

Current Affairs Weekly PDF – January Second Week (11-20)

INDIAN AFFAIRS

- Union Minister of Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Shri Kalraj Mishra inaugurated a Workshop on MSME Cooperation amongst Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Member countries on January 19, 2017 in New Delhi.
- The Supreme Court on January 19, 2017 said that Divorce granted by any ecclesiastical tribunals or ‘Church Courts’ under Christian personal law will not be taken as valid. It said that Church Courts cannot veto the statutory law of divorce.
- According to a statement by NITI Aayog, till date over 3.81 lakh consumers and 21,000 merchants have been declared as the winner of the NITI Aayog’s lucky draw schemes namely Lucky Grahak Yojana (LGY) for consumers and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojana (DVY) for merchants. It also stated that daily as well as weekly prize money worth Rs 60.90 crore has been declared at 24 Digi-Dhan Melas organized across the country.
- The Minister of State for Civil Aviation Jayant Sinha, on January 19, 2017 announced that the under UDAN (Ude Desh Ke Aam Naagrik) Scheme is likely to take off in February 2017.
- The Central Government has sanctioned special assistance of Rs 2,207.30 crore to Jammu & Kashmir during 2016-17 in order to help the state to complete the area-specific schemes in speedy manner.
- The Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation led by Uma Bharti has formed a Negotiations Committee on January 19, 2017 to determine the availability and utilization of waters of the river Mahanadi and its tributaries.
- Dharamsala town in Kangra district of Himachal Pradesh has been declared as the second capital city of the state by the Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh on January 19, 2017.
- 28th Dantan Gramin Mela was inaugurated by President Pranab Mukherjee in Midnapore district in West Bengal on January 20, 2017. The mela display the rural handicraft skills of the people of the region and the different goods ranging from textile to terracotta.
- The Child Sex ratio at birth (SRB) in the State of Haryana crossed the 900-mark in the year 2016 for the first time in almost two decades. In December 2016, the SRB in the state was 914.
- The Notifications regarding the single phased Assembly elections in Punjab and Goa was issued by the Election Commission on January 11, 2017 to start the process of filing nomination papers in the state.
- The state government of Kerala has been directed by the Supreme Court to pay Rs.500 crore as compensation to 5,000 victims suffering various types of deformities, health issues and other complication due to the use of Endosulfan pesticides in the state.
- The Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has proposed draft rules Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Dog Breeding and Marketing Rules, 2017), to regulate dog breeding centres in the country.
- The Jammu and Kashmir Finance Minister Haseeb Drabu presented the Power Budget on January 12, 2017 with strategy to focus on addressing the purchase liability and put reforms as the core agenda for the power sector. The first power budget was presented six months ago. This is the second power budget that provides a transparent accounting system for the sector. In 2016-17, the government spent Rs 12,000 crore on power purchases and liquidating past liabilities.
- The Union Minister of state for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Jitendra Singh while addressing the 29th meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (Scova) in New Delhi on January 12, 2017 informed that the minimum pension for central government employees has been increased to Rs. 9,000 per person and ex-gratia amount has been increased from Rs. 10-15 lakh to Rs. 25-35 lakh.
- The National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has called for a review of the provisions of the Right To Education (RTE) Act that specifies that children who don’t perform well cannot be held back up to class VIII regardless of his performance.
- The Ken-Betwa River Linking Project received clearance from the green panel and Tribal Affairs Ministry on January 13, 2017. The ambitious Rs. 9,393 crore project aims to transfer surplus water from the Ken River to the Betwa basin through concrete canals to irrigate India’s worst drought-prone Bundelkhand region. The project will benefit Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh in terms of meeting irrigation, drinking water and electricity needs of people across 6 districts in the two states.
- As per the data released by the Ministry of agriculture, as on January 13, 2017, the total area under which Rabi crop was sown 2017 was calculated to be 616.21 lakh hectares as compared to 581.95 lakh hectare in

January 2016.

- The Supreme Court on January 16, 2017 allowed Mumbai based 22 year old pregnant lady with 24 weeks of Pregnancy to abort her baby as continuation may risk her life.
- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development on January 4, 2017 issued a guideline regarding the Adoption Regulations 2017. These new rules will be effective from January 16, 2017. The Adoption Regulation 2017 implements the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015. It has been framed by the Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) to be mandatory under section 68 I of the Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and will replace the existing Adoption Guidelines, 2015.
- The Election Commission (EC) on January 16, 2017 gave its decision that Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Akhilesh Yadav would be the owner of the Samajwadi Party Symbol “Cycle” and also acknowledged him as the national President of the party.
- The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas (MOP & NG) inaugurated one month long oil and gas conservation campaign “Saksham-2017” at a function in Unity College, Dimapur in Nagaland on January 16, 2017.
- The Union Cabinet has given its approval for India to become the full-fledge member of the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) Governing Council. As a part of the membership India will have to contribute an amount of US \$ 5,00,00 to the International Vaccine Institute (IVI), Seoul, South Korea.
- The Union Cabinet also gave the approval for introduction of the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017 to repeal 105 Acts.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the 12th Plan Proposal of the DARE/ICAR Plan Scheme for the ‘Establishment of Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI)- Jharkhand’.
- The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi gave its ex-post facto approval for the Augmentation of the Corpus of Credit Guarantee Trust Fund for Micro and Small Enterprises (CGTMSE), a package set up for supporting Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs).
- Cabinet approved amendment in the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (M-SIPS) to attract investment in electronics manufacturing.
- Madhya Pradesh government lead by Shivraj Singh Chouhan has launched Aanandam programme of the newly-formed Aanand Department to help the poor and the needed person.
- The Indian Institute of Mass Communication (IIMC) has launched a full-fledged postgraduate diploma course in the Urdu language journalism on January 17, 2017 to promote Urdu Language in IIMC.
- The Jammu & Kashmir Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on January 19, 2017 for the return of Kashmiri Pandits and other migrants to the Valley. Hundreds of Kashmiri Pandit families had left the Valley when militancy broke out in 1989.
- Karnataka government lead by Siddaramaiah , has decided to allow the sale of white kerosene in open market. An official order was issued by State Food and Civil Supplies Minister UT Khader on January 18, 2017.
- The Entrepreneurship Development Scheme (EDS) was launched under the New Economic Development Policy (NEDP) by Lalmalsawma in Mizoram, Mizoram Chief Secretary on January 19, 2017. The State government has allocated Rs.2 Crore for New Economic Development Policy (NEDP)
- The Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu launched ‘Mission 41K’ on January 17, 2017 to revamp the existing railway system. The mission aims to save the Indian Railways’ expenditure of Rs 41,000 crore on energy consumption over the next 10 years.

PLACES IN NEWS

- The Delhi Airport on January 10, 2017 informed that has adopted a unique performance and benchmarking digital platform, ARC, and claims that it is first in the world to adopt such platform.
- The world’s first ‘Gender Literature Festival’ is scheduled to be held in Patna, Bihar in the second week of April, 2017 to create a platform, to exchange ideas, and to share and learn experiences of renowned people in the field of gender literature.
- The State Election Commission (SEC) of Uttar Pradesh has decided to include, for the first time, voter’s list printed in Urdu which was so far only printed in Hindi and English. In Uttar Pradesh about 46 constituencies in 22 districts will have voters’ list printed in Urdu as well as Hindi & English, where Assembly elections will be held in February 2017. But in case of a dispute, the Hindi version of the rolls will be held as valid.
- The Chief Minister of Kerala, Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the first solar-powered boat of the state water transport department, “Aditya” on January 12, 2017 at a function held in Vaikom boat Jetty in Kerala.
- The three day International Kite Festival was inaugurated by Delhi Tourism Minister Kapil Mishra at Dwarka’s

- DDA Ground in New Delhi on January 14, 2017. The festival was organised by Delhi Tourism department
- The annual camel festival was held in Bikaner, Rajasthan from January 14-January 15, 2017 in the presence of domestic as well as foreign tourists. The two-day festival was organised by the Rajasthan Tourism Department and the Bikaner district administration. The District Collector, Ved Prakash flagged off a procession from Junagarh which ended at Karni Singh Stadium in Bikaner, Rajasthan.
- The first edition of the ABU International Television Dance Festival (AIDF) organized by the Asia-Pacific Broadcasting Union (ABU) was held in Hyderabad from January 13 to January 15, 2017 to create a bridge between young people from different parts of the world through dance.
- Kozhikode Corporation was declared as the first Elderly-Friendly Corporation in Kerala. The state government has planned to setup Senior citizen's club, Day care centres as a part of Vayomitram project for the welfare of the elder people in the state
- Mawlynnong village in the East Khasi Hills district of the Meghalaya state has become a role model for cleanliness said by the Secretary of the village. Mawlynnong was awarded the prestigious tag of 'Cleanest Village in Asia' in 2003.
- Kangra village in Himachal Pradesh achieved the geo-tag 100 per cent of the assets generated under the MGNREGA said by Himachal Pradesh CM Chief Minister Virbhadra Singh. Kangra was the first district in India to achieved this target. It would help people in integrated development of all sectors like agriculture, irrigation, education, health etc.
- The 10th edition of the Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF) was inaugurated on January 19, 2017 at the historic Diggi Palace, Jaipur, Rajasthan. The theme of the 10th edition of JLF is The Freedom to Dream: India at 70. JLF is considered as the 'Greatest Literary Show on Earth'

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Minister of State for Minority Affairs (Independent Charge) Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi and Saudi Arabia's Haj and Umrah Minister Dr. Mohammad Saleh bin Taher Benten inked an agreement on January 11, 2017 in Jeddah to hike the India's annual Haj quota by 34,500
- The first and only underwater sculpture museum of Europe, Museo Atlantico, has been inaugurated on January 10, 2017 off the Canary Island coast of Lanzarote. The museum has been created at a depth of between 12 and 15 meters on the ocean floor and will be accessible to scuba divers and visible to glass-bottom boats.
- India Ranked Low on Being an Influencer in Global System. India has achieved a very low rank of 2 among the countries across the world while the list was topped by countries such as US, UK, Japan.
- Switzerland based World Economic Forum announced a partnership with the UCSB's Marine Science Institute to improve health of world's oceans and maritime resources on January 20, 2017 to protect world's USD 2.5 trillion ocean economy.
- Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe signed a 1-trillion yen (8.7 billion dollars) aid package to the Philippines for the next five years to improve economic and political relations between the two island nations.
- Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the renovation of the Katas Raj Hindu temple in Chakwal district in the Punjab Province of Pakistan on January 11, 2017 as a part of the policy to establish Pakistan's identity as a minority-friendly country. The work includes installation of a water filtration plant in the Amrat Jal area.
- Russia has amended its laws permitting lot of their Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to enter into long-term agreements for spares and support for military equipment supplied to India
- The Russian health ministry has announced plans to ban the sale of cigarettes to anyone born after 2015 as a part of its effort to combat smoking from 2017 to 2022. With this move, Russia will become the first country in the world to completely phase out tobacco.
- According to the ILO report 'World Employment Social Outlook: Trends 2017', Global unemployment is expected to rise by 3.4 million in 2017 and economic growth at 3.4 per cent this year and 3.6 per cent in 2018
- Ecuador was on January 13, 2017 appointed as the new Chairman of the United Nations Group of 77 which promotes the interests of the 134 developing countries it represents at the United Nations, including China. The country took over from Thailand which focused on how to implement the 17 UN goals for 2030 to promote development and good governance, and preserve the environment.
- The US President Barack Obama on January 13, 2017 announced to end of a 20-year economic embargo on Sudan by lifting trade and financial sanctions to build up ties with the Sudanese government.
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Indonesian President Joko Widodo on January 15, 2016 agreed upon

their commitment to deepen cooperation on maritime security and deepen defence ties.

- A baby girl was born in Ukraine on January 5, 2017 using the new technique of three-person IVF called ‘pronuclear transfer’.
- The suggestion of the newly elected American President Donald Trump that the “One-China” policy is negotiable has been highly criticized by China. Spokesman of China’s Foreign Ministry Lu Kang said that ‘One China’ policy is non-negotiable. One China Policy means that there exists only one “China” irrespective of the fact that two government claim to be the real China . The two are People’s Republic of China (PRC, Mainland China) and Republic of China (ROC, Taiwan).

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

- Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar inaugurated the 8th edition of the International Conference & Exhibition on Reinforced Plastics (ICERP) on January 10, 2017 at the Bombay Convention & Exhibition Centre (BCEC) in Mumbai, India.
- The 3 day international conference on Disability Communication ICDC-2017 held at Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini in Mumbai, Maharashtra from January 9-11, 2017 with curriculum outline of disability communication for the University of Mumbai
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in association with Corps of Signals of Indian Army is organizing DEFCOM 2017 on March 23-24, 2017. The theme of the 2017 DEFCOM is Digital Army Infrastructure and Skilled Human Resource.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi was on a two day visit to Gujarat from January 9-10, 2017 to inaugurate the eighth edition of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Investors Summit 2017 at Mahatma Mandir in Gandhinagar, Gujarat on January 10, 2017. The theme of the three day Summit is “Vibrant Gujarat: Connecting India to the World”
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of redevelopment of Gandhinagar Railway station.
- Narendra Modi inaugurated India’s first international exchange –India INX — at the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) of GIFT City in Gandhinagar.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi also inaugurated Vibrant Gujarat Global Trade Show organised at helipad ground in Gandhinagar on January 9, 2017.
- Prime Minister inaugurated the Nobel Prize Series exhibition at Gujarat Science city near Ahmedabad on January 9, 2017 . This exhibition featured works of nine Nobel laureates from across the world who were invited by the Gujarat government to be a part of the Vibrant Summit.
- As a part of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit, the Union Textiles Minister Smriti Irani addressed the ‘Make in Gujarat’ theme seminar on Trends and Innovation impacting the Textile Value Chain on January 12, 2017. The minister also witnessed signing of MoUs worth Rs. 8,835 crore in textile sector.
- A joint state was issued between Rwanda President Paul Kagame and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 10, 2017 at the Gujarat Global Investors Summit to raise the level of bilateral cooperation to a strategic partnership. India extended a \$120 million credit to bring over 41,190 hectares of cultivable land under irrigation in the African country for the development of Export Targeted Irrigated Agriculture Project.
- The Gujarat government signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) worth Rs 67,000 crore with the National High Speed Rail Corporation Limited (NHSRCL) during the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit on January 12, 2017 for component manufacturing for the Ahmedabad-Mumbai bullet train project.
- Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2017 saw as many as 25,578 MoUs signed between various sectors. As compared to the previous edition of the event, this time 2500 more MoUs were signed.
- The third National conference “Jal Manthan-III” was inaugurated by Union Minister for Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Uma Bharti in New Delhi.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the second edition of Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi on January 17, 2017. The conference has been organized by the Ministry of External Affairs and Delhi based prestigious think tank Observer Research Foundation. The theme of the three day conference is “The New Normal: Multilateralism in a multipolar world”.
- The 58th edition of India International Garment Fair (IIGF) was inaugurated by the Union Textiles Minister Smriti Zubin Irani on January 18, 2017 in New Delhi. The three day long fair has been organized by Apparel Export Promotion Council India.

RANKING & REPORTS

- India dropped to 92nd rank in the Global Talent Competitiveness Index (GTCI) released by INSEAD in partnership with The Adecco Group and the Human Capital Leadership Institute of Singapore (HCLI). Last year India stood at 89. The list was topped by Switzerland.
- India has been ranked at 60th position among 79 developing economies with a score of only 3.38 in the Inclusive Development Index (IDI) of the World Economic Forum (WEF). The list has been topped by Lithuania among the 79 developing countries. Besides the developing economies, the WEF also released the Inclusive Development Index of the advanced economies. The list has been topped by Norway among 30 advanced economies.
- India's IT Hub, Bengaluru has been ranked at the top position in the 2017 City Momentum Index released by Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting being held in Davos. The index identifies the most dynamic cities of the world.
- India has been placed at 78th position in the Passport Index 2017 with a visa-free score of 46 that was released on January 12, 2017. Germany was placed at the top with a visa-free score of 157, Singapore and Sweden both stood second with a visa-free score of 156. Singapore overtook South Korea to become the highest ranked Asian passport.

BANKING & FINANCE

- According to the Income Tax Department released Up to Rs. 2.5 lakh or more in savings account during the demonetisation period. Besides, for current account holders, this limit is Rs 12.5 lakh. Banks will also have to report all cash deposits and fixed deposits made above Rs 10 lakh during the year. Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) has also sought details of all such deposits made since April 2006.
- According to a notification published by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on January 18, 2017, RBI has planned to increase the focus on IT & Cyber Security in a move to combat the increasing threat of cyber-security issues arising after the governments Digital Payment initiative.
- India's central banking institution, Reserve Bank of India(RBI) has imposed a penalty of Rs 75lakhs on Bombay Mercantile Co-operative Bank for violations of norms related to KYC and anti-money laundering.
- The World Bank on January 11, 2017 cut the India's GDP growth for 2016-17 fiscal ending on March 31, 2017 to 7 percent from its previous estimate of 7.6 percent due to demonetization.
- Indian Standard on gold hallmarking has been revised by the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) on January 9, 2017 and has been made effective for implementation with effect from January 1, 2017. From now the hallmarked gold jewellery will be available in three grades: 14 carat, 18 carat and 22 carat. These caratage would also be mentioned on the jewellery besides the fineness for the convenience of the customers.
- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company launched a new policy, Trade Credit Insurance Policy, on January 9, 2017 to which safeguards businesses against the risks of non-payment for the goods or services delivered to the buyers. India's third largest private sector non-life insurance provider informed that the policy would offer cover against payment defaults and insolvency, apart from providing political risk cover to exporters.
- HDFC Bank introduced digital wallets to install point of sale (PoS) terminals at counters in temples of Tamil Nadu. Five temples in Kanyakumari district in southern Tamil Nadu have introduced digital wallets and PoS to enable their devotees pay donations
- Citibank India has launched a Voice Biometrics Authentication for its phone banking customers on January 10, 2017 that would allow clients to use their voiceprints for authentication rather than remember multiple PINs or respond to questions through current practice of interactive voice response (IVR) used for verifying their identities.
- NITI Aayog has projected the GDP growth rate of 8 Percent for 2016-17 based on the appraisal document for the Twelfth Five-Year Plan. The estimate does not take into account the impact of demonetization.
- Airtel Payments Bank started its nationwide operations on January 12, 2017 with an initial investment of Rs 3,000 crore and offering an interest rate of 7.25 per cent for savings accounts. The bank was launched by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley. This is the first payments bank which will be opened across 29 states in India to provide financial services to the millions who are outside the banking system.
- State Bank of India has signed a pact with the State General Reserve Fund of Oman (SGRF), a Sovereign Wealth Fund to infuse \$50 million in private equity fund Oman India Joint Investment Fund (OIJIF) while the SGRF would infuse \$150 million.
- The tax department signed a Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (BAPA) with Indian subsidiary of a

Japanese trading company to include rollback provisions to reduce litigations by providing certainty in transfer pricing on January 13, 2017. Now the total number of BAPAs entered into by the CBDT is increased to 8.

- The SEBI Board announced its decision to reduce the fees payable by broker by 25 percent as a part of calibration of various other fees collected by the regulator from different market intermediaries. It has decided to lower the fees from Rs 20 per crore of turnover to Rs 15 per crore of turnover to reduce the overall cost of transaction.
- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has declared Rs 54.90 crore prize money to over 3.42 lakh winners for NITI Aayog's lucky draw schemes Lucky Grahak Yojna (LGY) and Digi-Dhan Vyapar Yojna (DVY).
- BSNL has launched its Customer Acquisition and Customer Communication Management (CACMS) project that aims to digitalize business process to ensure faster service, accurate customer responses and customer satisfaction. The project provides an Aadhar based e-KYC (Know Your Customer) service for immediate activation of new mobile connections across the country.
- The Capital market regulator of India, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on January 14 tightened the norms associated to Mergers and Acquisitions (M&A) of Indian companies to prevent large number of unlisted company to get listed by merging with a very small company for personal motive and protect the interest of the Public shareholders in the listed companies and give them a greater say in the merger with unlisted subsidiaries.
- As per the data released by the President of Note Mudran Limited Employees Union, A Ramdass, the RBI Note Mudran printing press in Mysuru printing highest number of currency notes in December breaking all its past record. It printed 10.9 million currency note in a day that even broke the world record made an American currency printing press of printing 8.7 million notes in a day.
- India Signs Financing Agreement with World Bank for US\$ 48 Million for "Nagaland Health Project" to improve health services and increase their utilization by communities in targeted locations in Nagaland.
- Future Group's fashion and lifestyle departmental store Central joined with SBI Card launched a second co-branded credit card to offer benefits to consumers in the premium lifestyle and fashion space on January 16, 2017.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has formed a 8 member committee headed by Amitabh Chaudhry, CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company to review life insurance product regulations on January 16, 2017. The committee will analysis the existing framework of IRDA-linked and non-linked insurance product regulations
- As per a report titled 'An economy for the 99 per cent' released by rights group Oxfam on January 16, 2017, the richest 1 percent of the population in India holds 58 percent of the country's total wealth which is higher than the global figure of 50 percent. The report found that since 2015, the richest 1 percent population in India has continued to own more wealth than the rest of the countries.
- According to the World Economic Outlook report, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on January 16, 2017 has lowered the India's GDP growth rate for the current fiscal year by one point to 6.6 percent from its previous estimate of 7.6 percent due to the effect of demonetization on consumption and expenditure.
- Private sector lender YES BANK in collaboration with T-Hub, Anthill and Lets Talk Payments launched a unique business accelerator program "YES FINTECH" to provide start-ups a platform for creating sustainable and market ready products as well as provide innovative banking solutions to the customers.
- YES Bank has launched a first of its kind unique Customizable Savings Account to enable the customers to design an account as per their convenience. Mumbai based bank has become the first bank in India to launch such type of account that enables the customer to choose various features of a savings accounts that suits one's own lifestyle.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) from January 16, 2017 has increased the limit of cash withdrawal from ATMs to Rs 10,000 per day from the current Rs 4,500 with immediate effect. However the bank made no changes to the weekly withdrawal limits which is Rs 24,000. Besides, the total limit to withdraw from current accounts has also been increased to Rs 1,00,000 per week from the current limit of Rs 50,000 per week which will also be applicable on the overdraft and cash credit accounts.
- Contributing to the Government's Digital India Campaign, a small lake island Karang in Manipur has been declared as the country's first cashless island by the Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology on January 13, 2017.
- The Foreign Ministry spokesperson of China, Hua Chunying on January 17, 2017 informed that thirty more countries have applied for joining the Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) besides 57 founding members. It was officially established with 57 founding members and authorized capital of USD 100

billion. China is the largest shareholder of the bank having 26.6 percent voting shares. India is the second largest shareholder with 7.5 percent followed by Russia 5.93 percent and Germany with 4.5 percent.

- Based on the United Nations report on World Economic Situation and Prospects (WESP) 2017 released on January 17, 2017, India's economy is projected to grow by 7.7 percent in the fiscal 2017 because of being the fastest growing large developing economy.
- The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) on January 18, 2017 cleared that income declared under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojna (PMGKY) would not be entitled to get any credit by way of advance tax paid or the tax deducted at source (TDS) or tax collected at source (TCS). This is in contrast to the earlier Income Declaration Scheme (IDS) under which these credits were allowed.
- London's insurance giant Lloyd has received the final approval from the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) on January 19, 2017 to set up its first branch in India.
- New Delhi based Punjab National Bank signed a memorandum of understanding(MoU) with India Post Payments Bank(IPPB) to provide technology platform for pilot launch of IPPB on receipt of regulatory nod from the Reserve Bank of India.
- Washington based World Bank has sanctioned Rs 1,376 crore for upgradations and improvement of the Tripura power system network on January 19, 2017. This was announced by Tripura's power minister Manik Dey.

BUSINESS

- The Competition Commission of India (CCI) imposed a penalty of Rs. 207 crore on seven major cement companies on January 19, 2017 for being involved in bid rigging and cartelisation to get tenders in Haryana government orders.
- IBM has become the first company to break the US patent record by receiving 8,088 patents in 2016 with a rate of 22 patents per day. The achievement also marked the 24th consecutive year of the computer hardware giant's innovation leadership.
- Digital Services firm Atos and NASSCOM Foundation has collaborated on January 11, 2017 to launch National Digital Literacy Mission (NDLM) centers at Vadodara, Gujarat to conduct skill development programs in the area of Information Technology.
- The national carrier Air India (AI) has launched a 'Fly For Sure' scheme on January 11, 2017 that will ensure that passengers reach their destination the desired day without the need to buy expensive last-minute tickets in case of missing booked flight.
- Mahindra Asset Management Company Pvt. Ltd (MAMCPL) launched an open ended scheme Mahindra Mutual Fund Dhan Sanchay Yojna scheme to generate long-term returns through investment in equity and debt. The scheme will close on January 24, 2017 and will open again for continuous sale and repurchase from February 8, 2017.
- According to the latest factory output and inflation data Index of Industrial Production (IIP) released by the statistics office showed industrial production at a one-year high of 5.7% in November 2016.
- NTPC Ltd signed a non-binding Memorandum of Understanding on January 12, 2017 with Rajasthan Rajya Vidyut Utpadan Nigam Ltd and Rajasthan Urja Vikas Nigam Ltd in the presence of chief minister Vasundhara Raje in Jaipur to takeover of Chhabra Thermal Power Plant under asset-for-equity deal.
- India based Budget carrier SpiceJet and US based aircraft manufacturer Boeing has signed a deal worth \$22 billion (Rs 150,000 crore) for the purchase of up to 205 aircraft on January 13, 2017. This is one of the largest orders ever made in the airline history. The agreement also provided a big boost for Boeing in India.
- Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation rose to 3.39 percent in December 2016 breaking the record of last three months. The rise was due to increase in prices of manufactured items. WPI based inflation in vegetables declined by 33.11 percent in December 2016 mainly because of a substantial fall in price of onions which stood at -37.20 percent.
- Government owned Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited(BHEL) has commissioned new 500 MW Thermal Unit in West Bengal on January 16, 2016. This was the second 500 MW at Sagardighi Thermal Power Station (TPS) Phase II project in Murshidabad district of West Bengal.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

- ISKCON's Govardhan eco village in Thane district has been conferred with the UNWTO Award for Innovation in the category of Non-Governmental Organisations(NGO) at the annual United Nations World

Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Awards for Excellence and Innovation in Tourism at Madrid in Spain on January 19, 2017. Govardhan eco village become the first village in India has recognized by UN in the NGO sector.

- President Barack Obama on January 12, 2017 presented the Presidential Medal of Freedom (the highest US civilian honour) to the Vice President of US Joe Biden. The vice-president had no idea that he will be getting the award and the award came as a surprise to him.
- The 2017 Crafoord Prize has been conferred upon two American and one Japanese scientists for their fundamental discoveries in immune regulation. The awardees of the scientific prize include Japan's Shimon Sakaguchi of Osaka University, Fred Ramsdell from the Parker Institute for Cancer Immunotherapy in San Francisco, and Alexander Rudensky of the New-York-based Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center of America.
- Darpan Basak & Ankit Kumar won the Young Travel Photographer Of The Year (TPOTY) award 2016.

62nd Filmfare Award 2017 Winner list

Award	Winner
Best Film	Dangal
Best Director	Nitesh Tiwari for Dangal
Best Actor (Male)	Aamir Khan for Dangal
Best Actor (Female)	Alia Bhatt for Udta Punjab
Best Actor (Male) in a Short Film	Manoj Bajpayee for Taandav.
Best Male Debut	Diljit Dosanjh for Udta Punjab.
Best Female Debut	Ritika Singh for Saala Khadoos.
Best Director Debut	Ashwini Iyer Tiwari for 'Nil Battey Sannata'
Best Film People's Choice	Khamakha
Best Short Film (Fiction)	Chutney
Best Short Film (Non-fiction)	Matitali Kusti
Best Actor (Female) in a Short Film	Tisca Chopra for Chutney.
Best Dialogue	Ritesh Shah for Pink.
Best Screenplay	Shakun Batra, Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for Kapoor & Sons
Best Story	Shakun Batra, Ayesha Devitre Dhillon for Kapoor & Sons
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male)	Rishi Kapoor for Kapoor & Sons.
Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Shabana Azmi for Neerja.
Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award	Shatrughan Sinha.
Best Music Director	Pritam for Ae Dil Hai Mushkil.
Best Lyricist	Amitabh Bhattacharya- 'Channa Mereya', Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
Best Male Playback Singer	Arijit Singh for the song Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
Best Female Playback Singer	Neha Bhasin for 'Jag Ghoomeya' from Sultan
Best Visual Effects	Red Chillies for Fan
Best Editing	Monisha Baldawa for Neerja
Best Costume	Payal Saluja for Udta Punjab
Best Action	Shyam Kaushal for Dangal
Best Background Score	Sameer Uddin for Kapoor & Sons
Best Choreography	Adil Shaikh for 'Kar Gayi Chull' from Kapoor & Sons
RD Burman Award for New Music Talent	Amit Mishra for 'Bulleya' from Ae Dil Hai Mushkil
Best Cinematography	Mitesh Mirchandani for 'Neerja'
Filmfare Critics Award	
Best Film	Neerja
Best Actor (Male)	Manoj Bajpayee (Aligarh) and Shahid Kapoor (Udta Punjab)

Best Actor (Female)	Sonam Kapoor for Neerja
Award	Winner
Best Film	Dangal
Best Director	Nitesh Tiwari for Dangal
Best Actor (Male)	Aamir Khan for Dangal
Best Actor (Female)	Alia Bhatt for Udta Punjab

- Kiran Doshi won The Hindu Prize 2016 on January 15, 2017 at the 7th edition of The Hindu Lit for Life festival 2017 held in Chennai from January 14-16, 2017.
- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) has registered Sitalpati or cool mat from the Cooch Behar district, West Bengal as an “intangible cultural heritage”.
- Jacob Polley, a British Poet was Conferred with the 2016 T.S. Eliot prize for poetry at a ceremony at the Wallace Collection gallery in London on January 16, 2017 for his poetry collection “Jackself”.
- The National Bravery Awards 2016 has been conferred upon 25 children that include 13 boys and 12 girls. Among the 25 awards, four awards have been given posthumously.
- The Bollywood Actress Priyanka Chopra won her second People’s Choice Award for Favourite Dramatic TV Actress at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, California on January 18, 2017.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Shalabh Seth	CEO of Ola Fleet Technologies
Daniel Ortega	Nicaragua’s President for Third Consecutive Term
Dr. Ausaf Sayeed	High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Seychelles
Vikram Pawah	President of BMW Group India
Jimmy Adams, former captain	New director of West Indies cricket
Housing’s ex-CEO Jason Kothari	chief strategy and investment officer of Snapdeal
Manish Tewari	Senior fellow of US think tank Atlantic Council
Rajesh Gopinathan	Chief Executive Officer of TCS
TCS CEO N. Chandrasekaran	Tata Sons chairman.
Ashish Shelar	Maharashtra Cricket Association president
Sanjeev Srinivasan	CEO, MD Bharti AXA General
Antonio Tajani	President of European Parliament
Birender Singh Yadav	High Commissioner of India to the Republic of Sierra Leone
Rajeev Singh	Interim CEO of Prasar Bharati after S C Panda
Alok Kumar Verma	Director of CBI
Adama Barrow	Official President of Gambian
Ashok Warriar	Ambassador of India to the Central African Republic
Bishwadip Dey	High Commissioner of India to Grenada

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

- Business process management company, WNS Global Services announced acquisition of US-based Denali Sourcing Services for \$40 million.
- The government has decided to sell its entire 51% stake in Pawan Hans Ltd to a strategic buyer and transfer the management control of the helicopter service operator.
- ICICI Prudential Life Insurance has acquired 8.41 per cent stake in Fino Paytech Ltd (FPL) for a total consideration of Rs 100 crore
- US based Google is announced to acquire Twitter’s mobile application developer platform Fabric for an undisclosed amount on January 19, 2017

MoUs

- Telanagana Government Signs MoU with Civil Aviation Ministry for Regional Connectivity Scheme
- Arunachal signs MoU with NDDDB to promote dairy development, According to the MoU, NDDDB will conduct a survey related to milk production and consumption and identify areas of intervention in Arunachal Pradesh.

- The Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) of US and Development Partnership Administration (DPA) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India on January 13, 2017 have signed an MoU for collaboration in the fields of developmental activities and assist the third world countries.
- The Bureau of Pharma PSUs of India (BPPI) has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Yuva Cooperative Society to set up 1,000 ‘Janaushadhi Kendras‘ under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP) scheme to provide medicines at an affordable price.
- India and Sri Lanka has signed an MoU on January 13, 2017 for the construction of 3000 rain water harvesting systems in northern Jaffna District of Sri Lanka at a cost of 30 crore Sri Lankan Rupees.
- Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull signed an upgraded defence agreement to boost cooperation between their militaries. Beside with this they also reaffirmed their support for the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement the 12-nation trade pact

SCHEMES

- Madhya Pradesh government inaugurated a first of its kind scheme of the country, “Digital Dakiya” in Indore on January 14, 2017 to encourage cashless transaction in the state.
- The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has received 45 initial proposals coming in from 11 bidders covering more than 200 regional routes under Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) said by Civil Aviation Minister P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju on January 18, 2017.

COMMITTEE

- The minority affairs ministry lead by Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi formed a high-powered six-member committee on January 12, 2017 to look into whether giving subsidy has benefits to Hajj pilgrims. The decision has been taken in light of a 2012 Supreme Court order on gradually reducing and abolishing subsidy given to pilgrims by 2022.
- An Expert Group Committee under the Chairmanship of former Finance Secretary Shri Sumit Bose presented its report on the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) to the Minister of Rural Development, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar on January 13, 2017 for better planning and identification of beneficiaries and for generating priority list of beneficiaries under its programmes.
- A committee formed by the IIT Joint Admission Board (JAB) has recently given its suggestion to create 20 percent reservation seats for the girl students in IITs out of the total number of seats available. The committee headed by professor Timothy Gonsalves recommended the supernumerary seats to address the issue falling number of female students entering the institute.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The first anti-missile interceptors for the Arrow 3 Missile Defense System was inducted into the Israel Defense Forces on January 18, 2017 by both Israel’s Defense Ministry and the US Missile Defense Agency during a ceremony held on the Palmachim Air Base.
- The US military launched a Space-Based Infrared System (SBIRS) GEO Flight 3 mission on January 20, 2017. Under the mission, Geo-3 satellite has been send into the space mounted on Atlas V rocket from Florida where it will detect any possible missile attack to meet national security threats.
- As per a study published in Comptes Rendus Palevol and conducted by the Researchers from Midwestern University, Human Appendix which is regarded as a vestigial organ can actually serve an important biological function.
- The Stanford Bioengineers including Indian Origin among them have created a ultra-low-cost, human-powered centrifuge device that is capable to separate blood into its individual components in only 1.5 minutes.
- The National Green Tribunal has directed the Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to test cosmetic products containing microbeads and submit a report in four weeks.
- The American rocket manufacturing company SpaceX launched 10 satellites into orbit on a two stage Falcon 9 Rocket on January 14, 2017 from the Vandenberg Air Force Base on the California coast. The satellites were a part of the NEXT Mission of the communications company Iridium.
- The Commerce Secretary has launched a mobile app named ‘SEZ India‘ for Special Economic Zones

- (SEZs). SEZ India app will be used for SEZ Developers & Units transactions and track the
- Tamil Nadu government lead by O.Panneerselvam has launched a mobile application 'Pinakin' to provide information of famous destinations in Tamil Nadu. The app will provide information on world heritage tourist spots like Mammalapuram, the Big Temple in, Thanjavur and Gangai Konda Cholapuram and soon it will include other places in the state.
 - According to a research work published in CDC's Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), a multidrug-resistant organism has been indentified known as carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) which is resistant to all available antibiotics. NDM-1 was first discovered when a Swedish patient was infected in 2009 in India.
 - World's largest social networking platform, Facebook on January 15, 2017 announced to introduce Fake News Tools for Germany Facebook to help the residents in combating the spread of unrealistic news stories.
 - Researchers from Tohoku University in Japan have claimed that they have discovered the unidentified element that formed the 5 percent of earth's core after Iron and Nickel leading to new ways for better understanding of earths formation.
 - Indian state-owned telecommunications company Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) has launched mobile TV service 'Ditto TV' and 'Limited Fixed Mobile Telephony' in New Delhi on January 16, 2017.
 - The world's ultralight high-performance mechanical watch RM 50-03 was inaugurated on January 16, 2017 at the 27th edition of the Salon International De La Haute Horlogerie (SIHH) in Geneva.
 - A first of its kind robot journalist named Xiao Nan on January 18, 2017 made debut in the world of journalism by writing a 300-character-long article in just a second. The article written on the Spring Festival travel rush was published in the Guangzhou-based Southern Metropolis Daily.
 - The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has given its approval to explore an iron-rich asteroid "16 Psyche" as a part of its mission to learn more about the history and composition of the celestial body.
 - The Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar launched a dedicated web portal 'ShaGun' on January 18, 2017 for continuous monitoring of the elementary education scheme Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) and promote the development of education sector of India.
 - The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) successfully realigned the orbit of its Mars Orbiter Mission 'Mangalyaan' on January 19, 2017 since it could not withstand long duration eclipse.
 - The Union Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) led by Dr. Harsh Vardhan commissioned a very high resolution of 12km global deterministic weather prediction model, Ensemble Prediction System (EPS), on January 16, 2017 that will be used to generate operational weather forecasts. This system would be beneficial to overcome the problem of uncertainties in the forecasts.

DEFENCE

- Border Security Force (BSF) has launched its 14 day operation Sard Hawa at the western international border of Rajasthan on January 15, 2017 to check the instances of infiltration due to the dense fog in the area.
- China has handed over two ships to Pakistan Navy on January 15, 2017 in order to ensure joint security along the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and the Gwadar port.
- INS Khanderi, India's second French-designed Scorpene-class diesel-electric attack submarine was launched in Mumbai on January 12, 2017 at the Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL).
- The China's Navy commissioned a sophisticated electronic reconnaissance ship CNS Kaiyangxing or Mizar to North Sea Fleet in Qingdao, Shandong province on January 10, 2017. The new ship with hull code 856 is capable of conducting all-weather, round-the-clock observation on multiple targets. The ship is so sophisticated that only a few countries, such as the US and Russia, are capable of developing it.
- India successfully test-fired the Guided Pinaka Rocket from Launch Complex-III of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) launch pad at Chandipur off coast Odisha. The Guided Pinaka is a modified version of the Pinaka rocket mark-II which has evolved from Pinaka Mark-I. Pinaka rocket mark-II is equipped with a navigation, guidance and control kit. The modified version has considerably enhanced the strike range and accuracy of Pinaka.

ENVIRONMENT

- According to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) red list, more than half of the world's wild species including apes, monkeys, lemurs and lorises are now on the verge of extinction.
- A team of researchers from Singapore, France and Indonesia in a study found the evidence of the possibility of formation of a new plate boundary on the floor of the Indian Ocean in the Wharton Basin.
- Scientists have concluded a gibbon living in the tropical forests of south west China is a new species of primate. It has been named the Skywalker hoolock gibbon, means "Heaven's movement".
- Hope Island become graveyard for Olive Ridleys turtles after the wildlife wing of the Forest department have spotted 54 carcasses on the shores of Hope Island in just one month. So far 152 carcasses are spotted in Hope Island.
- Delhi has been declared free from H5N8 avian influenza commonly known as Bird Flu by the Animal Husbandry Department of the Delhi government on January 13, 2017
- As per a study published in the journal PLOS ONE, scientists from University of Bonn in Germany has found that there must have been a connection between the separated India, Europe and Asia about 54 million years ago.
- According to a new study published in the Journal of Biological Chemistry, researchers have discovered that the widely used Indian spice named Long Pepper has the potential to be used as a cancer treatment drug. The Indian long pepper contains a chemical called Piperlongumine (PL) that could stop the body from producing an enzyme that is commonly found in tumors in large numbers.
- The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) on January 13, 2017 released its statement of climate of India, 2016 and informed that the year 2016 was the hottest year since 1901 for the country.
The West Bengal State Department of Fisheries has announced to protect the endangered Hilsa Fish from getting extinct and thus has proposed to introduce law to arrest anyone found in illegal catching, buying or selling of Hilsa fish weighing less than 500 grams.
- Scientists have discovered three new lesser known diseases namely Mers, Lassa fever and Nipah virus that could cause the next global health emergency. To overcome this to happen, Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has contributed a sum of \$460 million for the development of the vaccine against these would-be deadly disease.
- A Canadian Biologist named Dr. Vazrick Nazari, has discovered a new species of moth in a densely populated part of southern California and named it after US President-elect Donald Trump.
- According to World Meteorological Organisation's ,recent report 2016 was the hottest year with an average temperature 1.1 degrees Centigrade (2 degrees Fahrenheit) higher than in pre-industrial times.

SPORTS

- Russian rhythmic gymnast, Yana Alexeyevna Kudryavtseva, announced her retirement at the age of 19, following several leg injuries including a fracture in the left foot during the 2016 World Cup in Kazan, Russia.
- Rajasthan Cricket Association in an Emergent General Meeting (EGM) accepted all the reforms recommended by the Lodha Committee as per Supreme Court directive. The Apex court had given six months deadline to BCCI to implement the recommendations.
- The Captain of Indian men's Hockey Team, PR Sreejesh was selected as a member of International Hockey Federation (FIH) Athletes' Committee on January 11, 2017 by the FIH Executive Board. Cue sports Ace Pankaj Advani clinched the 3rd Kolkata Open National Invitation Snooker Championship 2017 on January 8, 2017 organised by the West Bengal Billiards Association at the Bengal Rowing Club.
- Asian games Bronze-Medallist boxer, Sarita Devi is set to become the first ever female boxer from India to step into the world of professional boxing.
- The Indian 7'2" basketball player Satnam Singh Bhamara has shown interest in the World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE). He visited one of the WWE's Performance Centre facility at Orlando, Florida and participated in a training session alongside various other new recruits of WWE.
- The 14th Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon took place on January 15, 2017. The full marathon was flagged off from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus in South Mumbai at 7.20 AM by a host of dignitaries. Alphonse Simbu of Tanzania took 02:09:32 time to clinch first position in men's elite category while Kenya's Borne Kitur won the women's title by completing the distance in 02:29:02.
- The Minister of State (I/C) for Youth Affairs and Sports Shri Vijay Goel inaugurated the Khelo India National level Competitions on various sports for Under-14 and Under-17 children on January 15, 2017 in New Delhi.

- The NCR Punjab Royals won the Pro Wrestling League Season 2 on January 19, 2017 defeating two-time finalists Haryana Hammers 5-4 in the finals at the K D Jadhav Indoor Stadium, New Delhi.
- The Indian Women's boxing team coached by Gurbax Singh Sandhu was placed third at the 6th Nations Cup held in Vrbas, Serbia on January 15, 2017. India won total six medals comprising of one gold, four silver and one bronze. Kazakhstan won the tournament at first spot followed by Russia at second in the elite category.
- Chennai Smashers won the Premier Badminton League season 2 title after defeating Mumbai Rockets 4-3 in the final match held at Siri Fort Complex in New Delhi.
- Mercedes named the new teammate Valtteri Bottas who replaced Formula One world champion Nico Rosberg on January 17, 2017
- Tajikistan's chess player Grandmaster (GM) Farrukh Amonatov won the 15th Parsvnath Delhi International Chess tournament on January 16, 2017. The player scored 8.5 points out of 10 to win after a draw with the Indian counterpart GM Diptayan Ghosh in the 10th and final round who scored 8 to be placed at second position.
- Cricket icon Kapil Dev was inducted into Legends Club 'Hall of Fame' at the Cricket Club of India on January 17, 2017. Former India player and Legends Club president Madhav Apte presented Kapil with a citation.
- Pakistani batsman Babar Azam became the fastest player in Pakistan's One Day International (ODI) history to score 1,000 runs in 21 innings during the 3rd ODI against Australia at WACA Ground in Perth, Australia on January 19, 2017.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) and Chinese e-commerce firm Alibaba Group entered into a long-term partnership through 2028 on January 19, 2017 at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. This makes Alibaba the worldwide sponsor of Olympic Games through 2028.
- According to data released by the world football governing body FIFA on January 12, 2017, the Indian football team jumped six places up to 129th in January 2017 which is the best FIFA ranking in over a decade. The top 3 positions remain unchanged with Argentina, Brazil and Germany holding first, second and third place respectively.
- Gujarat won its maiden Ranji Trophy title on January 14, 2017 by 5 wickets after beating Mumbai at the Holkar Stadium in Indore. Man of the Match: Parthiv Patel.
- The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has taken away the Olympic gold medals from three Chinese women weightlifters for doping at 2008 Beijing Games. This bans China from International Championship for one year. They three weightlifters were Cao Lei in the 75-kilogram class; Chen Xiexia at 48kg; and Liu Chunhong at 69kg.

OBITUARY

- An American jazz and pop singer and pianist Buddy Greco was dead in Las Vegas, USA .
- Veteran British war correspondent Clare Hollingworth, who reported the news that World War II had started, died on January 10, 2017 at the age of 105 in Hong-Kong.
- Former MRF director KM Philip passes away.
- Renowned Author and Director of "The Exorcist" William Peter Blatty dies aged 89.
- Chinese linguist and Famous Linguist known as Father of Pinyin Zhou Youguang died on January 14 2017 in Beijing.
- UNC Nobel Laureate Oliver Smithies dies at age 91.
- Renowned Actress Gita Sen Passes Away in Kolkata of cerebral hemorrhage. She was 86.
- The commander of Apollo 17 and the last man who walk on the moon, Astronaut Eugene Cernan has passed away in Washington D.C, USA.
- Senior Congress leader and former state minister of Chhattisgarh, Tarun Prasad Chatterjee passed away in Raipur, Chhattisgarh on January 17, 2017. He was 68.
- National award-winning filmmaker Deepak Roy dead at 67.
- C.V. Vishveshwara, Pioneer of Black Hole Discovery Dies at 78.
- Renowned Political And Social Activist Mangal Negi Dies At 86.
- Former Chief Minister of Punjab Surjit Singh Barnala Dies at 91.
- Former Minister of Maharashtra Chandrakant Chhajed passes away.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar released a book on cyber vocabulary named Cyber Pathshala authored by BJP leader and writer Tarun Vijay on January 10, 2017 at World Book Fair at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi.
- The autobiography of the veteran Indian actor Rishi Kapoor titled “Khullam Khulla: Rishi Kapoor Uncensored” was released on January 15, 2017. Rishi Kapoor has written this ‘uncensored’ book along with Meena Iyer and the title is published under Harper Collins.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- National Youth Day also known as Yuva Diwas is celebrated every year with the great joy and enthusiasm in India on January 12 since 1985 to commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, the maker of the modern India. The theme of this year’s Festival is ‘Youth for Digital India’ and the Mascot of the festival is Lado.
- The Indian Army celebrated its 69th Army Day on January 15, 2017. The day is celebrated every year on January 15 to respect the Lieutenant General of India, K. M. Cariappa (Kodandera Madappa Cariappa) who was the first Indian Army’s Commander-in-Chief.
- Outgoing US President Barack Obama has signed a proclamation to declare January 16 Religious Freedom Day on January 13, 2017.
- Tamil Nadu government celebrate the birth centenary of Former CM of Tamil Nadu, M G Ramachandran on January 17, 2017

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