

WEEKLY CURRENT AFFAIRS PROVIDED BY
ANUJJINDAL
FOR 2ND WEEK OF JANUARY 2018



INDIA CURRENT AFFAIRS:

- Central Government has announced that under Phase-I of BharatNet Project, one lakh gram panchayats have been provided with hi-speed broadband connectivity. BharatNet Project, formerly known as National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) was launched with an aim to deploy high-speed optical fibre cables across rural areas of India.
- Haryana has become the first state in the country to launch High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal Designed to track every high-risk pregnant woman till 42 days after delivery
- Film and Television Institute of India (FTII)- pune and arunachal Pradesh
- First Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in Delhi on the occasion of Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915. In the Conference, the biggest delegation was from Guyana with 20 members of parliament and three mayors held from 7-9 January every year
- India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer named 'Pratyush'
- Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched a common card for rides on public buses and the metro. Delhi is the first city in the country to have a common mobility card.
- MoU between India and Canada for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology
- India and Sri Lanka signed four agreements for collaboration in Information and communication technology (ICT)-
 - Sri Lanka became first country to be connected to NKN through Gigabyte (GB) optical fibre network. This will connect NKN to Lanka education & research network (LEARN) through which universities on both sides can share best practices and research ideas
- The 65th Meeting of the Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) was held under Chairmanship of Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar
 - Operation Digital Board will be launched in all schools in five years and will be undertaken jointly by Centre, State, Corporate Social Responsibility and community. It will improve quality of education. Under it, students will be empowered with 360 degree information with interesting learning experience And increased teacher accountability.
- The sub-committee of Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE) looking into issues of girl's education has recommended free and compulsory education for girls up to post-graduate level across the country

- Fixed term for Chairperson and Members of the National Trust for the Welfare of Person with Autism, Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disabilities Act, 1999 for three years.
- Karnataka topped all states with investment intentions of Rs. 1.49 lakh crore. The investment was 43 percent of the country's total investment intentions. Karnataka has topped in FDI inflows and has performed well in exports, contributing about 40 percent in electronics and software services.
- The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway (CR) has found its way into the Limca Book of Records for having an all-woman staff.
- The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has introduced a concept of 'Virtual ID' to further strengthen privacy and security of Aadhaar number holders. The Aadhaar number holder can use 'Virtual ID' in place of an Aadhaar number whenever authentication or KYC services are performed.
- Virtual ID
- The Virtual ID will be random 16-digit number that can be generated from UIDAI's website and give for various purposes, wherever Aadhaar number is necessary to provide. It will be linked with biometrics of user that will give any authorised agency limited access of details like name, address and photograph. Using it, Aadhaar-card holders do not need to share their actual 12-digit biometric ID for any authentication. User can generate as many Virtual IDs as they want. The older ID will get automatically cancelled at time new one is generated. It will be obligatory for all agencies that undertake authentication to accept Virtual ID from their users.
- Limited KYC
- It was introduced to address issue of storage of Aadhaar number within various databases. It will only provide need-based or limited details of user to authorised agency that is providing particular service. It will evaluate Authentication User Agencies (AUAs) and split them into two categories: Global AUAs and Local AUAs. Global AUAs will have access to full demographic details of an individual along with the ability to store Aadhaar numbers within their system. Remaining AUAs will be branded as Local AUAs and will neither get access to full KYC, nor can they store Aadhaar number on their systems. Instead, they will get tokenised number (UID Token) issued by UIDAI to identify their customers. It will be 72 character alphanumeric.
- The Ministry of Railways has launched Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI) App for Freight Managers which provides features for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System (GIS) Views and Dashboard. Both passenger and freight trains can be tracked over Zones/Divisions/ Sections in single GIS View.

- National Youth Festival (January 12th) – The Theme of the Festival is 'Sankalp Se Siddhi'.
 - Birth of Swami Vivekananda
- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its 42nd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
 - Its primary payload was the fourth satellite in the advanced remote sensing Cartosat-2 series.
- Bangladesh, India and Nepal agreed on text of operating procedures for passenger vehicle movement (Passenger protocol) in sub-region under Bangladesh- Bhutan-India-Nepal (BBIN) Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA)
- 7th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav (RSM) 2018 under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat programme was held in Bengaluru, Karnataka from January 14-20, 2018. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav aims to celebrate national integration and idea of unity in diversity of country.
- National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4) Delhi is richest state and Jain wealthiest community in the country
- Indian Navy has decommissioned INS Nirbhik and INS Nirghat warships at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai (Maharashtra), after a glorious 30 and 28 years
- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned Charlie-435, a state-of-the-art patrol vessel at Karaikal in the Union Territory of Puducherry
- The Supreme Court has ruled that playing national anthem before screening movies in cinema halls is optional and not mandatory. The ruling modifies apex court's earlier November 2016 order that made the playing of national anthem in cinemas mandatory.
- The Supreme Court has stayed Karnataka High Court order reducing size of pictorial warnings on packages of tobacco products to 40% of the package space from earlier 85%.
- The Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare is going to roll out National Programme for Control of Viral Hepatitis , a new scheme free treatment of Hepatitis C from the 2018-19 financial year.
- Mankidia tribe in Odisha has denied habitat rights inside core area of Similipal Tiger Reserve (STR) in Odisha under historic Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006. State Forest Department had objected their habitat rights on grounds that tribals could be attacked by wild animals, especially tigers

- Chhattisgarh High Court has issued a directive to all trial courts in the state to mandatorily obtain Aadhaar Cards of accused persons and sureties before issuing release warrant of a prisoner/accused.
- Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) has launched a month-long 'Saksham-2018' campaign. PCRA (established in 1978, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas) is engaged in promoting energy efficiency in various sectors of Indian economy.
 - Saksham (Sanrakshan Kshamta Mahotsav) is an annual flagship event of PCRA aimed at creating focused attention on fuel conservation through people, centric activities. Activities undertaken under Saksham also create awareness among masses about conservation and efficient use of petroleum products, which consequentially leads to better health and environment.
- People centric activities under Saksham 2018 would include Training Programs for Drivers, Fleet Operators, Group Talk with Ladies, Cooks, Maids on fuel saving & benefits of LPG/PNG over biomass, Fuel Efficient Driving Competitions, Educational Programs for Schools/Colleges/Universities, Awareness Programs for Farmers, Walkathons, Concerts, Exhibitions, etc.
- PCRA has also planned to observe Cycle Day on January 21, 2018 throughout India and will organise Cyclothon events in various cities.
- Bihar State Government has imposed a ban on manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, display and advertisement of electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) across the state.. The ban also applies to online sale and purchase of e-cigarettes which are handheld battery-run devices which are smoked just like a conventional cigarette.
- On January 1, 2018, Bhopal station has become the first railway station in the country to have Sanitary napkin Vending Machine.This machine has been named 'Happy Nari'

BANKING AND FINANCE:

New Rs 10 Note-

- Rs10 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has the motif of Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse, depicting the country's cultural heritage.
- base colour of the note is Chocolate Brown. The dimension of the banknote will be 63 mm x 123 mm.

Obverse (Front)

- See through register with denominational numeral 10,
- Denominational numeral 'Bharat' in Devnagari,
- Portrait of Mahatma Gandhi at the centre,
- Guarantee Clause, Governor's signature with Promise Clause and RBI emblem towards right of Mahatma Gandhi portrait,
- Ashoka Pillar emblem on the right,
- Mahatma Gandhi portrait and electrotype (10) watermarks,
- Number panel with numerals growing from small to big on the top left side and bottom right side.

Reverse (Back)

- Year of printing of the note on the left,
- Swachh Bharat logo with slogan,
- Language panel,
- Motif of Sun Temple, Konark,
- Denominational numeral in Devnagari.

- Direct Tax collections up to December 2017 show that net collections are at Rs. 6.56 lakh crore which is 18.2% higher than the net collections for the corresponding period of last year.
- Paytm has set up a new entity called Paytm Money Ltd that will offer investment and wealth management products and will invest close to \$10 million upfront in the new entity.

Amendments in FDI Policy-

- 100% FDI under automatic route for Single Brand Retail Trading.
- 100% FDI under automatic route in Construction Development.
- Foreign airlines allowed to invest up to 49% under approval route in Air India.
- FII/FPIs allowed to invest in Power Exchanges through primary market.
- Definition of 'medical devices' amended in the FDI Policy.
- Government approval no longer required for FDI in Single Brand Retail Trading (SBRT)

- Extant FDI policy on SBRT allows 49% FDI under automatic route, and FDI beyond 49% and up to 100% through Government approval route. It has now been decided to permit 100% FDI under automatic route for SBRT.

Civil Aviation

- As per the extant policy, foreign airlines are allowed to invest under Government approval route in the capital of Indian companies operating scheduled and non-scheduled air transport services, up to the limit of 49% of their paid-up capital. However, this provision was presently not applicable to Air India, thereby implying that foreign airlines could not invest in Air India. It has now been decided to do away with this restriction and allow foreign airlines to invest up to 49% under approval route in Air India.

Construction Development: Townships, Housing, Built-up Infrastructure and Real Estate Broking Services

- It has been decided to clarify that real-estate broking service does not amount to real estate business and is, therefore, eligible for 100% FDI under the automatic route.

Power Exchanges

- The extant policy provides for 49% FDI under automatic route in Power Exchanges registered under the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Power Market) Regulations, 2010. It has now been decided to do away with this provision, thereby allowing FII/FPIs to invest in Power Exchanges through the primary market as well.

- Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe has partnered mobile wallet company FreeCharge
- Punjab National Bank (PNB) and National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC) have tied up to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).

IMPORTANT-

- under the bank assisted schemes, families in rural areas with annual income of less than Rs 49000 would be considered Below Poverty Line (BPL). Similarly, families in urban areas with annual income of less than Rs 60000 would also be considered as BPL.
- He said under National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation assisted schemes, families in rural areas with annual income of less than Rs 90,000 and in urban areas with annual income less than Rs 1,20,000 would be considered below Double Poverty Line (DPL)

- World Bank has projected India's growth rate at 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 for the next two years
- IndusInd Bank to Introduce India's First Battery-Powered Interactive Payment Card
- Retail inflation crossed the RBI's comfort level and rose to 5.21 percent in December on rise in prices of food items, egg and vegetables, dashing hopes of interest rate cut in the near future.
- India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline.
- According to a study by Reserve Bank of India (RBI), housing loans in up to Rs. 2 lakh slab had the highest level of non-performing assets (NPAs). In last two financial years, public sector banks (PSBs) reported higher NPAs in Housing Loan segment as compared to housing finance companies (HFCs).

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WORLD CURRENT AFFAIRS:

Annual Haj Agreement:

- India- Saudi Arabia
- sending Haj pilgrims through sea route now allowed
- For the first time, Muslim women from India will go to Haj without “Mehram” (male companion)

- Capital and currency of Saudi Arabia to be covered in static portion

- World’s largest Ice Festival 'International Ice and Snow Festival' was held in Harbin, China.

- Peter Sutherland, the first Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), has passed away in Dublin, Ireland. He was 71.

- China became Nepal’s second internet service provider, breaking India’s monopoly in providing internet access to Nepal.

- The Hong Kong and Beijing based China Telecom Global (CTG) has teamed up with Nepal Telecom to provide alternate cyber-connectivity to Nepal.

- India has signed an MoU with the United Kingdom to enable the return of illegal Indian migrants within a month of their detection by authorities abroad.

- American and Japanese military forces have launched joint exercise named Iron Fist. The 13th annual Iron Fist exercises kicked off in the U.S. western state of California.

- China’s People’s Liberation Army- Navy has commissioned Rizhao, a new missile frigate, in a naval port in Dalian, China

- SpaceX has launched secret Zuma Mission for US government. It was launched on board of SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket from the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station in Florida, US

- Ecuador’s Foreign Minister Maria Fernanda Espinosa announced that the country has granted citizenship to WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

- Brazil’s securities regulator prohibited local investment funds from buying cryptocurrencies.

- Iran has banned English from being taught in primary schools across the country after its Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei said that teaching English will lead to Western cultural invasion.
- Sri Lanka has removed a 38-year long ban on selling alcohol to women and employing them in places where alcohol is produced and sold.
- Kazakhstan has surpassed Iraq as the biggest oil over-producer in the pact between Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and its allies to control oil output. Kazakhstan's oil output in November and December 2017 was nearly 1,30,000 barrels a day more than the target decided with OPEC.
- The annual survey of Gallup International has placed Prime Minister Narendra Modi at 3 rank among world leaders. The survey was conducted with people from 50 countries. The survey has ranked German chancellor Angela Merkel as number 1 world leader with a score of 21.

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SPORTS:

- Gilles Simon of France has lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy.
- Switzerland won their third Hopman Cup as Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic beat Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber in the deciding mixed doubles to secure a 2-1 victory in the final at the Perth Arena

New Khelo India logo-

- conveys an impression of fitness and competitiveness. The three-stroke Khelo India logo, designed by Ogilvy India
- Elina Svitolina secured her first WTA title in Australia with a straight-sets victory in the Brisbane International final
- Aditya Mehta won the Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship in the capital city of West Bengal Kolkata.
- Aanchal Thakur made history as she won India's first ever international medal in skiing (Federation Internationale de Ski (skiing's international governing body) in Erzurum, Turkey)

AWARDS:

The 75th Golden Globe Award held in Los Angeles, USA

- Best motion picture, drama: Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.
- Best motion picture, musical or comedy: Lady Bird.
- Best director, motion picture: Guillermo del Toro, "The Shape of Water".
- Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, drama: Frances McDormand.
- Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, drama: Gary Oldman.
- Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, musical or comedy: Saoirse Ronan.
- Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, musical or comedy: James Franco.
- Best motion picture, animated: Coco
- Best motion picture, foreign language: In the Fade
- Best television series, drama: The Handmaid's Tale, Hulu
- Best performance by an actress in a television series, drama: Elisabeth Moss.
- Best performance by an actor in a television series, drama: Sterling K. Brown.

- Music composer A R Rahman became the brand ambassador of Sikkim
- Sudhir Dalvi was presented the Janakavi P Sawlaram award at a function in Thane, Maharashtra.
- Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has approved appointment of Vijay Kumar as Managing Director and CEO of National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Limited (NCDEX).
- On 14th January 2018, Assam Hockey won the 8th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018 (B Division), at Hojai Hockey stadium, in Assam.
- Hyderabad Hunters won the 3rd edition of the Premier Badminton League championship at Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, in Hyderabad.
- Jeff Bezos, founder and CEO of Amazon has become the richest man in the history, overtaking the wealth Bill Gates ever had to his name, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. The Index showed that Bezos' net worth had hit USD 105.1 billion.

APPOINTMENTS:

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Dilip Asbe as Managing Director and CEO of the organisation.
- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018.
- Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD).
- Sivan K was appointed as the 9th chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He has replaced A.S. Kiran Kumar.
- V J Mathew was appointed Maritime Board Chairman

- Anil Khanna was named Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association,
- Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar has agreed to partner with the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) to promote cleanliness in Mumbai as part of the Swachh Survekshan 2018
- Parle Agro has named Allu Arjun, Telegu actor, as brand ambassador for its key brand Frooti.
- Nawab Sanaullah Zehri, Chief Minister of Balochistan, resigned before a no-confidence motion was taken against him in the provincial assembly. Nawab Sanaullah Zehri's resignation was accepted by Balochistan Governor Mohammad Khan Achakzai.
- Retired Justice Shiv Narayan Dhingra has been appointed as head of a new committee to re- investigate 186 closed cases related to the 1984 anti-Sikh riots.
- The Election Commission (EC) has constituted 14 member committee headed by Umesh Sinha to suggest changes to Section 126 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (RP Act) in view of social media expansion
- The Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) had constituted inter-ministerial committee to frame guidelines on playing national anthem in cinemas and other public places. It is headed by BR Sharma, Additional Secretary (Border Management) under Union Ministry of Home Affairs and has representatives from various ministries. The committee is mandated to frame guidelines describing circumstances and occasion on which national anthem is to be played or sung. It will recommend observance of proper decorum when national anthem is played or sung. It will submit its report within six months.
- Actress Kajol has become an advocacy ambassador for Swachh Aaad Swachh Bharat initiative. Kajol has been an active supporter of eradicating preventable deaths from hygiene-related issues.
- the Supreme Court collegiums recommended Indu Malhotra as the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of Supreme Court.

ACQUISITIONS:

- Norwegian fertiliser giant Yara International has announced completion of its acquisition of Tata Chemicals' 1.2 million tonnes per annum production capacity urea plant at Babrala in Uttar Pradesh
- International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member institution of the World Bank Group will provide \$440 million debt to Mahindra Renewables Pvt. Ltd, Acme Group and global private equity fund Actis Llp to build the Rewa solar park in Madhya Pradesh.

COMPANIES:

- IndiGo airlines of India, has been named the fourth most punctual 'mega carrier' in the world, in OAG's list of the world's most punctual 'mega carriers'. The Punctuality League 2018 was an annual review conducted by OAG.

BOOKS:

- Sanjay Manjrekar launched his autobiography named 'Imperfect', in Mumbai. The book 'Imperfect' was released by Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar's first international captain. The book was published by Harper Collins.

