

GK DIGEST – 3rd Week of JANUARY 2018

January 15th - 21th

International Affairs

Romanian PM Mihai Tudose Resigns after Losing Party Support

- Romania's left-wing Prime Minister Mihai Tudose resigned after losing the backing of his party due to internal power struggles, barely seven months after his predecessor suffered the same fate.
- He handed his resignation after senior members of the ruling Social Democrats (PSD) voted to withdraw their support at a leadership meeting.

China builds World's Biggest Air Purifier

- China constructed a 330-foot tall air purifying tower dubbed the "world's biggest air purifier".
- The tower, which is being tested by researchers, produced more than 10 million cubic meters of clean air since it was launched.

- The air purification system works through greenhouses covering about half the size of a soccer field around the base of the tower.

Donald Trump awarded bravery medal for scolding Pakistan over terrorism

- Afghanistan residents awarded Donald Trump a bravery medal for rebuking Pakistan over its failure in curbing terrorist havens.
- As per local media reports, the medal has been forged using funds collected by Afghans from the Logar province worth 45,000 Afghanis (\$645) and consists of 15 grams of gold.
- The US Ambassador in Kabul John R Bass promised that he will soon hand over the medal to the US President.

Facebook appoints its 1st African-American Member to Board

- Facebook appointed outgoing American Express CEO Kenneth Chenault to its board, making him the first African-American to be on the board.

- Chenault serves on the Boards of IBM and Procter & Gamble and is also a Harvard Law School graduate.

Israel PM Addresses India-Israel Business Summit in Mumbai

- Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited Mumbai during the final leg of his visit to India.
- He addressed the India-Israel Business Summit at the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in south Mumbai.
- Later in the day, Mr. Netanyahu will attend the 'Shalom Bollywood' event at the Taj hotel.
- A monthly magazine titled 'Namaste Shalom' will also be launched to mark Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Mumbai visit.
- The magazine is planned to carry forward the great initiative of Mr. Modi and Mr. Netanyahu to strengthen India-Israel relations.



National Affairs

India contributes \$50,000 to UN Youth Envoys office

- India contributed \$50,000 to United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Antonio Guterres Office of Envoy on Youth to help with its mission of involving young people in the world body's goals. The contribution was handed over by Paulomi Tripathi, a First Secretary in India's UN Mission to the Youth Envoy Jayathma Wickramanayake.
- India contributes \$50,000 to UN Youth Envoy's office January 15, 2018. India has contributed \$50,000 to United Nations (UN) Secretary General's Envoy on Youth in June 2017 at the age of 26.
- The Youth Envoy's works to raise international awareness and attention to youth issues among others. Its mission aims to promote engagement of youth and advocate for them across all the four pillars of UN's work – human rights, peace and security, sustainable development and humanitarian action.

India's first agri-Options unveiled for doubling farmers income

- Finance Minister Arun Jaitley the development of the agriculture sector is a priority for the NDA government. He launched country's first agri-commodity options.
- India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and the growth is benefitting people in different sectors. But maximum population is dependent on agri-sector and unless the gains are clear and evident, the (economic) growth is not justifiable and equitable. The Ensuring the benefits reach the agri-sector and growth is visible this is among the priority areas for us. We see in some places the problem of falling prices because of higher production.

Union Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore launches Khelo India Anthem

- Sports Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore made the announcement during the launch of the official anthem and mascot of Khelo India School Games, beginning January 31.

- Now when an athlete wins a medal at Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and Olympics, the coach gets the incentive.
- The video features India's eminent sports personalities such as Sardar Singh, Sunil Chhetri, Devendra Jhajharia, Baichung Bhutia, Pullela Gopichand, Leander Paes, Mary Kom, Akhil Kumar, Sakshi Malik and Saina Nehwal.

India emerging as a biggest tourism hub across the globe; over 11 lakh tourists arrived New Delhi in Dec 2017

- Tourism sector of the nation is blooming year by year, as the Foreign Tourists Arrivals have bloomed by 15.2% in December 2017 as compared to December 2016. And also 48.3% Growth in Foreign Tourist Arrivals on an e-Tourist visa in December 2017 Over December 2016. The number of FTAs in December 2017 was 11.76 lakh as compared to FTAs of 10.21 lakh in December 2016 and 9.13 lakh in December 2015.
- The growth rate in FTAs in December 2017 over December 2016 was 15.2%, compared to 11.9% in December 2016 over December 2015. FTAs in the year 2017 was 101.77 lakh with a growth of 15.6% over 2016,

compared to FTAs of 88.04 lakh with a growth of 9.7% is 2016 over 2015. The percentage share of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during December 2017 among the top 15 source countries was highest from Bangladesh (19.04%) followed by USA (16.90%), UK (10.41%), Australia (5.31%), Canada (3.85%), Russian Fed. (3.79%), Malaysia (3.11%), Germany (2.08%), China (2.06%), Sri Lanka (2.01%), Singapore (1.85%), France (1.81%), Japan (1.64%), Thailand (1.60%) and Italy (1.44%).

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Netanyahu Inaugurates 'iCreate Centre' in Ahmedabad

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi and PM Benjamin Netanyahu inaugurated the 'iCreate Centre' at Deo Dholera in Ahmedabad. iCreate paves way for the two nations to jointly script new stories of success through innovation.
- The two leaders also visited the startup exhibition at the venue and interacted with entrepreneurs and innovators.
- They awarded winners of the India Israel Innovation Challenge 2017.

- These include 2 challenges each in agriculture, healthcare and water.

Maharashtra becomes first state to unveil Public Cloud Policy

- Maharashtra became the first state in the country to unveil Public Cloud Policy that virtually mandates state government departments to shift their data storage.
- The State Government had formed a four-member committee to draft policy framework on cloud usage.
- The policy will result in additional private sector investments worth the US \$2 billion for cloud industry as the government is one of biggest creators.



Agreements and MoU

India and US join hands to enhance effectiveness of information exchange and transparency

- To enhance the effectiveness of information exchange and transparency, India and United States of America (USA) signed the Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) under FATCA in 2015.
- The Notably, the two countries are committed to establishing, by January 1, 2017, rules requiring their Reporting Financial Institutions (RFI) to obtain the Tax Identity Number (TIN) of each reportable person having a reportable account as of June 30, 2014 (pre-existing account).
- The Income-tax Rules, accordingly, provide for reporting of U.S. TIN from the year 2017 onwards in respect of any pre-existing account. The US-IRS has issued guidelines through Notice 2017-46 dated 25.09.2017 providing relaxation to Foreign Financial Institutions (FFIs) with respect to



reporting of U.S.TIN for calendar years 2017, 2018 and 2019.

India and Sri Lanka Sign 4 Agreements for Collaboration in ICT Sector

- India and Sri Lanka signed four agreements for collaboration in the Information and communication technology (ICT) sector, setting up of an e-office system and connecting of National Knowledge Network (NKN) for collaboration among universities and academics.
- With the move, Sri Lanka has become the first country to be connected to India's NKN through a Gigabyte optical fiber network.
- The MoU for cooperation was signed by Union minister for Information Technology Ravi Shankar Prasad with his Sri Lankan counterpart, during his visit to Colombo.



India and Israel sign 9 agreements in space, defence, cybersecurity

- India and Israel have signed nine agreements to boost cooperation in the areas of space, cyber security and oil and gas between both countries.
- The agreements were signed following delegation-level talks headed by Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu in New Delhi.
- Netanyahu is first Israeli Prime Minister to visit India in the span of last 15 years and second one overall.
- Agreement on Film-co-production. Protocol on Amendments to Air Transport Agreement MoU on Cyber Security Cooperation between India and Israel Memorandum MoU between the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas and the Ministry of Energy on Cooperation in Oil and Gas Sector Lol between IOCL and Yeda Research MoU between Central Council for Research in Homeopathy and Ministry of AYUSH and Centre for Integrative Complementary Medicine,

- Shaare Zedek MoU between Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST) and Technion- Israel Institute of Technology for cooperation in the field of space.

Sports

Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho retires from Football

- Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho formally confirmed his retirement from football, more than two years since his last appearance as professional reports in Brazil.
- The 37-year-old former Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona star, a key member of the Brazil side which won the World Cup in 2002, last played in 2015 during a brief stint with Fluminense.
- Ronaldinho's career began with Gremio in Porto Alegre, his hometown, before he emerged as a star with French giants PSG.
- He then spent five years with Barcelona between 2003 and 2008, helping the Catalans win the Champions League in 2006, after being awarded the Ballon d'Or in 2005.

Virat Kohli named as Captain of ICC's Test and ODI Teams of the Year

- Virat Kohli was named the captain of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test and One-Day International (ODI) teams of the year that included four other Indians as well.
- He scored 2,023 runs at 77.80, including eight centuries and three half-centuries in 18 matches during the qualification period. He surprisingly pipped Australian skipper Steve Smith for the ICC's Test team captaincy.
- The Test team also comprises Cheteshwar Pujara and Ravichandran Ashwin. Kohli, the Winner of the Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy and ODI Cricketer of the Year awards, was chosen to lead the ICC ODI team, which includes Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah as the other two Indians.

India registers emphatic victory over Zimbabwe Under-19 World Cup

- Indian cricket team registered an emphatic victory over Zimbabwe by 10 wickets in the ICC

Under-19 World Cup at Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui .

- Notably, with this win Indian team finished their rout of Group B with staying at the top in the points table.
- After opted to bat first, Zimbabwe was bowled out for 154 in 48.1 overs, with Indian left-arm spinners Anukul Roy taking 4 wickets after conceding only 20 runs while Arshdeep Singh and Abhishek Sharma took 2 wickets each.
- Zimbabwe were 110/3 at one stage but lost their last seven wickets for 44 runs. In-form Indian batsmen chased down the small target in an easy manner as Harvick Desai scored 56 runs unbeaten while Shubham Gill scored 90 runs.
- The target of 155 runs was achieved by India without losing any wicket. With the win, the Prithvi Shaw led side remain unbeaten in the group B. India have already sealed their spot in the quarterfinals.



Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

- 1) Which Indian Cricketer named as Captain of ICC Test and ODI Teams of the Year ?
 - a) Virat Kohli
 - b) Sachin tendulkar
 - c) Ashwin ravichandran
 - d) Parthiv Patel

- 2) How many lakhs did Google awarded for finding bugs in Pixel phone ?
 - a) 72
 - b) 85
 - c) 65
 - d) 46

- 3) Which social network appointed its 1st African-American Member to Board ?
 - a) Facebook
 - b) Twitter
 - c) Instagram
 - d) Linked In



- 4) Which social network Unveils Business App for Android?
- a) Whatsapp Messenger
 - a) Facebook
 - b) Twitter
 - c) Instagram
- 5) Which country joined as 43rd Member of Australia Group?
- a) India
 - b) Indonesia
 - c) Albania
 - d) South Africa
- 6) Which country to offer Yoga classes at World Economic Forum ?
- a) India
 - b) Pakistan
 - c) England
 - d) South Africa
- 7) Which naval ship Formally Affiliated to Bihar Regiment ?
- a) INS Kolkata
 - b) INS Mumbai
 - c) INS Betwa
 - d) INS Vikramaditya



- 8) Which bank Ties up with Amplus Energy Solutions ?
- a) Yes Bank
 - b) Canara Bank
 - c) Dena Bank
 - d) State Bank of India
- 9) Who was awarded bravery medal for scolding Pakistan over terrorism ?
- a) US President Donald Trump
 - b) Antoine Williams
 - c) Vladimir putin
 - d) Hillary Clinton
- 10) Who Unveils Book on Self-Development in Delhi ?
- a) President Ram Nath Kovind
 - b) Shri Naresh iyer
 - c) Shri Suresh rajan
 - d) Shri Naresh Iyer
- 11) Who is appointed as CMD Of SPMCIL recently ?
- a) Shri S Selvakumar
 - b) Shri Naresh kumar
 - c) Shri Ramesh Kumar
 - d) Shri Vivek Kumar



12) Which small finance bank Inks MoU with LIC to Offer PMJJBY Scheme ?

- a) AU Small Finance Bank
- b) Equitas Small Finance Bank
- c) Federal Bank
- d) Yes bank

13) Who signed agreement MoU for Development of Logistics Sector recently ?

- a) CII
- b) NIA
- c) CBI
- d) NTPC

14) Which union minister launched Khelo India Anthem?

- a) Shri Rajyavardhan Rathore
- b) Shri Rajesh Sharma
- c) Shri Vikesh Sharma
- d) Shri Naresh iyer

15) Around how many lakh tourists India emerging as a biggest tourism hub across the globe ?

- a) 19
- a) 11
- b) 18
- d) 20



Answers:

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

USEFUL LINKS

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