1st and 2nd Jan

National News

**1. 100% Houses in 25 States Electrified Under Saubhagya Yojana**

**i.**The country achieved yet another milestone in the power sector with the completion of **electrification in 100% households in 25 states** at year end. Now, only about 10.48 lakh households are left to be electrified in 4 states -**Assam, Rajasthan, Meghalaya**and**Chhattisgarh.**

**ii.**These states are also taking all concerted efforts to achieve, at the earliest, saturation of household electrification.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* The central government launched **'Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana' (Saubhagya)** in September 2017 to achieve the goal of universal household electrification in the country by 31 March, 2019.

**2. Government Sets Up Export Promotion Cell For MSMEs**

**i.** The MSME ministry has established an**export promotion cell** to create a **sustainable ecosystem** for micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSMEs**). The ministry has also proposed to formulate a **governing council** that will be chaired by the secretary of the MSME ministry.

**ii.**The benefits likely to accrue from the setting up of the cell include integration MSMEs into**global value chain,** evaluation of readiness of MSMEs to **export their products and services,** and recognition of areas where improvements are required in order to be able to **export effectively and efficiently.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Minister of MSME:** Shri Giriraj Singh (Minister of State, Independent Charge).

**3. Minister Launches 100 Ujjwala Sanitary Napkin Units in Odisha**

**i. Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister, Dharmendra Pradhan** launched **'Ujjwala Sanitary Napkins'** initiative saying it will go a long way in making Odisha's 2.25 crore women empowered and self-reliant.

**ii.**Under the novel initiative, which will cover 93 blocks in 30 districts of Odisha, **oil marketing companies (OMC)** will set up 100 manufacturing units at the**Common Service Centres (CSC)** at an estimated cost of Rs 2.94 crore.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Odisha CM:** Naveen Patnaik, **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal.

International News

**4. Qatar Withdraws From OPEC**

**i. Qatar** has withdrawn its membership from **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).** The country had sent an official notification to the OPEC expressing its wish to **pull out** and to **focus on its liquefied natural gas production** in December.

**ii.**Qatar has been in **OPEC for 57** years. The decision came amid the ongoing **diplomatic and economic blockade imposed** on the country by its Persian Gulf neighbours and several Arab states.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Qatar Capital:** Doha, **Currency**: Qatari riyal.

**5. US, Israel Quit UNESCO Citing Bias**

**i.**The **United States and Israel officially quit the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** with the close of 2018. The countries had announced their decisions in 2017 of withdrawing from the agency, accusing it of bias against Israel.  
**ii.** America has demanded fundamental reform in UNESCO, which was co-founded by it after World War II to foster peace. Israel joined the agency in 1949.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **France's Audrey Azoulay-** 11th DG of UNESCO, **UNESCO Headquarters-** Paris, France.

**6. France Introduced GAFA Tax On Global Internet, Technology Firm**

**i. The finance minister of France Bruno Le Maire announced that France will introduce its own tax on large internet and technology companies from January 1.**  
**ii.** France has been pushing hard for a new so-called **“GAFA tax”** -- named after **Google, Apple, Facebook**and**Amazon** -- to ensure the global giants pay a fair share of taxes on their massive business operations in Europe.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* Emmanuel Macron is the President of France.
* He becomes the youngest President of France.
* Paris is the capital city of France.

Appointments

**7. Amitabh Chaudhry Takes Charge As Axis Bank MD & CEO**

**i. Axis Bank announced its Managing Director and CEO Shikha Sharma** has retired from the post and **Amitabh Chaudhry will be the new managing director and CEO** of the bank with effect from January 1, 2019.

**ii.**Chaudhry, the former MD and CEO of HDFC Standard Life Insurance Company, was in September named the MD and CEO of Axis Bank for a period of three years.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* Axis Bank Headquarters in Mumbai.

**8. V K Yadav Assumes Charge of New Railway Board Chairman**

**i. Railway Board Chairman Ashwani Lohani** retired, despite strong indications that the Narendra Modi government could grant him an extension.  
**ii. General Manager, South Central Railway, V K Yadav** has been appointed the national transporter’s senior-most bureaucrat by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* Piyush Goyal is the Present Railways Minister of India.

**9. Jair Bolsonaro Takes Oath As New President of Brazil**

**i. Jair Bolsonaro was sworn in as Brazil's President** in a ceremony at Brazil's National Congress Building. Bolsonaro is a former Army captain and admirer of the country's 1964-1985 military dictatorship.  
**ii.**Bolsonaro, 63, was a seven-term fringe congressman who rode a wave of anti-establishment anger to became Brazil's first far-right president since a military dictatorship gave way to civilian rule three decades ago.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Brazil Capital:** Brasilia, **Currency:** Brazilian real.

**10. Justice TBN Radhakrishnan Sworn In As 1st Chief Justice of Telangana High Court**

**i. Justice Thottathil Bhaskaran Nair Radhakrishnan** was sworn in as the **first Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court.**  
**ii.**The oath to the office was administered to Justice Radhakrishnan by Telangana and**Andhra Pradesh Governor ESL Narasimhan** at a ceremony held at Raj Bhavan. With this, the state of Telangana will have its first independent high court.

Banking News

**11. Allahabad Bank, SBI Life Join Hand For Bancassurance Partnership**

**i. Allahabad Bank and SBI Life Insurance** came together and signed a **bancassurance pact**, to offer a holistic financial planning solution to consumers.

**ii.**This will empower the consumer to address their complete financial needs under one roof. The tie-up, **one of the largest Bancassurance partnerships in the country,** will see 3,238 branches of Allahabad Bank across the country offer SBI Life's range of protection, wealth creation, and savings products to its customers.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Allahabad Bank MD and CEO**: S. S. Mallikarjuna Rao, **Headquarters in:** Kolkata.
* **SBI Life MD and CEO**: Sanjeev Nautiya, **Headquarters in:** Mumbai.

**12. Government Infused Rs 10,882 crore in 4 Public Sector Banks**

**i.**The **government has infused 10,882 crore Rupees** in**four public sector banks, including UCO Bank and Syndicate Bank**. It is a part of 28,615 crore rupees capital infusion to be done in about half a dozen public sector lenders.

**ii.** UCO Bank has received 3,074 crore rupees in the equity by way of preferential allotment yesterday. Besides, Bank of Maharashtra got 4,498 crore rupees, Syndicate Bank 1,632 crore rupees and Central Bank of India 1,678 crore rupees.

**13. RBI Lifts Six Month Ban From Paytm Payments Bank**

**i.** The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI**) has allowed **Paytm Payments Bank** to restart opening new accounts for its consumers after almost **six months of the ban.**

**ii.**Paytm Payments Bank stopped enrolling new customers in **June 2018,** following an audit by the RBI, which made certain observations about the process the company follows in **acquiring new customers**and **its adherence to know-your-customer (KYC) norms.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Satish Kumar Gupta** is the **managing director and CEO** of the Paytm Payments bank.

**14. RBI Provides For One-Time Restructuring Of Loans To MSMEs**

**i. Reserve Bank allowed a one-time restructuring of existing debt up to Rs 25 crore**for the companies which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets.

**ii.**The decision will help the micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) which are facing a cash crunch in the wake of demonetization and GST implementation.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **RBI 25th Governor:** Shaktikanta Das, **Headquarters:** Mumbai, **Founded:** 1 April 1935, Kolkata.

Ranks and Reports

**15. RBI Releases The Financial Stability Report**

**i.**The **Reserve Bank of India** has released the 18th issue of the **Financial Stability Report (FSR).**

**ii.**The FSR reflects the collective assessment of the Sub-Committee of the **Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC)** on **risks to financial stability**, as also the **resilience of the financial system.** The Report also discusses issues relating to **the development and regulation** of the financial sector.

**16. CII Forecasts India’s Economy To Grow 7.5% In 2019**

**i.**In its **‘Growth Outlook for 2019’, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)** stated that the GDP growth will be in the range of **7.5% in 2019.**

**ii.**A settled goods and services tax**(GST)**, improving **credit availability** and capacity expansion from increasing investment in **infrastructure** are among seven key drivers that will help Indian economy grow **7.5% 2019.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **CII President (2018-19):** Mr. Rakesh Bharti Mittal, **Headquarters**: New Delhi.

Sports News

**17. Jasprit Bumrah Becomes Highest International Wicket-Taker in 2018**

**i. The 25-year-old fast bowler Jasprit Bumrah became the highest international wicket-taker across formats in 2018**. He took a total of 78 wickets in the calendar year.

**ii. Bumrah surpassed South Africa's Kagiso Rabada's tally of 77 wickets to reach the milestone.** While on the third position is Bumrah's countryman Kuldeep Yadav who took 76 scalps.

Obituaries

**18. Veteran Actor-Writer Kader Khan Passes Away**

**i. Veteran actor-writer Kader Khan passed away in Canada** at the age of 81. Kader Khan made his acting debut in 1973 with Rajesh Khanna’s “Daag”.  
**ii.** Before becoming an actor he had written dialogues for Randhir Kapoor-Jaya Bachchan’s “Jawani Diwani”.

3rd Jan

National News

**1. Cabinet Approves Setting Up HLC for Implementation of Assam Accord**

**i.**The Union Cabinet took several key decisions including **setting up of a high-level committee (HLC) to implement Clause 6 of Assam Accord to hold discussions with all stakeholders** on the quantum of reservation of seats in Assam Legislative Assembly and local bodies for Assamese people among other decisions.

**ii.**Union Cabinet has approved the setting up a high-level committee for implementation of clause 6 of the Assam Accord and measures envisaged in the Memorandum of Settlement, 2003 and other issues related to Bodo community.

**2. RBI Forms Expert Panel On MSMEs Under Ex-SEBI Chief UK Sinha**

**i.**The**Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** set up an expert committee under **former Sebi chairman U.K. Sinha** to suggest**long-term solutions** for the **economic and financial sustainability of the MSME sector.**

**ii.**RBI has announced the panel a day after it allowed a **one-time restructuring of existing debt up to INR 25 crore** for the micro, small and medium enterprises (**MSMEs**) which have defaulted on payment but the loans given to them have continued to be classified as standard assets.

**3. Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair Declared As Authorized Immigration Check Post**

**i. Veer Savarkar International Airport in Port Blair** has been declared as an authorized Immigration Check post for entry into/exit from India with valid travel documents for all classes of passengers.

**ii.** The announcement was made by Information, Public Relations and Tourism Division of Andaman and Nicobar Administration. This decision of the Union Government will open up the Port Blair Airport for direct international flight and immigration facilities.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* Port Blair is the capital of Andaman and Nicobar.

**4. PM Modi Inaugurated 106th Indian Science Congress At Jalandhar**

**i.**Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the 106th I**ndian Science Congress (ISC-2019) at Jalandhar, Punjab.**The ISC is an annual congregation that witnesses deliberations by top scientific minds of the country.  
**ii.**The theme for which is **'Future: India-Science and Technology'**. This will be his **5th address to Indian Science Congress** after assuming office as Prime Minister.

**5. West Bengal Government Announced 2 Initiatives for Farmers**

**i. The West Bengal government** announced two welfare initiatives for farmers. Both initiatives, which are part of the **‘Krishi Krishak Bondhu’** scheme, will come into effect from 1st January 2019.  
**ii**The first of the two initiatives will provide **Rs 2 lakh to the family of a deceased farmer.** Under the second initiative, **farmers would get Rs 2,500 twice a year** for growing a single crop on one acre of land.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **West Bengal CM:** Mamata Banerjee,**Governor:** Keshari Nath Tripathi.

**6. Centre Approves Renaming Of Allahabad As Prayagraj**

**i.**Days before Kumbh Mela, the **Union Home Ministry** has approved the Uttar Pradesh government’s proposal to **rename Allahabad as Prayagraj.** In **October** **2018**, the Yogi Adityanath-led government had proposed the change in name of Allahabad to Prayagraj.  
**ii.**A **No Objection Certificate (NOC)** from the MHA will now ensure that names of other institutes in the district, including railway station, High Court and university, are also changed.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* Agartala Airport renamed as **Maharaja Bir Bikram Manikya Kishore Airport.**
* British-era railway station Robertsgang renamed as **Sonbhadra**.
* Iconic Mughalsarai junction renamed after **Deen Dayal Upadhyay.**
* Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport in Mumbai renamed as **Chhatrapati Shivaji ‘Maharaj’ International Airport.**

**7. Important Cabinet Approvals: 2nd January 2019**

**i.**The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has given the following set of approvals. The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows:  
**ii. The Cabinet has approved-**  
**1.** Apprised of MoU between **India and Morocco** on Cooperation in the area of Cyber Security.  
**2**. Apprised of Progress under NHM and Decisions of Empowered Programme Committee and Mission Steering Group of NHM.

Ranks and Reports

**8. Complaints With Bank Ombudsman Surge 25% In FY18: RBI Report**

**i.**The **number of complaints registered at banking ombudsman** offices have seen a**25% increase** in the fiscal year 2018, with the majority of these complaints coming from urban centres owing to increased awareness and poor internal redressal mechanisms of banks.

**ii.** "The banking ombudsman offices in **tier-1 cities** like New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and Hyderabad accounted for more than **57%** of the total complaints received by all BO offices," the **RBI Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India**has stated.  
Appointments

**9. Saurabh Kumar Appointed As Chairman Of Ordnance Factory Board**

**i. Saurabh Kumar** has been appointed as the **Director General of Ordnance Factories (DGOF)** and **chairman of the Ordnance Factory Board (OFB).** Kumar, a 1982-batch Indian Ordnance Factory Service officer, is an M-Tech in mechanical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur.

**ii.**An expert in the manufacture of ordnance, Kumar was on deputation to the **Ministry of Defence** as the director of planning and coordination from 2002 to 2009.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Ordnance Factory Board Headquarters:** Kolkata.

**10. Hemant Bhargava Appointed LIC’s Acting Chairman**

**i.**The government has appointed **Hemant Bhargava, Managing Director, Life Insurance Corporation of India, as the Acting Chairman.**

**ii.**The move comes after VK Sharma retired from the top job at LIC on December 31. While traditionally the senior-most MD is appointed the chairman, Bhargava is due to retire in July 2019.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* Life Insurance in its modern form came to India from England in the year 1818.
* Oriental Life Insurance Company started by Europeans in Calcutta was the first life insurance company on Indian Soil.
* LIC Headquarters in Mumbai.

Banking News

**11. Cabinet Approves Merger of Vijaya Bank & Dena Bank With Bank of Baroda**

**i.**The cabinet has approved the **merger of Vijaya Bank & Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda.** After this merger, Bank of Baroda will become the third biggest public sector bank. The merger will be effective from April 1. This is also the first ever three-way merger in Indian banking.

**ii.**Bank of Baroda (BoB) finalised the share swap ratio for the merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with itself. As per the Scheme of Amalgamation, **shareholders of Vijaya Bank will get 402 equity shares** of**BoB for every 1,000 shares held**. In case of **Dena Bank, its shareholders will get 110 shares for every 1,000 shares of BoB.**

Obituaries

**12. Sachin’s Coach Ramakant Achrekar Passes Away**

**i.** Veteran **cricket coach Ramakant Achrekar,** who trained **Bharat Ratna Sachin Tendulkar** and **Vinod Kambli,** among others, passed away following a heart attack.

**ii.**He was **87** and breathed his last at his home in Dadar. Achrekar, honoured with **Padma Shri in 2010** and **Dronacharya Award in 1990,** was instrumental in shaping the careers of **Tendulkar**, **Kambli** and over a dozen other top cricket stars.

**13. Veteran Kannada Actor CH Loknath Passes Away**

**i. Veteran Kannada actor CH Lokanath passed away**after suffering cardiac arrest. He was 91. Lokanath was in the Kannada film industry for nearly six decades and was affectionately addressed as 'Uncle Lokanath' by his fans.

**ii.**He had acted in over 600 movies and more than 1,000 plays. His famous movies are Bhootayyana Maga Ayyu, Minchina Ota, Nagarahaavu, Nodi Swami Navidru Heege, Katha Sangama and Kittu Puttu.

4th Jan

National News

**1. Parliament Passes Right Of Children To Free And Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018**

**i.**The Indian Parliament passed **the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018** that seeks to **do away with the no-detention policy** in schools. The legislation is significant as it brings accountability in the elementary education system.

**ii.**The Bill seeks to amend the **Right to Education (RTE) Act** to abolish the **“no-detention”** policy in schools. Under the current provisions of the Act, **no student can be detained up to class VIII.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Minister of Human Resource Development**: Prakash Javadekar.

**2. Parliament Passes National Council For Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018**

**i.** The Indian Parliament passed the **National Council for Teacher Education (Amendment) Bill, 2018,** following the approval of the Rajya Sabha. The Lok Sabha had already passed the Bill. The Bill seeks to amend the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) Act, 1993.

**ii.** The bill aims to grant retrospective recognition to Central and State institutions which had conducted teacher education courses without approval by the Council. This will ensure that the future of about 17 thousand students having degrees from such institutions is secured.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Prakash Javadeker is the present HRD Minister of India.

International News

**3. Trump Signs Asia Reassurance Initiative Act Into Law**

**i.**U.S. President **Donald J. Trump** signed into law the **Asia Reassurance Initiative Act (ARIA),** which passed the U.S. Senate earlier in December. According to the White House, the act establishes a multifaceted U.S. strategy to increase**U.S. security, economic interests, and values** in the **Indo-Pacific region.**

**ii.**Specifically, the ARIA will authorize **$1.5 billion** in spending for a range of U.S. programs in **East and Southeast Asia** and develop a long-term strategic vision and a comprehensive, multifaceted, and principled United States policy for the Indo-Pacific region, and for other purposes.

**4. Arunima Sinha Becomes World's 1st Female Amputee To Scale Antarctica's Highest Peak**

**i. Arunima Sinha,** the first female amputee to have conquered**Mt Everest,** created yet another record as she became **world's first woman amputee to climb Mount Vinson,**the highest peak in **Antarctica.**

**ii.**Apart from Mount Everest, the 30-year-old has climbed the highest peaks of **fivecontinents** and plans to do so in all seven.

Banking/Economy News

**5. HDFC MF Surpasses ICICI Prudential MF to Become Largest AMC in India**

**i. HDFC Mutual Fund has pipped ICICI Prudential MF to become the country's largest asset management company** after a gap of over two years.

**ii.**As of December-end, HDFC MF manages assets to the tune of Rs 3.35 lakh crore, while those of ICICI Prudential MF stood at Rs 3.08 lakh crore, as per the latest data available with Association of Mutual funds in India (Amfi).

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Mr. Milind Barve is the Managing Director of HDFC MF.
* It headquarters in Mumbai.

**6. Syndicate Bank And SBI Life Insurance Signed  Bancassurance Pact**

**i. Syndicate Bank and SBI Life Insurance** signed a bancassurance pact aiming to offer a comprehensive financial planning solution to its customers. The pact was signed between Syndicate Bank MD & CEO, **Mrutyunjay Mahapatra** and MD and CEO of SBI Life, **Sanjeev Nautiyal.**  
**ii.**Through the pact, Syndicate Bank will provide penetration in the market with its **3,000branches** and SBI Life’s diverse range of protection, wealth creation and savings insurance products will be brought to the table to the customers.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Syndicate Bank Headquarters:** Manipal, Karnataka, **Tagline**: Faithful and Friendly.

**7. SEBI Allows Custodial Services In Commodity Market**

**i. Markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has allowed**custodial services in the commodity derivatives market.**The move is aimed at enabling the participation of institutional investors such as mutual funds and portfolio managers in the commodity derivatives market.  
ii. Under the new framework, existing custodians will be permitted to add commodities as an asset class and provide physical delivery of both the securities and commodities.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **SEBI-** Securities and Exchange Board of India.
* **SEBI Chairman-**Ajay Tyagi, **Headquarters-** Mumbai.

Obituaries

**8. Veteran Bengali Writer Dibyendu Palit Passes Away**

**i. Renowned Bengali writer and Sahitya Akademi awardee Dibyendu Palit** passes away due to age-related ailments. He was 79-year-old.  
**ii.** Palit was conferred the**Sahitya Akademi for his novel ‘Anubhab’** in 1998. He was awarded the ‘Bankim Purashkar’ for ‘Dheu’ in 1990 and ‘Ananda Purashkar’ in 1984 for ‘Sahojoddha’.

5th Jan

 National News

**1: Government Launches  ‘Swachh Survekshan 2019’**

**i:** Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister, **Hardeep Singh Puri,** launched the **‘Swachh Survekshan 2019’,** the fourth edition of the annual nationwide cleanliness survey of urban India in **New Delhi.**

**ii**: The Swachh Survekshan 2019 aims to evaluate t**he achievements in the cleanliness level in urban areas** of the country. It is launched as a part of **‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* The survey will cover**40 crore people** across over **4000 towns and cities.**
* Swachh Survekshan 2019, **completely digital and paperless survey**, will be completed in a record time of 28 days.

**2: 6 Monuments Declared Of National Importance In 2018 By ASI**

**i.** The Ministry of Culture announced that **Archaeological Survey of India (ASI)** declared 6 monuments as **‘protected and of national importance’** under the**Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958,** in 2018.

These sites are:

* 125-year-old **Old High Court Building** in **Nagpur**, Maharashtra,
* The **Group of Temples in Ranipur Jharai**l in Bolangir district of **Odisha**,
* 2 Mughal era monuments in **Agra- Haveli** of Agha Khan and Hathi Khana,
* The **Neemrana** **Baori** in Alwar district of **Rajasthan**,
* The **Vishnu Temple in Kotali,** Pithoragarh district in **Uttarakhand**.

**3: New Delhi World Book Fair Begins**

**i:** The **27th New Delhi World Book Fair** has begun at Pragati Maidan. Human Resources Development Minister Prakash Javadekar inaugurated the 9-day annual event.  
**ii**: The **theme** of this year is **'Readers with Special Needs'.**  
 **4: Indian Panorama Film Festival Begins In New Delhi**  
**i: Indian Panorama Film Festival** has begun at Siri Fort Auditorium in **New Delhi.**Information and Broadcasting Secretary **Amit Khare** Inaugurated the Festival.  
**ii:** A total of 26 Feature Films and 21 Non-Feature Films will be screened during the festival. The festival is being organized by the **Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Minister of Information and Broadcasting:** Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (Minister of State).

**5: NGT Imposes Rs 100 Cr Fine On Meghalaya Govt**  
**i:** The **National Green Tribunal** has imposed a fine of **100 crore** rupees on **Meghalaya government** for its **failure to curb illegal coal mining** in the state.  
**ii:** The amount of the fine has to be deposited with the **Central Pollution Control Board**within two months. The action comes after a high-level committee submitted an adverse report to a bench headed by **NGT chairperson AK Goel.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Meghalaya CM**: Conrad Sangma, **Governor**: Tathagata Roy.

Sports News

**6: National Table Tennis Championship Begins In Cuttack**  
**i:**The **80th National Table Tennis Championship** began at Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in **Cuttack**. As many as 35 teams, including 550 players from different parts of the country are participating in the mega championship.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Odisha CM:** Naveen Patnaik, **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal.

Banking News

**7: ICICI Bank, SBFC Joined Hands To Provide Loans Worth Rs. 1 Crore To MSMEs For 15-year Tenure**

**i: ICICI Bank,** in a **first-of-its-kind programme,** signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Small Business FinCredit India Pvt. Ltd. (SBFC),** a systemically important Non-Banking Finance Company for entrepreneurs, to jointly provide credit worth up to **Rs 1 crore** to **MSMEs** for a tenure of **15 years**.  
**ii:** Under this arrangement, ICICI Bank will co-originate loan against property with **SBFC at a mutually agreed ratio.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **ICICI Bank Headquarters:** Mumbai, **MD& CEO:** Mr. Sandeep Bakshi, **Tagline**: Hum Hain Na!

Ranks and Reports

**8: Andhra Tops ACI's Ease Of Doing Business Index**  
**i: Andhra Pradesh** emerged on **top of Asia Competitiveness Institute (ACI),Singapore's 2018 Ease of Doing Business (EDB)** Index ABC rankings for economies of 21 states of India, while **Maharashtra and Delhi** came in **second and third place,**respectively.  
**ii:** EDB index is based upon three parameters called **ABC** - **Attractiveness** to Investors, **Business Friendliness** and **Competitiveness Policies.** Andhra Pradesh rose from the**5th rank in 2016** to the **top spot in 2018.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister:** N. Chandrababu Naidu, **Governor:** E. S. L. Narasimhan, **Capital:** Amaravati

Miscellaneous

**9: Vijay Mallya First Tycoon To Be Named "Fugitive Economic Offender"**  
**i: Vijay Mallya** became the**first tycoon** to be charged under a new anti-fraud law, with a court in Mumbai naming him as an offender under the **Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.**  
**ii:** According to the new law, a fugitive economic offender is a person **against whom an arrest warrant has been issued** for his or her involvement in**economic offenses**involving at least**Rs. 100 crore** or more and has left India to avoid prosecution.

6th & 7th Jan

**National News**

**1. Cabinet Approves 10% Job Quota For ‘Economically Weaker’ Upper Castes**

**i.**The **Union Cabinet approved a 10% reservation for ‘economically backward’ upper castes in government jobs.**

**ii.**Ahead of the General Elections this year, the government has announced reservation in jobs for those belonging to the upper castes and earning less than Rs 8 lakh per year. A bill to amend Article 15 and 16 of the constitution will be moved in Parliament to this effect.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Prakash Javadekar is the present HRD Minister of India.

**2. Govt Allocates Rs 10,900 Cr For Development Of 40 Satellite Launch Vehicles**

**i.** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Chairman **Dr. K Sivan** stated that the Union Government has allocated**10,900 crore rupees** for the development of**40 satellite launch vehicles** in the next**4** years.

**ii.** Dr. Sivan also stated that **Chandrayan Mission** will be launched within **three months.**It will land in one part of the Moon which is **still unexplored**. He also said that the human spaceflight **Gaganyaan** is planned to be launched by **2022**, the 75th anniversary of Independence.

**3. AAI Signs MoU With SAMEER For Boosting Communication**  
**i. Airports Authority of India (AAI)** signed MoU with **Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering and Research (SAMEER)** for joint research programs in the field of**Communication Navigation and Surveillance (CNS).**  
**ii.**The MOU, on the one hand, will provide for the transfer of skill by **SAMEER** **experts** in the areas of **Radio Frequency, Millimetre Wave and Antenna-related solutions** to AAI domain experts, while on the other hand, it will pave way for exposure for the SAMEER**researchers to the challenging Aviation field.**  
 **Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Chairman of AAI:** Guruprasad Mohapatra,  **Director General of SAMEER:** Sulabha Ranade.

**4. Odisha CM Naveen Patnaik Announces Interest Free Loans For Women SHGs**

**i.**Odisha Chief **Minister Naveen Patnaik** announced **interest-free loans of up to Rs. 3 lakh** for **women self-help groups (WSHGs)** in the state. There are around**six lakh WSHGs** in Odisha. The initiative will benefit about **70 lakh** women.

**ii.**During the convention, Mr. Patnaik launched a scheme to distribute Rs. **15,000 seed money** per group to three lakh new self-help groups. The chief minister announced incentives of**Rs. 500 per month** for Anganwadi workers and **Rs. 200** for helpers.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Odisha** **Governor:** Ganeshi Lal.

**5. Norwegian PM Erna Solberg In India On 3-Day Visit**

**i. Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg** has arrived**in New Delhi** on a three-day state visit to India. She was accompanied by senior officials from her government and a large business delegation. She will participate in the **Indo-Norwegian Business Conference.**

**ii.**The Norwegian Prime Minister will deliver the Inaugural address at the **Raisina Dialogue.** The visit of PM of Norway will provide an opportunity to review the progress in bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Norway Capital:** Oslo, **Currency:** Norwegian krone.

Committees Formed

**6. HRD Ministry Constitutes Task Force To Look into Suicides of JNV Students**

**i.**The **Union Human Resource Development Ministry**constituted a task force to look into the issues of **suicides of the students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas.** The task force has been **constituted under the Chairmanship of Psychiatrist, Dr Jitendra Nagpal.**  
**ii.** The task force will look into the circumstances leading to the suicidal deaths of students residing in the hostels of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas residential schools. It will also suggest ways and means to arrest the trend of suicides by students.  
  
**7. High-level Committee Headed By MP Bezbaruah Notified on Assam Accord**

**i.**The government had notified a **High-Level committee for implementation of Clause 6 of Assam Accord.**Retired IAS officer**M.P. Bezbaruah is chairman of the 9-member Committee.**The committee will examine the effectiveness of actions since 1985 to implement Clause 6 of the Assam Accord.  
**ii.** The clause envisaged that appropriate constitutional, legislative and administrative safeguards, should be provided to protect, preserve and promote the cultural, social, linguistic identity and heritage of the people of Assam.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Assam Capital:** Dispur, **CM:** Sarbanand Sonowal, **Governor:** Jagdish Mukhi.

Awards **8. Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism Awards: Complete List Of Winners**

**i.**Home Minister **Rajnath Singh** presented **Ramnath Goenka Excellence in Journalism awards** in 18 categories across print, broadcast, and purely-digital for outstanding work done in 2017.  
**ii. The Express Group** instituted the Ramnath Goenka Excellence in **Journalism** Awards in 2005 as part of the centenary year celebrations of its founder, Ramnath Goenka.  
 **9. Golden Globe Awards 2019 Announced: Complete List of Winners**

**i.**The **76th Annual Golden Globe Awards** were announced at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in California, the USA. These annual awards honour the best in**Motion Pictures and Television for the year 2018.**  
**ii.** This year’s event was **hosted by actors Andy Samberg and Sandra Oh**, who took over from 2018 host, comedian Seth Meyers.

Resignation

**10. Pentagon Chief of Staff Kevin Sweeney Resigns**

**i.**In the United States, Department of Defence, Chief of Staff, **Rear Admiral Kevin Sweeney** has resigned, a month after Defence Secretary James Mattis announced his departure.  
**ii.**He is now the third senior Pentagon official to announce his resignation since President Donald Trump announced US forces would leave Syria.

**Sports News**

**11. Hopman Cup: Roger Federer & Belinda Bencic Retain Title For Switzerland**

**i. Switzerland's Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic** secured victory over **Germany's Angelique Kerber and Alexander Zverev** to win the Hopman Cup for the second year in a row.

**ii.**In a rerun of 2018 final, Federer beat Zverev to give the Swiss an early 1-0 lead. Wimbledon champion Kerber then overcame Bencic to level the tie. However, the Swiss claimed a tight win in the mixed doubles to claim their fourth Hopman Cup title.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Twenty-time Grand Slam champion Federer is the first player to win three Hopman Cups - twice with Bencic and once with Martina Hingis, in 2001.

Banking News

**12. Government Amalgamates 3 RRBs Into A Single Bank**

**i.** The government has amalgamated **three Regional Rural Banks** **- *Punjab Gramin Bank, Malwa Gramin Bank and Sutlej Gramin Bank* -**into a single RRB.  
**ii.** The sponsor banks of the RRBs are National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD), the Government of Punjab and Punjab National Bank, State Bank of India and Punjab and Sind Bank.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Father Of RRB is M.Swaminathan.

8th Jan

National News

**1. 106th Session of Indian Science Congress Concludes in Jalandhar**

**i.**The **106th session of Indian Science Congress (ISC), 2019** concluded in Lovely Professional University, Jalandhar, Punjab. The five-day session was **inaugurated by PM Narendra Mod**i and attended by **Union Science & Technology Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan.**

**ii.**As a part of the Indian Science Congress, Women’s Science Congress was held which was inaugurated by Union Minister for Textiles & Industry Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani. The major attractions were the**55-feet, 25-ton massive robot ‘Metal Magna’** installed at the entrance gate.

**2. 4th Edition Of Raisina Dialogue Held In New Delhi**

**i. The fourth edition of the Raisina Dialogue** has begun in New Delhi. **Norway Prime Minister Ms. Erna Solberg** delivered inaugural address in presence of PM Narendra Modi and External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.

**ii.**The theme of the Dialogue this year is **“A World Reorder: New Geometries; Fluid Partnerships; Uncertain Outcomes”.**

**3. HRD Ministry Introduced a 70-Point Grading Index To Assess The Quality Of School Education**

**i.** The HRD ministry has introduced a **70-point grading index** to assess the quality of school education offered by states. A state performance grading will be done wherein the states will be marked out of **1,000 scores on 70 parameters.**

**ii.** HRD Minister **Prakash Javadekar** stated that it will give the correct picture of where every state stands. There will be a **fair competition** to improve each other's performances.

**4. In A Historic Move, Private FM Channels Permitted to Carry All  India Radio News**

**i. Union Minister of State (IC) for Information & Broadcasting and Youth Affairs & Sports, Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore (Retd.)** launched the sharing of All India Radio News with private FM broadcasters. This will be done free of cost, on trial basis initially till 31st May, 2019.

**ii.**Any Private FM broadcaster which intends to broadcast the news bulletins will first have to register with News Services Division: All India Radio.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Chairman of Prasar Bharati is A. Surya Prakash.
* CEO of Prasar Bharati is Shashi Shekhar Vempati.

**5. 1st Ever Global Aviation Summit To Be Held In Mumbai**

**i.** In a first, the 2-day long **Global Aviation Summit 2019** with the theme ***“Flying for all”***will be organized by the **Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) in collaboration with FICCI**from January 15-16, 2019 in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

**ii.** The summit is supported by International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Federal Aviation Administration of US (FAA), International Air Transport Association (IATA), CiviI Air Navigation Services Organisation (CANSO), Airports Council International (ACl) and Association of Asia Pacific Airlines (AAPA).

Appointments/Resignations

**6. Sheikh Hasina Sworn-In As Bangladesh PM For 4th Term**

**i. Sheikh Hasina sworn-in as the Bangladesh Prime Minister** for the fourth term. It is her third consecutive term after her victory in the **11th Parliamentary elections.**

**ii. President Mohammad Abdul Hamid** administered the oath of office to Sheikh Hasina in Dhaka. This is the first time Hasina is forming a cabinet with the members of her own party.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Bangladesh Capital:** Dhaka, **Currency-** Bangladesh taka.

**7. Malaysia’s King Muhammad V Becomes 1st Monarch To Resign Before Completing Tenure**

**i. Malaysia’s King Muhammad V abdicated** after two years on the throne, the first time a monarch has stepped down before completing their five-year tenure.

**ii.** The king’s resignation took effect immediately. A week ago, the king, 49, had resumed duties after spending two months on medical leave.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Malaysia Capital:** Kuala Lumpur, **Currency:** Malaysian ringgit.

**8. Kumar Rajesh Chandra Appointed Director-General of SSB**

**i. Civil Aviation Security head and senior IPS officer Kumar Rajesh Chandra** was appointed as the director general of the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).  
**ii.**Chandra, a 1985-batch IPS officer of Bihar cadre, is at present the director general of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS). He has been appointed as SSB DG up to December 31, 2021, i.e., the date of his superannuation, the order said.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* The SSB, which has about 80,000 personnel, guards India's borders with Nepal and Bhutan.

**9. Alok Verma Reinstated As CBI Chief By Supreme Court**

**i. Alok Verma** has been reinstated as the **CBI chief** by the **Supreme Court,** three months after the government divested him of his powers and sent him on**forced leave**. Alok Verma and his deputy **Rakesh Asthana** were both sent on leave in October amid a bitter feud between the CBI's top two.  
**ii.**Supreme Court strikes down CBI Chief Alok Verma's removal. However, at present, Alok Verma **cannot take any major policy decisions.** Supreme Court stated that the High Power Committee under the**DSPE Act** needs to act within a week to consider Alok Verma's case.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* The 46th Chief Justice of India is Mr. Ranjan Gogoi.

**10. Jim Yong Kim Resigns As President Of The World Bank**

**i. World Bank President, Jim Yong Kim** has made the surprise announcement that he is **stepping down** after six years in the post. His resignation will take effect from **1 February.**  
**ii.** Mr. Kim, 59, was not due to leave until **2022** after he was re-elected for a second five-year term in **2017**.

Economy News **11. CSO Forecasts Indian Economy To Grow At 7.2% In 2018-19**

**i.** Releasing the first advance estimates of National Income for 2018-19, **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** stated that the growth in GDP during 2018-19 is estimated at **7.2%** as compared to the growth rate of **6.7%** in 2017-18, mainly due to improvement in the **performance of agriculture and manufacturing sectors.**

**ii.**Economic Affairs Secretary **Subhash Chandra Garg** described the **7.2%** GDP growth projection as very healthy. Mr. Garg stated that India continued to remain the fastest growing economy in the world and at current prices, GDP grows by **12.3%**rising to**188. 41 lakh crore.  
  
12. Per Capita Income Doubled In 7 Years: CSO**

**i.**The income earned by an average Indian doubled in 7 years, from Rs **63,642 per year** in 2011-12 to **Rs 1.25 lakh** in**2018-19,** the first advance estimates of national income released by the **Central Statistics Office (CSO)** show.  
**ii.** The year-on-year growth in per capita income had touched its bottom in **2017-18** under the current national accounts series (the **base year 2011-12)** at **8.6** **%**. In 2018-19, it has bounced back to **11.1%.** Per capita **net national income** in **nominal terms** has been taken as an indicator representative of the average income per person.

9th Jan

 National News

**1. Citizenship Amendment Bill 2019 Passed in Lok Sabha**

**i.** The**Citizenship Amendment bill** seeking to provide Indian citizenship to persecuted minorities from **Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Afghanistan** was passed by Lok Sabha. The Bill provides for Indian citizenship to such immigrants after **six years of residence in India instead of 12 years currently.**

**ii.**Home Minister Rajnath Singh moved the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 in Lok Sabha and was passed after a discussion. The Bill seeks to amend the**Citizenship Act of 1955** in order to grant citizenship to Hindus, Buddhists, Sikhs, Jains, Parsis and Christians from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan if they have lived in India for six years.

**2. RBI Forms Committee To Boost Digital Payments**

**i. Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted a **High-Level Committee** on **Deepening of Digital Payments** to **encourage digitisation of payments and enhance financial inclusion.** The **five-member committee** will be headed by UIDAI’s former Chairman **Nandan Nilekani.**

**ii.**RBI stated that the committee will review the **existing status of digitisation of payments and suggest ways to bridge any gaps in the ecosystem** if any.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **RBI 25th Governor:** Shaktikant Das,  **Headquarters:**Mumbai,  **Founded:**1 April 1935, Kolkata.

**3. Interim Budget To Be Presented on 1 February**

**i.**The **interim budget for 2019** will be presented on**1 February** during the budget session of the parliament. The budget session of the Parliament to be held from **31 January to 13 February.**

**ii.**The decision was taken in the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Parliamentary Affairs.

Agreements Signed

**4. NHAI Collaborates with Oil Marketing Companies for Issuance of FASTags**

**i.**To ensure easier availability of FASTags,**Indian Highways Management Company Ltd. (IHMCL), a company promoted by NHAI,** has signed MoUs with state-run **Oil Marketing Companies (IOCL, BPC, and HPC)**.

**ii.** It will ensure availability of FASTags at petroleum outlets across India. In the first phase, the tags will be available across 50 Fuel Station in Delhi NCR, which will subsequently be expanded to outlets across India.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Dharmendra Pradhan is the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas.
* Nitin Jairam Gadkari is the Minister of Road Transport and Highways.

**5. MoU On 'India-Norway Ocean Dialogue' Exchanged**

**i. Prime Minister of Norway Erna Solberg** and Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks in New Delhi. Prime Minister Modi said that both the countries have vibrant trade ties. **MoU were exchanged on India-Norway Ocean Dialogue.**

**ii.**Erna Solberg also called on President Ram Nath Kovind and Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu. She also delivered the Inaugural address at the Raisina Dialogue and addressed **India-Norway Business Summit in New Delhi.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Norway Capital-** Oslo, **Currency-** Norwegian krone.

**6. MoU Signed Between Indian Army And PNB**

**i.**An MoU was signed between the **Indian Army and Punjab National Bank** on the Defence Salary Package. The signing ceremony was chaired by the Adjutant General, Lt Gen Ashwani Kumar.  
**ii.**Salient features of the improved and updated MoU are free**‘RAKSHAK PLUS’ Scheme**for serving pers and veterans, overdraft facility range from Rs 0.75 to 3.0 lakhs, multicity ‘At Par’ cheques, instant credit of outstation cheques, preferential allotment of lockers at concessional AMC and free SMS alerts.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* General Bipin Rawat is the present Chief of Staff of Indian Army.
* Sunil Mehta is the Managing Director & Chief Executive Officer of PNB.
* PNB Headquarters in New Delhi.

Economy News **7. World Bank Pegs India’s GDP Growth At 7.3 % in 2018-19**

**i. India’s GDP is expected to grow at 7.3%** in the fiscal year 2018-19, and **7.5% in the following two years,** the World Bank has forecast, attributing it to an upswing in consumption and investment. India will continue to be the fastest growing major economy in the world, according to the World Bank.

**ii.**China’s economic growth is projected to slow down to 6.2% each in 2019 and 2020 and 6% in 2021, according to the January 2019 Global Economic Prospects report released by the World Bank.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Present World Bank President:** Jim Yong Kim, **Headquarters:** Washington, D.C., United States.

Appointments/Resignations

**8. Pranav R Mehta Becomes 1st Indian to Head Global Solar Council**

**i.**A visionary in the field of Solar Energy and the **chairman of National Solar Energy Federation, Pranav R Mehta, has taken over as the president of Global Solar Council (GSC)**. He has become the first Indian to head the GSC.

**ii.** The Global Solar Council (GSC) was launched on December 6, 2015, following the historic United Nations Climate Change Conference (UN COP 21).

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* The **Global Solar Council (GSC)** has its headquarters in Washington D.C., USA.

Sports News

**9. Egypt to Host 2019 African Cup of Nations**

**i. Seven-time champions Egypt** have won the hosting rights for the **2019 edition of the African Cup of Nations.**  
**ii.**Egypt beat South Africa by 16 votes to one at the **Confederation of African Football's (CAF) Executive Committee**.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Egypt Capital:** Cairo, **Currency:** Egyptian pound.

**10. Sydney and Brisbane Chosen To Host $15 million  ATP Cup In 2020**

**i. Australian** cities **Sydney and Brisbane** have been announced as the **first two host locations** for the newest team event in men’s tennis for the multi-million dollar ATP Cup from 2020.  
**ii.**The third Australian city for the tournament is yet to be determined. The tournament will comprise more than **100 players** from**24 nations** with **$15 million** in prize money and 750 ATP Ranking points.  
  
**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) Chairman‎:** ‎Chris Kermode, **Headquarters**: London, United Kingdom.
* **Australia Capital:** Canberra, **Currency**: Australian Dollar, **Prime Minister:** Scott Morrison.

**11. 2nd Edition Of Khelo India Youth Games Begins In Pune**

**i.**The second edition of **Khelo India Youth Games** has officially begun in **Pune**, **Maharashtra**. Sports Minister **Rajyavardhan Rathore** and Chief Minister **Devendra Fadnavis** attended a virtual torch ceremony at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex.  
**ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** addressed the event through a video message. More than 9,000 players from different states will participate in **18** different events.

10th Jan

National News

**1. PM Modi Launched Various Development Projects in Solapur**

**i.**Prime Minister **Narendra Modi launched development projects worth Rs 1,100 cr at Solapur in Maharashtra.**Referring to the passage of The Constitution (One Hundred And Twenty-Fourth Amendment) Bill in the Lok Sabha, PM, Modi described it as a landmark moment in the nation’s history.

**ii.**PM Modi also laid the foundation stone for an over 1800 crore rupee housing project of 30,000 units under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. It will benefit the homeless poor like rag pickers, rickshaw pullers, textile and beedi workers.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Maharashtra CM:** Devendra Fadnavis, **Governor:** C Vidyasagar Rao.

**2. Rajya Sabha Passes Reservation Bill Granting 10% Quota For Upper Caste EWS**

**i.**The **124th Constitution Amendment Bill, 2019** to award **10% reservation** to **economically weaker sections** was passed with a majority in Rajya Sabha. It was already passed in Lok Sabha.

**ii.** The Constitution (124rd Amendment) Bill has passed the Rajya Sabha test with **165 'Yes' and 7 'No' votes.** This was brought to the Upper House after the sitting of the House was extended by a day.

**3. Government Launched Web- Wonder Women Campaign**

**i.**The government launched ***Web-Wonder Women Campaign***to celebrate the exceptional achievements of women who have influenced and impacted society through social media.

**ii.**The Campaign aims to recognize the fortitude of Indian women stalwarts from across the globe who have used the power of social media to run positive campaigns to steer a change in society.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Maneka Sanjay Gandhi is the present Minister of Women and Child Development.

**4. Andaman To Be First Island To Operate Seaplanes Under UDAN-3**

**i.**According to the **Ministry of Civil Aviation,** islands in **Andaman** will soon be connected by **seaplanes** that can land on or take-off from the water. To facilitate the same, the government has approved flight operations on **13** water aerodrome routes under the **Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik (UDAN)** scheme.  
**ii.**The government had opened bidding under the third phase of its**regional connectivity scheme,** **UDAN-3,** in **November**, and had received a total of 111 proposals by 15 airlines.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Minister of Civil Aviation:** Suresh Prabhu.

**5. Polavaram Project Enters Guinness Book of World Record For Concrete Pouring**

**i.**The **Polavaram project** of **Andhra Pradesh** entered the **Guinness Book of World** by pouring **32,100 cubic meters of concrete** in a matter of 24 hours. While the staff of Navayuga Engineering company performed the task, project, and state government officials remained at the site until the goal was completed.  
**ii.**The entire event was witnessed by the representatives of Guinness Book of World Record with the help of **drone cameras.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister:** N. Chandrababu Naidu,  **Governor:** E. S. L. Narasimhan, **Capital**: Amaravati.

**6. UGC To Set Up CARE To Strengthen Research Publication**

**i.**The **University Grants Commission (UGC)** has approved a list of journals, in that the UGC has decided to establish a **Consortium for Academic and Research Ethics (CARE).**  
**ii.**The good quality Research Journals in disciplines under Social Sciences, Humanities, Languages, Arts, Culture, Indian Knowledge Systems etc., will be maintained by CARE and referred to as ‘CARE Reference List of Quality Journals’. This will be used for all academic purposes.  
**iii.**UGC has constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. P. Balram, to review its quality mandate relating to promotion of Research and to review the existing M.Phil/ Ph.D Regulations.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Prakash Javadekar is the present Union Minister of HRD.

**7. SEBI Constitutes Research Advisory Committee Headed By Sankar De**

**i.** Market regulator **Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has constituted a **"Research Advisory"** committee which will assist in formulating policy to undertake research relevant for development and regulation of capital markets.  
**ii.**According to SEBI, the committee would comprise **prominent financial economists and market practitioners**. It will be headed by **Sankar De.**  
**iii.**Another key task of the committee will be to **maintain databases relevant for capital market regulation research.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **SEBI Chairman-**Ajay Tyagi, **Headquarters-** Mumbai.

**8. ‘National Consultation on Child Protection’ Held in New Delhi**

**i.**The First**‘National Consultation on Child Protection’** for 2019 was held at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development.  
**ii.**The meeting was organized to follow up on the exercise of monitoring of the CCIs by States/UTs, to deliberate upon various aspects of child protection and to take stock of the efforts made by States/UTs regarding improvements in the Child Care Institutions.

**9. BEE and CPWD Sign MoU On Promoting Energy Efficiency In Buildings**

**i.**The **Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE) and the Central Public Works Department (CPWD)** signed an MoU, kick-starting cooperation in building energy efficiency.  
**ii.**According to the MoU, BEE and CPWD will cooperate on promoting designs and construction of Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC) compliant new buildings, star rating of CPWD managed buildings across the country with no registration or renewal fee, awareness of energy efficiency in the building sector and support for capacity building of CPWD officials in ECBC.

International News

**10. Sri Lanka’s Central Bank Gets USD 400 Million Swap From RBI**

**i.** Sri Lanka’s Central Bank announced that the**Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has agreed to provide USD 400 million under a swap arrangement** to boost the island nation’s reserves.

**ii.**It stated that a further request to the RBI for another SWAP arrangement of USD 1 billion is “under consideration”. These are to be made available under the **SAARC SWAP facility.**The RBI has agreed to provide the funds under its **SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Swap Facility.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Sri Lanka's central bank is called as **Central Bank of Sri Lanka.**
* It was established in 1950 under the Monetary Law Act No. 58 of 1949 (MLA) as a semi-autonomous body.
* Dr. Indrajit Coomaraswamy is the Governor of CBS.

Banking News

**11. India Allows Iran's Bank Pasargad To Open Branch in Mumbai**

**i.**Union Minister Nitin Gadkari has announced that India has allowed an Iranian bank, **Pasargad Bank, t**o open a branch in Mumbai. The move is aimed at circumventing US trade and investment sanctions as India builds a strategic port in the West Asian country.

ii. Iran’s Pasargad Bank has received the necessary clearances to open its branch in Mumbai. Alongside, **India’s UCO Bank will open a branch in Iran.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* India has taken over operations of the Chabahar port in the Sistan-Balochistan province of Iran, the first time India will operate a port outside its territory.

**12. IRCTC Partners With Bharti AXA General Insurance**

**i. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**, the Railways’ subsidiary, will offer insurance of up to**INR50 lakh for free** for air passengers who book their tickets through its**portal.** IRCTC has tied up with **Bharti-Axa** for the offer.

**ii.**IRCTC’s service charge of **INR59** is the cheapest compared with travel websites. IRCTC has tied up with**Galileo,** a computer reservation system, for powering the **flight search engine.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **Minister of Railways:** Piyush Goyal.

Ranks and Reports **13. India To Become World’s 3rd Largest Consumer Market By 2030: WEF**

**i. A report by World Economic Forum** stated that **India is set to become the world’s third largest consumer market behind only USA and China by 2030.**The report was titled as**‘Future of Consumption in Fast-Growth Consumer Market – India’.**

**ii.**As per the report, consumer spending in India is expected to grow from 1.5 trillion US dollar at present to six trillion US dollar by 2030. With the annual GDP growth rate of 7.5%, India is currently the world’s sixth largest economy.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* **The founder and Chairman of WEF-**Klaus Schwab.
* WEF Headquarters in Switzerland.

Books and Authors

**14. Malala Pens New Book On Refugee Girls Titled We Are Displaced**

**i.**Nobel Peace Prize winner and Pakistani activist**Malala Yousafzai** pens a new book, titled '**We Are Displaced: My Journey and Stories from Refugee Girls Around the World**,' charting her experiences traveling the world and visiting refugee camps.

Awards

**15. Mohamed Salah Named African Footballer Of The Year**

**i. Liverpool's Mohamed Salah** has been named as the **2018 Confederation of African Football Player of the Year**. For the second consecutive year he has won the award. Egypt forward Salah, 26, beat Liverpool team-mate Sadio Mane of Senegal and Arsenal and Gabon striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang to the title.

**ii. Houston Dash and South Africa forward Thembi Kgatlana** was named Women's Player of the Year.

Important Days

**16. World Hindi Day:10 January**

**i. World Hindi Day** is celebrated on **January 10** every year, marking the anniversary of**first World Hindi Conference** which was held in **1975**. The first World Hindi Conference was inaugurated by the then prime minister **Indira Gandhi.** World Hindi Day was first observed on **January 10, 2006.**

**ii.**World Hindi Day and **National Hindi Diwas** are **completely different.** National Hindi Diwas is celebrated every year on **September 14.** On that day in **1949,** the constituent assembly adopted Hindi, written in **Devanagari script,** as the official language of the Union.

11th Jan

 National News

**1. India's Longest Single Lane Steel Cable Bridge Opened in Arunachal Pradesh**

**i. India’s longest 300-meter single lane steel cable suspension bridge was inaugurated by Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu**. He also laid the foundation stone for a district secretariat building.

**ii.**The bridge across the Siang river at Yingkiong in Upper Siang district has been named **Byorung Bridge.**It is built at a cost of **Rs48.43-crore provided by the DONER (Department for Development of North Eastern Region)** **Ministry.**The Bridge will reduce the distance from Yinkiong to Tuting by almost 40 km.

**iii.**The Centre had sanctioned 268 road projects worth Rs3,800-crore under the Prime Minister’s Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY). Mr. Khandu also announced Rs10-crore for a project to check river erosion at Yingkiong and Tuting.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Brigadier B D Mishra is the present Governor of Arunachal Pradesh.

**2. Important Cabinet Approvals: 11th January 2019**

**i.**The Union Cabinet chaired by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** has given the following set of approvals. The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows:

**ii. The Cabinet has approved-**

1. MoU on Maritime issues between **India and Denmark.**  
2. MoU between **India and Japan** on Development of Advanced Model Single Window.

**3. Centre launches 5-yr Plan To Combat Pollution In 102 cities**

**i.**The **Environment Ministry** launched **the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)**aimed at **reducing toxic particulate matter in 102 Indian cities by 2024.**

**ii.**The **NCAP** will be a mid-term, **five-year plan** with **2019** as the first year, while **2017 will be the base year** for comparison of concentration. An amount of **INR300 crore** has been sanctioned for this purpose.

**4. 25th Edition of Partnership Summit Held in Mumbai**

**i.**The **25th edition of Partnership Summit 2019,** a global platform for dialogue, debate, deliberation and engagement among Indian and global leaders on economic policy and growth trends in India was held in Mumbai.

**ii.**The two-day event was inaugurated by the Vice President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu. The Summit was organized by the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, State Government of Maharashtra and Confederation of Indian Industry.

**5. 29th Indian Paint Conference 2019 Started in Agra**  
**i.** The **Indian Paint Association (IPA)**, the apex body of the country's paint industry announced that the**29th biennial Indian Paint Conference** started in Agra, Uttar Pradesh.

**ii.** The theme of the Conference is 'Paints Pe Charcha - Naye Aayaam'. This is the largest trade show of the estimated INR 500 billion (50,000 Crore) Indian Paints & Coatings industry.

Appointments

**6. Maduro Sworn In As Venezuela President for 2nd Term**

**i. Nicolás Maduro** was sworn in for a **second term as Venezuela's President** amid the economic and humanitarian crisis faced by the**Latin American** country. Maduro was re-elected last year.

**ii.** The US, EU and 13 other countries have stated that they would**not recognise** Maduro's Presidency.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important for IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018-**

* **Venezuela Capital**- Caracas, **Currency-** Venezuelan bolívar.

**7. IWF President Named As Chef de Mission for Tokyo Olympics**

**i. President of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWF), Birendra Prasad Baishya,**has been named**Chef de Mission for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.**  
**ii.**It is for the first time that the Weightlifting has been accorded with the honor of Chef de Mission for the Olympics. Baishya is also one of the Indian Olympic Association Vice Presidents.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* The 2020 Summer Olympics, officially known as the Games of the XXXII Olympiad and commonly known as Tokyo 2020, is a forthcoming international multi-sport event that is scheduled to take place from 24 July to 9 August 2020.

Ranks and Reports

**8. India Ranks 79th, Japan Tops List Of Most Powerful Passports**

**i.**According to the **Henley Passport Index,**  India jumped two positions from **81st** in 2018 to**79th** in 2019. **Japan** retained its **top spot** as the world's **most travel-friendly passport.**

**ii.**China jumped almost **20 places** in just **two years**, from 85th in 2017 to 69th this year. The Henley Passport Index is based on data provided by the **International Air Transport Authority (IATA)** and covers **199 passports** and**227 travel destinations.**

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam 2018:**

* **Japan Capital:** Tokyo, **Currency:** Japanese yen, **PM:** Shinzo Abe.

Sports News **9. Harendra Singh Discontinued as Indian Men's Hockey Team Coach**

**i. Indian men's hockey coach Harendra Singh** was removed from the position and offered the task of helming the **junior squad** by the national federation. Harendra Singh was brought in as men's coach in May 2018 after **Sjoerd Marijne** was moved back to the women's camp.

**ii.**Hockey India stated that it will be inviting applications for the position of **chief coach**and in the interim, the team will be overseen by Hockey India High-Performance Director **David John** and current Analytical Coach, **Chris Ciriello.**

**10. Mary Kom Attains No. 1 Position in AIBA Rankings**

**i. M C Mary Kom has attained number one position in the International Boxing Association’s (AIBA) latest world rankings.** She became the most successful boxer in world championships’ history when she claimed the **48kg category top honors in Delhi in November 2018.**

**ii.**In the 51kg category list, Pinki Jangra is placed eighth. Asian silver-medallist Manisha Maun is placed eighth in the 54kg category. In the 57kg division, **former world silver-medallist Sonia Lather was placed at the second spot**.

**Static/Current Takeaways Important For IBPS Clerk Mains Exam:**

* Mary Kom picked up gold medals at the Commonwealth Games and a tournament in Poland.
* She also won a silver at the prestigious Strandja Memorial in Bulgaria.