[](https://www.facebook.com/AstronautChrisHadfield/?ref=nf)

[**Col. Chris Hadfield**](https://www.facebook.com/AstronautChrisHadfield/?fref=nf)

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With celebrity death and elections taking the media by the nose, it’s easy to forget that this year saw a great many positives. Let’s look.

1. The Colombian government and FARC rebels committed to a lasting peace, ending a war that killed or displaced over 7 million people.

[http://www.bbc.com/news/world-latin-america-38153932](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.com%2Fnews%2Fworld-latin-america-38153932&h=8AQEDcRQNAQGVVm6PrcuGPx7L-mEhXwDaZqFDMxPSnNFaaw&enc=AZOlz-XID51DWGRRxf0k2GSfb-OGIP4weJf00OAfQc4nMusQPY5az2jW-DJzLuhd-kZ2BPm6bqXBj0TzecVJNcqf3Kf-75g8aPFWwh7XZH1csS65QOdNc0Pd9Y-vkPZRv4eUUriZMVOY018N7x0V5QnKVsWb5kmePRc02GQ3loUn8eMHaowEScr1LwMKH7-VeMekoVaBtufNNlNYhOQ9-B0Q&s=1)

2. Sri Lanka spent five years working to exile the world’s deadliest disease from their borders. As of 2016, they are malaria free.

[http://www.searo.who.int/mediacentre/releases/2016/1631/en/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.searo.who.int%2Fmediacentre%2Freleases%2F2016%2F1631%2Fen%2F&h=XAQFLe_zfAQHFW2HoYOluYm7OHc85O-uWQiavjFdF68IFOQ&enc=AZOqSYM2hNg3XXXgkzhN29JnfJiD4vBz-FI4AxmD1XcRVsdhB1PYv3dWmDtTcJsC3EWCKrTRnLOEpmXfLlFJzn8_STS14mVK286td5zbQaU7IMQ_E_fAT0bZLhMgCtvVz7a29qqIg9SNXfWcbYq6ZOq9Gv8ScOJtNxHnyJnNHhu2tSTJA4vWlSS-KL5z9CCDWFg3fg1bgZ-p3JpIws2rxgY3&s=1)

3. The Giant Panda, arguably the world’s second cutest panda, has officially been removed from the endangered species list.

[http://www.nbcnews.com/…/giant-pandas-are-no-longer-endange…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nbcnews.com%2Fnews%2Fworld%2Fgiant-pandas-are-no-longer-endangered-n643336&h=6AQFbVGNNAQFH9QA-Wj8TE92hVAxsUy-ETsTy5swfECdVmA&enc=AZPLxymjpST-iYnyypQcHmrVRIRNAOcEHoV68nwnmHeopkRS6Be60zlH2AI1JWWidYsXCc2w2EGlUYCLJF7lDX2ZLoS2M_Qa2qQnwQHltLQANng5vps3xsCqxKJAkjL3zXfBDRQbHQ3B8kZmWYY2t0sZIz-qBHQgi0S8Rbx8fphe_XrJkmPoFeMaxlgMdpfPtYuye3z_CGyRnzclUefGDdpE&s=1)

4. Tim Peake became the first ESA astronaut from the UK, symbolizing a renewed British commitment to space exploration.

[https://www.theguardian.com/…/tim-peake-nursing-worlds-wors…](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fscience%2F2016%2Fjun%2F20%2Ftim-peake-nursing-worlds-worst-hangover-after-six-months-in-space&h=AAQHK-BdyAQFRys6Wg3P6dXtopwC1LdXfzsCgvaPQ01j3AQ&enc=AZMy60g8YNo7NPFbXr9Y73Sccm4YCQnT2Ww5tHEvCsLJDNm_1xsdlqWsF6ILIXbOUSrn5wvEDgtLGpF5FEmsRX031VI_m8ZsCgWrARPLA2XPIyg0O57wZMSBaO9I1HxzjxIUFnn4Cc66kklenMoUDJ-E7C8-qiWHd0X0WDE6b-pcKEVHXRYGCxv3k_iw69N25gxG79IgE_FFQ1KS0Yyt51iV&s=1)

5. Tiger numbers around the world are on the rise for the first time in 100 years, with plans to double by 2022.

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/…/160410-tiger-numbers-…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fnews.nationalgeographic.com%2F2016%2F04%2F160410-tiger-numbers-rise-wwf-conservation-double-population%2F&h=6AQFbVGNNAQHgjGbkg9M35U-608bxUm4LvVy73HOMduJLQw&enc=AZPujMNgB2wlhY3Ny9NhVh9zHnmeLDgBYdhu8EhTiDGqIryZW25Ts-Vj1ewjxVsSLMi64kuq6EnW7DCQn0KWEJCalvdLQi--DCfqzCqx3DWmGDVEi95YEF7A88ykejgTC_2OEd0HYJCjsIUNxN1KvxbFsoq15iqeaCszRzRNb9XPZ9fcVpJgZhL1JeSSO2mKKin26SmR-JrDi7884fuY_mQf&s=1)

6. Juno, a piece of future history, successfully flew over 800 million miles and is now sending back unprecedented data from Jupiter.

[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/…/juno-probe-nasa-celebrates-as…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.telegraph.co.uk%2Fscience%2F2016%2F07%2F05%2Fjuno-probe-nasa-celebrates-as-830m-spacecraft-successfully-enter%2F&h=oAQG9jLqXAQEhVsAX8KtcdejAvRaMGK5b0Kxu3HOWDON4gw&enc=AZPg9U8bzMEF7e22vMKvD9TO8RlIxZl6h0kSRbRqvp60hGr9RsXjGpf26qq-d-SLum8gOA65h_PsLI0qHZAWqybxbThbLubeCvoJRKKVosfjKrrH9dfOIo1h40I5uaiPqbLa92gBKWjXOoW9UpIq4hXmhc3w0KbwT_Ym5-lKvdxcs01mc6GfripArnb0GXKesjfOV0L7geSs90OEg7aJKAFJ&s=1)

7. The number of veterans in the US who are homeless has halved in the past half-decade, with a nearly 20% drop in 2016.

[http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/veteran-homelessness-droppe…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goodnewsnetwork.org%2Fveteran-homelessness-dropped-50-since-2010%2F&h=sAQF4y9LwAQFeeGQbe8-ASWKgBgRDDTQsndbubRyaWjEfpA&enc=AZMIli_14SLQDjUfugox8Z_HrLG_4fFtsCjxD6nuMVETNR7gKWWXY2w-zKpRn2ZVbmdkw_mVc4gpUA5BNcR87kHVRBqy1fVa_6dfdUiG6nZYrZQk5AXGyvc8AKrQV_XYf9CKTstDf0gFHTjOZpsLev7sAP2YSQ71c-liaPLRCeDhs2L3XhEtAuT0lpos7oUpvH8Sa2VZ35S2DgsbRMtbkvdj&s=1)

8. Malawi lowered its HIV rate by 67%, and in the past decade has seen a shift in public health that has saved over 250,000 lives.

[http://www.aljazeera.com/…/malawi-reduced-hivaids-infection…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.aljazeera.com%2Findepth%2Ffeatures%2F2016%2F07%2Fmalawi-reduced-hivaids-infection-rate-160718084113107.html&h=1AQE1NaKjAQH4a6W6Kx6EWDCj-9qk3KMXeOHZmZDABCeADA&enc=AZNF4OqCdbZuCIp6PV62UNPqB1gOdgduur3ZTkfoZGI-HlMcsvZksyr1WLdSpviZS8CEueJd5krph-Gfk9ZxUQEHqpF_O4kXmpSbYZ4jGtddKoD29Tk7MoPtt6zGELkXnrkrsfKrHaoC3EC1itvA7_BACmivbgcARvpPlfbgbh_L7grLlzpEaVdQaEWu4VJ8CMwo4mCE5sOW6pFanleWBX5c&s=1)

9. Air travel continues to get safer, and 2016 saw the second fewest per capita deaths in aviation of any year on record.

[http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/2016-one-safest-years-aviat…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goodnewsnetwork.org%2F2016-one-safest-years-aviation-history%2F&h=xAQG8EH_7AQG2ITvEwRfa8l1SLpW69hrTmfLUERsk_DvFmA&enc=AZOsfJsfCQfxrdGYRa-1El9CjL1lBmrxoSRmbQCIHNLRJBRTdzRbZJopO-qQyb_owp76KEOHC1QGpKon6W1eY90SaBEUkMJXUz1JSwS0ogSBb_jdu2F16gNROVUN2jLoDa4jlYZsnX4Om75bEoAFgEcV8jSAtRKt2_ioF3OHUj7Bn-JQvfccDxhnumcGe3fhtkmJ_Jgykb7ox0Use8Tjv4SS&s=1)

10. India’s dogged commitment to reforestation saw a single day event planting more than 50 million trees, a world record.

[http://www.forbes.com/…/india-bet-6-billion-carbon-storag…/…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.forbes.com%2Fsites%2Ftrevornace%2F2016%2F05%2F11%2Findia-bet-6-billion-carbon-storage-afforestation%2F%235dfd2864292e&h=JAQF1_wAhAQGymTEQ4b57u5IZaBIfHf-F7KrV3OuoH92zKA&enc=AZN9fRJHQFhOc7eRsK5kAwui-yzzIAH2HM-Vy-6XKrU_8eOUwjSkIQe5xgA9mwSAT6GqaRyktfHCSwujruZNB1j3CNZptG2BxrzMp_c42QfViu3EEsosPkjJ7uVwzAwFIoSVmgy5t7ztCJ8mYR9uWzxEy-aSY8BSrhIv-dvQMVGQqit6qEQmOaQjljsbCBa7QX71ssMzp1NU3lM9b8hPYKVa&s=1)

11. Measles has been eradicated from the Americas. A 22 year vaccination campaign has led to the elimination of the horrific virus.

[http://www.theatlantic.com/…/09/measel-free-americas/501887/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.theatlantic.com%2Fnews%2Farchive%2F2016%2F09%2Fmeasel-free-americas%2F501887%2F&h=pAQFEJJw4AQECLxFGUtSUx9wFrjL9VHB8uISd1CBrnhSTBQ&enc=AZN0LTFMV6JB7rytmqIbE50CxWTNsP9diejlcR3WbzC5bcA4iAdrSi4YPmX1ui7tHPryDJM8Kix-BhN5Pe86U-lh1VtIR5svsP4232nESO4JINsGf_scps10oVAyiVzUcsRsX1EMneVO2vPnkY2oE_93oOQ4Z3fCK3yXffJ_iT-TneEICRFyzO99B0ya2dx5ixi40dxb8RYzfu3aDI3SjDli&s=1)

12. After a century, Einstein’s theory of gravitational waves has been proven correct, in a ‘moon shot’ scientific achievement.

[https://www.nasa.gov/…/nsf-s-ligo-has-detected-gravitation…/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.nasa.gov%2Ffeature%2Fgoddard%2F2016%2Fnsf-s-ligo-has-detected-gravitational-waves%2F&h=nAQEisKgkAQFq_zSTnerDtFGR6t_AQDhxUz5QE0DJ7WYR8A&enc=AZMB_Ol-UPOz_huDnNGXyKrlVPurixUUjyGUD8Gy6VJaFUZeWWMnXDpGV-KI245_-IYxdXq3zdTViiVvR7FUPYUHIc1hMIJVlS7XEhEcsBhmtQqWeXQ0yWN7E-jT9KXE2fmDEn8EMxbkbcww8wCqUd8z1_8WYzwAk90UtNdm_nYT4BEaFxsgMdW7n4jSDAPZTnbit9sVO3Xpe8qinEV65kFY&s=1)

13. China has announced a firm date for the end of the ivory trade, as public opinion is becoming more staunchly environmentalist.

[http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/china-announces-ban-ivory-t…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.goodnewsnetwork.org%2Fchina-announces-ban-ivory-trade-end-2017%2F&h=pAQFEJJw4AQGpe2e7G_fpqH9w-F5NFCVxRE_Plbrx6v4UVw&enc=AZO2vBtdIOV2UJKWT_Tgro9_c0CN318wRC9H1d601ozwCysiQ9D7hldW6rxtWHP2p2dx0n3hMxnV1bASgLIltw6AtOuvb7fc0oYokg06FLqUqS6-bH-LP9U3vqa3TsYEEItIZcoMdjluYeWGgkG8kMZct1BFGETSD4dpyaNxRuCN_NEE2ocv6An7vKP3NkwL7aHXBobclP0dxnsgAXPx8U0r&s=1)

14. A solar powered airplane flew across the Pacific Ocean for the first time, highlighting a new era of energy possibilities.

[http://www.cnn.com/…/trav…/solar-impulse-2-plane-california/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2016%2F04%2F24%2Ftravel%2Fsolar-impulse-2-plane-california%2F&h=rAQHvjU7mAQFkHEaHcrM-uLW3J52IBhIgq6xY5yhzArXPcg&enc=AZNL9em2r3O20A4EQQCTf8nQmbEeh3paq08C8Q9btPqDQTRbYDoT7DDRdfKEaTHYKl00RCn-AC1CfU4E68F9NpyUejvJEmkSsvBWwanMQBIhLsUqmXY3xRmgjV3lsnBqqDA79VYjlYvLMtVNz21aS-EQ3ctJ8HBbB7fZF2AmiiutvWTEqUucEgYQyRYHiGsNVnBmFa9g_4CXlX7h1J1selb5&s=1)

15. Costa Rica’s entire electrical grid ran on renewable energy for over half the year, and their capacity continues to grow.

[http://thecostaricanews.com/costa-rica-used-100-renewable-…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fthecostaricanews.com%2Fcosta-rica-used-100-renewable-energy-299-days%2F&h=PAQGZc9kSAQGHwmHVY0mSdxr39zJZTZjUCpUKq0D0togoSA&enc=AZOtg2evRgpius47zxVzRRD792QwErgCrkcTpcyakfGMk7Kyp8y_or2Ylfk0eENil01v4sWTHNOZApiO5oxo-W5c6awjPRwYqTzNB73Dljf5cAmK1lvmo9Uj0tmVcYQQKwkV9MAJLpVHDsVdsHNdL3Ly7FXUg11OBX2HGjg60QznOBZGPQbMGQo__Rjug0d4pPzUuGShuEV1XSBp6oLA9J2G&s=1)

16. Israeli and US researchers believe they are on the brink of being able to cure radiation sickness, after successful tests this year.

[http://www.reuters.com/…/us-israel-radiation-treatment-idUS…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.reuters.com%2Farticle%2Fus-israel-radiation-treatment-idUSKCN0WB1ZJ&h=6AQFbVGNNAQH_EnjHTKT3U0YM_1ONRDAXePQWdoonvpngLQ&enc=AZN9vGBwcJC5-jr8A8S-fenYSg8b1b0Te0nJPL6Kl4LuDjsV9dtdi6m8MCIjH7dE4yh0qw4Fh6R73GEb52I6ZGZkmIqSM93Xk53gJVSjeMVDjCIx8hsN5V5csQ8aaI6pr1Ake4DpFrAVA2QyrKLfM4iVY83bJQdC47fLucAkldxDtRhTvrAAjHpSx1jQnqf3zKVExmhmgz1VQ0DCccSGZV2Y&s=1)

17. The ozone layer has shown that through tackling a problem head on, the world can stem environmental disasters, together.

[http://www.cnn.com/…/…/health/antarctic-ozone-layer-healing/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.cnn.com%2F2016%2F07%2F01%2Fhealth%2Fantarctic-ozone-layer-healing%2F&h=4AQHZ7Dm_AQEJN-5K7NvuVSCsO5T00LB-gi4cPI--apGOVA&enc=AZNRpKo1EpPWK2rPTfdBxDdOokeJaYIHBSFyV7rXUpsQG46uQgcBBkv9bQuutHlopXblHAXX6qzQxM2lr_DAKiCK0BIU1S7KrF_iIqSfAZm79rLph7zTY012S6X-69KJiiWGHQ_I8m5839BrX41kxfBgEJ5DaC-YqLh8Y7dWHIoNowdvkHhXm8VV1wZirKUX_HTJTSeQJEefYaFBrtR4OWcI&s=1)

18. A new treatment for melanoma has seen a potential 40% survival rate, taking a huge step forward towards long-term cancer survivability.

[http://www.bbc.com/news/health-36304018](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.bbc.com%2Fnews%2Fhealth-36304018&h=jAQHhkirXAQFQH3QGm5UUJX12hwZ-BvAqneymlHANEkjLbw&enc=AZMep4zTeltKxi8IwC0azcrBogjkmlVad7RrslUyeMgq4Tgz-LqaHxzdZ2qAh0NhA4Sp1vV9WWkoUDWEx6gxFol7CStrHu9J4JyKAG9MUV9_x9SwK353U_XrLfJXjMhj3nWvAFMtXlVmv0JFbXFLukq0RdyCpn6XufZBGHBHkowKXiRKvjIta2E1b20WRwyVh0iCBy4Z-uuCnboRjxdPy-6B&s=1)

19. An Ebola vaccine was developed by Canadian researchers with 100% efficacy. Humans eradicated horror, together.

[http://www.newsweek.com/ebola-vaccine-small-pox-outbreak-va…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.newsweek.com%2Febola-vaccine-small-pox-outbreak-vaccine-trials-537336&h=bAQFdTHpTAQF2bIb2tPLyDLXLYDydy7j8a1cYlxKUA42wYQ&enc=AZNNiusVaCYNTovfX5pd9mppouCkrm10ukOEVQTdxxY3SkqC0H9tqKK1GtVoU49WAFJN2fbbHWZb3CreRFA9g-vRrklxSbSY6wlAlGGcy7m9J1G8qPSQXZEUw4QoKwOi5jVsfvSTluvJNsU1jEkS7EoWqZiXZF5UqlhTexUPJv3tjhKlhpcxLwIvnppSH1MsUc_OUvrivy1zBGTF-ILrifpg&s=1)

20. British Columbia protected 85% of the world’s largest temperate rainforest, in a landmark environmental agreement.

[http://www.reuters.com/…/us-canada-environment-rainforest-i…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.reuters.com%2Farticle%2Fus-canada-environment-rainforest-idUSKCN0VA2NC&h=2AQGPagWAAQH3-Xk071f5xFP21HtLl3IVD2agbYi88xFceQ&enc=AZMTHAqx60ys5wugirk1k3gy62WLSl3LjuYx8TakLtL_pSMybDXlAaei9XeserO19RNDuK_8iV2CP4wCxTFnfOthLmxHu0MmXmdQpqK_FHAmtPD7jmZL1lephVdBzQHDfpaXsQuUsAhK0huRQBRget4sA74FK5eDesq9nGWA9dX6f_q2piO1o9b7d_0aXej4yKrAW9aEa4sy8ZtafUAzmdZr&s=1)

21. 2016 saw the designation of more than 40 new marine sanctuaries in 20 countries, covering an area larger than the United States.

[http://www.reuters.com/…/us-environment-oceans-pledges-idUS…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.reuters.com%2Farticle%2Fus-environment-oceans-pledges-idUSKCN11M24T&h=PAQGZc9kSAQGwuDboEAswVgo6glL6ILGMTg3hnTiMcBsCLA&enc=AZPxY4DXvj6nXHc6Sk-S_JzNYwPlS97triVyJc18Cs84nq9dCrY1Sk95h7-n_kwsOwVlv9_bsGA1KHmxURpzoaVM9NnEgly81z2cc6jRO4t9qh_c8iUR4agtwRQC_RkmjUPXeZ-UjsocCuXfYBoKd_LjAtTCsKmWgn3tRNtQeCJ6Llf3SOKtsFZHwQL4iygm0Pv7Fhg_GmlVkFBK8oLxmgen&s=1)

22. These marine reserves include Malaysia’s 13 year struggle to complete a million hectare park, completed this year.

[https://www.theguardian.com/…/malaysia-just-established-a-o…](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theguardian.com%2Fworld%2Fblog%2F2016%2Fmay%2F30%2Fmalaysia-just-established-a-one-million-hectare-marine-park&h=EAQHaWNg8AQEZ-9QL3iDqE36IQXx6B3YUJjY37jk5-0XwDw&enc=AZOnG5Q5VZDXgmXni3HgdfLZJ9o1BfX3n8a7Pe6rvJpISlH-wbzY14Fs6ldKr38YuplIaNzu4AhNlDnuj-7r4uYeMvaandl3otssepgT4FTgotycQh_m6PfLqqy9QNs6mEWMjVWR-nzzKYpnjssmPF6v9N-iMvCC-1M8tEayXoC1b-YfYWsUD7F3UFtMCrfr6EOqjYvO6GSRt9IOe8YygExE&s=1)

23. This also includes the largest marine reserve in history, created in Antarctica via an unprecedented agreement by 24 nations.

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/…/ross-sea-marine-prote…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fnews.nationalgeographic.com%2F2016%2F10%2Fross-sea-marine-protected-area-antarctica%2F&h=4AQHZ7Dm_AQFN25djCgkJ6ZrWgo_coL8ylhtk_iw6CH9wow&enc=AZM01MQuGQ0h6cGBONLr5GRxkXriKJwpJTeiDrp8oaLN2955yWfhAwRIIjYAmrlPxCeaWrTGHKUNc2qlvvRQeMrHhlth9fFtt1SYwhEOD2iYKagR1VZ_YWvxnYD6O5SP8E4rJ72S-_2g6uRLlLjLKiEmUXjepr1C0jplbg_bH1mw1GS2LIKXiZy6LHM2vbi4WEX1BGUR6ri0fDNzizkWyvDE&s=1)

24. Atmospheric acid pollution, once a gloomy reality, has been tackled to the point of being almost back to pre-industrial levels.

[http://sciencebulletin.org/archives/5347.html](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fsciencebulletin.org%2Farchives%2F5347.html&h=2AQGPagWAAQHAiagJlaCaqYhx6pTILyPDihC8NS6aGJAw5Q&enc=AZPeUazvQq3jqcfXkWSBQ5d1UrL2DXcF4FZht8zmjmIFgZKwANpBuacM53lPFwwSYAQbXHJhZW7o4QuV2Om2jsWDZCpRzl1xvsdYHpHyQjJZmPZCV5B1q76Hsmb4yg2SCqPAAeFjEc0VsyXAl6h6nYYh9slHv470WPnNu61-zSKL3LreF0hblA0QShUjbFhOvsg-gbOB_hv9exfgt-_mm-Sl&s=1)

25. Major diseases are in decline. The US saw a 50% mortality drop in colon cancer; lower heart disease, osteoporosis and dementia.

[http://www.nytimes.com/…/a-medical-mystery-of-the-best-kind…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2016%2F07%2F10%2Fupshot%2Fa-medical-mystery-of-the-best-kind-major-diseases-are-in-decline.html&h=kAQG363lHAQEjrjIcH0VmFV5M-167rXDyAK-oqrz5soF45w&enc=AZOqVsih0MDzAN6IhRgJEDeMmcjNmMPTDnH8SmNYxVNU3mWiFsSd2ZPRPeuiUeuHse-7FC68oEFX-PeVZx_sMc00kZuGsLDIb-nRQOEKMLH2Ul4rxTChcoIKx9C1HAMzWRrVVPhxsaI0dTICvhE-3bL9aF5dlzsbWC6-eJ_Y4vcIoS92nmT_NOn5xG1SV3_4L6aHu3T_UZIfc4l2HcBYmRtc&s=1)

26. Uruguay successfully fought tobacco companies to create a precedent for small countries looking to introduce health-focused legislation.

[http://www.csmonitor.com/…/Uruguay-The-little-country-that-…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.csmonitor.com%2FWorld%2FGlobal-News%2F2016%2F0709%2FUruguay-The-little-country-that-changed-tobacco-laws&h=xAQG8EH_7AQFdu1v4Lm7R31ZID3esbkc6kiu-XGq9QkJ06g&enc=AZNQid65nVjLiz0HGpvwAcmnwR4Ny6u4znwcPAdF3xTsR9mx-NQV9aV-dKBkHavlnbwzrl66OHW-AyZuKXQxPYxqxZfXzkuYsHK4lfGSoVzos8sZ1qNuRGCxgxqQbDLhE1MhrH46Lcr4FBJvVxoti1MhtpfX8zRcy-i8OAKGejbA13TzUQzG5Ep09v9sudx8dEsdSCPGXvlLF69XlB8Vsqbz&s=1)

27. World hunger has reached its lowest point in 25 years, and with poverty levels dropping worldwide, seems likely to continue.

[http://www.nytimes.com/…/is-the-era-of-great-famines-over.h…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.nytimes.com%2F2016%2F05%2F09%2Fopinion%2Fis-the-era-of-great-famines-over.html&h=4AQHZ7Dm_AQGVcgJ1RH-mf5Sf2OT3A0TJoZdDd76gYyNBDw&enc=AZOgqQRGdLe4p0YhIwmGrtb8Fp4CnvTMqiCM95cRhExzTazFrxVA27FVRxeBWOOyOcfWhSlJjMNr2qmCUr9e8b2BJ0xXF96oOXvEnGlxaulWIbBxmy_0_F-KKlP0pAfAUPjjl-tGyS9Mdo0MV0kz6Gid0vCbgfGkr-xw7f0rnOmv8y8lhOdNeKbsTnm-Q976k-BEtOhHF9EAscKYEp59bGSR&s=1)

28. The AU made strides to become more unified, launching an all-Africa passport meant to allow for visa-free travel for all citizens.

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/…/the-opposite-of-brexit-af…/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.washingtonpost.com%2Fnews%2Fmonkey-cage%2Fwp%2F2016%2F07%2F01%2Fthe-opposite-of-brexit-african-union-launches-an-all-africa-passport%2F&h=9AQFx3_7OAQGv1Onh9rFVrwy64nPoVv8Bfrp-rJULu-7NIQ&enc=AZPzK74RJlROzQxaREgnbBh2A6vuD2sshVWmk4NzzxeFEAcWlwuZAMITeKa4Ycpv42XvB_hUdPbWH2QouBrdz1_xkK34tqU8vENE7cotJbLq0GFdEImnKhvMMMLzgeKUuhwZaJe0KpvBSAa9XxSgB-3xI1P-hfnwI0cp5T1MCp0UIgdE6S7u2NkjO-snY7yQyeR7jkx5MjSYN0W5Qq0Bx8SO&s=1)

29. Fossil fuel emissions flatlined in 2016, with the Paris agreement becoming the fastest UN treaty to become international law.

[https://www.scientificamerican.com/…/rise-in-global-carbon…/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.scientificamerican.com%2Farticle%2Frise-in-global-carbon-emissions-slows%2F&h=NAQEd--upAQEYdE1o5OpPSMycajBauIACoAARlzJ-D8CnWw&enc=AZP2nhnJCW-JUug6VMUVSRVuTy0-ryEOQC2QYT-i7eTaP8jgNGwKEy-OnPTy8xWYlF6zyQTl40FKCWXEpzOo_ta59PXJ4eZn81hy2ikj2LJIqtuTkUlVkyzvYUPwOMP4EZDTV5WQWsjgnhsFpF5pf_Aw-FCbv2K8roaXHJJsh45aD2VRb3jeW-48TYBS-rUu658jVTotojtGX8QN25V3kqkx&s=1)

30. China announced a ban on new coal mines, with renewed targets to increase electrical capacity through renewables by 2020.

[http://www.wri.org/…/chinas-1-2-3-punch-tackle-wasted-renew…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.wri.org%2Fblog%2F2016%2F04%2Fchinas-1-2-3-punch-tackle-wasted-renewable-energy&h=LAQHcjfkyAQFNtc7EH2UkdAES2lbk0T-KORMnRF1a7XqaHg&enc=AZNfOnaGq2VGaTQPlwLmQ3lhKbCJ8a1_r6BBfQ5803QrBg17zd2WqC-xNxkOXOhjwLpHSMeaZOgRfnWwCA7NixhDWte7k4S8_CQOZCl83nHs2MXW_XyS-9jCEPNWMParfWiuV5562O2vMLexUbkQg8VZ6iqT57XMPdcw9wt9fssqKcWA9dS4jB9VWr2hVS4afk8i53QhvbAXD2EhJHilOdVZ&s=1)

31. One third of Dutch prison cells are empty as the crime rate shrank by more than 25% in the last eight years, continuing to drop.

[http://www.dutchnews.nl/…/falling-crime-rates-and-prison-c…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.dutchnews.nl%2Ffeatures%2F2016%2F10%2Ffalling-crime-rates-and-prison-closures-what-is-really-going-on-in-the-dutch-justice-system%2F&h=xAQG8EH_7AQFAYJo5T5Llarv8Ad_h8I63LG5Zg1go1YIgCw&enc=AZOLzFkZlrFVmd-qenflM2lfuja5YAGuH5agNXX6NZWKYhFcF2LQWACeV2IbD_QKySIYsve0k92jwSA-h5SvRsjRL_choadmz7UTQZM_vYohmncs1fbtqlV0oDhEu7jqElByTcRmJp1O8LkcT8ciTzarxKDovAn6W7ULJ6I2hZUlGYV3VYjmsvhyRBkbus7__rHGtY-dehqTiOjOJHjVrEZ-&s=1)

32. In August went to the high Arctic with some incredible artists. They helped open my eyes to the promise of the next generation.

[www.generatorevent.com/arctic/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.generatorevent.com%2Farctic%2F&h=2AQGPagWAAQEtwYh-CJJZuNOQuIVlmVGj90Z5jC7VhxVy9w&enc=AZOocjl2yb0Q4fg-ifSji5XDWbPS590ofbFARnppoohEESMF5lCtbLZnfpnmpvrv1GCqy6TnRisHv3mbLA74wUVFq7tcMem1d09cASOGgOSa07atCUGtHhtMfZhKB0kBG3JzvFtErSLin1LmwE5OGmm6_hhu3kH9-hLQ7Sq-rQ0m4UKc3gRtYYtX_ZEPFBcdUG2Ps4ZrwaiKYhfi8HQ0V5-O&s=1)

33. Science, economics, and environmentalists saw a reversal in the overfishing trends of the United States this year.

[http://opinionator.blogs.nytimes.com/…/how-dwindling-fish-…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fopinionator.blogs.nytimes.com%2F2016%2F04%2F19%2Fhow-dwindling-fish-stocks-got-a-reprieve%2F&h=iAQG1qhZmAQH-1UEG-gtfQecBqXLrsrXLfjrUtdWRvMzYrw&enc=AZMRnRteAEBSIz9p7t67xdMVZGf-rfRdGr5QASS8Ty6iJGvB65jl47rGHTeL4GN7deZbaUy1vACcdmVrh6g9-e0Qp9v2eooaGk_FnTrM4XY1pZXS_trxCTu2vGy5y5lxi37xrJ2G8M24FKrNnjUHkz76TSjR77JUOenRJl9IMIr9WI3mrGGtGSnpK7gPciL_KeHRgsHxZ0if-LGGI4nbrpER&s=1)

34. Boyan Slat successfully tested his Ocean Cleanup prototype, and aims to clean up to 40% of ocean-borne plastics starting this year.

[https://www.theoceancleanup.com/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.theoceancleanup.com%2F&h=rAQHvjU7mAQECK8oOuCLkbMOAx9aNmwYwr-_uxE8ux10JVA&enc=AZMRD3PeM0fXH2eq2OmNu1Ki20zdSYi96rm6IOnqguqWco1y2pyCtC6Ls5bO3PWg6nZEfpj7iJkQh4DIuuXaAjjaKAjAUwc0o0b0YuNvaaCS69mSWfi5vcaX2MkfABoDb32HYfj-c9be66_5EB6IgnOFs-CmjzI9yVRgjcCJhwvMi0NeUK0ixtUtJEwqcKwf5bosz43s1V49AGD9kBc7ZzNH&s=1)

35. Israel now produces 55% of its freshwater, turning what is one of the driest countries on earth into an agricultural heartland.

[https://ensia.com/features/water-desalination-middle-east/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fensia.com%2Ffeatures%2Fwater-desalination-middle-east%2F&h=jAQHhkirXAQF-Zl4YaX3-91fzTyAZZaIM0IldZiiWoHt8Mg&enc=AZOk6ODvQfw-wiyzzosr-1tiJJ1ngYUjDp60wDvQyT341QoGut9NhEiuco--1_PhoNg-uf3Jm-pkW5m_qZnKmll7d5Z3N0C2YXilEC9tNVOIg3KUbzCbzlAHRZYDrMzLZCsiGR7bUd7Pr3K9-vwTcLEw9PMKr-7Nv7F_nLMAsahG0cael9Rb4wX6ajE0wx_d-f15IJU0sAthh5UPhaQ4HKK_&s=1)

36. The Italian government made it harder to waste food, creating laws that provided impetus to collect, share and donate excess meals.

[http://www.independent.co.uk/…/italy-food-waste-laws-news-m…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.independent.co.uk%2Fnews%2Fworld%2Feurope%2Fitaly-food-waste-laws-news-measures-passed-bill-economy-donations-hunger-a7171251.html&h=7AQEb0KdDAQGWGKqeC7f5l6OFsJoeGeA09yoilCYQF3Eg-g&enc=AZOefN-oT5vTxq9S78U74GZVc0ElFBEJZYCUwfYr8R35MdbTnTW3hqmDrpB3BiqD3N-aSiPFliuqdfdG_tNHyo0kB3xz2J-Mt0op499RGS6ybX_GDOouQRpwqmM8CUXr9xNKsVty4zn90MagyzdClQBTySNjLzgc3Gf8tyBu0U01NEFDMY1d93NrDG_syuLZclv76V5kvkCG1o6r6CXcBx8z&s=1)

37. People pouring ice on their head provided the ALS foundation with enough funding to isolate a genetic cause of the disease.

[http://www.alsa.org/…/significant-gene-discovery-072516.htm…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.alsa.org%2Fnews%2Fmedia%2Fpress-releases%2Fsignificant-gene-discovery-072516.html%3Freferrer%3Dhttp%3A%2F%2Fwww.gq.com%2Fstory%2Fgood-things-2016&h=IAQHoBsegAQExPb22cy6s7Ym33ju_Kjgs4kZPFUqoo7anrw&enc=AZMIU7GpmZfhhS1E7bveDe-Mki3QDMHFJ0FWHI0FrDo22ZNDvOpnhE6cfxeJ8XQsNytNiCVdNSrwD7aIpB6ZUh7OQakHqgwLtuyq3akMepDMW3AvovWz2TWpDl6eG50FbwV1vmoHgvcVdoNyQuta1pRlR0QZEOj4mVg03W_04aKHLf6ayw6l126OgP7i3gwS7tQaIyFgw64IN7Xi1ggewXd2&s=1)

38. Manatees, arguably the most enjoyable animal to meet while swimming, are no longer endangered.

[http://blogs.scientificamerican.com/ex…/manatees-threatened/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fblogs.scientificamerican.com%2Fextinction-countdown%2Fmanatees-threatened%2F&h=DAQE-nbBcAQGn-pwjuROExbYRdvELYEHbBcOqcKyQIPKEMA&enc=AZN5RCwC9Oq-ejuD2abq2VNbSJ82685FTbTgTBnmZa5udTFNya7HMy4C5ctFQzSafflSQb_RMk6Ff2eW5b2ho9BjeyScaZiuWmEHRPr4LbMEjySsBegcSmNgMvShFKyfWQDQI6ug8CsYJ256TzLE7fJ3hMP4peLuRmODKgMHPVAFBcwXHLErX-1iR_hcc6JZqacw9-ZvpxaVUnvTMQv8sBP3&s=1)

39. Grizzlies, arguably the least enjoyable animal to meet while swimming, no longer require federal protection in national parks.

[http://news.nationalgeographic.com/…/160304-grizzlies-bear…/](http://news.nationalgeographic.com/2016/03/160304-grizzlies-bears-animals-science-endangered-species0/)

40. Global aid increased 7%, with money being spent to help the world’s 65 million displaced people and refugees doubling.

[http://www.oecd.org/…/development-aid-rises-again-in-2015-s…](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.oecd.org%2Fdevelopment%2Fdevelopment-aid-rises-again-in-2015-spending-on-refugees-doubles.htm&h=wAQGSGYz1AQH17sgmu5chtLvuRoy03CrWehLQyy-Xc6uZMQ&enc=AZOKw052SCmDT3-7gI1CbvT7bI8316H3Wuft4FLUiHgtITI3JH8mxuCC4kNnusz8SOnWXrE6foaE0_ty9k_yn2s6g1I6vLuyuPPqfRKj24t9JjfCDo_cGTu-agaq9nggpQUfl_m8o07RCPE6rNd7WRoT_EwXvhxH47Hkof-TGr9AbOyrL5beLmfIEcGpJr3vN0JlLbs9DsOAw-qM7eZ3Sii3&s=1)

41. 2016 was the most charitable year in American history. China’s donations have increased more than ten times since a decade ago.

[https://givingusa.org/giving-usa-2016/](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=https%3A%2F%2Fgivingusa.org%2Fgiving-usa-2016%2F&h=zAQHsPDXCAQHf2KMy0T7vKPlMsL8NEI79DKCKWT59pW9bhg&enc=AZN3T5g08NQOPfZdFdh7KRKKjR40e7MoMAl7p8S-vdRZZMd0XQBr-dgdcdIdv_GU98hXOpB71QAZiGyaE-vT1Ot6NEFgJeB5GlUBnlqk-EWwrK-VFXlvsLnMqdjqgpJxu-JZtRXNf9wppy_orj0Kz_TRyteLIjylnnKKS9MpzvYmp9pojH4MiVw_pkEF81aVFiEa6F-QfnQw2lwH6nYbEiBF&s=1)

42. The Gates Foundation announced another 5 billion dollars towards eradicating poverty and disease in Africa.

[http://www.africanews.com/…/bill-gates-to-invest-5-billion…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.africanews.com%2F2016%2F07%2F18%2Fbill-gates-to-invest-5-billion-dollars-in-africa%2F&h=4AQHZ7Dm_AQHzFZL2bZmHnAaRuUXPaBNJk9ufgsOUeCdv_g&enc=AZNBaAAr4_7ccXiodAFDjrkbhJb_4gwkCGE0v3pVtNSLDO4z8jr120rSIfU8Pg7XBzlvtjdP96QoYPeh908yOILYqEdaifsGkdrlIkLA62DeV1bIPQqUpJ_Sery5ZbZeUms--ROSu2e5FR_DxBvOSRQSMvnuJQ6ZgNfVyY1B0gKIk2dhcFFPdqGO2PBZknW3-OPkFCaJJOB0BEWqldZjvfam&s=1)

43. Individual Canadians were so welcoming that the country set a world standard for how to privately sponsor and resettle refugees.

[http://www.nytimes.com/…/americ…/canada-syrian-refugees.html](http://www.nytimes.com/2016/07/01/world/americas/canada-syrian-refugees.html)

44. Teenage birth rates in the United States have never been lower, while at the same time graduation rates have never been higher.

[http://www.pbs.org/…/teen-birthrate-reaches-all-time-low-c…/](http://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.pbs.org%2Fnewshour%2Fbb%2Fteen-birthrate-reaches-all-time-low-cdc-report-says%2F&h=bAQFdTHpTAQHV5C1W42RC_qKUr1Vey7v8ZZvNN1eCqc7IHg&enc=AZMN5WWw2IWvFHgTqIFhJiNRnvjSOWEbvqrmfDgzxZLASGZxSQGz9xFpKkhDWVj5fyJmH-dFwaSV_b8iyuet9il6XmpqMfR-FUw3tfQUIYKbA5EqKxrc0iwwvRl5UeJLN3IKD__FsjUVyL1sccC1QP--9nhULGnzpmsGfHLftPiha9ypvjnwqHFCj4LSbLdMpVxdSKvlYnFsJG_Tn56XAZLe&s=1)

45. SpaceX made history by landing a rocket upright after returning from space, potentially opening a new era of space exploration.

[https://www.wired.com/…/spacex-just-landed-rocket-ground-f…/](https://www.wired.com/2015/12/spacex-just-landed-rocket-ground-first-time/)

46. Finally - The Cubs won the World Series for the first time in 108 years, giving hope to Maple Leafs fans everywhere.

[http://www.nbcnews.com/…/chicago-cubs-bury-curse-first-worl…](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/sports/chicago-cubs-bury-curse-first-world-series-title-108-years-n677091)

There are countless more examples, big and small. If you refocus on the things that are working, your year will be better than the last.

Happy New Year, everyone.