



# GA Sanjeevani

2016 Current Affairs: 1 December to 20 December

## Important Days in December

Date	Day	2016 theme if any
1 December	World AIDS Day	Hands Up For HIV Prevention
1 December	Raising Day of Border Security Force (BSF)	-
2 December	National Pollution Control Day (India)	-
3 December	International Day of Persons with Disabilities	Achieving 17 Goals for the Future We Want
4 December	Indian Navy Day	-
5 December	International Volunteer Day	Global Applause - give volunteers a hand
5 December	World Soil Day	Soils and pulses, a symbiosis for life
7 December	Armed Forces Flag Day	-
9 December	International Anti-Corruption Day	United against corruption for development, peace and security
10 December	Human Rights Day	Stand up for someone's rights today
11 December	International Mountain Day	Mountain Cultures: Celebrating diversity and strengthening identity
16 December	Vijay Diwas	-
18 December	Minorities Rights Day	-
19 December	Goa Liberation Day	-
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day	-

## Books in News

Book	Author
The Walking Dead: A Continuing Story of Survival Horror	Robert Kirkman
Harry Potter and the Cursed Child	JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany
Dipa Karmakar: The Small Wonder	Bishweshwar Nandi
The Other One Percent: Indians in America	Sanjoy Chakravorty
Many Everests: An Inspiring Journey of Transforming Dream into Reality	Ravindra Kumar
Courts of India - Past to Present	Released by the Supreme Court, Authored by Editorial Board comprises members of both the Bench and the Bar.
Exile	Taslima Nasreen

## Obituaries

- ❖ **Phulel Singh Sujlana**, the former international **hockey umpire** and veteran administrator, passed away.

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- ❖ **Bekal Utsahi**, the renowned **Urdu poet** of Uttar Pradesh and former **Rajya Sabha MP**, passed away in New Delhi.

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- ❖ **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Jayalalithaa Jayaraman (68)** passed away in Chennai.

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- ❖ **Srinivasa Iyer Ramaswamy (81)**, the noted political satirist and founder **editor of Thuglak magazine**, passed away in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

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- ❖ Former **NASA astronaut and Democratic US Senator from Ohio, John Glenn (95)**, passed away.

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- ❖ **Walter Swinburn (55)**, one of the most renowned **jockeys** of his generation and **rider of the Shergar**, passed away.

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- ❖ Bewitched and Titanic **actor Bernard Fox (89)** passed away.

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- ❖ Noted **economist and former Planning Commission member Saumitra Chaudhuri (63)** passed away.

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- ❖ **Dr Henry Heimlich (96)**, who became famous in the 1970s for creating the **Heimlich maneuver, technique to save choking victims**, passed away.

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- ❖ Veteran **Malayalam Film and Television actor K N Jagannatha Varma (77)** passed away at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala.

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- ❖ **Zsa Zsa Gabor, Hungarian-American actress** and socialite died from a heart attack at 99 at her Los Angeles home.

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## Banking News

- ➔ Kochi based **Federal Bank has tied up with Spice Digital** for cash management services through the bank's e-collection facility.

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- ➔ **Airtel Payments Bank**, the first payments bank in India introduce that any customer opening a savings account with it will get **one minute of talk time on his/her Airtel mobile for every rupee** deposited.

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- ➔ Edible oil firm **Ruchi Soya Industries** in association with **State Bank of India (SBI)** launched an initiative to provide banking assistance to farmers.

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- ➔ **Hailakandi has become the first district in Assam to pay wages to tea garden workers through individual bank accounts** before the December 15 deadline set by the state government for cashless transactions to the plantation workers.

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- ➔ In order to mop up extra liquidity from the system in view of demonetisation, government and the Reserve Bank on sharply raised the **Market Stabilisation Scheme (MSS) ceiling to Rs 6 lakh crore from Rs 30,000 crore.**

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- ➔ Telecom operator **Bharti Airtel appointed Sunil Taldar as CEO & Director of its DTH arm Airtel Digital TV** and moved incumbent Shashi Arora as MD & CEO of Airtel Payments Bank.

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- ➔ **MMTC (Metals and Minerals Trading gold Corporation)** tie-up with the State Bank of India (SBI) to sell government-minted Indian Gold Coin (24 Karat) which will be available in denominations of 5gm, 10gm and 20 gm bar.

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- ➔ **Vijaya Bank** has been adjudged "**Best Bank for SME Lending**" by The Associate Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) at the 4th SMEs Excellence Award function in New Delhi.

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- ➔ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**Nabard**) said it will extend support aggregating about **Rs. 120 crore to banks for deployment of two Point-of-Sale (PoS) devices** per village in one lakh villages having a population of up to 10,000.

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- ➔ **Karnataka Bank Ltd** has bagged the '**Best MSME Bank Award (private sector) 2016**' instituted by Assocham.

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- ➔ The **Corporation Bank** has bagged the '**Best MSME Bank Award 2016**' instituted by Assocham.

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- ➔ **BEML has bagged the 'CII National Quality 2016 Award'**. The award has been jointly instituted by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and Export Import Bank (EXIM).

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- ➔ **IDFC Bank appointed Veena Mankar as Non-Executive Chairperson.**

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- ➔ 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.

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- ➔ **Viola Desmond will be the first Canadian woman to figure on a banknote.** She will appear on the Canadian \$10 bill.

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- ➔ The RBI has directed the banks to upload the KYC data pertaining to new individual accounts opened on or after **1 January, 2017 with Central KYC Records Registry.**

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- ➔ The **Asian Development Bank lowered India's growth forecast for this year from 7.4 % to 7 %** due to a slight slowdown in the economy following the central government's demonetisation move.

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- ➔ **India has signed a Grant Agreement of USD 5.19 million with International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** for Additional Financing for Financing Energy Efficiency at MSMEs Project-Programmatic Framework.

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- ➔ **VG Kannan has taken charge as Chief Executive of the Indian Banks' Association (IBA).**

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- ➔ **The World Bank Group has halted the two concurrent processes initiated by India and Pakistan under the Indus Water Treaty.** The Bank initiated this move in order to protect the treaty.

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- ➔ The Dharwad-headquartered **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank has bagged two awards for inclusive insurance** from Skoch Group for 2016.

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- ➔ State Bank of India (**SBI**) has launched mobile wallet app '**MobiCash**' which can be used in both Smartphone as well as in Feature phone.

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- ➔ **YES Bank** has partnered with **Ola** to provide cash-on-demand at customer's doorstep.

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- ➔ **PrivatBank, Ukraine's largest private bank, nationalized** by the Government of Ukraine, after being declared insolvent by the National Bank of Ukraine.

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- ➔ The **SBI board approved sale of 3.9% stake in its life insurance arm for Rs 1,794 cr.** The SBI Life Insurance is a joint venture between SBI and BNP Paribas Cardif.

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## Miscellaneous News

- ✚ The Central Statistical Office announced that India's **Gross Domestic Product accelerated to 7.3 % in the second quarter (July-September)** of the 2016-17 financial year from a provisional 7.1 % expansion in the previous quarter.

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- ✚ **Yoga**, India's one of the ancient practices to keep oneself healthy, has been inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List as the **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity**.

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- ✚ The **All-India Football Federation has won the Asian Football Council's Developing Member Association of the Year Award** in Abu Dhabi.

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- ✚ **Emirates launched the world's shortest scheduled service** on an Airbus A380, flying it from Dubai to Doha within 80 minutes.

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- ✚ **Dhasai village** in Thane district has become the **first "cashless village" in Maharashtra**.

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- ✚ **India has been ranked 102nd among 136 nations in the 2016 Enabling Trade Index (ETI)**, as per recently published 'Global Enabling Trade Report 2016 of World Economic Forum (WEF) and the Global Alliance for Trade Facilitation.

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- ✚ **Praveen Mahajan**, a former IRS officer, became the **first woman President of the All India Tennis Association (AITA)**.

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- ✚ The 2016 **India International Science festival (IISF) held in New Delhi**.

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- ✚ **Cheng Wei**, Co-founder and Chief Executive of China's largest ride-sharing service provider Didi Chuxing (Didi) is **Forbes Asia's Businessman of the Year for 2016**.

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- ✚ Nation paid tribute to **Rajendra Prasad, the first President of independent India** on his **131st birth anniversary on 3 December 2016**.

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- ✚ **Kolkata**, along with 10 other cities from across the globe, has been honoured with the **best cities of 2016 award** in recognition of its programme on solid waste management. Kolkata, the only Indian city to win the honour.

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- ✚ **Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt won the International Association of Athletics Federations' award** for male athlete of the year for a record sixth time.

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- ✚ **Nihonium became Asia's 1st Periodic Table element discovery**.

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- ✚ Union Minister for Human Resource Development, **Prakash Javadekar launched 'Vittiya Saksharata Abhiyan' in New Delhi**.

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- ✚ Crown Prince **Maha Vajiralongkorn has become the king of Thailand**.

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- ✚ **Chitra Ramkrishna, Managing Director (MD) and chief executive of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) has resigned from her post.**
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- ✚ **Rakesh Asthana has been named as the interim chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)**
- 
- ✚ **J Ravichandran has been appointed as the interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE).**
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- ✚ **India will train Qatar police for handling the security during the FIFA World Cup 2022** scheduled to be held in that country.
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- ✚ **India and Qatar has signed four agreements** on visas, cyberspace and investments following delegation-level talks led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Qatari counterpart Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani on key issues of energy, trade and security.
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- ✚ **India's representative Srinidhi Shetty has been crowned Miss Supranational 2016**, an international beauty pageant.
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- ✚ **Emma Stone and Ryan Gosling starrer romantic drama La La Land has been chosen as the best film of 2016 by the New York Film Critics Circle.**
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- ✚ **US President-elect Donald Trump has named General Motors CEO Mary Barra to his economic and job-creation advisory panel.**
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- ✚ **Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu achieved her career-best ranking of seven** in the latest BWF World Ranking.
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- ✚ **Kehkashan Basu**, a UAE-based Indian environmental activist, has won the 2016 prestigious **International Children's Peace Prize**.
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- ✚ **The 6th Heart of Asia (HoA) ministerial conference has started at Amritsar** in Punjab with the theme "Addressing challenges achieving prosperity".
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- ✚ **Tesla and SpaceX Founder Elon Musk has been named the most admired leader in the technology space**, in a survey conducted by VC firm First Round Capital involving over 700 startup founders.
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- ✚ **Universal Studios Hollywood has been named the Best Attraction in the World** by ticket selling site 'AttractionTix'.
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- ✚ **Chicago airport has topped the OAG's 2016 Megahubs Index** for the most connected airport in the world.
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- ✚ **The Indira Gandhi International Airport in New Delhi is the 22nd most connected airport in the world**, according to air travel intelligence company OAG. Mumbai Airport has been ranked 28<sup>th</sup>.
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- ✚ Basketball player **LeBron James** has been chosen as the **Sports Illustrated's Sports person of the Year**.

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- ✚ A **Spanish city** has changed its name for the **third time in a decade**, renaming itself Palma from Palma de Mallorca.

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- ✚ **India women's cricket team** won the **2016 Asia Cup T20** after beating arch-rivals Pakistan in the final in Bangkok, Thailand.

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- ✚ The **7th World Ayurveda Congress (WAC)** held at **Science City in Kolkata, West Bengal**.

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- ✚ President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the **first-ever International Gita Mahotsav in Kurukshetra, Haryana**.

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- ✚ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** won the reader's poll for **TIME 'Person of the Year 2016'**.

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- ✚ **Donald Trump**, the US president-elect was announced as the **2016 Person of the Year by TIME magazine**.

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- ✚ **NITI Aayog** will provide **Rs. 5 lakh for every district** in India to encourage digital payment system.

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- ✚ Shoojit Sircar's critically-acclaimed **Pink** bagged the **Best Film award at the Star Screen Awards 2016** in Mumbai.

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- ✚ **Amitabh Bachchan** received the **Best Actor** award for the film **Pink** at the **Star Screen Awards 2016**.

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- ✚ **Tasmania-based Women's Legal Service in collaboration with TRS Law Offices (India)** has launched a **website (www.Girlsgottaknow.In)** for women in the country to educate them about their legal rights.

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- ✚ All India Football Federation President **Praful Patel** has been appointed as a **Senior Vice-President of Asian Football Confederation (AFC)**.

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- ✚ The first-of-its-kind app, "**Stanpan Suraksha**" has been launched by **Union Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram** to promote breastfeeding.

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- ✚ The annual bilateral maritime exercise "**KONKAN 16**" between the **Indian Navy and the Royal Navy** held in **Mumbai**.

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- ✚ The 12th edition of International Oil and Gas Conference and Exhibition "**Petrotech-2016**" held at Pragati Maidan in **New Delhi**. The 2016 theme is "**Hydrocarbons to fuel the future - Choices and Challenges**".

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- ✚ **TeamIndus**, an Indian space technology company has signed a verified commercial launch contract with the Indian Space Research Organisation (**ISRO**) to land a spacecraft on the moon as part of its bid to win the **Google Lunar XPRIZE**.



- ✚ The **South American economic bloc Mercosur suspended Venezuela** from it for violating the bloc's democratic principles and failing to meet its basic standards.

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- ✚ The RBI has deferred the deployment of **Aadhaar-enabled devices for authorised card payment networks and white-label ATM operators till June 30, 2017.**

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- ✚ The **VISAKA scheme** launched by the Union Ministry for Human Resource Development is aimed at making people aware about **cashless economic system.**

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- ✚ The **Hornbill Festival** was observed recently in **Nagaland**. The festival coincides with the Statehood Day of the state which is observed on Dec 1.

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- ✚ **Thailand** named its crown prince **Maha Vajiralongkorn as its new king.**

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- ✚ Indian Golfer **Mukesh Kumar became the oldest golfer to win an Asian Tour title** at Delhi Golf Club (DGC) after winning the Panasonic Open India.

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- ✚ Flipkart founders **Sachin Bansal and Binny Bansal have been jointly named "Asian of the Year 2016"** by Singapore-based newspaper The Straits Times.

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- ✚ **John Key unexpectedly announced his resignation recently as the Prime Minister of New Zealand.**

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- ✚ **Amazon** launched its global startup program '**Launchpad**' in India, an online portal featuring over 400 products from different startups.

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- ✚ **Alexander Van der Bellen won the presidential election in Austria.**

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- ✚ **KPMG and Microsoft** partnered to help grow India's digital transformation.

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- ✚ Driven by increased 4G and 3G penetration, **India's internet population is likely to increase from current 343 million users to 600 million by 2020**, according to a study by The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (Assocham) and Deloitte.

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- ✚ **Panneerselvam has been sworn in as new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.**

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- ✚ The **Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee** has announced that the state would be setting up a **special panel to stop child trafficking.**

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- ✚ **AirAsia** has announced the appointment of **Amar Abrol as its Managing Director** in addition to his role as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

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- ✚ **Bernard Cazeneuve** named as new prime minister of France.

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- ✚ **India and United Kingdom (UK) MoU for cooperation in field of Intellectual Property approved.**

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- ✚ **Cabinet approves Indo-Thai agreement on narcotics control.**

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- ✚ **Uzbekistan's Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev became the country's second president after winning 88.61% votes.**
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- ✚ **Senior IAS officer B.S. Bhullar has been appointed the Chief of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).**
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- ✚ **The Government of India (GoI) will establish a Center of Excellence in Information Technology at Egypt's oldest and most prestigious Al-Azhar University.**
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- ✚ **English has been ranked first in the top 10 most powerful languages in the world according to the 2016 World Power Language Index (PLI) published by World Economic Forum (WEF). "Hindi" has been ranked 10th.**
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- ✚ **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.**
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- ✚ **The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully launched the remote sensing satellite "Resource sat-2A" into orbit by the PSLV C-36 launch vehicle at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Andhra Pradesh.**
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- ✚ **The Andhra Pradesh Government has recently launched "AP Purse" mobile application to promote digital transactions among the people in Vijayawada.**
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- ✚ **Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar has been appointed as the 44th Chief Justice of India.**
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- ✚ **U.S. President-elect Donald Trump has selected Iowa Governor Terry Branstad as his incoming government's ambassador to China.**
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- ✚ **Cabinet approves MoU with Afghanistan on cooperation in peaceful uses of outer space.**
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- ✚ **Cabinet approves MoU with United Kingdom UK to support ease of doing business in India.**
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- ✚ **The Serendipity Arts Festival (SAF) is scheduled to be held from 16 December to 23 December 2016 in Goa.**
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- ✚ **Justice Mian Saqib Nisar was appointed as the next Chief Justice of Pakistan.**
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- ✚ **Indian Oil Corporation (IOCL), Bharat Petroleum Corporation (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp (HPCL) have signed a pact to build India's biggest oil refinery at a cost of \$30 billion on the west coast.**
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- ✚ **The Women and Child Development Ministry's "Mahila E-haat" has tied up with India Post and SBI. This will offer more payment options to buyers.**
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- ✚ **Microsoft has introduced business solutions** from its partner ecosystem to meet the business needs of small and medium **businesses across Kerala.**

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- ✚ **The 5th India-Arab Partnership Conference will be held in Muscat, Oman.**

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- ✚ **The “Laureates and Leaders” Summit for Children hosted by President Pranab Mukherjee** at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

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- ✚ **The Allahabad High Court** has termed the Islamic practice of divorcing a woman by uttering the word ‘**talaq (Talaq-e-bidat)**’ **thrice as unconstitutional.**

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- ✚ **The Indian Army has launched a “Veterans Outreach App”** i.e. dedicated to Army Veterans and Veer Naris.

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- ✚ **Internationally acclaimed sculptor Adwaita Gadanayak is the newly appointed Director General of National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA).**

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- ✚ **The first elite men’s senior national boxing tournament** held at the Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Sarusajai, **Guwahati, Assam.**

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- ✚ **The tropical cyclone ‘Vardah’** is expected to hit the Andhra Pradesh coast between Nellore and Kakinada with the speed of 10 km/hr.

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- ✚ **RBI has authorised Receivables Exchange of India Limited (RXIL) to launch India’s first trade receivables exchange platform** - an online market place for MSMEs, Buyers and Financiers. RXIL has been promoted by SIDBI.

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- ✚ **To speed up small value online transactions, the RBI has relaxed norms for Additional Factor of Authentication (AFA) for payments up to Rs 2,000.**

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- ✚ **India will begin training the fighter pilots from Vietnam countries on its Sukhoi-30MKI “air dominance jets”** from 2017 onwards.

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- ✚ **Joint naval military exercise between India and Russia “the Indra NAVY-2016”, to be held in Visakhapatnam and the Bay of Bengal.**

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- ✚ **As per the findings of the 2015 Program International Student Assessment (PISA) conducted by the OECD, the teens from Singapore tops in the world.**

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- ✚ **The Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium in Ahmedabad, popularly known as Motera Stadium, is set to become the world’s largest seating capacity cricket stadium.**

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- ✚ **Larsen & Turbo (L&T) has bagged a contract from the Gujarat Cricket Association (GCA) to make Sardar Patel Cricket Stadium of Gujarat the world’s biggest cricket stadium in terms of seating capacity.**

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- ✚ **Nana Akufo-Addo won Ghana presidential election.**

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- ✚ **“Harry Potter and the Cursed Child”** authored by JK Rowling, Jack Thorne and John Tiffany, **topped Amazon's best-selling books of 2016.**

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- ✚ **Pakistan has removed an undeclared ban on import of ginned cotton from India.**

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- ✚ **India will set up center of excellence at Al-Azhar University, Egypt.**

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- ✚ **Vistaar Financial Services appointed ex-Sebi chief C B Bhave as non-executive Chairman.**

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- ✚ **PR Sreejesh Appointed as Goalkeeping Mentor of Indian Junior Hockey Team.**

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- ✚ Young Indian racer **Jehan Daruvala** has been signed by **Formula 3's top team Carlin** for the 2017 FIA F3 European Championship.

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- ✚ Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** launched the applications - '**ArisingKerala**' and '**Whistle Now**' to **fight corruption** on the occasion of International Anti-Corruption Day.

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- ✚ Indian filmmaker Onir's documentary, '**Raising The Bar**' has won the '**Award of Recognition**' at the '**Hollywood International Independent Documentary Awards**'.

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- ✚ The **21st International Film Festival of Kerala** began in Thiruvananthapuram on 09 December 2016.

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- ✚ **Muhtar Kent** has announced that he **will step down as the CEO of Coca-Cola** in May 2017 and will be succeeded by company President and COO James Quincey.

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- ✚ **Japan** has successfully launched rocket carrying the unmanned cargo **spaceship Kounotori 6** to deliver supplies for astronauts living in the International Space Station (ISS).

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- ✚ Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), **Ravi Shankar Prasad**, launched a **TV channel named 'DigiShala' to promote cashless transaction in rural areas.**

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- ✚ **Hwang Kyo-ahn**, who is the **South Korean Prime Minister**, has become the acting President.

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- ✚ **India has been ranked 7th in the list of 163 countries most impacted by terrorism in 2015**, according to the Global Terrorism Index (GTI) 2016 released by Sydney-based think-tank “Institute for Economics & Peace”. The list is topped by Iraq.

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- ✚ The **High Court of Rajasthan scrapped the Special Backward Classes (SBC) Reservation Act 2015** that provisioned for 5% quota to five communities, including Gujjars.

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- ✚ **The US Congress passed a bill recently declaring India a 'major defence partner'.**

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- ✚ The Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI) has recently constituted the **Ajit Mohan committee to fight against the menace of online piracy.**

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- ✦ The **Committee on Digital Payments** headed by **Ratan P. Watal** has submitted its final report to the Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.
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- ✦ A very severe **cyclonic storm "Vardah"** hit **Chennai**.
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- ✦ The **28th State Information Ministers Conference (SIMCON), 2016**, was organised by the Ministry of Information & Broadcasting from December 9 to December 10, 2016 at Vigyan Bhawan, **New Delhi**. **I&B Minister Venkaiah Naidu** chaired **SIMCON 2016**.
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- ✦ Mumbai's **Iqbal Sayed**, who works as a civil engineer with Reliance Infrastructure and Mumbai Metro, became the **first Indian to win a medal at the Mr Olympia event**, after securing a silver medal in the event.
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- ✦ **Virat Kohli** became the **first Indian to score three double hundreds in a year**, playing against England
- 
- ✦ Senior Indian Revenue Service officer **Rajendra Kumar** has been appointed as the new Member of the **Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)**.
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- ✦ **Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte**, announced to have decided to **accept an arms deal being offered by China** under concessional terms.
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- ✦ **President Pranab Mukherjee** flagged off the **'100 Million for 100 Million'** campaign organized by **Kailash Satyarthi** in **New Delhi**.
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- ✦ A nationwide toll-free helpline **number '14444'** will be launched **shortly to educate people and provide support for cashless mode of transactions**.
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- ✦ The chief minister of Madhya Pradesh, **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** has recently launched **Narmada Seva Yatra** to turn the **Narmada river pollution free**.
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- ✦ **Sunil Gavaskar** has been bestowed with the **Golden Jubilee Lifetime Achievement Award** by the Sports Journalists' Association of Mumbai (SJAM).
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- ✦ **Dr. Akshaykumar M Kale**, who is well-known writer and scholar, has been elected as the **President of the 90th Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan**.
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- ✦ Jammu & Kashmir **CM Mehbooba Mufti** flagged off the **first-of-its-kind children special train in valley**.
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- ✦ **China** has launched the first of its new generation advanced **weather satellites Fengyun-4**.
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- ✦ The **world's longest tunnel, Gotthard Base Tunnel (GBT) in Switzerland** opened for regular rail services.
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- ✚ **Rajasthan** government launched **mobile app LeZgo** that provides the latest information about **tourist** attractions in Ajmer and Pushkar.

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- ✚ The **Uttar Pradesh** Government has tied up with **Tata Trusts** to acquire digital platforms to strengthen the public distribution system (PDS) in the state.

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- ✚ The **Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and non-OPEC Russia Agree to Cut Oil Output** to Boost Oil Prices.

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- ✚ **Paolo Gentiloni** has been named as **Italy's new Prime Minister**.

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- ✚ **Cyrus Mistry** removed as **Director of Tata Industries**.

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- ✚ 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.

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- ✚ The **first India-China think-tank forum** has been held in **New Delhi**.

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- ✚ The **Government of India (GoI)** has tied up with **Intel** to form a public-private partnership to conduct research on water and air pollution monitoring.

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- ✚ **Iran** stroked a **\$16.6-bn deal with Boeing of the US** to supply jets.

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- ✚ **Bill English** has been sworn in as the **new Prime Minister of New Zealand**.

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- ✚ **Ace Indian cueist Pankaj Advani** has won his **11th World Billiards (150-Up format) Championships** title in the summit clash in Bengaluru, Karnataka.

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- ✚ The **Punjab Government** has launched **India's first amphibious bus project "Harike Cruise"** at the Harike wetland near Amritsar.

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- ✚ **Cristiano Ronaldo**, Portuguese professional footballer, won the prestigious 2016 **Ballon d'Or award** at an awards ceremony in Paris, France.

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- ✚ **India and Indonesia** have signed **three agreements** following delegation-level talks headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting **Indonesian President Joko Widodo**.

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- ✚ **Antonio Guterres**, a former Portuguese Prime Minister, was sworn in as the **ninth UN Secretary-General**.

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- ✚ The **EU** has signed a deal with **Cuba** on political dialogue and cooperation, with Cuba being the only Latin American country to lack such an agreement earlier.

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- ✚ **Two Indian-origins Vivek Ramaswamy and Apoorva Mehta** have figured in **Forbes magazine's second annual list of wealthiest entrepreneurs** under the age of 40 which is topped by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg.

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- ✦ Lt. Gen. **Naveed Mukhtar** has been appointed as the new **Director-General of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI)**
- 
- ✦ The Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) will **launch “Vanjeevan” the National Resource Centre for Tribal Livelihood issues at Bhubaneswar, Odisha.**
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- ✦ Nitin Gadkari, the Union Minister for Road Transport, Highways and Shipping laid the foundation stones for **17 road projects Rs 1152 Cr in Manipur.**
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- ✦ As mentioned by India Ratings in a report, quoting WTO data, **India’s share in global trade was 1.7% in 2015.**
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- ✦ Briton **Andy Murray** and Germany's **Angelique Kerber** have been named **ITF players of the year.**
- 
- ✦ **Cyrus Mistry Removed as Director From Tata Consultancy Services.**
- 
- ✦ External Affairs Minister **Sushma Swaraj** and philanthropist couple **Anupama and Vineet Nayar** are among the Indians who have been named in the **Global Thinkers of 2016** List compiled by the Foreign Policy magazine.
- 
- ✦ A biopic of Madonna titled **Blond Ambition**, written by Elyse Hollander, has been named the **most admired unproduced film** script currently in the Hollywood system.
- 
- ✦ Rio Olympic silver medallist **PV Sindhu** has won the Badminton World Federation (BWF) 2016 **Most Improved Player of the Year** award at the Players’ in Dubai.
- 
- ✦ **Malaysia enthroned new King Sultan Muhammad V.**
- 
- ✦ The Bollywood actress **Priyanka Chopra** has been appointed as the **UNICEF’s newest Global Goodwill Ambassador.**
- 
- ✦ **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.** The airport has also declared the first in the Asia-Pacific region in the 5-15 million passengers per annum category to attain carbon neutral status.
- 
- ✦ Kerala’s Chief Minister **Pinarayi Vijayan** has inaugurated the **third edition of the Kochi-Muziris Biennale (KMB).**
- 
- ✦ The ever-popular ‘**border viewing point**’ of the Wagah border will soon be recreated in Gujarat’s **Banaskantha** district.
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- ✚ Google's former Head of Industry, e-commerce **Pulkit Trivedi** appointed as **Industry Director for e-commerce, retail, travel and financial services verticals of Facebook.**

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- ✚ **Prime minister Narendra Modi has ranked 9th on the Forbes list of 74 of the World's Most Powerful People.**

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- ✚ **Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has been ranked 38 on the World's Most Powerful People list for 2016 by Forbes.**

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- ✚ **Russian President Vladimir Putin topped the list of Forbes World's Most Powerful People for a 4th straight year.**

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- ✚ **'Brexit' and 'Grexit' (hypothetical withdrawal of Greece from the EU) are among the 1,500 new words and phrases added to the Oxford English Dictionary this week.**

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- ✚ **Gujarat-born 1970s activist Jayaben Desai has made it the BBC's most influential women of the past 70 years list.**

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- ✚ **Paytm launched programme 'Each one, teach one' to increase digital inclusion.**

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- ✚ **'Mahabharata', B R Chopra's famed teleserial, is set to be broadcast in its radio avatar on the All India Radio (AIR) from December 19.**

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- ✚ **The Marvelous City or Rio de Janeiro officially has entered into the UNESCO's list of world heritage sites.**

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- ✚ **The Government has announced to launch a 'Lucky Graahak Yojana' and 'Digi Dhan Yojana' to encourage digital payments. 7,000 weekly awards and a maximum award of Rs 50,000 each for merchants will be awarded under Digi Dhan Vyapari Yojna.**

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- ✚ **Union Cabinet approved agreement between India and Tajikistan for avoidance of double taxation.**

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- ✚ **The International Bobsleigh and Skeleton Federation (IBSF) has announced that Russia will not host the 2017 Bobsleigh and Skeleton World Championships.**

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- ✚ **India will contribute \$500,000 to the UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for the year 2016-17.**

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- ✚ **Labour Minister of Qatar, Issa bin Saad al-Jafali al-Nuaimi formally announced the end of its controversial "kafala" system, which was the biggest ever labour reform in Qatar.**

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- ✚ **A ban imposed by the National Green Tribunal on the procurement, sale and use of glass powder coated 'manja' and other dangerous strings for flying kites.**

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- ✚ **The Government of India has extended the e-Tourist Visa facility to citizens of 161 countries.**

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- ✚ The **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)**-based inflation for November 2016 came in at a **five-month low of 3.15 %**, lower than 3.39 % in the October month.

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- ✚ **Pakistan successfully test-fired cruise missile 'Babur' that can hit targets at 700km.**

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- ✚ **For the first time, an Indian-American woman Savita Vaidhyanathan has been elected as the new Mayor of the key Californian city of Cupertino, globally known for its Apple headquarters.**

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- ✚ **The Economic Times Asian Business Leaders' Conclave 2016 held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.**

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- ✚ **Haryana became the first Indian state to launch Mahila Police Volunteer (MPV) initiative.**

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- ✚ The Seventh edition of Exercise **EKUVERIN** between **India and Maldives held at Kadhdhoo, Laamu Atoll, Maldives.**

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- ✚ India batswoman **Smriti Mandhana has been named in the ICC Women's Team of the Year 2016.**

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- ✚ **India has Topped the Asia's innovation chart Index.**

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- ✚ **The 2016 International Civil Aviation Negotiations (ICAN) held in Nassau, Bahamas.**

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- ✚ Indian Council of Food and Agriculture (ICFA) has presented '**Global Agriculture Leadership Award 2016**' to **Tata Sons interim Chairman Ratan Tata.**

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- ✚ **India's first transgender school** will be inaugurated by transgender rights activist and artist **Kalki Subramaniam** at **Sahaj International School in Kochi, Kerala.**

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- ✚ New United Nations (UN) Secretary General **Antonio Guterres has announced Nigeria's Environment minister, Amina Mohammed as his Deputy Secretary General (DSG).**

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- ✚ **Sunil Arora, an IAS officer of 1980-batch Rajasthan cadre, has been appointed as the new Director General (DG) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs.**

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- ✚ **V K Sharma has become the new chairman of Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) for 5 years.**

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- ✚ **Rajasthan government has launched a subsidised meal scheme 'Annapurna Rasoi'. As per the scheme, the poor and the needy will get breakfast for Rs 5 and lunch or dinner for Rs 8.**

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- ✚ **The 15th Pune International Film Festival** will be held from January 12 to 19. The **theme for this year's festival is Environment.**

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- ✚ **Haryana government has launched "Haryana Immunization Incentives and Information Programme" to increase immunization rates of children between the age group of 0-12 months.**

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- ✚ **Navy of China has seized an Underwater drone of US Navy in South China Sea.**

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- ✚ **United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has given one year extension to the Peacekeeping mission of South Sudan.**

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- ✚ **The 'Thal Favang Kut' festival of Mizoram, which marks the completion of weeding of the farmland by cultivators in the state, was held in Aizawl with enthusiasm and fervor from December 15-17, 2016.**

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- ✚ **The two-day 6th BRICS Health Ministers Meet held in New Delhi.**

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- ✚ **The world famous river island and seat of Vaishnavite culture "Majuli district" in Assam will soon become the India's first-ever carbon neutral district by 2020.**

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- ✚ **President Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated the 9th World Confluence of Humanity, Power and Spirituality in New Delhi.**

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- ✚ **The Swasthya Raksha Programme has been launched by the Ministry of AYUSH to promote health education in villages.**

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- ✚ **VIT University, Vellore, has become India's first academic institution to be certified with QS 4-star rating.**

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- ✚ **German automobile manufacture company Audi appointed Rahil Ansari as Head of Indian Operation.**

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- ✚ **The Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation in Tamil Nadu has been selected for Digital India Award in the category of "Most Innovative Citizen Engagement" instituted by Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology.**

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- ✚ **The National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO) and NTPC Limited have signed a MoU to set up a 2400 MW power plant at Gajmara in Dhenkanal district of Odisha.**

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- ✚ **India's foreign exchange reserves declined by 887.2 million dollars to 362.987 billion dollars in the week ended 9th December.**

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- ✚ **The Lok Sabha has passed the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill 2016 in Lok Sabha, which replaces the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act 1995.**

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- ✚ **Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL) has bagged a major order from Indian Railways for supply of 118 sets of IGBT-based traction converters for 3 Phase 6,000 HP electric locomotives.**

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- ✚ **BEML Ltd, a defence public sector undertaking, has been conferred with CEPM Fellowship Award-2016.**

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- ✚ **Indian Railways new train, Humsafar Express, an AC III tier train, was flagged off from Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh by Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu via video conferencing in Rail Bhawan, New Delhi.**

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- ✚ Noted television journalist and talk show host **Arnab Goswami** announced the launch of his 'new venture' called '**Republic**', a month after resigning as editor-in-chief of Times Now.
- 
- ✚ Chief Minister of Maharashtra, **Devendra Fadnavis**, UK-based scholar **John Ralston Marr**, ISRO chairman **A S Kiran Kumar** and Hari Katha exponent **Kamala Murthy** has been selected for the **SIES-Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswati National Eminence Award**.
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- ✚ To encourage digital transactions, **RBI** has announced to lower the (Merchant Discount Rate) **MDR** charges for debit card payment which will come into effect from January 1, 2017.
- 
- ✚ **India and Russia** have agreed to undertake joint technical development work to extend the range of **Brahmos** supersonic cruise missiles beyond the range of current 300 km.
- 
- ✚ To boost Swachh Bharat mission, the Central government has planned to deploy around 600 "young professionals" in each district of India. The professionals will be called "Zila Swachh Bharat Preraks (ZSBPs)".
- 
- ✚ The Central Government has formed an **inter- ministerial task force** to look into all the strategic aspects of **Indus Water Treaty (IWT)** with Pakistan. The Task force will be headed by PM Narendra Modi's Principal Secretary **Nripendra Mishra**.
- 
- ✚ **Karnataka** Chief Minister **Siddaramaiah** formally launched the state's first air ambulance **H130** helicopters at HAL Airport in Bengaluru.
- 
- ✚ **Manipur** Chief Minister **Okram Ibobi Singh** inaugurated two new districts **Pherzawl** and **Noney**.
  - ✚ **Union Environment Ministry** has approved Rs. 40 crore proposal of Puducherry government, to treat water from **Ousteri lake**.
- 
- ✚ The three-day '**Judima Festival**' held at **Haflong** in **Assam**.
- 
- ✚ **Himachal Pradesh** CM **Virbhadra Singh** inaugurated the state's first **Cyber Crime Police Station** at the state police headquarters, **Shimla** to deal with increasing incidents of crime in cyberspace.
- 
- ✚ **India's** first cyber crime police station was inaugurated at the cod headquarters in **Bangalore**.
- 
- ✚ **Maharashtra** became first state to launch cyber police stations in all districts.
- 
- ✚ A 2,700-square-meter skating space, **world's largest non-permanent indoor ice rink**, inaugurated in **Paris, France**.
- 
- ✚ Government decided to appoint Lieutenant general **Bipin Rawat** as the new chief of **Army Staff**. Rawat will succeed General **Dalbir Singh**.
- 
- ✚ Government decided to appoint Air Marshal **B.S. Dhanoa** as the new chief of **Air Staff**. Dhanoa will replace **Arup Raha**.

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- ✦ **Anil Dhasmana has been appointed as the next chief of the country's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing RAW.** Anil Dhasmana will succeed Rajinder Khanna.
- 
- ✦ **India and Tajikistan have signed four agreements** in areas including on double taxation avoidance, money laundering and counter-terrorism.
- 
- ✦ Jharkhand cadre IPS officer **Rajiv Jain appointed as the new chief of Intelligence Bureau (IB).**
- 
- ✦ **Odisha government has decided to construct more 2,000 kilometre of cement concrete roads under the Gopabandhu Gramin Yojana** in rural areas by March 2017.
- 
- ✦ **Himachal Pradesh became sixth state in India to attain 100% Aadhaar saturation** after Delhi, Telangana, Haryana, Punjab and Chandigarh.
- 
- ✦ Indian boxing star **Vijender Singh** knocked out former world Francis Cheka to retain **WBO-Asia Pacific Super Middleweight title.**
- 
- ✦ **Priyanka Chopra has made it up to the list of IMDb's most popular celebrities' list.** Standing at number 55, Priyanka is ahead of many Hollywood's big names.
- 
- ✦ The **Power Ministry launched a new app, GARV-II,** to provide real time data of all six lakh villages of the country to ensure transparency in implementation of rural electrification programme in the villages.
- 
- ✦ **Department of Telecom (DoT) is set to launch a website portal Tarang Sanchar** that will help users get checked the radiation level of mobile towers and transmitters across the country.
- 
- ✦ **Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos honoured with the Lampara peace prize** or Catholic Nobel for his efforts to reach the FARC deal.
- 
- ✦ **India beat Belgium 2-1 to win the hockey junior World Cup in Lucknow.**
- 
- ✦ Puerto Rico's 19-year-old **Stephanie Del Valle has been crowned as the Miss World 2016** at an event held in Maryland, US.
- 
- ✦ Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of the **first-ever "Indian Institute of Skills" at Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh.**
- 
- ✦ **President of Kyrgyzstan Almazbek Sharshenovich Atambayev** visited India for bilateral talks.
- 
- ✦ **A French court has found IMF Chief Christine Lagarde guilty of negligence.**
- 
- ✦ **Ambassador of Russia to Turkey, Andrey Karlov, shot dead in Turkey.**
- 
- ✦ **PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate Vibrant Gujarat summit** in January 2017.

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- ✦ **The British Library is set to digitise 4,000 early printed Bengali books** amounting to more than 800,000 pages as a part of a project under the UK India Year of Culture plans for 2017.
- 
- ✦ **Andy Murray** honored with the **BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2016** for a record third time.
- 
- ✦ Sarbananda Sonowal led **Assam government has roped Bollywood actor Priyanka Chopra as the brand ambassador of the state tourism**. She will be responsible for the campaign, “Awesome Assam” for a period of two years.
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- ✦ **Atletico de Kolkata won 2016 Hero Indian Super League trophy by beating Kerala Blasters in Kochi.**
- 
- ✦ **The world’s first cloned goat** with superfine Cashmere wool born in north **China’s** Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.
- 
- ✦ **Scientists from US based Harvard University’s John A Paulson School of Engineering and Applied Sciences (SEAS) have developed the world’s smallest radio receiver** using atomic-scale defects in pink diamonds.
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- ✦ The weekly magazine **The Week** and **Varun Bhatt** of daily hindi magazine Rajasthan Patrika have been named for the **International Press Institute’s (IPI) India Award for Excellence in Journalism, 2016**, for outstanding journalistic work done during 2015.
- 
- ✦ **US based Amazon India launched the wallet Amazon Pay Balance** in a bid to increase cashless orders and it is limited to Amazon-based transactions.
- 
- ✦ **The five day India-Nepal Folk Crafts Festival (INCF-2016) began in Kathmandu, Nepal.**
- 
- ✦ According to Sources of the government **Cyber Appellate Tribunal (CyAT) is proposed to be merged with the Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT).**
- 
- ✦ Employee's Provident Fund Organization **EPFO decided to lower the interest on EPF deposits for the current fiscal to 8.65%, from 8.8%** provided in 2015-16, for its over four crore subscribers.
- 
- ✦ **University of Toronto scientists have discovered the oldest water sample** dating back to about two billion years, more than 500 million years more ancient than the previous oldest samples.
- 
- ✦ **Karun Nair scored triple century in test, 2nd Indian to do so after Virendra Sehwag.**
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- ✦ **Micromax Informatics and Uber** announced a partnership that will help Micromax customers book an Uber ride on their phones without having to download application.
- 
- ✦ **Chhattisgarh** Chief Minister Raman Singh launched **India’s first cashless bazaar in Raipur**. This ‘Smart’ bazaar consist of nearly Over 900 shops.
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- ✚ **The 12-foot-tall stone statue of renowned Tamil poet and philosopher-saint Thiruvalluvar** was inaugurated at Mela Bhawan premises in Haridwar, **Uttarakhand** by Chief minister Harish Rawat.

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- ✚ The **Madras High Court declared a ban on all unauthorised 'Sharia' courts** functioning on premises of mosques in Tamil Nadu.

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- ✚ The **ninth edition of World Confluence of Humanity, Power and Spirituality**, organised by ASSOCHAM in association with Srei Foundation and Times Foundation in **New Delhi**.

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- ✚ **India has been ranked 4th in the Global Wind Power Installed Capacity index** after China, USA and Germany with cumulative installed wind power generation capacity of 28,279 MW in 2016.

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- ✚ **India has signed an Open Skies Agreement with six countries at the International Civil Aviation Negotiations (ICAN), 2016** which were held in Nassau, Bahamas.

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- ✚ Weeks after demonetization of high currency notes in India, **Pakistan's Senate passed a resolution to withdraw high denomination Rs 5,000 currency notes** to curb the flow of black money in the country.

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- ✚ The **Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** lead by Jagat Prakash Nadda has **won gold in the Web Ratna category in the Digital India awards 2016**.

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- ✚ According to a World Wide Fund (WWF) for Nature report, **scientists have discovered 163 new species in the Greater Mekong**.

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- ✚ **India has been ranked as the No.1 team in the ICC Test Championship** after posting a 4-0 wins over England in the five-match series.

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- ✚ As per a study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO) survey of 33 countries, the developing **African nation is developing a deadly lifestyle disease owing to modern city life and bad habits**.

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- ✚ A 60,000 square kilometres 'dead zone' was founded in the Bay of Bengal by Researchers from the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research's National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) in Goa.

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- ✚ **Iran has finalized an agreement with Airbus to acquire 100 jetliners**.

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- ✚ According to a report published in Forbes magazine, **India has overtaken United Kingdom in terms of the size of the economy, first time in 150 years**. With this major shift in world economy, India has now become the fifth largest country in terms of the size of the economy after the United States, China, Japan and Germany.

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- ✚ **China commissioned its first seven-tonne helicopter, AC352 civil**, to mark a new development in the China's helicopter industry, the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC).

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- ✚ A free instant messaging service for work and business environments, **Flock has launched world's first chat operating system "FlockOS"** by Bhavin Turakhia, Flock CEO.
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**All the very Best for Exams !!**



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