

Weekly Current Affairs (Jan 8 To Jan 14)

- Donald Trump elects Dan Coats as new National Intelligence Director replacing James Clapper.
- 14th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas Convention took place in Bengaluru.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that the government will shortly launch the Pravasi Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PKVY) which is aimed at skilling Indians seeking employment abroad.
- Sania Mirza picked up her first title of the season, combining with American Bethanie Mattek-Sands to lift the Brisbane International women's doubles title.
- Roberto Bautista Agut beats Medvedev to win Chennai open tennis championship.
- Reigning Olympic and world 800m champion and world record holder, David Rudisha was the International Event Ambassador for the 14th Standard Chartered Mumbai Marathon held on January 15.
- Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) made it mandatory for its pensioners and subscribers to provide either Aadhaar or a proof that they have applied for it till month-end to remain a beneficiary of its social security schemes.
- Budget session of Parliament to begin from January 31st.
- In the 74th Annual Golden Globe awards, La La Land won in all seven categories.
- Agra and Sikkim featured in New York Times' list of '52 Places to go to in 2017'.
- Former Iranian president Rafsanjani dies at the age of 82.
- Darpan Basak, 14 years of age, won the Young Travel Photographer Of The Year, and Ankit Kumar, 13, won the Young Travel Photographer (14 years old and under) in the Places and Experiences category.
- Kerala figures at number eight in the "12 destinations to watch in 2017" by Britain's largest and prominent travel and tours operators association.
- Velavan Senthilkumar created history by winning the first-ever all-Indian Boys' Under-19 final at the British Junior Open in Sheffield.
- The World Bank has decelerated India's growth for 2016-17 fiscal to 7% from its previous 7.6%.
- Sagar Baheti, who has Stargardt's disease, will be the first visually-impaired runner to participate in the upcoming 121st Boston Marathon on April 17.
- PM Narendra Modi inaugurated Vibrant Gujrat Global Trade Show in Gujrat.

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- Jimmy Adams appointed new West Indies cricket director.
- Australia's flag carrier Qantas Airways Ltd's fatality free record in the jet age signifies it is the world's safest airline for the fourth year running.
- Rohan Bopanna and Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan, playing only the second time together, notched up a memorable victory in a historic all-Indian doubles final, as they outplayed compatriots Divij Sharan and Purav Raja in the Chennai Open.
- From April 1, people living in rural areas need to have Aadhaar to work under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) that mandates 100 days work for a household annually.
- Novak Djokovic brought world No 1 Andy Murray's 28-match winning streak to an end in Doha to retain the Qatar Open title in a three-set thriller.
- Health Minister J P Nadda to launch Measles-rubella vaccine.
- A jersey of Portugal's famous football player Cristiano Ronaldo was gifted to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by his Portuguese counterpart Antonio Costa after inaugurating PBD Convention and having bilateral talks between them in Bengaluru.
- Russia has directed Google and Apple to remove LinkedIn from the local Android and iOS App stores.
- China forex reserves fall by USD 320 Billion in 2016.
- Union Power Minister Piyush Goyal launched the "world's largest" LED street light replacement project completed by SDMC in south Delhi wherein two lakh conventional street lights have been replaced with energy efficient LEDs.
- SBI Pension Funds, a subsidiary of State Bank of India, has appointed Kumar Sharadindu as its managing director and chief executive.
- An IIT Kharagpur alumnus has won the prestigious Technical Achievement Award (the Scientific & Technical Awards prize), popularly called the 'Technical Oscar', awarded by the Academy of Motion Pictures and Sciences.
- BIS revises Indian Standard on gold hallmarking.
- Tax anti-avoidance rule GAAR will kick in from April 1, 2017.

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- Air India ranked third-worst performing airline in the world. Icelandair – 41.05% El Al – 56% are on first and second position respectively.
- HDFC bank showcased human-sized robot Ira, developed in association with Kochi-based Asimov Robotics. The robot will perform a limited role and act largely as a receptionist, though the humanoid can also move around in the branch.
- The Assam government will be shortly launching its indigenously-developed e-Wallet, Tokapoisa.in, to enable the people of the state for hassle-free online transactions in local language.
- India's annual Haj quota increased by 34,500 by Saudi Arabia.
- Actor Amitabh Bachchan was given an award on Sunday by the US Embassy for his contribution to the US-India partnership on tuberculosis.
- Netherlands' flag carrier KLM has been rated the best international airline of 2016 by aviation insights company FlightStats, which ranked carriers on their on-time performance records.
- Flipkart has elevated former Tiger Global Management executive Kalyan Krishnamurthy as its new chief executive, replacing co-founder Binny Bansal, who has been named as the group chief executive of India's largest online marketplace.
- Magh Mela begins in Allahabad, Uttar Pradesh.
- Five Real Madrid players and four Barcelona players were included in the 2016 FIFA FIFPro World XI, along with Juventus player Dani Alves and Bayern Munich goalkeeper Manuel NEUER.
- Cristiano Ronaldo has been named Fifa's Best Player in the World – before aiming a cheeky dig at his great rival Lionel Messi.
- Leicester City's Claudio Ranieri won the Best FIFA Men's Coach of the Year award after beating Portugal's Fernando Santos and Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane on the shortlist.
- World Bank has projected a global growth of 2.7% in 2017.
- USA women's football team captain Carli Lloyd was named as FIFA's Best Female footballer of the year for the second straight time, during The Best FIFA Football Awards in Zurich.

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- Maharashtra CM Devendra Fadnavis on Monday activated 500 WiFi hotspots at various locations across the city of Mumbai, and announced that Mumbai WiFi is the largest public WiFi service in the country.
- The Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of the new NDRF campus at Konda Pavuluru, Gannavaram (Mandal), Krishna, Andhra Pradesh.
- Telengana to host International Kite Festival.
- In Andhra Pradesh, Vijayawada hosted the first Digi Dhan Mela in the State.
- The ninth edition of Jaipur International Film Festival (JIFF) began in the presence of renowned film makers including Hariharan.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated India's first international exchange-India INX- at International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) in Gujarat International Financial Tech City (GIFT) located in Gandhinagar.
- Tisca Chopra wins Best actress for Chutney at the Jio Filmfare short film awards.
- UAE's crown prince Sheikh Mohammad to be chief guest at 2017 republic day celebrations.
- A for ATM, B for BHIM (Bharat Interface for Money), C for cashless, D for Demonetisation is the new way alphabets have been associated to popular terms related to demonetisation in a new book "Cyber Pathshala" authored by former Rajya Sabha MP Tarun Vijay.
- American technology company IBM has become the first company to receive more than 8,000 US patents in one year in 2016 (8,088 patents).
- Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2017 was inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi. He also met Nobel Laureates at maiden Nobel Prize Series.
- Tiluck Keisam, an 8-year-old boy from Manipur, set a new world record in limbo skating in Delhi, for the farthest distance in limbo skating under bars.
- Norway becomes first country to cease FM Radio Broadcasting.
- Indian cueist Pankaj Advani won the 3rd Kolkata Open National Invitation Snooker Championship.
- Every year, the World Hindi Day is celebrated on January 10, marking the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in 1975.

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- Indian Space Research Organisation and French Space agency (CNES) today signed a partnership agreement in satellite launch technology.
- China successfully sent three satellites into space in its first commercial mission using an updated version of the low-cost Kuaizhou-1A rocket, amidst the Communist giant's determined bid to expand its ambitious space programme.
- Minimum monthly pension has been increased by the GOI to 9,000 per person.
- Pakistan on Monday successfully test-fired its first Submarine-Launched Cruise Missile BABUR-3, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead up to 450km from an undisclosed location in the Indian Ocean, giving the country a "credible" second-strike capability.
- India U-13 squash player Shreyas Mehta scripted a remarkable comeback to win the Scottish Junior Open title.
- Abbu Ammaz, an eight-year-old boy from Jammu and Kashmir's Rajouri has won gold medal in Thai Boxing Championship at the national level.
- US President Barack Obama chose four Indian-American scientists for the highest honour given by the US government to science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers.
- Industrial production grew 5.7% in November.
- Private sector Axis Bank on Monday became the third lender in the country to announce usage of block chain solutions for its operations, after its peers ICICI Bank and Yes Bank.
- Ashish Shelar appointed as MCA president.
- The Gurgaon district administration was conferred with a national e-governance award for its innovative use of Geographic Information System (GIS) technology in solving land disputes.
- Gujarat government has come up with India's first student startup and innovation policy, which aims to provide Rs 200 crore in the form of grants to ideas developed by them.
- INS Khanderi – the second of the Kalvari class submarines – was launched at the Mazagaon Dock Limited in Mumbai.
- BMW has appointed former Harley-Davidson India MD Vikram Pawah as the President of its India operations.

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- World's first gender literature fest to be held in Patna.
- The United Kingdom has become the world's first country to officially recognise parkour as a sport.
- Citibank has launched voice verification for its phone banking clients to replace the current authentication process of remembering PINs or answering verification questions.
- Flipkart's Co-founder and Group CEO Binny Bansal along with four other angel investors has invested Rs. 6.6 crore in Supercraft3D, a 3D printing startup focused on health and medicine applications.
- Indian Railways has launched new IRCTC Rail Connect app that will replace the previous IRCTC app that was launched back in 2014.
- For generations the appendix was thought to have no purpose. But now, researchers say they have discovered the true function of this organ, and it is anything but redundant.
- NITI Aayog estimates the GDP growth of 8% for 2016-17.
- HDFC ERGO General Insurance Company, India's third largest non-life insurance provider in the private sector, announced the launch of its new policy for corporate, the Trade Credit Insurance Policy.
- Delhi Airport claimed it has become the first aerodrome in the world to adopt unique performance and benchmarking digital platform, Arc, which helps in tracking and monitoring building performance.
- JetSynthesys, a digital and technology company, today announced the launch of a game on cricket, 'Sachin Saga Warm Up' under its gaming arm Playizzon.
- India's first Madame Tussauds Meuseum unveils in Delhi.
- Seven martial artists from Kerala, India established the Guinness World Record for the 'most layered bed of nails'.
- Ecuador takes chair of UN group of 134 developing countries.
- Former world and Asian champion, L Sarita Devi, will mark her plunge as India's first woman boxing professional when she takes on seasoned Hungarian Zsofia Bedo in her first bout in Imphal, Manipur on January 29.

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- The board of Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) appointed Rajesh Gopinathan as the new chief executive officer and managing director in place of N Chandrasekaran who has been appointed as the chairman of Tata Sons, effective February 21, 2017.
- US lifts 20-year economic embargo on Sudan.
- The 154th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, one of India's most revered spiritual leaders, was celebrated as National Youth Day on 12 January.
- Former Union minister Manish Tewari has been appointed as a Distinguished Senior Fellow at the South Asia Center of the Atlantic Council, a leading US think-tank on policy matters.
- Europe's first underwater sculpture museum featuring over 300 life-sized figures has been inaugurated.
- 4th International Kite Festival begins in Delhi.
- India and Kenya have signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the agriculture sector and allied sector and Line of Credit for USD100 million for agricultural mechanisation.
- President Obama awarded outgoing Vice President Biden the Presidential Medal of Freedom.
- Pinaka rocket, which has now transformed into guided Pinaka, was successfully test fired from a defence test facility off Odisha coast.
- Kerala's first solar power boat launched.
- The Indian national football team moved up six places to the 129th position in the latest FIFA rankings, its best ranking since December 2005, when it was at the 127th position.
- The Rajasthan government on Wednesday night said that it has agreed to transfer its 1,000 megawatt (MW) Chhabra thermal power plant to NTPC Ltd, a central government power utility, in an asset-for-equity deal.
- Bharti Airtel Ltd, India's top wireless carrier, has committed an initial investment of Rs. 3,000 crores (\$441 million) to build its new pan-India Airtel Payments Bank.
- For the first time, electoral rolls in as many as 46 assembly constituencies spread across 22 districts in UP would be printed in Urdu as well. In Uttar Pradesh, the voters' list is generally prepared in Hindi.