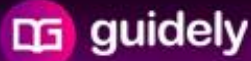


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Dear Readers, Here we have given the list of Important Weekly Current Affairs 2nd week of January 2021. Candidates those who are preparing for Upcoming IBPS, SBI and other competitive exams can make use of it.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DAYS

- Every year, January 9 is celebrated as the **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD)** to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community to the development of the nation.
- **World Hindi Day** is celebrated every year on **January 10**. Vishwa Hindi Divas commemorates the anniversary of the first World Hindi Conference held in Nagpur on **January 10, 1975**.
- **Road Safety Week** is observed from **11 January to 17th January** every year. **Aim** : For making the roads and streets in India safer. The Ministry of Transport and Highways, the ministry has decided to observe Road Safety Month from 18 January to 17 February 2021 instead of **National Road Safety Week**.
- The **National Youth Day** is observed all over India on **12 January**. Theme for National Youth Day 2021 is 'Channelizing Youth Power for Nation Building'

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

- On January 07, 2021, Karnataka Chief Minister **B.S. Yediyurappa** launched **Krishi Sanjeevani vans in Bengaluru**. This is Mainly for to help farmers in their own backyards.
- **Permanent Representative of India at the United Nations Security Council, TS Tirumurti** announced, India will be chairing three-key subsidiary bodies of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC).
- **External Affairs Minister Dr. S Jaishankar** has concluded his three-day visit to Sri Lanka.
- Central govt. has said that over **three crore new connections** have been provided under **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
- **Education Minister Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has emphasized that the **National Education Policy, NEP-2020**, is revolutionary in all aspects.
- **Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Ramdas Athawale** has said that the NDA government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi has allocated **Rs.69,000 crore** for the **Post Matric scholarship of SC students** for the next five years.
- **Rashtriya Kamdhenu Aayog (RKA)**, the government body set up for **cow welfare** has announced that it will hold a countrywide online examination on '**gau vigyan**' (cow science) on **February 25**.

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- The **Union Ports, Shipping and Waterways** has recently started the operations of the **seaplane services**, on several routes.
- **Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar** launched the Government's **Digital Calendar and Diary App** in New Delhi.
- The World's largest repatriation exercise **Vande Bharat Mission** has **brought back** more than **7 lakh people** since **May 2020**.
- The **National Internet Exchange of India, NIXI** has announced that it will offer a free **Internationalized Domain Name, IDN** in any of the **preferred 22 official Indian language** along with every IN domain booked by the registrant.
- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the Central govt. has merged J&K cadre for all India Services - IAS, IPS and IFS officers with that of **Arunachal Pradesh, Goa, Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT)**, also called the Union Territory cadre, through an ordinance.
- On Jan 09, 2021, A high-level committee headed by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** was formed to commemorate the **125th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**.
- The **Education Ministry** has issued guidelines for identification, admission and continued education of migrant children.
- **Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar** has said that over **1,200 crore** will be spent by the **Road Transport and Highways Ministry** to create infrastructure for safe movement of wildlife on the National Highway.
- **National Youth Parliament Festival, 2021** will be held in the Central Hall of Parliament.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has issued a notification to facilitate the issuance of International Driving Permit (IDP) for Indian citizens whose IDP has expired while they are abroad.
- **Union Minister for textile and women and child development Smriti Irani** has said that India has become the second largest manufacturer of **PPE kits and suits in the world in record three months' time** during the **corona virus induced lockdown in March 2020**.
- Indian Railways has started the New Year by achieving a landmark to enhance the maximum speed to **130 kmph** for **1,280 km length** out of **1,612 Km** in Golden Quadrilateral - Golden Diagonal route.
- **Union Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan** dedicates coastal research vessels to the **Nation at Chennai Port Trust** and said that the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has been creating milestones in every field.
- The **Health and Family Welfare Ministry** has set up a technical expert group to examine the adverse findings from the **National Family Health Survey-5**.

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- **Japan** has committed **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** loan of an amount of **JPY 30 billion (about ₹2,113 crore)** to support India's efforts at providing social assistance to the poor and vulnerable households severely impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** launched the '**Single Window Clearance System**', an online platform to obtain clearances for smooth operationalisation of coal mines.
- The Union government has appointed **RS Sharma, former Trai chief**, as the chairperson of an empowered committee for administration of Covid-19 vaccine.
- The **second edition of the biennial pan-India** coastal defence exercise '**Sea Vigil-21**' will be conducted on **12-13 January 2021**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- President-elect **Joe Biden confirmed** he will nominate **Merrick Garland**, a centrist judge that Republicans denied a seat on the Supreme Court five years ago to be US attorney general.
- US media reported that **Tesla CEO Elon Musk is now world's wealthiest person**.
- **Facebook bans Trump 'indefinitely', YouTube removes** videos from US President's channel.
- **Japan Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga** has exuded confidence that the Olympic Games will be staged this summer despite a **state of emergency in Tokyo** following the surge in coronavirus cases.
- On Jan 08, 2021, The Pakistan Army successfully conducted the test flight of an indigenously developed Guided Multi Launch Rocket System, Fatah-1.
- **Emmanuel Bonne, the Diplomatic Advisor to the French President**, called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi and discussed wide-ranging bilateral as well as global issues.
- Addressing the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas convention through virtual mode, Prime Minister Narendra Modi **urged the youth to use technology** to take forward India's pride and culture across the globe.
- A passenger plane of **Indonesia's Sriwijaya Air** carrying more than 50 people on board crashed into waters off Jakarta.
- In the United States, the President-elect **Joe Biden** has appointed **two Indian-Americans** to the **National Security Council of the White House**.
- **Bangladesh** has been chosen as the '**Country in Focus**' for the **51st International Film Festival of India (IFFI) starting at Goa on January 16**.
- **Twitter Inc.** on January 8 deleted new tweets posted by **US President Donald Trump** on the official government account **@POTUS** and suspended the account of his presidential campaign, after booting his personal account off the platform permanently.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATE NEWS

- Home Minister Amit Shah has hailed the **CCEA approval to the Central Sector Scheme for Industrial Development of Jammu and Kashmir**.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, LG, **Manoj Sinha** launched Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and **Departmental Vigilance Officers Portal** of J&K Anti Corruption Bureau at Civil Secretariat, Jammu.
- Telangana has become the 3rd State in the country to successfully undertake **Urban Local Bodies, ULB reform** stipulated by the **Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance**.
- In the **Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir**, Lieutenant Governor **Manoj Sinha** announced the Government of India's approval for a **mega Industrial Development Package** worth **Rs.28,400 crore**.
- **Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani** has decided to create a new **Bagasara Prant** in **Amreli** district.
- The **World's largest Floating solar energy project** is to be constructed at **Omkareshwar dam** on **Narmada river** and will be operational by 2023 and an estimated cost of **INR30 billion (\$409.8m)**.
- The aerial ground survey for **Delhi - Varanasi High Speed Rail Corridor** began from Greater Noida.
- In a bid to **help the women**, residing in congested slums, during their menstruation days, a 'period room' has been set up for women at a public toilet in Maharashtra's **Thane city**.
- In the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, the government has reduced the age limit of the aspirants of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Services Exam from **37 years to 32 years**.
- **West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** virtually inaugurated the **26th Kolkata International Film Festival (KIFF)**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING & ECONOMY

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** announced in January, it is now fully operationalizing a **College of Supervisors (CoS)** to further strengthen supervision over regulated entities.
- The GDP of India is expected to **contract by 7.7 percent in 2020-21**, the first advance estimate of GDP released by the National Statistical Office under the **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI)** on January 07, 2021.
- **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, the country's second largest public sector bank, has announced an alliance with the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kanpur** and **FIRST (Foundation for Innovation & Research in Science & Technology)**, to jointly establish the **Punjab National Bank - IIT Kanpur Innovation Centre** at the IIT campus.
- **IDFC Mutual Fund** announced the launch of its latest pan-India investor awareness campaign **#PaisoKoRokoMat**, nudging savers to become investors.

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- **Indian economy** to rebound with an **9 percent** growth in the fiscal year beginning April 2021 after economic activity showed significant improvement in the last quarter, **IHS Markit**.
- As India prepares for the **crucial Union Budget**, which would set course for economic pick-up after the Covid carnage, economists have asked the government to be generous with the fiscal measures and have warned of weakness in the financial sector which could be a problem spot in the upcoming financial year.
- Formation of **Kerala Bank** as a major event in the cooperative sector. “The emergence of a **cooperative scheduled bank**, currently the second largest in the state, is of immense importance to the development of the state.
- **Central Bank of India (CBoI) and NABFOUNDATION**, entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), whereby working capital will be provided by the bank to all **self-help groups (SHGs)** which have an account with it and undertake the Nabard-sponsored ‘My Pad My Right’ project.
- **State Bank of India (SBI) and Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** launched a **co-branded contactless RuPay debit card**.
- India’s real GDP is projected to record a growth of **10.1 percent** in 2021-22, according to Icria Ratings.
- **The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has cancelled** the licence of **Vasantdada Nagari Sahakari Bank Ltd., Osmanabad, Maharashtra** to carry on banking business, with effect from the close of business on January 11.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS

- **Hemant Nagrale**, director general (legal and technical), has been given **additional charge** of the director general of police (**DGP**) of **Maharashtra** after the incumbent Subodh Kumar Jaiswal was appointed as the head of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).
- The Board of Directors of state-run **Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL)** has re-appointed **PK Purwar** as Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) of the telecom PSU.
- Indian-American **Dr Raj Iyer** has taken over as the **first Chief Information Officer of the US Army**, after the Pentagon created the position in July 2020.
- Justice **Jitendra Kumar Maheshwari** was sworn in as the **new Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court**.
- The Central government has cleared the appointment of **Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia** as the next **Chief Justice of the Gauhati High Court**.
- **Former DGP of Maharashtra** Subodh Kumar Jaiswal has taken over the charge as the new Director General (DG) of the **Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**.
- Central African Republic President **Faustin-Archange Touadera** has won a second term in office, according to provisional results announced by the electoral commission.

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- Bharti Airtel announced the appointment of Pradipt Kapoor as its Chief Information Officer (CIO).
- German-listed companies must include **women on their executive boards** as part of a landmark bill agreed by the country's coalition government on Wednesday after voluntary efforts failed to close a gender gap.
- On Jan 10, 2021, **Jay Shah** was named as the official representative of **Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)** for the International Cricket Council (ICC) Board meetings.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOURS

- In Jammu and Kashmir, **Dr Shailla Cannie**, Principal, **Shri Mata Vaishno Devi College of Nursing**, has been selected for the prestigious **National Florence Nightingale Award 2020**, to be conferred by **President of India**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU

- In Ladakh, **Executive Councillor LAHDC Kargil for Agriculture Mohammad Ali Chandan** signed a Memorandum of Understanding for organic farming and its certification with **Sikkim State Organic Certification Agency**.
- **Indian Air Force and Institute of Defence Studies and Research - IDSR- an autonomous Institution of Gujarat University** have signed a Memorandum of Understanding.
- In Jammu and Kashmir, the **Samagra Shiksha** in partnership with **Hindustan Unilever Limited (HUL)**, has distributed **1.5 lakh soaps** to different schools of the Union Territory to support the government's response to COVID-19.
- In a historic development, an MoU was signed between the **LAHDC Kargil and the Army to evacuate the Kargil Lower Plateau**.
- **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited, IREDA** under administrative control of the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy today signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with **NHPC Limited**, the PSU under the Ministry of Power for providing its technical expertise in developing renewable energy projects.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

- Union Education Minister **Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** inaugurated the two-day Virtual International Akhand Conference '**EDUCON 2020**' through video conferencing.
- Defence Secretary **Dr Ajay Kumar** co-chaired the **13th India-Vietnam Defence Security Dialogue** along with his Vietnamese co-chair **Sr Lt Gen Nguyen Chi Vinh**, Deputy Defence Minister of Vietnam.
- **The Government of France**, in cooperation with the **UN and the World Bank**, the '**One Planet Summit**' for biodiversity on **January 11** aims to advance the protection of nature.

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CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS & AUTHORS

- On Jan 07, 2021, a book titled '**India's 71-Year Test: The Journey to Triumph in Australia**' and one which reflects on India's previous 12 tours Down Under, was launched.
- A general manager at RBI, **R Giridharan** has authored his debut book "**Right Under our Nose**."
- A coffee table book filled with over hundreds of photographs of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** from his "**107 overseas and bilateral visits**" was released here on the eve of the 16th Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING

- **Henley and Partners Passport Index of 2021** has revealed the list of the **world's most powerful passports** and India has been ranked 85th on it.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENCE NEWS

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences, **Dr Harsh Vardhan** on January 09 inaugurated **Coastal Research Vessel (CRV) 'Sagar Anveshika'** at Chennai Port Trust.


CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

- **Australia's Claire Polosak** is set to become the **first female match official** in a **men's Test match** when she takes up the fourth umpire's role in the **third Test between India and Australia**.
- In **Kargil Ladakh**, **Khelo India Ice Hockey Tournament** is being organised at **Chiktan** by **Zonal Physical Education Officer Chiktan**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARIES

- On Jan 07, 2021, The world's oldest living **first-class cricketer Alan Burgess** passed away at the age of 100, the **New Zealand Cricket (NZC)** announced.
- Senior **Congress leader and former state minister KK Ramachandran** passed away. He was 84.
- Popular **fashion designer Satya Paul** passed away. He was 79 years old.
- **Tamil writer A. Madhavan**, who won the **Sahitya Akademi award in 2015**, died . He was 87.
- **Chitra Ghosh**, the youngest daughter of **Sarat Chandra Bose** and niece of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** and **eminent academician**, passed away on January 7, 2021.
- **Veteran Congress leader and former Gujarat Chief Minister Madahvsin h Solanki** passed away. He was 93.
- Veteran journalist, writer and **Padma Shri awardee Turlapati Kutumba Rao** passed away. He was 89-years old.
- **Neil Sheehan**, a tireless chronicler of the Vietnam War who obtained the **Pentagon Papers** for the **New York Times** and later received the **Pulitzer Prize** for his book "**A Bright Shining Lie**," a meticulously researched indictment of America's role in that conflict, died. He was 84.

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