

GK DIGEST – 2nd Week of JANUARY 2018

January 8th - 14th

International Affairs

Pakistan released 147 Indian fishermen on humanitarian grounds

- Pakistan released 147 Indian fishermen from Malir Jail in Karachi as a goodwill gesture. As per the list was given to the Indian High Commission by the Pakistani government, 457 Indian prisoners including 399 fishermen and 58 civil prisoners are in Pakistani jails.
- The fishermen were arrested for fishing illegally within the marine border limits of Pakistan and have completed their prison term.
- The Edhi Foundation provided them with clothes and Rs 5,000 each. Fishermen from India and Pakistan are frequently detained for illegally fishing in each other's territorial waters since the Arabian Sea does not have a clearly defined marine border and the wooden boats lack the technology to avoid being drifting away.

Saudi Arabia gives green signal to India's proposal to revive sea route for Haj pilgrimage

- Minority Affairs Minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi said Saudi Arabia gave green signal to India's proposal to revive option of Haj pilgrimage through sea route. It will be a revolutionary, pro-poor, pilgrim-friendly decision.
- Haj pilgrims through ships will help cut down travel expenses significantly. Mr Naqvi said, officials from both countries will discuss all formalities and technicalities so that Haj through sea route can be re-started in coming years.
- The practice of ferrying Haj pilgrims between Mumbai and Jeddah by waterways was stopped in 1995. Saudi Arabia Haj Minister Dr. Mohamed Bentin and Mr. Naqvi, who is on a Saudi Arabia visit, have signed bilateral annual Haj 2018 agreement in Makkah. For the first time, Muslim women from India will go to Hajj without Mahram, male companion.

Germany denies achieving climate change goal till 2020

- The goal to cut the carbon emission by 2020 may be missed by Germany as the chancellor Angela

Merkel and her party has denied achieving the goal in next two years.

- To achieve the target of lowering the emissions by 40 percent by 2020 from 1990 levels by about five percentage points is on low chances. Despite a booming renewable sector, Germany still gets 39% of its power from coal.
- A cross-party commission has been established to create a phase-out plan for the dirty fuel, but it remains a politically charged subject, with utilities and mining unions playing for more time to transition. Germany likes to champion itself as a climate leader.

Saudi Arabia allows women to attend men football match for 1st time

- Saudi Arabia allowed women to attend a men's football match for the first time from a sports stadium. This comes after Saudi women were allowed in a stadium for National Day celebrations in a one-off event in September last year.
- A hashtag, translated as "the people welcome the entry of women into stadiums", was used tens of thousands of times in two hours as the match took place.



National Affairs

Indian Railways to Equip All 8,500 Stations With Free Public Wi-Fi Facility

- All railway station nearly 8,500 across the country, including those in rural and remote areas will be equipped with Wi-Fi facilities at an estimated cost of Rs. 700 crore (\$110 million).
- As part of the government's ambitious Digital India initiative, the national transporter has currently commissioned Wi-Fi services at 216 major stations enabling about seven million rail passengers to log on to the free Internet facility. 1,200 stations have been identified for this facility to primarily cater to rail passengers, about 7,300 stations have been earmarked to not only serve passengers but also local people in rural and remote areas.
- Railway stations in rural areas will have kiosks with Wi-Fi that will become digital hot spots offering services like digital banking,
- Aadhaar generation, issuing government certificates, including birth and death certificates, and filing taxes and paying bills, among others.



India's Second FTII to be Set up in Arunachal Pradesh

- Minister of State (I/C) of the 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 as part of tapping the potential of the Northeastern region.
- This would be the second such one in the country. The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune.
- FTII is an autonomous institute operating under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

Union Government to launch e-Sansad and e-Vidhan in Parliament and State

- The Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (MoPA) proposed rolling out of e-Sansad in Parliament and e-Vidhan in State Legislatures to digitize and make their functioning paperless.
- It was announced by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ananth Kumar after inaugurating 18th All India Whips' Conference in Udaipur, Rajasthan.
- They are mission mode projects of Union Government under Digital India to make the



functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures paperless.

- These projects will make the functioning of Parliament and State Legislatures participative, responsive, transparent, productive and more accountable.

Haryana Becomes First State to Launch High Risk Pregnancy Portal

- Haryana becomes 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.
- This innovative web application has been designed to track every high-risk pregnant woman till 42 days after delivery so that she receives adequate treatment during the antenatal period for the healthy outcome of pregnancy.



UIDAI Introduces Virtual ID to Strengthen Privacy and Security of Aadhaar Data

- The 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. Aadhaar card holder can generate the Virtual ID from UIDAI website and give for various purposes, including SIM card verification, instead of sharing the actual 12-digit biometric ID.
- The Virtual ID will be a temporary and revocable 16 digit random number mapped to a person's Aadhaar number.

President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurated 4th International Dharma Dhamma Conference

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated a three-day International Dharma-Dhamma conference at Rajgir in Bihar.
- The conference has been jointly organized by India Foundation, Nalanda University, Ministry of



External Affairs, Asean-India and Vietnamese Buddhist Sangha. The inaugural session was chaired by our President. The conference was attended by Sri Lanka's foreign Minister Tilak Marapana.

Telecom regulator TRAI cuts ISD incoming call termination rate to 30 paise

- Telecom regulator TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) reduced international incoming call termination rate ie., ITC - international termination charge to 30 paise, from 53 paise, to curb the "grey route".
- The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India said the new rule "shall come into force from the 1st February, 2018".

Agreements and MoU

Indian Navy Signed MoU with Cochin Port Trust

- The Indian Navy inked a MoU with the Cochin Port Trust (CPT), Kerala towards leasing of 228 meters of berths at Mattancherry Wharf for a period of five years.

- The MoU has been concluded to cater for the futuristic requirements of the Navy with the sizeable increase in its fleet scheduled in the near future. This is the first time such an agreement has been signed between the Navy and CPT.

South Korea and GCCI Sign MoU for Business Cooperation

- An official delegation from South Korea and the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce and Industry (GCCCI) signed a MoU for co-operation between industries in Gujarat and the East Asian country, with a focus on automobile, defense and textiles sectors.
- The main objective of the MoU 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, defense, and textiles.

India and Canada soon to sign MoU for cooperation in field of Science and Technology

- India and Canada will soon sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the cooperation in the field of Science and Technology. That will provide

a mechanism and help to foster scientific cooperation between R&D and academic institutions of the two countries.

- Notably, the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has approved a MoU with Canada for cooperation in the field of Science and Technology.
- Under the MoU, an innovative model of R&D cooperation between India and Canada will be implemented under a MoU concluded by the Department of Science and Technology with the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) of Canada.
- Under this MoU, the India-Canada Centre for Innovative Multidisciplinary Partnership to Accelerate Community Transformation and Sustainability (IC-IMPACTS) programme will be supported to promote India-Canada multidisciplinary research partnerships.
- The R&D projects will be aimed at accelerating social transformation by providing solutions through application of science and technology.



Sports

Gilles Simon Wins Inaugural Tata Open Title

- Gilles Simon of France lifted the inaugural Tata Open Maharashtra Tennis trophy.
- In the summit clash in Pune, the unseeded French player defeated second-seeded Kevin Anderson in straight sets.
- Simon is ranked 89 in the world, while Anderson is ranked Fourteen. Simon had knocked out defending champion and third seed Roberto Bautista Agut.

Sports Minister Rathore Launches 'Khelo India' Logo

- The vibrant Khelo India logo, reflecting the freshness, agility, and vitality of New India was launched at a ceremony by the Union Minister of State (I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi.
- The logo also conveys an impression of fitness and competitiveness.
- The three-stroke Khelo India logo, designed by Ogilvy India, has in-built modularity, allowing

plenty of adaptability and flexibility into endless pictorial forms.

Aditya Mehta Wins Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship

- Professional player Aditya Mehta won the Kolkata Open 2018 International Invitation Snooker Championship in the capital city of West Bengal Kolkata.
- This is his third Kolkata Open title since its inception. In the thrilling final he defeated Englishman Professional Player Alfie Burden.

IOA Appoints Harjinder Singh as 'Chef de Mission' for Winter Olympics 2018

- The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission for the 23rd Winter Olympic Games to be held in Pyeongchang, South Korea in February 2018. Harjinder Singh is at present the General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.

Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

- 1) Who won Brisbane International title recently ?
 - a) Elina Svitolina
 - b) LeBron James
 - c) Usain Bolt
 - d) Lionel Messi

- 2) Which title won by Gilles Simon ?
 - a) Tata Open Title
 - b) Open squash title
 - c) Super Series title
 - d) Laver Cup

- 3) Which state India's Second FTII to be Set up recently ?
 - a) Kerala
 - b) Andhra Pradesh
 - c) Madhya Pradesh
 - d) Arunachal pradesh

- 4) Who signed MoU with Cochin Port Trust recently ?
 - a) Indian Navy
 - b) Indian Army
 - c) Indian Police
 - d) Indian Railways



5) How many railway stations did Indian Railways to Equip With Free Public Wi-Fi Facility ?

- a) 8,500
- b) 9000
- c) 5600
- d) 6500

6) Which country banned teaching of English language in primary schools to fight against western cultural invasion ?

- a) Iran
- b) Pakistan
- c) South Africa
- d) North America

7) Who signs Pact with FreeCharge recently ?

- a) PhonePe
- b) Zomato
- c) Paytm
- d) Zender

8) Who introduced Virtual ID to Strengthen Privacy and Security of Aadhaar Data?

- a) RBI
- b) SBI
- c) NABARD
- d) UIDAI



9) Which country signed GCCI Sign MoU for Business Cooperation ?

- a) South korea
- b) North Africa
- c) Russia
- d) Sweden

10) Which company planning to launch its own cryptocurrency ?

- a) Reliance
- b) Ashok Leyland
- c) Larsen & Toubro
- d) Tech mahindra

11) How many millions did India contributed to UN Youth Envoys office ?

- a) \$ 50,000
- b) \$ 40,000
- c) \$ 65,000
- d) \$ 85,000

12) Who Bags Bronze India's 1st International Medal in Skiing ?

- a) Anchal Thakur
- b) Naresh iyer
- c) Vijay Sekhar
- d) Suresh narayan

13) Which company will have 2 million cars on roads building HD maps this year ?

- a) Intel
- b) Ashok Leyland
- c) L&T
- d) Verizon

14) Which state Became first to Launch High Risk Pregnancy Portal ?

- a) Haryana
- b) Tamil Nadu
- c) Kerala
- d) Andhra Pradesh

15) Which country celebrated World's Largest Ice Festival ?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Iran
- c) Australia
- d) China

Answers:

- 1) A 2) A 3) D 4) A 5) A 6) A 7) A 8) A 9) A 10) A 11) A
12) A 13) A 14) A 15) D

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