

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF JANUARY 2018

Awards

The veteran playback singer who has been chosen to be awarded the Yash Chopra National Memorial Award 2017 – **Asha Bhosle**

The member of NITI Aayog who has been awarded the prestigious IhsanDoğramacı Family Health Foundation Prize by the World Health Organisation (WHO) (He is the first Indian to receive this global honour) – **Dr. Vinod Paul**

The Chief Minister who has been conferred the 1st Mufti Mohammad Sayeed Award for Probity in Politics and Public Life by the J & K Govt – **Nitish Kumar**

The Asian-American actor who has become the first person of Indian origin to win a Golden Globe Award for the best actor in a television series - musical or comedy – **Aziz Ansari**

Defence

The third state-of-art Scorpene class submarines launched by the Indian Navy at Mumbai is named – **INS Karanj**

The first ever joint military exercise by India and Vietnam at Jabalpur (M.P.) from 29 January to 03 February is named – **VINBAX 2018**

The joint military exercise by India and United States to be conducted at Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) in Seattle in the 3rd week of January is named – **Vajra Prahar**

The Indian Army regiment which has been formally affiliated to Indian Naval ship INS Vikramaditya (along with No. 6 Squadron of the Indian Air Force) – **Bihar Regiment**

Places

The place in Marathwada region of Maharashtra where the Indian Railways has decided to set up a coach factory to manufacture Electric Multiple Units for suburban trains and coaches for metros – **Latur**

The place in Arunachal Pradesh where World War II Memorial Museum was inaugurated by Chief Minister Pema Khandu – **Jairampur**

The State which has decided to provide 1% parallel reservation for orphans in government jobs – **Maharashtra**

The State in which the 7th edition of Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is being held from 14 to 20 January 2018 – **Karnataka**

The suburban railway station of Central Railways which has entered the Limca Book of Records for having an all-woman staff six months after it had become the first railway station in the country to be run by an all-woman staff – **Matunga**

The Indian State which has banned the manufacture, distribution, sale, purchase, display and advertisement of e-cigarettes – **Bihar**

The country which has decided to use the Chinese currency Yuan for its bilateral trade with China – **Pakistan**

The two middle-eastern countries which decided to introduce 5% VAT for the first time from 01 Jan 2018 – **UAE and Saudi Arabia**

The venue of 105th Indian Science Congress to be held from Mar 18 to 22 (the event was originally scheduled at Osmania University in January 2018) – **Manipur University, Imphal**

The north-eastern State which has been declared ODF (Open Defecation Free) becoming the second in the region after Sikkim – **Arunachal Pradesh**

Persons

The new Chief Election Commissioner of India who has taken over from Shri Achal Kumar Jyoti – **Om Prakash Rawat**

The former Chief Minister of Gujarat who has been appointed as the Governor of Madhya Pradesh – **Smt Anandiben Patel**

The new Chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation who has been chosen to take over from 15 Jan 18 – **Shri Kailasavadivoo Sivan**

The Oscar winning music director who has been chosen the brand ambassador of Sikkim by the State Govt – **AR Rahman**

The Indian powerlifter and world champion who passed away in a road accident on 07 Jan – **Saksham Yadav**

The American astronaut and the first person in the world to fly six space missions and the ninth person to walk on moon who passed away on 05 Jan – **John Watts Young**

Sports

The host country of 2018 Women's World T20 cricket tournament as announced by ICC – **West Indies**

The Indian cricketer who has been banned by the BCCI for five months on the grounds of doping violation – **Yusuf Pathan**

The 21-year old sportsperson from Manali who has become the first Indian to win an international medal in skiing by winning a Bronze medal in the slalom race category at the Palandoken Ski Centre, in Erzurum in Turkey – **Aanchal Thakur**

The New Zealand cricketer who has become the first in the world to score 3 centuries in international T20 matches (He scored the centuries against India, Bangladesh and West Indies) – **Colin Munro**

The team which has won the Ranji Trophy 2017-18 season defeating Delhi in the finals at Holkar Stadium, Indore – **Vidarbha**

Themes

The theme of 48th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum held in Davos, Switzerland from 23 to 26 January 2018 – **Creating a Shared Future in a Fractured World**

The theme of 5-day National Youth Festival organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Govt. of India in collaboration with State Govt. of Uttar Pradesh at Gautam Buddha University, Gautam Budh nagar, Greater Noida from 12th to 16th January, 2018 – **Sankalp se Siddhi**

The theme of the official emblem of West Bengal which has been designed by Ms. Mamta Banerjee and unveiled recently – **Biswa Bangla**

Miscellaneous

The indigenous aircraft designed and developed by CSIR - National Aeronautics Laboratories (NAL) which made its maiden flight in Bengaluru is named – **SARAS PT1N**

The private sector bank which has become the first Indian bank to cross Rs. 5 trillion in market capitalisation at BSE – **HDFC Bank**

The App launched by Ministry of Railways for monitoring and managing freight business using Geographic Information System Views and Dashboard is named – **SFOORTI (Smart Freight Operation Optimisation and Real Time Information)**

The online portal launched by Ministry of Women and Child Development intended to serve as a one-point platform where women can easily access details of over 350 central and state schemes is named – **NARI (National Repository of Information for Women)**

Crystal Awards by World Economic Forum

Cate Blanchett, for her leadership in raising awareness of the refugee crisis.

Sir Elton John, for his leadership in the fight against HIV/AIDS

Shah Rukh Khan, for his leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India

2018 Blind Cricket World Cup

Held in - **Pakistan and UAE**

Held from - 08 to 20 Jan 18

Winners - **India**

Runners-up - **Pakistan**

Finals played at - Sharjah Cricket Stadium

Participants - India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia

ICC Awards 2017

Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year - **Virat Kohli** (India)

Men's Test Cricketer of the Year - **Steve Smith** (Australia)

Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year - **Virat Kohli** (India)

Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year - **Hasan Ali** (Pakistan)

Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)

Men's T20 Performance of the Year - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England) (India)

David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year - Marais Erasmus

ICC Spirit of Cricket - Anya Shrubsole (England)

Women's Test Cricketer of the Year: **Ellyse Perry** (Australia)

Women's ODI Cricketer of the Year: **Amy Satterthwaite** (New Zealand)

Women's T20I Cricketer of the Year: Beth Mooney (Australia)

Women's Emerging Player of the Year: Beth Mooney (Australia)

iCreate

iCreate: International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology

Inaugurated by - Indian PM Narendra Modi and Israel PM Benjamin Netanyahu

Inaugurated at - Dev Dholera near Ahmedabad

Joint venture of - Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited (GMDC) and Gujarat Entrepreneurship and Venture Promotion Foundation (GEVPPF)

Aim - To provide technology and assistance to the innovative and imaginative minds in their entrepreneurial journey.

Advisory board - Dilip Shanghvi, MD, Sun Pharmaceutical Industries Limited, Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and MD of Kotak Mahindra Bank, Narayan Murthy, Infosys co-founder and Professor Jagdish Bhagwati

Functioning - iCreate provides 13-week grooming program to equip an individual with the right skill and tools required in the entrepreneurial world. At the end of this, the participants have the option to pitch their idea for further development. The proposals are evaluated by an independent panel and selected subsequently. Financial assistance up to Rs 50,000 is provided by the venture for few deserving pitches.

Open to - Students, existing entrepreneurs, traders, small sized businessmen.

63rd Filmfare Awards

Best Actor (Male): **Irrfan Khan** for Hindi Medium

Best Actor (Female): **Vidya Balan** for Tumhari Sulu

Best Film: **Hindi Medium**

Best Director: **Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari** for Bareilly ki Barfi

Filmfare Critics Award for Best Film: **Newton**

Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Male): **Rajkummar Rao** for Trapped

Filmfare Critics Award for Best Actor (Female): **Zaira Wasim** for Secret Superstar

Best Debut Director: **Konkona Sen Sharma** for A Death in the Gunj

Best Dialogue: **Hitesh Kewaliya** for Shubh Mangal Saavdhan

Best Screenplay: **Shubhashish Bhutiani** for Mukti Bhawan

Best Story: **Amit V Masurkar** for Newton

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Male): **Rajkummar Rao** for Bareilly ki Barfi

Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female): **Meher Vij** for Secret Superstar

Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award: **Mala Sinha** and **Bappi Lahiri**

Best Music Director: **Pritam** for Jagga Jasoos

Best Lyricist: **Amitabh Bhattacharya** for Ullu ka Pattha from Jagga Jasoos

Best Playback Singer (Male): **Arijit Singh** for Roke na ruke naina from Badrinath ki Dulhania

Best Playback Singer (Female): **Meghna Mishra** for Nachdi Phira from Secret Superstar

Jagga Jasoos and **Secret Superstar** received the most nominations :10.

Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards

Dr. Najma Heptullah for 2013

Shri Hukumdev Narayan Yadav for 2014

Shri Ghulam Nabi Azad for 2015

Shri Dinesh Trivedi for 2016

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab for 2017

Australian Open 2018

Title	Winner	Runner-up
Men's Singles	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	Marin Cilic (Croatia)
Women's Singles	Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)	Simona Halep (Romania)
Mens's Doubles	Oliver Marach (Austria) and Mate Pavic (Croatia)	Juan Sebastian Cabal and Robert Farah (Colombia)
Women's Doubles	Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Kristina Mladenovic (France)	Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina (Russia)
Mixed Doubles	Gabriel Dabrowski (Canada) and Mate Pavic (Croatia)	Tímea Babos (Hungary) and Rohan Bopanna (India)

Note: Roger Federer won his 20th title and is currently the winner of maximum Grand Slam men's singles titles.

Republic Day Awards 2018

Best Marching Contingent among the three service: **Punjab Regiment**

Best Marching Contingent among the para-military and other auxiliary forces: **Indo-Tibetan Border Police**

Best State Tableau: First Prize - **Maharashtra** (Coronation of Shivaji); Second Prize - **Assam** (Traditional masks and sastras); Third Prize - **Chhattisgarh** (Ramgarh's ancient amphitheatre along with artistes performing dance, based on Kalidasa's Meghadootam).

Best Tableau among Union Ministries/Departments: **Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports** for depicting 'Khelo India'.

School children items: First Prize - **South Central Zone Cultural Centre**, Nagpur (Maharashtra) performing 'Baredi Dance' from Madhya Pradesh.

School children items: Consolation Prizes - North East Zone Cultural Centre, Dimapur (Nagaland) and Oxford Foundation School, Najafgarh, Delhi for performing Sangrai Mog Dance of Tripura and Shikshit Bharat, Shashakt Bharat dance respectively.

New Programmes by Ministry of Science and Technology - Science and Engineering Board

Teacher Associateship for Research Excellence (TARE):

Aim: To tap the latent potential of faculty working in state universities, colleges and private academic institutions who are well trained but have difficulty in pursuing their research due to varied reasons including lack of facilities, funding and guidance.

How: By facilitating mobility of such faculty members to carryout research in well-established public funded institution such as IITs, IISc, IISERS and other National Institutions (NITs, CSIR, ICAR, ICMR labs, etc) and Central Universities located preferably nearer to the institution where the faculty member is working.

How many: Up to 500 TAs will be supported under this scheme.

Overseas Visiting Doctoral Fellowship

Aim: To enhance the international mobility of Indian research students in order to create a talented pool of globally trained manpower.

How: By offering opportunities for PhD students admitted in the Indian institutions for gaining exposure and training in overseas universities / institutions of repute and areas of importance to country for period up to 12 months during their doctoral research. The selected fellows will be paid a monthly fellowship amount equivalent to US \$ 2000, one-time Contingency / Preparatory allowances of Rs. 60,000/- to cover visa fee, airport transfer charges, medical insurance etc.

How many: Upto 100 PhD students.

SERB Distinguished Investigator Award (DIA)

Aim: To recognize and reward Principal Investigators (PIs) of SERB/DST projects who have performed remarkably well.

Brief details: DIA is a one-time career award devised to specifically cater to the younger scientists who have not received any other prestigious awards or fellowships. The award carries a fellowship of Rs. 15,000/- p.m. and an optional research grant for three years, based on peer review of the project proposal submitted.

AWSAR (Augmenting Writing Skills for Articulating Research) of National Council of Science and Technology Communication (NCSTC), DST

Aim: To encourage, empower and endow popular science writing through newspapers, magazines, blogs, social media, etc. by young PhD Scholars and Post-Doctoral Fellows during the course of their higher studies and research pursuits.

Brief details: AWSAR carries monetary incentive of Rs.10,000/- each for 100 best entries from PhD scholars in a year along with a Certificate of Appreciation besides getting the story published/projected in mass media. In addition, three leading stories from the selected hundred would also be awarded cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-, Rs.50,000/- and Rs.25,000/- respectively. Further, twenty entries would be selected from articles submitted exclusively by Post-Doctoral Fellows relating to their line of Research for monetary incentive of Rs.10,000/- each and the most outstanding story to be given a cash prize of Rs.1,00,000/-.

Padma Awards 2018

Padma Vibhushan

Art-Music : 1. **Shri Illaiyaraja**, 2. **Shri Ghulam Mustafa Khan**

Literature and Education : **Shri Prameswaran Parameswaran**

Padma Bhushan

Sports - Billiards/Snooker : **Shri Pankaj Advani**

Sports - Cricket : **Shri Mahendra Singh Dhoni**

Public Affairs: **Shri Alexander Kadakin (Russia)**

Others - Spiritualism : **Shri Philipose Mar Chrysostom**

Others - Archaeology : **Shri Ramachandran Nagaswamy**

Art - Painting: **Shri Laxman Pai**

Literature and Education : **Shri Ved Prakash Nanda**

Art - Music: **Shri Arvind Parikh**

Art - Music: **Ms. Sharda Sinha**

Padma Shri

Art-Music: 1. Shri Mohan Swaroop Bhatia 2. Shri Vijay Kichlu 3. Ms. Vijayalakshmi Navaneethakrishnan
4. Shri R Sathyanarayana 5. Shri Ibrahim Sutar 6. Shri Rudrapatnam Narayanaswamy Tharanathan (Duo)

Art-Dance: 1. Shri Ramli Bin Ibrahim (Malaysia)

Art-Cinema: 1. Shri Sisir Purushottam Mishra

Art-Painting: 1. Shri Bhajju Shyam

Art-Sculpture: 1. Shri Pravakara Maharana; 2. Shri I Nyoman Nuarta (Indonesia)

Art-Weaving : 1. Ms. Langpoklakpam Subadani Devi; 2. Shri Gobaradhan Panika

Art-Lyrics: 1. Shri Doddarange Gowda

Art-Acting : 1. Shri Manoj Joshi

Art: 1. Shri Pran Kishore Kaul; 2. Shri Baba Yogendra

Trade and Industry: 1. Shri Jose Ma Joey Concepcion III (Philippines); 2. Shri Rameshwarlal Kabra

Civil Service: 1. Shri S S Rathore

Literature and Education: 1. Shri Prafulla Govinda Baruah; 2. Shri Pandit Shyamlal Chaturvedi; 3. Shri Arup Kumar Dutta; 4. Shri Arvind Gupta; 5. Shri Digamber Hansda; 6. Shri Anwar Jalalpuri; 7. Shri Piyong Temjen Jamir; 8. Ms. Malti Joshi; 9. Ms. Joyshree Goswami Mahanta; 10. Shri Zaverilal Mehta; 11. Shri Krishna Bihari Mishra; 12. Shri Tomio Mizokami (Japan); 13. Shri Keshav Rao Musalgaonkar; 14. Shri Habibullo Rajabov (Tajikistan); 15. Shri Chandra Sekhar Rath; 16. Shri Maharao Raghuvver Singh; 17. Shri Bhagirath Prasad Tripathi; 18. Shri Panatawane Gangadhar Vithobaji; 19. Shri A Zakia

Medicine: 1. Shri Abhay Bang & Ms. Rani Bang; 2. Shri Yeshi Dhoden; 3. Ms. Lakshmikutty (Traditional); 4. Shri M R Rajagopal (Palliative care); 5. Shri Sanduk Ruit (Nepal) (Ophthalmology); 6. Shri Pankaj M Shah (Oncology)

Public Affairs: 1. Shri Tommy Koh (Singapore); 2. Shri Hun Many (Cambodia); 3. Dr Thant Myint – U (Myanmar); 4. Shri Bhabani Charan Pattanaik

Others : 1. Shri Bounlap Keokangna (Foreigner)(Architecture); 2. Shri Narayan Das Maharaj (Spiritualism); 3. Ms. Nouf Marwaai(Saudi Arabia) (Yoga); 4. Shri Somdet Phra Maha Muniwong (Thailand) (Spiritualism); 5. Ms. V Nanammal (Yoga); 6. Shri Siddeshwara Swamiji (Spiritualism); 7. Shri Nguyen Tien Thien (Foreigner) (Spiritualism); 8. Shri Romulus Whitaker (Wildlife Conservation)

Science and Technology: 1. Shri Amitava Roy; 2. Shri Vikram Chandra Thakur; 3. Shri Rajagopalan Vasudevan; 4. Shri Manas Bihari Verma

Social Work: 1. Shri Damodar Ganesh Bapat; 2. Shri Sudhanshu Biswas; 3. Ms. Sitavva Joddati; 4. Ms. Subhasini Mistry; 5. Ms. Sulagitti Narasamma; 6. Shri Malai Haji Abdullah Bin Malai Haji Othman (Brunei Darussalam); 7. Shri Sampat Ramteke(Posthumous); 8. Ms. Lentina Ao Thakkar

Sports: 1. Ms. Saikhom Mirabai Chanu (Weightlifting); 2. Shri Somdev Devvarman (Tennis); 3. Shri Murlikant Petkar (Swimming); 4. Shri Kidambi Srikanth (Badminton)

Future of Production Report by World Economic Forum

Top FIVE countries: 1. Japan; 2. South Korea; 3. Germany; 4. Switzerland; 5. China

Rank of India: 30

India has been categorised under Legacy Countries

1. **Leading:** Countries with a strong production base today that exhibit a high level of readiness for the future through strong performance across the Drivers of Production component.
2. **Legacy:** Countries with a strong production base today that are at risk for the future due to weaker performance across the Drivers of Production component.
3. **High-Potential:** Countries with a limited production base today that score well across the Drivers of Production component, indicating that capacity exists to increase production in the future depending on priorities within the national economy.
4. **Nascent:** Countries with a limited production base today that exhibit a low level of readiness for the future through weak performance across the Drivers of Production component.

National Bravery Awards 2017

Awarded by: **Indian Council for Child Welfare**

Bharat Award: **Nazia** (Uttar Pradesh)

Geeta Chopra Award: **Netravati Chavan** (Karnataka)

Sanjay Chopra Award: **Karanbeer Singh** (Punjab)

Bapu Gaidhani Award: Betshwajohn Peinlang (Meghalaya); Mamata Dalai (Odisha); Sebastian Vincent (Kerala); Laxmi Yadav (Chhattisgarh); Mansha N, N. Shangpon Konyak, Yoaknei, Master Chingai Wangsa (all from Nagaland); Samridhi Sushil Sharma (Gujarat); Zonuntluanga, F. Lalchhandama (both from Mizoram); Pankaj Semwal (Uttarakhand), Nadaf Ejaj Abdul Rauf (Maharashtra), Loukrakpam Rajeshwori Chanu (Manipur) and Pankaj Kumar Mahanta (Odisha).

KHELO INDIA

Khelo India is Union Sports Ministry's initiative to scout for talent at the grassroot level and provide it substantial long-term scholarship.

Launched from: **31 Jan 2018**

Mascot: **Vijay** the tiger and **Jaya** the black buck

Anthem: Aur khelna chahte hai hum (और खेलना चाहते हैं हम)

The anthem is conceptualized by **Ogilvy**, composed by **Louis Bank** and the film has been produced by Nirvana Films.

Facts about Virtual ID for AADHAR

The Virtual ID is a random 16-digit number.

The ID can be generated as many time as possible.

The older ID gets automatically cancelled once a fresh one is generated.

Users can go to the UIDAI website to generate their virtual ID which will be valid for a defined period of time, or till the user decides to change it.

The ID, along with the biometrics of the user, would give any authorised agency, like a mobile company, limited details like name, address and photograph, which are enough for any verification.

Agencies that undertake authentication would not be allowed to generate the Virtual ID on behalf of the user.

The Aadhaar-issuing body will start accepting the 'Virtual ID' from March 1, 2018.

The 'Virtual ID' will be made compulsory for all agencies undertaking authentication from June 1, 2018

Launch of PSLV-C40

Launch date: **12 Jan 2018**

Launched from: Satish Dhawan Space Center, Sriharikota

Main satellite launched: **Cartosat-2** Series Remote Sensing Satellite. (710 kg)

Other Indian satellites launched with the vehicle: INS-1C (11 kg) and Microsat (100 kg)

Note: 28 international customer satellites belonging to Canada, Finland, France, Republic of Korea, UK and the USA were also launched by PSLV-C40. So far, PSLV has successfully launched 51 Indian satellites and 237 customer satellites from abroad.

Golden Globe Awards 2018

Best Motion Picture - Drama: **Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri**

Best Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: **Lady Bird**

Best Actress in Motion Picture - Drama: Frances McDormand (Three Billboards outside Ebbing, Missouri)

Best Actor in Motion Picture - Drama: Gary Oldman (Darkest Hour)

Best Actress in Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: Saoirse Ronan (Lady Bird)

Best Actor in Motion Picture - Musical or Comedy: James Franco (The Disaster Artist)

Best Director - Motion Picture: Guillermo del Toro (The Shape of Water)

Best Motion Picture - Animated: Coco

India's fastest computer Pratyush

Unveiled at: **Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology** (IITM), Pune

Peak power: **6.8 petaflops** (One petaflop is a million billion floating point operations per second and is a reflection of the computing capacity of a system.)

Key facts: It is the fourth fastest supercomputer in the world dedicated for weather and climate research. The machines will be installed at two government institutes: 4.0 petaflops HPC facility at IITM, Pune; and 2.8 petaflops facility at the National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecast, Noida.

Abbreviations in News

NARI: National Repository of Information for Women

iCreate: International Centre for Entrepreneurship and Technology

Books in News

Imperfect - Sanjay Manjrekar

Citizen Delhi: My Life My Times - Sheila Dikshit

Mail your queries and suggestions to admin@leadthecompetition.in