

APPLO STUDY CENTRE



CURRENT AFFAIRS – JANUARY 2017

JANUARY 16 - 25

Operation Digital Board - The idea of Operation Digital Board is aimed at providing better digital education in all schools. This will offer new opportunities and new ways of teaching and learning to schools. Operation Digital Board would be launched with the involvement of the Central and State governments, CSIR and community support

Cyber Surakshit Bharat initiative - To strengthen cyber security ecosystem in India in line with Government's vision for a 'Digital India'. It was launched in association with National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and industry partners.

AMRIT scheme - The AMRIT (Affordable medicine and reliable implants for treatment) scheme aims to reduce expenditure incurred by patients on treatment of cancer and cardio vascular (heart) diseases to make health care affordable for poor. Its intended beneficiaries are patients suffering from cancer and heart diseases (non-communicable diseases).

OPV Vijaya - The second indigenously built offshore patrol vessel (OPV) named Vijaya for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was launched at Kattupalli Shipyard, Tamil Nadu.

Namaste Shalom - A regular monthly magazine on bilateral relations between the two friendly nations. The Jewish community has marked Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Mumbai visit with the launch of 'Namaste Shalom'.

Maitre-2 - The second passenger bus to Kolkata via Dhaka is started from Agartala, Tripura, to give a boost to the trans-border relationship between India and Bangladesh.

Long Range Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile, Agni-5, was successfully flight tested for its full range from Dr Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.

India, UK ink MoUs to enable return of illegal Indian migrants and sharing of criminal records.

India and Sri Lanka signed four agreements for collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT) sector between both countries.

India has signed \$120 million loan agreement with multilateral lending agency World Bank to help increase access to improved water supply services in peri-urban areas in Uttarakhand.

India was admitted as the 43rd member of the Australia Group, an informal bloc (group) of countries that keeps a tight control over exports of substances used in making of chemical weapons. India is the first South Asian nation to become its full-time member of Australia Group.

Government of India has approved 2018 as National Year of Millets to boost production of the nutrient-rich millets and the sunrise agriculture industry involved in it. Earlier in 2017, India had forwarded proposal to United Nations (UN) for declaring year 2018 as 'International Year of Millets'.

The India International Exchange (India INX) has listed the Indian Railway Finance Corporation's (IRFC's) green bonds on its debt listing platform-Global Securities Market (GSM).

German auto major Mercedes-Benz has unveiled India's first BS-VI-compliant S Class car produced at its Pune facility. The BS-VI-compliant S Class car was unveiled more than two years ahead of Government's deadline of April 2020 for switching to new BS-VI emission norms.

President Ram Nath Kovind has felicitated 112 exceptional women achievers at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi. These women achievers 'FIRST LADIES' are those who are first to set milestone of achievement in their respective fields.

The Unique Identification Authority of India, the Aadhaar-issuing authority, has decided to enable face recognition as another means of authentication from July 1, 2018.

Government announces 9 new Smart Cities - Erode from Tamil Nadu one among them.

Indian economy to grow at 7.4% in 2018: International Monetary Fund.

8th National Voters' Day observed on 25th January. This year, National Voters' Day theme is 'Accessible Elections'.

World's Largest Air Purifier - China has built a 100 metre high, nearly 328 feet tall air purifier, touted to be world's largest, to combat the deadly pollution in the country built in Xian in Shaanxi province of northern China.

Prime Minister Modi and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu dedicated to the nation, the **iCREATE** facility located on the outskirts of Ahmedabad. iCreate is an independent Centre created with the objective of facilitating entrepreneurship. iCreate aims to develop an ecosystem in India to generate quality entrepreneurs.

India's most-valued lender HDFC Bank Ltd crossed Rs5 trillion market capitalisation for the first time, making it only the third Indian company to achieve this milestone.

Valletta in Malta has been officially inaugurated as the European Capital of Culture.

Homeopathy Research Institute - To come up at Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur.

Microsoft tops Thomson Reuters top 100 global tech leaders list.

Mauritius was largest source of FDI in India in 2016-2017: RBI

Blind Cricket World Cup: India beat Pakistan to retain title. Event held in UAE.

Book 'The Heartfulness Way' - Authored by Kamlesh Patel.

69th Republic day celebrations

- The Republic Day is celebrated every year on January 26 to honour the date on which the Constitution of India came into effect in 1950.
- This year, the Republic Day celebrations will have 10 heads from Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos, and Brunei - as chief guests.

- And for the first time, a newly-formed all-woman bikers contingent of the Border Security Force (BSF) will make its debut on Rajpath on Republic Day.
- The 27-member BSF women 'daredevils' squad, named 'Seema Bhavani', showcased their stunts and acrobatics on their 350cc Royal Enfield Bullet motorcycles.

INDICES

The World Economic Forum [WEF) has ranked India at 30th position among 100 countries on its Global Manufacturing Index (GMI).

India was ranked at 62nd place among emerging economies on Inclusive Development Index (IDI-2018) released by World Economic Forum (WEF).

India was ranked 81st among 118 countries in 2017 Global index of talent competitiveness (GTI) list.

India has been ranked 177 among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index - 2018.

India fifth most attractive market for investments: PwC survey.

APPOINTMENTS

Om Prakash Rawat - 22nd Chief Election Commissioner

Scientist S. Somanath - Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre

Senior scientist Dr V Narayanan - Director of ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).

Usha Ananthasubramanian - First woman Chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

SudeepLakhtakia - New Director General of National Security Guard (NSG).

Anandiben Patel - Governor Madhya Pradesh.

Mehai Tudose - Romania's PM who resigned shortly.

Viorica Dancila - First female prime minister of Romania

SUMMITS AND CONFERENCES

- First International Dam Safety Conference - held in Thiruvananthapuram. A software programme known as Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (DHARMA) was also launched to document authentic asset and health information pertaining to the large dams in the country.
- Israeli PM Inaugurates Raisina Dialogue In Delhi. The Raisina Dialogue is India's premiere foreign policy and geo-political conference. Prime Minister Netanyahu will be the first foreign head of government to speak at the Raisina Dialogue. The theme of the Raisina Dialogue this year is 'Managing Disruptive Transitions: Ideas, Institutions and Idioms'.
- 10th Global Forum for Food & Agriculture - Berlin, Germany. The theme of this year's event is "Shaping the future of livestock - sustainably, responsibly, efficiently".
- DefExpo in April - For the first time, Tamil Nadu will host DefExpo 2018, an international exhibition on Defence, in April, showcasing some of the latest technologies and products manufactured by both Indian and foreign companies.

- Kachra Mahotsav - The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh has organised the India's first garbage festival in Raipur. The aim is to increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively and to showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labeled as garbage.
- International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure held in New Delhi.

AWARDS AND CONFERENCES

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik has launched the Mukhya Mantri Kalakar Sahayata Yojana for the welfare of the artistes in Odisha.

'Medal of Bravery' - The residents of Afghanistan's Logar province have awarded United States President Donald Trump a 'Medal of Bravery' over his recent stance against Pakistan.

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik was conferred the "Ideal Chief Minister" award by former President Pratibha Patil at Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad in Pune.

Tamilnadu Chief Minister Edappady K. Palaniswami received the UNESCO Award of Merit awarded to the iconic Ranganathaswamy temple in Srirangam (Tiruchy).

Mangalajodi Ecotourism Trust in Odisha has won prestigious United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) Award for Innovation in Tourism Enterprise at 14th UNWTO Awards ceremony held in Madrid, Spain.

ICC Awards 2018: Full List of the Winners

- Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)
- ICC Test Cricketer of the Year - Steve Smith (Australia)
- ICC M ODI Cricketer of the Year - Virat Kohli (India)

- ICC Emerging Cricketer of the Year - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
- ICC Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
- ICC T20 Performance of the Year - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England for India)
- David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year - Marais Erasmus
- ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)
- ICC Fans Moment of the Year - Pakistan stun India to win the ICC Champions Trophy 2017
- The Test and ODI teams of the year were also introduced, with Virat Kohli being named the captain of both the sides.

Padma awards

President Ram Nath Kovind on Thursday approved conferment of 85 Padma awards which include three Padma Vibhushan, nine Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri awards.

Tamil Nadu

- **The Padma Vibhushan** was awarded to music maestro Ilaiyaraaja.
- **The Padma Bhushan:** Having served as the Director of the Tamil Nadu Archaeology Department, Ramachandran Nagaswamy, a multi-faceted personality who has been conferred the Padma Bhushan award, was instrumental in starting several regional, district and site museums, as well as initiating the famous Chidambaram Natyanjali festival.

Padma shree

- V. Nanammal from Coimbatore, regarded as one of the oldest yoga teachers in the country, has been conferred the Padma Shri. A.
- R. Vasudevan, dean, Thiagarajar College of Engineering, Madurai, Well known among the residents of his city as the 'Plastic Man of

India' he evolved a technology which enables the use of plastic waste in road construction.

- Romulus Whitaker, founder of the Madras Snake Park, who also set up the Madras Crocodile Bank Trust, has been awarded the Padma Shri for his work in wildlife conservation.
- Vijayalakshmi Navaneetha krishnan, an acclaimed Tamil folk artist, has been recognised with the Padma Shri for the collection, documentation and preservation of Tamil folk and tribal music.

தமிழக அரசின் 2017 – 2018-ஆம் ஆண்டிற்கான இலக்கிய விருதுகள்:

விருது பெறுவோர் பட்டியல்:

1. திருவள்ளூர் விருது (2018) – முனைவர் கோ. பெரியண்ணன், தலைவர், அனைத்திந்திய தமிழ் எழுத்தாளர்கள் சங்கம்.
2. தந்தை பெரியார் விருது – பா.வள்ளமதி, தலைவர், தமிழ்நாடு பாடநூல் கழகம்
3. அண்ணல் அம்பேத்கர் விருது – டாக்டர் ஜார்ஜ் கே.ஜே. முன்னாள் இயக்குநர், மான்.போர்ட் ஆங்கிலோ இந்தியன் மேல்நிலைப் பள்ளி.
4. பேரறிஞர் அண்ணாவிருது – அ. சுப்பிரமணியன், முன்னாள் செயலாளர் ராமநாதபுரம் மாவட்ட அண்ணா தொழிற்சங்கம்.
5. பெருந்தலைவர் காமராஜர் விருது – தா.ரா. தினகரன், அருப்புக்கோட்டை ஸ்ரீ ராமலிங்கா மில்ஸ், ஜெயவிலாஸ் குழுமத்தின் தலைவர்.
6. மகாகவி பாரதியார் விருது – முனைவர் சு. பாலசுப்பிரமணியன் (எ) பாரதிபாலன், தமிழியல் துறைத் தலைவர், தமிழ்நாடு திறந்தநிலைப் பல்கலைக்கழகம்.
7. பாவேந்தர் பாரதிதாசன் விருது – கே. ஜீவபாரதி, எழுத்தாளர் - கவிஞர்
8. தமிழ்த்தென்றல் திரு.வி.க. விருது – எழுத்தாளர் பாலகுமாரன்.
9. கி.ஆ.பெ. விசுவநாதம் விருது – தமிழறிஞர் மருதநாயகம்.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Date	Day	Theme 2018
4 January	World Braille Day	
10 January	World Hindi Day	
12 January	National Youth Day	
15 January	Indian Army Day	
24 January	National Girl Child Day	
25 January	National Voters Day	Theme : Accessible Elections
26 January	Republic Day	
26 January	International Customs Day	
27 January	International Holocaust Remembrance Day	Theme: Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility
28 January 2018	World Leprosy Day	
30 January	Shaheed Diwas	
31 January	Raising Day of National Disaster Response Force(NDRF)	