

GK DIGEST – 5th Week of JANUARY 2018

Jan 26th - Feb 4th

International Affairs

UAE launched World's Longest Zip Line

- The United Arab Emirates made a record by opening the world's longest zip line, measuring 2.83 km in length. Guinness World Records officials certified the zip line in Ras al-Khaimah.
- The Jebel Jais Flight takes thrill-seekers atop the country's largest mountain peak, from a launch pad 1,680 meters (5,512 feet) above sea level.

Microsoft AI to enhance translations of Indian languages

- Microsoft will use Deep Neural Networks to enable high-quality Indian language translations.
- It recognizes speech to convert into text, eliminates errors in the data, translates it to the target language, and synthesizes the text-based translation into speech.

- It also puts every word within the context of other words in the sentence to better the translation.

WEF launches Global Centre for Cybersecurity

- The World Economic Forum (WEF) launched new Global Centre for Cybersecurity in a bid to safeguard the world from hackers and growing data breaches, especially from nation-states.
- The center will be headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland and will become operational from March 2018.
- The Global Centre for Cybersecurity will function as an autonomous organization under WEF.
- It will help to build a safe and secure global cyberspace. The Mandate of Global Centre for Cybersecurity Consolidate existing cybersecurity initiatives of WEF.
- The Establishment of the independent library of cyber best practice.

National Affairs

Union Budget 2018-19 Complete Analysis

- The Union Budget, to be the last for this government in view of the general elections due in the first half of 2019, may have two main components: The first part deals with new schemes and outlays for various existing schemes and sectors for the coming fiscal, while the second contains announcements on direct and indirect taxes.
- With the implementation of single tax regime GST, this year's budget is believed to take into account only those items that still remain outside the purview of GST.
- It is highly expected that 2018-19 budget could contain changes in customs and excise duties on these remaining products, which for most others have been subsumed under GST.
- For the rest, you'll have to watch this space for the review of Union Budget 2018-19.
- As per the FM in the Union Budget, India is expected to become the fifth largest economy very soon. The Growth rate is expected between 7.2-7.5% in the second half of 2017-18. Exports are expected to grow 15% in 2018. As per the FM, India is a Rs2.5 trillion economy. MSP to increase at least 1.5 times that of production cost. Minimum Support Price (MSP) of all crops shall increase to at least 1.5 times that of the production cost.

- The government will set up a fund of Rs 2,000 crore for developing agricultural markets. Our focus is on productive and gainful on-farm and non-farm employment for farmers and landless families, says Jaitley. MSP for Kharif cost will be 1.5 times the cost of production. As per the FM, APMCs will be linked with ENAM.
- The government will develop 22,000 Gramin agricultural markets. The cluster-model approach will be adopted for agricultural production. Allocation in food production sector doubled to Rs 1400 crore. Minimum Support Price shall be increased by 1.5 times.
- Operation Green will be launched for agriculture and the Minister allocates Rs 500 crore for this. Agricultural corpus worth Rs 2000 crore will be set up. 470 APMCs have been connected to eNAM network, the rest to be connected by March 2018.
- A fund for the fishery, aquaculture development and animal husbandry will be set up with a total corpus to be Rs 10,000 crore.
- We will also allocate Rs 1290 crore for a bamboo mission, as it is green gold.
- In all, we are providing Rs 10 lakh crore to Rs 11 lakh crore as credit for agricultural activities.

- He proposed to increase the target of providing free LPG connections to 8 crore to poor women. Ujjwala Yojana, the free LPG connection scheme expanded to eight crore households.
- Six crore toilets have been built already, and in the next year, two crore additional toilets will be constructed.
- The government will provide 4 crore electricity connections to the poor under Saubhagya Yojana. Kisan credit card to be extended to fisheries, animal husbandry farmers.
- The government will establish a dedicated affordable housing fund. Loans to self-help groups will increase to Rs 75,000 crore.
- Govt. allocated Rs5,750 crore to National Livelihood Mission and Rs2,600 crore to the groundwater irrigation scheme. Ayushman Bharat program discussed. Eklavya schools for tribal children. 24 new government medical colleges.
- Government is implementing a comprehensive social security scheme. Govt. will initiate an integrated B-Ed programme for teachers. Government proposes to launch the Revitalising of Infrastructure and Systems of Education (RISE) by next year.
- Govt. proposed to set up two new full-fledged schools of planning and architecture. 18 new schools of

planning and architecture will be set up in the IITs and NITs. Rs. 1 lakh crore over 4 years for initiative for Infrastructure Devt. in education. 2 major initiatives as part of Ayushman Bharat program.

- Eklavya schools to be open for tribal children. National health protection scheme to cover 10 cr poor families. Health cover of up to 5 lakh per family per year for poor & vulnerable. National health protection scheme to benefit 50 crore people.
- 24 new govt medical college & hospitals. Rs. 600 crore for nutritional support to all TB patients. Rs. 1200 crore for health and wellness centres.
- Loans to women self-help groups of women to be increased to 75,000 cr by March 19.
- Govt. is launching a new national health protection scheme – Rashtriya Samaj Beema Yojana. This will have 50 crore beneficiaries and 10 crore families will get 5 lakh per year for their families to cover secondary and tertiary hospital expenses.
- This is the world's largest government-funded healthcare program.
- A Rs 600 crore corpus is being set up to help Tuberculosis patients.
- This will build a new India in 2022 and enhance productivity and will also generate lakhs of jobs for women.

- PM Jeevan Bima Yojana benefitted more than 2 crore families. Jan Dhan Yojana will be extended to all 60 crore bank accounts.
- The government increased allocation for SC-ST earmarked programmes: Rs 56,000 crore for SCs and Rs 39,000 crore for STs. By 2022, every block with more than 50% ST population and at least 20,000 tribal people will have 'Ekalavya' school at par with Navodaya Vidyalayas.
- The government will announce measures to address non-performing assets of MSMEs. As per the FM, Rs. 3 lakh crore for lending under is being allocated in FY 19 for PM's MUDRA Yojana. Smart city Mission and AMRUT discussed. Smart city command control centre discussed

Andhra Pradesh to organize urban innovation summit

- In order to boost the rapidly developing sector of Urban development, Andhra Pradesh government will be organizing a three-day innovation summit on the theme of 'Urban transformation to Global Living'.
- Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu announced that Happy Cities Summit will be held between April 10 and 12 in Bhavani Island on Krishna River where

experts and various industry players will attend that grand event to brainstorm on various dimensions of building smart and sustainable cities.

- Addressing the meeting of CRDA officials, the Chief Minister suggested that subject like citizen-centricity urban innovation, next-generation technology, urban planners, urban transportation, architecture, and designing should be included during Happy Cities Summit.

India Slips To 42nd Place On EIU Democracy Index, Norway Tops

- India slipped to 42nd place on an annual Global Democracy Index according to the data compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).
- India has moved down from 32nd place last year.
- The top 5 Countries in the list are Norway, Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand and Denmark.
- The index ranks 165 independent states and two territories on the basis of five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, the functioning of government, political participation and political culture. The list has been divided into four broad categories- full democracy, flawed democracy, the hybrid regime and authoritarian regime.

- North Korea is ranked the lowest at 167th, while Syria is a notch better at 166th place.

Agreements and MoU

India Joined Ashgabat agreement

- India joined Ashgabat Agreement on the establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
- The agreement was signed in 2011, which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.
- According to the External Affairs Ministry, the accession to the Agreement would diversify India's connectivity options with Central Asia and have a positive influence on its trade and commercial ties with the region.

Cochin Shipyard Limited Signs MoU With Russian Firm USC

- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC),

Russia have signed an MoU to collaborate and engage in Design, Development and Execution of contemporary, State-of-Art vessels for Inland and Coastal Waterways.

- The MoU will give a push to the Government's Make-in-India programme, as also its plans to develop eco-friendly and economic transportation along India's inland waterways and coastal shipping routes under SAGARMALA.

India and World Bank signed loan agreement for development of Jal Marg Vikas Project

- India and World Bank signed a US \$ 375 million loan agreement for the construction and development of Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- Notably, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) signed a project agreement with the World Bank today, even as the latter entered into a US \$ 375 million loan agreement with the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- However, the signing of the Agreement follows the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, for the implementation of the US \$ 800 million

JMVP for capacity augmentation of navigation on National Waterway-1(River Ganga) from Varanasi to Haldia.

- Out of the remaining amount, US \$ 380 million is to be sourced from the Government of India counterpart funds from budgetary allocation and proceeds from the bond issue.
- Another US \$ 45 million will come from private sector participation under the PPP mode.

Awards and Honours

Padma Awards 2018 announced Full List Of Recipients

- The President approved the awards for 85 individuals, which includes 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan, and 73 Padma Shri.
- The Fourteen of the awardees are women and 3 persons have been awarded posthumously. In sports personalities, former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni and multiple world champion cueist Pankaj Advani have been conferred with the third-highest civilian award, Padma Bhushan.
- The 2017 World Weightlifting Champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu and former Asian Games gold medallist tennis player Somdev Devvarman have been conferred with the Padma Shri.

- The awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day every year.
 1. Ilayaraja Art (Music)
 2. Ghulam Mustafa Khan Art (Music)
 3. Parameswaran Literature & Education
 4. Padma Bhushan (3rd highest civilian award):

S. No.	Winner	Category
1.	Pankaj Advani	Sport (Billiards/Snooker)
2.	Mahendra Singh Dhoni	Sports (Cricket)
3.	Alexander Kadakin	(Foreigner/Posthumous) Public Affairs
4.	Ved Prakash Nanda	Literature and Education
5.	Laxman Pai	Art (Painting)
6.	Arvind Parikh	Art (Painting)
7.	Sharda Sinha	Art (Painting)
8.	Philipose Mar Chrysostom	Others (Spiritualism)
9.	Ramachandran Nagaswamy	Others (Archaeology)

Odisha won Geospatial World Excellence Award 2018

- Odisha Government won 'Geospatial World Excellence Award-2018' for successful IT application for tracking of mineral production.
- The award was presented at the Geospatial World Forum Meeting held at Hyderabad, Telangana.
- The event was attended by more than 3,000 geospatial experts from 90 different countries.
- i3MS is GPS-linked web-based software designed by scientists of Odisha Space Applications Centre (ORSAC), Bhubaneswar.

Sports

Saurav Ghosal Becomes The Highest-Ranked Indian Squash Player

- India's leading squash player, Saurav Ghosal jumped five places to No. 14 to become the highest ranked Indian in the latest Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings.
- Ghosal beat Joshna Chinappa who slipped three places to No. 17 while Dipika Pallikal Karthik remained on 20. Former Indian national champion Harinder Pal Sandhu was placed at 49th.

India won U-19 World Cup 2018

- India defeated Australia to lift the Under 19 World cup for the fourth time.
- The Men in Blue defeated the three-time champions Australia at Bay Oval, New Zealand.
- The Australian team had set the target of 214 runs and was chased down easily by India. Manjot Kalra was the Hero of the match with his brilliant century.

Sandeep Lamichhane Becomes 1st Nepal Player To Get IPL Contract

- Sandeep Lamichhane became the first cricketer from Nepal to land a deal an IPL contract. He was picked by Delhi Daredevils in the player's auction.
- The 17-year-old, the only Nepal player in the IPL auction, was sold at his base price of Rs 20 lakh.
- The leg-spinner rose to prominence with a successful outing at the 2016 U-19 World Cup where he guided Nepal to a creditable eighth place.
- He hogged the limelight by becoming the second-highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 14 scalps in six innings.

Shesh Anand Madhukar honoured with Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award

- Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar honored with Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award.
- He is a second writer of Magahi language to be given this award.
- Magahi language also known as Magadhi is the language spoken in Bihar-Jharkhand region of eastern India.
- It has been derived from ancient language Magadhi is the language spoken in Bihar-Jharkhand region of eastern India.

- It has been derived from ancient language Magadhi Prakrit, spoken in the ancient kingdom.

Sharath Kamal Wins Table Tennis Nationals Championship

- Sharath Kamal beat top-seeded Anthony Amalraj to win the men singles title for the eighth time, equalling the feat of Kamlesh Mehta in the 79th edition of the 11Even Sports Senior Nationals in Ranchi, Jharkhand.
- Suthirta Mukherjee from West Bengal emerged the new women champion, beating Hyderabad Nationals winner Manika Batra.

Important Quiz Questions – Weekly

1) Which country ranked 81st On Global Talent Competitiveness Index ?

- a) India
- b) Pakistan
- c) South Africa
- d) West Indies

2) Which company AI to enhance translations of Indian languages ?

- a) Apple
- b) Samsung
- c) Honour
- d) Microsoft

- 3) Which company launches Global Centre for Cybersecurity ?
- a) Symantec
 - b) World Economic Forum (WEF)
 - c) FireEye,
 - d) Palo Alto Networks
- 4) What is the name of First India-designed vaccine to pass WHO test ?
- a) Rotavac
 - b) Pediatrix
 - c) TOPV
 - d) Inactivated
- 5) Who Became 1st Nepal Player To Get IPL Contract recently ?
- a) Paras Khadka
 - b) Pradeep Airee
 - c) Anil Mandal
 - d) Sandeep Lamichhane
- 6) Which country to witness super blue moon with lunar eclipse ?
- a) North America
 - b) Australia
 - c) India
 - d) South Africa
- 7) Which bank Launches fourth edition of Evolve ?
- a) State Bank of india
 - b) Dena bank
 - c) Canara Bank

- d) Axis Bank
- 8) Which rank did India obtained in the List Of Wealthiest Countries?
- a) 6
 - b) 5
 - c) 10
 - d) 12
- 9) For how many lakhs Union Government makes PAN mandatory recently ?
- a) 5 lakhs
 - b) 2.5 lakhs
 - c) 8 lakhs
 - d) 7.5 lakhs
- 10) Who is honoured with Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award ?
- a) Bhasha Samman
 - b) Charu Chandra Pande
 - c) Mathura Dutt Mathpal
 - d) Shesh Anand Madhukar
- 11) Which company Signed MoU With Russian Firm USC ?
- a) Cochin Shipyard Limited
 - b) Tata Group Limited
 - c) LIC India
 - d) Mahindra Group

12) How many athletes to represent India at the Winter Olympics?

- a) 10
- b) 8
- c) 2
- d) 6

13) Which country Lifts U-19 World Cup 2018?

- a) Australia
- b) South Africa
- c) Pakistan
- d) India

14) Which ministry may introduce dynamic pricing system ?

- a) Telecom Ministry
- b) External Affairs ministry
- c) Ministry of Defence
- d) Railway ministry

15) With Which country World Bank signs loan agreement for development of Jal Marg Vikas Project ?

- a) Pakistan
- b) India
- c) South Africa
- d) Denmark

Answers:

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

USEFUL LINKS

Free Current Affairs Quiz - January 2018	Free RBI Mock Test
Free Current Affairs Quiz - December 2017	Free IBPS Clerk Exam Test
Free Current Affairs Quiz - November 2017	Free Mock Test
Free Current Affairs Quiz - October 2017	Free SSC CGL Exam Test
Free Current Affairs Quiz - September 2017	Free IBPS PO Test
Free Current Affairs Quiz - August 2017	Free LIC AAO Mock Test
Latest Government Job Updates	