

APPOLO STUDY CENTRE

CURRENT AFFAIRS DECEMBER – 2016, JANUARY (1-15) - 2017

❖ HFC included in Montreal protocol

The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the negotiating position adopted by India at the recent **28th Meeting of Parties (MoP) to the Montreal Protocol in Kigali, Rwanda.**

The Montreal Protocol of the Vienna Convention for Protection of Ozone Layer which entered force in January 1989 aimed to phase out the ozone depleting substances (ODS). At Kigali, it was decided to include HFCs in the list of chemicals under the Montreal Protocol in order to regulate their production, consumption and phasing them out with time.

It had two set of baseline years were agreed for developing countries. India along with nine other countries will have baseline years of 2024, 2025, 2026.

❖ Chandrababu Naidu committee: **Promotion of cashless society and digital economy.** (Constituted by NITY Aayog)

❖ Team Indus to launch India's first private moon mission in 2017

Team Indus, a private aerospace start up company is planning to send a spacecraft to the moon aboard an Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) rocket on December 28, 2017. It will be India's first private moon mission to be launched. It will be launched on board of ISRO's Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV).

❖ **VISAKA scheme**

VittiyaSaksharata Abhiyan (VISAKA) was launched by the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development (HRD) to make people aware about cashless economic system.

❖ **Hornbill Festival - Nagaland**

❖ **Indian Navy Day**

The Indian Navy Day is observed annually on 4 December. The observance of the day commemorates the launch of Operation Trident by the Indian Navy against Pakistan on 4th December, 1971.

❖ **Athlete of the year**

Sprint king Usain Bolt from Jamaica has been awarded the 2016 IAAF World Athlete of the Year award in male category for sixth time. Earlier he had won it in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

AlmazAyana of Ethiopia won the award in women's award category.

❖ **Stanpan Suraksha**

Mobile application to promote breastfeeding and keep a tab on "inappropriate" promotion of baby food items.

MILITARY EXERCISES

❖ **Konkan 16 - India & Britan(Navy)-Mumbai**

❖ **LIVEX-India & Britan (Navy) - Goa**

❖ **EKUVERIN - IND&MALDIVES**

❖ **INDRA NAVY16 - IND&RUS**

❖ WIFEX

The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has launched Winter Fog Experiment (WIFEX 2016-17) to study presence of extended periods of fog in northern parts of the country.

❖ National Water Day- APRIL 14

❖ Resourcesat-2A

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched remote sensing satellite Resourcesat-2A into its dedicated orbit. It was launched by (PSLV)-C36 from first launch pad at Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

❖ Power Language Index (PLI)

English has been ranked first in the top 10 most powerful languages in the world according to the 2016 World Power Language Index (PLI). The index was published by World Economic Forum (WEF).

Top 10 Languages in 2016 PLI: English (1st), Mandarin (2nd), French (3rd), Spanish (4th), Arabic (5th), Russian (6th), German (7th), Japanese (8th), Portuguese (9th) and Hindi (10th). The top six languages are official languages of the United Nations.

❖ Cyclone Vardha -DEC12

The tropical cyclonic storm Vardah originated over southeast Bay of Bengal made landfall near Chennai. It is classified as very severe cyclonic storm. It is the third cyclonic storm of the season after Cyclone Kyant and Nada, that were formed during the Northeast Monsoon season.

❖ DigiShala

The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) has launched a TV channel named 'DigiShala' to promote cashless transactions. The channel was launched as part of the 'Digidhan' campaign

which aims to spread awareness about digital transactions.

❖ **100 Million for 100 Million Campaign**

The campaign was conceptualized by Nobel peace prize winner Kailash Satyarthi and was organized by the **Kailash Satyarthi** Children's Foundation. The campaign aims to mobilise 100 million youth and children for 100 million underprivileged children across the world. Its prime objective is to end child labour, child slavery, violence against children over the next 5 years.

❖ **Kolkata-Mizoram trade route via Myanmar to open soon**

A deep water port built in Myanmar's Sittwe by India is ready to be commissioned. Thus, open Kolkata-Mizoram trade route via Myanmar. The Sittwe port is starting point for the Kaladan Multi Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar. Once shipments arrive at Sittwe port from Kolkata, they will be transferred to smaller freight carriers which would sail upstream into Mizoram.

❖ **Harike Cruise**

Punjab Government has launched country's first amphibious bus project at the Harike wetland near Amritsar. The amphibious bus named as "Harike Cruise" travels on land and as well as in water.

❖ **Vanjeevan**

The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs will launch "Vanjeevan", the National Resource Centre (NRC) for Tribal Livelihood issues in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It will be launched in collaboration with UNDP and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC). Besides, NRC website and e-knowledge platform on tribal livelihood will also be unveiled.

❖ **India becomes world's 4th largest defence spender**

According to the recently released 2016 IHS Jane's Defence Budgets report, India has become the world's fourth largest defence

spender. United States, China, and the UK remain the top three defence spender in the world.

❖ **Forbes Magazine report**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi was placed at 9th position among 74 of the world's most powerful people list released by the Forbes Magazine. 2016 edition of the list was topped by Russian President Vladimir Putin. This is for fourth consecutive year Putin has topped the list. German Chancellor and backbone of the European Union Angela Merkel was ranked 3rd. She continues her reign as the most powerful woman on the planet for consecutive 11 years.

❖ **CYGNSS**

The NASA has successfully launched constellation of eight mini-satellites as part Cyclone Global Navigation Satellite System (CYGNSS) into space to improve hurricane forecasting.

❖ **Tarang Sanchar**

The Department of Telecom (DoT) will soon launch 'Tarang Sanchar' portal that will let users check radiation compliance status of mobile towers and transmitters across country. Using this portal user can also request to get a particular BTS tested by DoT to assess its electro-magnetic frequency (EMF) compliance level.

❖ **Indian Institute of Skills**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of the country's first Indian Institute of Skills (IIS) in Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh to make India the Skill Capital of the World.

❖ **Dead Zone**

Scientists including those from India have found a huge 'dead zone' of an estimated 60,000 square kilometres in Bay of Bengal. This area is said to supports microbial processes that remove vast amount of nitrogen from the ocean. The study published in Nature Geosciences.

Dead Zone is an area in water body that contains little or no oxygen (or they are hypoxic) in bottom and near-bottom water.

❖ **Global Wind Power Installed Capacity**

India ranked 4th in the Global Wind Power Installed Capacity index with cumulative installed wind power generation capacity of 25,088 MW in 2015.

The index was topped by China, followed by US and Germany with cumulative installed wind power generation capacity of 145362 MW, 74471 MW and 44947 MW respectively.

❖ **World's 6th largest economy**

According to report published in Forbes magazine, India has surpassed its colonial masters United Kingdom to become world's sixth-largest economy in GDP terms for first time after nearly 150 years. Following the change in the rankings, India's economy now stands behind the United States, China, Japan, Germany and France.

❖ **Tansat**

China successfully launched TanSat, a global carbon dioxide (CO₂) monitoring satellite to understand the effects of climate change. With this, China became third country after Japan and United States to have its own satellite to monitor greenhouse gases (GHGs).

❖ **Guinness World Record**

As many as 6,117 Kuchipudi dancers set a new Guinness World Record by performing together in a single event in Vijayawada district of Andhra Pradesh. The Guinness World Record adjudicated for the 12-minute "JayamuJayamu" item as the 'Largest Kuchipudi dance' performance.

❖ **AGNI V**

India successfully test-fired its home-grown long range intercontinental surface-to-surface nuclear capable ballistic missile Agni-5. Agni 5 is three-stage solid propellant ICBM indigenously developed by the DRDO and can strike a target beyond 5000 km.

❖ **BHIM**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched UPI based mobile payment application called BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money) at the Digi Dhan Mela held in Talkatora stadium, New Delhi, The app is rebranded version of UPI (Unified Payment Interface) and USSD (Unstructured Supplementary Service Data) for simpler digital payments without cash.

❖ **Inkulab**

MakkalPavalarInkulab, the legendary Tamil poet and activist, has recently passed away at Urappakkam in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He was known for his poems like NaangaManushangada, KanmaniRajam, etc. His drama "Avvai" is considered to be the first modern Tamil drama and a prescribed textbook for many colleges.

❖ **Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium**

The Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad, popularly known as Motera Stadium, is set to become the world's largest seating capacity cricket stadium. It is projected to seat about 1,10,000 people and will surpass the Melbourne Cricket Ground, which has a capacity of 1,00,024 people.

❖ **PV Sindhu**

PV Sindhu, an Indian female badminton player and Rio Olympics silver medallist, has been named as the 'Most improved player of the year 2016' by the Badminton World Federation (BWF) at the Players' Reception and Gala Dinner in Dubai.

❖ **Kochi**

India's first transgender school will be inaugurated by transgender rights activist and artist Kalki Subramaniam at Sahaj International School in Kochi, Kerala on December 30, 2016.

❖ **Stephanie Del Valle**

Stephanie Del Valle, a Puerto Rican musician and model, has won the 66th edition of the Miss World pageant "Miss World 2016" in Washington, United States on December 18, 2016.

❖ **Junior Hockey**

Indian Junior Men's hockey team has won the 2016 Men's Junior Hockey World Cup tournament by defeating Belgium in the final match by 2-1 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

❖ **Chhattisgarh**

India's first cashless bazaar has come up in Raipur, Chhattisgarh. Now, over 900 shops of this 'Smart' bazaar are providing customers the facilities of cashless payments using POS, UPI and other digital systems. Currently, Chhattisgarh is leading in the nation in training its people in digital transactions.

❖ **Karun Nair**

Karun Kaladharan Nair, an Indian cricketer from Karnataka, has recently hit the triple century in the fifth and final Cricket Test against England at the M. A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. With this, Nair became only the 2nd Indian batsman to hit a triple-hundred in international cricket history after Virender Sehwag and the 3rd player after Bob Simpson and Sir Garfield Sobers to convert their maiden Test centuries into triple centuries.

❖ **SaanjhiSaanjh**

The Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment, ThaawarchandGehlot has released the first issue of a National Newspaper 'SaanjhiSaanjh' for senior citizen in New Delhi.

❖ Maharashtra forest department

The Maharashtra forest department will launch a state-wide call centre facility for from January 6, 2017 for registering complaints or getting information about issues related to forests and wildlife. Maharashtra will become the first Indian state to have 24×7 helpline for forests.

❖ Mary Kom

M C Mary Kom , an Olympic bronze-medallist and a five-time world champion, has been honoured with the 'Legends Award' by the International Boxing Association (AIBA) for her trailblazing boxing career in Montreux, Switzerland.

❖ Ravichandran Ashwin

Indian off-spinner Ravichandran Ashwin has bagged the prestigious Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy, after he has been named the 'ICC Cricketer of the Year' at ICC Awards 2016 in Dubai. Additionally, he also won the ICC Test cricketer of the Year 2016 award. With this, he became the 2nd Indian player after Rahul Dravid to bag the two coveted prizes in the same year.

❖ Flock

The world's first chat operating system "Flock OS" has been launched by Flock, a free instant messaging service for work and business environments.

❖ Irular

On 23 December 2016, the president has given his assent to declaration of Irular community (including Villi and Vettaikaran) in the Scheduled Tribes list. With this decision, Puducherry has got its first Scheduled Tribes.

❖ Nedumkayam

Nedumkayam, Nilambur in Malapuram District of Kerala has become

the India's first cashless and digital tribal colony. The people of this colony, in spite of threats from the Maoists, are all set for digital transactions.

❖ Caterpillar Train

The Haryana Government will set up a pilot corridor for an innovative concept of 'Caterpillar Train (or C-Train)' that will fly over city's traffic, in Gurgaon city.

❖ Shankar Balasubramanian

An Indian-origin British professor of chemistry and DNA expert at Cambridge University Shankar Balasubramanian received Knighthood from Queen Elizabeth II for their contributions. Born on 30 September 1966 in Chennai, Tamil Nadu. He had received PhD for research on the Reaction mechanism of the enzyme Chorismate synthase from University of Cambridge

❖ Mesentery

Scientists from Ireland have claimed discovery of a new human organ named the mesentery that exists in the digestive system. It will be human body's 79th organ. Mesentery connects the intestine to the abdomen. The organ was previously thought to consist of fragmented and disparate structures.

❖ Latitude 7285 -world's first laptop that charges wirelessly

❖ Pravasi Bhartiya Divas

The 14th edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) began in the country's IT hub Bengaluru, Karnataka. The theme of this edition is "Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora". Dr. Antonio Costa, Prime minister of Portugal is the chief guest in the PBD convention.

❖ Gravitational wave observatory

China is setting up the world's highest altitude gravitational wave observatory in a Tibet prefecture close to Line of Actual Control (LAC) with India. The telescope will detect and gather precise data on primordial gravitational waves in the Northern Hemisphere.

❖ **Black rice**

An exotic variety of Black rice or purple rice recently has gained popularity in Assam. The Black rice is also known as world super food because of its high nutrition value, unique texture and intriguing nutty flavor. It is known for its powerful disease-fighting antioxidants and also contains dietary fiber, anti-inflammatory properties.

❖ **PSLV C37**

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch record 103 satellites in a single flight in the first week of February 2017. It will be a major feat for India as so far no country has attempted it. These satellites will be launched on board of ISRO's workhorse rocket PSLV-C37.

❖ **Shangri-la of the World**

China has launched its longest bullet train 'Shangri-la of the World' connecting Kunming in Yunnan Province to Shanghai. The 2252 km Shanghai-Kunming line links China's prosperous eastern coast with the less-developed south-western part.

❖ **104 science congress**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 104th Indian Science Congress (ISC) at Tarakarama Stadium of Sri Venkateswara University in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh. The theme of this edition of Congress is Science and Technology for National Development. Andhra Pradesh Government has announced a monetary reward of Rs 100 crore to anyone from the state government who wins Nobel Prize.

❖ **National Conference for e-Governance**

The 20th Edition of the National Conference for e-Governance 2016-17 has started in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The theme of this year's conference is 'Internet of Things and e-Governance'

❖ International exchange-India (INX)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first international stock exchange at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat International Financial Tech City (GIFT) located in Gandhinagar, capital of Gujarat. It is named as International exchange-India (INX) and is wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE).

❖ J S Khehar

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar was, , appointed as the 44th Chief Justice of India Justice Khehar will be the first Chief Justice on India from the sikh community.

❖ India and Renewable Energy:

The largest renewable capacity expansion programme in the world is being taken up by India. The government is aiming to increase share of clean energy through massive thrust in renewables.

Targets: The Government of India has set a target of 175 GW renewable power installed capacity by the end of 2022. This includes 60 GW from wind power, 100 GW from solar power, 10 GW from biomass power and 5 GW from small hydro power.

❖ Government Launches Lucky Grahak Yojana, Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana:

- The Union Government on 15 December 2016 launched lucky Grahak Yojana and Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana to promote digital payments in the country. These schemes are aimed at increasing the overall transparency in the economy and removing the influence of cash on the political and economic system. Under these schemes, government will be giving cash awards to consumers and merchants who utilize digital payment instruments for personal consumption expenditures. The National

Payment corporation of India (NPCI) will be the implementing agency of these schemes.

- Under the Lucky Grahak Yojana (consumers), the government will offer daily reward of Rs. 1000 that will be given to 15000 lucky consumers for a period of 100 days. Consumers, who use the alternate modes of digital payments, will be awarded with the weekly prizes of Rs. 1 lakh, Rs 10000 and Rs 5000.
- Under the Digi Dhan Vyapar Yojana (Merchants), the government will award prizes to merchants for all digital transactions conducted at merchant establishments. They will be awarded will the weekly prizes of Rs. 50000, Rs. 5000 and Rs. 2500.

❖ **Government Launches E-Pashuhaat Portal to Connect Breeders and Farmers:**

It is for the first time in the world that a portal has been specifically developed for connecting breeders and farmers regarding availability of bovine germplasm.

❖ **Element 117 Officially Named “Tennessine”**

The superheavy element 117 was recently officially named “Tennessine” - about six years after its discovery was first reported. The International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC) - which validates the existence of newly discovered elements and approves their official names - gave its final approval to the name “Tennessine” following a year-long process.

❖ **Salto, The World’s Most Vertically Agile Robot:**

Researchers have designed salto, a small robot that can leap into the air and then spring off a wall, or perform multiple vertical jumps in a row, resulting in the highest robotic vertical jumping agility ever recorded. Solto (Saltatorial locomotion on terrain obstacles).

❖ Natarajan Chandrasekaran

Natarajan Chandrasekaran, the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and Managing Director (MD) of TCS, has been appointed as the new chairman of Tata Sons. He'll be first non-Parsi chairman of Tata Sons and will take charge from Feb 21, 2017. He is from Mohanur, Namakkal district, Tamil Nadu.

❖ Chennai open

Spain's Roberto Bautista won the 2017 Chennai Open title in the men's single category. The Indian team of Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan has won the 2017 Aircel Chennai Open men's doubles category.

OTHERS

- Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani dedicated India's first laser technology-based advanced Automatic Vehicle Monitoring System (AVMS) RTO check-post at Shamlaji, Aravalli district.
- China launched its first freight train to London (Britain) with an aim to improve China-Britain trade ties, strengthen connectivity with Western Europe.
- The international Kite festival started in Ahmedabad at Sabarmati River Front in Ahmedabad.
- India's first-ever solar powered boat "Aditya" has been launched at Vembanad Lake in Kochi, Kerala.
- The world's first "Gender Literature Festival" will be held in Patna, Bihar in the second week of April 2017.
- The committee under the Chairmanship of former Finance Secretary Sumit Bose has recently submitted report on Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) to the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD).

- Former world champion Sarita Devi is set to become the first female professional boxer from India.
- Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo was named the world's best player for the year 2016
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Nobel Prize Series Exhibition in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It is the first-of-its-kind conclave of Nobel laureates to be held in India.
- Tamil Nadu became 21st state to join Central Government's power utility turnaround scheme Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana (UDAY).
- International Conference on Disability Communication held in Mumbai.
- The Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare will roll out measles-rubella (MR) vaccine in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) in February 2017.
- Maharashtra Government launched India's largest public WiFi service called 'MumbaiWifi' in state capital Mumbai with aim to empower people digitally. It is also claimed to be one of the largest wifi service in the world.
- WHO: According to recent world Health Organization (WHO) survey of 33 countries has shown that African nations developing lifestyle diseases.
- The Tamil Nadu tourism department has recently launched a mobile app "Pinakin" to provide information on major tourist destinations in Tamil Nadu in a phased manner. The app is a free audio guide and is available in two languages "Tamil and English".
- The Union Sports Ministry has constituted committee to frame comprehensive National Sports Development Code across sports disciplines. It will be headed by InjetiSrinivas, Sports Secretary.
- The Island Tourism Festival 2017 began at Port Blair, capital of Andaman & Nicobar Islands.

- Israel is building world's tallest solar tower to harness solar energy as part of its ambitious Ashalim project, located deep in the Negev desert
- Norway is set to become the first country in the world to switch off its FM radio network. In this regard, Scandinavian country's parliament has approved a proposal to shift to Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB).
- President Pranab Mukherjee has inaugurated the 77th session of Indian History Congress (IHC) at University of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on December 29, 2016.
- France became the first country in the world to use drones for national mail service.
- India's first centre for digital investigation and training has been set up by the Haryana police in collaboration with National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) in Gurgaon.
- Hindi author Nasira Sharma has recently won the 2016 Sahitya Akademi Award 2016 for his novel "Parijat".
- Bollywood superstar Salman Khan has been ranked first on the 2016 Forbes India Celebrity 100 List with an estimated income of Rs 270.33 crore.
- Meghalaya will host the 2022 National Games, which is coinciding with its 50 years of statehood.
- The Argentina national football team has won the 2016 FIFA Team of the year title.
- The Bollywood actor Hrithik Roshan has recently launched a one of its kind Braille-Tactile children's book series "Tactabet" in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- India will host the 5th edition of the Global Conference on Cyber Space (GCSS) in 2017 in which over 100 countries are expected to participate.

- The Assam government has appointed Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra as the state's tourism brand ambassador for two years to promote the new brand entity "Awesome Assam".
- The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare won gold in the Web Ratna category at the 2016 Digital India awards.
- Amina Mohammed, the environment minister of Nigeria, has been named as the new UN's Deputy Secretary-General.
- Praveen Mahajan, a former IRS officer, has become the first woman President of the All India Tennis Association (AITA).
- India has been ranked 102nd among 136 nations in the 2016 Enabling Trade Index (ETI)
- The 27th meeting of the Southern Zonal Council held at Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala was chaired by Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh.
- President Pranab Mukherjee has appointed former bureaucrat Anil Baijal (70) as the 21st Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.
- China has successfully tested the latest version of its fifth-generation stealth fighter jet J-31 (now renamed the FC-31 Gyrfalcon).
- Assam Government rolled out 'Atal-Amrit Abhiyan', a health insurance scheme to provide coverage against several critical illnesses.
- Scientists from Canada have developed the first functional pacemaker cells using human pluripotent stem cells.
- A team of UK-based researchers have identified Hafnium carbide (HfC) as the world's most heat resistant material.
- The foundation stone of India's first 2G (Second Generation) Ethanol Bio-refinery was laid at Tarkhanwala village in Bathinda, Punjab.
- Researchers from United States have developed the first vaccine for Chikungunya fever made from an insect-specific Eilat virus.

- The Union Power Ministry is going to launch new mobile application GARV-II to provide real time data of all six lakh villages of the country.
- The world's first cloned goat bearing superfine Cashmere wool was born in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
- The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has found an ancient camping site used by pre-historic man, at an altitude of about 4,200 metres near Saser La in Nubra Valley, Ladakh.
- India has signed government-to-government (G2G) deal with the United States (US) to buy 145 M-777 Ultra-Light Howitzers worth \$750 million under the Foreign Military Sales programme.
- According to the 2016 Global Terrorism Index (GTI) India was ranked 7th among 163 countries in the list of most impacted by terrorism in 2015.
- The UN cultural body UNESCO has accorded world heritage status to Brazilian city of Rio de Janeiro (nicknamed as Marvelous City).
- Scientists for the first time have detected trace amounts of ammonia in the upper troposphere, the lowest atmospheric layer of Earth.
- Haryana became the first state in the country to launch Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) initiative for safety of women.
- State-owned power producer National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) and aluminium producer National Aluminium Co. Ltd (NALCO) have signed MoU to establish a 2.4 giga watt (GW) Coal based power project at Gajmara, Odisha.
- Assam government has launched 'Sustainable Action for Climate Resilient Development in Majuli' (SACReD, Majuli) to make river island Majuli country's first ever Carbon Neutral district by 2020.
- China has launched its first fully-owned overseas satellite ground station near the North Pole enabling it to collect satellite data anywhere on the Earth at fastest speed in the world.

- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has successfully launched a solid fuel rocket named Epsilon-2 from the Uchinoura Space Center in southern Japan.
- ICICI Bank, India's largest private sector bank has launched EazyPay mobile application for merchants that allows all-in-one acceptance payments platform
- The Odisha Government launched the BijuSishuSurakshya Yojana, a scheme to nurture the orphan and HIV-infected children residing in different child care institutions and orphanages.
- Kolkata has been bagged the C40 Award for best solid waste management improvement project of 2016 during the C40 Mayors Summit held in Mexico City.
- SrinidhiShetty of India has won the 8th edition of Miss Supranational 2016 held in Poland.
- The first-ever International Gita Mahotsav held in Kurukshetra, Haryana on December 6, 2016.
- Sachin Bansal and BinnyBansal, founders of Flipkart, have been jointly named as the "Asian of the Year 2016" by Singapore-based newspaper.
- The Vijayawada Parliamentary constituency has become the India's first parliamentary constituency to have health insurance for all from a new born to senior citizens.
- India 2016 won the Asian Cricket Council Under -19S Asia Cup title. India defeated hosts Sri Lanka by 34 runs.
- Indian batswoman SmritiMandhana was named in the International Cricket Council (ICC) women's Team of the year 2016, becoming the first Indian woman cricketer to figure in the prestigious list.
- India women's cricket team defeated Pakistan to win the 2016 Asia Cup T20 at Bangkok, Thailand.

- India's Pankaj Advani won the world Billiards title
- The 5th India-Arab Partnership Conference held in Muscat, Oman
- Bill English, the leader of the National Party, has been sworn-in as the 39th Prime Minister of New Zealand
- The Madhya Pradesh government has become the first Indian state to launch the biggest and first-ever crop insurance claim distribution programme worth Rs 4,416 crore in Ujjain.
- China has successfully launched "Feng-Yun-4" a new generation weather satellite into geostationary orbit
- The Bollywood actress Priyanka Chopra has been appointed as the UNICEF's newest Global Goodwill Ambassador at the UNICEF's 70th anniversary event in New York.
- India's largest indoor sports arena will come up in New Town area of Kolkata, West Bengal
- The Rajiv Gandhi International Airport (RGIA) in Hyderabad has become the 2nd airport in the Asia-Pacific region among all categories to achieve carbon neutral status.
- George Michael (53), the British pop superstar and founding member of Wham!, has recently passed away at Goring, England.
- The Odisha Government will launch a new malaria control programme "DurgamaAnchalare Malaria Nirakaran (DAMAN)" for 5 years with a total spending of Rs. 120 crore.
- The powerful typhoon "Nock-Ten" has recently hit the coast near Catanduanes Island in Philippines with winds up to 140 km/ hour. The typhoon, locally known as Nina in the Philippines.
- Two new Hindi writers Shraddha and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh have been chosen for Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Award for the year 2016

- Lionel Messi has been recognised by the IFFHS (International Federation of Football, History and Statistics) as the best playmaker of 2016.
- Andhra Pradesh Government has launched NTR Arogya Raksha Scheme to provide the medical treatment to the people Above Poverty Line (APL) at Rs. 1200 premium per annum.
- The World Bank in its recently released flagship 'Global Economic Prospects' report has decelerated India's growth for 2016-17 fiscal to 7% from its previous estimate of 7.6%.
- The 8th International Conference and Exhibition on Re-enforced Plastics (ICERP) -Mumbai.
- Rajasthan Cricket Association (RCA) became the first state cricket governing body in the country to accept all the reforms recommended by Lodha Committee on structural reforms in BCCI.
- Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport claimed to become the first aerodrome in the world to adopt Arc, an unique performance and benchmarking digital platform.
- The world's first 'Gender Literature Festival' -Patna
- **Bipin Rawat:** New Army Chief.
- **Birender Singh Dhanoa:** New Chief of the Air Force
- **JOHN GLENN:** Former US astronaut John Glenn, the first American to orbit Earth, died on 8 December 2016. Glenn was best known for circling the earth in 1962.
- **SUSHMA SWARAJ:** India's Minister of External Affairs Sushma Swaraj was, in December 2016, named a '2016 Global Thinker' by Foreign Policy magazine for her 'novel Twitter diplomacy'.
- 'Swasthya Raksha Programme' was recently launched by the AYUSH Ministry to promote health and health education in villages.

- President Pranab Mukherjee on 23 December 2016 gave his assent to the Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation) Fifth ordinance 2016.
- Argentina, , lifted their first Davis cup title.
- Raj Bhawan of Himachal Pradesh becomes the first in India to adopt the cashless system for all kind of payments.
- Arunachal Pradesh state Co-operative Apex Bank launches Mobile Banking Service named SIMsePaY in collaboration with the yes Bank Ltd.
- The Union Government announces that a helpline number 14444, officially called Cash Mukta Bharat Abhiyan Helpline Number, will be launched to promote digital payments.
- To tackle the world's worst inflation, Venezuelan Government announces demonetisation of Bolivar Fuerte 100 banknotes and orders the closure of the border with Colombia for 72 hours.
- Finland has become the first country in the world to pay a basic income to randomly picked citizens on a national level.
- Sergey Karjakin of Russia has recently won gold in the 2016 World Blitz Chess Championship in Doha, Qatar by defeating Norway's Magnus Carlsen in a tie-break.
- India's first bus to run on human and animal waste is set to make debut on the Ultadanga to Garia route in Kolkata in March, 2017.
- Novak Djokovic, a Serbian professional tennis, has won the Qatar Open Men's singles tennis tournament by defeating Andy Murray in the final
- The 21st edition of National Youth Festival - Rohtak, Haryana
- 2018 Women's Hockey world cup is going to be held in London,UK
- France introduced Terror Tax on insurance policies to support victims of terror attacks.

- 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
- For the second consecutive year, Tamil Nadu has been recognised for its highest number of organ donations and for performing the maximum number transplantations in the country.

STATES FACING ELECTIONS

- Punjab – Total Seats : 117
 - Goa – Total seats : 40
 - Uttarakhand – Total seats : 70
 - Manipur – Total seats : 60
 - Uttarpradesh – Total seats : 403
- The Law Ministry has formed a 10-member panel by former Supreme Court Judge Mr. B.N. Srikrishna to review and create an institutional framework for the arbitration mechanism in India.
 - A 'Performance on Health Outcomes' index, spearheaded by NITI Aayog along with Ministry of Health and Family welfare, to nudge the states towards transformative action in the Health sector was lauded at NITI Aayog.
 - Mr. Paolo Gentiloni was named as the new Prime Minister of Italy
 - PepsiCo CEO Indra Nooyi appointed to strategic and Policy Forum of Donald Trump
 - **Beipanjiang Bridge, China:** China's highest bridge, soaring 565 meters above the Nizhuriver.
 - Bihar announces 50 percent reservation in judicial services: The Nitish Kumar-led Bihar Government announced 50 percent reservation for members of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and minorities in judicial services in the state.

- Renowned Tamil poet Thiruvalluvar's statue unveiled in Haridwar: Uttarakhand.

DAYS

- The National Pollution Control Day (NPCD) is celebrated every year on December 2
- International Day for Abolition of Slavery - December 2
- The United Nations (UN)' International Volunteer Day (IVD) is observed every year on December 5
- The World Soil Day 2016 is observed every year on December 5
- International Anti-Corruption Day (IACD) is observed annually on December 9
- UN Human Rights Day is observed annually on 10th December.
- International Mountain Day December 11
- National Mathematics Day is observed every year on 22nd December
- National Consumer Day is observed every year in India on 24th December. World consumer rights day is observed on March 15th
- The Good Governance Day (GGD) is observed on December 25
- The World Braille Day is observed every year across the world on 4 January to mark the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, inventor of Braille script or Braille code.
- The National Youth Day is observed every year on 12 January to mark the birth anniversary of social reformer, philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda.
- Director and music composer Gangai Amaran has been selected for the prestigious Harivaram Award instituted by the Kerala

government for this year. The award will be given to encourage the artists who delivered their invaluable contribution to propagate the spirit of secularism and patriotism.

Abbreviations

- USSD - Unstructured Supplementary Service Data
- UPI - Unified Payment Interface
- AEPS - Aadhaar Enabled Payment System
- NPCI - National Payment Corporation of India
- BHIM - Bharat Interface for Money

Books & Authors:

- The White Sari : by DevyaniKhubragade.
- Black Water Lilies: By Michel Bussi.
- Things to Leave Behind : by Namita Gokhale.
- Ajinkyatara : by Sanjay Dudhane.
- “The Secret Chord” by Geraldine Brooks, the Pulitzer Prize-winning author.
- “Scattered Souls” by Shahnaj Bashir.
- “Death Under The Deodars: The Adventures of Miss Ripley-Bean” by Ruskin Bond.
- I am a Troll by Swathy Chaturvedi
- Emperor Chandragupta by Adity Kay
- On the Front Line: The Collected Journalism by Marie Colvin
- Courts of India- Past and Present by Supreme Court

- “Many Everests: An Inspiring Journey of Transforming Dream into Reality” by Ravindra Kumar

Awards

- ❖ **Harivarasanam Award - Gangaiamaran**
- ❖ **(ICCR)Indologist Award:** Prof. Yu Long Yu of China
- ❖ **52nd Jnanpith Award - Shankha Ghosh (Bengali poet)**
- ❖ **International Children’s Peace Prize -**

UAE based Indian environmental activist Kehkashan Basu (16) has won 2016 prestigious International Children’s Peace Prize. She was bestowed with this prestigious award for her fight for climate justice and combating environmental degradation.

- ❖ **52nd Jnanpith Award - Shankha Ghosh (Bengali poet)**
- ❖ **2016 TURNER PRICE:** Helen Marten
- ❖ **Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016:** Ratan Tata
- ❖ **SASTRA-Ramanujan award**

KaisaMatomaki and MaksymRadziwill have been jointly won the 2016 SASTRA-Ramanujan award for mathematics for their ‘revolutionary’ collaborative work on short intervals in number theory.

- ❖ **2016 Sahitya Akademi Award -**

For Tamil language, Vannadhasan has been awarded for his book "OruSiruIsai", a collection of short stories.

- ❖ **Tamilnadu Government Awards 2017**

- P Veeramani - Thiruvalluvar award
- Panruti S Ramachandran - Thanthai Periyar award
- R Duraisamy - Doctor Ambedkar award

- T Neelakandan - PerunthalaivarKamarajar award
- Professor S Ganapathi Raman - MahakaviBharathiar award
- Ko Bharathi - PavendarBharathidasan award
- Dr. MaraimalaiIllakuvanar - Thiru Vi Ka award
- MeenatchiMurugarathinam - MuttamizhKavalar Ki AaPeViswanatham award
- Kooram M Durai - Perarignar Anna Award

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