

GK Digest: December 2017

Banking and Financial Awareness

- The six-member monetary policy committee of RBI has decided to keep the repo rate unchanged at 6% under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) consequently; the reverse repo rate and bank rate also remained unchanged at 5.75% and 6.25% respectively.
- Corporation Bank has launched its RuPay Select and RuPay Platinum credit cards.
- Paytm Unveils 'Paytm Ka ATM' Partner Outlet for Banking Operations also it is the only bank providing zero balance accounts and zero charges on digital transactions.
- Axis Securities, a subsidiary of Axis Bank, has become the first-ever broking arm of a bank to take membership of a commodity exchange by registering itself with NCDEX.
- India's GDP Growth to Rising to 7.5 pc in 2018: Morgan Stanley
- Paytm Payments Bank rolled out Paytm FASTag to enable electronic toll fee collection on highways across the country, from December 1.
- Paytm Acquires Stake in online Loans Firm CreditMate.
- Paytm Introduces BHIM UPI for Seamless Money Transfer.
- India International Exchange (India INX) has received approval from SEBI for the listing of debt securities.
- RBI Imposes Restrictions on Corporation Bank for its Bad Loans Crosses 10%.
- RBI Imposes Rs 3 crore Penalty on IndusInd Bank for break rules on income classification norms.
- SBI Starts State Bank Rewards Scheme.
- RBI Raises FPI Limit Rs 6,400 crore in Central Government Securities (G-Secs) and Rs 5,800 crore in State development loans (SDLs).
- ADB Lowers India's GDP forecast for FY18 to 6.7%.
- WPI Inflation at 8-month High of 3.93% in November.
- RBI Imposes Additional Actions Under PCA on United Bank of India.
- RBI Imposes Rs 5 crore Penalty on Syndicate Bank.
- Government Ropes in ICICI Bank to Enable Cashless Payments on e-NAM.
- IRDAI panel suggests easing of G-Sec rule for insurance companies.
- Yes bank and European Investment Bank announced a co-finance programme of \$ 400mn for the clean power project.
- AU small finance bank joins hand with Sahaj e village for banking service.
- Govt. infuses Rs. 52000 cr in PSBs under Indradhanush Plan.

- SBI Card and Bharat Petroleum launch BPCL SBI card.
- State-Run Banks' NPAs Touched Rs 7.34 Lakh Crore- RBI Data.
- KKR gets RBI Nod to Start India's 1st Foreign-owned ARC.
- Lok Sabha passes Insolvency & Bankruptcy Code Amendment Bill, 2017.
- SBI Gets Board Approval to Raise Rs 8,000 crore to Comply Basel III.
- Sohan Lal Commodity Management (SLCM) Ties up with HDFC, IndusInd bank for Post Harvest Credit.
- Bank of Baroda Enters into MoU with POORTI Agri Services Pvt. Ltd.
- SEBI Caps Cross-Shareholding in Rating Agencies at 10%.
- Small Savings Schemes' Interest Rates Cut by 20 bps.

Appointments

- Preet Diddal has been elected as the mayor of Yuba city in California, who is the first Sikh woman to hold the position in the United States.
- Azar A.H.Khan Appointed Next Ambassador of India to Turkmenistan.
- London Mayor Names Deepak Parekh as First International Ambassador.
- Swiggy Appoints Vishal Bhatia as CEO of New Supply Business.
- Ellie Goulding Honored as UN Environment Global Goodwill Ambassador.
- Rahul Singh, New President of the National Restaurant Association of India.
- Uma Shankar Appointed RBI Executive Director.
- Rahul Gandhi Elected Indian National Congress President.
- Nakul Chopra Elected as BARC India Chairman.
- Pradeep Singh Kharola Takes Over as Air India CMD.
- Dhammapiya from Tripura has been elected as the new secretary general of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- Pradeep Kumar Gupta appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Mali.
- Ravindra Jaiswal appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Sudan.
- M. Subbarayudu appointed as Next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Peru.
- Justice UD Salvi Appointed Officiating Chief of National Green Tribunal (NGT).
- NGT Chairperson Justice Swatanter Kumar retired.
- Airtel Payments Bank CEO Shashi Arora Resigns.
- Apple appoints Michel Coulomb to lead India operations.
- Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres has appointed Henrietta H Fore as the new Executive Director of UNICEF.
- IPS officer Abhay appointed DG of Narcotics Control Bureau.

- Amardeep Singh Bhatia was appointed as new director of Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO).
- Sumita Misra appointed as joint secretary in PM's Economic Advisory Council.
- Vinay Sahasrabudde as President of the Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR).
- George Weah Elected Liberian President.

Obituaries

- France's biggest rock star Johnny Hallyday passes away.
- Veteran Actor Shashi Kapoor Passes Away.
- Singer Purabi Mukhopadhyay passes away.
- Ali Abdullah Salehi, former Yemen president was killed.
- Music director Adithyan passes away.
- Pioneer of DNA Fingerprinting Lalji Singh Passes Away.
- Actor-Director Neeraj Vora Passes Away.
- Journalist Batuk Gathani passes away.
- Congress leader Chaudhary Prem Singh passes away.
- Bengali Singer Jatileswar Mukhopadhyay Passes Away.
- Jazz and Pop singer Keely Smith passes away.
- Former UP Governor Banwari Lal Joshi passes away.
- Bengali Film Actor Partha Mukhopadhyay Passes Away.
- Music Legend Robbie Malinga Passes Away.
- The creator of Bugs Bunny, Bob Givens, Passes Away at 99.
- Veteran Sports administrator Ashok Mattoo Passes away.

Honour and Awards

- Dangal Wins Best Asian Film Award at AACTA.
- President Ramnath Kovind confers 'National Awards for Divyangjan 2017' on the occasion of International Day of Persons with Disabilities, in New Delhi.
- The 23rd edition of the Star Screen Awards was held at Mumbai.
- itesh Singh Deo Wins Mr India World 2017.
- The School Bag' Wins Best Short Film Award.
- Priyanka Chopra Honoured with Mother Teresa Memorial Award.
- Dr Mahesh Sharma Inaugurates the 'Bodhi Parva'.
- India Wins 5 Medals at 10th Asian Airgun Shooting Championship.
- Vice President Confers 'Yeraringan' Award to M.S. Swaminathan.
- J.K. Rowling Honoured With Royal Companion Of Honour Award.

- Rekha Receives First Smita Patil Memorial Award.
- Shree Saini Crowned Miss India USA 2017.
- Actor Salman Khan has topped the 2017 Forbes India Celebrity 100 list for the second consecutive year with the earning of Rs 232.83 crore.
- Tata Steel Joda East Iron Mine (JEIM) gets Golden Peacock Innovation Award.
- Authors Mamang Dai and Ramesh Kuntal Megh have won this year's Sahitya Akademi award.
- Anushka Sharma Named PETA's Person of the Year.
- Veteran singer K S Chitra has been selected for prestigious 'Harivarasanam' award 2017.

Important Days

- India's first President Rajendra Prasad 133rd birthday - 03rd December 2017
- World Soil Day: 5 December 2017
- 2017 Theme: 'Caring for the Planet starts from the Ground'.
- International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development – 5th December.
- Theme – Volunteers act first, here, everywhere.
- Armed Forces Flag Day- 07 December
- International Civil Aviation Day – 7th December.
- Theme – Working together to ensure no country is left behind.
- International Mountain Day – December 11
- National Energy Conservation Day: December 14
- Human Rights Day- 10 December, The Campaign is named as #standup4humanrights.
- International Migrants Day: 18 December 2017
- The theme for the year 2017 is "Safe Migration in a World on the Move".
- National Mathematics Day- 22nd December.
- Nation Celebrates Kisan Diwas- 23rd December,
- Birth anniversary of the fifth prime minister of India Chaudhary Charan Singh.
- Good Governance Day: 25 December 2017
- The day is celebrated annually since 2014 to mark the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

MoUs and Partnerships

- India and Cuba Sign MoU for Enhanced Cooperation in Health Sector.
- Indian and Italy Sign MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture and Phytosanitary Issues.

- India and Germany Sign Govt- to-Govt Umbrella Agreement.
- Various MoUs Signed between India and Morocco, for corporation in road transport, water resources and the marine sector, enhanced cooperation in healthcare.
- Finance Minister Holds 5th Pre-Budget Consultation Meeting.
- Russia-India-China Foreign Ministers Meet Begins in Delhi.
- 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit Begins in New Delhi.
- ASEAN–India Connectivity Summit held in New Delhi.
- 4th India-Australia-Japan Trilateral Dialogue Held in New Delhi.
- India Signs Loan Agreement with World Bank for \$250 Million for SANKALP Project.
- 7th International Ground Water Conference held in New Delhi.
- Assam Signs MoU with Isha Foundation to Save Rivers.
- Andhra Pradesh Government Signs Agreements With Alphabet X.
- Skill Development Ministry and Maruti Suzuki Sign MoU to support Skill India in the automobile industry.
- India, Myanmar Ink MoU for Development of Rakhine State.
- India signed an agreement with Switzerland for Information Exchange.
- A loan agreement has been signed between India and Germany for Pare Hydroelectric Plant Project.
- Kabul and Mumbai Linked with Second Air Corridor.
- India, World Bank Ink \$40 Million Loan Agreement for UP Tourism.
- UP inks MoU with South Korea in field of tourism, skill development, culture and farming.
- Government, World Bank ink loan agreement for Tamil Nadu Irrigated Agriculture Modernization Project.
- Amazon Acquires Connected Security Camera Maker 'Blink'.
- IRDAI Norms Allow Insurers to Begin Offshore Business From GIFT IFSC.
- Bilateral Meeting Between External Affairs Minister of India and Jordan Held in New Delhi.

Important News- World

- British singer-songwriter Ellie Goulding has been appointed as the Global Goodwill Ambassador for UN Environment.
- Venezuela has launched its own cryptocurrency called Petro.
- The US and South Korea have started their largest-ever joint air exercise Vigilant Ace. North Korea has labelled this exercise an "all-out provocation".
- Russia Banned From Winter Olympics 2018.

- A 16-year old boy Mohamad Al Jounde from Syria has been awarded the International Children's Peace Prize.
- The Silence Breakers' Named Time's Person of the Year for 2017. The "Silence Breakers" is a group of five women who came forward to share their experiences of sexual assaults and harassment at workplace.
- Cristiano Ronaldo Wins 5th Ballon d'Or 2017.
- ADB Funds \$580 Million for Reliance's Bangladesh Power Plant Project.
- Iranian President Inaugurates First Phase of Chabahar Port.
- Supreme Court Allows Trump's Travel Ban to go into Full Effect.
- USA Now Recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's Capital.
- 'Youth quake' Oxford Dictionary's Word of the Year.
- Norway Shuts National Broadcasts on FM.
- World Bank to stop funding oil, gas projects from 2019.
- Sri Lanka Hands Over Hambantota Port to China on 99-Year Lease.
- China Starts world's Biggest Floating Solar Project.
- Saudi Arabia Lifts Ban on Movie Theatres after 35 Years.
- AIIB Grants 1st loan to China to Reduce Dependence on Coal.
- 2nd UNWTO/UNESCO World Conference on Tourism and Culture Held in Muscat.
- 11th WTO Ministerial Conference Held in Argentina.
- MIT scientists create plants that can glow in dark.
- Andrej Babis Appointed as new Prime Minister of Czech.
- According to Forbes' annual ranking for the best countries for business in 2018, US is at the top place.
- France Passes Law to Ban all Oil and Gas Production by 2040.
- Sebastian Pinera Wins Chile's Presidential Election.
- World Bank Provides Loans of \$125 Million for STRIVE Project.
- WHO Certifies Gabon as Polio-free.
- Belgium-First Country to Appoint Female Envoy to Saudi Arabia.
- AG600, world's largest amphibious aircraft that is China's home-grown took off from the southern city of Zhuhai.
- India and Afghanistan launch 2nd air cargo route linking Kabul with Mumbai.
- China Launches World's Largest Human Genome Research Project.
- WHO to classify Gaming Disorder as mental health condition.
- World's Longest Glass Bridge Opens in China.
- Modi to be First PM to Attend World Economic Forum in 20 years.

Important News- India

- The first international conference and exhibition on AYUSH and wellness systems, International Arogya 2017, was inaugurated in Delhi by Suresh Prabhu, Minister of Commerce and Industry.
- India's largest floating solar power plant in the country at the Banasura Sagar dam in Wayanad was inaugurated by Kerala Electricity Minister M M Mani.
- Clean Sea-2017', the Regional Level Marine Oil Pollution Response Exercise conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) at sea off Port Blair, Andaman & Nicobar Islands.
- Minority Status for Hindus: George Kurien Committee Constituted.
- Kumbh Mela, the largest congregation of pilgrims on the planet has secured its place in UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage List.
- One of the seven wonders of the world and the symbol of eternal love Taj Mahal is UNESCO's second-best World Heritage Site in India.
- Amitabh Kant Panel to Tackle NPA in Power Sector.
- 6th International Tourism Mart to Begin in Guwahati.
- India's Largest Floating Solar Power Plant Opens in Kerala.
- Kacheguda Railway Station in Hyderabad Becomes India's First Energy-Efficient Railway Station.
- New Delhi Hosts ICOMOS at 19th Triennial General Assembly. The Theme of ICOMOS is "Heritage and Democracy".
- The 14th Inclusive Finance India Summit began in New Delhi.
- Global Prosperity Index: India Ranks 100.
- India ranks 109th in mobile internet speed by Ookla.
- Govt. Launches Door-to-door Campaign against T.B.
- India to Host 3rd Annual Meeting of Board of Governors of AIIB.
- Railways have introduced Indian Railways E-Procurement System (IREPS), an online bill tracking system for vendors and contractors.
- E-way Bill to be Made Compulsory from February 2018.
- Companies Amendment Bill 2017 Passed by Parliament.
- Lok Sabha Passes Immovable Property Amendment Bill.
- First National Training of trainers programme for Sendai Framework held in New Delhi.
- DARPAN Launched for Financial Inclusion of Rural Population.
- Cabinet Approves Establishing India's 1st National Rail and Transportation University.
- India's First design University Opens in Haryana.
- GST Council Clears e-way Bill Mechanism.

- India has largest diaspora population in the world: UN Report.
- India to Host Meeting of WTO Member Countries on Food Security.
- Russia's Deputy PM Dmitry Rogozin Visits New Delhi.
- Cabinet Approves "Scheme for Capacity Building in Textiles Sector".
- MEA Launched SAMEEP to Take Indian Foreign Policy to Students Across Country.
- NGT Bans Plastic Items in Towns Located Along Ganga.
- Indian Railways plans to make all stations 100% LED lit by March 2018.
- NITI Aayog to set up Methanol Economy Fund to promote production and use of the clean fuel.
- Parliament passes Indian Institutes of Management Bill, 2017.
- India selected as Chair of Ad Hoc Committee of Kimberley Certification Scheme.
- Govt. approves setting up of 42 Mega food park.
- IACS Developed Hydrogel to Remove Toxic Dyes and Metal Ions.
- Govt Mint Launches High Purity Gold Reference Standard.
- UP launches Prakash Hai to Vikas Hai Scheme.
- Blue Flag Pilot Project Launched for Beach Clean-up.
- President Kovind Inaugurates AP Fibre Grid Project.
- Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill 2017 Passed in Lok Sabha.
- India's first-ever broad gauge air-conditioned AC EMU suburban train flagged off in Mumbai.
- Government launches e-HRMS (electronic-Human Resource Management System).
- Blue Flag pilot project launched for beach clean-up and development.
- India to become fifth largest economy in 2018: Report.
- India's first pod taxi to follow US safety norms.
- Lok Sabha passes GST (Compensation to States) Amendment Bill, 2017.
- Parliament passes Indian Institute of Petroleum & Energy Bill, 2017.
- Parliament passes Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Amendment Bill, 2017.
- Government launches Livestock Disease Forewarning–Mobile Application.
- Environment Ministry launches Regional Project to Tackle Stubble Burning.
- President Inaugurated 100th Indian Economic Association Conference.

Business, Science and Technology

- Tencent Becomes First Chinese Tech Firm Valued over \$500 Billion.
- Uber Approves SoftBank Multibillion-Dollar Investment Offer
- PayPal Launches Domestic Payments in India.
- Ola Ties up with Microsoft to Build Connected Vehicle Platform

- ONGC Gets Government Nod for Acquiring HPCL.
- Maruti Suzuki Replaces SBI as 6th Most Valuable Indian Firm.
- OBOPAY Gets Pre-Paid Instrument Licence from RBI.
- Ministry Launched First NIC-CERT a setup of National Informatics Centre to prevent and predict cyber-attacks on government utilities in New Delhi.
- ISRO is developing small satellite launch vehicles to launch low-cost small satellites.
- Ola Acquires Food Panda India Business, further invest \$200 million.
- Bharti Airtel to buy Millicom's Operations in Rwanda.
- Quikr Acquires HDFC's Digital, Realty Units in all Stock Deal.
- China has successfully launched its Land Surveying Satellite LKW-2.
- US scientist developed Reservoir computing system developed to help machines to think just like humans.
- China successfully launches remote sensing satellites of Yaogan-30 project.
- 25th National Children Science Congress held in Gujarat.

Defence

- UAE, UK, US and French Armies Hold Joint Exercises in Abu Dhabi
- The Surface to Air Missile AKASH Successfully Launched.
- India has added another feather in its cap of indigenously built missiles by successfully testing surface-to-air Akash missile at Chandipur.
- South Korea, US Launch Largest Air Exercise.
- INS Kalvari: First Scorpene-class submarines inducted in Indian Navy.
- PM Narendra Modi Inducts Scorpene-Class Submarine Kalvari into Indian Navy.
- Exercise Ekuverin 2017: India-Maldives bilateral military exercise held in Belagavi.
- India and Maldives are organising the eighth edition of EKUVERIN joint military exercise in Belagav, Karnataka.
- Hamesha Vijayee Military Exercise Begins in Rajasthan.

Naseem-Al-Bahr 2017: India, Oman Conducted Naval Exercise.

- India Successfully Test-fires Supersonic Interceptor Missile.
- Prithvi supersonic interceptor missile successfully test fired from Odisha.
- ISRO to launch 31 satellites in single mission in January 2018.
- Indo-Maldives Joint Exercise 'Ekuverin' Concludes in Karnataka.

Important News- States

- Andhra Pradesh Assembly Passes Kapu Reservation Bill.
- UP's Shamli Becomes 23rd District to be Included in NCR.

- The 6th edition of International Tourism Mart 2017 was inaugurated in Guwahati by the Governor of Assam Shri Jagdish Mukhi.
- UP, First State to Endorse Centre's Triple Talaq Draft Bill.
- Kerala to Raise Minimum Liquor Drinking Age from 21 to 23.
- Rajasthan Becomes First State to Offer e-mail IDs in Hindi.
- Jammu and Kashmir govt. launches Saubhagya Scheme.
- ADB approved USD 346 million to Karnataka to upgradation project of highways to the state government.
- Bihar Government launches Safe City Surveillance scheme for Women Safety.
- Adivasi Mahotsav 2017: Tribal Festival organised in Chhattisgarh.
- India's first Electronic Manufacturing Cluster set up in Andhra Pradesh.
- Losar Festival Celebrated in Ladakh.
- Maharashtra Institute of Technology, Pune's initiative, Avantika University has become India's first design university with a unique academic structure.
- UP To, Have Cow Protection Committees in All Districts.
- Andhra Pradesh Cabinet Approves Pension for State's Transgender.
- Goa Celebrates 56th Liberation Day.
- Vijay Rupani Remains Gujarat Chief Minister and Nitin Patel His Deputy.
- PM inaugurates 60 MW Tuirial Hydropower Project in Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project gets environmental clearance in Telangana.
- India's First National Rail and Transportation University to come at Vadodara.
- Jairam Thakur Is the New Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh.
- Bengaluru Becomes First City to Get its Own Logo.
- Gujarat is hosting the 25th edition of National Children Science Congress (NCSC) from December 27 to December 31, 2017.
- Maharashtra & UP top in GST collection in first five months.
- Vijay Rupani sworn in as Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- President inaugurates Andhra Pradesh Fiber Grid Project.

Sports News

- A visually impaired Reserve Bank of India employee has brought laurels to India by claiming gold at the World Para-Swimming Championship in Mexico.
- India Wins First-Ever South Asian Regional Badminton Team Championship.
- Yuvraj Singh Launches UNICEF-ICC's Adolescent Campaign.

- Russia Banned from 2018 Winter Olympics.
- Prithvi Shaw Named India's Captain for 2018 U-19 World Cup.
- Deepika Kumari Wins Bronze at Indoor Archery World Cup.
- Roger Federer named BBC Overseas Sports Personality of the Year.
- India to Host 2021 Champions Trophy, 2023 World Cup.
- India Becomes 1st Ever Team to Register Hundred 300+ ODI Totals.
- India Beat Germany, Win Bronze at Hockey World League Final.
- Jitu Rai and Heena Sidhu Win bronze Medals at Asian Championships.
- Australia Beat Argentina to Win Gold in Hockey World League Final.
- Indian Golfer Shubhankar Sharma claimed his maiden European Tour victory in the Joburg Open, in South Africa.
- BCCI Lifts Ban on Rajasthan Cricket Association.
- PV Sindhu Wins silver at BWF World Superseries Finals.
- Sir Mo Farah has been named BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2017.
- Messi Gets La Liga's Best Player Award 2017.
- Sushil Kumar Clinches Gold at Commonwealth Wrestling Championships.
- Junior shuttler Aakarshi Kashyap won U-17 and U-19 singles titles at Badminton junior Nationals in Guwahati, Assam.
- India Finishes 1st at Junior Boxing Championship in Germany.
- Ekta Bisht First Indian Women Cricketer named in ICC ODI & T20 Teams.
- Birmingham to Host Commonwealth Games in 2022.
- BCCI Appoints Saba Karim as General Manager.
- Jitu Rai Shoots 50m Pistol Gold With Record Score.
- Viswanathan Anand wins World Rapid Chess Championship.