-a-half years in office
  - Manabi alleged that she started facing non-cooperation from a section of teachers soon after she took over as the principal of the well-known women's college
  - Manabi, whose earlier name was Somnath, underwent a series of operations in 2003-2004 and became a woman.
- SP Vaid is new J&K police chief
  - SP Vaid has been appointed as the new director general of J&K police in place of K Rajendra Kumar, whose extended tenure comes to an end on December 31.
  - Vaid, 57, is currently the special director general (Law and Order), will be in office till October 2019.
  - o He played a major role in controlling the unrest in the Kashmir Valley following the killing of militant commander Burhan Wani.
- Pema Khandu suspended from PPA
  - o Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu was temporarily suspended from People's Party of Arunachal.
  - o Khandu and others were suspended with immediate effect.
  - o He is also barred from exercising his power as LPL.
  - PPA, a regional political player in Arunachal, had played a crucial role in ousting the Congress government in the state earlier in 2016.













- Khattar Inaugurates DIATC at Gurugram
  - Haryana CM Manohar Lal inaugurated country's first Digital Investigation, Training & Analysis Centre (DIATC) at Gurugram.
  - It would enhance technological capabilities of the police in solving cybercrime cases.
  - o It is first of its kind, has been set up in collaboration with National Technical Research Organisation.
  - o The Centre has Cyber Forensic Laboratory & has Social Media Monitoring Lab.
- Panel Reconstituted for AIIMS Top Job
  - The search-cum-selection committee, tasked with shortlisting names for the AIIMS director's post, has been reconstituted following orders from the PM's Office.
  - o It would be headed by the Health Secretary instead of the Union Health Minister.
  - o The new five-member panel will be led by Health Secretary C K Mishra as the chairman
  - o The PMO last week had ordered reconstitution of the search panel.
- Cabinet Approves ISA Framework Agreement
  - Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy's proposal for ratification of International Solar Alliance, ISA's Framework Agreement by India.
  - o ISA was launched jointly by PM Modi & French President Francois Hollande in November last year.
  - o ISA will strive to bring together more than 121 nations for coordinated research, low cost financing & rapid deployment.
- Anil Baijal to be Next Delhi L-G
  - o The President has formally appointed former Union home secretary Anil Baijal as the Lt Governor of Delhi.
  - o The post had fallen vacant after the sudden resignation of Najeeb Jung.
  - Baijal had served as Union home secretary under the Atal Bihari Vajpayee government besides holding key positions in other ministries.
  - o He is a former vice chairman of Delhi Development Authority.
- Gujarat Announces Biotechnology Policy
  - o Gujarat government has ntroduced the Biotechnology Policy-2016.



















- It aims to establish Gujarat as a preferred destination for manufacturing of biotechnology products.
- o Under this policy, state govt would provide capital subsidy up to Rs 25 crore on the total investment for developing a Biotechnology (BT) Park.
- The developer of such park will be eligible for 100% reimbursement of stamp duty
- CCEA Approves Road Connectivity Project
  - Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs has approved centrally sponsored road connectivity project for Left Wing Extremism,LWE affected areas to improve rural road connectivity.
  - The project aims to provide connectivity in 44 worst left wing affected districts.
  - o It will be implemented under Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana.
  - o It is critical from security & communication point of view.
- PM Lays Foundation Stone of Highway
  - o PM Modi laid the foundation stone of Char Dham highway development project in Dehradun.
  - o The Project will benefit people visiting holy shrines in Uttarakhand.
  - o The project will allow uninterrupted access for pilgrims to the four Himalayan shrines of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.
  - o Mr. Modi also visited exhibition during the launch of Char Dham highway development project.
- FCRA Licences of 20,000 NGOs Cancelled
  - o Licences of around 20,000 of 33,000 NGOs have been cancelled by the govt.
  - o Licences were cancelled after they were found to be allegedly violating various provisions of the FCRA, thus barring them from receiving foreign funds.
  - o After cancellation of FCRA licences only 13,000 NGOs are legally valid now.
  - The exercise of reviewing the working of the NGOs was started about a year ago.
- Odisha Launch Malaria Control Programme
  - o The Odisha govt has decided to launch a new malaria control programme, Durgama Anchalare Malaria Nirakaran (DAMAN).
  - o It aims to control malaria in inaccessible areas.
  - o The programme will be implemented in 8000 villages of all 79 blocks of eight high malaria endemic districts.













- o These districts contributed around 60% cases and 56% death to the state malaria burden in 2015 16.
- Centre Releases Stamp on Freedom Fighter
  - Department of Posts has brought out a Special Cover on freedom fighter Shri
     Gaya Prasad Katiyar.
  - o It also launched a set of 8 Commemorative Postage Stamps on "Personalities Series: Bihar" & a stamp on Hardayal Municipal Heritage Public Library.
  - o The personalities are Sachchidananda Sinha, Karpoori Thakur, Dashrath Manjhi, Vidyapati , Kailashpati , Kunwar Singh, Phanishwar Nath & Sri Krishna Sinha.
- Sagarmala Development Co. Office Opened
  - o Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari inaugurated Sagarmala Development Company's (SDC) office in New Delhi.
  - o The SDC has been incorporated under the Companies Act, 2013.
  - o The Union Cabinet in July 2016 had approved formation of the SDC under the administrative control of the Union Ministry of Shipping.
  - o The main objective SDC is to identify port-led development projects.
- First Digi Dhan Mela Held in Gurugram
  - The first Digi Dhan mela in the country was organised on Monday in Gurugram.
  - The fair also educated the people on how to use mobile phones or AADHAR for making payments online.
  - o There were also counters for making Aadhar cards. 15000 winners of the Lucky Grahak Yojana daily reward were also drawn.
  - This was the first such fair in the country since demonetisation for educating masses.
- Govt to develop ferry services
  - The Centre will ink a deal with Infrastructure Architecture Lab of Massachusetts Institute of Technology for developing ferry services at 18 locations across six cities.
  - o All the cities, Allahabad, Varanasi, Patna, Munghyr, Kolkata and Haldia are located on National Waterways-1.
  - o The 1620 km long waterway runs from Haldia in Sagar to Allahabad across three rivers Ganga, Bhagirathi & Hooghly
- Yoga not a sport, says Sports Ministry















- After 14 months of being constituted as a sport, Yoga has been derecognised as a sport by the Sports Ministry.
- Yoga was recognised as a sport in September in 2015 and had the stamp of approval coming from the Prime Minister's Office.
- o The order says the decision to derecognise Yoga came about because yoga has various dimensions/arms in which competitions are not possible.
- Pakistan releases 220 Indian fishermen
  - o Pakistan released the 220 fishermen who were arrested for entering Pakistan's territorial waters illegally.
  - o The goodwill gesture comes amid strain in ties between the two countries after Pakistan-based terrorists attacked an Indian army base in Uri.
  - o The fishermen boarded a train to Lahore, from where they will be handed over to Indian authorities at the Wagah border.
- Kuchipudi Dancers Put A.P. in Guinness
  - o Andhra classical dance Kuchipudi found a place in the Guinness Records when a record 6,117 dancers came together to present a show in Vijaywada.
  - o Guinness adjudicator Rishinath declared that "Jayamu Jayamu" item presented in unison by the participants created a new record.
  - The grand group dance, "Maha Brunda Natyam" was organised as part of the
     5th International Kuchipudi Dance Convention.
- Santosh Kumar New IMA Commandant
  - Lt General Santosh Kumar Upadhya has been appointed as the new commandant of prestigious Indian Military Academy (IMA).
  - o A decorated soldier,Lt General S K Upadhya is an alumni of National Defence Academy (NDA) and IMA.
  - o In 1981, he was commissioned to the 13th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles.
  - o He is a recipient of Sena Medal , Vishisht Seva Medal & Chief of Army Staff Commendation Card.
- Assam CM Launches Atal Amrit Abhiyan
  - o Assam CM Sarbananda Sonowal launched the Atal Amrit Abhiyan in Guwahati.
  - o It is a health assurance scheme which will give comprehensive coverage for six disease groups.
  - A total of 437 diseases will be covered under this scheme divided into six disease groups.













- This scheme will cover all individuals in eligible families with annual income below 5 lakh rupees
- Google, Consumer Affairs Min Join Hands
  - Google India in collaboration with Ministry of Consumer Affairs announced a nationwide Digitally Safe Consumer campaign.
  - o It is part of a larger effort to help better protect consumer interest online.
  - It will focused on building capacities of consumer organisations, personnel of consumer affairs department& counsellors of National Consumer Helpline on Internet safety & related issues.
- Odisha Launches Biju Sishu Surakshya
  - o The Odisha Government launched the Biju Sishu Surakshya Yojana.
  - o It is a scheme to nurture the orphan and HIV-infected children residing in different child care institutions and orphanages.
  - o The main aim of the scheme is to facilitate care and protection towards orphans and HIV infected children of the state.
  - o It will act and supplement for providing additional resources.
- PM Lays Foundation Stone of Pune Metro
  - o PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of Pune Metro project's Phase-I.
  - The project will be set up at a cost of Rs 11,420 crore under the aegis of Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MAHA-METRO).
  - o PM Modi said the government is actively working on the Rurban Mission, which caters to the places that are urbanising quickly.
- PM Perform Jal Pujan of Shivaji Memorial
  - PM Modi performed Jal Pujan for the Rs 3,600crore Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Memorial in the Arabian Sea, 4 kms off Mumbai's Marine Drive.
  - o It is going to be the tallest such structure in the world.
  - o Modi immersed a 'kalash' (vase) containing river waters and soil collected from all districts in Maharashtra.
  - PMr hailed the contribution of Chattrapati Shivaji Maharaj to the history of India.
- MEA Updates Passport Norms-1
  - o The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) has announced new passport rules in order to streamline, liberalize & ease the process of issue of passport.



















- Minister of State for External Affairs, Gen V K Singh, said birth certificate is no longer mandatory for getting passport.
- He said date of birth on documents such as PAN card, driving license, Aadhar,
   Matriculation Certificate will also suffice.
- MEA Updates Passport Norms-2
  - o The online passport application form now requires the applicant to provide the name of only one parent and not both.
  - o The application form does not require the applicants to provide the name of their spouse in case of separated or divorced persons.
  - o Sadhus and Sanyasis can now mention names of their spiritual gurus instead of biological parents under the new passport rules.
- Piyush Goyal Launches Coal Mitra Portal
  - Power Minister Piyush Goyal has launched 'Coal Mitra' Web Portal to facilitate Flexibility in Utilization of Domestic Coal.
  - With this Government has also allowed Coal Swapping between PSUs & the Private Sector.
  - This move is aimed at optimum utilisation by private as well as public power companies of the coal.
  - o The portal will enhance transparency in coal swapping.
- MEA Launches Twitter Seva
  - o External Affairs Ministry deployed Twitter India's live customer service resolution solution, Twitter Seva.
  - o It will help Indians here and abroad, tourists and business travellers with speedy resolution to their visa and passport queries.
  - o It will be supported by 198 twitter accounts of Missions & High Commissions.
  - o Under the service, authorities concerned will be assigned to resolve problems.
- NITI Aayog Rolls Out Health Index
  - o The NITI Aayog along with Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has rolled out Performance on Health Outcomes index to rank States on the basis of their performance on measurable health indicators.
  - The index was developed with inputs from domestic & international experts, as well as feedback from States. All data will have to be uploaded on web by September 2017.
- Naidu Launches Google Map Toilet Locator













- Information and Broadcasting Minister Venkaiah Naidu launched google map toilet locator
- o It will help people find access to clean public restrooms.
- The feature, designed by Google, will make information available about thousands of public toilets throughout two locations now -- Delhi NCR & Madhya Pradesh.
- o It is an attempt at providing access to a toilet facility every 500 meters in cities.
- PM Lays Foundation Stone for Hospital
  - Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of Madan Mohan Malviya
     Cancer Center at Banaras Hindu University, Uttar Pradesh.
  - o The dedicated cancer centre will be built at a cost of about 500 crore rupees.
  - Modi also laid the foundation of super specialty block of Institute of Medical Science of BHU.
  - lo He also inaugurated the new Trade Facilitation Centre and Crafts Museum.
- Govt Launches 'GARV-II' App
  - o Minister of State for Power, Coal, New & Renewal Energy Piyush Goyal launched the 'GARV-II' App.
  - o The new version GARV-II unveiled is providing real time data for all six lakh villages in the country.
  - The purpose is to ensure transparency in implementation of rural electrification programme.
  - o It would enable the commoners can give their input about rural electrification programme.
- Najeeb Jung Resigns as Delhi L-G
  - Najeeb Jung resigned as the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi with 18 months left in his tenure.
  - o He has submitted his resignation to the government of India.
  - o He was also the Vice-Chancellor of the Jamia Milia Islamia University from 2009 to 2013.
  - He became the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi on July 9, 2013, replacing Tejendra Khanna.
  - o He is an IAS officer from the Madhya Pradesh cadre.
- Uttarakhand Inks Pact With DMRC



















- o The Uttarakhand government has inked a pact with the Delhi Metro Rail Corporation for introducing metro rail in the state.
- o The MoU for preparing the detailed project report for the Haridwar-Rishikesh-Dehradun Metro rail project was signed.
- It was signed between the state Urban Housing Development Authority (UUHDA) & DMRC.
- o An initial amount of Rs 2.10 crores has been sanctioned.
- India boycotts Pakistan again
  - o India, along with Bangladesh and Iran, has pulled out of a key regional conference on sustainable development which is being held in Pakistan.
  - The three-day session of the Governing Council of the Asian and Pacific
     Centre for Transfer of Technology (APCTT) started in Islamabad on Monday.
  - India had earlier in November boycotted the SAARC Summit that was to be held in Islamabad.
- CBSE brings Class X board exams back
  - o The CBSE has approved a proposal to reintroduce compulsory Class X board examination from the 2017-18 academic year.
  - Also, apart from English and Hindi, students may also have to study another Indian language, according to reports.
  - The decision was taken during a meeting of the CBSE governing body and the first exam will be conducted in 2018.
- Poll panel lists 200 parties on paper
  - The Election Commission of India (EC) will soon write to the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) informing it about its decision to delist 200-odd political parties.
  - o These political parties, EC officials suspect, could be nothing but moneylaundering operations.
  - Most of these parties have not contested any election since 2005 and exist mostly on paper.
- IIT KGP students on hunger strike
  - o The students of IIT Kharagpur are sitting on a hunger strike against the institution's decision to hike the registration fee.
  - The students said that they would continue with the protest if their grievances are not addressed.













- Earlier in April, 2016 the students protested against the HRD Ministry's decision to hike the fee structure almost two fold.
- India and Kyrgyzstan Sign 6 Agreements
  - India & Kyrgyzstan have signed six MoU including in the fields of tourism,agriculture & food industry,youth development,broadcasting & exchange of audio-visual programmes.
  - o The agreements were inked after delegation level talks between President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev & PM Modi in New Delhi.
  - The two leaders also reviewed cooperative engagement in the field of defence.
- Justice J S Khehar Appointed Next CJI
  - Justice J S Khehar was appointed as the new Chief Justice of India after President Mukherjee's approval.
  - o Justice Khehar, the country's first CJI from the Sikh community, will take over on Jan 4, a day after incumbent CJI TS Thakur retires.
  - This appointment follows the tradition of the CJI being succeeded by the senior-most judge.
  - o He will have a short tenure of a little over seven months.
- Swasthya Raksha Programme Launched
  - o The Union AYUSH Ministry has launched 'Swasthya Raksha Programme' to promote health and health education in villages.
  - Aims is organize Swasthya Parikshan Camps, Swasthya Rakshan OPDs and Health and Hygiene awareness programme.
  - Create awareness about cleanliness of domestic surroundings and environment.
  - o Provide medical aid and incidental support in the adopted villages and colonies.
- PM Launches Skill Development Projects
  - PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the country's first ever Indian Institute of Skills in Kanpur.
  - The Institute has been conceptualized by Mr. Modi during his visit to Singapore's Institute of Technical Education.
  - o The institute is opened by the Skill Development Ministry in partnership with the Institute of Technical Education, Singapore.
  - o PM also inaugurated the Kaushal Pradarshani.



















- Kyrgyz President Arrives in New Delhi
  - President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev arrived in New Delhi on a four day state visit to India.
  - President Atambayev is leading a high-level delegation comprising ministers, senior officials and business leaders.
  - o This is his first visit to India as President.
  - o The trade between the two countries was 27.99 million dollars during the last fiscal.
- Goel Inaugurates Conference on Youth
  - o Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports, Vijay Goel inaugurated the Conference on Youth Development in Delhi.
  - Mr. Goel emphasized on the efficiency of youth & how it can be utilised for the development of the country.
  - o It was organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports & National Yuva Kendra Sangathan.
  - Suggestions from delegates from various sectors were invited during the deliberations.
- India-Tajikistan Ink Four Agreements
  - India & Tajikistan signed 4 agreements in areas including double taxation, money laundering & terrorism.
  - o The two sides also inked pacts on broadcasting of audio visual programmes.
  - o The MoU's were signed following talks between PM Modi & visiting Tajik President Emomali Rahmon.
  - o Both the countries also agreed to increase the scope and scale of economic engagement.
- Himachal Attain 100% Aadhaar Saturation
  - o The Himachal Pradesh has achieved 100 percent Aadhar saturation on the basis of population of year 2015.
  - o With this, Himachal Pradesh has become the sixth State/UT in the Country.
  - o Earlier, Delhi, Telangana, Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh have achieved this milestone.
  - o In Himachal Pradesh, Aadhaar numbers have been generated for 72, 52,880 residents.
- 6th BRICS Health Ministers' Meet













- The BRICS countries met in New Delhi on 16 December 2016 at the Sixth BRICS Health Ministers Meeting.
- o They committed to strengthen intra-BRICS cooperation to promote health, acknowledged the renewed commitment to health.
- They also welcomed the recommendations made in the BRICS workshop on drugs and medical devices in Goa, India in November 2016.
- Birth Centenary of Deendayal Upadhyaya
  - o Committees have been constituted for commemoration of Birth centenary of Pt. Deendayal Upadhyaya & 350th Birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.
  - o It has been decided to commemorate 200th Birth Anniversary of Satguru Ram Singh in a befitting manner.
  - Satguru Ram Singh was a great leader of Kuka Movement and Namdhari Sikh
     Sect, a Spiritual Teacher, Social Reformer and a prominent Freedom fighter
- Punjab to give free LPG to BPL families
  - The Punjab Cabinet appred free LPG connections to those BPL families, who were missed in the 2011 Socio Economic Caste Census on the lines of Pradhan Mantri Ujwala Yojana.
  - This decision was taken at a Cabinet meeting chaired by CM Parkash Singh Badal at the Chief Minister's Office.
  - o It was informed that the State Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs department has an E-PDS portal.
- Gujarat's stringent proposal on Liquor
  - o The Guj govt has cleared a new law regarding alcohol. The law passed during a Cabinet meeting proposed imprisonment upto 10 yrs for those involved in the sale and purchase of liquor besides a maximum fine up to Rs 5 lakh.
  - o To deter govt officials from helping those involved in violation of the Act, the ordinance proposed a max of 7 year imprisonment to such staffers & of Rs 1 lakh fine.

## • Muslims in IAF can't keep beard

- o Emphasising the need to "maintain discipline" in Indian Air Force, the Supreme Court ruled that Muslim personnel cannot keep beards by citing religious grounds.
- o The bench, comprising Justices D Y Chandrachud & L Nageswara Rao, said there was nothing to show that Islam prohibit cutting hair or shaving the face, like Sikhs.



















- o Regulations do not interfere with religious rights of individuals.
- Interpol to stop child pornography
  - Modi government has roped in Interpol in a bid to crack down on sexual abuse and pornography of children amid a surge in photographs and videos on the internet showing kids being sexually exploited.
  - Advent of digital cameras and camcorders have fueled an explosion in such material online.
  - Interpol is a source of getting access to lists of websites containing child sexual abuse.
- Efforts to make Hindi official language
  - o Efforts are on to make Hindi one of the official languages of the United Nations and popularise the language the world over.
  - o The government continues its efforts in popularising Hindi worldwide and for the acceptance of Hindi as one of the UN official languages.
  - o In this regard, one significant achievement has been the UN broadcasting its programmes on the UN Radio website in Hindi language.
- SC orders panel on NE people's safety
  - o The Supreme Court has passed a slew of directions, including setting up of a three-member panel headed by a Joint Secretary-level officer to end violence against people from NE India.
  - o The court also directed the government that the effective monitoring mechanism suggested by the M P Bezbaruah Committee in its report should be implemented.
  - o The Bench was headed by TS Thakur
- Arnab Goswami announces new venture
  - o Exactly a month after his last show on Times Now, senior journalist Arnab Goswami has announced that his new venture would be called Republic.
  - o Goswami had resigned from Times Now on November 1.
  - o Rahul Shivshankar has since taken over as Editor In Chief of the news channel.
- New income disclosure scheme
  - o The govt has launched a new scheme for people with unaccounted wealth to come clean or face action.
  - Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana will start on Dec 17 and will end on Mar
     31.













- o Those who declare cash deposits will be levied a charge of 50%, which breaks down into 30% tax, 33% surcharge and 10% penalty.
- o In addition to this, 25% of the amount will go into the scheme for 4 years.
- UGC asks colleges to go cashless
  - The University Grants Commission issued a circular asking educational institutes to move away from cash-based transactions and adopt online payment modes.
  - o They are looking at ways to make other transactions such as canteen payments, parking fee and journal fee online.
  - o The University of Mumbai has forwarded the circular to all its affiliated colleges to follow the apex body's guidelines.
- SC Court Bans Liquor Shops on Highways
  - o The Supreme Court has banned all liquor shops within 500 metres of national and state highways across the country,
  - o A move aimed at reducing drink driving and road accidents.
  - A three-judge bench headed by Chief Justice TS Thakur ordered removal of all signboards of alcohol vends along highways.
  - o The order came on petitions challenging high court verdicts.
- Vasundhara Launches Annapurna Rasois
  - o Rajasthan CM Vasundhara Raje has launched a subsidised meal scheme in the state.
  - o The tagline for the scheme, named Annapurna Rasoi Yojana, is: "Sabke liye bhojan, sabke liye sammaan.
  - o The CM launched the scheme by feeding a morsel to a Dalit and a Gurjar woman.
  - o The scheme aims to benefit labourers, rickshaw pullers, auto-rickshaw drivers, students, working women, senior citizens & others.
- NITI Aayog Announces Launch of Schemes
  - o NITI Aayog has the launch of two schemes, Lucky Grahak Yojna & Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojna.
  - o Lucky Grahak Yojana :This scheme is for the consumers who will conduct daily transaction using electronic medium.
  - o Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana:This scheme is applicable for those merchants who make digital transaction at merchant establishments.
  - o These schemes aim to promote digital payments post demonetization.

















- India-Indonesia Sign 3 Key Agreements
  - o India & Indonesia have signed three agreements in fields of sports, stopping illegal fishing and standardization.
  - The agreements were signed during the visit of Indonesia President Joko Widodo to India.
  - o Both the countries have agreed to cooperate in maritime security.
  - The visit of Indonesian President is the first since former President Susilo
     Bambang Yudhoyono's trip to India in 2011.
- India Approves MoU with Kyrgyzstan
  - o The govt has approved a MoU between India & Kyrgyzstan on cooperation in field of agriculture and food related industry.
  - o The proposed agreement covers various activities in the field of agriculture and allied sector
  - The proposed agreement will come into force on the date of its signing and would be for a period of 5 years & provides for setting up of a Joint Working Group from both countries
- Projects began under Swadesh Darshan
  - Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Tourism & Culture laid the foundation stone of 6 development projects under Spiritual Circuit of Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism in Baghpat, UP.
  - Projects include: Trilokteerth Dham & Maa Manasa Devi Mandir in Badagaon;
     Pura Mahadev Mandir & Parashuram Bhagwan Mandir in Pura; Laakshagrah
     & Shri Chandraprabhu Digambar Jain Mandir in Barnawa
- Gujarat tops in LED bulb distribution
  - o Gujarat tops the list followed by Maharashtra in LED bulb distribution.
  - o Gujarat has distributed 2.70 crore LED bulbs till December 12 this year from the date of its launch, earlier this year.
  - o On the other hand, Maharashtra came second with distribution of 2,00,99,730 LED bulbs so far.
- Courtys largest indoor sports arena
  - Kolkata will soon have one of the largest indoor sports arenas of the country with a capacity to accommodate upto 15,400 people.
  - With this capacity, the arena, which is proposed to come up in the New Town area, will be larger than Indira Gandhi Arena or Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.













- o Till now Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium has the largest capacity to accommodate 14,348 spectators.
- Punjab launched first amphibious bus
  - Punjab Deputy Chief Minister Sukhbir Singh Badal launched the first amphibious bus.
  - o He announced that an amphibious bus ride will be also launched in Bathinda.
  - Booking can be done from tourism department offices at Harike Pattan
     & Amritsar or online.
  - The double-decker bus will take tourists to 16 spots throughout the city and with a single ticket they can use the service for the entire day.
- Indus: WB asks for Alternate Approach
  - In a significant development, the World Bank has paused the separate processes initiated by India and Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty to allow the two countries to consider alternative ways to resolve their disagreements.
  - The pause was announced by Mr Kim in letters to the finance ministers of India and Pakistan.
  - o It was also emphasised that the WB was acting to safeguard the Treaty.
- Organ donation Air force initiative
  - o The Armed Forces initiated organ donation as it gives second life to reciever.
  - Air force said we have required technology but the limiting factor in successful organ transplantation program has been the acute shortage of available organs for transplantation.
  - o Indian Air Force while taking the lead iconducted a seminar to increase awareness and promote organ donation among the population.
- Steps Taken To Promote Khadi Sector
  - o KVIC has applied to register "Khadi" as a word mark and "Khadi India" as a Trade mark in the Intellectual Property Rights Act.
  - o An online application has also been filed for registering "Khadi" as a trade mark under International bureau in European Union and other countries.
  - o KVIC has started e-commerce platform and franchisee system for online marketing of Khadi products.
- MSME Hub for SC/ST
  - o The ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises has launched the National Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Hub.



















- o The SC/ST Hub would provide professional support to SC/ST entrepreneurs to fulfill the obligations under the Public Procurement Policy for MSME.
- The functions of the Hub include collection, collation and dissemination of information regarding SC/ST enterprises & entrepreneurs.
- Resource Centre for Tribal Livelihood
  - Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with UNDP & National
     Scheduled Tribes Finance & Development Corporation will launch "Vanjeevan"
     the National Resource Centre for Tribal Livelihood at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.
  - o NRC website and e-knowledge platform will also be unveiled.
  - o This will be followed by a workshop on Skill development and entrepreneurship landscape in tribal areas.
- Air quality in Varanasi 'most toxic'
  - o Air quality in the Indian holy city of Varanasi is "the most toxic in the country" according to research.
  - o It also reveals the extent of the pollution crisis across northern India.
  - o It highlights the extent of the problem across the north India, where levels of harmful airborne particles are routinely higher than in the capital.
  - o Air quality in Delhi fell to its lowest levels in 17 years.
- Cyclone Vardah To Hit TN, Andhra Coast
  - Cyclonic storm 'Vardah' will make landfall between north Tamil Nadu & south Andhra Pradesh.
  - o Ahead of Cyclone Vardah's landfall, heavy rains pounded the entire north coastal Tamil Nadu & Nellore in southern Andhra Pradesh.
  - Vardah which means red rose has gained in speed and intensity on its journey across the Bay of Bengal.
  - o The army, navy, air force & coast guard have been put on standby.
- Punjab's Bathinda Gets New Airport
  - Union Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju inaugurated the newly-built civil air terminal at Bathinda airport and the flight for Delhi-Bathinda-Delhi sector.
  - o The first flight, operated by Air India Regional, landed at the airport.
  - o The flight was welcomed with fire engines spraying water on it.
  - o The inauguration of this airport has brought Bathinda on the world map.
- MP CM Launches Narmada Seva Yatra













- Madhya Pradesh chief minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched Narmada Seva Yatra at Amarkantak.
- o The five months long Yatra aims at turning the Narmada river pollution free and unceasing river.
- o The Narmada Sewa Yatra will create awareness about the conservation of the river.
- o It will cover more than 1900 kilometres in 16 districts.
- o Trees will be planted along the banks of the Narmada.
- Prez Launch 100 Million for 100 Million
  - President Mukherjee flagged off a '100 Million for 100 Million' Campaign organized by the Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation.
  - The Campaign is with the objective to mobilise 100 million youth & children for the upliftment of 100 million underprivileged children.
  - Mr Mukherjee expressed hope that the campaign will have a path-breaking impact on the lives of children across the globe.
- Kejriwal's Twitter Followers Cross 10 m
  - o Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal's following on Twitter crossed 10 million, further cementing his position as the second most followed Indian politician.
  - Kejriwal is second to PM Modi who has an overwhelming lead with around 25.4 million followers.
  - His social media following has increased over the recent past with him stepping up his engagement through the usage of features like Facebook Live.
- India 7th in the Global Terrorism Index
  - o India ranked 7th in the list of countries most impacted by terrorism in 2015, according to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI),2016.
  - o The index was released by the Institute for Economics & Peace, a Sydney-based think-tank.
  - o India is one of six Asian countries ranked in the top 10 nations most impacted by terrorism.
  - o India recorded 289 terrorism-related deaths in 2015, a 45% decline over 2014.
- SC Modifies National Anthem Order
  - The Supreme Court has modified its order on the National Anthem
     exempted physically handicapped persons from standing.



















- o It also clarified that doors of theatres need not be bolted when the National Anthem is played.
- o The order was passed by Justices Dipak Misra & Amitava Roy.
- The Centre will issue guidelines on how physically challenged persons should show respect to the National Anthem.
- **Prabhu Flag off K'shetra**-Mathura Express
  - o Union Railways Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off a special train, 'Gita Jayanti' train from Kurukshetra Railway Station.
  - o The is scheduled to run five days in week except Saturday and Sunday between Kurukshetra and Mathura.
  - Besides the ministers also announced to provide complete modern facilities for the Kurukshetra railway station such as and capsule lift, VIP lounge and lodging facility.
- Rajasthan High Court Strikes Down Quota
  - o The Rajasthan High Court has struck down Special Backward Classes reservation given to Gujjars & five other communities of the state.
  - o A division bench of justices M N Bhandari & J K Ranka held that the special reservation beyond the permissible limit of 50 per cent cannot be made.
  - On November 28, 2012, the Rajasthan Cabinet decided to provide a separate five per cent quota to the SBCs.
- CBI Arrests Former IAF Chief SP Tyagi
  - o Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) arrested the former head of the air force, retired air chief marshal S.P. Tyagi.
  - o He was arrested in an investigation into allegations of bribery.
  - o He has been at the centre of allegations of impropriety in the 560 millioneuro (\$590 million) deal to buy the helicopters from AgustaWestland.
  - o The deal was cancelled in 2014.
- India, Vietnam Sign N-pact
  - India & Vietnam have signed a civil nuclear cooperation agreement in presence of Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan and visiting President of Vietnam's National Assembly Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan.
  - The MoU on civil nuclear cooperation was signed by Sekhar Basu, Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy and Pham Cong Tac.
  - o Vietnam is the 14th country with which India signed the civil nuclear deal.
- Govt Launches Digidhan Campaign













- o Union IT Minister Ravishankar Prasad launched Digidhan Abhiyan.
- o It will enable every citizen, small traders & merchants to adopt digital payments in their everyday financial transactions.
- o During the Abhiyan, citizens will be informed about various modes of digital payments by educating them to download, install & transact digital payments.
- o The IT Minister has also lunched Digishala TV Channel.
- Triple Talag Unconstitutional:HC
  - The Allahabad high court has declared the practice of triple talaq unconstitutional.
  - o The High court said it violates the rights of Muslim women.
  - The practice under Muslim personal law permits men to divorce their wives by pronouncing the word 'talaq' thrice.
  - o The single judge bench of Justice Sunit Kumar said, in its judgement said that no personal law board was above the constitution.
- Parl. Panel Recommends Mann Suspension
  - The parliamentary panel probing the security breach by AAP's Sangrur
     MP has recommended suspension of Bhagwant Mann for the rest of the sittings of the winter session of the Parliament.
  - o The panel submitted its report to Parliament, which was tabled in the Lok Sabha.
  - o The nine-member panel is headed by BJP's Kirit Somaiya.
  - o The panel observed that the conduct of Mann was highly objectionable.
- Visakhapatnam Samta Express Renamed
  - o In a marketing initiative, the Visakhapatnam-Nizamuddin Samta Express train named as Vizag Steel Samta Express..
  - The Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited (RINL) has chosen the Samata Express to promote its brand Vizag Steel.
  - Vizag Steel is the brand name of the state-owned RINL with an annual capacity of 6.3 million tonnes.
  - o The train was flagged off at Nizamuddin station by Mr. Prabhu.
- Pune Metro Plan Gets Green Signal
  - o The much-delayed Pune Metro rail project finally got the green signal from the central government.
  - o The proposal was placed before the Cabinet, which apparently given its approval for the project.



















- o The Pune Metro project is scheduled to be completed in five years.
- o The project will be implemented by the Pune Metro Maharashtra Metro Rail Corporation Limited (MAHA-METRO).
- EC Gets Rs 1009 crore for New EVMs
  - The Election Commission's proposal to purchase new Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) has been approved by the Union Cabinet.
  - o It would costs over one thousand crore rupees.
  - o The approval was given to purchase 4 lakh 10 Thousand Ballot Units and 3 lakh 14 thousand Control Units during 2017-18.
  - o And over 4 lakh 35 thousand Ballot Units and over 71 thousand control units during 2018-19.
- Noted Journalist Cho Ramaswamy Dies
  - o Political satirist & founder editor of Thuglak magazine, Srinivasa Iyer Ramaswamy popularly known as Cho Ramaswamy passed away.
  - o He was an advisor to former Tamilnadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa.
  - He was fearless in criticising the ruling government in the state or at the centre.
  - o He has also directed several movies and was also a screen play writer.
- Chandrababu Launches AP Purse Mobile App
  - Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu launched AP Purse mobile app featuring 13 mobile banking & 10 mobile wallet options.
  - He said, people should choose mobile banking to overcome shortage of small currency.
  - o People can pay their bills using the app and carry out their cashless transactions.
  - o The State government introduced cashless transactions at fair price shops.
- Justice J.S. Khehar to be Next CJI
  - o Supreme Court judge Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar will be the next Chief Justice of India.
  - o His name has been recommended by Chief Justice of India TS Thakur.
  - o Justice Khehar will be the 44th Chief Justice of India and will take up office on January 4.
  - o He was appointed as a Supreme Court Judge in September 2011.
  - He has held office as the Chief Justice of Karnataka and Uttarakhand High Courts.













- Stanpan Suraksha App Launched
  - o The Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram launched 'Stanpan Suraksha' mobile application to promote breastfeeding.
  - o App will keep a tab on "inappropriate" promotion of baby food items.
  - o The mobile application has been developed by the Breastfeeding Promotion Network of India (BPNI).
  - Stanpan Suraksha is first-of-its-kind app developed for promoting breastfeeding.
- 7th World Ayurveda Congress held
  - o The 7th World Ayurveda Congress was held in Kolkata.
  - o It was organised by the World Ayurveda Foundation from Dec 2-4 with the support of the Union Ministry of AYUSH to facilitate development and growth of AYUSH system of medicine comprising Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.
  - o The focus theme of the Ayurveda Congress was "Strengthening the Ayurveda Ecosystem".
- Home Secretary Level Talk Begins
  - o Home Secretary level talks between India and Bangladesh began in New Delhi.
  - o Home Secretary Rajiv Mehrishi is leading the Indian delegation.
  - The Bangladeshi delegation is being led by Senior Secretary, Home Ministry, Dr. Mozammel Haque Khan.
  - Border and other bilateral issues will be discussed during the two-day meeting.
  - o The last such meeting was held in Nov last year at Dhaka in Bangladesh
- Amritsar Declaration Condemns Terror
  - o The 6th Heart of Asia Ministerial Conference ended after adopting the Amritsar Declaration.
  - o The declaration recognises terrorism as the biggest threat to peace.
  - o For the first time, Heart of Asia declaration expressed concern at the violence caused by terrorist groups.
  - The declaration said the countries encourage early finalisation of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism.
- India, Qatar agree on visas, investments
  - o India and Qatar on Saturday signed four agreements on visas, cyberspace and investments following delegation-level talks.



















- One agreement allows holders of diplomatic, special and official passports of the two countries visa-free travel between the two countries.
- Agreement in cyber space security was also signed between the MHA of India and the Ministry of Interior of Qatar.
- LS may witness debate on demonetisation
  - o The LS may witness a debate on Monday over the demonetisation issue under a rule which does not entail voting.
  - o The Speaker has admitted a motion in this regard.
  - o About 20 MPs, including 1 from a Left party, had given notice under Rule 193 seeking a debate on the notes ban.
  - o The issue of discussion under rule which entails voting has been paralysing the proceedings of LS since November 17.
- · Modi, Ghani to open Afghan peace meet
  - o PM Modi has reached Amritsar and is scheduled to meet Afghanistan Prez Ashraf Ghani for talks on bilateral issues.
  - o Ghani also arrived in Amritsar later in the evening for participation in the international endeavour for peace and stability in war-ravaged Afghanistan.
  - Modi and Ghani will jointly inaugurate the ministerial deliberations at the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process conference.
- India To Train Qatari Police for 2022 WC
  - o India will train Qatar's police for the FIFA World Cup 2022.
  - o This was agreed upon during a meeting between Qatari Prime Minister Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani and Home Minister Rajnath Singh
  - India thanked Qatar for their amnesty scheme of facilitating Indian workers with irregular visa status to return to India without visa or get their visa extended in Qatar.
- Centre to approach Pvt sector for health
  - o With an aim to bridge demand and supply of the healthcare system, the Union government is planning to approach the private sector.
  - o Home Minister Rajnath Singh speaking in AIIMS convocation focused on the ways to improve the quality of healthcare through various healthcare systems.
  - o HM stated that there are many health frontiers that still need to be conquered in the country such as malaria.
- Chitra Ramkrishna quits as NSE chief













- Chitra Ramkrishna, managing director (MD) and chief executive of the
   National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has stepped down from her post.
- o The move comes in the wake of the fact that country's largest bourse is set to go public.
- The board has set up a selection committee to find a replacement for Ramkrishna and has appointed group president J Ravichandran as interim CEO.
- SC asks Govt. To Notify Plan For Air
  - o The SC has asked the central government to notify the "graded response action plan" for different level of air pollution in the Delhi and NCR.
  - o Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) will install real time and manual pollution monitoring stations in Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.
  - o The court order came after a report submitted by the CPCB giving four categories of air pollution.
- Govt. Wants Aadhaar to Replace Cards
  - o The Unique Identification Authority of India has planned to increase biometric authentication capacity through Aadhaar to 40 crore a day from 10 crore.
  - o This is to encourage more use of the platform for realising a cashless society.
  - Through a mobile application, the handset will be used for authenticating biometrics of customers making Aadhaar enabled payment.
- Andhra CM gets Rs 2,420 cr for state
  - o Andhra CM yesterday had to make an SOS call to RBI governor Urjit Patel to ask for urgent cash.
  - o This happened because AP was "cashless" even to pay salaries to its employees and pensioners.
  - o RBI chief sent 2,420 crore by special chartered flights to Visakhapatnam and Tirupati on Friday.
  - 240 crore each was sent to severely hit districts and 160 crore each to other districts.
- Govt to SC: RBI advised demonetisation
  - The government told the Supreme Court on Thursday that the Reserve Bank of India board had recommended the move to demonetise Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 notes.
  - The government said RBI had the power to impose such restrictions on currency use.



















- o Under Section 24(1) of the RBI Act, the board could take such a decision and the govt. functioned only as a delegate of Parliament.
- Toll collection on NHs to resume tonight
  - o The collection of toll at all toll plazas on national highways across the country will resume from midnight.
  - o All toll plazas have been equipped with adequate number of swipe machines through which people can make payments using their credit or debit cards.
  - o The government is also encouraging people to buy FASTags introduced by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- India says no to talk with Pakistan
  - o India has made it clear that there will be no bilateral talks with Pakistan on the sidelines of Heart of Asia Summit.
  - o MEA spokesperson Vikas Swarup said that India is favour in talks but not in current situation.
  - Pakistan and India had held a meeting here at the last HoA ministerial conference and agreed to start 'Comprehensive Bilateral Dialogue'
- HC turns down plea of live-in couples
  - o The Allahabad High Court has turned down the plea of a live-in couple that they be provided protection.
  - The protection was sought on the ground that the woman in question happened to be married.
  - o The court stated that if one of the partners was married before, it amounted to an "adulterous" relationship between the live-in partners.
- Airport shops must to normal MRP
  - The consumer affairs department has said that there cannot be two maximum retail prices (MRPs) for the same packaged item within a state.
  - This means that not just bottled water, but all packaged items, including beverages, cannot be sold at two different MRPs in shops, multiplexes or airports.
  - o The department wants to carry out verification of net content of bread at manufacturing units.
- Jallikattu ban to end unnecessary pain
  - o The Supreme Court sought to know why the centre had negated its judgment on Jallikattu.













- o The question was posed by the Bench as the centre had come up with a notification allowing bulls to take part in the sport again.
- o The centre however assured the Supreme Court there would be no suffering for the bulls during the sport.
- Aadhaar mandatory for Class 10 and 12
  - Board of School Education Haryana (BSEH) has made it mandatory for students of Class 10 and 12 to have Aadhaar card.
  - o Aadhar is required for applying for the 2017 examination.
  - o The use of Aadhaar will prevent forgery of certificates and impersonation cases, and ensure that the candidates' details are complete and accurate
- Cabinet nods amendments in OBC list
  - o The Union Cabinet gave its approval to notify inclusion/amendments in the Central List of Other Backward Classes.
  - The change was notified in respect of states of Assam, Bihar, Himachal
     Pradesh, Jharkhand, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and
     Uttarakhand.
  - o The changes will enable the persons belonging to these castes/ communities to avail the benefits of reservation.
- Opposition asks President's Intervention
  - o Opposition has decided to approach President Pranab Mukherjee on the Income Tax Amendment Bill to seek his intervention.
  - A meeting of opposition parties was held in the chamber of Leader of Opposition in Rajya Sabha Ghulam Nabi Azad.
  - The parties have also decided to demand an apology from the Prime Minister for alleging support to black money hoarders by opposing demonetization.
- Jaitley To Lead Indian Delegation at HoA
  - Finance Minister Arun Jaitley will lead the Indian delegation at the two-day
     Heart of Asia (HoA) conference beginning Saturday.
  - o It will be participated by over 30 countries including China, the US, Russia and Pakistan.
  - o Sushma Swaraj, who is unwell, will not attend the meet.
  - o The main conference will be inaugurated jointly by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Afghan President Ashraf Ghani
- Cyclone Nada Weakens On Way To TN



















- Cyclone Nada, heading towards Tamil Nadu and Puducherry in the Bay of Bengal, is weakening and may make landfall in the very early hours of Friday.
- o The Met office said it may downgrade to being called a "deep depression" which is a notch below cyclone.
- Two naval ships, Shakti and Satpura are on standby with divers, doctors, inflatable rubber boats, helicopters and relief material
- Delhi HC sets aside ban on 344 FDCs
  - Delhi High Court on Thursday set aside the Union government's decision to ban 344 fixed-dose combination (FDC) drugs.
  - The ban included well known names like Corex, a cough syrup, Vicks Action
     500 and D'Cold.
  - o The Centre's decision was challenged by Pfizer, Glenmark, Procter & Gamble, Cipla and some NGOs.
  - o Govt. had banned the drugs on the grounds that they involve "risk" to humans.
- Aadhaar enabling fairer access: UN
  - o According to a UN report, India's Aadhaar is a "critical" step in enabling fairer access to government services.
  - o UN has said that it has "tremendous potential" for fostering inclusion.
  - The report was released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs.
  - o It is titled World Social Situation.

## Persons in News

- Ex Minister Balasaheb Vikhe-Patil Dies
  - Senior Congress leader & former union minister Balasaheb Vikhe Patil passed away.
  - He served as Union minister of State for Finance in the Atal Bihari Vajpayee
  - o He was one of the pioneers of Maharashtra's cooperative movement.
  - He also launched Asia's first cooperative sugar factory at Loni.
  - o He represented the Ahmednagar Lok Sabha constituency for eight terms.
- Scarlett Johansson Is Top Grossing Actor













- Scarlett Johansson has been named as the top grossing actor of 2016 by Forbes magazine.
- o The US actor topped the list after her films brought in \$1.2bn globally over the past 12 months.
- Johansson's Marvel co-stars Chris Evans and Robert Downey Jr tied for second place with \$1.15bn each.
- o Forbes calculated the annual ranking using the global ticket sales of top actors' films.
- US Actress Debbie Reynolds Dies
  - US actress Debbie Reynolds has passed away, a day after the death of her daughter Carrie Fisher.
  - o The Hollywood legend is best known for her role in the 1952 musical "Singin' in the Rain".
  - She was nominated for a best actress Oscar for her role in "The Unsinkable
     Molly Brown", a 1964 musical.
  - She received an honorary Oscar in 2015 & the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award.
- Star Wars Actress Carrie Fisher Dies
  - o Carrie Fisher, the actress best-known for playing Princess Leia in the Star Wars franchise, has passed away.
  - o She got her showbiz start at age 12 in her mother's Las Vegas nightclub act.
  - She made her film debut as a teenager in the 1975 comedy "Shampoo," two years before her "Star Wars" breakthrough.
  - o She was also a successful writer, publishing several novels and memoir.
- Trump Pick Thomas Bossert as Top Adviser
  - US, President-elect Donald Trump has named an experienced national security adviser to serve as Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism.
  - o Thomas Bossert will advise the President on issues related to homeland security, counter terrorism, and cyber security.
  - o He will coordinate the Cabinet's process for formulating and executing policy.
- Former MP CM Sunderlal Patwa Dies
  - Former Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister and seasoned BJP leader Sunderlal Patwa has passed away.
  - o He was a two-time Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh.



















- o His first term lasted a month in 1980 & his second term lasted for two years from 1990 to 1992.
- o He was also elected to the Lok Sabha from Chhindwara in 1997.
- o He also won the 1999 Lok Sabha poll from Hoshangabad.
- Viral Acharya Appointed RBI Deputy Gov
  - o The government has appointed Viral V Acharya as one of the central bank's four deputy governors for a term of three years.
  - o The RBI had a vacancy for Deputy Governor after Urjit Patel was promoted to Governor earlier this year
  - o Acharya teaches at the Stern School of Business in New York university
  - o He has research interests in regulation of banks, corporate finance, credit risk.
- US Astronomer Vera Rubin Dies
  - o US Astronomer Vera Rubin, whose pioneering work on galaxy rotation rates led to the theory of dark matter, has died.
  - o In 1974, Rubin discovered that the stars at the edges of galaxies moved faster than expected.
  - Her studies earned her numerous honours, including elected at the US National Academy of Sciences.
  - In 1993, US President Bill Clinton presented her with the national Medal of Science.
- Singer George Michael Passes Away
  - o George Michael, the English singer, songwriter, and record producer who rose to fame as a member of Wham! has passed away.
  - o Michael, whose real name is Georgios Kyriacos Panayiotou, rose to fame as the lead singer of the pop-duo Wham!
  - He delivered a series of hits such as Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go, Young Guns & Freedom.
  - o He sold more than 100 million albums throughout a career.
- Dinanath Bhargava passes away
  - Dinanath Bhargava, a co-artist in the team that sketched the national emblem 'Lion Capital of Ashoka' and decorated the pages of the Constitution's manuscript, died at the age of 89 in Indore.
  - o Bhargava was suffering from cardiac ailments since past decade.
  - He was born on November 1, 1927 at Multai in Betul district of Madhya Pradesh.













- Leone Declared PETA's Person of the Year
  - o Sunny Leone has been named PETA's Person of the Year for 2016.
  - She will receive PETA's 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.
  - o Earlier this year, she featured in an ad the campaign by the organisation which encouraged people to be an angel and adopt a homeless dog.
- Vogue Italia Editor Franca Sozzani Dies
  - Franca Sozzani, editor-in-chief of Vogue Italia for 28 years and a champion of Italian fashion has passed away.
  - o She took charge of Vogue Italia in 1988 & became a key figure on the global fashion scene.
  - o She was also a champion of humanitarian causes.
  - o She served as goodwill ambassador to fashion for the UN, supporting workers in the fashion world & helping to raise money to fight hunger.
- Salman Tops Forbes India Celebrity List
  - Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has become the top earning celebrity of 2016 in the Forbes India Celebrity 100 List.
  - o He has an estimated income of Rs 270.33 crore.
  - o SRK at No 2, has reportedly earned Rs 221.75 crore.
  - o Kohli jumped to the No. 3 spot overall from No. 7 last year.
  - o The list is compiled based on two parameters: estimates of entertainment related earnings & estimates of fame.
- Hrithik Roshan Pays Highest Advance Tax
  - Actor Hrithik Roshan has become the leading actor to pay the highest advance tax till mid-December.
  - o Hrithik has seen a 1500% jump in his gross earning as compared to last year in the same quarter.
  - o He paid an advance tax of Rs 80 crore this time (till December 15, 2016).
  - After Hrithik, it is Mr. Perfectionist Aamir Khan, who has paid Rs. 74 crore to Income Tax Department.
- PC is Assam Tourism's Brand Ambassador
  - o The Assam government has appointed top Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra as the state's tourism brand ambassador for two years.
  - o She will be responsible for the campaign, "Awesome Assam".



















- o She will be in contract as brand ambassador for two years, during which she will promote Assam tourism.
- o Assam Tourism could have a presence in countries like the US, UK, Japan and Germany.
- Miss Puerto Rico Wins Miss World 2016
  - o Stephanie del Valle of Puerto Rico has been crowned Miss World 2016.
  - o Del Valle is a student who speaks Spanish, English & French & plans to join the entertainment industry.
  - First runner-up was Yaritza Miguelina Reyes Ramirez of the Dominican Republic, followed by Miss World Indonesia Natasha Mannuela.
  - o Contestants from Kenya & Catriona Gray of the Philippines also were in the final five.
- Hollywood Legend Zsa Zsa Gabor Dies
  - o Hungarian-born actress Zsa Zsa Gabor has passed away.
  - Born in Hungary, she emigrated to the United States during World War Two and made her Hollywood debut in 1952.
  - She appeared in more than 70 films, but was more famous for her celebrity lifestyle.
  - Her credits include a long list of roles in such hit films as Moulin Rouge (1952), Lili (1953) and Queen of Outer Space (1958).
- Economist Saumitra Chaudhuri Passes Away
  - o Eminent economist and a former member of the erstwhile Planning Commission, Saumitra Chaudhuri, passed away.
  - o He had been a member of the erstwhile Planning Commission of India from 2009.
  - o He had also been a member of the then Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council from 2005 onwards.
  - o He had also been in the race for the RBI governor's post, but Raghuram Rajan was eventually chosen.
- Aditya Puri is BS Banker of the Year
  - Aditya Puri, managing director of HDFC Bank is the Business Standard Banker of the Year for 2015-16.
  - He was selected by a six-member jury headed by former Economic Affairs Secretary C M Vasudev.
  - o He joined HDFC Bank as a founding member and managing director in 1994













- o Since then, he has taken the bank to great heights and is third most valuable company on the bourses.
- Priyanka on IMDb's Celebrities' List
  - IMDb has just released the list of the most popular celebrities across the globe.
  - o Priyanka Chopra is the only Indian who's made it to the list.
  - o Priyanka stands at number 55.
  - o She has beaten the likes of Hollywood biggies like Jennifer Aniston, Emma Watson, Leonardo Di Caprio, Johnny Depp, Scarlett Johansson and others.
  - Number one on the list is Sofia Boutella.
- Heimlich Manoeuvre Inventor Dies
  - US doctor Henry Heimlich, who invented the manoeuvre used to help victims of choking, has died.
  - He invented the lifesaving technique, which uses abdominal thrusts to clear a person's airway in 1974.
  - o In 1962 he developed the Heimlich Chest Drain Valve which was credited with saving many soldiers' lives in the Vietnam War.
  - o It is still used for patients undergoing chest surgery.
- BS Dhanoa to be New IAF Chief
  - o Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa will take over as the new Indian Air Force (IAF) chief on Jan 1, 2017.
  - He will take over from the current IAF chief Arup Raha, whose terms ends on Dec 31, 2016.
  - o He is currently the Vice Chief of the Air Staff.
  - o Prior to being appointed as Vice Chief of the Air Staff, the Air Marshal was the Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the South Western Air Command.
- Anil Dhasmana to be New RAW Chief
  - o Research and Analysis Wing (RAW) Special Director AK Dhasmana has been appointed as the next chief of the country's external intelligence agency.
  - o He will take charge as the new chief on Jan 30, 2017.
  - o He has been with RAW for the last 23 years.
  - o He is the 1981-batch Madhya Pradesh cadre IPS officer's domain of expertise is considered to be Balochistan, counter-terrorism and Islamic affairs.
- Rajiv Jain Named Next Director of IB



















- o The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of Rajiv Jain as the Director of Intelligence Bureau.
- o Mr. Jain, an IPS officer of 1980 batch of Jharkhand cadre, is currently working as Special Director in the Intelligence Bureau.
- He takes over from IB chief Dineshwar Sharma
- o He is an expert on J&K & Islamic extremism & has supervised many operations in the recent past.
- Bipin Rawat to be Next Indian Army Chief
  - The Vice Chief of Army Staff, Lt General Bipin Rawat will be the new Chief of Army Staff.
  - o He will replace General Dalbir Singh.
  - o He has tremendous hands on experience of serving in combat areas.
  - o He have been commissioned in the Fifth Battalion of the Eleven Gorkha Rifles.
  - He has commanded the Dimapur based 3 Corps which was involved in taking out insurgent camps in Myanmar.
- Nobel-Winning Economist Schelling Dies
  - o Thomas Schelling, an economist who won a Nobel Prize for using game theory to explain nuclear strategy, has died.
  - He was former Harvard University professor as well as University of Maryland professor.
  - o He was awarded the Nobel Prize in economics in 2005.
  - o His best-known book was The Strategy of Conflict (1960), in which he used game theory to analyze negotiations between nuclear powers.
- Indian-American Elected as Mayor
  - o In a first, an Indian-American woman, Savita Vaidhyanathan, has been elected as the the Mayor of the Cupertino city of California.
  - o She completed her MBA from San Jose State University.
  - o She has worked as a high school Mathematics teacher and an officer in a commercial bank.
  - She has also chaired a number of Rotary Club fundraisers including the Silicon Valley Fall Festival.
- Larry Page Named World Most Powerful CEO
  - o Google's parent company Alphabet's CEO Larry Page was named the named the world's most powerful CEO by Forbes.













- Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg and Amazon's Jeff Bezos have been ranked second and third respectively.
- Warren Buffet was fourth on the Forbes list followed by Jamie Dimon of JPMorgan Chase.
- Tesla chief Elon Musk is sixth on the list.

## • Jayaben Desai on BBC's Power Women List

- o Jayaben Desai, Gujarat-born activist was named among seven women chosen to mark the 70th anniversary of BBC Radio 4's 'Woman's Hour'.
- She led a campaign against low pay for women workers at a UK factory in the 1970s.
- o The list is topped by Margaret Thatcher Britain's first female PM.
- o It also includes Barbara Castle, Labour MP for Blackburn who brought in the Equal Pay Act in 1970.
- The World's Most Powerful People 2016
  - Modi has been ranked among the top 10 most powerful people in the world by Forbes.
  - o He ranks 9th on the list of 74 topped by Russian President Putin.
  - o Second on the list is US President-elect Donald Trump.
  - German Chancellor Angela Merkel was third, followed by Chinese President Xi Jinping.
  - Forbes said, there are nearly 7.4 billion people on Earth, but these 74 men
     women make the world turn.
- Sushma Named Among 15 Global Thinkers
  - o Sushma Swaraj & philanthropist couple Anupama & Vineet Nayar are among the Indians who have been named in the Global Thinkers of 2016 List.
  - The list was compiled by the Foreign Policy magazine
  - The magazine complimented Swaraj for fashioning a novel brand of Twitter diplomacy.
  - Swaraj was named in the Decision-makers category along with Hillary Clinton, Ban Ki-Moon, Angela Merkel among others.
- Priyanka Appointed As UNICEF Ambassador
  - o Actress Priyanka Chopra has been appointed as UNICEF's newest global Goodwill Ambassador.
  - o Ms. Chopra has served as a UNICEF national ambassador in India.



















- o The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is a United Nations (UN) programme headquartered in New York.
- UNICEF was established to bring help and hope to children whose lives and futures were at risk.
- Macedonia's 'Romany Music Queen' Dies
  - o Macedonia's "Romany music queen" Esma Redzepova has passed away.
  - o One of the first vocalists to sing in the Romany language, she performed in some of the world's greatest music halls over the course of her career.
  - o Redžepova in 2010 was ranked among the 50 greatest voices in the world by National Public Radio.
  - o She was also known as an advocate for Roma women's rights.
- Minhajuddin Sirajuddin Creates History
  - Minhajuddin Sirajuddin from the Institute for Stem Cell Biology &
     Regenerative Medicine in Bengaluru has become the first scientist from India to join the EMBO Young Investigator Programme network.
  - o EMBO is the European Molecular Biology Organization
  - o The new Young Investigators represent 11 different countries.
  - o The programme provides support for researchers under forty years of age.
- First US Astronaut to Orbit Earth Dies
  - o Former astronaut John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth, has died.
  - o Glenn is best known for circling the earth in 1962 aboard the Friendship 7 space capsule.
  - o His achievement marked the moment the US caught up with the Soviet Union in manned space exploration.
  - He blazed another trial in 1998 when he became the oldest man to travel to space, at age 77.

## • Depp Tops World's Most Overpaid Actor

- Johnny Depp has topped the list of most overpaid Hollywood stars of 2016 by Forbes.
- The top five list has names like Will Smith, Channing Tatum, Will Ferrell
   & George Clooney.
- Depp last three movies returned just USD 2.80 at the box office for every USD1 he was paid on them.
- o Smith returned a dismal USD 5 at the ticket booth for every USD 1 he earned from his recent films.













- Branstad to be U.S. Ambassador to China
  - o US President-elect Donald Trump has named the Republican governor of Iowa Terry Branstad as ambassador to China.
  - o Mr Branstad's nomination goes some way to assuaging fears that a Trump administration could adversely affect US-Chinese relations.
  - o The governor's friendship with the Chinese leader dates back to 1985, when Xi Jinping visited Iowa as a young agricultural official.
- Panneerselvam Is New Tamil Nadu CM
  - o After the demise of AIADMK supremo & Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa,her loyalist O Panneerselvam has been sworn in as Chief Minister..
  - o The AIADMK MLAs met at the party headquarters to elect Mr Panneerselvam as the successor to Jayalalithaa.
  - o He is the 19th CM of Tamil Nadu and was unanimously elected.
  - o Tamil Nadu government has announced a seven-day State Mourning,
- Tamil Nadu CM Jayalalithaa Passes Away
  - o Tamil Nadu Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa passed away.
  - She had scored a historic win in Tamil Nadu assembly elections about six months ago.
  - A film actress Jayalalithaa had entered the politics in early 1980s under the guidance of her mentor MG Ramachandran,
  - o A five-time Chief Minister, Jayalalithaa pioneered a string of social sector schemes like 'cradle to baby scheme'.
- Gujarat realtor declared Rs 13,860 cr
  - o Gujarati Realtor Mahesh Shah has disclosed Rs 13,860 crore of unaccounted income under the Income Declaration Scheme (IDS).
  - o Income Tax searches were conducted on the office and residential premises property dealer.
  - o In his statement to media, Shah's CA claimed Shah made a disclosure of Rs 13,860 crore of cash under the IDS scheme.
  - o The IDS scheme was closed on September 30.
- Historic win for Jehovah's witness
  - o V J Emmanuel has won the landmark legal battle upholding his right to not sing the national anthem in school.
  - o After winning, the 3 children belonging to the Jehowah's Witnesses sect in Kerala went to school for just a day.



















- o The controversy broke in 1985 when Emmanuel along with two others were students of NSS High School at Kidangoor in Kottayam district of Kerala.
- Stephen Hawking Hospitalised For Checks
  - o British physicist and cosmologist Stephen Hawking has been hospitalised in Rome for checks after not feeling well.
  - Hawking, 74, who was in Rome to attend a conference at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences and met Pope Francis on Monday, was taken to Rome's Gemelli hospital
  - o Hawking, author of "A Brief History of Time," speaks through a computer and travels with a staff that includes 2 nurses.

## Places in News

- Aizawl Becomes First Free Wi-Fi City
  - o Aizawl became the first free Wi-Fi city in the North-East region.
  - o Free wi-fi is a pilot project of the Aizawl Municipal Corporation.
  - The free Wi-Fi facilities would enable the much needed internet accessibility to one and all.
  - Providing free Wi-Fi facility to the residents of Aizawl city was an election manifesto of the Mizo National Front (MNF), who won the municipal polls last year.

## World's Largest Ice Rink Inaugurated

- A 2,700-square-meter skating space has recently opened at the Grand Palais in Paris, France.
- o It is the world's largest non-permanent indoor ice rink.
- o The rink was inaugurated at the third edition of the 'Grand Palais des Glaces' festival featuring skating stunts and acrobatics.
- o Over 100 workers constructed the ice rink, which will remain open until January 2, 2017.
- Pimpri Budruk Declared Cashless Village
  - o The Centre for Good Governance under the Union Ministry of Corporate Affairs has declared that Pimpri Budruk in Pune district as a cashless village.
  - o This is first cashless village in the Khed district.
  - o Each of the eligible members of the village has an account, where every transaction is being done through mobile banking.













- All the villagers have been trained by the bank officials.
- Assam to Make Majuli Carbon Neutral
  - Assam Government has initiated a project to make the river island Majuli as the first ever Carbon Neutral District in India.
  - o To achieve this goal, the Department of Environment and Forest has launched a project 'Sustainable Action for Climate Resilient Development in Majuli'.
  - The project has been initiated to combat climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions..
- CM Declares Kurukshetra, Sirsa ODF
  - Haryana CM Manohar Lal Khattar has declared Kurukshetra & Sirsa (both rural and urban) as open defecation free districts.
  - o The State Government has identified 50 which would provide the roadmap for overall development of the state.
  - o The CM was speaking at the International Seminar on Gita in Kurukshetra.
  - During the Mahotsav, 18,000 students would recite the Ashtadash Shaloki Gita together.
- Protests At Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple
  - Women wearing salwars and churidars entered the centuries-old Sree
     Padmanabhaswamy Temple in Kerala's Thiruvananthapuram for the first time.
  - The temple had, for the first time, allowed women to wear salwars and churidars inside its premises.
  - The move was protested by many.
  - o Women were earlier allowed only in sarees, long skirts or dhoti.

## Sports

- Murray Knighted in New Year Honours List
  - Andy Murray received a knighthood in Queen Elizabeth II's New Year's Honours list.
  - He was previously named an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in 2012.
  - o Joining Murray in being knighted in British sports is Mo Farah, who retained his 5,000& 10,000-meter titles at the Rio.
  - o The full New Year Honours lists recognise the achievements and service of extraordinary people across the UK...



















- Kush Creates History in UAE Tourney
  - Mumbai prodigy Kush Bhagat has won all three gold medals on offer in the
     1st Western Asia Youth Chess Championships.
  - o The event was held at Al Ain Chess Club in UAE.
  - The second standard student reigned supreme in all the three categories rapid, blitz and standard.
  - o He overcame the challenges from 158 participants from 20 countries across the world.
- Sports Ministry Suspends IOA
  - o Government has de-recognised the Indian Olympic Association(IOA) on the issue of nominating Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Chautala as its life presidents.
  - o Kalmadi & Chautala were elevated to the honorary position.
  - o Sports Ministry has suspended the deemed recognition of IOA.
  - Kalmadi was jailed in connection with the CWG scam while Chautala is facing charges in disproportionate assets case.
- Mansell voted greatest F1 champion
  - Nigel Mansell has been named Formula 1's greatest one-time world champion by BBC Sport readers.
  - o His 32% share was almost double that of fellow Briton James Hunt, the 1976 champion, who got 17%.
  - He's seventh on the all-time list of grand prix winners, enjoyed a stellar 15year career.
  - He was rated by many as the strongest and bravest driver in an era of megastars
- Sevilla midfielder investigated
  - o Sevilla midfielder Samir Nasri is being investigated by the Spanish Anti-Doping Agency over treatment he received at a Los Angeles clinic.
  - o The Drip Doctors clinic posted a tweet saying the star had been given an immunity IV drip.
  - o It triggered a series of embarrassing tweets, which were subsequently deleted, leading to the Frenchman claiming his account had been hacked.
- Ana Ivanovic Retires from Tennis
  - o Former world number one &d 2008 French Open champion Ana Ivanovic from Serbia has retired from tennis.













- o She spent 12 weeks as world number one in 2008 and won 15 career singles titles.
- She has been out with injury since August and dropped to 63 in the world rankings
- o She reached the French Open semi-final in 2015 & was runner-up at Wimbledon in 2007 & at the 2008 Australian Open.
- Former TT Int. Pappu Haldankar Dies
  - Former international table tennis player and a former India number one,
     Prafulla 'Pappu' Haldankar passed away.
  - o He started playing table tennis for Deccan Gymkhana, Pune and represented India for 5 years from 1961 to 1965.
  - o He was ranked first in India in 1961-62 season.
  - He also represented the country in two Asian Championships and two World Championships.
- Sir Bradley Wiggins Retires from Cycling
  - Five-time Olympic champion Sir Bradley Wiggins has announced his retirement from cycling.
  - Wiggins became Britain's most decorated Olympian in August when he won the team pursuit gold on the track in Rio, his fifth gold and eighth Olympic medal.
  - o He secured eight world titles on the road and track.
  - o He set the world record for the furthest distance ridden in one hour.
- Virat Named as Australia's ODI Captain
  - Virat Kohli has been named as the captain of Cricket Australia's ODI team of the year.
  - o He was preferred over Australian captain Steve Smith.
  - o Recently he was also named the captain of ICC's ODI team of the year.
  - o Another Indian cricketer who got place in the Cricket Australia's ODI team is Jasprit Bumrah.
  - o The unorthodox pace bowler had a great first year in international cricket.
- Kalmadi, Chautala IOA Life Presidents
  - o Suresh Kalmadi and Abhay Singh Chautala were appointed as life presidents of Indian Olympic Association.
  - Before Kalmadi & Chautala, only Vijay Kumar Malhotra, who served as acting IOA chief between 2011 and 2012, was made the Life President.



















- o Kalmadi served as IOA president from 1996 to 2011.
- Chautala served as the president of Indian Olympic Association from December 2012 to February 2014.
- Gujarat's Samit Gohel Slams Unbeaten 359
  - Gujarat batsman Samit Gohel created a world record in the ongoing Ranji
     Trophy quarter-final match against Odisha.
  - He notched up the highest score by an opener in the history of first-class cricket.
  - He remained unbeaten on 359 as he surpassed the 117-year old record set by Surrey's Bobby Abel who scored 357.
  - o He also become the fourth triple centurion in the history of first-class cricket.
- Meghalaya to Host 2022 National Games
  - o Meghalaya will host the 2022 National Games.
  - Indian Olympic Association, IOA accepted Meghalaya's bid to host the National Games overshadowing four other bidders Andhra Pradesh, Goa, Chhattisgargh and Uttarakhand.
  - Meghalaya will be the third northeastern state after Manipur and Assam to host the National Games.
  - o Goa will host the next National Games in November 2017.
- Bhambri wins ITF Hong Kong F4 Futures
  - o Indian Tennis Player Yuki Bhambri, clinched \$10000 ITF Hong Kong F4 Futures title.
  - o It was his 11th title on the ITF Pro Circuit.
  - o He defeated Shintaro Imai of Japan 6-4, 7-5 who has been placed at second position.
  - o Yuki Bhambri is an Indian professional tennis player and former Junior No. 1.
  - o He was the winner of the 2009 Australian Open Junior Championship.
- New Zealand Beat Bangladesh in First ODI
  - Opener Tom Latham's career best 137 set New Zealand up for a crushing 77run victory over Bangladesh in their opening one-day international at Christchurch.
  - With the help of Latham and Colin Munro's 87, New Zealand posted 341 for
     7.
  - The Bangladesh innings closed at 264 for 9 with Mushfigur Rahim retired hurt.
  - o It was New Zealand's highest score in 26 matches against Bangladesh.













- Jharkhand Enter Ranji Trophy Semi-finals
  - o Jharkhand defeated Haryana by 5 wickets at Vadodara last evening to enter the Ranji Trophy semi-finals for the first time.
  - o With the win, Jharkhand has joined Tamil Nadu in the semi-final stage.
  - o Tamil Nadu had defeated Karnataka by 7 wickets in the other last-8 match.
  - o The remaining two quarter-finals are still being played. Mumbai is taking on Hyderabad, while Gujarat is playing Odisha.
- Ronaldo Joins Campaign to Help Children
  - The Real Madrid and Portugal star Cristiano Ronaldo has joined a campaign Save The Children to provide food, medicine & psychological help for kids in Aleppo & other war-stricken cities.
  - o He called Syria's long-suffering children "the true heroes".
  - o At least 15,000 children are among the more than 300,000 people who have been killed in the Syrian war over the past five years.
- AC Milan Win Italian Super Cup
  - o AC Milan has lifted the Supercoppa Italiana for the first time in five years with a 4-3 shootout victory over holders Juventus in Doha.
  - o It is the second time Milan have beaten Juventus, who lead Serie A by four points, this season.
  - o In October, they won 1-0 in the San Siro.
  - o The match, the second time the Super Cup has been played in Qatar
- Ethiopian Running Legend Miruts Dies
  - o Miruts Yifter, an Ethiopian running legend who inspired world-class athletes like Haile Gebrselassie has died.
  - o He earned his nickname of 'Yifter the Shifter' when he claimed 10,000 gold in Russia with an electrifying burst of speed over the final 300 metre.
  - o The athlete won two gold medals at the 1980 Moscow Olympics at age 40 and a bronze at the 1972 Munich Games.
- Kohli Tops the List of Lord's Top 20
  - Lord's Cricket Ground has released its top 20 players for this calendar year.
  - o Virat Kohli got the number 1 spot in the ranking owing to his marvelous performance in all format of the game.
  - o Englishman Jonny Bairstow followed the Indian Test captain.
  - Apart from Virat the other 3 are off spinner Ravichandran Ashwin at 3rd spot,
     Ajinkya Rahane at 13th & Cheteshwar Pujara at 18th spot.



















- Jeje Lalpekhlua Adjudged Best Footballer
  - o Mohun Bagan and Chennaiyin FC striker Jeje Lalpekhlua has been nominated as the '2016 All India Football Federation (AIFF) Player of the Year.
  - Sasmita Malik was conferred the 2016 AIFF Woman Footballer of the Year award.
  - AIFF also awarded '2016 AIFF Award for Special Recognition' to Gurpreet Singh Sandhu and Uvena Fernandes.
  - o Pranjal Banerjee from IFA won '2016 AIFF Award for Best Referee'
- Russian Athletics Coach Mokhnev Banned
  - o Russian athletics coach Vladimir Mokhnev has been banned for 10 years after being found guilty of breaching IAAF regulations on banned substances.
  - o The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) deemed that Mokhnev, broke rules relating to possession, trafficking and administration of banned substances.
  - o Mokhnev will be prevented from coaching for a decade after CAS imposed a ban.
- Pankaj Advani Wins National Title
  - Sixteen-time world champion Pankaj Advani has won the National title in 6red Snooker, the shorter format of the game.
  - o He defeated Ishpreet Chadha in the final 7-4.
  - He reclaimed the title, which he had won during the inaugural edition in Bangalore in 2010.
  - He is the only player in the world to win all titles -- National, Continental &
     World -- in 6-red Snooker.
- Keshavan Grabs Gold at Luge Championship
  - o India's first Winter Olympian Shiva Keshavan clinched a gold medal at the Asian Luge Championships.
  - He finished with a time of 1 minute, 39.962 seconds and top speed of 130.4 km/h to clinch the title.
  - Japan's Tanaka Shohei came in second with a combined time of 1:44.874
     second
  - Luge involves competitors lying on their backs on a tiny sled & racing down an icy track without brakes.
- Indian Achieves Highest FIFA Ranking
  - o India jumped two places to finish 2016 at 135, their best in the last six years, in the FIFA rankings.













- o It is their best in the last six years. In 2009, India had finished at 134.
- Argentina finish 2016 on top of the FIFA World Ranking, earning the accolade of "Team of the Year."
- o The FIFA World Ranking is a ranking system for men's national teams in association football.
- India U-19 Lift Youth Asia Cup Title
  - o India defeated Sri Lanka in U-19 Youth Asia Cup 2016 to lift the trophy in Colombo.
  - India was defending the score of 273 runs and managed to get Sri Lanka allout on 239 runs.
  - o India was guided by Himanshu Rana and Shubhnam Gill to reach a respectable total of 273.
  - o In bowling department, Indian spinners got better of Sri Lankan batsmen & bowl out Sri Lanka Under-19 to 239 in 48.4 overs .
- Indian Women's Hockey Team Clinch Bronze
  - o Indian Women's Under-18 team have clinched the bronze medal in the 4th Women's Under-18 Asia Cup hockey tournament.
  - o In the bronze-medal play off match in Bangkok, they blanked Korea 3-0.
  - Sangita Kumari scored twice after Ritu had put India ahead in the 45th minute.
  - Hockey India announced cash rewards of 1 lakh rupees for each player and 50,000 rupees for each of the support staff.
- ICC 2016 Awards Announced- 1
  - India off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin win the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers
     Trophy.
  - o Ashwin was also adjudged the ICC Test Cricketer of the Year.
  - o This has made him only the second India player after Dravid to bag the two coveted prizes in the same year.
  - o Ashwin had finished 2015 as the number-one ranked Test bowler in the world, a position he twice reclaimed in 2016.
- ICC 2016 Awards Announced- 2
  - o South Africa's wicketkeeper-batsman Quinton de Kock was named ICC ODI Cricketer of the Year.
  - o Carlos Brathwaite of the West Indies won the ICC T20 International Performance of the Year award.



















- Bangladesh fast bowling sensation Mustafizur Rahman was named ICC
   Emerging Cricketer of the Year.
- Afghanistan's Mohammad Shahzad also won the ICC Associate and Affiliate Cricketer of the Year.
- Kohli Captain of ICC ODI Team of 2016
  - Virat Kohli was chosen as the captain of the ICC One Day International Team of the Year 2016.
  - o Kohli is the vice-captain of India's ODI and T20 teams.
  - He has been named as leader of the 12-member side which features 4 South Africans and 3 Australian cricketers besides one each from England & West Indies.
  - o This is for the first time that Kohli has been picked as the skipper of ICC ODI team.
- Mary Kom, Vikas Get AIBA Special Awards
  - 5-time world champion & Olympic bronze-medallist Mary Kom was presented the AIBA Legends award for her trailblazing boxing career.
  - o Vikas Krishnan was handed the APB (AIBA Pro Boxing) Best Boxer trophy.
  - Kom was christened 'Magnificent Mary' by AIBA after her fourth world title back in 2008.
  - o The awards were presented at the International Boxing Association's 70th anniversary gala in Montreux
- South Africa Give Petersen Two-year Ban
  - o Former South Africa batsman Alviro Petersen has been banned for two years.
  - o He has admitted failing to disclose details of an approach to fix matches,
  - o It follows a lengthy investigation into South Africa's domestic Ram Slam T20 Challenge Series competition in 2015.
  - o In January, as part of the same investigation, former South Africa spinner Gulam Bodi was banned for 20 years.
- BFI Gets AIBA's Full Membership
  - The International Boxing Association (AIBA) unanimously granted full membership to the recently-formed Boxing Federation of India,BFI at a meeting.
  - o With this, India's return to the international boxing fold is complete.













- The BFI, which came into existence as the new national federation, got provisional membership from the AIBA following its elections in September last.
- Ashwin, Jadeja go 1-2 in Test Rankings
  - o Indian duo Ravichandran Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja have made it to top slots in the ICC Test rankings of bowlers.
  - o Jadeja's career best 10-wicket haul against England in the Chennai Test helped him vault to the second spot.
  - o Ravichandran Ashwin occupies the 1st position in the ICC rankings.
  - o This is just the second time the top two spots in the bowlers chart is occupied by India players.
- India End 2016 as No.1 Test Team
  - o India have ended the year as the Number one ranked Test side after posting a 4-nil win over England in the five-match series.
  - o India won the final Test at Chennai by an innings and 75 runs.
  - The series win helped India gain five points and they have moved to 120 points in the last Test team rankings update of 2016, 15 points ahead of second placed Australia.
  - Pakistan was ranked third.
- Kuheli Wins 50m Rifle Prone
  - o Kuheli Gangulee won the women's 50m rifle prone at the 60th National shooting championship.
  - o Representing CISF, Kuheli finished with a new national record score of 626.5 from 60 shots.
  - o Maharashtra's Tejaswini Sawant, who held the previous national record with a score of 622.1 achieved also finished with a high score of 625.0.
  - o Gujarat's Lajja Gauswami took the third position.
- Nair Enters Record Books with Triple Ton
  - o Indian cricketer Karun Nair scored a triple century in the 5th Test match against England held in MA Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai.
  - He became the second Indian cricketer to score triple century in Test Cricket after Virendra Sehwag.
  - o This was his 3rd test match.
  - He scored 303 not out in 381 balls when the Indian captain declared the innings on 759-7.



















- Murray Wins Sports Personality of Year
  - Andy Murray has been voted the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for a record third time.
  - o Murray, the 2013 and 2015 winner, took Olympic gold, claimed his second Wimbledon title & became tennis' world number one in a remarkable 2016.
  - o Triathlete Alistair Brownlee was second and show jumper Nick Skelton third.
  - o Brownlee became the first man to retain the Olympic triathlon title at Rio 2016
- Indore to Host Ranji Trophy Final
  - o The final match of this season's Ranji Trophy will be played at Indore's Holkar stadium from Jan 10 to 14.
  - o Earlier it was to be played on 12th January.
  - The first Ranji Trophy semi-final will be played at Rajkot while another will be played at Nagpur.
  - The Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between teams representing regional cricket associations.
- India Clinches Hockey Junior World Cup
  - o India produced a clinical performance to outclass Belgium 2-1 and clinched their second Hockey Junior World Cup title.
  - o Gurjant Singh and Simranjeet Singh scored the two goals for India.
  - o Belgium scored their goal at the death via Fabrice van Bockrijck.
  - o India had finished runners-up in 1997.
  - o It was also the first time that a host nation had won the tournament since its inception.
- Atletico De Kolkata Win ISL Title
  - o Atletico De Kolkata scripted history after winning Indian Super League (ISL) football tournament for the second time in three years.
  - o Kolkata defeated Kerala Blasters 4-3 in a penalty shootout in Kochi.
  - o Both teams were one goal each in the stipulated time.
  - In the penalty shootout, the Kolkata team scored four goals against the three by Kerala Blasters.
- Phelps to be Given Lifetime Award
  - o Record-breaking swimmer Michael Phelps will be honoured with the lifetime achievement award at BBC Sports Personality show.













- American Phelps won his 23rd Olympic gold in his final Games as he bowed out in Rio.
- o The most decorated Olympian of all time, he claimed five golds and a silver this year.
- o He has amassed a total of 28 medals since making his Games debut in 2000.
- Sharad Pawar Resigns as MCA President
  - o NCP chief Sharad Pawar announced his resignation as Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) president.
  - o He have been disqualified as a cricket administrator if the BCCI & its state units were to implement the Lodha committee reforms that suggested age and tenure caps .
  - o The MCA is yet to accept Pawar's resignation.
  - o In June 2015, Pawar was re-elected as MCA president for the third time.
- Vijender Retains WBO-Asia Pacific Title
  - Indian boxing star Vijender Singh knocked out former world Francis Cheka to retain WBO-Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title.
  - Vijender took less than 10 minutes to beat Tanzanian boxer to defend his title at the packed Thyagraj Stadium in New Delhi.
  - o Cheka was the most experienced rival Vijender had faced till today.
  - o He has been a professional boxer for 17 years now.
- Bates Named ICC ODI & T20I Player
  - New Zealand women captain Suzie Bates became the first player to win both the ICC Women's ODI and T20I Player-of-the-Year awards.
  - o Bates has been named the T20I Player of the Year for the first time.
  - o Bates scored 472 runs in seven ODI innings at an average of 94.40.
  - o In T20Is, Bates topped the run-scorers' list with 429 runs at an average of 42.90.
- Smriti Named in ICC Women's Team
  - o Indian batswoman Smriti Mandhana became the only Indian cricketer to be named in the first ever ICC Women's Team of the Year 2016.
  - The women's team of the year will be captained by West Indies' Stafanie
    Taylor.
  - o This is the first time that the ICC has named a women's team of the year.
  - o The side was selected by a panel consisting of Clare Connor (Chair), Mel Jones and Shubhangi Kulkarni.



















- Sochi Stripped of Bobsleigh Championship
  - The Russian city of Sochi will not host the 2017 bobsleigh & skeleton World Championships.
  - o The International Bobsleigh & Skeleton Federation (IBSF) said it would not be prudent to hold the championships in Russia.
  - o A report claimed more than 1,000 Russians benefited from a doping cover-up between 2011 & 2015.
  - A new host city will be named for the February event in the forthcoming days.
- Murray & Kerber Named ITF Champions
  - Britain's Andy Murray & Germany's Angelique Kerber were named 2016
     ITF World Champions.
  - He won nine titles in a milestone year that ended with him beating rival Djokovic.
  - Kerber enjoyed an equally impressive season, winning the Australian & U.S.
     Open titles as well as silver medal in Rio.
  - o She becomes the first German to win the award since Steffi Graf claimed the last of her seven in 1996.
- Anand draws with Michael Adams
  - o 5-time world champion Viswanathan Anand had to settle for a draw with British number one Michael Adams in the 4th round of the London Chess Classic in London.
  - o The second draw in four games has kept the Indian ace in contention.
  - American Hikaru Nakamura continued to be in top gear after a first round debacle and grinded down Veselin Topalov of Bulgaria in the only decisive game of the day.
- Boxing:Shiva Thapa wins gold
  - World bronze-medallist Shiva Thapa prevailed in a slightly ill-tempered final clash to pick up his first lightweight (60kg) National Championships gold medal.
  - o The overall title went to the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB), who ended with four gold, one silver and three bronze medals.
  - The Railways Sports Promotion Board finished second with two gold, two silver and two bronze medals.
- Pankaj Advani won Billiards Championship













- o Pankaj Advani won his 11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships title by beating Peter Gilchrist in the summit clash in Bengaluru.
- o Advani beat Gilchrist by 6 games to 3 in a gripping final contest to wrap up his 16th world title overall.
- o Earlier, Advani had beaten Htay 5-0 in the morning to storm into the finals while Gilchrist defeated India's Dhvaj Haria 5-1 in another semi-final.
- de Villiers steps down as Test captain
  - Star batsman A.B. de Villiers confirmed that he has stepped down as captain
    of the South Africa Test team with immediate effect as he recovers from an
    elbow injury.
  - o de Villiers, 32, was appointed in January following Hashim Amla's resignation, and led the team in two Test matches against England.
  - South Africa lost one Test and won one under de Villiers.
- Danilo choosen to be player of the year
  - o Chapecoense goalkeeper Danilo, who was killed in the Colombian air crash last month, was posthumously named Brazil's player of the year.
  - Danilo, whose last-gasp save in the semi-final against San Lorenzo helped his side into the Copa Sudamericana final, got 48% of the internet vote.
  - The plane was taking the small team from southern Brazil to face local side Atletico Nacional.
- Igbal Win Medal at Mr. Olympia Event
  - Iqbal Sayed of Mumbai won the silver medal at the Mr Olympia amateur event held in Hong Kong,
  - He defeated participants from 20 countries under the Olympia Amateur Asia
     2016's Classic Bodybuilding category.
  - He has become the first Indian to win a medal at the Mr. Olympia amateur event.
  - o In 2015, Iqbal was Mr. Mumbai runner up.
- India Take Winning 3-0 Lead Over England
  - o India win the fourth cricket test by an innings and 36 runs against England at Mumbai.
  - o With this India win the test series.
  - India made massive 631 in their first innings in reply to England's 400, assisted by the double centuries by the captain Kohli & centuries by Murli Vijay & Jayant Yadav.



















- Kohli scored 235 & became the first Indian captain to score three double centuries in the Tests.
- Iceland Fans Win Fifa Nomination
  - The Iceland football supporters who captured the imagination at the European Championships this year have been nominated as fans of the year in a new Fifa contest.
  - o Close to 8% of the country's population combined a rhythmic slow handclap with a roar to spur on their team to the quarter finals at the Stade de France.
  - o Also up for the award are Den Haag, FC Liverpool & Borussia Dortmund fans.
- Kohli Completes 1000 Runs in 2016
  - Virat Kohli became the third Indian skipper to amass 1000 runs or more in a calendar year 1112 runs in 11 Tests.
  - He has joined Rahul Dravid 1095 runs in 12 Tests in 2006 & Tendulkar
     – 1000 runs in 12 Tests in 1997.
  - Kohli, for the first time, has managed 1,000 runs or more in a calendar year in Tests.
  - He also completed 4,000 runs in 89 innings & became sixth fastest Indian batsman to do so.
- Feng Wins Omega Dubai Ladies Masters
  - o China's Shanshan Feng came from five strokes back to claim her fourth Omega Dubai Ladies Masters title.
  - o India's Aditi Ashok shot similar two-under-par 70 in third and final round to finish in a tied third place with six-under 210.
  - o This was Aditi's seventh top-10 finish in eight starts
  - o For Feng, this was her seventh Ladies European Tour victory & her fourth title of the season.
- China Chen Banned for 2 years for Doping
  - Chinese swimmer Chen Xinyi has been banned for two years after failing a drug test at the Rio.
  - o She had tested positive for the diuretic hydrochlorothiazide.
  - Hydrochlorothiazide, known as a masking agent, is a banned substance because it can be used to spur weight loss & cover up the presence of other illegal drugs.
  - o The FINA Doping Panel decided to impose on the athlete a period of 2 years.
- Chad le Clos Breaks Own World Record













- South African swimmer Chad le Clos broke his own world record in the men's
   100m butterfly final of FINA short course world swimming championships held at Windsor, Ontario.
- o His new record timing is 48.08 sec to complete the 100m butterfly race.
- o He beat his earlier best of 48.44 sec which he set at the 2014 world championships.
- o Chad le Clos in the 2016 Summer Olympics had won silver medals.
- Peter Gilchrist Wins Billiard Title
  - Peter Gilchrist of Singapore defeated Sourav Kothari to win the 2016 IBSF World Billiards Long Up title.
  - o The event was held at Bengaluru, India. Peter defeated Sourav by 883 points with score of 1500-617.
  - o Rupesh Shah and Dhvaj Haria of India, jointly shared the 3<sup>rd</sup> position.
  - Earlier in the tournament Sourav Kothari had defeated Dhvaj Haria to enter into the semifinals.
- Elite Men's National Boxing Meet Begins
  - o The first elite men's senior national boxing tournament has begun at Guwahati.
  - Assam Chief Minister Sarbanand Sonowal has inaugurated it in presence of Assam Sports minister Naba Doley.
  - Around 350 players have participated & would be competing in 10 weight categories.
  - o The sporting tournament will conclude on 13th of this month.
- Russian Boxer Lose Rio Olympic Medals
  - o Romanian weightlifter Gabriel Sincraian & Russian boxer Misha Aloian have been stripped of their 2016 Olympic medals after failing doping tests.
  - Sincraian won bronze in the men's 85kg event, tested positive for exogenous testosterone.
  - Aloian, silver medalist in the -52kg boxing event, failed a test for tuaminoheptane.
  - o The buildup to the Games was overshadowed by the specter of doping.
- Ashwin Becomes 7th Highest Wicket Taker
  - Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has surpassed former fast bowler
     Javagal Srinath to become the 7th highest wicket taker for India in tests,taking his total tally to 239 wickets.



















- He achieved this coveted feet when he dismissed English Moeen Ali on day-1 of the fourth Test..
- o He has been India's go-to bowler in almost all formats, in sub-continental conditions for over four years now.
- Former Spain Defender Dominguez Retires
  - o Former Spain international footballer Alvaro Dominguez Soto announced his retirement due to health problems.
  - o Dominguez has started his career in 2007.
  - o He played mainly a central defender but also as a left back.
  - He joined German top flight club Borussia Monchengladbach from Atletico Madrid in the summer of 2012 and provided three goals and four assists in 81 competitive encounters.
- Jordan Highest-Paid Athlete of all Time
  - o Former basketball player Michael Jordan has been named the highest-paid athlete of all time by Forbes,
  - o Michael Jordan is closely followed by famous golfer Tiger Woods.
  - o Since his debut in the North American professional league in 1984 & until the end of his career Michael Jordan won \$1.7 billion.
  - Most of the money came from sponsorship contracts, especially from the collaborations with Nike.
- MCC Recommends Limiting Bat Sizes
  - o The MCC World Cricket Committee met in Mumbai came out with some game-changing recommendations.
  - o These recommendations will be put forth to the main committee of the MCC for approval before they become Laws of the game.
  - o On thickness of edge and bat, the proposal put forth is to fix an upper limit to the thickness of the edge to 40mm and the depth or spine of the bat 67mm.
- Former NFL Player Rashaan Salaam Dies
  - o Rashaan Salaam, who won the Heisman Trophy, U.S. college football's highest honor & played in the National Football League has passed away.
  - Salaam won the Heisman Trophy in 1994, becoming the only player from the University of Colorado to do so.
  - o The Chicago Bears chose Salaam in the first round of the 1995 NFL draft.
  - o He also played for the Cleveland Browns in a career lasting four seasons.













- Australia Regain Chappell-Hadlee Trophy
  - Australia has clinched the Chappell-Hadlee Trophy with a 116-run win over
     New Zealand in the second ODI at Manuka Oval.
  - o Warner smashed 119 runs to propel the Australians to an imposing 378.
  - o The Chappell-Hadlee Trophy in cricket is a One Day International cricket series between Australia & NZ.
  - It is named after legendary cricketing families, the Chappell brothers of Australia & Walter Hadlee.
- Bjorn to Captain Europe's Ryder Cup Team
  - Thomas Bjorn has been announced as Europe's Ryder Cup captain for the next contest in France in 2018.
  - o Bjorn has been handed the task of regaining the trophy following this year's heavy defeat at Hazeltine National under Darren Clarke.
  - o The Dane's three appearances as a player all resulted in victories.
  - He has also been an assistant captain four times, including vice-captain to Clarke.
- French Grand Prix Returns for 2018
  - o The French Grand Prix will return to the Formula 1 calendar in 2018 after an absence of 10 years.
  - o The race will be held in the south of France at the Circuit Paul Ricard also known as Le Castellet which last staged the event in 1990.
  - o The French Grand Prix was last held at Magny-Cours in central France in 2008.
  - o France hosted the first grand prix in 1906.
- Sepp Blatter Loses Appeal Against Ban
  - o Former FIFA President Sepp Blatter has lost his appeal against a six-year ban for ethics violations.
  - The Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled that Blatter had authorised payments to former European football boss Michel Platini that amounted to undue gifts.
  - o Blatter led FIFA for 17 years & resigned in June last year.
  - His ban was reduced to 6 years by FIFA's appeals committee in Feb.
- PV Sindhu Jumps 2 places in BWF Rankings
  - o Olympic silver medallist PV Sindhu jumped two places to achieve her careerbest ranking of seven in the latest BWF World Ranking.
  - o Saina Nehwal is also back in the top 10.



















- o Sindhu clinched the China Open and then reached the finals at the Hong Open, has 68,699 ranking points.
- o K Srikanth slipped a place to World Number 13.
- India Lift Women's T20 Asia Cup
  - The Indian Women's team lifted the Asia Cup Twenty-20 tournament after defeated arch-rivals Pakistan.
  - o India had posted 121 for 5 in the stipulated 20 overs.
  - o Then, with the ball, the Women in Blue restricted Pakistan for 104 for 6.
  - o The win also ensured India remained unbeaten in this year's tournament, which was being played in the T20 format for the second time.
- Bolt Wins IAAF Athlete of the Year Award
  - o Usain Bolt is track and field's male athlete of the year.
  - o He won the award from the sport's governing body for a sixth time.
  - o Almaz Ayana of Ethiopia won the women's award, after her world-record run to win Olympic gold in the 10,000 meters.
  - The awards were handed out by International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) at a gala ceremony in Monaco.
- Nico Rosberg announces his retirement
  - Nico Rosberg announced his retirement after he received his Formula One world championship trophy.
  - o The 31-year-old paid tribute to longtime friend and Mercedes teammate Lewis Hamilton, the outgoing world champion.
  - o Rosberg admitted that had he come up short in the championship this year, he would have carried on in 2017.
- Usain Bolt Wins Athlete Of Year Award
  - o Sprint king Usain Bolt won an unprecedented sixth IAAF male Athlete of the Year award on Friday.
  - Ethiopian Almaz Ayana picking up the female award after her record-setting 10,000m gold in Rio.
  - o Bolt, previously winner in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013, was rewarded for another blistering season that saw him claim three gold medals



