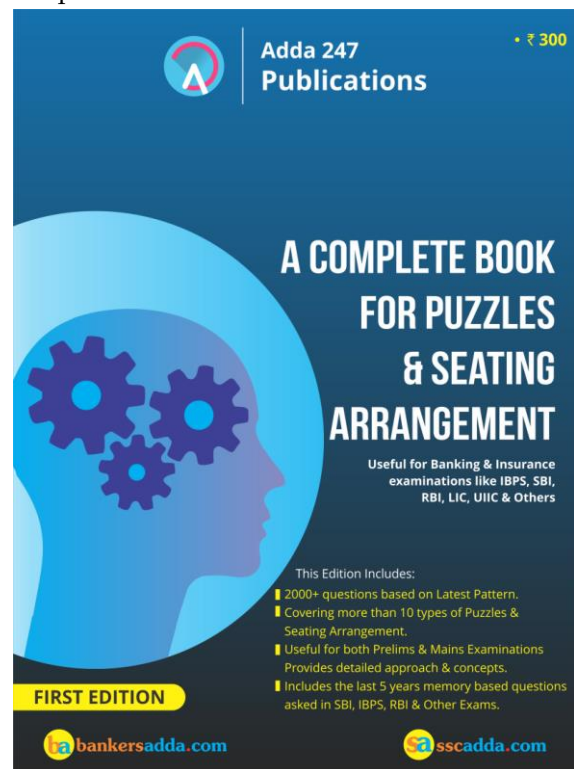


## GA: Current Affairs Tonic January (1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>) 2018 for IBPS CLERK MAINS 2108

### Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Federal Bank** entered into a strategic partnership with **Hedge Equities Ltd** for providing Portfolio Investment Scheme (PIS) services to NRIs.
- ✚ **IDFC Bank and Capital First** approved merger of Capital First with IDFC Bank.
- ✚ **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)'s India International Exchange** listed the first bond on its Global Securities Market. The bonds issued by Indian Railways Finance Corporation (IRFC) are one of the highest credit rated bonds issued by an Indian corporate and has been IRFC's first foray into the Green Bond market.
- ✚ **India emerged as a top borrower from AIIB with USD 1.5 billion** worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline. **Indonesia has emerged as the second largest borrower** with about USD 600 million loans.
- ✚ **IndusInd Bank and Dynamics Inc.** at 2018 Consumer Electronics Show (CES) announced plans to introduce the first battery-powered, interactive payment cards to the Indian market in 2018.
- ✚ **Paytm 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. Paytm Money is the fourth product from One97's stable after Paytm Mall, Paytm Payments Bank and Paytm wallet.
- ✚ **Flipkart's payments arm PhonePe partnered with FreeCharge** to allow the latter's customers pay for transactions at PhonePe's partner merchants.
- ✚ **Punjab National Bank & 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).
- ✚ **World Bank projected India's growth rate at 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 for the next two years.** India's economy is estimated to have grown at 6.7 percent in 2017.
- ✚ The provisional figures of **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. The net Direct Tax collections represent 67% of the total Budget Estimates of Direct Taxes for Financial Year 2017-18 (Rs. 9.8 lakh crore).

- ✚ **Gujarat has topped the logistics index chart**, according to a Report released by **Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu** in New Delhi. **Gujarat is followed by Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra.** Among the UT's, **Daman & Diu occupied the top slot.** From the hilly states, **Tripura was on top.**
- ✚ **As per the HSBC report,** India's growth rate is **expected to accelerate at around 6.5 percent in 2017-18** and is likely to improve further to **7.6 percent by 2019-20.**
- ✚ **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.**
- ✚ **HDFC Bank** has announced a partnership with **Rajasthan Government** to promote and nurture startups in the state.



- ✚ **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) in select districts of the State. JLGs are informal groups of 4-10 members engaged in similar economic activities and willing to jointly undertake the responsibility to repay loans taken by the group from a bank. As per Finance Ministry, **RBI Bonds Scheme** has not been closed but the **interest rate on such papers lowered to 7.75%.** The 8 percent Savings Bonds Scheme, also known as RBI Bonds Scheme, is not being

closed but is being replaced by 7.75% Savings Bonds Scheme.

- ✚ Reserve Bank of India has initiated 'prompt corrective action' (PCA) against Allahabad Bank over its high bad loans. There are total 11 banks on which RBI has initiated PCA till date.
- ✚ NABARD sanctioned Rs 372.51 crore loan assistance under the Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) to Odisha towards irrigation and rural bridge projects for the last quarter of this fiscal.
- ✚ Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank (APGVB) operationalised its first desktop ATM in Telangana. The mini-ATM within the branch premises will facilitate customers to withdraw small amounts. With these ATMs, there will be no need for separate ATM rooms, so there is no security issue.
- ✚ Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA) and India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) signed an agreement for the training of employees of the latter in the area of payment banking.
- ✚ Indian economy will expand by 6.5% in 2017-18, as per the Central Statistics Office (CSO). The economy had grown by 6.3% in the September quarter. The Indian economy grew at 7.1% in 2016-17.
- ✚ Reserve Bank of India will shortly issue Rs10 denomination banknotes in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series. The new denomination has the motif of Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse. The base colour of the note is Chocolate Brown. The dimension of the banknote will be 63 mm x 123 mm.

(FD) when the customer balance exceeds Rs. 1 lakh at the end of the day.

**Static Awareness Related to Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs**

- ✚ Mr Arun Jaitley is the present Finance Minister of India.
- ✚ Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.
- ✚ AIIB Headquarter- Beijing, China, Commenced operations in- January 2016.
- ✚ AIIB President- Mr Jin Liqun.
- ✚ IndusInd Bank Chairman- R. Seshasayee, Headquarter- Mumbai, Owner- Hinduja Group.
- ✚ Paytm is run by One97 Communications Ltd.
- ✚ Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder of One97 Communications.
- ✚ Phone Pe Chief Executive Officer (CEO)- Sameer Nigam.
- ✚ CEO of Freecharge- Sangram Singh, Owner- Axis bank.
- ✚ PNB Chairman- Sunil Mehta, Headquarters- New Delhi.
- ✚ World Bank's Prospects Group Director- Ayhan Kose.
- ✚ Jim Yong Kim is the 12th President of the World Bank Group.
- ✚ World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC, USA.
- ✚ HSBC Headquarters in London, United Kingdom. | Present CEO of HSBC- Stuart Gulliver.
- ✚ HDFC Bank- India's largest private bank by market capitalization | HDFC Bank Chairman- Aditya Puri.
- ✚ NABARD-National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development.
- ✚ NABARD Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Headquarters- Mumbai.
- ✚ Allahabad Bank MD & CEO- Usha Ananthasubramanian, Headquarters- Kolkata.
- ✚ NABARD- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development. NABARD was established on 12 July 1982.
- ✚ Headquarters- Mumbai, Chairman- Harsh Kumar Bhanwala.
- ✚ Andhra Pradesh Grameena Vikas Bank Chairman- Narasi Reddy.
- ✚ MD & CEO of India Post Payments Bank- Suresh Sethi.
- ✚ DG & CEO of IICA- Gyaneshwar Kumar Singh.
- ✚ TIHCL's Advisor and Director- B Yerram Raju.
- ✚ Paytm Payments Bank MD and CEO- Renu Satti.
- ✚ IndusInd Bank Chairman- R. Seshasayee, Headquarter- Mumbai, Owner- Hinduja Group.
- ✚ Chairman and MD of Capital First- V Vaidyanathan
- ✚ Headquarters of IDFC Bank- Mumbai
- ✚ Founder, MD & CEO of IDFC Bank- Rajiv Lall
- ✚ Indian Railways Finance Corporation is a finance arm of the Indian Railway. S K Pattanayak is Managing Director of IRFC.

- ✚ Telangana Industrial Health Clinic Ltd (TIHCL), a State government initiative, has got RBI clearance to register and function as a non-banking finance company (NBFC). It will be the first State promoted and co-financing NBFC.
- ✚ Paytm Payments Bank has partnered IndusInd Bank to introduce a facility to create a fixed deposit

### Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

✚ Ministry of Railways 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. **It will help them plan the traffic flows and optimize freight operations.**

#### Salient features of SFOORTI Application

- 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 Zones/Divisions/ Sections in single GIS View.
- Comparative Analysis of Zonal/Divisional Traffic.
- This app provides a Bird's eye view of all Freight Assets in a single window.

✚ **Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr. Harsh Vardhan** dedicated **India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer named 'Pratyush' to the nation in Pune.** It is established at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune. It will be a national facility for improving weather and climate forecasts and services under the umbrella of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

#### ✚ What is the 'Electoral Bonds' Scheme?

- Centre unveiled the **'Electoral Bonds' scheme**, which seeks to ensure the flow of clean money to political parties, without revealing the donors' names.
- As per Jaitley, the electoral bonds will be a bearer instrument in the nature of a **Promissory Note and an interest-free banking instrument.**
- A citizen of India or a body incorporated in India will be eligible to purchase the bond from specified branches of the State Bank of India.
- The bonds can be purchased for any value in multiples of **Rs1,000; Rs10,000; Rs1 lakh; Rs10 lakh; and Rs1 crore.**

✚ The **Namami Gange Projects Worth Rs. 295 crores** approved by NMCG i.e. **National Mission for Clean Ganga.** Three projects pertain to sewage management in **West Bengal at an estimated cost of Rs 278.6 crore**, one relates to sewage management in **Uttarakhand at an estimated cost of Rs 4.68 crore** and one project worth **Rs 11.73 crore** is related to *ghat* improvement works in **Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.**

✚ **Haryana become the first state** in the country to launch **High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal.** This portal not only helps in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases up to the grass-roots level but also ensures their timely referral to the civil hospitals for further management and delivery by specialists.

✚ **Women and Child Development Minister Maneka Gandhi** inaugurated an **online portal NARI** in New Delhi for the empowerment of women. It stands for **National Repository of Information for Women.** The portal will provide women with easy access to information on government schemes and initiatives for women. The portal summarises over **350 government schemes** and other important information.

✚ **Assamese and Manipuri language** versions of Prime Minister's Official website- [www.pmindia.gov.in](http://www.pmindia.gov.in) were launched. Now the PM INDIA website is available in **11 regional languages.**

### Static Awareness Related to Schemes & Portals Launched recently

John Mathai was the first Railway Minister of Independent India.

Piyush Goyal is the present Railway Minister of India.

Water Resources and Ganga Rejuvenation Minister- Nitin Gadkari.

Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister- Uma Bharti.

Haryana CM- Manohar Lal Khattar, Governor- Kaptan Singh Solanki.

### National & State Related Current Affairs

✚ **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** 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.

✚ **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.

✚ Cabinet approved **agreement between India & Myanmar on Land Border Crossing.** This will facilitate movement of people on the basis of valid passports and visas which will enhance economic and social interaction between the two countries.

- ✚ India 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. NKN is a multi-gigabit pan-India network which facilitates the development of India's communications infrastructure, stimulates research and creates next-generation applications and services.
- ✚ West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee unveiled the official emblem which highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of "Biswa Bangla" at the centre.
- ✚ Arunachal Pradesh declared open defecation free ahead of the national deadline of October 2, 2019. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Haryana were declared open defecation free states in October 2017.
- ✚ As per the Union Minister for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Saudi Arabia has given the green signal for India's decision to revive the option of sending Haj pilgrims through sea route also. For the first time, Muslim women from India will go to Haj without "Mehram" (male companion).
- ✚ Minister of State (I/C) of Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh announced that Arunachal Pradesh would get its first Film and Television Institute, being set up by the Union Government. This would be the second one after Pune.
- ✚ The citizen of Assam witnessed the release of the first draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC) containing the first batch of 19 million names of genuine Indian citizens in compliance with the Supreme Court's orders. Registrar General of India Sailesh released the document. Assam is the only state in the state that has an NRC.

**Static Awareness Related to National & State Related Current Affairs**

UIDAI Chief Executive Officer(CEO)- Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Headquarters- New Delhi.  
 Transport Minister of Delhi- Kailash Gahlot.  
 Lieutenant Governor of Delhi- Anil Baijal.  
 Myanmar State Counsellor- Aung San Suu Kyi, Capital-Naypyidaw.  
 SAARC- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. SAARC Secretariat is based in Kathmandu, Nepal.  
 Arunachal Pradesh CM- Pema Khandu, Governor- Brigadier BD Mishra.  
 Saudi Arabia Capital- Riyadh, Currency- Saudi riyal.  
 FTII Pune Established in - 1960, Current Chairman - Anupam Kher.

**New Appointments (National & International)**

- ✚ Senior sports administrator Anil Khanna was named Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association.
- ✚ Supreme Court collegium recommended the name of senior advocate Indu Malhotra as the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of India. She will be the seventh woman judge since independence to make it to the SC. At present, Justice R Banumathi is the lone woman judge in the apex court.
- ✚ V J Mathew was appointed Maritime Board Chairman.
- ✚ 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. Harjinder Singh is at present the General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.
- ✚ Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman Sunny Verghese has been appointed as the Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD). He succeeded Paul Polman.
- ✚ Noted rocket scientist Sivan K was appointed as the 9th chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). He has replaced A.S. Kiran Kumar.

- ✚ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed Dilip Asbe as Managing Director and CEO of the organisation. He had come in place of AP Hota.
- ✚ Music composer A R Rahman became the brand ambassador of Sikkim. The declaration was made by Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling.

- Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale has been appointed the foreign secretary of India. He has succeeded S Jaishankar.
- Pankaj Jain, Joint Secretary in the Department of Financial Services (DFS), has assumed charge as the Managing Director of India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd (IIFCL).
- Rajinder Khanna was appointed the deputy National Security Adviser (NSA).
- National vice-president of the BJP, Vinay Sahasrabudde, who is also the member of Rajya Sabha has been appointed the President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations. He will replace Lokesh Chandra.



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**Static Awareness Related to New Appointments**

The first woman to be appointed as a judge of the apex court since independence was Justice M Fathima Beevi in 1989.

IOA President- Narinder Dhruv Batra.

WBCSD CEO and President- Peter Bakker.

ISRO was established in 1969. Founder and 1st Chairman of ISRO- Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, Headquarters in-Bengaluru, Karnataka.

NPCI is an umbrella organisation for retail payment systems in India. NPCI's Registered Office is in Mumbai.

Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira.

The capital of Switzerland is Bern.

Meghalaya CM- Mukul Sangma, Governor- Ganga Prasad.

Sikkim Governor- Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil.

National Security Council is headed by the prime minister. It is the apex body on all internal and external security-related matters.

Riva Ganguly Das is the Director General of ICCR.

**Sports**

- Professional player Aditya Mehta won Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship. He defeated Englishman Professional Player Alfie Burden.
- Aanchal Thakur made history as she won India's first ever international medal in skiing. She clinched bronze in the coveted Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup. It was organised by the Federation Internationale de Ski (skiing's international governing body) in Erzurum, Turkey.
- Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million). With this, transfer of Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History.
- Indian golfer Shiv Kapur won the Royal Cup at Pattaya, which is his third Asian Tour title of 2017.
- Gilles Simon of France 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 finals.
- Elina Svitolina secured her first WTA title in Australia with a straight-sets victory in the Brisbane International final.
- G Sathiyam become India's highest-ranked player in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. He surpasses his compatriot the legendary Sharath Kamal. The current ranking of Sathiyam is 49.
- Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract with the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.
- Vidarbha created history by winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history with a thumping nine-wicket win over Delhi at the Holkar stadium in Indore. Rajneesh Gurbani was declared player of the Match.

**International Current Affairs**

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

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

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

World's largest Ice Festival 'International Ice and Snow Festival' was held in Harbin, China. It is the 34th annual Ice Festival in Harbin, north-east China.

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

**Israel** filed notice to withdraw from the 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.

**Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)** introduced **value-added tax (VAT)**. These are the first two countries in the Gulf which have introduced the VAT system. **The 5% levy** is being applied to the majority of goods and services.

**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 to make a difference. **The five permanent seats** who have the power to veto resolutions - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The unusual and very efficient **whistle language commonly called "bird language"** used as a means of communication by villagers in remote northern **Turkey** entered the **UNESCO list of Intangible Cultural Heritage**.

**Pakistan** allowed **Chinese currency Yuan** for exports and financing transactions.

**External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** co-chaired the **fifth meeting of the India-Indonesia Joint Commission** with her Indonesian counterpart **Retno Marsudi**.

**Himalayan Hydro Expo 2018** kicked off at **Kathmandu, the capital Nepal**. **President of Nepal Bidya Devi Bhandari** inaugurated the exhibition.

**Iceland** become the **first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men and women**. Under the new rules, companies and government agencies employing at least 25 people will have to obtain government certification of their equal-pay policies.

**Static Awareness Related to International Current Affairs**

UK PM- Theresa May, Capital- London.  
 Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Prime Minister- Sher Bahadur Deuba.  
 China Capital- Beijing, President- Xi Jinping.  
 China's Hong Kong Data Center is one of Asia's largest global data centres.  
 Avtar Singh Cheema was the first Indian to climb Mount Everest successfully.  
 Mount Everest is the tallest Mountain (by Elevation) in the world.  
 UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.  
 France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.

UAE Capital- Abu Dhabi, Currency- Dirham.  
 Saudi Arabia Capital- Riyadh, Currency- Saudi riyal.  
 Turkey Capital- Ankara, Currency- Turkish lira, President- Recep Tayyip Erdogan.  
 Pakistan Capital- Islamabad, Currency- Pakistani rupee.  
 Chinese Capital- Beijing, President- Xi Jinping.  
 Indonesia Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah, President- Joko Widodo.  
 Iceland Capital- Reykjavik, President- Guoni Th. Johannsson.

**Defence Current Affairs**

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

**Defence Ministry** 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)**.

**Indian Navy** has inked an **MoU with the Cochin Port Trust (CPT), Kerala** towards leasing of 228 metres of berths at **Mattancherry Wharf for a period of five years**. **This is the first time** such an agreement has been signed between the Navy and CPT.

**Static Awareness related to Defence**

**Cochin Port Trust Chairman- P.Raveendran**.  
**Admiral Sunil Lanba** is the present Chairman of Indian Navy.

**Ranks/ Indexes Released**

✚ **India's domestic air passenger traffic** grew by **16.4% in November 2017**, topping the growth chart worldwide, according to the global aviation body, the **International**

**Air Transport Association (IATA).** The available seat kilometres (ASKs) for India was at 10.4%, second only to China where capacity grew by 12.9 percent, as per IATA's monthly data.

- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Karnataka topped all states with investment intentions of Rs. 1.49 lakh crore** till October 2017, as per R V Deshpande, Karnataka Minister for Large, Medium Industries and Infrastructure Development.
- ✚ **The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway (CR)** found its way into the **Limca Book of Records** for having an all-woman staff. Matunga station is situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ✚ **The world's biggest cleanliness survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan Survey 2018'** was launched in India by PM Narendra Modi. It will be conducted from the 4th of January to 10th of March. The main objective of Swachh Sarvekshan is to encourage large-scale citizen participation and create awareness towards making towns and cities a cleaner and better place to live in.
- ✚ **India's Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education registered an increase from **24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.2% in 2016-17**, as per the All India Higher Education Survey (AIHES) launched by **Union HRD Minister Prakash Javadekar**. As per AIHES of 2016-17, **Tamil Nadu has the highest GER in the country at 46.9%**. Bihar has the least GER of 14.9%.



### Static Awareness Related to Rank & Reports

IATA's Director General and CEO- Alexandre de Juniac, Headquarters- Montreal, Canada.  
 Karnataka CM- Siddaramaiah, Governor- Vajubhai Vala.  
 In Swachh Sarvekshan-2017, 434 cities and all the state capitals were ranked. Indore had emerged as the cleanest city.

### Important Days

**National Youth Day** has been celebrated every year on **12 January**. This is the day when **Swami Vivekananda**, one of the greatest social reformers, thinkers, and philosophers of India, was born.

### Agreement Signed

- ✚ **Union Cabinet chaired by PM Modi approved:**
  - a) **MoU between India and Canada** for cooperation in the field of Science & Technology. The MoU will provide a mechanism and help to foster scientific cooperation between R&D and academic institutions of India and Canada.
  - b) **Implementation of CCEA decision on the closure of Tungbhadra Steel Products Limited.**
- ✚ An official delegation from **South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCC)** signed a MoU for co-operation between industries in Gujarat and the East Asian country, with a focus on automobile, defence and textiles sectors. The main objective is to help Gujarat-based small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to explore opportunities through joint ventures with South Korean firms, especially in areas of automobile, defence and textiles.
- ✚ Cabinet approved the signing and implementation of the MoU between **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and 'Transport for London'** to improve public transport in the country. It aimed at improving the overall public transport system, improve passenger services and promote the use of high capacity buses in India.

### Awards & Recognition

- ✚ **MD of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Ravi Menon**, named the **best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018** by UK-based magazine, The Banker.

### Golden Globe Awards 2018: The Complete List of Winners

75th Golden Globe Award ceremony was held in Los Angeles, the USA. **"Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri"** dominated the 2018 Golden Globes, taking home four statues.

1. Best motion picture, drama: **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri**.
2. Best motion picture, musical or comedy: **Lady Bird**.
3. Best director, motion picture: **Guillermo del Toro**, **"The Shape of Water"**.
4. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, drama: **Frances McDormand**.
5. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, drama: **Gary Oldman**.
6. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, musical or comedy: **Saoirse Ronan**.
7. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, musical or comedy: **James Franco**.
8. Best motion picture, animated: **Coco**

9. Best motion picture, foreign language: **In the Fade**
10. Best television series, drama: **The Handmaid's Tale, Hulu**
11. Best performance by an actress in a television series, drama: **Elisabeth Moss.**
12. Best performance by an actor in a television series, drama: **Sterling K. Brown.**

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### Summits/Events Held

**Agriculture ministers of ASEAN countries met for the fourth sitting in New Delhi.** The topic of discussion was based on **food and agricultural future developments.**

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

**President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated International Dharma-Dhamma conference** at Rajgir in Bihar. The inaugural session was chaired by Mr Kovind. The conference was attended by **Sri Lanka's foreign Minister Tilak Marapana.**

**PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the first Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in Delhi** on the occasion of **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018.** The day is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India. **In the Conference, the biggest delegation was from Guyana.**

### Miscellaneous

Research Designs & Standards Organisation (RDSO), the research arm of Ministry of Railways, has launched "New Online Vendor Registration System".

### Obituaries

- ✦ **Baldev Raj**, the director of the **National Institute of Advanced Studies (NIAS), Bengaluru**, and a renowned **administrator of nuclear power technologies** in the country has passed away. He was 70 years old.
- ✦ **Powerlifting world champion Saksham Yadav** died of his injuries after the road accident near Delhi. Yadav had won a gold medal for the country in the 2017 powerlifting championship in Moscow, Russia.
- ✦ **Peter Sutherland**, the first **Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**, has passed away in Dublin, Ireland. He was 71.
- ✦ Legendary astronaut **John Young**, who walked on the Moon and later commanded the first space shuttle flight, has died at 87.
- ✦ **Noted Urdu poet Anwar Jalalpur** passed away at the age of 71 in Lucknow. He suffered a brain stroke.

### Static Awareness Related to Agreements Signed, Summits Held & Other Miscellaneous Current Affairs

Gujarat CM- Vijay Rupani, Governor- Om Prakash Kohli. 'Transport for London' is a statutory body established under Greater London Authority Act, 1999 (UK) to improve public transport in India.

AYUSH- Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy.

AYUSH Minister- Shripad Yesso Naik.

Bihar Governor- Satya Pal Malik, Chief Minister- Nitish Kumar.

This year a special regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to commemorate 25 years of partnership between India and the Association of South East Asian Nations Submit (ASEAN) is being held in Singapore.

Established in 2003, and sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is held from 7-9 January every year.

Research Designs & Standards Organisation headquartered in Lucknow.

Minister of Railways & Coal- Shri Piyush Goyal

Dublin is the capital city of Ireland.

Present DG of WTO- Roberto Azevedo.

### The Most Important Current Affairs in January 2018

### Cabinet Approves Amendments in FDI Policy, Policies Further Liberalized

- a) In the financial year 2016-17, **total FDI of US \$ 60.08 billion has been received**, which is an all-time high.



- b) Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi has approved amendments in FDI Policy and further liberalized few of the policies of FDI.
- c) 100% FDI under automatic route for Single Brand Retail Trading.
- d) 100% FDI under automatic route in Construction Development.
- e) Foreign airlines allowed to invest up to 49% under approval route in Air India.
- f) FIIs/FPIs allowed to invest in Power Exchanges through primary market.
- g) Definition of 'medical devices' amended in the FDI Policy.
- h) 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.
- i) 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.**
- j) **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.**
- k) 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 FIIs/FPIs to invest in Power Exchanges through the primary market as well.**

**All You Need to Know about ISRO's Successful Launch of 42nd PSLV**

- ✚ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) launched its **42nd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The **PSLV-C40** is to place 31 satellites, originating from seven countries, across two orbits.
- ✚ Its primary payload was the fourth satellite in the advanced remote sensing Cartosat-2 series. The satellite's design life is five years. ISRO successfully sent up a rocket carrying India's 100th satellite along with 30 others.

- ✚ The 30 other satellites include two other satellites from India and 28 satellites from six countries - **Canada, Finland, France, Korea, the United Kingdom and the United States.**
- ✚ This was done through what scientists call the **"multiple burn technology"** under which the rocket's engine is switched off and then switched on to control its height.
- ✚ The **710-kg earth observation satellite** the PSLV is carrying the third in the **Cartosat 2 series**. The last satellite of the series had been launched successfully in June 2016.
- ✚ ISRO's workhorse PSLV rocket weighs nearly **320 tonnes and stands up to 44.4 meters**, equivalent to a 15-storey building.

**Note:** ISRO was established in 1969. **Founder and 1st Chairman of ISRO-** Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, **Headquarters in-** Bengaluru, Karnataka.

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**Sushma Swaraj Embarked on Tour of 3 Southeast Asian Nations**

- ✚ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj left on a 5-day visit to **three South East Asian countries - Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore.**
- ✚ On the first leg of the visit, Ms Swaraj will reach **Thailand** and will hold an official meeting with Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Don Pramudwinai.
- ✚ During the **visit to Indonesia**, Ms Swaraj will co-chair the 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission.
- ✚ **In Singapore**, the External Affairs Minister will inaugurate the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries. She will have bilateral meetings with the leaders in Singapore.
- ✚ **Thailand** Capital- Bangkok, Currency- Thai baht.  
**Indonesia** Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah.



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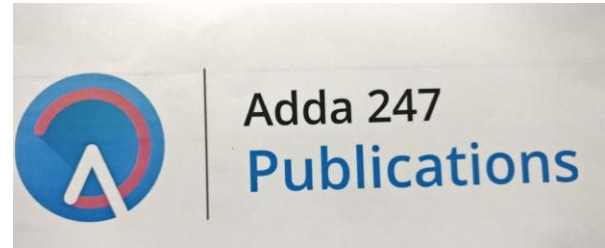


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**Israel President-** Reuven Rivlin, **Prime Minister-** Benjamin Netanyahu, **Currency-** Israeli new shekel.  
**Goa CM-** Manohar Parrikar, **Governor-** Mridula Sinha.



**Current Affairs to be done in ONE-LINERS**

**Which state-owned gas utility company which has commissioned the country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh?**

**Answer.** GAIL India Ltd (Launched at Pata in Uttar Pradesh) Note: GAIL- Gas Authority of India Limited.

**Which state will host the 'Largest B2B Travel Event' in the Country?**

**Answer.** Karnataka government's event named 'Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE)

171st Araadhanai Music Festival held in Thiruvaiyaru, Tamil Nadu.

**With which country, the Union Cabinet of India approved MoU on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector?**

**Answer.** India and Israel on cooperation in the Oil and Gas Sector.

**Who launched the country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry?**

**Answer.** Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare)

**Note:** Oncology is a branch of medicine that deals with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

**Who will be hosting the third edition of the Science Film Festival of India?**

**Answer.** Goa. It is titled SCI-FFI Goa

**Static GK**

**Tamil Nadu CM-** Edappadi K. Palaniswami, **Governor-** Banwarilal Purohit.

**Karnataka CM-** Siddaramaiah, **Governor-** Vajubhai Vala.