

CURRENT AFFAIRS SNIPPETS : JANUARY 2017

STATE

Telangana Government announces a series of welfare measures for army personnel

The government of Telangana on 17th January 2017 announced a series of welfare measures for army personnel and their families living in the State. The welfare measures were announced by Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrashekhar Rao in the State Legislative Assembly in Hyderabad.

KCR unveiled several measures including setting up of a Rs 80 crore Army welfare fund, massive increase in cash awards for Army personnel winning gallantry medals and a host of other concessions. He said that he and his cabinet colleagues would make an annual contribution of Rs 25,000 each for the fund, while legislators from the state would contribute Rs 10,000 each. The Army welfare fund would be used for the well-being of army personnel and their families. In fact, government employees, too, have decided to contribute one day's wages towards the fund. The CM also announced massive increase in cash rewards for Army personnel from the state who win gallantry medals. Army personnel from the state winning Param Vir Chakra and Ashok Chakra will get Rs 2.25 crore (Punjab pays the highest at Rs 2 crore), Mahavir Chakra and Kirti Chakra Rs 1.25 crore (Punjab Rs 1 crore). The Chief Minister further announced that uniform rule will be applied in paying compensation to the army personnel who lay their lives in the war front.

Gujarat Government launches India's first Student Startup and Innovation Policy

Gujarat government launched India's first student startup and innovation policy with an aim to provide Rs 200 crore in the form of grants to ideas developed by students. The policy aims to support over 1,000 innovations per year in the state and create pre-incubation support in all universities of the states, industries, and community instead of conventional academic projects.

As a part of this initiative, students will be provided with pre-incubation support that aims at helping students to convert ideas from Proof of Concept upto Minimum Viable Prototype and to create a support system for Patent filing. The policy has been developed under the aegis of Education Department and state government will provide Rs 200 crore as State Innovation Fund (SIF) during the next five years. Of the Rs 200 crore SIF, Rs 100 crore will be allocated by the state government and the remaining amount will be created by internal sources, like university funds and CSR funds.

Andhra Pradesh Government launches NTR Arogya Raksha Scheme

Andhra Pradesh Government has launched NTR Arogya Raksha Scheme to provide the medical treatment to the people below Above Poverty Line (APL) at Rs. 1200 premium per annum. It was launched by Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada. The new health scheme offering medical insurance to those who were not covered under any of the existing health schemes of the state government.

This health scheme provides medical treatment for 1044 health and medical ailments in any of the 432 Corporate Hospitals and 80 Government Hospitals in the state. Also, this scheme appeals people to enroll their names in the scheme by paying Rs. 1200 per annum per head. Also, a health insurance cover is offered up to 2lakh and free treatment by the scheme. People are registering for this scheme at any of the Mee Seva centers till 28th February 2017. Andhra Pradesh thus became the **first** state to fulfill the health for all vision of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Jharkhand Annual State Budget 2017-18

Jharkhand, in the state budget presented, did not introduce any new taxes and the budget has the total outlay Rs 75,673.42 crore. The main focus of the budget is on agriculture, education and skill development, rural development and eliminating poverty. The total allocated state budget for 2017-18 is **19.7 percent** more than the current year. The budget also lays emphasis on agriculture, women empowerment and infrastructure electricity, roads, communication including civil aviation and railways. A sum of Rs 20,003.72 crore has been allocated for general sector, Rs 25,139.88 crore for social sector and Rs 30,529.82 crore for economic sector.

The Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) for the year 2017-18 has been estimated at Rs 2,82,572 crore which is 13.19 percent more than that of the previous fiscal. The fiscal deficit for the year 2017-18 is estimated to be Rs 6,947.83 crore which is 2.29 percent of the GSDP. Major share of the budget has been allocated to the education sector with Rs. 10,000 crore. In agriculture sector the state government has increased the allocation by 12 per cent to Rs 5,375.22 crore which stood at Rs 4,845.72 crore in the previous fiscal. The gender budget fund allocation has been hiked by 30.05 percent to 16,384.23 crore as against Rs 7,684 crore in the previous fiscal. The women welfare allocation has been increased by 30 percent while in skill development the total allocation has allotted to Rs. 704 crore from the previous Rs 145 crore. Among other sectors the total allocation includes, welfare/ minority welfare-7.10%, Policing and disaster management-6.23%, Urban development, drinking water and sani-

tation-6.02%, Health-4.10%, Rural development and Panchayati Raj-3.84%, Road and building construction-8.06%, Energy-7.93%. The budget also laid emphasis on development of the scheduled tribes (ST) and scheduled caste (SC) and has allocated Rs 22,259 crore for special schemes related to their uplift. Out of this Rs 18,026 crore has been allotted for development of ST areas while the remaining Rs 4,233 crore has been set aside for development of SC areas. The government expects to earn Rs 19,900.50 crore in tax receipts and Rs 11,258.16 crore from non-tax receipts. Besides, Rs 13,414.57 crore is expected from central aid while the states share from central share's taxes is estimated to be worth Rs 21,034.19 crore. The state government hopes to earn Rs 10,000 crore from public loans while advance loan collection is estimated to be worth Rs 66 crore.

Tamil Nadu Assembly unanimously passes Jallikattu Bill

The special session of Tamil Nadu Assembly has unanimously passed Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Tamil Nadu Amendment), Act, 2017 to lift Supreme Court imposed ban on the traditional sport of Jallikattu. The bill will now replace the ordinance promulgated in this regard by the Governor on the recommendation of state government. State Chief Minister O Panneerselvam piloted the Bill, which was supported by all the three opposition parties, the DMK, the Congress and the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML). Jallikattu, a bull taming sport is traditionally held as part of the four-day Pongal festival (harvest festival) in the Tamil Nadu. It is bull taming sport in which a bull vaulter is expected to hang on to the animal's hump for a stipulated distance or hold on to the hump for a minimum of three jumps made by the bull. The Supreme Court in May 2014 banned the conduct of Jallikattu over the issue of animal cruelty. The bill amends section 2 of the Prevention of Cruelty of Animals (PCA) Act, 1960. It defines jallikattu as a traditional sport involving bulls. It allows state government to conduct it in notified places on any day from January to May.

NATIONAL

India's first International Stock Exchange at Gift City
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first international exchange-India INX- on Monday at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat International Financial Tech City (GIFT) located in Gandhinagar.

India International Exchange (INX), the wholly-owned subsidiary of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE), through its global bourse, will start trading initially in equity derivatives, currency derivatives, commodity derivatives including Index and Stocks. Subsequently, depository receipts and bonds would be offered once the required infrastructure for the same is in place.

India INX is one of the world's most advanced technology platforms with a turn-around time of 4 micro seconds. It will operate for 22 hours a day to allow international investors and Non Residents Indians to trade from anywhere across the globe. India INX will act as a gateway to raise capital for the country's infrastructure and development needs. In parallel, it would provide cross-border opportunities of investment with a comparatively low cost of transaction in the world's most technologically advanced platform.

India becomes associate member of CERN

India became an associate member of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), the world's largest nuclear and particle physics laboratory. The agreement was signed by Sekhar Basu, Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and CERN Director General Dr Fabiola Gianotti at the DAE's office. Becoming Associate Member of CERN will enhance participation of young scientists and engineers in various CERN projects. Last year, the Union Cabinet green-lit the proposal for India officially entering the Geneva-based body, following which the CERN Council accepted the country as an associate member. It will also open opportunities for Indian industries to participate directly in CERN projects. The industries now can directly bag contracts for specified requirements of CERN. Earlier, the supply of required material, components and services was in the form of kind. This would involve annual contribution of 11.5 million Swiss frank from Indian government to CERN. The organisation is the world's largest nuclear and particle physics laboratory, where scientists and engineers are probing the fundamental structure of the Universe using the most sophisticated scientific instruments and advanced computing systems. Presently CERN has 22 member states, four associate member states, and the observer status is given to four states and three International Organisations.

GAAR to be effective from 1 April 2017

The Union Finance Ministry announced that the General Anti Avoidance Rule (GAAR) will be effective from the 1 April, 2017. In this regard Income Tax (IT) department has issued a slew of clarifications on implementation of GAAR, seeking to address concerns of foreign investors over implementation of the anti-evasion measure. The General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR), which seek to prevent companies from routing transactions through other countries to avoid taxes, can be invoked through a two-stage process involving a nod at the level of principal commissioner of income tax and a panel headed by a high court judge. India will be the 17th nation in the world to have laws that aim to close tax loopholes. At present, GAAR is in force in nations like Australia, Singapore, China and the UK. In a clarification on implementation of GAAR, CBDT said the provisions will not apply if the tax benefits

obtained are permissible under the limitation of benefits clause provided in tax treaties. Investments made by way of convertible instruments, bonus issuances or split/consolidation of holdings prior to April 1 will be grandfathered, it said. CBDT said that adoption of anti-abuse rules in tax treaties may not be sufficient to address all tax avoidance strategies and they are required to be tackled through domestic anti-avoidance rules. If a case of avoidance is sufficiently addressed by Limitation of Benefits (LoB) provisions in the tax treaty, there shall not be an occasion to invoke GAAR. The stakeholders have been assured that adequate procedural safeguards are in place to ensure that GAAR is invoked in a uniform, fair and rational manner,

India ranks 79 in Corruption Perception Index

India has been ranked 79th out of 176 countries in the recently released Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for the year 2016 by the Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI). Its score marginally improved from 38 in 2015 to 40 in 2016. India had a score of 36 in 2012. India's ongoing poor performance with a score of 40 reiterates the state's inability to effectively deal with petty corruption and large-scale corruption scandals.

The organisation has used the World Bank data, the world economic forum and other institutions to rank countries by perceived levels of corruption in public sector. The score runs from zero to 100, from highly corrupt to 100. Belarus, Brazil, & China shared the same ranks as India. The list was topped by New Zealand and Denmark with a score of 90 each. Somalia was ranked the most corrupt country with a score of 10. Other countries with lower rankings were South Sudan, North Korea, Syria, and Yemen. Higher-ranked countries tend to have higher degrees of press freedom, access to information about public expenditure, stronger standards of integrity for public officials, and independent judicial systems. The lower-ranked countries in the index were plagued by untrustworthy and badly functioning public institutions like the police and judiciary. India's ongoing poor performance with a score of 40 reiterates the state's inability to effectively deal with petty corruption and large-scale corruption scandals. Regionally, South Asia had performed poorly. Bangladesh at 27th and Nepal at 29th positions were slotted in the highly corrupt section.

68th Republic Day celebrated on 26 January 2017.

India celebrated its 68th Republic Day on January 26, 2017 with the theme "**Skill India and Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**". The day honours the date on which the Indian Constitution came into force on 26th January, 1950 replacing the Government of India Act, 1935 as the governing document. Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and the Deputy Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces of United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the Chief Guest of the official

ceremony.

The country's military prowess and achievements in different fields, state-of-the-art defence platforms, and diverse culture was displayed at the Republic Day parade at Rajpath in Delhi. For the first time, a contingent of the National Security Guard (NSG), popularly known as the Black Cat Commandoes, also took part in the parade. A contingent of UAE soldiers also marched down the Rajpath. President Pranab Mukherjee awarded Ashok Chakra, country's highest peacetime military decoration to **Havaldar Hangpan Dada** posthumously for selfless service to nation. Google also celebrated with a doodle showing a stadium full of people lined up according to the colours of the Indian flag.

Prime Minister launches Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana for Indians seeking overseas employment

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government is planning to launch Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana to train Indian youth for overseas employment. The announcement was made at the inauguration of the 14th Pravasi Bhartiya Divas Convention in Bengaluru. Smt. Sushma Swaraj emphasized that this collaborative effort between the two Ministries would enhance overseas employment opportunities for Indian workers, boost the Skill India Mission and is an important step towards the realization of Hon'ble PM's vision of transforming India into the skill capital of the world.

PKVY is a skill development initiative of the MEA in partnership with the MSDE and is aimed at training and certification of Indian workforce keen on overseas employment in select sectors and job roles, in line with international standards, to facilitate overseas employment opportunities. The scheme will be implemented by National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) through its Training Partners in consultation with MEA and MSDE. As part of collaboration, potential emigrant workers may avail work related skill training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) or any other similar Government skill development program, which would take place at transnational standards. MSDE through NSDC proposes to establish customised International Skill Centres to operationalise this initiative. MEA's role would be to support Pre-Departure Orientation Training (PDOT), which will include language and soft skills training modules. Training offered will also be backed by an internationally recognised assessment and certification system.

INTERNATIONAL

US President Donald Trump signs executive order to pull US out of TPP

Donald Trump, President of United States of America signed an executive order to formally pull the country out of the negotiating process of the Trans-Pacific

Partnership (TPP). The 12-nation trade deal was a linchpin of former President Barack Obama's Asia policy. The partnership was aimed at setting rules for the 21st century and binding US allies against growing Chinese economic clout.

The TPP is a trade agreement under negotiation among 12 Pacific Rim nations accounting for 40% of the world economy. It was promoted by US and signed by 12 countries in 2015. 12 members are Australia, Brunei, Chile, Canada, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, US and Vietnam. India was not part of TPP. TPP's stated aim was to strengthen economic ties and boost growth, including by reducing tariffs. It included measures to enforce labour and environmental standards, copyrights, patents and other legal protections. The agreement, backed heavily by US business, was designed to potentially create a new single market likened to the EU.

Japan successfully launches first military communications satellite

Japan successfully launched its first military communications satellite that is designed to upgrade its network in the face of China's increasingly assertive maritime activity and North Korea's missile threat. The Kirameki-2 (kee-RAH-meh-kee 2) satellite was on an H-2A rocket that lifted off from the Tanegashima (tah-neh-GAH-shee-mah) Space Center in southern Japan. The satellite separated from the rocket and entered a designated orbit, the Defense Ministry said. It is the first of three satellites that will replace three civilian ones currently used by Japan's military. The new satellites will allow military units to communicate on a high-speed and high-capacity network.

The new satellites are also aimed at stepping up Japan's emergency response capability in case of natural disaster, China's maritime activity from southern Japanese waters to the South China Sea, as well as missile threats from North Korea. The satellites are also planned for use for Japanese troops operating overseas as part of international peacekeeping operations, including those in South Sudan and off the Somali coast, Kyodo News reported. The Kirameki-1 was supposed to be launched in July 2016, but was damaged during transport to a launch pad in French Guiana. It is undergoing repair and now is scheduled for launch in 2018.

CEPI formally launched at WEF, Davos

The Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI) has been officially launched at World Economic Forum (WEF) Davos after it received \$460-million to develop vaccines against 3 emerging highly-contagious and fatal diseases. The three diseases are Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS)-coronavirus, Lassa fever, and Nipah virus. CEPI will use this fund to contain outbreaks these 3 diseases before they become global health emergencies.

CEPI is a public-private alliance to finance and

coordinate the development of new vaccines to prevent and contain infectious disease epidemics. It is being funded by the Wellcome Trust, t Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, World Economic Forum (WEF), Governments of Norway, Japan, India (Department of Biotechnology) and Germany. Under it, CEPI will solicit proposals from academic researchers and industry to develop candidate vaccines for its three target viruses. In 5 years, it aims develop at least two vaccines for each virus through early human studies so that they are ready for a real-world test as soon as one of these viruses surfaces again. It has received \$100 million commitments from Wellcome Trust and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and the governments of Germany, Japan and Norway have pledged to contribute additional \$260 million.

The **World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2017** was held in **Davos-Klosters, Switzerland** from January 17-20, 2017. The theme of 47th World Economic Forum Annual Meeting 2017 is **Responsive and Responsible Leadership**.

UN declares 2017 as International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development recalling the potential of tourism to advance the universal 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The International Year aims to support a change in policies, business practices and consumer behavior towards a more sustainable tourism sector than can contribute effectively to the SDGs.

Accounting for 7% of worldwide exports, one in eleven jobs and 10% of the world's GDP, the tourism sector if well managed can foster inclusive economic growth, social inclusiveness and the protection of cultural and natural assets. The International Year will promote tourism's role in the following five key areas:

- Inclusive and sustainable economic growth;
- Social inclusiveness, employment and poverty reduction;
- Resource efficiency, environmental protection and climate change;
- Cultural values, diversity and heritage; and
- Mutual understanding, peace and security.

The presentation of the International Year will take place in Madrid on 18 January 2017 on the occasion of the Spanish Tourism Fair, FITUR.

BUSINESS

Google unveils My Business and Digital Unlocked tools for SMBs in India

Google has launched new tools My Business Website and Digital Unlocked for Small and Medium Businesses (SMBs) in India. The tools were launched by Sundar Pichai, CEO of Google in New Delhi. The brand new

tool has been introduced in India and it would be taken to other countries from here.

Google My Business would help small businesses set up website from their mobile devices. It will offer simple, templated, editable websites for small businesses. These websites will be created on Google maps and will be available in Indic languages. Digital Unlocked is an education programme, in association with industry body FICCI and Indian School of Business. The programme will offer mobile and online courses to help small businesses start their digital journey. Google has released 90 self-paced video tutorials that have been curated specifically for India. They will be available at g.co/digitalunlocked. The internet giant also launched a free mobile app, named Primer. It is designed to teach digital marketing skills in a quick, easy and interactive way.

PVR Pictures launches Vkaao theatre-on-demand service

Multiplex chain operator PVR today launched theatre on demand service 'Vkaao' and plans to add 100 screens by end of next fiscal across the country. Vkaao is an online platform that enables consumers to watch any movie of their choice at a theatre of their choice. Vkaao is very disruptive and gives control to a customer to choose what they want to watch, when and where. PVR at present operates 562 screens in 122 properties in 48 cities in India. Minimum requirement for a show to be confirmed would be 50 seats. Recently, private equity player Warburg Pincus acquired around 14 per cent stake in PVR for about Rs 820 crore. Warburg Pincus acquired 9 per cent stake affiliates of private equity firm Multiples and 5 per cent from promoters of PVR.

Air India launches Fly For Sure Scheme

The national carrier Air India (AI) launched a 'Fly For Sure' scheme under which passengers can board any other AI flight on the same sector on the same day on missing their booked flight.

To avail this facility, the customer has to pay extra Rs. 2,000 while booking the ticket and get to board any Air India flight on the same day and same sector. The voucher will be non-refundable and can be availed on all domestic routes offered by AI. Thus, this scheme will help passengers to ensure they reach their destination the same day and they no longer need to buy expensive last-minute tickets. Earlier in 2016, low-cost airline SpiceJet had launched a similar scheme. This Scheme is valid only for Air India operated flights. (including the domestic leg). Also change is not applicable for Alliance Air and Code Share flights or redemption/award tickets. Flight change is not applicable for passengers travelling on group bookings as also unaccompanied minors.

AWARDS

Padma Awards 2017 announced

President Pranab Mukherjee announced the names of recipients of year 2017 Padma awards viz. Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri. He approved conferment of Padma Awards on 89 persons. The list includes 7 Padma Vibhushan, 7 Padma Bhushan and 75 Padma Shri Awardees. Out of these selected 89 persons, 19 are women, 5 awardees are from the category of foreigners, NRIs, PIOs while 6 are posthumous awardees.

PADMA VIBHUSHAN

Sr no.	Name	Field	State
1	K.J. Yesudas	Art-Music	Kerala
2	Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev	Others – Spiritualism	Tamil Nadu
3	Sharad Pawar	Public Affairs	Maharashtra
4	Murli Manohar Joshi	Public Affairs	Uttar Pradesh
5	Prof. Udipi Ramachandra Rao	Science & Engineering	Karnataka
6	Sunder Lal Patwa (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Madhya Pradesh
7	P.A. Sangma (Posthumous)	Public Affairs	Meghalaya

PADMA BHUSHAN

Sr no.	Name	Field	State
1	Vishwa Mohan Bhatt	Art-Music	Rajasthan
2	Prof. (Dr.) Devi Prasad Dwivedi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
3	Teheyton Udawadia	Medicine	Maharashtra
4	Shri Ratna Sundar Maharaj	Others – Spiritualism	Guajrat
5	Swami Niranjana Nanda Saraswati	Others - Yoga	Bihar
6	H.R.H. Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn (Foreigner)	Literature & Education	Thailand
7	Cho Ramaswamy (Posthumous)	Education – Journalism	Tamil Nadu

PADMA SHRI

Sr no.	Name	Field	State
1	Basanti Bisht	Art-Music	Uttarakhand
2	Chemanchery Kunhiraman Nair	Art-Dance	Kerala
3	Aruna Mohanty	Art-Dance	Odisha
4	Bharathi Vishnuvardhan	Art-Cinema	Karnataka
5	Sadhu Meher	Art-Cinema	Odisha
6	T K Murthy	Art-Music	Tamil Nadu
7	Laishram Birendrakumar Singh	Art-Music	Manipur
8	Krishna Ram Chaudhary	Art-Music	Uttar Pradesh
9	Baoa Devi	Art-Painting	Bihar
10	Tilak Gitai	Art-Painting	Rajasthan
11	Dr. Prof. Aekka Yadagiri Rao	Art-Sculpture	Telangana
12	Jitendra Haripal	Art-Music	Odisha
13	Kailash Kher.	Art-Music	Maharashtra
14	Parassala B Ponnammal	Art-Music	Kerala
15	Sukri Bommagowda	Art-Music	Karnataka
16	Mukund Nayak.	Art-Music	Jharkhand
17	Purushottam Upadhyay	Art-Music	Gujarat
18	Anuradha Paudwal	Art-Music	Maharashtra
19	Wareppa Naba Nil.	Art-Theatre	Manipur
20	Tripuraneni Hanuman Chowdary	Civil Service	Telangana
21	T.K. Viswanathan	Civil Service	Haryana
22	Kanwal Sibal.	Civil Service	Delhi
23	Birkha Bahadur Limboo Muringla	Literature & Education	Sikkim
24	Eli Ahmed	Literature & Education	Assam
25	Narendra Kohli	Literature & Education	Delhi
26	Prof. G. Venkatasubbiah.	Literature & Education	Karnataka
27	Akkitham Achyuthan Namboothiri	Literature & Education	Kerala
28	Kashi Nath Pandita	Literature & Education	Jammu & Kashmir
29	Chamu Krishna Shastri	Literature & Education	Delhi
30	Harihar Kripalu Tripathi	Literature & Education	Uttar Pradesh
31	Michel Danino	Literature & Education	Tamil Nadu
32	Punam Suri	Literature & Education	Delhi
33	VG Patel	Literature & Education	Gujarat
34	V Koteswaramma	Literature & Education	Andhra Pradesh
35	Balbir Dutt.	Literature & Education-Journalism	Jharkhand
36	Bhawana Somaaya	Literature & Education-Journalism	Maharashtra
37	Vishnu Pandya	Literature & Education-Journalism	Gujarat
38	Dr. Subroto Das	Medicine	Gujarat
39	Dr. (Smt.) Bhakti Yadav	Medicine	Madhya Pradesh
40	Dr. Mohammed Abdul Waheed.	Medicine	Telangana

41	Dr. Madan Madhav Godbole	Medicine	Uttar Pradesh
42	Dr. Devendra Dayabhai Patel	Medicine	Gujarat
43	Prof. Harkishan Singh	Medicine	Chandigarh
44	Dr. Mukut Minz	Medicine	Chandigarh
45	Arun Kumar Sharma	Others-Archaeology	Chhattisgarh
46	Sanjeev Kapoor	Others-Culinary	Maharashtra
47	Meenakshi Amma	Others-Martial Art	Kerala
48	Genabhai Dargabhai Patel	Others-Agriculture	Gujarat
49	Chandrakant Pithawa.	Science & Engineering	Telangana
50	Prof. Ajoy Kumar Ray	Science & Engineering	West Bengal
51	Chintakindi Mallesham	Science & Engineering	Andhra Pradesh
52	Jitendra Nath Goswami	Science & Engineering	Assam
53	Daripalli Ramaiah	Social Work	Telangana
54	Girish Bhardwaj	Social Work	Karnataka
55	Karimul Hak	Social Work	West Bengal
56	Bipin Ganatra	Social Work	West Bengal
57	Nivedita Raghunath Bhide.	Social work	Tamil Nadu
58	Appasaheb Dharmadhikari	Social Work	Maharashtra
59	Baba Balbir Singh Seechewal	Social Work	Punjab
60	Virat Kohli	Sports-Cricket	Delhi
61	Shekar Naik	Sports-Cricket	Karnataka
62	Vikasa Gowda	Sports-Discus Throw	Karnataka
63	Deepa Malik	Sports-Athletics	Haryana
64	Mariyappan Thangavelu	Sports-Athletics	Tamil Nadu
65	Dipa Karmakar	Sports-Gymnastics	
66	P R Shreejesh	Sports-Hockey	Kerala
67	Sakshi Malik	Sports-Wrestling	Haryana
68	Mohan Reddy Venkatrama Bodanapu	Trade & Industry	Telangana
69	Imrat Khan (NRI/PIO)	Art-Music	USA
70	Anant Agarwal (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education	USA
71	H.R. Shah (NRI/PIO)	Literature & Education-Journalism	USA
72	Suniti Solomon (Posthumous)	Medicine	Tamil Nadu
73	Asoke Kumar Bhattacharyya (Posthumous)	Others-Archaeology	West Bengal
74	Dr. Mapuskar (Posthumous)	Social Work	Maharashtra
75	Anuradha Koirala (Foreigner)	Social Work	Nepal

62nd Filmfare Awards

The grand Annual 62nd Jio Filmfare Awards event organised by the Filmfare magazine was held in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It honored the best Indian films of the year 2016.

Best Actor: Aamir Khan (Dangal).

Best Actress: Alia Bhatt (Udta Punjab).

Best Film: Dangal. Best Director: Nitesh Tiwari (Dangal).

Lifetime Achievement: Shatrughan Sinha.

Best Debut Director: Ashwini Iyer Tiwari (Nil Battey Sannata).

Best Supporting Actor: Rishi Kapoor (Kapoor & Sons).

Best Supporting Actress: Shabana Azmi (Neerja).

Best Male Debut: Diljit Dosanjh (Udta Punjab).

Best Female Debut: Ritika Singh (Saala Khadoos).

Best Singer (male): Arijit Singh (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil).

Best Singer (female): Neha Bhasin (Sultan).

Best Music Director: Pritam (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil).

Best Lyricist: Amitabh Bhattacharya (Ae Dil Hai Mushkil).

FIFA Football Awards 2016

Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo was named the world's best player for the year 2016 at the inaugural Best FIFA Football Awards held in Zurich, Switzerland.

Other Awards:

Best FIFA Women's Player: Carli Lloyd (US).

Best FIFA Men's Coach: Claudio Ranieri (Italy).

Best FIFA Women's Coach: Silvia Neid (Germany).

FIFA Puskas Award: Mohd Faiz Subri (Malaysia).

FIFA Fair Play Award: Atletico Nacional

FIFA Award for an Outstanding Career: Falcao (Brazil).

FIFA Fan Award: Borussia Dortmund and Liverpool supporters.

74th Golden Globe Awards

The 74th Annual Golden Globe Awards ceremony was organized at Beverly Hills, California, United States (US). The Golden Globe Awards are the annual awards that honour the best in Motion Pictures and American Television for the previous year.

La La Land, a romantic musical comedy-drama film won in all the seven categories including the top award of best musical or comedy. Veteran actress **Meryl Streep** was bestowed with the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award.

Other Awards

Best Motion Picture Drama: Moonlight.

Best Motion Picture Musical/Comedy: La La Land.

Best Director in Motion Picture-Drama: Damien Chazelle for La La Land.

Best Actor in Motion Picture-Drama: Casey Affleck

for Manchester by the Sea.

Best Actress in Motion Picture-Drama: Isabelle Huppert for Elle.

Best Actor in Motion Picture or Musical or Comedy: Ryan Gosling for La La Land.

Best Actress in Motion Picture Musical or Comedy: Emma Stone for La La Land.

Best Actor in a Supporting role in Motion Picture: Aaron Taylor-Johnson for Nocturnal Animals.

Best Actress in a Supporting role in Motion Picture: Viola Davis for Fences.

Best Original Score Motion Picture: Justin Hurwitz for the La La Land.

Best Original Song: "City of Stars" (Justin Hurwitz, Pasek & Paul) for the La La Land.

Best Animated Feature Film: Zootopia.

Best Foreign Language Film: Elle (France).

PERSON-IN-NEWS**Dr. Vijay Bhatkar appointed new Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University**

Vijay Pandurang Bhatkar, a technocrat who is considered the father of the Indian Supercomputer, has been appointed the new Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, Rajgir, in Bihar. President Pranab Mukherjee, in his capacity as Visitor to Nalanda University, named Bhatkar for the post with effect from January 25.

He will hold the office for a three-year period from the date of his appointment as per the Nalanda University Act, Sec 11(3). Bhatkar, 70, replaces Gopa Sabharwal who resigned on November 24 last year, followed by the resignation of Chancellor George Yeo, after the dissolution of the Mentor Group which functioned as the governing body of the university. Born on October 11, 1946 in Pune, Bhatkar was educated at IIT, Delhi, Sir Visvesvaraya National Institute of Technology, Nagpur and MS University, Vadodara. He is known as the architect of India's initiative in supercomputing, the Centre of Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) in Pune founded in 1988, leading to the development of the first indigenous supercomputer Param 8,000 in 1991, followed by Param 10,000 in 1998. Bhatkar has served as member, Scientific Advisory Committee to the Cabinet at the Centre, and governing board of Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. He has also been honoured with the Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan, the fourth and third highest civilian honours in India.

Veteran actor Om Puri passes away

Veteran actor Om Puri passed away following massive cardiac arrest in Mumbai, Maharashtra. He was 66. His acting credits include appearances in commercial Indian, British, and Hollywood, independent films and art films.

The recipient of two National awards and two Filmfare Awards including a Lifetime Achievement Award, Om Puri had an illustrious film career, spanning over four decades. The Padma Shri awardee, studied at the Film and Television Institute of India and at the National School of Drama, where Naseeruddin Shah was his classmate. Born on October 18, 1950, hailing from Ambala in Haryana, Om Puri made his film debut in 1976 with the Marathi film 'Ghashiram Kotwal'. A critically acclaimed actor, Puri featured in films like 'Ardh Satya', 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro', 'Aakrosh', 'Mirch Masala' and many others. More recently, he was seen in the movies, 'Dabangg', 'Bajrangi Bhaijaan' and 'Ghayal Once Again'. Puri also had a meaty and memorable role opposite Helen Mirren in Steven Spielberg's 2014 American comedy drama 'The Hundred-Foot Journey'. The actor also received an honorary OBE in 2004 for his contribution to British cinema.

Ashok Amritraj appointed as UN in India Goodwill Ambassador for SDGs

Award-winning Hollywood film producer and Wimbledon tennis player Ashok Amritraj has become the first Goodwill Ambassador of the UN in India. Mr Amritraj has been appointed Ambassador for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He is an internationally-renowned iconic filmmaker. He has made over 100 films during the span of his 30-year extraordinary career. At present he is the Chairman and CEO of Hyde Park Entertainment Group. In September 2015, at the UN General Assembly, 193 countries adopted arguably the most ambitious global agenda of our times, The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity and peace. UN Goodwill Ambassador's is aim to generate momentum and commitment to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and to foster engagement of new stakeholders in the implementation of these Goals.

Antonio Guterres takes charge as UN Secretary General

Former Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres was sworn in as the ninth United Nations Secretary-General, pledging to personally help broker peace in various conflicts and reform the 71-year old world body to become more effective.

Guterres, 67, will replace Ban Ki-moon, 72, of South Korea on Jan. 1. Ban steps down at the end of 2016

after two five-year terms. Guterres was Portugal's prime minister from 1995 to 2002 and U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees from 2005 to 2015. Guterres is the first former head of government to be elected to run the world body and that experience will be reflected in how he operates. Guterres is expected to shortly name Nigeria's environment minister Amina Mohammed as his deputy secretary-general. He is also planning to appoint a woman as his chief of staff before the end of the year. Guterres beat out 12 other candidates, seven of whom were women, amid a push for the first woman to be elected.