



AWARDS & HONOURS

Two new Hindi writers Shraddha and Ghyansham Kumar Devansh were chosen for **Bharatiya Jnanpith Navlekhan Award** for the year 2016. The award is given to young authors in Hindi for their first creations.

The 74th **Golden Globe Awards** honored the best in film and American television of 2016. Meryl Streep was announced as the Cecil B. DeMille Lifetime Achievement Award honoree. La La Land won all seven awards for which it had been nominated, becoming the most successful film in Golden Globe Awards history and seventh overall to win each award for which it was nominated, including Best Director, Best Screenplay for Damien Chazelle and Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy. Winners of various awards are as follows:

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 Animated Feature Film: Zootopia

Shankar Balasubramanian, an Indian-origin British professor of chemistry and DNA expert at Cambridge University, received a **Knighthood** along with Olympic stars Andy Murray and Mo Farah among others by Queen Elizabeth II for their contributions.

Four Indian-American scientists have been chosen among 102 researchers who will receive the **Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE)** - the highest honour given by the US government to science and engineering professionals. These are: Pankaj Lal from Montclair State University (Department of Agriculture); Kaushik Chowdhury from Northeastern University (Department of Defense), Manish Arora, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai (Department of Health and Human Services) and Aradhna Tripathi, University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) (National Science Foundation).

BUSINESS & CORPORATE



Kalyan Krishnamurthy was named the new chief executive officer of **Flipkart** as India's largest online retailer moved cofounder Binny Bansal to a new position as group CEO, in a management reshuffle that strengthens the influence wielded by its largest investor Tiger Global and completes a process begun a year ago when cofounder Sachin Bansal ceded the top spot.

Google launched two new initiatives 'My Business' and 'Digital Unlocked' to train and help small and medium businesses (SMBs) in India capitalise on the digitisation wave faster.

Tata Consultancy Services CEO Nataraja Chandrasekaran was named the new Chairman of Tata Sons, the holding company of the \$103 billion Tata Group.

BILLS / ACTS / COMMITTEES / SCHEMES / POLICIES

The Union Cabinet gave its approval for signing of an Agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Portugal. The Agreement covers various activities in these fields which include exchange of scientific and technical information, trade in plants and plant products, exchange of information in phytosanitary issues, training programmes, seminars and visits of experts and consultants.

The Union Cabinet approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kenya on bilateral cooperation in the field of agriculture and allied sectors.

The Commerce & Industry Minister Nirmala Sitharaman launched an IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police. The toolkit has been jointly prepared by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). This toolkit will be a ready reckoner for police officials across the country in dealing with IP crimes, specifically Trade Marks counterfeiting and Copyrights piracy. In addition to details of offences under various laws, it provides for checklists for registering a complaint and conducting search and seizures. It also lays down general guidelines for search and seizure in case of IP crimes. This toolkit will be provided to all state police departments across the nation and will assist them in dealing with the cases relating to Trademarks and Copyrights infringements.

The Expert Group set up to prepare Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) submitted its report to the Ministry of Rural Development (MoRD). The expert group was headed by former Finance Secretary Sumit Bose. The Government mounted the Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC) with the purpose of ranking households for receiving benefits under government programmes.

The Ken-Betwa river linking project received formal environment, forest and tribal clearances. The project aims at addressing water needs of dry swathes in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY), a skill development program targeted at Indian youth seeking overseas employment to make India the Skill Capital of the World.



To encourage people to help accident victims, the Delhi government approved 'Good Samaritan Policy' under which monetary incentive of Rs 2,000 and appreciation certificate will be given to people who help road accident victims in the national capital.

The Union Ministry of Urban Development launched Swachh Survekshan 2017 to rank 500 cities/towns across the country on cleanliness with a population of 1 lakh and above.

ECONOMY & FINANCE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first international exchange -- India INX -- at the International Financial Service Centre (IFSC) of GIFT City in Gandhinagar, saying it will enable Indian firms to compete on equal footing with offshore firms. A subsidiary of Bombay Stock Exchange, India INX is one of the world's most advanced technology platforms with a turn-around-time of 4 micro seconds which will operate for 22 hours a day, allowing international investors and NRIs to trade from anywhere across the globe. INX will trade initially in equity derivatives, currency derivatives, commodity derivatives including index and stocks. It plans to offer depository receipts and bonds later.

The 16th meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) was held in New Delhi. It was chaired by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed Surekha Marandi as its Executive Director (ED). RBI has 11 Executive Directors who are in charge of various departments.

India's factory output, measured by the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) registered 5.7% growth in November 2016 as against 1.9% in October 2016. It is the fastest growth recorded in more than four years. The IIP is compiled and published every month by Central Statistics Office (CSO) of the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. It covers 682 items comprising Manufacturing (620 items), Mining (61 items) & Electricity (1 item). The weights of the three sectors are 75.53%, 14.16%, 10.32% respectively and are on the basis of their share of GDP at factor cost during 2004-05.

According to growth projection released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO), India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth is expected to grow at a slower pace at 7.1% in 2016-17 as compared to 7.6% in 2015-16. The slowdown is chiefly due to an industrial slowdown.



The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) entered into a Bilateral Advance Pricing Agreement (BAPA) with Indian subsidiary of a Japanese trading company. Recently, the CBDT also modified an existing Bilateral APA with another Indian subsidiary of a Japanese company to include rollback provisions. Thus, total three Bilateral APAs are now signed with Indian subsidiaries of Japanese companies all including rollbacks. The total number of bilateral APAs entered into by the CBDT is now eight.

India and the United States signed a MoU (Memorandum of Understanding) to collaborate in the fields of developmental activities and aid in third world countries.

India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Sri Lanka to construct 3000 rain water harvesting systems in Rin Jaffna District at a cost of 300 million Rupees (Sri Lankan).

India and Kazakhstan signed a Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between the two countries.

PEOPLE IN NEWS

Former Iranian President **Akbar Rafsanjani** died at the aged of 82. He was in power between 1989 and 1997.

Antonio Guterres, former prime minister of Portugal, who also led the United Nations refugee agency, took the office as the UN secretary general. He succeeded Ban Ki-moon, whose term as UN chief expired at midnight on December 31, 2016.

Lt General **Bipin Rawat** took charge as the new Army Chief replacing General Dalbir Singh Suhag. Lt. Gen. Rawat was the Vice Chief of Army Staff. He superseded two senior most Lt Generals, Praveen Bakshi and PM Hariz as the 26th Army Chief of India.

Air Chief Marshal **Birender Singh Dhanoa** took charge as the 22nd Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force. He succeeded Arup Raha and is the third person from Sikh community to head the IAF after Arjan Singh and Dilbag Singh.

President Pranab Mukherjee appointed Prof **David R Syiemlieh** as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) as per Article 316 of Constitution.

Noted Manipur-based historian, litterateur and scholar **Gangmumei Kamei** passed away at the age of 77.



Justice **Jagdish Singh Khehar**, the senior most judge of the Supreme Court, was sworn in as the 44th Chief Justice of India by President Pranab Mukherjee. Justice Khehar will have a tenure for over seven months till August 28, 2017.

Jovenel Moise, a 48-year-old banana exporter, was elected as president of Haiti. The poorest country in the Americas, Haiti has been led by an interim president since last February. It has been blighted by political instability for decades, and is vulnerable to natural disasters. Haiti is still recovering from Hurricane Matthew, which killed up to 1,000 people in October.

Veteran actor **Om Puri** passed away at the age of 66. 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. A critically acclaimed actor, Puri featured in films like 'Ardh Satya', 'Jaane Bhi Do Yaaro', 'Aakrosh', 'Mirch Masala' and many others. Puri also had a meaty and memorable role opposite Helen Mirren in Steven Spielberg's 2014 American comedy drama 'The Hundred-Foot Journey'. The acclaimed actor delivered some stellar performances in mainstream commercial Pakistani, Indian and British cinema apart from making a dent in Hollywood with his roles in 'East is East', 'City of Joy', 'Gandhi' and 'The Reluctant Fundamentalist'. He was nominated for the Best Actor BAFTA for 'East is East' in 2000. The actor also received an honorary OBE in 2004 for his contribution to British cinema.

Pakistan's former Army chief Gen. **Raheel Sharif** (retired) was appointed head of Islamic Military Alliance to Fight Terrorism (IMAFIT), a Saudi Arabia-led military coalition of 39 nations.

US President Donald Trump appointed young Indian-American **Raj Shah**, who played a leading role in the Republican party's anti-Clinton campaign during polls, as Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy Communication Director and Research Director.

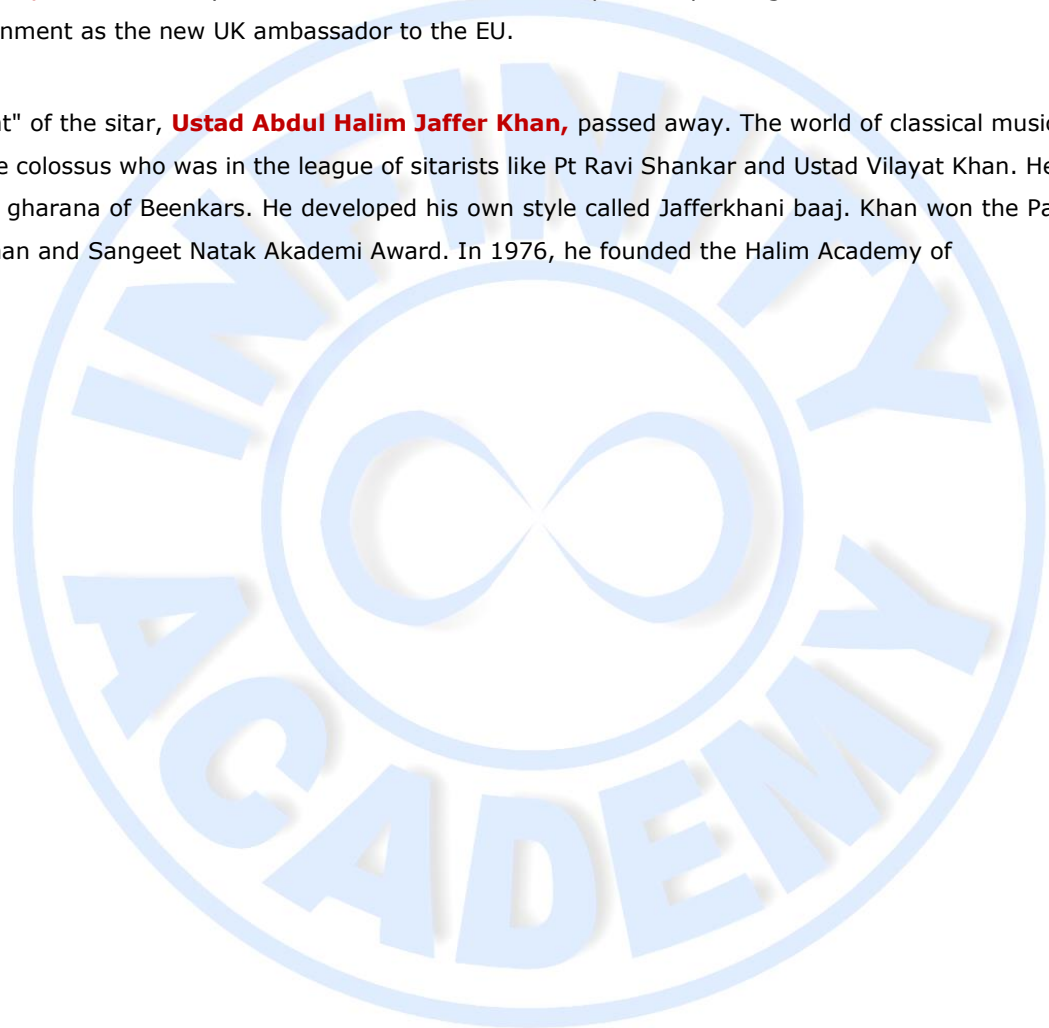


Roman Herzog, who as German president was a powerful advocate of economic reforms in the 1990s after the fall of the Berlin Wall, died at the age of 82. Herzog was a member of Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union.

Tech giant Google honoured social reformer **Savitribai Phule** on the occasion of her 186th birth anniversary. Savitribai had many firsts to her credit — she was the first woman teacher of the first women's school in India and a pioneer in modern Marathi poetry. The Government of Maharashtra instituted an award in her name to honour women social reformers. Also, a stamp was released by India Post in honour of Savitribai in March 1998.

Sir **Tim Barrow**, a former envoy to Moscow with a career as a diplomat spanning three decades, was confirmed by the UK Government as the new UK ambassador to the EU.

The "last giant" of the sitar, **Ustad Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan**, passed away. The world of classical music mourned the loss of the colossus who was in the league of sitarists like Pt Ravi Shankar and Ustad Vilayat Khan. He belonged to the Indore gharana of Beenkars. He developed his own style called Jafferkhani baaj. Khan won the Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award. In 1976, he founded the Halim Academy of Sitar.





SPORTS

The Supreme Court sacked Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) President **Anurag Thakur** and BCCI secretary Ajay Shirke after they failed to implement the reforms recommended by the Justice Lodha committee.

Cristiano Ronaldo was named the world's best player at the inaugural Best Fifa Football Awards in Zurich. Real Madrid and Portugal forward Ronaldo, 31, beat Barcelona's Lionel Messi and Atletico Madrid's Antoine Griezmann to the prize. Other 2016 awardees are:

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

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

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

The Union Sports Ministry constituted a committee to frame comprehensive **National Sports Development Code** across sports disciplines. It will be headed by Injeti Srinivas, Sports Secretary.

MISCELLANEOUS

World

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) declared the year 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The World Braille Day was observed throughout the world on 4 January to mark the birth anniversary of Louis Braille, inventor of Braille script or Braille code.

India

The National Youth Day was observed on 12 January to mark the birth anniversary of social reformer, philosopher and thinker Swami Vivekananda.

The Supreme Court rejected a plea urging it to pass judgement on Jallikattu before the harvest festival of Pongal. It had also dismissed the review petition against its 2014 verdict. Jallikattu is a bull taming or bull vaulting sport played in Tamil Nadu on Mattu Pongal day as a part of Pongal celebrations.

The World Hindi Day was observed on 10 January.



The 20th Edition of the National Conference for e-Governance 2016-17 started in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, with the theme 'Internet of Things and e-Governance'.

The 14th edition of Pravasi Bhartiya Divas (PBD) began in Bengaluru, Karnataka, with the theme "Redefining Engagement with the Indian Diaspora".

The Election Commission of India (ECI) announced the dates for the assembly elections in five states– Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Punjab, Manipur and Goa. There will be single phase elections in Uttarakhand, Goa and Punjab. Goa (40 Seats) and Punjab (117 Seats) will go to polls on 4 February 2017 while polling in Uttarakhand for 70 seats will be held on 15 February 2017. Uttar Pradesh will go to polls in seven phases for 403 seats on 11th February, 15th February, 19th February, 23rd February, 27th February, 4th March and on 8th March 2017. Manipur will go to polls for 60 seats in two phases on 4th and 8th March.

