

Unique IAS Academy

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Real Estate (Regulation & Development) Act, 2016

- ✓ The Real Estate Act that seeks to regulate the housing sector besides bringing transparency and ensuring timely completion of projects. The law is touted as a major reform measure to regulate the vast real estate sector. It requires registration of all projects with state-level Real Estate Regulatory Authorities to ensure protection of the interests of both buyers and builders.

About Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)

- ✓ CBDT is nodal policy-making body of the Income Tax (IT) department under the Union Finance Ministry. It is a statutory authority established under The Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963. The composition of CBDT includes Chairman and six members. It is responsible for framing policy and administrative issues related to direct taxes and the Income Tax department.

More differently abled attend schools than before: 2011 Census

November 1, 2016

- ✓ According to recently released new 2011 census data, nearly two-thirds of the disabled population in the age-group of 5-19 in 2011 were attending educational institutions. It was mentioned in the table C-22 of census which gives distribution of the disabled population in the age-group 5-19 by their attendance status in educational institution, type of disability, sex, age and residence.

Highlights of the table C-22 of census

- ✓ As many as 40.2 lakh (61.2%) out of the total of 65.7 lakh disabled population in the specified age group were attending educational institutions in 2011. Besides, 8.0 lakh (12.1%) had attended educational institutions earlier and 17.5 lakh (26.7%) never had attended any educational institutions. The census shows improvement of 11% points from 2001 when 33 lakh (50%) of the 65.3 lakh differently abled persons had attended educational institutions.
- ✓ The enrolment figure is 10% points lower than that of the total population — 71% attending educational institutions. 27% of the disabled people in the age group of 5-19 have never attended any educational institute. Data show those who reported to have 'any other disability' has the highest percentage (71.2%) of the people attending any educational institution.
- ✓ This was followed by those having visual disability (68%) and hearing difficulty (67%), Movement (59.6%), Speech (58.9%), Mental retardation (47.2%), Multiple disability (37.2%) and Mental illness (34.1%).

Maharashtra tops in 2016 Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index of NITI Aayog

November 1, 2016

- ✓ Maharashtra has been ranked first state in the country in 2016 Agricultural Marketing and Farmer Friendly Reforms Index. The first-ever index based on initiatives taken by the states in implementing farm sector reforms was issued by the NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog.

Rankings and score of states 10th Indo-Nepal joint military exercise Surya Kiran commences

November 1, 2016

- ✓ The tenth edition of Indo-Nepal joint military exercise **Surya Kiran** commenced at Army Battle School, Saljhandi in Nepal.

Andhra Pradesh, Telangana top Ease of Doing Business list

November 1, 2016

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have jointly topped the Ease of Doing Business Reforms Ranking 2015-16. The ranking of the states was conducted by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) and the World Bank.

Odisha Government launches Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibir Scheme

November 1, 2016

- ✓ Odisha government has launched Madhubabu Aain Sahayata Sibir' (MASS) scheme to provide legal assistance to deprived sections of the society at the grassroots level. The scheme has been named after great Odia lawyer Madhu Babu, who is considered as the first lawyer of Odisha.

Key Features of Scheme

- ✓ State government will provide free legal consultations to deprived sections of the society by setting up legal assistance cells in all 6,812 gram panchayats across the state. Legal assistance will be given in shape of free legal aid in order to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen for economic and other reasons. A practicing lawyer with minimum three years of experience would head the legal cells.

India ranks 133rd in 2016 Global Youth Development Index

November 1, 2016

- ✓ India has been ranked 133rd out of 183 countries in the 2016 Global Youth Development Index (YDI) compiled by the Commonwealth Secretariat. The Global Youth Development Index report measures countries' prospects for young people in employment, education, health, civic and political spheres.

Key Facts

Top 10 countries in 2016 YDI: Germany (1), Denmark (2), Australia

Kerala becomes 3rd Open Defecation Free state

November 1, 2016

- ✓ Kerala became third Open Defecation Free state in the country after Sikkim and Himachal Pradesh under the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) (Gramin). The announcement in this regard was made by the Drinking Water and Sanitation Secretary Parameswaran Iyer in New Delhi on the occasion foundation day of Kerala (1 November).

About Swachh Bharat Mission

- ✓ The Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) was launched in October 2014 to accelerate the efforts to achieve universal sanitation coverage and to put focus on sanitation. The mission aims to achieve Swachh Bharat or make India clean by 2019, as a fitting tribute to the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✓ The SBM consists of two sub-missions Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin), implemented in rural areas, and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), implemented in urban areas. SBM-G seeks to eliminate open defecation in rural areas by 2019 through improving access to sanitation by ensuring the use of toilets, besides their construction. It also seeks to generate awareness to motivate communities to adopt sustainable sanitation practices, and encourage the use of appropriate technologies for sanitation.

About International Bureau of Education (IBE)

- ✓ IBE is a UNESCO category 1 institute mandated as the Centre of Excellence in curriculum and related matters. It supports countries efforts both through direct technical assistance and also by providing platform to share experiences and best practices from around the world. It also helps to build country's capacity to harness technology to strengthen education systems for sustained improvement of education quality, equity and inclusion.

National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC)

- ✓ NHPC is enterprise of Central Government incorporated with an objective to plan, promote and organise an integrated and efficient development of hydroelectric power in all aspects.
- ✓ **Established:** 1975 **Headquarters:** Faridabad, Haryana. Besides, hydroelectric power the company has expanded its objects to include other sources of energy like Solar, Geothermal, Tidal, Wind etc. At present, NHPC is a Mini Ratna Category-I Enterprise of the Central Government with an authorised share capital of Rs. 1,50,000 Million.
- ✓ **PM Narendra Modi launches Saur Sujala Yojana in Chhattisgarh**
- ✓ November 2, 2016
- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Saur Sujala Yojana that would provide solar powered irrigation pumps to farmers at a subsidized price. It was launched in Chhattisgarh as part of the state's 16th foundation day celebrations. With this Chhattisgarh becomes the first state to implement the scheme

Sarabjit Singh Marwah becomes Canada's first Sikh Senator

November 3, 2016

- ✓ India born Sarabjit Singh Marwah has become the first Sikh to be appointed to the Canadian Senate (upper house). He was among six people from Ontario who have appointed to Senate by Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Union Government appoints Bindheswar Pathak as brand ambassador of Swachh Rail Mission

November 3, 2016

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Railways has appointed Dr. Bindeshwar Pathak (73), the founder of Sulabh International as a Brand Ambassador for Swachh Rail Mission of Indian Railway. Indian Railways had tied up with Sulabh International to clean some important railway stations across the country as part of the mission with an aim to promote cleanliness at rail premises.

About Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana

- ✓ Union Government had launched Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in June 2015 in line with its ambitious Housing for All by 2022 Mission. Under this scheme government plans to build two crore houses for the poor in urban areas by year 2022, which coincides with 75 years of Independence.

- ✓ The scheme has four basic components viz. slum rehabilitation, affordable housing, credit linked interest subsidy and beneficiary-led individual house construction or enhancement. Intended beneficiary will be poor people (BPL) and people living under EWS and LIG categories in urban establishments of the country.

Under this scheme, the ownership of houses will be in the name of woman or jointly with husband

Union Government imposes anti-dumping duty on imports of steel wire rods from China

November 3, 2016

The Union Government has imposed anti-dumping duty on imports of steel wire rods from China to protect domestic manufacturers from cheap in-bound shipments. In this regard, the Department of Revenue (DoR) has issued a notification mentioning that dumping duty has been imposed for six months

What is anti-dumping duty?

- ✓ Anti-dumping duty is an import duty imposed by government on imported products which have prices less than their normal values or domestic price. Thus, it is protectionist and counter import measure used by a country under the multilateral World Trade Organisation (WTO) regime to protect its domestic producers and market from below-cost/cheap imports.
- ✓ It varies from product to product and from country to country. In India, anti-dumping duty to be levied is recommended by the Union Ministry of Commerce (i.e. by DGAD), while the Union Finance Ministry imposes it. So far, India has initiated maximum anti-dumping cases against “below-cost” imports from China.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurate Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction

November 3, 2016

- ✓ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2016 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) in New Delhi. The conference has been organised by Union Government in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR).

Key Facts

- ✓ 2016 AMCDRR will pave the way for implementation of the Sendai framework in the Asian region and will also devise a mechanism for monitoring its progress. About 2,000 foreign delegates, including ministers from 54 Asia Pacific countries will participate in the 2016 AMCDRR.
- ✓ 2016 AMCDRR will focus on consultation, collaboration and partnership with governments and stakeholders to mainstream Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in the region. It will adopt the ‘Asian Regional Plan for Implementation of the Sendai Framework’ endorsed by the Asian countries.

Rekha to be awarded DIFF Lifetime Achievement Award

November 4, 2016

- ✓ Veteran Bollywood actress and Rajya Sabha MP Rekha will be honoured by the upcoming Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) with a Lifetime Achievement Award. She will be honoured for her 40-year career contribution and participation in more than 180 films. 2016 DIFF will commence on 7 December 2016 and will conclude on 14 December 2016.

Chinese scholar Xuan Zang stayed in Vijayawada to study Buddhist scriptures

November 4, 2016

- ✓ Seventh century Chinese Buddhist pilgrim and scholar Xuan Zang (also spelled Hsuan Tsang) stayed a couple of years in Bezawada (the old name of Vijayawada) to copy and study Buddhist scriptures. In 630 AD, Xuan Zang came to India through Kashmir after visiting Central Asia, Iran and Afghanistan through the Silk Route.

He had travelled from north to east during his 14-year stay and lived in Bihar for a couple of years. At Nalanda University, Xuan Zang had interacted with scholars and students, mastered local languages and discovered Buddhist stupas

India's first titanium project starts test production in Odisha

November 4, 2016

The first titanium project of India has started its test production Ganjam district of Odisha. The project has been established by Saraf Group. This is first of its kind titanium plant and the only one in the country. During the test run, one of its four furnaces became functional

Maharashtra becomes first state to launch cyber police stations in all districts

November 4, 2016

- ✓ Maharashtra became the first state in the country to have a cyber-police station in each district to take on cyber criminals. In this regard, state government is converting 42 state-of-the-art cybercrime labs into cyber police stations simultaneously.

Paris Agreement on Climate Change enters into force

November 4, 2016

- ✓ The Paris Agreement to combat climate change officially entered into force after 55 parties to the convention accounting for at least 55% of total GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions ratified it. The threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved on 5th October 2016. At present, 94 parties have ratified the convention. India was 62nd country to ratify it on 2 October 2016.

What is Paris Agreement on Climate Change?

- ✓ It is an international climate deal to combat climate change. It facilitates enforcement of global GHGs reduction measures in the post-2020 i.e. in post Kyoto Protocol scenario. Under it, all countries must pursue to keep global temperature rising below 2°C by 2100 above pre-industrial levels with an ideal target of keeping temperature rise below 1.5°C.
- ✓ It forces developed countries to provide 100 billion dollars annually to the developing counterparts beginning in 2020 to deal with climate change. It empowers countries to determine how to cut their emissions but mandates that they report transparently on those efforts.

Now what?

- ✓ The first session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA1) will take place in Marrakech (Morocco). It will be in conjunction with the COP 22 to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting that is starting from 7 November 2016.
- ✓ The CMA1 meeting is expected to address matters relating to the implementation of the Paris Agreement like modalities, procedures and guidelines. It will also look at the status of ratification of the Paris Agreement.

NASA completes construction of James Webb Space Telescope

November 4, 2016

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has completed the construction of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) after more than 20 years of work

James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is a space telescope optimized for observations in the infrared. It is planned to be launched in 2018 on an Ariane 5 rocket from French Guiana. It is the formal successor to the Hubble Space Telescope and the Spitzer Space Telescope

Food Security Act implemented throughout country

November 4, 2016

- ✓ The Union Government has announced that the National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013 which envisages supply of subsidised foodgrains has been implemented across the country. Announcement in this regard was made by Union Food Minister Ram Vilas Paswan after last two remaining states Kerala and Tamil Nadu rolled out the NFSA from November 2016.

About National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013

- ✓ The NFSA aims to provide subsidized food grains to approximately two thirds of the population (75% in rural areas and 50% in urban areas). It converts into legal entitlements for existing food security programmes of the Central Government. It includes the Midday Meal Scheme, Integrated Child Development Services scheme and the Public Distribution System.
- ✓ Grains like wheat, rice and coarse grain will be distributed at the subsidized price of 3 Rs. 3, Rs. 2 and Rs. 1. Pregnant women and lactating mothers and children are entitled to get meals under the prescribed nutrition by MDM and ICDS.
- ✓ NFSA 2013 will provide high nutrition food to the children from age group of 6 months to 14 years. Pregnant women and lactating mothers will be entitled to get maternity benefit of not less than Rs. 6,000.

- ✓ **Andhra Pradesh tops World Bank's energy-saving rankings**

November 5, 2016

- ✓ Andhra Pradesh has been ranked number one in the World Bank's 'Energy Efficiency Implementation Readiness'. The ranking of the states were released in the World Bank's study report titled: 'India's State Level Energy Efficiency Implementation Readiness'.

What is China's One Belt and One Road (OBOR) Initiative?

OBOR initiative is China's ambitious development strategy and framework that aims to boost its connectivity and trade across Asia, Africa and Europe. It comprises two components viz. the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. It was proposed by Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2013

India-Bangladesh joint military exercise SAMPRITI-2016 begins

November 5, 2016

The seventh edition of India-Bangladesh joint military exercise SAMPRITI-2016 has commenced to practise counter-terrorism and disaster-management operations

November 5: World Tsunami Awareness Day

November 5, 2016

The First World Tsunami Awareness Day was observed across the world on 5 November 2016 to spread awareness among people across the world about Tsunami

Union Government launches Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan

November 5, 2016

The Union Government launched Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA) to provide free health check-ups to pregnant women at government health centres and hospitals. The Scheme was launched by Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda in New Delhi.

Indian Women's hockey team wins 2016 Asian Champions Trophy

November 5, 2016

- ✓ Indian Women's hockey team has won the 2016 Asian Champions Trophy held in Singapore. It was the maiden win of Indian Women's hockey team in Asian Champions Trophy. In summit clash held in Singapore, India defeated China by 2-1 goals.

Union Environment Ministry constitutes Four-Member team for Conservation of Loktak Lake

November 6, 2016

The Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has constituted a fourmember team for conservation and management of Loktak Lake in Manipur

International Energy Forum International Gas Union (IEF-IGU)

- ✓ India will also host the International Energy Forum International Gas Union (IEF-IGU) Ministerial Forum on December 6, 2016. It is supported by GAIL (India) Limited and the Natural Gas Society of India. The main theme of the forum is "Gas for Growth: Improving economic prosperity and living standards". The forum seeks to increase the dialogue between Governments, Organisations and Companies in the global gas industry.

India's Aniruddha Rajput elected to UN's International Law Commission

November 7, 2016

Indian lawyer, Aniruddha Rajput (33) has been elected as a member International Law Commission (ILC), a top body of legal experts of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)

Anti-dumping duty on Metallurgical coke bane to steel industry: ISA

November 7, 2016

The Indian Steel Association (ISA) has asked the Central Government not to impose any antidumping duty on Metallurgical Coke (met coke) fearing cost escalation of their products.

What is Agrobiodiversity?

- ✓ Agrobiodiversity is defined as the variety and variability of plant, animals and microorganism that are used directly or indirectly for food and agriculture. It includes all species that are closely inter-woven in an agricultural ecosystem. India is one of the most diverse countries in the world possessing unique crop and animal diversity.

Scientists found palaeo-channel of lost Chandrabhaga River in Odisha

November 7, 2016

- ✓ Scientists from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kharagpur have claimed to discover evidence of lost river Chandrabhaga in Odisha. Earlier, KS Valdiya led expert committee had found out that Saraswati River did exist and flowed through India and Pakistan before meeting Arabian Sea through Rann of Kutch.

COP7 of WHO FCTC begins in Noida

November 8, 2016

- ✓ The 7th Session of the Conference of the Parties (COP7) to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) started in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. It is for the first time India is hosting COP meeting of FCTC. It is the world's biggest convention on tobacco control policy in which 180 countries are participating.
- ✓ It was inaugurated by the Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J.P Nadda and was attended by Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena.

What is WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (WHO FCTC)?

- ✓ The FCTC is the world's first public health treaty under the World Health Organisation (WHO). It provides a new legal dimension for international cooperation in healthcare in combating the tobacco epidemic. It has successfully helped to co-ordinate and energize the global struggle against tobacco.
- ✓ It is considered as one of the most widely embraced treaties in the history of WHO and UN. It is an evidence-based treaty that reaffirms the right of all people to the highest standard of health and was developed in response to globalization of tobacco epidemic.

- ✓ Under it, the Protocol to Eliminate Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products was adopted to address the increasing illegal trade in tobacco products in November 2012. Currently, it has 13 Parties and shall come in force 90 days after 40 Parties ratify it.

What is Conference of the Parties (COP)?

- ✓ The COP is the FCTC's governing body and is comprised of all 180 Parties. The regular sessions of COP are held at two yearly intervals. It regularly reviews the implementation of the Convention and takes action to promote its effectiveness.

India's challenges

- ✓ Tobacco use kills around 6 million people a year globally and the cost to treat tobacco-related diseases is whopping \$22 billion. In case of India, there are nearly 275 million tobacco users and close to one million deaths every year due to its direct or indirect use.

Archaeologists plan to use LIDAR to study ancient Rajgir hills

November 8, 2016

- ✓ Indian archaeologists are planning to use Light Detection and Ranging (LIDAR) technology to survey the archaeological evidence, flora and fauna in the ancient Rajgir hills in Bihar. The LIDAR devices mounted on drones or on helicopters will be deployed as part of the interdisciplinary Rajgir Archaeological Survey Project (RASP).

China to block India's bid for NSG membership

November 8, 2016

- ✓ China has decided to once again block India's bid for Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership ahead of plenary meet of NSG in Vienna, Austria. Earlier, China along with few other member countries of NSG had blocked India's membership proposal in the plenary meet of NSG in Seoul, South Korea in June 2016.

What is Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)?

- ✓ NSG is an elite group or cartel of countries concerned with reducing nuclear proliferation by controlling the export and re-transfer of materials that may be used for development of nuclear weapons.
- ✓ It was set up in 1974 as a reaction to India's first successful nuclear tests (code name Smiling Buddha conducted on 18 May 1974) to stop so called misuse of nuclear material meant for peaceful purposes. NSG's members are allowed to trade in and export nuclear technology. Currently, NSG has 48 members (including China) and works by consensus.

What are benefits for India by joining NSG?

- ✓ NSG membership will be a significant boost for India which is seeking to expand its atomic energy sector. It will pave the way for India to access to the advance technology for a range of uses from medicine to building nuclear power plants. With this advance technology, India can commercialize the production of nuclear power equipment which will in turn boost innovation and high tech manufacturing in India.

Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 notes no longer legal tender

November 8, 2016

- ✓ The Union Government has announced that Rs. 500, Rs. 1,000 notes will cease to be legal tender. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in a surprise address to nation. The demonetisation drive of these two currency units was taken to root out the menace of black money, corruption and fake currency from the country.
- ✓ The currency notes of 100, 50, 20, 10, 5, 2 and 1 rupee will remain unaffected by this decision and remain legal tender.

What is Demonetisation?

- ✓ It is an act of stripping a currency unit of its status as legal tender. Demonetization is mandatory whenever there is a change of national currency. In this process, the new currency unit replaces the old unit of currency which is retired.

Demonetisation in India

- ✓ This is not the first time the Government or the RBI has demonetised currency in India. For the first time in January 1946, Rs 1,000 and Rs 10,000 banknotes were demonetised. However, these two denominations were reintroduced in 1954 along with currency notes of Rs 5,000.

But all these three denominations were again demonetised in January 1978. The RBI more recently in 2014, had demonetised all banknotes printed before 2005

India's first LNG-powered bus rolled out in Kerala

November 9, 2016

India's first eco-friendly liquefied natural gas (LNG)-driven bus was launched in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Union Government extends AFSPA in three districts of Arunachal Pradesh

November 9, 2016

- ✓ The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has extended the Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA) in three districts of Arunachal Pradesh. These districts are Tirap, Changlang and Longding. They have been “**disturbed area**” under Section 3 of the AFSPA.
- ✓ **What is Armed Forces Special Powers Act (AFSPA)?**
- ✓ The Parliament had enacted AFSPA in 1958 to confer special powers upon the armed forces in disturbed areas declared under the Act. It provides army officers and jawans legal immunity for their actions in disturbed areas.
- ✓ **Donald Trump elected as 45th President of United States**
- ✓ November 10, 2016
- ✓ Real estate mogul-turned politician and Republican Party candidate Donald Trump (70) was elected as 45th President of United States of America (USA).
- ✓ **Chhattisgarh launches Lakshya Bhagirathi campaign to complete irrigation projects**
- ✓ November 10, 2016
- ✓ Chhattisgarh Government has launched Lakshya Bhagirathi campaign to complete the irrigation projects that could not be completed. Under the campaign, the state water resources department has identified 108 projects that could not be completed
- ✓ **Kamala Harris becomes first Indian-American to win US Senator seat**
- ✓ November 10, 2016
- ✓ California’s Attorney General Kamala Harris (51) created history by becoming the first India- American to win the US Senate (upper chamber) seat from the state
- ✓ **Union Government launches Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana for entrepreneurs**
- ✓ November 10, 2016
- ✓ The Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship has launched of Pradhan Mantri Yuva Yojana (PMYY) to scale up an ecosystem of entrepreneurship for youngsters
- ✓ **Delhi Declaration on Agrobiodiversity Management adopted**
- ✓ November 10, 2016
- ✓ The first International Agrobiodiversity Congress (IAC) held in New Delhi has adopted **New Delhi Declaration on Agrobiodiversity Management**.

10 November: World Science Day for Peace and Development

November 10, 2016

- ✓ The World Science Day for Peace and Development is observed on 10 November 2016 across the world to raise awareness of benefits of science in our daily life. **2016 Theme:** “*Celebrating Science Centres and Science Museums*”.

About International Labour Organization (ILO)

- ✓ The ILO is a United Nations agency dealing with labour issues, particularly international labour standards, social protection, and work opportunities for all. It was established in 1919 as an agency of the League of Nations following World War I.
- ✓ **Peru to host 2016 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit**
- ✓ November 11, 2016
- ✓ The 2016 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Forum’s Leaders Summit will be held in Lima, Peru from November 19 to 20, 2016.

About Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

- ✓ APEC is regional economic forum of 21 Pacific Rim member economies that promotes free trade throughout the Asia-Pacific region. These 21 member countries collectively account for nearly 50% of the world’s trade and about 57% of GDP.
- ✓ It was established in 1989 in order to leverage the growing interdependence of Asia-Pacific region’s economies and promote free trade in the region. **Headquarters:** Singapore.

India and Japan Sign Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement

November 11, 2016

- ✓ After years of negotiations, India and Japan have signed a bilateral Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement on 11 November, 2016. With this, India has become the first non-NPT country with which Japan has signed a Civil Nuclear Agreement.

Professor Raj Bisaria selected for Kalidas Samman

November 12, 2016

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Government has selected renowned theatre personality Prof Raj Bisaria for the prestigious ‘Kalidas Samman’ national award for 2015-16. He will be bestowed with the prestigious award for achievement in theatre in a ceremony to be held in Ujjain.

- ✓ About Kalidas Samman
- ✓ It is an annual award constituted by Madhya Pradesh in 1980. It is bestowed upon personalities in the four fields of classical music, classical dance, theatre and arts

- ✓ **SAIL wins 2016 Golden Peacock Award for corporate governance**
- ✓ November 12, 2016
- ✓ The Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has won the prestigious 2016 Golden Peacock Award for Corporate Governance.

About Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL)

SAIL is one of the largest state-owned steel in India and one of the top steel makers in world. SAIL is the 24th largest steel producer in the world. It was founded in 1954 and incorporated in 1973

About Golden Peacock awards

- ✓ Instituted by the Institute of Directors (IoD) in 1991. They are presented annually under various categories. The awards comprise to sets Global Awards and National Awards.

City Union Bank launches India's first banking robot Lakshmi in Chennai

- ✓ November 12, 2016

India's first banking robot named Lakshmi was launched by the Kumbakonam-based City Union Bank (CUB) in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

High Level Meeting of Interior Ministers of IOR adopts Colombo declaration to Counter Drug Trafficking

November 12, 2016

The High Level Meeting of Interior Ministers of Indian Ocean Region (IOR) to Counter Drug Trafficking was held in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

About CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team)

CERT-In is a government-mandated nodal agency for information technology (IT) security established in 2004

About INTERPOL

- ✓ Interpol is global police co-operation agency and a non-governmental organization (NGO). Its work focuses on public safety and battling terrorism, crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes, environmental crime etc.

It was established as the International Criminal Police Commission (ICPC) in 1923. Its headquarter is located at Lyon, France.

India-Nepal Joint Training Exercise Surya Kiran culminates

November 14, 2016

The tenth edition of India-Nepal Joint Military Training exercise was conducted at Army Battle School (NABS), Saljhandi in Nepal from 31 October to 13 November 2016

36th India International Trade Fair begins in New Delhi

November 14, 2016

The 36th edition of India International Trade Fair (IITF) has started at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. It will be held from 14th to 18th November 2016

November 12: World Pneumonia Day

November 14, 2016

The World Pneumonia Day is observed globally every year on November 12 to generate awareness about the 'pneumonia' disease.

CPEC becomes reality as Pakistan inaugurates Gwadar port

November 14, 2016

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif inaugurated the operational activities of the revamped strategic Gwadar port in the south-western Balochistan Province

What causes a supermoon?

The moon's orbit around Earth is ellipse (a kind of squashed circle) and not in a circle. When an orbit is elliptical, Earth in the middle sits at one of two foci of ellipse

Paris Agreement on Climate Change

- ✓ The Paris Agreement in 2015 had adopted **2oC** as the *absolute threshold* for staying within safe global warming levels. However, **1.5 oC** was set as an *ambitious target*, especially bearing in mind the fate of small island countries that are threatened with submergence due to sea-level rise and extreme weather events.

India, Israel ink two agreements

November 15, 2016

- ✓ India and Israel have inked two agreements in the field of water resources management and agriculture. These agreements were signed following the delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Israeli President Reuven Rivlin in New Delhi. Israeli President Reuven Rivlin is in India on a six-day official state visit.
- ✓ He is the first Israeli head of state to visit India in nearly 20 years. The last and first Israeli president to officially visit India was Ezer Weizman in January 1997.

India, ADB sign \$500 million loan to build longest river bridge across Ganges River

November 16, 2016

- ✓ The Union Government and Asian Development Bank (ADB) have inked a \$500-million loan agreement to build a 9.8 km long road bridge across the Ganga River in Bihar. It will be country's longest river bridge and shall provide better connectivity between North and South Bihar and also Patna and its surrounding areas.
- ✓ In addition to the loan, ADB will \$900,000 in technical assistance. The state government will provide \$215 million for the project. It is expected to be completed by end of December 2020.

About Asian Development Bank (ADB)

- ✓ The ADB is a regional development bank which aims to promote social and economic development in Asia. It was established on 19 December 1966. It is headquartered in Manila, Philippines. ADB now has 67 members, of which 48 are from within Asia and the Pacific and 19 outside.
- ✓ The ADB has been modelled closely on the World Bank. It has similar weighted voting system where votes are distributed in proportion with members' capital subscriptions. As of 2014, Japan is the largest shareholder (capital subscription) of ADB having 15.7% shares. US (15.6%), China (6.5%), India (6.4%), and Australia (5.8%).

What is Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

- ✓ MSP is a form of agricultural market intervention undertaken by the Union Government in order to insure agricultural producers are protected against any sharp fall in farm prices. It is announced for certain crops by the Union Government prior to the sowing season. The prices are decided by CCEA on the basis of the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).
- ✓ **India, China Joint Training Exercise Hand in Hand 2016 begins in Pune**
- ✓ November 16, 2016
- ✓ The sixth edition of India-China Joint Training Exercise "Hand in Hand 2016" has started in Pune, Maharashtra.

About International Solar Alliance (ISA)

- ✓ ISA was jointly launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and French President Francois Hollande at CoP21 in Paris in November 2015. The initiative is brainchild of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It is India's first international and inter-governmental organization comprising 121 Countries. ISA is an alliance of 121 solar resource-rich tropical countries lying fully or partially between two tropics and who are also UN members. The institutional structure of ISA consists of an Assembly, a Council and a Secretariat. The secretariat of the ISA is to be located in India

November 16: International Day for Tolerance

November 16, 2016

The International Day for Tolerance is observed globally on 16 November to generate public awareness of the dangers of intolerance

CRPF for first time deploys women commandos for anti-Naxal operations

November 17, 2016

The Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) for the first time has deployed a team of women commandos in anti-Naxal operations in Jharkhand.

India's combat-capable Rustom-II drone successfully completes maiden test flight

November 17, 2016

- ✓ India's indigenously developed long-endurance combat-capable drone, Rustom-II (TAPAS 201) successfully completed its maiden flight. The test flight took place from Aeronautical Test Range (ATR), Chitradurga, Karnataka, which is a newly developed flight test range for the testing of UAVs and manned aircraft.
- ✓ During the test, TAPAS 201 accomplished the main objectives of proving the flying platform, such as take-off, bank, level flight and landing among others.

Russia withdraws from International Criminal Court

November 17, 2016

- ✓ Russia has officially withdrawn from International Criminal Court (ICC) after President Vladimir Putin signed an executive order in this regard. The executive order mentioned that Russia is pulling out of the 2002 Rome Statute, which establishes the ICC's status and powers. However, Russia had never ratified the statute meaning it was never member subject to its jurisdiction.

About PCPNDT Act, 1994

- ✓ The PCPNDT Act, 1994 prohibits pre-natal sex determination in the country. The law was brought in to stop female foeticide and arrest the declining sex ratio in India. Under this Act, gender determination and gender selection is prohibited. Under it, anyone who abets such an act, either by Helping in removing a foetus or by giving such information about a foetus is liable to be punished.

Indian Navy inducts 4 types of indigenously developed sonars

November 18, 2016

- ✓ The Indian Navy has formally inducted four types of indigenously developed sonars that will boost its underwater surveillance capability. The systems have been designed and developed by NPOL Naval Physical & Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), a Kochi based laboratory of DRDO.
- ✓ **These 4 types of sonars are Abhay:** It is an advanced hull mounted active-cum-passive integrated sonar system. It has been designed and developed for the smaller platforms such as shallow water crafts and coastal surveillance/patrol vessels. It is capable of detecting, classifying, localizing and tracking sub-surface and surface targets in both its active and passive modes of operation.
- ✓ Indian Navy has proposed to induct this SONAR on three of the Abhay class ships. **Humsa UG:** It has been designed for upgrading the existing Humsa sonar system for intensifying the command over the high seas. This system is proposed to be installed on seven ships of three different classes of ships.

Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) 2016

November 19, 2016

- ✓ The Qaumi Ekta Week (National Integration Week) will be observed all over the country from 19th to 25th November, 2016. The week long programmes under it with a view to foster and reinforce the spirit of Communal Harmony, National Integration and pride in vibrant, composite culture and nationhood.

Key Facts

- ✓ **November 19:** It will be observed as *National Integration Day*. Based on themes of secularism, anti-communalism and non-violence programmes like meetings, symposia and seminars will be organized.
- ✓ **November 20:** It will be observed as *Welfare of Minorities Day*. On this day, items of the 15 Point Programme will be emphasized.
- ✓ **November 21:** It will be observed as *Linguistic Harmony Day*. To enable people of each region to appreciate the linguistic heritage of other parts of India programmes like Special literary functions and Kavi Sammelans will be organized.
- ✓ **November 22:** It will be observed as *Weaker Sections Day*. Help SCs/STs and weaker sections with particular emphasis on the distribution of surplus land to landless labourers.
- ✓ **November 23:** It will be observed as *Cultural Unity Day*. Various cultural functions will be organized to present the Indian tradition of unity in diversity and for promoting cultural conservation and integration.
- ✓ **November 24:** It will be observed as *Women's Day*. It will highlight the importance of Women in Indian Society and their role in development of nation-building.
- ✓ **November 25:** It will be observed as *Conservation Day*. It will give emphasise to the growing need for awareness and action to conserve the environment. On the concluding day, National Foundation for Communal Harmony (NFCH) will organize Communal Harmony Campaign and Communal Harmony Flag Day.
- ✓ NFCH is an autonomous organisation of the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. It promotes Communal Harmony and strengthens National Integration. It also provides financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation of children rendered orphan or destitute in communal, caste, ethnic or terrorist violence.

India and Cyprus ink Revised DTAA

November 19, 2016

India and Cyprus have inked a revised Agreement for Avoidance of Double Taxation and prevention of Fiscal evasion (DTAA) with respect to taxes on income, along with its Protocol

Jagdish Singh Khehar appointed executive chairman of NALSA

November 19, 2016

- ✓ The Union government has appointed Jagdish Singh Khehar, a judge of the Supreme Court, as the new Executive Chairman of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA). He succeeds Anil R. Dave who retired as Judge of Supreme Court after completing tenure of over six years.

About National Legal Services Authority (NALSA)

NALSA provides for free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of the society. It has been constituted under the *Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987*. Its aim is to ensure that opportunities for securing justice are not denied to any citizen by reasons of economic or other disabilities. NALSA also identifies specific categories of marginalised and excluded groups and formulates various schemes for implementation of legal service programmes

COP22 adopts Marrakech Action Proclamation

November 19, 2016

- ✓ The COP22 to the UNFCCC, 12th session of COP of Parties to Kyoto Protocol (CMP 12), and first session of COP of Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA 1) were held in Marrakech, Morocco. Nearly 200 nations attending the COP22 to the UNFCCC have adopted **Marrakech Action Proclamation for Our Climate and Sustainable Development**.
- ✓ The 11-day meeting concluded with all participating member nations collectively reaffirming their commitment to climate action under Paris Agreement adopted in November 2015.

Doha Amendments to the Kyoto Protocol

- ✓ Doha Amendments to the Kyoto Protocol was made at Doha climate conference in 2012. It was made for extending the obligation of the developed countries under Kyoto Protocol to make targeted cuts in their greenhouse gas (GHGs) emissions by 2020. The Kyoto Protocol adopted in 1997 had initially assigned GHGs emission cut targets to the developed countries only till 2012.

Tamil Nadu gets world's first salt-tolerant plant garden

November 19, 2016

- ✓ The world's first Genetic Garden of Halophytes (naturally occurring salt-tolerant plants) was inaugurated at the coastal town of Vedaranyam in Tamil Nadu. The first of its kind garden in the world was inaugurated by Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib Fakim through video-conferencing.

November 19: World Toilet Day

November 19, 2016

- ✓ The World Toilet Day is observed every year across the world on 19 November to raise awareness and inspire action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. **Significance of Day:** It seeks to draw attention of people around the world to raise global awareness of the daily struggle for proper sanitation which in fact is a human right along with clean water.

About World Toilet Day

- ✓ WTD was instituted by World Toilet Organisation in 2001. United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) had given it official recognition in July 2013 in its 67th session under the global campaign of Sanitation for All resolution. Observance of this day now has become an important platform to demand action from governments. It seeks brings together different groups, such as media, the private sector, development organisations and civil society in a global movement to advocate for safe toilets

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PV Sindhu wins 2016 China Open Super Series Premier title

November 21, 2016

- ✓ India's ace shuttler and Olympic silver medalist PV Sindhu has won the \$700,000 2016 China Open Super Series title in women's category. It was her maiden Super Series Premier title and first post 2016 Rio Olympics title.

47th International Film Festival of India begins in Goa

November 21, 2016

- ✓ The 47th edition of the International Film Festival of India (IFFI) began in Goa. It is one of Asia's oldest and India's biggest film festival. It was inaugurated by Veteran filmmaker Ramesh Sippy in the presence of Union Information and Broadcasting Minister M. Venkaiah Naidu.

About International Film Festival of India (IFFI)

- ✓ IFFI was founded in 1952 and is annually held in Goa. It is the biggest state-backed film festival and conducted jointly by Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Directorate of Film Festivals and Government of Goa.

World's first quantum satellite

- ✓ Earlier in August 2016, China had successfully launched the world's first quantum satellite. It was nicknamed as **Micius** after a 5th century BC Chinese philosopher and scientist. The Micius quantum satellite will be connected with the Beijing-Shanghai quantum

communication line through the line's station in Beijing. It will enable the space-to-Earth highly secure hack-proof quantum communication network.

PM Narendra Modi launches Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana

November 21, 2016

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana (PMAY-G), flagship housing for all scheme in Agra, Uttar Pradesh. Under PMAY-G Government aims to provide affordable, environmentally safe and secure pucca house to every rural household living below the poverty line by 2022.

India elected as new vice chair of Kimberly Process for 2018

November 21, 2016

- ✓ India has been elected as the vice chair for 2018 and chair for 2019 of the Kimberly Process Certificate Scheme (KPCS). The decision in the regard was taken at the recently held KP Plenary meeting in Dubai. It was announced by the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC).

About Kimberly Process Certificate Scheme (KPCS)

- ✓ KPCS is a joint initiative of the governments, industry and civil societies to prevent the entry of conflict diamonds from the mainstream rough diamond market. It was established in 2003 through a United Nations General Assembly Resolution. India is founder member of the scheme.
- ✓ In India, the scheme is administered through the Department of Commerce under the aegis of the Union Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Twin trial of Prithvi-II missile successfully conducted

November 21, 2016

- ✓ The twin trial of surface-to-surface nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile was successfully conducted by the India Army from a test range at Chandipur in Odisha During the test, two Prithvi-II missiles in salvo mode were successfully test-fired in quick succession from mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR).

India ranks 20th on 2017 Climate Change Performance Index

November 22, 2016

- ✓ India was placed at the 20th rank among the 58 countries on the 2017 Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI). The index was released by Germanwatch, an independent German NGO and Climate Action Network Europe.

India's longest expressway inaugurated in Uttar Pradesh

November 22, 2016 -

- ✓ India's longest expressway connecting Agra and Lucknow was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Akhilesh Yadav at Bangarmau in Unnao district of UP. It has been built by the Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) in a record time of 23 months.

Stealth Guided missile destroyer INS Chennai commissioned into Indian Navy

November 22, 2016

- ✓ INS Chennai, a Kolkata-class stealth Guided missile destroyer ship was commissioned into Indian Navy's combat fleet by Defence minister Manohar Parrikar in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

India becomes Associate Member of CERN

November 22, 2016

- ✓ India became an associate member of the European Organisation for Nuclear Research (CERN), the world's largest nuclear and particle physics laboratory. In this regard, an agreement was signed by Dr. Sekhar Basu, Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) and CERN Director General Dr. Fabiola Gianotti in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

Pankaj Patel elected as FICCI President for 2017

November 23, 2016

- ✓ Pankaj Patel was elected as the President of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) for the year 2017.

India, Switzerland sign Joint Declaration for implementing AEOI

November 23, 2016

- ✓ India and Switzerland have signed a Joint Declaration for implementation of Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) in respect of accounts of Indians held abroad. Under the pact, both countries will start collecting data in accordance with the global standards in 2018 and exchange it from 2019 onwards.

Portugal Prime Minister Antonio Costa to be Chief Guest of 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas

November 23, 2016

- ✓ António Costa (54), the Indian origin Prime Minister of Portugal will be the chief guest at the 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) Convention. The PBD Convention is scheduled to be held from January 7 to 9, 2017 in Bengaluru, Karnataka

Nuclear capable Agni-I ballistic missile successfully test-fired

November 23, 2016

The indigenously built nuclear capable Agni-I ballistic missile was successfully test-fired from a test range off Odisha coast, as part of a user trial by India Army

Malini Subramaniam honoured with International Press Freedom Award

November 24, 2016

- ✓ Indian journalist Malini Subramaniam was conferred with the 2016 International Press Freedom Award. She has been honored for her reporting from the Naxal-infested Bastar area and for the commitment to a free press. She is among the four journalists selected by the Committee to Protect Journalists for this year's award. Others are Oscar Martinez (El Salvador), Can Dundar (Turkey) and Abou Zeid (Egypt).

About National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

- ✓ NHAI is an autonomous agency of the Union Government, responsible for management of a network of over 70,000 km of national highways in India. It was established through National Highways Authority of India Act, 1988. In February 1995, it was formally made an autonomous body.

About National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)

- ✓ NABARD is an apex development bank in India. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) holds the majority stake in it. **Headquarters:** Mumbai, Maharashtra. **Established:** 1982 on the recommendations of *Shivaraman Committee* to implement the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development Act, 1981.
- ✓ at the Ambala air force station.

Indian-American Nikki Haley named as US ambassador to UN

November 24, 2016

US President-elect Donald Trump has named Indian-American Governor of South Carolina State, Nikki Haley (44) for the high-profile post of US ambassador to the United Nations. With this, she becomes the first Indian-American to be appointed to a Cabinet-level post in any US administration

China successfully launches fourth data satellite Tianlian I-04

November 24, 2016

- ✓ China has successfully launched its fourth data satellite named **Tianlian I-04**. The satellite will join its three predecessors to achieve global network operation. The satellite was launched on board of Long March-3C carrier rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in southwest Sichuan province.

Airtel launches India's first Payments Bank service in Rajasthan

November 24, 2016

- ✓ Airtel Payments Bank Limited or Airtel Bank became the first payments bank in the country to launch live banking services in Rajasthan. The pilot phase of the Airtel bank launched in Rajasthan aims at testing systems and processes ahead of a full scale pan Indian launch.

India ranks 138 in 2016 ICT Development Index

November 25, 2016

- ✓ India has been ranked 138th in the 2016 ICT Development Index out of a total of 175 countries. In 2015, India ranked 135th position. The index was released as part of the annual *Measuring the Information Society Report for 2016* of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

25 November: International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women

November 25, 2016

- ✓ The International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (IIDEVAW) is observed every year across the world on 25 November. Observance of this day seeks to raise awareness about violence against women and girls, end the violence against the women. It also seeks to show that prevention is possible against violence of women.

2016 Theme: "Orange the World – raise funds to end violence against women".

MiG-29 fighter jet

The Mikoyan MiG-29 (NATO reporting name: Fulcrum) is a twin-engine jet fighter aircraft. It was developed by the Mikoyan design bureau in the Soviet Union in 1970s.

Indian Railways to introduce Tri-Netra to check collisions

November 26, 2016

- ✓ Indian Railways will soon introduce Tri-Netra (terrain imaging for diesel drivers infrared, enhanced optical and radar assisted) system on its trains to reduce train accidents. Tri-Netra is an advance system is made up of a high-resolution optical video camera, high-sensitivity infrared video camera and a radar-based terrain mapping system.

Union Government constitutes Amitabh Kant Committee to push cashless transactions

November 26, 2016

- ✓ The Union Government has constituted a new committee to form a strategy to expedite the process of transforming India into a cashless economy. The committee will be headed by Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant. It has been tasked with identifying various bottlenecks affecting access of digital payments.
- ✓ **November 26: Constitution day**
- ✓ November 26, 2016
- ✓ The Samvidhan Diwas or the Constitution Day of India is being observed on 26th November to spread awareness of Indian Constitution. On this day in 1949, constitution of India was adopted and came into force on January 26, 1950 marking the beginning of a new era in the history of free India.

Cuba's former President Fidel Castro passes away

November 26, 2016

- ✓ Cuba's former president and leader of the Communist revolution Fidel Castro passed away due to old age. He was 90. He was commander in chief of the 1959 Cuban revolution and had successfully built a communist state on the doorstep of the United States during Cold War.
- ✓ He had ruled Cuba as a one-party state for almost half a century (from 1976 to 2008) before handing over the powers to his brother Raul Castro in 2008 due to ill health.

About Fidel Castro

- ✓ He was born as Fidel Alejandro Castro Ruz on August 13, 1926 in Birán, Holguin Province, Cuba. In 1953, he was imprisoned after leading an unsuccessful rising against Batista's regime. However was released in 1955 from prison under an amnesty deal.
- ✓ In 1956, Castro along with Che Guevara started a guerrilla war against the Cuban government led by US-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista. In 1959, he overthrew dictator Fulgencio Batista Government in through Communist revolution. He was sworn in as prime minister and was in office from 1959 to 1976.
- ✓ In 1960, he successfully fought off CIA-sponsored Bay of Pigs invasion by Cuban exiles. He also defied many attempts even assassination attempts of US to topple him from power. 1962, under his leadership Cuba allowed USSR can deploy nuclear missiles on its territory which had resulted into Cuban missile crisis.
- ✓ Under his leadership, Cuba became a one-party communist state, industry and business were nationalized and state socialist reforms implemented throughout society. His greatest legacy is free healthcare and education, which have given Cuba some of the region's best human development statistics.
- ✓ In 2008, he stepped down as President of Cuba due to health issues. He was in office from 1976 to 2008. He world's third longest-serving head of state, after Britain's Queen Elizabeth and the King of Thailand.

Rajasthan Government to launch Annapurna Rasoi Programme to provide quality meal at cheap price

November 26, 2016

- ✓ Rajasthan Government has decided to start Annapurna Rasoi Programme to provide quality meal at cheap and affordable price to people belonging to the weaker section and labourers. The main beneficiary of the scheme will be rickshaw pullers, labourers, auto drivers, students, working women, elders and other weaker section.
- ✓ **Lt. Gen. Qamar Bajwa appointed Pakistan Army chief**
- ✓ November 28, 2016
- ✓ Lt. Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa was appointed Pakistan's new army chief (or Chief of Army Staff, COAS). He will succeed Gen. Raheel Sharif who has formally retired from service. He was elevated to the rank of four-star general by the Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Government launches e-Pashuhaat portal to connect farmers and breeders of bovine animals

November 28, 2016

- ✓ The Union Agriculture & Farmers Welfare launched e-pashuhaat portal to connect farmers and breeders of bovine animals. The portal will act as a single online e-trading market platform, including availability of bovine germplasm. It will enable the farmers to buy bovine animals, frozen semen and embryo.
- ✓ **Iranian film Daughter wins Golden Peacock award at 47 IFFI**
- ✓ November 29, 2016
- ✓ Iranian film "Daughter" has won the coveted Golden Peacock award at the 47th International Film Festival of India (IFFI). It has been directed by Reza Mirkarimi. I

Akodara becomes India's first Digital Village

November 29, 2016

Akodara village in Sabarkantha district of Gujarat has earned the coveted tag of becoming India's first digital village in India. The village with a total population of 1,191 people and 250 households uses a various cashless system for payments of goods and services

Worst coral die-off recorded at Australia's Great Barrier Reef

November 30, 2016

- ✓ Scientists have recorded worst mass coral bleaching event on Australia's Great Barrier Reef. It has killed more corals than ever before, sounding the alarm over the delicate ecosystem. It is estimated nearly two-thirds of 2,300-kilometre long reef or 700 km stretch of coral in the Great Barrier Reef's northern part have died in the past nine months.

UNIQUE IAS ACADEMY