

## CURRENT AFFAIRS JAN 2016 - MISCELLANEOUS

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- The National Aluminum Company (NALCO) announced to develop and promote Bhubaneswar as a **floral hub and make the city green**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** increased the upper age limit for recruitment in government services.
- The conference of the Foreign Ministers of the Arab League Foreign Ministers was held in **Cairo, Egypt**.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Pravasi Bharatiya Diwas was inaugurated in **New Delhi**.
- 11<sup>th</sup> World Hindi Day was observed on **10<sup>th</sup> January 2016**
- Sania Mirza and Martina Hingis won the WTA Brisbane Tennis trophy by defeating **German Angelique Kerber and Andrea Petkovic in the finals**.
- **Stanislas Wawrinka** won the Chennai Open title by defeating **Borna Coric of Croatia**.
- DRDO successfully test fired the new Penetration-Cum Blast (PCB) and Thermobaric (TB) Ammunition tank, which was specially designed for **Arjun Main Battle Tank (MBT)**.
- "MARU BHARAT SARU BHARAT" authored by - Jain Acharya Ratnasundersuriswarji Maharaj released by PM Narendra Modi.
- Former New Zealand Captain, **Stephen Fleming** was appointed as the Chief Coach of the new Pune franchise of the Indian Premier League Twenty20 cricket tournament 2016.
- Union Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 laid foundation stones of 342 km-long seven National Highway projects worth 3000 crore rupees in Simga tehsil in Raipur.
- The Ardh Kumbh mela was formally inaugurated on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 Haridwar
- President Pranab Mukherjee gave assent to the Sugar Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2015, raising the ceiling of the impost from 25 rupees to 200 rupees per quintal.
- South Korean President Park Geun-hye called upon the international community to impose harshest possible sanctions on North Korea over its latest nuclear test.
- To reduce the premium burden on farmers and ensure early settlement of claim for the full sum insured, the Union Cabinet approved the proposal of Crop Insurance Scheme.
- Activist Subhashini Vasanth honoured with Neerja Bhanot Award.
- Union Government announced National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) to make Visakhapatnam as a pharmaceutical hub.
- Edward Monser, President of Emerson, and Punit Renjen, CEO of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited (Deloitte Global) were appointed as the Vice Chairs of U.S.-India Business Council.
- Vishakhapatnam hosted the 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of Confederate of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit-cum-Sunrise Andhra Pradesh Investment Summit.
- Odisha Government declared to bring Plus II education under the Mass Education department from existing Higher Education department from next academic year.
- Bihar government decided to impose 13.5% tax on luxury items to garner additional revenue for carrying development work.
- Border Security Force launched Operation Cold to contain infiltration from Pakistan along the international border in Rajasthan.

- Kerala was declared as the first state in the country to have achieved 100 percent primary education.
- Union Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu flagged off a new train service between Lokmanya Tilak(T)-Kazipet named Anandwan Express.
- The Jharkhand Government on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016 decided to set up fast track courts for speedy trial of cases pertaining to witchcraft incidents in five districts: Ranchi, Chaibasa, Khunti, Palamau and Simdega.
- On 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Telangana government issued a ban order on the sale and use of Chinese manja in order to prevent harm to birds and others on the eve of Makar Sankranti or Pongal.
- **Madhya Pradesh** won the Union Government's prestigious **Krishi Karman Award** for the **4<sup>th</sup> Consecutive year** on 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016.
- According to the scientists in Germany, the next ice age may have been delayed by over 50 thousand years because of the greenhouse gases put in the atmosphere by humans.
- Union Cabinet approved to have a membership of Ocean Energy Systems so that it can have access to and develop technologies related to energy from ocean renewable resources.
- Madhya Pradesh signed four MOUs with **Singapore** on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016, which includes a 1000MW wind energy plant.
- The US Citizenship and Immigration Services increased the H-1B and L-1 petition fee by 4000 and 4500 US dollars respectively.
- The country which has the largest diaspora in the world in 2015 – India with 16 million.
- **Jharkhand** government adds drinking water crisis in local disasters list.
- Two cricket players Ajit Chandila and Hiken Shah were handed over life-time and 5-year ban, respectively, by the BCCI for their involvement in match-fixing.
- Guenter Butschek, former Chief Operating Officer of Airbus, was appointed as the CEO & MD of Tata Motors.
- Goa Legislative Assembly approved reclassification of coconut tree as palm.
- Kenyan athlete, Gideon Kipketer, won the 2016 Mumbai Marathon in the men's category.
- Gopi T and Kheta Ram qualified for the 2016 Rio Olympics by finishing second and third, respectively, among the Indian runners in the Mumbai Marathon.
- The indigenously developed light combat aircraft, **Tejas**, flew for the first time in the international air space and reached the Sakhir Airbase in Bahrain.
- **Zinnia** became the first ever grown flower in the space.
- General Electric Co. agreed to sell its home-appliances business to China's Qingdao Haier Co. for 5.4 billion US dollars.
- Noted Punjabi folk singer, Manpreet Akhtar died on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2016 due to brain hemorrhage in Patiala.
- The Mosquito borne Zika Virus was first time recorded in United States of America in the third week of January 2016.
- **Jalgaon's Vijay Choudhary** defeated Vikrant Jadhav of Mumbai to retain Maharashtra Kesri title in the 59th Maharashtra Kesri Wrestling Championship.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named as the captain of Rising Pune Supergiants for IPL 2016 season.
- South African Premier League footballer, Mondli Cele, died after the car in which he was travelling, plunged into a river near eastern city of Pietermaritzburg.

- Yasutaro Koide, the world's oldest man, as per the Guinness World Records, died at an age of 112 on 19 January 2016.
- **Pakistan** reported highest stillbirths' rate among the 186 countries surveyed by medical journal, The Lancet.
- Mindtree acquired Magnet 360 on 18 January 2016.
- ReNew Power, a Clean energy firm, commissioned 40 MW wind project in Karnataka.
- BHEL commissioned a 660 MW supercritical thermal power unit in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- According to the World Tourism Barometer, international tourist arrivals grew by 4.4% in 2015 to reach a total of 1.2 billion.
- According to an Oxfam report, 62 individuals had the same wealth as 3.6 billion people, the bottom half of humanity in 2015.
- International Renewable Energy Agency published the report titled Renewable Energy Benefits – Measuring the Economics.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> assembly session of the International Renewable Energy Agency was held in Abu Dhabi in the UAE.
- The World Economic Forum published the 'Future of Jobs' report.
- Shimla banned sale of eatable in open places to contain outbreak of jaundice.
- China's economy grew 6.9% in 2015, the slowest in 25 years.
- The state that celebrated its 46th statehood day on 25 January 2016 – **Himachal Pradesh**.
- India Railways inaugurated India's first high speed public Wi-Fi service on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 at - **Mumbai Central station**.
- For the Jeevan Raksha Padak Awards, the certificates are signed by the – **Union Home Minister**.
- The company that has launched India's first social mobile wallet Udio is – **TranServ**.
- Maharashtra's first Solar Power operated Mini-Water Supply Plant was commissioned in – **Hingna village of Mouda Taluka in Nagpur district**.
- A team of Indo-German geologists and paleontologists may have found fossils of a 135-million-year old herbivorous dinosaur, possibly the oldest such fossil found in this century, in the region of - **Kutch, Gujarat**.
- ONGC received environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests for drilling 45 developed wells in – **Krishna Godavari Basin**.
- The player from Hong Kong, who won 11Even Sports 2015 ITTF World Junior Circuit Finals in the girls' category is – **Zhu Chengzhu**.
- The player who was declared as the Man of the Series in the five-match ODI series played between Indian and Australia, which concluded on 23 January 2016 in Sydney is – **Rohit Sharma**.
- The Brisbane Heat batsman, who was named as the Big Bash League's player of the tournament is – **Chris Lynn**.
- An Indian-origin Muslim cleric, who has been conferred an honorary doctorate by the University of Leicester in recognition of his work for his local community is – **Muhammad Shahid Raza**.
- The 42-crore rupees' project sanctioned under the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Program and funded by World Bank is being implemented in exceedingly vulnerable seaside pockets of – **Kendrapara district of Odisha**.
- Facebook will construct its first data center facility at – **Ireland's Clonee village**.
- Taking forward the strategic relationship between the two countries to the next level, India will build a satellite tracking and imaging center in – Southern Vietnam's Ho Chi Minh City.

- The 5-day annual summit of World Economic Forum (WEF) came to a close on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016 in – **Davos**.
- What refers to tax planning strategies that would exploit the gaps and mismatches in tax rules to artificially shift profits to low or no-tax locations? – **Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BESP)**.
- The country that became the latest country to lift nuclear sanctions on Iran on 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2016 – **Japan**.
- The purpose for which Union Government notified stricter green norms on Sugar industry – **To reduce water pollution**.
- The number of districts in which the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme will be covered in the year 2016 – **61**.
- This Dubai-based radio channel was appointed as the official audio rights partner of the ICC for next eight years – **Channel 2 Group**.
- The rank of India in Best Countries Report released at the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos – **22**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 permitted banks to sell India Gold Coins (IGC) with Ashok Chakra minted by – **Metals and Minerals Trading Corporation of India (MMTC)**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2016 has asked banks to provide loans of up to 3 lakh rupees at 7% interest rate during 2015-16 to Women Self-Help Group (SHG) under the scheme – **Aajeevika Scheme**.
- Senior revenue service officer, Atulesh Jindal on 21st January 2016 was appointed the chairman of – **Central Board of Direct Taxes**.
- The hotel that won the award of the world's best hotel at the Travellers' Choice award organized by TripAdvisor is – **Umaid Bhawan Palace in Jodhpur, Rajasthan**.
- A new bird species named Himalayan Forest Thrush was discovered in North-Eastern India. This species has been given the scientific name of – **Zoothera Salimalii**.
- The Chhattisgarh Government signed a share-holding agreement with a few Central Government-run corporations for the second phase of – **Jagdarpur-Raoghat Railway Project**.
- As per the NTI 2016 Nuclear Security Index, India's rank in terms of nuclear safety among the 24 states with one kilogram or more of weapons-usable nuclear materials in the world was – **21**.
- The country which was adjudged as the safest in terms of nuclear safety by the NTI in its Nuclear Security Index 2016 – **Australia**.
- The agency with which the National Remote Sensing Centre signed an MoU for monitoring mining activity using satellites – **Indian Bureau of Mines**.
- The stock exchange which launched an Algorithm Trading Test Environment in partnership with Symphony Fintech Solutions – **Bombay Stock Exchange**.
- The marketing agency with which the Indian Olympic Association signed a 2-year marketing deal – **Infinity Optimal Solutions**.
- The National Highway that will be converted into six-lane in Bihar and Jharkhand as per a decision of the CCEA on 20 January 2016 – **NH-2**.
- He took over as the Executive Director of Greenpeace India – **Ravi Chellam**.
- The Union Government on 20th January 2016 signed the Financing Agreement with a financial institution for– **Bihar Kosi Basin Development Project**.
- He was an Italian film director who passed away and was known for his most acclaimed film A Special Day – **Ettore Scola**.
- The Central Statistics Office revised GDP growth rate for FY 2014-15 from 7.3 percent to 7.2 percent.

- The Central Statistics Office revised GDP growth rate for FY 2013-14 from 6.9 percent to 6.6 percent.
- Ashok K Roopanwal was appointed as the head of a one-man judicial commission by the Union Government to probe Rohith Vemula suicide incident in the University of Hyderabad.
- Donald Kaberuka was appointed as African Union's High Representative for the peace fund.
- Union Government inked an 80 million US dollar loan agreement with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to continue improving infrastructure in Agartala and Aizwal.
- Department of Religious Affairs of **Eritrea** issued a law that makes it mandatory for men to marry at least two wives.
- The fourth International Conference on Family Planning (ICFP) was held in Nusa Dua, Indonesia.
- Union Cabinet approved a proposal for raising 17 more India reserve battalions in Jammu and Kashmir and Left-wing extremism affected states.
- The parliament of **Denmark** voted on a proposal to confiscate asylum seekers' personal possessions in order to pay their upkeep.
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- Mahamana Express was flagged off to run between Varanasi and New Delhi on 21 January 2016.
- Uttar Pradesh completely banned the use of polythene with effect from 21 January 2016.
- According to data released by UNCTAD, the Foreign Direct Investment in India doubled in 2015 to reach 59 billion US dollars.
- The rate of interest proposed by the Provident Fund panel that will be given on Provident Fund account 8.95%.
- Ratan Tata announced to invest in FirstCry.com, a start-up company related to baby kits.
- The Sri Lankan wicketkeeper, Kusal Perera, faced a 4-year ban by the International Cricket Council for doping.
- **Delhi Acers** won the 2016 Premier Badminton League.
- Jalgaon's Vijay Choudhary defeated Vikrant Jadhav of Mumbai to retain Maharashtra Kesri title in 59th Maharashtra Kesri Wrestling Championship.
- Mahendra Singh Dhoni was named as the captain of Rising Pune Supergiants for IPL 2016 season.