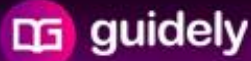


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Dear Readers, Here we have given the list of Important Weekly Current Affairs 3rd week of January 2021. Candidates those who are preparing for Upcoming IBPS, SBI and other competitive exams can make use of it.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DAYS

- **Indian Armed Forces Veterans Day** is observed each year on **14 January** since 2017. This day is celebrated on 14th of January every year to **honour services rendered by veterans of the Army**.
- **Army Day** is celebrated on **January 15** every year to honor the soldiers of the country, who have set the greatest example of selfless service and brotherhood and more than anything the love for the country.
- The **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** celebrated its **16th Raising Day** On **18th January**.
- The Government of India has decided to celebrate the birthday of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** that falls on **January 23** as '**Parakram Diwas**' from now on every year.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: NATIONAL NEWS

- **Elon Musk-owned electric vehicle (EV) company Tesla** has registered a fully-owned subsidiary in **Bengaluru, Karnataka**.
- Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** launched an **air taxi service** between **Chandigarh and Hisar** from the **Chandigarh International Airport** under the **UDAN** scheme of the central government.
- Defence Minister **Rajnath Singh** unveiled the country's first indigenously designed and developed **Driverless Metro Car** at the **BEML manufacturing facility** in **Bengaluru**.
- India launched the much awaited, **world's largest COVID-19 vaccination programme**. Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched the programme through video conferencing.
- **National Informatics Centre and Central Board of Secondary Education**, CBSE will jointly launch **CollabCAD Software** to provide a total engineering solution for students and Faculty of Engineering Graphics Curriculum.
- The Union Minister for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, Health & Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** dedicated an Innovation Portal, developed by **National Innovation Foundation (NIF) India**, an autonomous body of the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**, Government of India, to the nation, in **New Delhi**.

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- On Jan 14, 2021, **Harvest Festival Makar Sankranti** is being celebrated. The festival is seen as a celebration of the end of the winter solstice month and also marks the **end of the winter harvest**
- The **two day 'Prarambh'**, Startup India International Summit began in **New Delhi**, with members of **BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)** countries participating in the inaugural event.
- The **ministry of external affairs** confirmed that there will be no foreign head of state or government as the **chief guest for the Republic Day event on January 26**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced the launch of **Rs 1,000-crore 'Startup India Seed Fund'** to support startups and help budding entrepreneurs pursue innovative ideas.
- The **Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry** launched a month-long mass awareness campaign '**SAKSHAM**' to spread awareness about green and clean energy.
- On Jan 17, 2021, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** **flagged off eight trains** connecting different regions of the country to Kevadiya with an aim to **facilitate seamless connectivity** to the **Statue of Unity in Gujarat**.
- Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, **Nitin Gadkari**, inaugurated **Road Safety Month** where he highlighted the Central Government's commitment towards safety.
- **Defence Research and Development Organisation** handed over **MotorBike Ambulance Rakshita** to the **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)**. Director General of CRPF **Dr A P Maheshwari** flagged off the contingent of **21 bikes** on the occasion.
- **Defence Secretary Ajay Kumar** inaugurated **Swachhata Pakhwada** organised by **National Cadet Corps, NCC** at India Gate.
- Union Minister **Kiren Rijju** has been assigned the **additional charge of the Ministry of AYUSH**.
- The **Ministry of Road Transport and Highways** has notified **Inter Country Transport Vehicles Rules, 2021** which would **facilitate and regulate the movement of passenger and goods vehicles between India and neighbouring countries**.
- **Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Dharmendra Pradhan** inaugurated the **LNG truck-loading unit of Shell India** at **Hazira, Gujarat**.
- Flight lieutenant **Bhawana Kanth** is set to become the **first woman fighter pilot** to take part in the **Republic Day parade**.
- The government has nominated **28 non-official members** on the **National Startup Advisory Council**.
- **NITI Aayog** released a book on **faecal sludge and septage management** in urban areas. It is Jointly developed with **National Faecal Sludge and Septage Management (NFSSM)**

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- Road Transport and Highways Ministry and Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in the field of technical exchange and co-operation on sustainable geo-hazard management.
- The Cabinet has given its approval for the investment of over **Rs .5200 crore** for **850 MW Ratle Hydro Electric (HE) Project located on river Chenab, in Kishtwar** in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi released financial assistance of around **Rs 2,691 crore** to over six lakh beneficiaries in Uttar Pradesh under **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G)**, through video conferencing.
- **President, Vice President and Prime Minister** have greeted the people of Meghalaya, Manipur and Tripura on the occasion of their Statehood Day on January 21, 2021.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: INTERNATIONAL NEWS

- The **19th Dhaka International Film Festival (DIFF)** will be inaugurated on **16th January**. The film festival this year is dedicated to the **birth centenary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- **Donald Trump** became the **first US president** in history to be **impeached twice**. The House of Representatives voted to charge him with inciting last week's mob attack on Congress.
- The **United States** has designated the **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** and **Bahrain** as its major strategic partners of the Country.
- The **Pakistan government** has issued at least **seven special permits** to Dubai Ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al-Maktoum and six other members of the ruling family to hunt the internationally protected bird houbara bustard during the 2020-21 hunting season.
- A team of **10 Nepali climbers** made history by becoming **the first to scale in winter the world's second highest mountain K2**, considered as the **world's most dangerous and challenging peak**.
- The **UK government** unveiled **new laws to protect England's cultural and historic heritage** in the form of statues and monuments to ensure they are not removed at a whim.
- Dutch Prime Minister **Mark Rutte** and his entire Cabinet resigned to take political responsibility for a **scandal involving investigations** into child welfare payments that wrongly labeled thousands of parents as fraudsters.
- **India and the EU** have held their **first maritime security dialogue in a virtual format**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: STATE NEWS

- Chief Minister **Naveen Patnaik** inaugurated the '**Fire Park**', a first of its kind initiative in the country, to **bring awareness on fire safety measures**.

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- In Manipur, the **Cherry Blossom Mao Festival** was held at **Senapati** district marking the beginning of pink season in the district.
- **Madhya Pradesh** signed a memorandum of understanding with Kerala for replicating the latter's pioneering **Responsible Tourism (RT)** initiative.
- The country's first **Labour Movement Museum**, showcasing the **history of world labour movement**, would be launched in **Kerala's houseboat tourism hub, Alappuzha**.
- **Kerala** has become the **8th State** in the country to successfully undertake **Ease of Doing Business** reform stipulated by the **Department of Expenditure**, Ministry of Finance.
- In **Gujarat**, Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** announced the '**Horticulture Development Mission**' (**Bagayat Vikas Mission**).
- The **Maharashtra** government renamed **Nagpur's Gorewada International Zoo** as **Balasaheb Thackeray Zoological Park**.
- **Gujarat** Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** has proposed to rename dragon fruit as '**Kamalam**'. The dragon fruit has been renamed **Kamalam** because of the **shape of the fruit**.
- Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched **Himachal Pradesh's first online youth radio station "Radio Hills-Youngistan Ka Dil**.
- In **Andhra Pradesh**, Chief Minister **S. Jagan Mohan Reddy** flagged off **Mobile Dispensing Units/ Door to door Delivery Vehicles** in **Vijayawada**.
- Ministry of **Minority Affairs** will organise the **24th Hunar Haat** at **Avadh Shilpgram, Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** from **22nd January to 4th February** with the theme of **Vocal for Local**.
- In **Karnataka**, Chief Minister **S. Yediyurappa** launched **Avolokana** software that will enable the government to access data on sanctions and expenditures incurred by **39 departments** on **1,800 programmes** implemented by them.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BANKING & FINANCE

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has set up a working group to study digital lending activities of the regulated and unregulated players.
- The **Fitch Ratings** expect **gross domestic product (GDP)** of India to contract by **9.4 percent** in **FY21** (April 2020 to March 2021).
- **Insurance Regulatory & Development Authority of India (IRDAI)** has set-up a committee to study health insurance products with the help of scientists and doctors in the panel.
- **ICICI Bank** on **January 20** launched a new mobile application '**InstaFX**' for authorised money changers to help customers of any bank get '**ICICI Bank Forex Prepaid Card**' swiftly.

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- **CARE Ratings** has revised downwards its projection of the Centre's fiscal deficit to **8 percent** of GDP during FY21 against its earlier estimate of 9-9.5 per cent.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: APPOINTMENTS

- Nationalist politician **Sadyr Japarov** won a landslide victory in **Kyrgyzstan's snap presidential election**, which was triggered by the collapse of the previous government.
- **India and Japan** signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to enhance cooperation in the field of **Information and Communications Technology (ICT)**, including **5G standardisation**.
- The **Indian Army** has signed an approximately **\$20 million** contract for undisclosed quantities of a high-altitude variant of ideaForge's **SWITCH UAV** which will be delivered over a period of 1 year.
- **Intel** announced that its **board of directors** has appointed **40-year technology** industry leader **Pat Gelsinger** as its new chief executive officer, effective February 15, 2021.
- **YES Bank** in collaboration with **Aditya Birla Wellness Private Limited** has launched '**YES BANK Wellness**' and '**YES BANK Wellness Plus**' credit cards with the aim of holistic health, self-care and wellness growth of the consumers.
- **US-India Business Council (USIBC)** has selected **Biocon Executive Chairperson Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw** as one of its vice-chairs effective immediately.
- President **Yoweri Museveni** won a **sixth five-year term**, extending his rule to four decades, according to official results announced .
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was appointed the **new chairman of the trust** which manages the **world famous Somnath Temple** at **Prabhas Patan town** in **Gujarat's Gir-Somnath district**.
- **Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni** has scored a decisive election victory to **win a sixth term**.
- The **board of directors of RBL Bank**, approved the **re-appointment of Vishwavir Ahuja** as the **Managing Director and CEO** of the bank for three years.
- **Joe Biden** took oath as the **46th President** of the **United States of America** at a scaled-back ceremony in the US Capitol building in Washington.
- The government appointed **Siddhartha Mohanty**, currently serving as the **managing director (MD)** and **chief executive officer (CEO)** of LIC Housing Finance, as the **MD of India's largest insurer Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)** from February 1 onwards.
- The **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)** has approved the appointment of **Sanjeev Kumar** as the **new Chairman & Managing Director (CMD)** of **Telecommunications Consultants India Limited (TCIL)** .

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- Chennai headquartered Non-Banking Finance Company **Sundaram Finance** has announced that Managing Director TT Srinivasaraghavan will retire on March 31, 2021 and **Rajiv Lochan** will become the next Managing Director from April 1.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCHEMES

- The **Third Phase of Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana** was launched in **600 districts** across the country. This phase will focus on **new-age and COVID-related skills**.
- Manipur Governor **Najma Heptulla** virtually released Lt Gen Singh's book **Making of a General-A Himalayan Echo** (Konark Publishers) at Durbar Hall, Raj Bhavan, Imphal
- Kerala Governor **Arif Mohammad Khan** has launched Vedhik Erudite Foundation's ambitious scheme to provide free coaching for civil services and other competitive examinations to **10,000 meritorious students**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: RANKING

- NITI Aayog** released the **second edition of the India Innovation Index-2020**. The index demonstrates the government's continued **commitment towards transforming the country into an innovation-driven economy**.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

- The Union Minister of Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Health & Family Welfare **Harsh Vardhan** inaugurated a new institute of **Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and National Institute of Science Communication and Policy Research (CSIR-NIScPR)**, in New Delhi.
- An **ICT Grand Challenge** for development of a '**smart water supply measurement and monitoring system**' is underway.
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has developed the country's **first indigenous machine pistol ASMI**.
- Infosys** has accredited with the **Google Cloud Partner Specialisation** within the information and analytics area.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: DEFENCE NEWS

- Government has approved procurement of **83 Light Combat Aircraft, LCA, Tejas** worth about **48 thousand crore rupees** from Hindustan Aeronautics Limited for Indian Air Force.
- Indian Air Force and French Air and Space Force are conducting a **bilateral Air exercise, Ex Desert Knight-21** in Jodhpur.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AGREEMENTS

- FSS (Financial Software and Systems)**, a leading global payment processor and provider of integrated payment products, announced partnering with **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** to promote financial inclusion among underserved and unbanked segments.

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- Walmart-owned Flipkart has partnered with Niti Aayog to launch the revamped Women Entrepreneurship Platform.
- The Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India (TRIFED) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Farm Forestry Development Co-operative Ltd (IFFDC) to promote livelihood generation of tribal people.
- To improve telecom connectivity in hilly areas, Power Grid Corporation of India Limited (POWERGRID), the PSU under Ministry of Power, has recently signed an agreement with Himachal Pradesh State Electricity Board Limited. (HPSEBL) in Shimla (H.P.)

CURRENT AFFAIRS: MOU

- The Union Cabinet was apprised of signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Uzbekistan for cooperation in the field of Solar Energy.
- Road Transport and Highways Ministry and Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO signed a Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen collaboration in the field of technical exchange and co-operation on sustainable geo-hazard management.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: BOOKS & AUTHORS

- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant released a book 'Manohar Parrikar- Off the Record' at a function organized at Institute Menezes Braganza hall in the city.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: ARTS & CULTURE

- First, a bird festival is being organised at the Mahananda wildlife sanctuary in West Bengal to provide an opportunity to enthusiasts to explore the forest and watch different bird

CURRENT AFFAIRS: AWARDS AND HONOURS

- Union Minister for Information and Broadcasting, Prakash Javadekar, announced a new 'Indian Personality of the Year' award.
- Bilkis Dadi, and an eminent social activist and writer Harsh Mander of "Karwan -e- Mohabbat" were presented the Quaide Milleth Award.
- Karuna Sagar, a 1991 batch IPS officer of the TN cadre, has bagged the prestigious Bharat Gaurav Award for the year 2020 under the public service category.

CURRENT AFFAIRS: SUMMITS & CONFERENCES

- Natural Capital Accounting and Valuation of the Ecosystem Services (NCAVES) India Forum 2021 is being organised by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI) virtually over three separate days, on 14, 21, and 28 January 2021.

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- Union Health Minister **Harsh Vardhan** digitally chaired the **148th session of the Executive Board of the World Health Organization** through video conference.
- The **India Digital Summit**, the flagship event of the **Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI)** is one of the biggest conferences for the digital industry scheduled on **January 19 and 20, 2021**.
- **India and Singapore** signed an implementing agreement on submarine rescue support and cooperation between their navies during the **5th Defence Minister's Dialogue** held over video conference


CURRENT AFFAIRS: SPORTS NEWS

- In Leh, the primary **ever Ice climbing festival** was celebrated in **Nubra valley**. The Seven Day occasion was organized by **Nubra Adventure Club**.
- In **Ladakh**, **Khelo India 1st Zaskar Winter Sports Festival** began On **Jan 18, 2021**. Aim : Engaging the Youth and opening new vistas of tourism in Zaskar are the main aims of the festival.
- **Sports Ministry** has decided to **name all upcoming and upgraded sporting facilities of the Sports Authority of India**, after renowned athletes, who have contributed to sports in India
- **Denmark's Viktor Axelsen and Spain's Carolina Marin** have won the men's and women's singles titles at the **Badminton World Federation (BWF) Yonex Thailand** in Bangkok, the first of three competitions in the Thai capital.
- **Ajinkya Rahane-led India** defeated **Australia by three wickets** in the final fourth Test of the **Border-Gavaskar Trophy 2020-21**

CURRENT AFFAIRS: OBITUARIES

- **Social activist and Padma Shri D Prakash Rao** passed away while undergoing treatment at the **SCB Medical College and Hospital** in Cuttack. He was 63.
- Former Union minister and noted businessman **Kamal Morarka** has passed away. He was 74.
- Indian classical musician **Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan** passed away at the age of 89.
- **Phil Spector**, the eccentric and revolutionary music producer who transformed rock music with his **"Wall of Sound"** method and who later was convicted of murder, has died. He was 81
- **Dr V Shanta**, renowned **Indian oncologist and doyen of cancer care**, has passed away at the age of 93. She was the chairperson of **Adyar Cancer Institute** which she joined in 1954.
- Former **Arunachal Pradesh Governor Mata Prasad** He was 95 years old.
- Veteran actor **Unnikrishnan Namboothiri** passed away in Kannur. He was 98.
- Congress legislator from **Udaipur's Vallabh Nagar constituency Gajendra Singh Shaktawat** He was 48.

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