

Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

1. Daily Current Affairs Capsule 2nd January

PM Narendra Modi Announces New Housing Schemes For The Poor

Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced number of schemes during his speech on the eve of the New Year.

Highlights:

For the poor: Two new schemes under PM Awaas Yojna. Home loans for poor and middle class people up to Rs 9 lakh will get 4% exemption on interest and 3% for up to Rs 12 lakh loans.

For farmers: Sixty days interest waiver for farm loans taken from from district co-operative banks and co-operative societies.

For senior citizens: 8% interest up to Rs 7.5 lakh deposit by senior citizens in banks.

For small businesses: Credit guarantee for micro small and medium enterprises to be raised to Rs 2 crore from current Rs 1 crore.

For women: Pregnant women across India will be given Rs 6,000 in their bank accounts to take care of initial medical needs.

For farmers: The government will convert 3 crore Kisan Credit cards to RUpay Credit cards.

For small businesses: Banks have been asked to raise cash credit limit for small businesses to 25% from 20%.

Sources: the hindu.

India, Pakistan exchange lists of nuclear sites.

India and Pakistan recently exchanged for the 26th consecutive year the list of their nuclear installations under a bilateral agreement that prohibits them from attacking each other's atomic facilities.

- The exchange was carried out under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations between India and Pakistan.
- This is the 26th consecutive exchange of such list between the two countries, the first one having taken place on January 1, 1992.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

Indian-Origin Appointed To Top Military Post In Kyrgyzstan

An Indian-origin Saudi-based entrepreneur has been appointed Major General of Kyrgyzstan, a top position in the defence department of Kyrgyzstan..

Shaikh Rafik Mohammed, who hails from Kerala, was appointed Major General of Kyrgyzstan by Ali Mirza, Defence Minister of Kyrgyzstan at an official ceremony held in the country.

Mr Rafik holds Kyrgyzstan nationality conferred by its former President Kurmanbek Saliyevich Bakiyev whom he casually met while working in Iran.

Sikkim becomes India's first fully organic state.

Sikkim has become India's first fully organic state by implementing organic practices on around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land.

- Around 75,000 hectares of agricultural land were gradually converted to certified organic land in accordance with guidelines laid down in National Programme for Organic Production.
- Organic cultivation is free of chemical pesticides and chemical fertilisers as it tries to strike a harmonious balance with a complex series of ecosystems.
- Sikkim was also accorded the status of the cleanest state in India by the National Sample Survey Office in September

Anil Bajjal takes over as new Lt Governor of Delhi:

Anil Bajjal is the new Lt Governor of Delhi. Bajjal is the 20th Lt Governor of Delhi.

He was appointed to the post by President Pranab Mukherjee last week. His appointment came after Najeeb Jung's sudden resignation from the post.

India's 1st transgender school opens in Kerala

India's first transgender school opened in Kochi on Friday. The school, named Sahaj International, was inaugurated by transgender activist, writer and actor Kalki Subramaniam at Thrikkakara in Kerala's Ernakulam district.

The school is headed by six transgenders and a woman and has 10 students.

Lionel Messi named the best playmaker of 2016 by IFFHS.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

Lionel Messi has won the Best Playmaker of 2016 award for his overall contribution to club and country by the International Federation of Football, History and Statistics.

- IFFHS started this award in 2006 and it has been completely dominated by La Liga players ever since.
- Zinedine Zidane, the current Real Madrid manager was the first recipient of this accolade back in 2006 followed by Kaka who won it the following year.
- This award is decided by votes from 56 countries from five different continents.

India's Somdev Devvarman announces retirement.

Ravaged by injuries, India's star singles player Somdev Devvarman announced his retirement from professional tennis, bringing an abrupt end to what was once a promising career.

- The 31-year-old's career was hampered by a recurring shoulder injury in 2012.
- He was conferred the Arjuna award — the country's second highest sporting honour — in 2011.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

2. Daily Current Affairs Capsule 3rd Jan 2017

Jagdish Singh Khehar sworn in as Chief Justice of India.

Justice Jagdish Singh Khehar has sworn in as 44th Chief Justice of India.

- Justice Khehar will be the first Chief Justice from the Sikh community.
- Justice Khehar will have a tenure for over seven months till August 28, 2017.
- He assumed office as a judge of the Supreme Court on September 13, 2011.

Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa Takes Charge As IAF Chief.

- Air Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa took over as the Chief of the Indian Air Force after Former Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha retired from post.
- The present Air Chief Marshal BS Dhanoa developed the country's aerial targeting philosophy against potential adversaries and transformed the concepts of air operations of the Indian Air Force to contemporary war fighting practices.
- Dhanoa, who is the 25th chief of the IAF since Independence, was commissioned in the IAF in June 1978 as a fighter pilot.

RBI appoints Surekha Marandi as Executive Director.

The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Surekha Marandi as its Executive Director (ED) in place of U S Paliwal, who retired on December 31 last year.

- Marandi will look after Consumer Education and Protection Department, Financial Inclusion and Development Department, and Secretary's Department.

Bank of Baroda ties up with CNX Corporation.

Public sector lender Bank of Baroda has entered into a partnership with CNX Corporation (CNX) with an objective to provide collateral management services towards the loans against warehouse receipt sanctioned to the farmers through the network of the bank's branches across the country.

- CNX is engaged in providing warehouse management services relating to commodities and inventories which include collateral management services, field warehousing arrangements, inventory audit services, storage and preservation services, procurement services, testing and certification services, inspection services, monitoring services.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

David R Syiemlieh appointed as new UPSC chairman.

- David R Syiemlieh has been appointed today as the Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) by President Pranab Mukherjee.
- Syiemlieh, a UPSC member, has been asked to take over charge on January 4 and will remain the head of the organisation till his retirement on January 21, 2018 or till further orders.
- He will take over from Alka Sirohi, a former IAS officer of the Madhya Pradesh cadre.

Modi inaugurated Indian Science Congress.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the five-day 104th Indian Science Congress at the Srinivasa Auditorium in Sri Venkateswara University in Tirupati.

- 'Science and Technology for National Development' would be the focal theme of the Indian Science Congress.
- "By 2030 India will be among top three countries in science and technology," PM Modi said.

Naidu launches Arogya Raksha for a healthy AP.

Andhra Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu has launched a new health scheme christened Arogya Raksha offering medical insurance to those who were not covered under any of the existing health schemes of the state government.

- To avail of the benefits of Arogya Raksha, all one needs to do is pay `100 per month per head.
- The health insurance cover is offered up to `2 lakh and free treatment can be had for 1,044 listed health ailments in any of the 432 corporate hospitals and 80 government hospitals in the state.

Gujarat CM dedicates India's first laser technology-based check-post.

Gujarat chief minister Vijay Rupani dedicated India's first laser technology-based advanced AVMS RTO check-post at Shamlaji of Aravalli district.

- The check-post is equipped with advanced ray technology with a cost of Rs 4.72 crore.

Successful Flight Test of Agni – IV

- Agni-IV, the Long Range Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile with a range of 4,000 kms was successfully flight tested recently.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

- The missile is developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program.
- The Agni-IV had undergone one failed and five successful tests over the last five years, with the last one being conducted in November 2015.

Table tennis Grand Slam champion Li Xiaoxia announces retirement.

China's table tennis Grand Slam champion Li Xiaoxia announced her retirement through social media in Beijing.

- Li helped China win the team gold medal at the Rio Olympic Games in 2016 when she also finished the runner-up in the singles event.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

3. Daily Current Affairs Capsule 4th Jan 2017

Piyush Goyal To Launch A New Mobile APP and Web Portal on UDAY.

Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal will launch the web portal and a Mobile App for one of India's most talked about scheme—or the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) for operational and financial turnaround of state power distribution companies.

The App and the web portal, to be launched by Goyal on Wednesday will provide all details on the scheme including the number of states joining the scheme as also the progress achieved by each state under various parameters listed under the scheme—including AT&C losses, cost of electricity, bonds issued and others.

Rs 5 discount on online payment of LPG cylinder

Cooking gas customers can now avail an upfront discount of Rs 5 on every refill booked and paid for online.

State-owned fuel retailers, Indian Oil Corp (IOC), Bharat Petroleum Corp Ltd (BPCL) and Hindustan Petroleum Corp Ltd (HPCL) will offer "an upfront discount of Rs. 5 on every LPG refill to all LPG customers who will book and pay for it online," an official statement said here.

State oil companies are already offering 0.75% discount on the purchase of petrol and diesel to customers paying digitally. These efforts are in line with the Narendra Modi-led government's thrust on reducing the use of cash in the economy.

Ludhiana district administration develops mobile app for Election Commission of India.

For the benefit of voters, candidates, election staff as well as the Election Commission of India (ECI), the district administration of Ludhiana has developed a mobile application named "ECI360". Developed by Harpreet Singh Chandoke from a company named "01 Synergy" on behalf of the district administration and a brainchild of deputy commissioner Ravi Bhagat, this mobile app would prove beneficial for all the stakeholders of upcoming assembly elections.

Besides, a web-based application to be used by ECI, CEO, DEO and RO named "RoNET" has been developed that would specifically to enable them to know what exactly they are required to do and when; without burdening them with an additional reporting forum.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

RBI appoints Surekha Marandi as ED to look after financial inclusion

The Reserve Bank of India has appointed Surekha Marandi as Executive Director. Marandi will look after consumer education and protection department, financial inclusion and development department.

Prior to her promotion as Executive Director, Marandi served as Principal Chief General Manager and Chief Vigilance Officer in the Reserve Bank over a span of three decades.

West Bengal's longest free WiFi-enabled road

West Bengal's longest free WiFi-enabled road has become operational.

Free WiFi will be available over the entire stretch on Biswa Bangla Sarani covering a distance of 13.5km. The step has been taken to facilitate IT professionals who travel along the road to their workplaces.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

4. Daily Current Affairs Capsule 5th Jan 2017

China begins first freight train service to London.

China has begun its first freight train service to London from Yiwu, a famed wholesale market town in the eastern province of Zhejiang.

The train will travel for 18 days over more than 7,500 miles (12,000km) to reach Britain from China. It will pass through Kazakhstan, Russia, Belarus, Poland, Germany, Belgium and France before arriving in London.

“Bunkar Mitra” the Government of India’s Helpline for Handloom Weavers.

“Bunkar Mitra” is the Government of India’s Helpline for Handloom Weavers. The helpline was launched by the government on the occasion of “Good Governance Day” recently.

The helpline provides a single point of contact to handloom weavers across the country for addressing queries and providing guidance. This helpline can be accessed by dialing the toll free number 1800-208-9988.

Services that are available through this helpline include- Assistance on technical issues, Access to marketing linkages and Information about various schemes and procedure to avail benefits.

UN Recognizes 2017 as Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.

The United Nations (UN) has declared 2017 as a year to recognize that tourism is important in fostering better understanding among people.

International travel leads to greater awareness of the heritage of other civilizations, and as a result an appreciation of other countries.

According to the UN, this contributes to the strengthening of world peace.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

Govt launches IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police.

The Commerce & Industry Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched an IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police.

The toolkit has been jointly prepared by Cell for IPR Promotion and Management (CIPAM) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI).

This toolkit will be a ready reckoner for police officials across the country in dealing with IP crimes, specifically Trade Marks counterfeiting and Copyrights piracy.

EPFO launches a campaign to enrol more workers.

Retirement fund body EPFO launched the Employees Enrolment Campaign, 2017, to encourage firms to enroll their employees under its schemes at nominal damages of Rupee one per annum.

Under the scheme, the employees share of contribution, if declared by the employer as not deducted, shall stand waived, the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) said in statement.

The campaign will give wide publicity to the benefits the Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMRPY) and the Pradhan Mantri Paridhan Rojgar Protsahan Yojana (PMPRPY).

Google launches 'Digital Unlocked' for small-scale Indian businesses.

The announcement was made by Google CEO Sundar Pichai, who is in the national capital for a day. Mr. Pichai said the brand new tool — My Business, has been introduced in India first and would be taken to other countries gradually.

Google My Business would help small businesses set up website from their mobile devices. All they need is a smartphone and a few minutes, he said.

The tech giant also launched Digital Unlocked, an education programme in association with industry body FICCI and Indian School of Business.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

The programme will impart mobile and online courses to help small businesses.

Tata Power appoints S Padmanabhan as chairman.

Tata Consultancy. MUMBAI: Tata Power Co has appointed S Padmanabhan as its chairman, in place of Cyrus Mistry who resigned last month. ... He is also the executive chairman of the Tata Business Excellence Group and has recently been appointed as Tata Sons' group head for human resources.

In December, Tata Power brought back S Padmanabhan, who was executive director of operations at the company until 2014, as an additional director on the board.

He is also the executive chairman of the Tata Business Excellence Group and has recently been appointed as Tata Sons' group head for human resources.

Jovenel Moise elected as the President of Haiti.

Jovenel Moise, a Haitian banana exporter who has never held political office, has survived the country's long-running electoral nightmare to become its next president.

Jovenel Moise has been elected as the President of Haiti. The electoral tribunal officially declared the winner on 3 January 2017.

Jude Celestin remained at the second spot in the race of Presidential election with only 19.5% votes.

Arthur Morris inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame.

Former Australia cricketer Arthur Morris was inducted into the International Cricket Council's Hall of Fame by Steve Waugh during the tea break on the opening day of the third Test between Australia and Pakistan in Sydney.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

5. Daily Current Affairs Capsule 6th Jan 2017

Andhra Pradesh govt to give scientists of the state Rs 100 crore for Nobel Prize.

AP government has announced that it will give scientists of the state Rs 100 crore for Nobel Prize.

This reward is about 17 times more than the prize money given out with the Nobel award, which is about Rs 5.96 crore (Swedish kronor 8 million).

No other state government in India has perhaps made such a grand offer to its scientists.

Haryana achieves sex ratio of 900 girls per 1000 boys.

Citing Civil Registration System (CRS) data, Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar recently said that Haryana achieved a sex ratio of 900 girls as against 1000 boys in 2016. This is much in contrast to the statistics of 2011, when Haryana had the worst sex ratio of 834:1000 among all states in the country.

The state government had been making concerted efforts to improve the sex ratio, and now it has taken a leap forward by achieving marked improvement in the Sex Ratio at Birth (SRB), he claimed.

Japan to assist in making Chennai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi Smart Cities.

Japan has decided to be associated with the development of Chennai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi as smart cities.

Under the scheme that was launched in 2014, around 100 cities in the country will be developed.

Japanese Ambassador to India Kenji Hiramatsu said Japan has decided to be associated with the development of Chennai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi as smart cities in the country.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

China launches its longest bullet train.

China on Thursday launched its longest bullet train “Shangri-la of the World” from Kunming, capital of south-west China's Yunnan Province to Beijing, expanding its high speed train network to about 20,000 km connecting almost all provinces.

It takes nearly 13 hours for the train to cover a distance of 2,760 kilometres.

Book titled The People's President: Dr A P J Abdul Kalam released(4 January 2017).

It was written by S M Khan, a senior Indian Information Service (IIS) officer. SM Khan also worked as the press secretary to the late APJ Abdul Kalam.

The book primarily captures visits of Kalam to various states in India and trips abroad in the course of his presidency.

Veteran actor Om Puri passes away at 66.

Veteran actor Om Puri passed away at the age of 66 after suffering a heart attack early on Friday.

The two-time National Award winning actor was awarded the Padma Shri in 1990, the fourth highest civilian award of India.

During his career, the actor appeared not only in Bollywood movies, but various Pakistani, British and Hollywood movies.

MS Dhoni gives up India's ODI and T20 captaincy.

The 35-year-old has played 90 Tests, 283 ODIs, and 73 T20Is so far. While Dhoni had quit Test cricket half-way through the 2014/15 Test series in Australia, he was still playing in the shorter version of the game.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

He was also India's most successful Test captain, with 27 wins, 18 defeats and 15 draws.

Dhoni is also the only captain to have led India to ODI and T20I series wins in Australia, and an ODI series win in New Zealand.

Government officials seek zero import tax on LNG in budget.

India's energy and environment ministries have asked the government to scrap an import tax on liquefied natural gas (LNG) and impose a levy on use of pet coke and furnace oil to promote cleaner fuel.

India is the world's third largest emitter of greenhouse gases and relies heavily on coal, gas and oil imports to meet its energy needs and fuel its economic expansion. Its energy consumption is bound to grow as it targets 8-9 percent economic growth from around 7 percent in 2016/17.

LNG imports, which account for 44% of gas use in the country, are duty free only if shipped in for the power sector.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

6. Daily Current Affairs Capsule 7th Jan 2017

RBI to provide 1 billion to Nepal.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to provide Rs 1 billion to the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) after its request that the country was facing a shortage of INR 100 denomination banknotes.

North Eastern Tourism Development Council.

The government has announced the formation of exclusive “North-Eastern Tourism Development Council” (NETDC) on a public-private partnership (PPP) mode under the auspices of Union Ministry of DoNER.

This is for the first time that the Government has decided to set up a separate tourism development agency, devoted to a particular region of the country.

New Delhi World Book Fair to Celebrate 60 Years of National Book Trust.

New Delhi World Book Fair has begun. The Fair is being organized in collaboration with India Trade Promotion Organisation.

National Book Trust is celebrating 60 years of its foundation and it will showcase its journey in promoting books and reading at a special exhibit ‘This is no looking back!’

The World Book Fair which is being organized in the national capital from January 7-15 at Pragati Maidan.

Axis Bank retains top slot in debt investment banking.

Axis Bank has left behind large foreign banks, known for their investment banking skills, as it has retained the top investment banking rank in the past 10 consecutive years.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

HDFC Bank and State Bank of India were other top two banks in the Bloomberg 2016 league table beating global biggies.

Sir Tim Barrow appointed as Britain's EU ambassador.

Sir Tim Barrow has been appointed as Britain's new EU ambassador after a life-long career in the foreign office which has seen him serve in senior roles twice before in Brussels.

He also served as Britain's ambassador to Moscow between 2011 and 2015, one of the most testing periods in relations between the two countries.

Norway to become first country to switch off FM radio.

Norway is set to become the first nation to start switching off its FM radio network next week, in a risky and unpopular leap to digital technology that will be closely watched by other countries considering whether to follow suit.

he shutdown will begin on January 11 in the northern city of Bodo.

Arun Jaitley chairs 16th meeting of Financial Stability and Development Council.

The government expects its measures on elimination of the shadow economy and tax evasion to have a positive impact on GDP and fiscal consolidation in the long run, finance minister Arun Jaitley said while chairing the Sixteenth Meeting of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC).

The Council, which has heads of all financial sector regulators as its members, reviewed the major issues and challenges facing the economy in its 16th meeting held on Thursday.

The Council also reviewed the status of NPAs of public sector banks and the measures taken by the government and the RBI for tackling the stressed assets and discussed about further action to be taken in this regard, the statement said.



Weekly Current Affairs(1st Week Jan 2017)

The Council reviewed the major issues and challenges facing the economy and noted that India appears to be much better placed today on the back of improvement in its macroeconomic fundamentals.

m-Parivahan(a citizen centric app that will facilitate access to various transport related services).

The app provides for virtual driving license and registration certificate through back end connection to Transport National Register.

If a vehicle number is entered into the app, it will give full details of the car and the owner including his DL and RC. This will provide a way to check genuineness of a vehicle and driver, help in passenger safety when hiring a driver or when buying a second hand vehicle.

The app will also facilitate good Samaritans through technology. They can report accidents by clicking pictures and reporting to traffic authorities in states and to RTOs, with the option of hiding their identity if they so wish.

They can also report traffic violations. States will be asked to provide linkages to the 108 service for better response.

