

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF DECEMBER 2015

Persons

The Indian-American doctor who has been named the first Poet Laureate of the U.S. State of Ohio for showcasing a variety of styles in his poetry – **Amit Majumdar**

The Indian-American entrepreneur and philanthropist who has been chosen to be conferred with Uttar Pradesh Ratna Award in recognition of his achievements and outstanding contributions in a foreign country – **Frank Islam**

The contestant from Philippines who has been crowned Miss Universe 2015 at a beauty pageant in Las Vegas – **Pia Wurtzbach**

The former defence secretary who has been appointed the new Chief Information Commissioner – **RK Mathur**

The veteran Hindi film star who was presented the Padma Vibhushan award by the Union Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh (the award was announced in January 2015) – **Dilip Kumar**

The one-man judicial commission set up by the Central Govt to look into the implementation of the one rank one pension (OROP) scheme for ex-servicemen is headed by – **Justice Narsimha Reddy**

The Chancellor of Germany who has been named Person of the Year by the Time magazine – **Angela Merkel**

The new Chief Justice of India who has taken over from Chief Justice H.L. Dattu (retired on 02 Dec 2015) – **Chief Justice Tirath Singh Thakur**

The renowned sarangi player recipient of Padma Bhushan (2006) and Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1986) who passed away on 01 Dec 2015 – **Ustad Sabri Khan**

The Indian film actor who has been chosen to be honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award at the Dubai International Film Festival to be held from 09 Dec 2015 – **Naseeruddin Shah**

Places – India

The places where 3 new IIITs are to be set up as per MoU signed by the Central Govt to be operated on PPP mode with the State Govt and Industry – **Ranchi, Nagpur and Pune**

The venue of 11th UIC Global Security Congress being organized by the Security Directorate of Indian Railways in collaboration with International Union of Railways (UIC) from 09 to 10 Dec 2015 – **New Delhi**

The venue of First India International Science Festival a joint event of Ministry of Science and Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences, is being organised from Dec 4 – **IIT, Delhi**

The city in which Yadgar-e-Taqseem, or the Memories of Partition museum, (the brainchild of Kishwar Desai, writer and former media professional) is proposed to be opened in 2017 – **Amritsar**

Places – World

The Chinese city which was recently affected by a landslide of dirt and construction debris (killing over 70 people) – **Shenzhen**

The west African country which has been declared to be an Islamic Republic by its President Yahya Jammeh – **Gambia**

The venue of 10th WTO Ministerial Conference being held from 15 to 18 Dec 2015 – **Nairobi, Kenya**

The country which has for the first time allowed women to vote and stand in elections (in its recently held municipal council elections) – **Saudi Arabia**

The country which has approved world's first anti-dengue vaccine developed by French company Sanofi Pasteur and named Dengvaxia (and designed to protect people in the age group 9 and 45 years) – **Mexico**

The country with which India has launched International Solar Alliance to boost solar energy in developing countries at the UN Climate Change Conference in Paris (The alliance includes around 120 countries) – **France**

Sports

The team which has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy defeating Delhi in the finals at Bangalore – **Gujarat**

The former Indian cricketer who has been chosen for BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award for 2015 – **Syed Kirmani**

The Indian footballer who has been named the Player of the Year 2015 by the All India Football Federation – **Eugenson Lyngdoh**

The football team (owned by Vita Dani, Abhishek Bachchan and MS Dhoni) which has won the 2015 season of Indian Super League football tournament – **Chennaiyin**

The Indian golfer who has been awarded the 2015 Asian Tour's Order of Merit, thus becoming the fourth Indian, after Jyoti Randhawa, Arjun Atwal and Jeev Milkha Singh, to be so honoured – **Anirban Lahiri**

The venue of 2014-15 FIH Hockey World League final which was won by Australia defeating Belgium (India stood at third position while Netherlands was at the fourth) – **Raipur**

Defence

Indian Navy's aircraft-carrier which has won the Cock Trophy during the Western Fleet Whaler Pulling Regatta, (it is the last time the warship is participating in the event as she is to be decommissioned in 2016) – **INS Viraat**

India's first indigenously designed warship which has been decommissioned 32 years after it was inducted into the Indian Navy – **INS Godavari**

The country from which India is set to buy 5 S-400 Triumf air and missile defence systems – **Russia**

The India-U.S. bilateral maritime exercise which has been formally turned into a trilateral exercise with the inclusion of Japan – **Exercise Malabar**

The bilateral maritime exercise between Indian and Russian navies being conducted in the Bay of Bengal (off Visakhapatnam) is named – **Indra Navy 15**

The command level exercise of the Southern Command of Indian Army being conducted in the deserts of Rajasthan is named – **Drad Sankalp**

Days and Weeks

The week from 23 Dec to 29 Dec 2015 is being observed as – **Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan Week**

The theme of National Consumer Day observed on 22 December 2015 – **Safe and Healthy Food: Combating Food Adulteration**

The week from 14 Dec to 20 Dec 2015 is being observed in India as – **National Filaria Week**

The theme of World AIDS Day observed on 01 December 2015 – **On the Fast-Track to end AIDS**

Miscellaneous

The medical institution in Bangalore which has been dedicated to the nation as an Institute of National Importance by the President Shri Pranab Mukherjee – **NIMHANS**

The country whose six satellites were launched by ISRO PSLV C-29 launch vehicle from Sriharikota, A.P. (The satellites were named 1. TeLEOS-1, 2. Kent Ridge-1, 3. VELOX-C1, 4. VELOX-II, 5. Galassia and 6. Athenoxat-1) – **Singapore**

The theme of Kala Utsav, initiative of Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) to promote arts in education by nurturing and showcasing the artistic talent of school students, being held in Delhi from 08 to 11 Dec 2015 – **Beti Bachao, Beti Pado**

The relief and rescue operation launched by the Indian Armed Forces in the wake of incessant rains and floods in Chennai was named – **Operation Madad**

The denominations in which commemorative coins were released by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on the occasion of 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – **Rs. 10 and Rs. 125**

The extra-tropical cyclone which caused heavy rainfall in northern Europe, especially United Kingdom and Ireland was named – **Storm Desmond**

The northern white rhinoceros which died at the San Diego Zoo Safari Park near Escondido, California leaving behind only 3 of her species in the world was named – **Nola**

The rank of India in the Global Innovation Index 2015 released recently by Cornell University, INSEAD, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) – **81**

The currency which has been accepted by the International Monetary Fund as its reserve currency (the fifth after US dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen and British Pound) – **Yuan (China)**

The telecom company which has launched an ambitious plan Project Leap, of investing Rs 60,000 crore in telecom network for establishing 70,000 base stations to cover 2,50,000 villages – **Airtel**

[Important News in Brief - December](#)

[Freedom Trophy - India - South Africa Test Series](#)

India won the first ever Freedom Trophy 3 - 0

Venue	Winner	Man of the Match
Mohali	India	Ravindra Jadeja
Bengaluru	Drawn	–
Nagpur	India	R. Ashwin
Delhi	India	Ajinkya Rahane

Man of the Series - R. Ashwin

[PAN Card made mandatory](#)

With effect from 01 January 2015

1. For all transactions in excess of Rs.2 lakh, regardless of the mode of payment.
2. In the case of immovable property limit raised from Rs.5 lakh to Rs.10 lakh.
3. In the case of hotel or restaurant bills paid at any one time, and for bills on account of overseas travel the limit has been raised from Rs. 25,000 to Rs.50,000.
4. For purchase or sale of shares of an unlisted company the limit has been raised from Rs. 50,000 to Rs.1 lakh.

All India Football Federation - Awards for 2015

Player of the Year : **Eugenson Lyngdoh**

Woman Footballer of the Year: **Bala Devi**

Emerging Player of the Year: **Pritam Kotal**

Emerging Woman Footballer of the Year: **Pyari Xaxa**

AIFF Award for Best Grassroots Programme: **The Football Association of Odisha (FAO)**

The 2015 AIFF Award for long time contribution to Indian Football: **Coca Cola**

AIFF Award for Best Referee: **C.R. Srikrishna**

AIFF Award for Best Assistant Referee: **Sapam Kennedy**

Kilkari

Kilkari is a major IT initiative announced by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is an audio-based mobile service that delivers weekly audio messages to families about pregnancy, child birth and child care. Each pregnant woman and infant's mother, registered in Mother and Child Tracking System (MCTS), a web-enabled name-based system to monitor and ensure delivery of full spectrum of services to all pregnant women and children, would receive weekly voice messages relevant to the stage of pregnancy or age of the infant. The 72 messages would reach the targeted beneficiaries from the 4th month of pregnancy until the child is one year old. On an average, the duration of each message is two minutes. This service will be provided free to the beneficiaries. In the first phase of implementation, such messages would be sent to the pregnant women and infants' mothers in six States in Jharkhand, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and HPDs of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. They are being developed in Hindi, English and Odiya languages in the first phase, to be later expanded to other languages to cover the entire country and would benefit over 2 crore pregnant women and 2 crore infants, annually.

M-Cessation

M-Cessation is an IT-enabled tool announced by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to help tobacco users to quit tobacco. Built on a helpline concept, it will register beneficiaries on the basis of a missed call. The counselling would be done through a two-way SMS process.

TAPI Pipeline

Important Points

- Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI), also known as Trans-Afghanistan Pipeline, is a natural gas pipeline being developed by the Asian Development Bank.
- The pipeline will transport Caspian Sea natural gas from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan into Pakistan and then to India.
- Construction on the project started in Turkmenistan on 13 December 2015.
- Indian Vice-President Hamid Ansari, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedow attended the ground-breaking ceremony at Mary, 311 km from the capital Ashgabat in Turkmenistan.
- The length of the pipeline is 1800 km and is expected to be operational by 2019.

Real Estate (Regulation and Development Bill), 2015

The Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, 2015, as reported by the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha. The Bill will now be taken up for consideration and passing by the Parliament.

The Bill ensures mandatory disclosure by promoters to the customers through registration of real estate projects as well as real estate agents with the Real Estate Regulatory Authority. The Bill aims at restoring confidence of consumers in the real estate sector; by institutionalizing transparency and accountability in real estate and housing transactions which will further enable the sector to access capital and financial markets. The Bill will promote orderly growth through consequent efficient project execution, professionalism and standardization.

The salient features of the Bill are as under:

1. Applicable both for commercial and residential real estate projects.
2. Establishment of 'Real Estate Regulatory Authority' in States/UTs to regulate real estate transactions.
3. Registration of real estate projects and real estate agents with the Authority.
4. Mandatory disclosure of all registered projects, including details of the promoter, project, layout plan, land status, approvals, agreements along with details of real estate agents, contractors, architect, structural engineer etc.
5. Deposit of specified amount in a separate bank account to cover the construction cost of the project for timely completion of the project.
6. Establishment of fast track dispute resolution mechanisms for settlement of disputes through adjudicating officers and Appellate Tribunal.
7. Civil courts jurisdiction prohibited from taking up matters defined in Bill, however, consumer court allowed to hear real estate matters.
8. Promoters barred from changing plans and design without consent of consumers.
9. Provision of Appropriate Government to make rules for the matters specified in the Bill, and the Regulatory Authority to make necessary regulations.

Launch of Logo and Mascot of 12th South Asian Games, 2016

Place of launch: **Guwahati**

Host Cities : **Guwahati and Shillong**

Name of the mascot: **Thikor**

Mascot designed by : **Kolhapur's Anant Khasbardar**

Logo designed by : **NIFT's Abhijeet Krishna**

Abbreviations in News

LLIN: Long Lasting Insecticidal Nets

GIAN: Global Initiative of Academic Networks

GATI: Governance through Accountability, Transparency and Innovation

Current Affairs Questions

1. Which of the following currencies was recently accepted by International Monetary Fund as a reserve currency?
(a) Yuan (b) Real (c) Ruble (d) Dinar
2. 90-90-90 is a treatment programme associated with which of the following diseases?
(a) Swine flu (b) Ebola (c) Malaria (d) AIDS
3. In which state is the Medaram Jatra, a biennial festival, held? (Deemed the second largest congregation, only after Kumbh Mela)?
(a) Karnataka (b) Telangana (c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat
4. Who of the following has been nominated as the Person of Year 2015 by Time magazine?
(a) Aung San Suu Kyi (b) Vladimir Putin (c) Angela Merkel (d) Dilma Rousseff
5. Hornbill Festival is an annual event held in the state of -
(a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Tripura
6. Which of the following teams has won the 2015 Indian Super League football tournament?
(a) Atletico de Kolkata (b) FC Goa (c) North East United (d) Chennaiyin
7. As per the latest notification by Railways, which category of passengers will be charged full fare if they opt for reserved berth during train journey?

- (a) Children between 5 and 12 years (b) Children below 5 years
(c) Senior Citizens (d) Sports persons

8. Shri RK Mathur has recently been appointed as the new

- (a) Chief Election Commissioner (b) Chief Information Commissioner
(c) Chief Vigilance Commissioner (d) Chairperson of NITI Aayog

9. Recep Tayyip Erdogan is the President of which country?

- (a) Syria (b) Greece (c) Italy (d) Turkey

10. Who of the following has been chosen for the BCCI's Lifetime Achievement Award for the year 2015?

- (a) Syed Kirmani (b) Farookh Engineer (c) Kiran More (d) Karsan Ghavri

11. Dhirio is a banned bull fighting sport of which state?

- (a) Telangana (b) Goa (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Punjab

12. With effect from 01 January 2016, what is the minimum amount in respect of all transactions for which declaration of PAN number has been mandatory ?

- (a) Rs. 50,000 (b) Rs. 1 lakh (c) Rs. 2 lakhs (d) Rs. 5 lakhs

13. Mauricio Macri, recently took over as the President of which country?

- (a) Argentina (b) Chile (c) Gambia (d) Turkey

14. The audio based mobile service launched by the govt to deliver weekly audio messages to families about pregnancy, child birth and child care is named -

- (a) Bachpan (b) Janani (c) Suraksha (d) Kilkari

15. Indian's first bullet train to be developed by Japan is planned to run between which of the following stations?

- (a) Mumbai and Delhi (b) Ahmedabad and Delhi
(c) Mumbai and Ahmedabad (d) Mumbai and Chennai

16. In which of the following countries were women allowed to vote and stand in elections for the first time?

- (a) Qatar (b) Saudi Arabia (c) Turkey (d) Iran

17. At which of the following film festivals is the Golden Crow Pheasant award presented?

(a) International Film Festival of Kerala (b) Kolkata International Film Festival

(b) Mumbai Film Festival (c) International Film Festival of India

18. TAPI natural gas pipeline does not pass through which of the following countries?

(a) Iran (b) Afghanistan (c) Pakistan (d) Turkmenistan

19. From which country is India purchasing Chinook heavy lift helicopters?

(a) United States (b) Singapore (c) Japan (d) France

20. Who was named the Man of the Series in the recently concluded test series between India and South Africa?

(a) Ajinkya Rahane (b) Ravindra Jadeja (c) R. Ashwin (d) Virat Kohli

21. Which of these medicines is given as a preventive during National Filaria Week?

(a) paracetamol (b) albendazole (c) salbutamol (d) minoxidil

22. In which of the following cities was the 10th WTO Ministerial Conference held in the month of December 2015?

(a) Paris (b) Antalya (c) Kampala (d) Nairobi

23. Salma Dam which is being developed by WAPCOS, an Indian public sector undertaking is located in

(a) Afghanistan (b) Pakistan (c) Bhutan (d) Nepal

24. Pia Wurtzbach, who was crowned Miss Universe 2016 was a contestant from which of the following countries?

(a) Colombia (b) Philippines (c) USA (d) Australia

25. At which place is India's first Indian National Defence University (INDU) being set up?

(a) Hisar (b) Pune (c) Bangalore (d) Gurgaon

26. Who of the following footballers has been chosen as the AIFF Player of the Year 2015?

(a) Pritam Kotal (b) Sunil Chhetri (c) Eugenson Lyngdoh (d) Arnab Mondal

27. Almaz-Antey is a defence equipment manufacturing company based in which country?

(a) Switzerland (b) France (c) Japan (d) Russia

28. Six satellites belonging to which of the following countries were launched by ISRO's PSLV C-29 launch vehicle?

(a) Singapore (b) Sri Lanka (c) Japan (d) Thailand

29. Which of the following companies has successfully used a reusable rocket Falcon 9 to launch 11 satellites into space recently?

(a) Planet Space (b) Blue Origin (c) Space X (d) XCOR

30. To commemorate the 125th birth anniversary of which of the leaders were coins in the denomination of Rs. 10 and Rs. 125 released recently?

(a) Babu Rajendra Prasad (b) Dr. BR Ambedkar
(c) Rabindranath Tagore (d) Madan Mohan Malviya

31. With which of the following sports is S. Chikkarangappa associated?

(a) Billiards (b) Golf (c) Squash (d) Car racing

32. Which of the following companies has successfully used a reusable rocket Falcon 9 to launch 11 satellites into space recently?

(a) PlanetSpace (b) Blue Origin (c) SpaceX (d) XCOR

Answers

1. (a) 2. (d) 3. (b) 4. (c) 5. (c) 6. (d) 7. (a) 8. (b) 9. (d) 10. (a) 11. (b) 12. (c) 13. (a)
14. (d) 15. (c) 16. (b) 17. (a) 18. (a) 19. (a) 20. (c) 21. (b) 22. (d) 23. (a) 24. (b) 25. (d) 26. (c)
27. (d) 28. (a) 29. (c) 30. (b) 31. (b) 32. (c)