

Current Affairs Weekly PDF – January First Week (1-10)

INDIAN AFFAIRS

- The Supreme Court asked set to re-introduce the Vote Verifier Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) in Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) for 100 % transparency in elections. The VVPAT in EVM would ensure free and fair polls besides sorting out disputes.
- The Gujarat government has introduced India's first Student Startup and Innovation Policy to provide financial support to enable the students in developing their innovative ideas
- Maharashtra Government led by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis launched India's largest Public wifi service, "Mumbai Wifi" on January 9, 2017 to digitally empower the residents of the state. Mumbai Wifi is also considered as one of the largest wifi facility in the world.
- Union Minister for Railways Suresh Prabhu on January 10, 2017 launched a Non Fare Revenue Policy to boost up additional revenue and reduce its dependence on traditional revenue system such as passenger and freight traffic.
- Union Minister of Power, Coal, New & Renewable Energy and Mines Piyush Goyal, dedicated the World's Largest Street Light Replacement Programme in New Delhi to the nation on January 9, 2017.
- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for the construction of a new campus of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) at Kondapavuluru village of Gannavarammandal in Krishna district, Andhra Pradesh on January 9, 2017 in presence of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu and Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting M Venkaiah Naidu.
- The Assam government will be shortly launching its indigenously-developed e-Wallet, Tokapoisa.in to enable the people of the state for hassle-free online transactions in local language.
- India's first state-wide call centre facility the Maharashtra forest department launched by Maharashtra state Forest Minister forest minister Sudhir Mungantiwar at Goregaon in Mumbai on January 6, 2017.
- Maharashtra Government has declared to ban the use of Purse Seine Nets for fishing across Maharashtra from January 1, 2017 to safeguard the Fingerlings, a fish species.
- Seeking Votes in the name of caste, language or religion is Corrupt and not Permissible: SC. A 7-judge constitution bench passed the judgment in the 20 year old Hindutva case which questions whether a religious leader's appeal to his followers to vote for a particular political party amount to electoral malpractice under Section 123 of the Representation of People Act.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 104th Indian Science Congress at Tarakarama Stadium of Sri Venkateswara University in Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh on January 3, 2017. The theme for the five-day event is 'Science and Technology for National Development'. The Congress would conclude on January 7, 2017.
- The trial run of India's first 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactor(PHWR) at Kakrapar, Gujarat, is expected to take place in middle of 2017.
- The Union Government has kept interest rates on Small Savings Schemes like PPF and KisanVikasPatra, Sukanya Samridhi Account and Senior Citizens Savings Scheme unchanged for the January-March quarter.
- Maharashtra Government Unveils the Portrait of Social Reformer 'Prabodhankar Thackeray at Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) on January 2, 2017 and paid rich tributes to him.
- The National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) has approved many new projects at an estimated cost of over Rs 370 crore for its ongoing Ganga rejuvenation programme in Haridwar and Varanasi and also decided to include six more cities towns under surface cleaning exercise of the river using trash skimmers.
- In order to encourage competition for improving sanitation standards in the respective area, the government started, Swachh Survekshan 2017 from January 4, 2017. The survey will be conducted by Quality Council of India to rank 500 cities across the country on cleanliness.
- Assam and Telangana signed a pact with the Power Minister, Piyush Goyal to join the UDAY scheme on January 4, 2017 in New Delhi in a bid to improve the performance of state run power distribution companies (DISCOM). With the joining of Assam and Telangana, the total states covered under the scheme rose to 20.
- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) bench on January 3, 2017, issued an interim stay on any construction activity in relation to the Pune Metro rail project passing through the Mula-Mutha river bed in the city.

- The 11-day world's largest open air theatre festival 'Reign of King Kansa' began in Bargarh district, Odisha.
- Election Commission of India Announces Assembly polls Dates for Five States namely Goa, Uttarakhand, Manipur, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh.
- The 350th Guru Gobind Singh Jayanti was celebrated across the world on January 5, 2017. Marking the occasion, a huge festival known as Prakash Utsav also known as Prakash Parv has been organized in Patna, Bihar– the birth place of the Guru.
- Prime Minister Modi released a commemorative postage stamp to mark the occasion of 350th birth anniversary of Guru Gobind Singh.
- Ministry of Commerce & Industry Launches IPR Enforcement Toolkit for Police and IPR Awareness Campaign for school Children
- The Union Government has approved an assistance of Rs. 1782.44 Crore for drought-affected Karnataka on January 5, 2017. Besides, the committee also approved a grant of Rs. 209 crore to Uttarakhand which had been hit by floods in 2013, based on the report.
- Japan's Ambassador to India Mr. Kenji Hiramatsu, informed about Japan's intention to help India with the development of Chennai, Ahmedabad and Varanasi as smart cities.
- The North Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC) has dedicated a stretch of road in New Delhi to Guru Govind Singh on January 5, 2017. The road between Block A and Block B at Sector 15 in Rohini was named after Guru Gobind Singh to commemorate his 350th birth anniversary.
- India and Kazakhstan signed a Protocol to amend the existing Double Taxation Avoidance Convention (DTAC) between the two countries on January 6, 2017 in New Delhi.

PLACES IN NEWS

- The 9th edition of the world's fastest growing film festival, Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) began on 7 January 2017 and will conclude on January 11, 2017 at the Golcha Cinema in Jaipur, Rajasthan. The two other venue where the festival would take place are the Manipal University, Jaipur and the Rajasthan Pradh Shikshan Samiti (Rajasthan Adult Education Association).
- The PBD began on January 7 in Bangalore with the Youth Pravasi Bharatiya Divas. The theme of Youth PBD was 'Role of Diaspora Youth in the Transformation of India'.
- The first DigiDhan Mela in the state of Andhra Pradesh was launched by the Urban Development and Information Broadcasting M. Venkaiah Naidu along with Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu in Vijayawada on January 9, 2017 at the Indira Gandhi Municipal Stadium.
- The World famous 11-day gala festival Bargarh DhanuaJatra began in western Odisha. All rituals were performed before Goddess Samaleswari, the presiding deity of the event.
- A 7 day International Kite Festival is inaugurated by Gujarat Governor, OP Kohli and CM Vijay Rupani at the Sabarmati riverfront, Ahmedabad on January 8, 2017.
- The Fourth Assam International Agri-Horti Show began in Guwahati, Assam on January 6, 2017. The Chief Minister of Assam, Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated the programme.
- The 2017 Island Tourism Festival began at Port Blair in Andaman and Nicobar Islands on January 6, 2017. The 10-Day Event was inaugurated by the Lieutenant Governor of Island, Jagdish Mukhi at the ITF Ground.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- The world's highest altitude gravitational wave telescopes which is located 5,250 meters above sea level to come up in Roof of the World or Tibet by China with an investment of USD 18.8 million. It is expected to be operational by 2021.
- The British Treasury has decided to introduce a new 12-sided one-pound coin at end of March 2017 and scrap the 30 year old one pound coin by October 2017. It will feature the 5th coinage portrait of Queen Elizabeth II.
- A Laser walls and smart sensors will be soon installed at the Indo-Bangla International Border in West Bengal especially in the porous riverine and unmanned terrain that do not have proper fencing to keep a tight vigil to check infiltration and terrorism.

- The United Nation Security Council (UNSC) unanimously passed a resolution drafted by Russia on December 31, 2017, to end the nearly six-year conflict in Syria and called for peace negotiations through nationwide Syrian ceasefire.
- India and Sri Lanka Agrees to find permanent solution to the fishermen issues
- Pakistan's Senate Functional Committee on Human Rights chaired by Nasreen Jalil approved the much-awaited Hindu Marriages Bill on January 2, 2017 while the National Assembly passed the Hindu Marriage Bill in September 2016.
- China has launched its first freight train to London. The train will travel for about 18 days and more than 12,000 km before reaching its destination in Britain.
- Supreme Court of Nepal Gives Go Ahead Nod to Government on crucial Constitution amendment bill to accommodate the demands of the agitating Madhesi and ethnic groups.
- Finland become 1st country in world to pay basic income to randomly picked citizens on national level
- China Launches the World's Longest Bullet Train Shangri-la of the World. The train left Kunming at 11:05 a.m to cover the 2,760-km trip to Beijing and took around 13 hours.

SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

- The Minister of State for AYUSH (Independent Charge), Shri Shripad Yesso Naik inaugurated the International Conference on "Yoga for Diabetes" which began in New Delhi on January 4, 2017.
- The All India Conference of Chairpersons and Chief Executive Officers of states and union territories' Waqf Boards has been inaugurated by Minister of State for Minority Affairs Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi on December 7, 2017 in New Delhi
- The 20th National Conference on e-Governance (NCeG) was held from January 9-10, 2017 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. The theme for the conference was Internet of Things and e-Governance.
- The two-day Assam Biotech Conclave 2017 began in Guwahati, Assam on January 5, 2017 at a city hotel. The Conclave will have the closing ceremony on January 6, 2017

RANKING & REPORTS

- According to HSBC Expat survey 2016, India ranks third among the countries offering the highest average annual salary to expatriates. Switzerland topped the list to offer highest average salary of about \$188,275 a year to expats while Hong Kong was listed third.
- According to latest data released by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, 26 crore three lakh accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) across the country till date. 15.86 crore accounts are opened in rural area and 10.17 crore accounts opened in urban area.

BANKING & FINANCE

- Following ICICI and Yes bank, the private sector lender Axis Bank has also joined the group as the third bank to use block chain solutions in its operations.
- India's second largest private sector lender HDFC Bank has launched a human shaped robot named IRA at its Mumbai branch to help the assist the customers in banking activities.
- SBI has waived Merchant Discount Rate (MDR) on debit card transactions for all small merchants with annual turnover of up to Rs 20 lakh for one year.
- Kolkata based UCO Bank has launched its prepaid card 'UCO Suvidha' by R.K. Takkar, MD & CEO, UCO Bank, and Executive Directors, Charan Singh and G. Subramania Iyer.
- Public sector lender Bank of Baroda has announced a partnership with CNX Corporation (CNX) to provide collateral management services towards the loans against warehouse receipt sanctioned to the farmers through the network of the bank's branches across the country. This will benefit the farmers from distress sale of their commodities

- A day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced an interest subvention for home loans of up to Rs. 12 lakh and asked banks to keep the poor and middle class at the focus of their activities many PSUs and private banks reduced their benchmark lending rate by up to 1.48 percent on January 3, 2017.
- The Reserve Bank of India on January 3, 2017, directed all the banks to supply atleast 40 percent of the notes to the rural branches since currency notes in rural areas was not adequate to meet the requirements of the population.
- HDFC has tied-up with artificial intelligence firm Niki.ai to launch a chatbot called OnChat on Facebook's Messenger platform, that will allow users to recharge phones, pay utility bills, book cabs from Ola or Uber etc., through a chat.
- Coca-Cola India partners the State Bank of India to enable digital transactions over 2.6 million retailers and 5000 distributors in conducting business transactions digitally.
- Germany based Munich Reinsurance Company is planned to open its branch office in Mumbai to provide the property-casualty, life, health reinsurance markets across India. Munich Re is one of the first foreign reinsurers to receive approval for a dedicated branch in India following the 2015 amendment of the Insurance Bill.
- Yes Bank has entered into a tie-up with Bajaj Electricals for vendor financing using blockchain solution. There is an over 70 per cent cost reduction because of blockchain and the payback for our investments is 6-8 months.
- Cooking gas customers can now avail an upfront discount of Rs 5 on every refill booked and paid for online. Indian Oil, Bharat Petroleum and Hindustan Petroleum have begun offering the price discount to cooking gas customers.
- Mobile commerce and payments company, Paytm received the final approval from the Reserve Bank of India on January 3, 2017 to launch Paytm Payment Bank. Paytm Payments Bank Ltd is expected to start its operation in next 30-60days with its first branch in Noida, Uttar Pradesh.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has tied up with Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) to give a boost to the venture capital ecosystem for MSMEs.
- The 16th edition of the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) meeting was held on January 5, 2017 in New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Union Finance Minister ArunJaitley.
- Online automobile marketplace Droom has tied up with Axis Bank to provide quick sanction of loans on both new as well as used cars. Loans will be provided for up to 85% of the value of the car with a tenure of 1-5 years.

BUSINESS

- German airline company Lufthansa has become the first carrier to launch commercial operations with Airbus A350 to India after it announced that the first flight to Delhi from Munich on this aircraft will be operated on February 11, 2017.
- The state government of Rajasthan led by Chief Minister Vasundhara Raje has collaborated with the American MNC Cisco to develop the state capital Jaipur as the second startup destination after Bengaluru.
- The General Anti-Avoidance Rule (GAAR) which was scheduled to be implemented from April 1, 2014, will now come into effect from April 1, 2017 (Assessment Year 2018-19).
- The Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) on January 2, 2017 directed that Service charges billed by restaurants are optional and it is up to the customers to pay it. The decision comes after the department cited complaints that hotels and restaurants are levying an additional 5 to 20% in bills in name of tips, regardless of the kind of service provided
- Solar power producer Azure Power commissioned 150 MW solar power project in Punjab, which is its largest in North India.
- Output growth of India's Core sector slows to 4.9% in November 2016
- Google India on 4 January 2017 has launched two new initiatives named My Business and Digital Unlocked for the small and medium businesses in India.
- The Government on January 5, 2017, imposed an anti-dumping duty ranging from USD 6.30 to USD 351.72 per tonne on imports of jute and its products from Bangladesh and Nepal for five years.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

FIFA Best Player of the Year 2016

The Best FIFA Men's Player Award	Cristiano Ronaldo.
The Best FIFA Women's Player Award	Carli Lloyd.
The Best FIFA Men's Coach Award	Claudio Ranieri.
The Best FIFA Women's Coach Award	Silvia Neid.
The FIFA Puskás Award 2016	MohdFaizSubri.
The FIFA Fair Play Award	Atletico National.
The FIFA Fan Award	Dortmund fans and Liverpool fans.
The FIFA lifetime achievement award	Falcao.
The FIFA FIFPro World 11	Neuer, DaniAlves, Pique, Ramos, Marcelo, Modric, Kroos, Iniesta, Messi, Suarez, Ronaldo.

- Four Indian–American scientists have been selected by the US President Barack Obama on January 10, 2017 for the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).
- An IIT Kharagpur alumnus, Parag Havaladar, has won the prestigious Scientific & Technical Awards popularly called the 'Technical Oscar' by the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences for the development of expression-based facial performance-capture technology at Sony Pictures Image works.
- La La Land, an American romantic musical comedy-drama film, broke the record at the 74th Golden Globe Awards on January 8, 2017 by winning in every category of award it was nominated.
- The Bollywood Actor Amitabh Bachchan was honoured by the US Embassy on January 8, 2017 for his immense contribution to the India-US partnership on tuberculosis (TB).
- Pakistan Mamnoon Hussain honoured Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff General Qamar JavedBajwa with Nishan-e-Imtiaz to recognize his valuable services in Islamabad.
- The Punjab State Power Corporation Limited (PSPCL) was awarded with "Best Performing Power Distribution Utility in Power Sector" by Central Board of Irrigation & Power (CBIP). Punjab is first state to provide unique phone number 1912 for registration of all types of complaints across 24X7 by phone and sms.
- The 2017 edition of the Forbes' list of super achievers under the age of 30 features about 30 Indian-Origin Innovators, Entrepreneurs and Leaders who made outstanding contribution towards transforming the world.
- Bollywood actor, Shah Rukh Khan, commonly known as SRK, has been named for the 4th Yash Chopra Memorial Award. The award would be presented to the actor at a function in Mumbai on February 25, 2017. The actor will receive Rs 10 lakh, a gold medal, and a certificate as part of the award.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

BCCI President Anurag Thakur and Secretary Ajay Shirke	The Supreme Court has removed from the Office
Prof. David R. Syiemlieh	Chairman of Union Public Service Commission
Air Marshal SB Deo	Vice Chief of the Air Staff of Indian Air Force
ShivpalYadav	AkhileshYadav Dismisses him and appoints NareshUttam as Party's Chief
SanjivRanjan (concurrently)	Ambassador of India to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay
US Congress Members.	Kamala Harris
	Ami Bera
	Ro Khanna
	Raja Krishnamoorthi
Pramila Jayapal	
Paul Ryan re-elected	Speaker of US House of Representatives
Robert Lighthizer	Chief Trade Negotiator
JovenelMoise	President of Haiti

Surekha Marandi	Executive Director Reserve Bank of India
Ivan Rogers(resigns)	Britain's Ambassador to the EU Anil Jalali HR
Head for Capgemini	India Operation
Karan Bajwa	Managing Director IBM India
S Padmanabhan	Chairman of Tata Power
Sir Tim Barrow	Britain's ambassador to the EU
Kalyan Krishnamurthy	Flipkart's new CEO
Kumar Sharadindu	MD & CEO of SBI Pension Funds
Virat Kohli	Gionee brand ambassador
Ranbir Kapoor	Brand Ambassador For Asian Paints' UltimaProtek
Pakistan's Gen. Raheel Sharif	Head of Islamic Military Alliance
David Rudisha	International Ambassador of Stanchart Mumbai

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

- The largest online residential real estate brokerage firm PropTiger.Com and Housing.Com announced a merger on January 10, 2017 to create India's largest online real estate services company.
- Hyderabad based pharmaceutical manufacturing company Aurobindo Pharma has inked an agreement to acquire Portugal's Generis Farmaceutica SA from Magnum Capital Partners for a consideration of 135 million euros.
- PVR Ltd has informed Bombay Stock Exchange and the National Stock Exchange of India that the Delhi High Court has approved merger of two of its subsidiary companies with it, effective from April 1, 2015.

MoUs

- Union Cabinet led by PM Modi approved signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Kenya on bilateral cooperation in the field of Agriculture and Allied Sectors.
- India and Pakistan signs agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear Installations and Facilities
- The Union Cabinet under PM Modi approved signing of an agreement between India and Uruguay for cooperation and mutual assistance in Customs Matters.
- The Union Cabinet also gave its approval for signing of an agreement for cooperation in the field of Agriculture and allied sectors between India and Portugal.

SCHEMES

- Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh launched a new health scheme, ArogyaRaksha Scheme at TummalapalliKalakshetram in Vijayawada to provide the medical treatment to the people of the Above Poverty Line at Rs. 1200 premium per annum.
- The Telangana Government announced a new scheme on January 6, 2017, to provide financial assistance of Rs. 1000 per month to poor single women in the state.
- Karnataka Bank has launched a group Personal Accident Insurance Scheme for all its Saving Bank (SB) Account holders. The insurance scheme is named "KBL Suraksha" and provides insurance cover for accidental death.
- The Tamil Nadu Government signed an MoU with the Ministry of Power on January 9, 2017 to join the Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme. With the agreement Tamil Nadu has become the 21st state to join UDAY scheme.

COMMITTEE

- Ministry of Sports Constitutes Committee to suggest improvements to National Sports Code. The committee, which will be chaired by Sports Secretary, InjetiSrinivas, will submit its report within one month on the basis

of suggestions and feedback given in these meetings so that sports bodies act according to the public expectations for the promotion of sports in the country.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- ISRO Chairman Kiran Kumar and CNES President Jean-Yves Le Gall signed a partnership agreement in satellite launch technology in the presence of visiting French Minister of Foreign Affairs Jean-Marc Ayrault in Bengaluru.
- A Chinese rocket Kuaizhou-1A (KZ-1A) successfully launched three satellites into space in its first commercial mission on January 9, 2017 from China's Jiuquan Satellite Launch Center in Gansu. The KZ-1A is an advanced version of the Kuaizhou-1 rocket with improvements in adaptability. It is a low-cost solid-fuelled carrier rocket with high reliability and short preparation period and was designed to launch low-orbit satellites weighing less than 300 kg.
- The Union Health Minister J P Nadda is all set to introduce the measles-rubella vaccine (MR) from February 2017 in five states and Union territories in the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP) to provide preventive medications to every child born in India.
- Pakistan successfully test-fired its first Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile (SLCM), Babur-3, on January 9, 2017 from Indian Ocean. The missile Babur-3 which was fired from an underwater, mobile platform, hit the target with precise accuracy. It is capable of carrying a nuclear warhead up to 450km.
- Astronomers, using data from India's Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT), have discovered two of the most powerful phenomena in the universe – a supermassive black hole and the collision of giant galaxy clusters about two billion light years from Earth. This cosmic double whammy is found in a pair of colliding galaxy clusters called Abell 3411 and Abell 3412 located about two billion light years from Earth.
- An extra second was added to the Indian clock at 5:29.59 hours at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL) on January 1, 2017 as the atomic clock was struck at 23:59:59 the previous night.
- India successfully conducted the test firing of the nuclear-capable strategic ballistic missile, Agni IV from the Abdul Kalam Island, Balasore, off the Odisha coast on January 2, 2017 at about 11.50 a.m. Agni IV is a two-stage solid-propelled, surface-to-surface ballistic missile which is designed to carry a payload of 1-tonne up to a distance of 4,000 km.
- Space Exploration Technologies Corporation or SpaceX has released a new teaser image of the world's most powerful rocket Falcon Heavy rocket which will ferry a crewed Red Dragon capsule on Mars in 2018.
- The Minister of State for Minority Affairs (I/C) and Parliamentary Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi launched a Mobile App on January 2, 2017, at Haj House in Mumbai that will provide information and facilitate e-payments for the pilgrimage.
- The District Administration of Ludhiana has developed a mobile application named "ECI360" for the benefit of voters, candidates, election staff as well as the Election Commission of India (ECI).
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Power, Coal & New and Renewable Energy and Mines, Piyush Goyal launched the Web Portal and the Mobile App for Ujwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) scheme on January 4, 2017.
- Scientists in Ireland have discovered a brand new organ named Mesentery, inside the digestive system which was not known till date.

DEFENCE

- Country's oldest union, the Maritime Union of India (MUI), representing Indian Merchant Navy Officers since 1939, has launched an android based mobile app named MUI.
- Russia finally delivered 4 Sukhoi Su-35 Fighter Jets to China on December 25, 2016, after a delay of two years. The Su-35 is an advanced version of the Su-30s operated by the Indian Airforce.
- The Indian Army is successfully conducted the user-validation trials of indigenous artillery gun Dhanush in the Himalayas so that they are ready to be inducted into the Army.

ENVIRONMENT

- As per the annual census conducted by the Wildlife wing of the Forest Department the number of migratory birds in the Chilikalake, Odisha has substantially gone up this year. According to Chilika Wildlife DFO, 88,264 more birds have visited the brackish water lake this year than the last year. Last year, 8,58,855 birds were sighted in the lake while the number has gone up to 9,47,119 this year.
- Scientists from the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) have discovered a new species of ginger in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The new species named as *Zingiberpseudosquarrosum* belongs to genus *Zingiber*.
- According to a US wildlife conservation agency, long-nosed bat and gypsum wild buckwheat and Kuenzler hedgehog cactus are removed from the list of endangered species.

SPORTS

- Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain clinched the men's singles title of the 2017 Chennai Open on January 8, 2017 defeating Daniil Medvedev 6-3 and 6-4 to claim the first ATP tournament of the season.
- Abbu Ammaz (8), a class 2 student from Jammu and Kashmir has bagged the gold medal in Thai Boxing Championship at the national level.
- Mumbai youngster, Shreyas Mehta, won the Scottish Junior Open Squash championship at Edinburgh on January 9, 2017. Mehta defeated Colombia's Juan Jose Torres Lara 9/12.
- Indian pair of Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan captured men's doubles title defeating India's Divij Sharan and Purav Raja in Chennai Open.
- Kane Williamson and Virat Kohli are the only two batsmen to feature in the top 5 of the ICC rankings in all three formats of the game.
- Rising Indian squash star Velavan Senthilkumar created history by winning the first-ever all-Indian Boys' Under-19 final at the British Junior Open in Sheffield.
- Sergey Karjakin of Russia defeated Norway's Magnus Carlsen in a tie-breaker to win Gold in the World Blitz Chess Championship title in Doha, Qatar on December 30, 2016. Russia's DaniilDubov clinched the Bronze medal.
- The former Australian Captain Ricky Ponting will join Australia's coaching staff as an assistant to coach the team for next month's home Twenty20 series against Sri Lanka.
- China's Grand Slam Champion Li Xiaoxia Announces Retirement from Table Tennis
- Australian Cricketer Arthur Morris Inducted into ICC Cricket Hall of Fame. Morris, who became the 82nd player to be inducted into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame, was given the honour posthumously. The opening batsman passed away at the age of 93 on August 22 in 2015.
- Indian Women Football Team won their fourth consecutive (South Asian Football Federation) SAFF Women's Championship title defeating Bangladesh 3-1 in the finals at the Kanchenjunga Stadium in Siliguri, West Bengal on January 4, 2017.
- Indian Cricketer, Mahendra Singh Dhoni stepped down as the captain of the Indian team in limited over formats on January 4, 2017, just ahead of the ODI series to be against England in January 2017. However, he will still be available for selection as a wicketkeeper-batsman for the One Day and T20I series series.
- Robert Marchand a 105 year old man has made a record by cycling 22.547km (14 miles) in 1 hour. In 2012 he had already set a record of cycling 26.927km in 1 hour.
- Indian Skipper, Virat Kohli was officially named as the Indian Cricket Team's New Captain for all the three formats on January 6, 2017 at Mumbai.

OBITUARY

- Polish-born sociologist Zygmunt Bauman dies in UK at age 91
- Former German President Roman Herzog Dies Aged 82
- Iran's ex-President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, a dominant figure in the country's politics since the 1980s, has died at the age of 82.
- Veteran All India Forward Bloc leader and former West Bengal minister Saral Deb passed away.

- Eminent jurist Weeramantry Passed Away in Sri Lanka
- Mario Soares, Portugal's former president and PM, dies at 92
- Former Minister of Nagaland and former President of Pradesh Congress Committee (NPCC) K V Pusa passed away in Kohima on January 2,2017.
- Former French skier Jean Vuarnet Dies at 83
- Pioneering Art Critic, John Berger Dies at 90 in Paris
- Karnataka Cooperation & Sugar Minister H S Mahadeva Prasad passes away.
- Renowned Sitar maestro Abdul Halim Jaffer Khan died at his Bandra residence in Mumbai.
- GangumeiKabui, Former Manipur Minister, Historian Passes Away
- Veteran actor Om Puri passed passes away

BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Book on Dr. Kalam titled "The People's President: Dr. A P J Abdul Kalam" released by the Vice President, Shri M. Hamid Ansari in the presence of the Union Minister for Finance and Corporate, ArunJaitley. The book has been written by Shri S.M. Khan who served as the Press Secretary to President Kalam.
- Akhada : The Authorized Biography of Mahavir Singh Released. Akhada is the authorized biography of Mahavir Singh Phogat, a former wrestler and a coach. The book is written by sports journalist SourabhDuggal and was released on 21 December 2016 at the Chandigarh Press Club.

IMPORTANT DAYS

- The United Nations 70th General Assembly has recognized the year 2017 as the International Year of Sustainable Tourism for Development.
- Google Dedicates Doodle to SavitribaiPhule's 186th Birth Anniversary on January 3
- Every year World Braille Day is observed on 4th January across the world to commemorate the birthday of Louis Braille who is credited with inventing the Braille language which helps blind people to read as well as write.
- The 12th World Hindi Day was celebrated on 10 January 2017 across the world to honour our Indo-Aryan language.

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Suggestions are welcomed; Contact us any time at
Affairsccloud@gmail.com & AffairsCloud1@gmail.com

