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# Current

# Affairs



## Capsule – Jan (1-17)

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## BANKING & BUSINESS

- **RBI** will shortly introduces a new **Rs 10 Banknote** in **Mahatma Gandhi Series**. The new Rs 10 note is **chocolate brown in colour**, and it will bear the signature of **RBI Governor Urjit Patel**. The back of the note features motif of **Sun Temple in Konark**, 'depicting the country's cultural heritage'. Dimensions of the note are **63mm x 123mm**, as opposed to the older notes 63mm x 137mm.
- **Public sector IDBI Bank** has received the **capital infusion of Rs 2,729 crore** from the government of India. It helps to include re-capitalisation bonds, budgetary support, and equity dilution.
- **State Bank of India** and **NABARD** have signed an agreement with **five NGOs in Bengal** for the promotion of **2,500 joint liability groups (JLGs)**.
- **The Customers will not have to pay any transaction charges** for payments through debit card, BHIM app and other **payment made for up to Rs 2,000**.
- HSBC expects India's' growth at around **6.5% in 2017-18, 7.0% in 2018-19** and **7.6% in 2019-20**, respectively.
- **HDFC Bank** has announced a partnership with **Rajasthan Government to promote startups in the state**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has initiated **Prompt Corrective Action (PCA)** against public sector lender **Allahabad Bank**.

The bank has high **net Non-Performing Assets (NPAs)** and **negative Return on Assets (RoA)** for two consecutive years. The recently added banks under PCA are BoI, IOB, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, OBC, Dena Bank, Central Bank, IDBI Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.

- **The Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB)** has operationalized its first desktop ATM **in Telangana**. The mini-ATM within the branch premises will facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts.
- The Government of India has announced the launch of **7.75% Savings (Taxable) Bonds, 2018**, commencing from January 10, 2018. It enables resident citizens and Hindu Undivided Family (HUF) to invest in a taxable bond, without any monetary ceiling. These bonds with **seven-year maturity** will open for subscription from the 10th of this month. The bonds will be issued in **Demat form only**. The **minimum investment** is **Rs 1,000** and in multiples thereof.
- The Indian economy is expected to decelerate to **6.5% in 2017-18 from 7.1% in the previous year**, because of demonetization and goods and services tax (GST) released by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)**.
- The **Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Limited (TIHCL)** has secured the RBI approval for becoming a **Non-Banking Finance Company (NBFC)**. It had won the **SKOCH Platinum Award in September**

**2017** under the smart governance category in the MSME segment.

➤ **Paytm Payments Bank** has partnered with **IndusInd Bank** to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit when the customer balance exceeds **Rs 1 lakh at the end of day**. They can also earn up to **6.85 percent annual interest**.

➤ India's largest lender State Bank of India plans to raise **up to USD 2 billion (over Rs 12,600 crore)** by issuing bonds in US dollar or other convertible currency.

➤ **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has tied up with **National Scheduled Castes Finance and Development Corporation (NSFDC)**. The agreement is to provide financial assistance for economic empowerment of persons belonging to Scheduled Caste (SC) families living below Double Poverty Line (DPL).

➤ The World Bank has upgraded India's estimated GDP growth this fiscal year to **6.7% instead of the 6.5%** estimate by the Indian government. **In 2018-19**, it will rise to **7.3%**, making India the world's fastest growing economy again. It also projected India's growth rate at **7.5 % for next two years**.

➤ **Ola**, the taxi hailing app has tied up with **ICICI Bank** to provide a range of integrated offers, **including micro-credit to their customers and digital payment facilities to driver partners** respectively.

➤ **Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe** has partnered with mobile wallet

company **FreeCharge** to allow the FreeCharge customers to pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.

➤ **Ministry of housing and urban affairs** and **Allahabad Bank** has signed a memorandum of understanding to provide a centralised platform for processing interest subsidy under **Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Urban Livelihood Mission**.

➤ According to Bloomberg's billionaire tracker, **Amazon's** Chief Operating officer **Jeff Bezos** is now the richest person in history with net worth more than **Bill Gates**. He has net worth of **\$105.1 billion** and surpassed Bill Gates with net worth of \$93.3 billion.

➤ **One97 Communications Ltd**, that runs Paytm, has set up a new entity called **Paytm Money Ltd**. The new company will be headed by **Pravin Jadhav** as senior vice-president.

➤ **Amazon India** has partnered with **LoomWorld** to offer handwoven products from Tamil Nadu on Amazons platform. To promote goods produced by the 800 Weavers' Cooperative Societies.

➤ **Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd** plans to create its own **cryptocurrency, JioCoin**. Mukesh Ambani's elder son **Akash Ambani** leads the **JioCoin project**.

➤ **IndusInd Bank** and **Dynamics Inc** plans to introduce the **first battery-powered, interactive payment cards** in the Indian market in 2018. It has multiple buttons that let the

consumer use a single card to pay in multiple ways.

➤ The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** has listed **Indian Railways Finance Corporation's (IRFC)** first green bond on its global securities market. According to India Inx, **the 10 year \$500 million worth bonds** issued by IRFC is one of the highest credit rated bonds issued by an Indian corporate.

➤ India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored **Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)** with **\$1.5 billion** worth of loans in 2017. Next to India, **Indonesia** has emerged as the **second largest borrower** with about **\$600 million** loans.

➤ The **World Economic Forum (WEF)** has ranked **India** at **30th position** on a **Global Manufacturing Index**, below China's 5th place but above other BRICS peers, Brazil (41<sup>st</sup>) Russia (35<sup>th</sup>) and South Africa (45<sup>th</sup>). **Japan** has been found to have the best structure of production in the Geneva-based WEF's first '**Readiness for the future of production report**'. **India** has been placed in the '**Legacy**' group. China figures among 'leading countries', while Brazil and South Africa are in 'nascent' ones.

➤ Regulator SEBI has allowed **India Pepper and Spice Trade Association (IPSTA)** and **Rajkot Commodity Exchange (RCX)** to cease operations.

➤ **Federal Bank** has entered into a strategic partnership with **Hedge Equities Ltd** for **providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS)** services to **NRIs**.

➤ The boards of the **IDFC Bank Ltd.** and **Capital First Ltd.**, approved a merger between themselves. The merged entity will have a **diversified portfolio** across large corporate lending, small and medium enterprise (SME) loans and retail credit.

➤ According to wealth index released on basis of data from fourth round of **National Family and Health Survey (NFHS-4)** recently released by the Ministry Of Health And Family Welfare. **Delhi** and Punjab are the richest state and **Jain** wealthiest community in the country. **Bihar** is poorest state half of its households in the bottom quintile **Rajasthan** has most equitable wealth distribution with a similar number of households in all quintiles.

➤ Tata Consultancy Services has signed a **\$690-million (Rs 4,400-crore), 10-year** deal with **M&G Prudential**, the UK and European savings and investments business unit of Prudential.

## NATIONAL

➤ The **26th edition of New Delhi World Book Fair** is all set to begin in **New Delhi**. It is organized by the **National Book Trust (NBT)**, India, in association with **India Trade Promotion Organization (ITPO)**. Theme: "Environment and Climate Change".

➤ Women and Child Development Minister **Maneka Gandhi** inaugurates an online portal **"NARI" for the empowerment of women** in New Delhi. It is developed by the Ministry and the portal will provide women **with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women.**

➤ The Rajya Sabha passed the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017** which aims to reduce the crisis of **looming bad loans in the banking sector.** It bars persons from misusing the provisions of the Code.

➤ **Ms. Preeti Sudan, Secretary,** Health and Family Welfare launched the **Allied and Healthcare Professionals' database a2hp.mohfw.gov.in portal.** The ministry aims to ensure better systems and frameworks for the healthcare workforce of the country.

➤ The Centre released the **contours of the 'Electoral Bonds' scheme,** which seeks to ensure the **flow of clean money to political parties.** It is a **financial instrument** for making donations to political parties. Electoral bond was announced in the Union Budget 2017-18. It can be purchased for any value in multiples of **Rs1,000; Rs10,000; Rs1 lakh; Rs10 lakh; and Rs1 crore.**

➤ **National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)** has approved **five projects worth Rs. 295.01 crore.** Three projects related to sewage management in **West Bengal** (Rs 278.6 crore), **Uttarakhand** (Rs 4.68 crore) and **Uttar Pradesh** (Rs 11.73 crore).

➤ **Smt Preeti Sudan,** Secretary of Health and Family Welfare has launched the **country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series.** It is designed by the **Tata Memorial Center** in collaboration with the **Health Ministry.**

➤ Defence Ministry has cleared contracts worth **2,420 crore rupees for Navy and Army** which includes the procurement of **P-8I Training Solution and Low Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS).**

➤ The **Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA)** and **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** signed an agreement for the **training the employees of the IPPB** in the area of payment banking.

➤ **Indian Railways, HRD and S&T Ministry** inks MoU on **Technology Mission.** The funding component of the **railways ministry is 30 percent,** the **HRD ministry is 25 per cent** and the **Department of Science and Technology (DST) 25 per cent.** This Mission will take up **research and development projects** in the areas of heavy haul, safety, energy, environment and urban railways. It is headed by **Prof. NS Vyas** of IIT Kanpur as **Chairman** and **Alok Kumar** as **Co-chairman.**

➤ **Film actor Akshay Kumar** has partnered with the **Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)** to promote cleanliness in Mumbai as part of the **Swachh Survekshan 2018.**

➤ The Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports, **Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore** launched the simple yet vibrant Khelo India logo at the **Nehru Stadium in New Delhi**. The three-stroke Khelo India logo was designed by **Ogilvy India**. He also inaugurated the anthem "Aurkhehnachahtehain hum...Khel mein hi mastihai...khel se abaadhonge hum" composed by **Louis Bank** and the film has been produced by Nirvana Films.

➤ **The Union Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman** has announced the release of **Rs. 20 crore** to the **Coimbatore District Small Industries' Association (Codissia)**. It has been released for setting up a Defence Innovation Centre **in Coimbatore**.

➤ Indian navy inked a pact with **Cochin port trust** for utilising the Port berthing facility at **Mattancherry wharf for Naval ships**. It aims to increase the berthing capacity of naval ships in Kochi.

➤ Union Minister of Earth Sciences **Dr Harsh Vardhan** dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer '**Pratyush**' (Sun) to the nation at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), **Pune**.

➤ Union Government sets up **second Film and Television Institute (FTII)** in **Arunachal Pradesh** announced by Union Minister of Development of North Eastern Region **Jitendra Singh**. The **first FTII** was set up in **Pune**.

➤ **The Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA)** **Ananth Kumar** proposed

rolling out of **e-Sansad** in Parliament and **e-Vidhan** in State Legislatures. It is established under "**Digital India**" to make the functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures paperless.

➤ Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurates the **first Persons of Indian Origin (PIO)** Parliamentary Conference in the '**Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra**'. It marks the contribution of overseas persons of Indian origin (PIO) towards their homeland.

➤ **Delhi** Chief Minister **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**, which can at present be used on 200 DTC and 50 cluster buses plying on different routes. The card, which will function like a debit card, will be operational **from April 1, 2018**.

➤ Government has extended the deadline for **linking of biometric identification Aadhaar to small savings schemes** like post office deposits, Kisan Vikas Patra by three months to **March 31, 2018**.

➤ **Gujarat** has topped the **logistics index chart**, according to a Report released by **Union Minister for Commerce & Industry**. Among 22 states, **Gujarat is followed by Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra** on the index. Among the Union Territories, **Daman & Diu** occupied the top slot followed by Delhi and Chandigarh.

➤ Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO), the research arm of Ministry of Railways, has launched "**New Online Vendor Registration System**". Research Designs & Standards Organization (RDSO) is **headquartered in Lucknow**.

➤ Prime Minister would announce construction of a refinery at **Barmer in Rajasthan**. The project will be completed by **2022-23**. The equity share of **HPCL is 74%** and Government of **Rajasthan is 26%**.

➤ **President Ram Nath Kovind** to inaugurate 4th International Dharma-Dhamma Conference on the **theme "State and Social Order in Dharma-Dhamma Traditions"** at Rajgir in Nalanda district, **Bihar**.

➤ **The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has introduced a concept of '**Virtual ID**'. It aims to strengthen privacy and security of Aadhaar number. The Virtual ID will be a **temporary 16 digit** random number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number. **From June 1, 2018** it will be compulsory for all agencies that undertake authentication to accept the Virtual ID from their users.

➤ **Indian space agency ISRO** launched its **100th satellite** along with 30 others in a single mission. Thirty-one spacecraft's, including **weather observation Cartosat-2 series satellite** were launched by PSLV-C40. Out of the **31, 28 satellites are foreign, while three are from India**.

➤ The **4th Annual Women Leadership Summit** will be held at **IIM-Bangalore**. It is

organized by the student-run **Women in Management Club (WIM)** of IIM-Bangalore. The theme for 2018 is '**Redefining Power for a Newer Tomorrow**'.

➤ The ASEAN Ministers of Agriculture and Forestry and the Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Government of India, held our **Fourth ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry (AIMMAF)** in New Delhi, India. The 5th ASEAN-India Ministerial Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry to be held in **Brunei Darussalam in 2019**.

➤ The **seventh edition** of the **Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav**, under the Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat matrix, begins in **Karnataka**. The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture. The state paired with Karnataka is **Uttarakhand**.

➤ **Ministry of Railways** have launched **Smart Freight Operation Optimisation & Real Time Information (SFOORTI)** App for Freight Managers. With this application, movement of freight trains on **Geographic Information System (GIS)** view can be tracked. Both passenger and freight trains can be tracked over through this application.

➤ **Australia India Youth Dialogue (AIYD)** is a youth-led dialogue between the young and emerging leaders of both countries. The seventh edition of Australia India Youth Dialogue with 2018 theme "**DIGITAL**



**DISRUPTION**". AIYD 2018 will be hosted in **Mumbai and Delhi** from 21-24 January.

➤ Union Home Minister, **Shri Rajnath Singh** will inaugurate a two-day **International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR)** in New Delhi. This workshop **aims** to take this dialogue on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and global cooperation further.

➤ External Affairs Minister (EAM) **Sushma Swaraj** and Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs **Lyonpo Damcho Dorji** jointly unveiled the '**Special logo**' for the Golden Jubilee celebrations in New Delhi and Thimphu through video-conference.

➤ The Country's exports grew by **12.36 per cent** in December, 2017 to **27.03 billion US dollars** on account of strong performance by sectors like engineering goods and petroleum products. According to data released by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**, Exports of engineering goods as well as petroleum products showed an increase of over **25 per cent in December**.

➤ **Centre and Jammu and Kashmir** Government have resolved to use education as a tool **to bring normalcy to the state**. The Central and State Governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the **65th Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE)** meeting in New Delhi. The **roadmap** will be **implemented in three years** with the goal of bringing a major

improvement in **learning levels of students by 2020**.

➤ Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and his Israeli counterpart **Benjamin Netanyahu** launched the maiden call for joint R&D projects under the '**India-Israel Industrial R&D and Technological Innovation Fund (I4F)**' during the India-Israel Business Summit in New Delhi. Under this, the Department of Science and Technology, India and the National Innovation Authority of Israel have established a **40 million US dollar Fund**.

➤ **West Bengal** has the **highest number of MSMEs** in the country. **Uttar Pradesh** ranked **second**, followed by **Maharashtra**. West Bengal also tops the list of the **Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion's Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) 2017**. In 2017, West Bengal also recorded the **biggest bank credit flow to the MSME sector** in the **last five years at USD 15 billion**.

➤ The Centre has sanctioned projects over **10,000 crore rupees** in the **North East** for better network connectivity.

➤ Ministry of **Petroleum and Natural Gas** has been launched '**Saksham 2018**'. It is a vigorous and high intensity one-month mega campaign of **Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA)**. PCRA plans to **observe Cycle Day on 21st January** throughout the country.

➤ **'Vajra Prahar'** will be held at **Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle.**

'Vajra Prahar' is an Indo-US Special Forces joint training exercise conducted alternately in India and the US.

➤ President Ram Nath Kovind will confer the **Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowships and Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards for 2016** to an eminent group of musicians, dancers, and theatre artists at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

### STATES IN NEWS

➤ **Andhra Pradesh** government plans to introduce **'Bhoodhar card'** for a digital record of each individual's land holdings with a **particular number.**

➤ **Arunachal Pradesh** emerged as the second State in the Northeast, after Sikkim, to be declared **Open Defecation Free.** Arunachal has 21 districts and the national deadline for OPF is October 2, 2019.

➤ **Union Minister Nitin Gadkari** announced that **Rs. 1,250 crore** has been sanctioned for overall **development of inland water transport of Assam.**

➤ The first part draft of the **National Register of Citizens (NRC)** for Assam recognizes **19 million people** out of a total 32.9 million applicants recognized as Indian citizens. NRC was released by **Registrar General of India Sailesh.**

➤ **Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar** visited Rohtas and Bhojpur districts of

the state as part of his state-wide **'Vikas Samiksha Yatra'.**

➤ **Goa** will be hosting the third edition of the **Science Film Festival of India.** The festival, titled **SCI-FFI Goa**, is being organised by the state-based Vidnyan Parishad, Goa's Department of Science and Technology, the Entertainment Society of Goa and the Goa College of Art.

➤ **The Animal Husbandry department** of the Gujarat state government has banned all voluntary animal care and non-government organisations working under the **'Karuna Abhiyan'** to operate in residential areas during the **Uttarayan festival.**

➤ **The Haryana government** has launched **'Bhavantar Bharpayee Yojana'**, assuring farmers of fair prices for their produce and emphasising on diversification of crops.

➤ The Haryana state government set to implement the **integrated solar based micro irrigation scheme (ISBMI)** in all districts of the State. A committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of **Haryana Renewable Energy Development Agency (HAREDA)** chairman.

➤ Haryana becomes the first state in the country to launch **High Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal.**

➤ **Karnataka** has received the approval for **purchase of electric vehicles** from the Department of Heavy Industries of the Union Government under **FAME India Scheme.**  
**FAME-India: Faster Adoption and**

**Manufacturing of Hybrid & Electric Vehicles** in India (FAME-India) India scheme. It aims to protect the environment, save fossil fuel, ensure public health and achieve sustainability goals.

➤ The Karnataka government announced that '**Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE)** will be held from February 28. It aims **to improve the State's visibility in the tourism market.**

➤ **Canal-top solar plant** to be commissioned in **Kochi Airport**. The project is one of the **larger canal-top projects in the country** and was built for **CIAL by Bosch Energy and Building Solutions**, part of Bosch India, for **6.25 crore a MW**.

➤ Government introduces a **scheme worth Rs. 100 crore** to ensure better facilities for the tourists visiting the state announced by **Madhya Pradesh Tourism Minister Surendra Patwa**.

➤ According to the **Maharashtra Government Resolution (GR)** issued by the urban development, the state govt has announced a sport fine of **Rs. 500 for open defecation**.

➤ **The Matunga suburban station** on the Central Railway (CR) entered **Limca Book of Records** for having an **all-woman staff**. Matunga is a railway station on the Central line of the **Mumbai Suburban Railway network**.

➤ **Johnson and Johnson** partners with **Maharashtra Govt on health interventions**. Maharashtra's mine workers who face an

increased **risk of tuberculosis** will be part of awareness programmes. It will organize skill development programmes for nurses, along with activities including training **to provide care to infants** in nine districts.

➤ **Meghalaya** signed the **Host City Contract** with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** for hosting the **39th National Games in 2022**.

➤ The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (**NABARD**) has provided financial assistance of **Rs 10,000 crore to Odisha**. Under this **Rs 372.51 crore** loan assistance has been sanctioned.

➤ **Music composer AR Rahman** became the **brand ambassador of Sikkim**. The declaration was made by **Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling**. It was announced during an inauguration of the 11-day Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival at **Palzor Stadium in Gangtok**.

➤ The **Punjab government** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Oil Corporation** to set up **bio-gas and bio-CNG plants** in the state.

➤ The fourth edition of the Tamil Nadu **International Balloon Festival** will be held in **Pollachi near Coimbatore**.

➤ **Boeing** will set up a training facility for its **P-8I warfare aircraft** at the naval air station **INS Rajali, near Arakkonam** in Tamil Nadu.

➤ The Telangana government launched **24x7 power supply** to the state's **2.3 million farmers free of cost**. The free power supply scheme was launched at **Pothaipalli village** in Medchal Malkajgiri district of Telangana.

➤ State-owned gas utility **GAIL India Ltd** has commissioned the **country's second largest** rooftop solar power plant in **Uttar Pradesh**.

➤ **The West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** inaugurated its own State symbol. The logo highlights the **Ashoka emblem** on the top with the theme of "**Biswa Bangla**" at the centre.

## INTERNATIONAL

➤ **Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** introduced the **Value Added Tax (VAT)** for the first time. It is a **five percent tax** on most goods and services to boost revenue.

➤ **Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands** formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the **United Nations Security Council**. Recently, **six countries left** the UN Security Council. The countries are Egypt, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay.

➤ Iceland has stepped up for equality and has become the first country in the world to **legalise equal pay**. The country aims to

**eradicate gender pay inequality by the year 2022.**

➤ India cancelled a **\$500-million deal** to develop Spike anti-tank guided missiles with **Israel**.

➤ Israel has filed notice to withdraw from the **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** alongside **the United States**. Israel was the member of UNESCO since 1949. Both Israel and the US have filed its own withdrawal notice in October 2017.

➤ The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has approved the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between **India and Israel on cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector**. It is expected to boost India - Israel ties in the energy sector.

➤ The Cabinet has approved the Agreement between India and Myanmar on **Land Border Crossing**. The Agreement would give a boost to the economy of the north-east region.

➤ India has excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries with which it will be connecting its state-of-the art **National Knowledge Network (NKN)** for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.

➤ **Pakistan's central bank** has allowed the **Chinese yuan or Renminbi** to be used for bilateral trade and investment activities. It

would replace the US dollar for transactions in the strategic CPEC projects.

➤ **India and Pakistan** exchanged the **list of nuclear installations and facilities** through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad under a three-decade old bilateral pact.

➤ **Saudi Arabia** approved India's plan to allow **Haj pilgrims** to travel via sea route to **Jeddah**.

➤ **Nepal has banned solo climbers** from scaling its mountains, **including Mount Everest**, in a bid to reduce accidents.

➤ The Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018 begins at **Kathmandu, Nepal**. The President of Nepal **Bidya Devi Bhandari** inaugurated the exhibition.

➤ The government approved a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) **between India and UK to improve public transport** in the country under the **Greater London Authority Act, 1999 (UK)**.

➤ Engineering major **Larsen & Toubro** has commissioned the **360 MW Bheramara power plant in Bangladesh**.

➤ The **world's largest solar-thermal power plant** has been given development approval by the **South Australian** government. It is a 150-megawatt Aurora plant and it will be built by utility-scale **solar power company Solar Reserve**. It will be started in 2018 at an estimated cost of **\$509 million**.

➤ **South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI)** signed a memorandum of understanding for co-operation between industries. It mainly focuses on automobile, defence and textiles sectors.

➤ 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.

➤ The **5th Bilateral Technical Meeting** on cooperation in the field of Traditional Systems of Medicine between **Government of India and Malaysia** was held at New Delhi.

➤ **India** gives a financial assistance of **Rs.288 crore** (USD 45.27 million) for **Kankesanthurai (KKS) Harbour**. It is to transform northern Sri Lanka into a commercial port and strengthening the country's efforts to become a regional maritime hub.

➤ **UN Environment** and the **World Health Organization** have agreed a new, wide-ranging collaboration. It is to accelerate action **to curb environmental health risks** that cause an estimated 12.6 million deaths a year.

➤ **American and Japanese military forces** have launched **joint exercises "Iron Fist"**. The 13th annual Iron Fist exercises begins in the **U.S. western state of California**.

➤ To upgrade strategic partnership **India and Israel** inked **nine**

**pacts** in key areas. They are including **cyber security, energy cooperation, Air Transport Agreement**, Letter of Intent between **IOCL and Phinergy Ltd** for cooperation in the area of metal-air batteries, **Film coproduction**, MoU between central council for Research in Homeopathy, Ministry of AYUSH & the centre **for integrative complementary medicine** (Israel), **Space science, Investment**, Letter of Intent between IOCL and Yeda Research and Development co ltd **to concentrate on Solar Thermal Technologies.**

➤ **India** has contributed **\$50,000** to **UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's** Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals. The Youth Envoy's mission is **to promote the engagement of youth and advocate** for them across all the **four pillars of the UN's work** – sustainable development, human rights, peace and security and humanitarian action.

➤ **India and Sri Lanka** signed **four agreements** for collaboration in **ICT sector**, setting up of **e-office system** and connecting of **National Knowledge network (NKN)** for collaboration among universities and academics. Sri Lanka has become the **first country** to be connected to NKN through a **Gigabyte 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 bridge in **Akoka village** in the northern part of the land-locked country in East-Central Africa had been inoperable since last June when heavy rains washed away a 300-metre-long road segment. Rebuilt in record 10 days by the **UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)** in collaboration with the government, it has greatly benefited humanitarians, enabling faster aid delivery as well as security patrol and outreach activities by the Mission.

## APPOINTMENTS

S.NO	DESIGNATION	INCUMBENT
1.	New Chief secretary of Rajasthan	Senior IAS officer N C Goel
2.	Next Foreign Secretary	Vijay Keshav Gokhale
3.	M D of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL)	Pankaj Jain
4.	CEO of Infosys	Salil Parekh
5.	New Prime Minister of Mali	Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga
6.	Deputy National Security Adviser of RAW	Rajinder Khanna
7.	MD & CEO of National Payments Corporation of India	Dilip Asbe

	(NPCI)	
8.	New Chairman of Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)	K Sivan
9.	Chef de Mission for 23rd Winter Olympics Games in Pyeongchang	Harjinder Singh
10.	Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)	Sunny Verghese
11.	First woman lawyer directly promoted as SC Judge	Indu Malhotra
12.	Chairman of Kerala State Maritime Development Corporation. LTD.	VJ Mathew
13.	Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association.	Anil Khanna

➤ Brazilian World Cup winner - **Ronaldinho** (Football)

**AWARDS**

S.N O	NAME OF THE AWARD	CATEGORY	WINNER
1.	Samudra Manthan Award 2017	"Caring Organization of the Year"	Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust
2.	Best Central Governor of Asia Pacific 2018	Makeover of Singapore's financial system	Ravi Menon (Managing Director of Singapore's central bank)
3.	75th Golden Globe Award 2018	"Best Motion Picture, drama"	Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
4.	France's 'Legion of Honour'	Note: France is the focal theme country of the international Kolkata Book fair 2018.	Soumitra Chattopadhyay

**RESIGNMENT**

➤ Romania's Prime Minister - **Mihai Tudose** (Social Democrat Party (SPD)).

**RETIREMENT**

5.	Janakavi P Sawlara m award	Actor Sudhir Dalvi
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### BOOK & AUTHOR

- Sanjay Manjrekar launched his autobiography '**Imperfect**', in the event held in Mumbai. The book was published by **Harper Collins**, a global publishing company.

### SPORTS

- Indian golfer **Shiv Kapur** won the **Royal Cup** at Pattaya, which is his third Asian Tour title of 2017. Kapur first won on Asian Tour in his debut season in December 2005.
- **Vidarbha** won the **Ranji Trophy** title for the first time by defeating Delhi in nine wickets. The event held at Holkar Stadium in **Indore**. **Rajneesh Gurbani** was declared player of the Match.
- **G Sathiyam** (49<sup>th</sup>) has become **India's highest - ranked player** in the latest **International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings**. He surpasses **Sharath Kamal** (51<sup>st</sup>). As for the women, **Manika Batra** (62<sup>nd</sup>) is topping the world chart among **Indians**, while **Mouma Das** (74<sup>th</sup>) and **Madhurika Patkar** (81<sup>st</sup>).
- **Liverpool and Egypt striker Mohamed Salah** was named **Arab Player of the Year for 2017**. Syrian winners **Omar Khribin** and

**Omar Al- Soma** is at second and **third spot** respectively.

#### ➤ **Brisbane International 2018:**

- Women's Singles Winner: **Elina Svitolina** (Ukraine)
- Men's Single Winner: **Nick Kyrgios** (Australia)
- Men's Doubles winner: **Henri Kontinen and John Peers**.
- Women's Doubles winner: **Kiki Bertens and Demi Schuurs**.
- It was held in **Brisbane, Queensland, Australia**

➤ **Gilles Simon of France** has clinched the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy. The event held at **Balewadi Sports Complex in Pune**.

➤ **Switzerland** won their Third Hopman Cup as **Roger Federer** and **Belinda Bencic** by defeating Germany's Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber.

➤ **Australia** beat England by innings and 123 runs in **Ashes Test Series**. The player of the series is **Steve Smith, Captain of Australian Team**.

➤ The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), has suspended Indian all-rounder **Yusuf Pathan for 5 months on doping violation**.

➤ India's swing bowler **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** has jumped eight places to **22<sup>nd</sup> rank in the latest ICC ranking**. In the rankings for the Test batsmen, **Australia's Steve Smith** remains in **first position**. India



skipper **Virat Kohli** moved to **third spot** from second. England counterpart **Joe Root** is in **second rank**. India continued to be the **top-ranked Test team with 124 points**. They are followed by South Africa (111 points), Australia (104 points), New Zealand (100 points) and England (99 points).

➤ **Aanchal Thakur** wins bronze medal in **Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup in Erzurum, Turkey**. She is the **first Indian** to win a medal at an international skiing event.

➤ **Aditya Mehta** clinched the **Kolkata Open International Invitation Snooker Championship** by defeating **Alfie Burden** at the Hindustan Club in Kolkata, **West Bengal**.

➤ **China's national marathon champion and Olympian Wang Jiali** has been banned for **eight years** after failing a drugs test.

➤ South African player **Kagiso Rabada** has recently become the **top-ranked bowler** in Test cricket. He is the **youngest bowler** ever to top the **ICC Test rankings** for bowlers.

➤ Former world **silver-medallist Sarjubala Devi (48kg)**, representing Manipur, claimed the gold National Women's Boxing Championships. She also clinched the **best boxer trophy** in the National Women's Boxing Championships. The event was held in **Rohtak, Haryana**. Former world and Asian champion L Sarita Devi (60kg), representing the All India Police (AIP) clinched gold medal.

➤ In Melbourne, the 25-year old Indian **Yuki Bhambri** overcame Canadian

Peter Polansky and has qualified for the Australian Open tennis tournament.

➤ **Indian boxers** have claimed **11 gold medals** and both the team championship trophies in the **Nation's Cup tournament for junior and youth women in Sombor, Serbia**. The **junior team** won 13 medals, nine gold, two silver and two bronze medals, while the **youth team** clinched four medals 3 gold (60, 64 and 81 kilogram) and one bronze (54 kilogram).

➤ **Hyderabad Hunters** overcame a fighting **Bengaluru Blasters** in a thrilling summit clash to claim their maiden title at the **third Premier Badminton League (PBL)** at the Gachibowli Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad.

➤ Hosts **Assam Hockey** rallied back in the first half to beat **Hockey Rajasthan** in the final of the **8th Hockey India Sub Junior Men National Championship 2018** (B Division), at the Hojai Hockey stadium, Assam.

### IMPORTANT EVENTS OF THE DAY

➤ **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas or NRI day** is observed on **January 9** every year.

➤ **World Laughter Day** is observed **January 10**.

➤ **National youth day (Yuva Diwas or Swami Vivekananda Birthday)** 2018 will be celebrated all over India on 12th of January. The theme of 2018 is '**Sankalp Se Siddhi**'.

➤ **Army Day** is celebrated on **January 15** every year. The Indian Army celebrates

the **70th Army Day**, with parades and shows at its major locations across the country.

**OBITUARY**

- Noted **Urdu poet Anwar Jalalpuri** passed away in Lucknow.
- **Carnatic singer Radha Viswanathan** passed away in Bengaluru. She is a daughter of famous classical singer M S Subbulakshmi.
- Former **World Trade Organization** Director General **Peter Sutherland** passed away.
- Powerlifting world champion **Saksham Yadav** passes away in an accident in New Delhi.
- Legendary American NASA's astronaut **John Young**, passed away.
- Bollywood actor **Shrivallabh Vyas** passed away in Jaipur.
- Atomic scientist and NIAS Director **Baldev Raj** passed away.
- Veteran Tamil writer, journalist and theatre personality, **Gnani Sankaran**, died.
- **Raghunath Jha** (78) was former **Union minister of State** for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise in UPA government led by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, passed away.

**STATIC TAKEN FROM CURRENT AFFAIRS & BANKING**

NAME OF THE ORG/COMPANY/BANK	HEADQUARTERS	PRESIDENT/CHAIRMAN/CEO
HSBC	London, United Kingdom	Stuart Gulliver
Punjab National Bank	New Delhi	Sunil Mehta
Freecharge	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Sangram Singh
Paytm (One97 Communications Ltd)	Noida, Uttar Pradesh	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
Phone Pe	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Sameer Nigam
IndusInd Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	R. Seshasayee
Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank	Beijing, China	Jin Liqun
National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Harsh Kumar Bhanwala
Allahabad Bank	Kolkata, West	Usha Ananthasubraman

	Bengal	ian	(ISRO)		
Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank	Warangal, India	Narasi Reddy	Indian Olympic Association (IOA)	New Delhi, India	Mr. Rajeev Mehta
Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	S K Pattanayak	World Bank	Washington, D.C.	Jim Yong Kim
Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)	New Delhi	Ajay Bhushan Pandey	Ola	Bengaluru, Karnataka	Bhavish Aggarwal
Film and Television Institute (FTII)	Pune, Maharashtra	Anupam Kher	ICICI Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Chanda Kochhar
FEDERAL BANK	Aluva, Kerala	Shyam Srinivasan	World Anti-Doping Agency	Montreal, Canada	Craig Reddie
IDFC BANK	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Rajiv Lall	L&T Power	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Shailendra Roy
World Economic Forum (WEF)	Cologny, Switzerland	Klaus Schwab	HDFC Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Aditya Puri
Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Ajay Tyagi	GAIL India Ltd	New Delhi	B. C. Tripathi
Indian Space Research Organisation	Bengaluru, Karnataka	K.Sivan	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	Paris, France	Audrey Azoulay
			IDBI Bank	Mumbai, Maharashtra	Mahesh Kumar Jain

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**STATIC TAKEN FROM INTERNATIONAL  
NEWS**

COUNTRY	CAPITAL	CURRENCY
Israel	Jerusalem	Israeli new shekel
Sri Lanka	Colombo, Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte	Sri Lankan rupee
Romania	Bucharest	Romanian leu
Serbia	Belgrade	Serbian dinar
Bhutan	Thimphu	Indian rupee, Bhutanese ngultrum
USA	Washington, D.C.	Dollar
Japan	Tokyo	Yen
Australia	Canberra	Australian dollar
South Korea	Seoul	South Korean won
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	Saudi riyal
Nepal	Kathmandu	Nepalese rupee
Pakistan	Islamabad	Pakistani rupee
Iceland	Reykjavik	Icelandic krona
Myanmar	Naypyidaw	Burmese kyat
China	Beijing	Renminbi/Yuan
Mali	Bamako	West African