



Current Affairs - July to December 2017

Month Type

























- ▶ **48 Current Affairs were found in Last Six Months for Type - Committees and Schemes**

(Showing **42** Important Ones)

Committees

- ▶ 21-member Committee on corporate governance headed by Kotak Mahindra Bank Chief Uday Kotak submitted its report to Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI). Recommendations Include -
 - ▶ Separation of roles - Roles of chairman and managing director at listed firms should be separated and chairmanship should be limited to only non-executive directors.
 - ▶ Minimum board strength - Should be increased to 6 members and at least one woman should be appointed as independent director.
 - ▶ Independent Directors - At least half of board members to be independent directors at listed companies.
 - ▶ Shareholder meeting and cash flow statement - Top 100 firms by market capitalisation should webcast shareholder meeting and all listed firms should have cash flow statement every six months.
 - ▶ Credit ratings - Updated list of all credit ratings obtained by the listed entity must be made available at one place, which would be very helpful for investors and other stakeholders.
 - ▶ Minimum remuneration - Independent directors must get minimum remuneration of Rs 5 lakh per annum and sitting fee of Rs 20,000-50,000 for each board meet.
 - ▶ Risk management and IT committee - Top-500 listed companies should have risk management committee of boards for cyber security.
- ▶ 5 member committee headed by Prasara Bharati Chairman A Surya Prakash has been formed to select editor-in-chief of Rajya Sabha TV (RSTV).
- ▶ A Committee led by Ved Prakash Mishra submitted its report regarding measures for upgrading healthcare infrastructure at major ports under PPP mode to provide world class health services, along with affordable medical and paramedical education.
- ▶ A Parliamentary Committee has been formed to examine Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017 in New Delhi. It has been chaired by Bhupender Yadav.
- ▶ A Parliamentary Committee under B C Khanduri has been formed to examine operational preparedness of armed forces.
- ▶ A committee headed by M Vinod Kumar (GST chief commissioner for Karnataka) started review of laws governing Goods and Services Tax (GST).
- ▶ An Internal Committee has been formed by External Affairs Ministry to examine India-China relations. It will be headed by Shashi Tharoor and will primarily Focus on Doklam and Rohingya Muslims Issues.
- ▶ An advisory committee of Securities and Exchange Board of India, headed by Jayanth R Varma will decide on proposal for extending stock market trading hours from 3.30 p.m. to 7.30 p.m (starting 9 am).
- ▶ Committee headed by T K Viswanathan submitted its report on review of on Section 66A of the IT Act. It was constituted after Supreme Court struck down controversial Section 66A of IT Act in 2015.
 - ▶ Section 66A of the IT Act deals with arrests of people for posting content deemed to be *allegedly objectionable* on Internet.
- ▶ Committee under Justice B.N.Srikrishna submitted its report regarding measures to be undertaken for speedy resolution of commercial disputes and to make India an international hub of Arbitration and a Centre of robust ADR mechanism catering to international and domestic arbitration at par with international standards.
- ▶ Delhi Government has set up a panel to look into the functioning of private hospitals and nursing homes, under Kirti Bhushan.

-  Delhi Government also constituted 'Fee Anomaly Committees' in each district to look into complaints of fee hike by private schools in state, on recommendations of Justice Duggal Committee.
12.  Department of Science and Technology constituted a National Steering Committee to initiate a National Programme on “Scientific Validation and Research on Panchgavya” (SVAROP).
 13.  Expert committee headed by TK Viswanathan to deal with cybercrimes especially online hate speech submitted its report. Committee recommended appointing cybercrime coordinators in all states and establishing cybercrime cells in each district.
 14.  Finance Minister Arun Jaitley constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) headed by Bihar Deputy CM Sushil Kumar Modi to monitor and resolve IT challenges faced in implementation of GST.
 15.  Finance Ministry constituted a task force Under Arbind Modi, to review Income Tax (IT) Act 1961 and draft new direct tax law in consonance with current economic needs. Task Force will draft appropriate Direct Tax Legislation keeping in view direct tax system prevalent in various countries, international best practices.
 16.  GST Council constituted a Group of Ministers (GoM) to make GST composition scheme more attractive, to be headed by Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma.
 -  Committee will look to make GST Composition Scheme more attractive as only 15.50 lakh businesses out of total 98 lakh GST registered ones opted for composition scheme.
 -  GoM will also revisit tax structure of different categories of restaurants in order to rationalise rates which is Currently 12% on non-AC restaurants and 18% on air-conditioned ones.
 -  GST Composition scheme -
 -  It is an alternative method of levy of tax designed for small taxpayers whose turnover is up to Rs 75 lakh (Rs 50 lakh in case of 8 north-eastern states and hilly state of Himachal Pradesh). Its aims to bring simplicity for small taxpayers as manufacturers have to pay 2% tax on their annual turnover and file returns quarterly. The tax rate is 5% for restaurant services and 1% for traders.
 17.  GST Council formed a Selection Committee under Chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary (*Currently Pradeep Kumar Sinha*) to recommend eligible persons for appointment as Chairman and Members of National Anti-profiteering Authority (NAPA) under GST. NAPA ensures that full benefits of a reduction in tax on supply of goods or services flow to consumers.
 18.  Government appointed Committee on Haj Policy recommended phasing out Haj pilgrims' subsidy and allowing women devotees above 45 years to travel in a group of at least 4 without a male. Panel was headed by Afzal Amanullah.
 19.  Government constituted a high-level committee for proper management of water resources in the North Eastern Region (NER), under Chairmanship of Vice-Chairman in Niti Aayog (Rajiv Kumar Currently).
 20.  Government has set up a 14-member panel to identify and suggest ways to address issues faced in implementation of Insolvency Law, to be headed by Injeti Srinivas. Committee will take stock of implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.
 21.  Government has set up a committee headed by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant to address problem of stressed assets in India's power sector, which are around 5.9% of banking sector's total outstanding advances of 4.73 trillion.
 22.  Government has set up a committee tasked with simplification of GST returns filing, to make process convenient for businesses that have minimal transactions. It will be headed by GSTN Chairman Ajay Bhushan Pandey.
 23.  Government reconstituted Multi-Agency Group (MAG) to investigate cases relating to recent 'Paradise Papers' data disclosure which is also probing Panama Papers leak. It will be led by Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) Chairman Sushil Chandra.
 24.  Home Ministry formed study group under Rina Mitra, to examine problems faced by people residing near International Border (IB) and Line of Control (LOC) in Jammu and Kashmir.
 25.  Insurance regulator IRDAI formed committee Under Pournima Gupte, to help in implementing new risk-based capital (RBC) regime.
 -  RBC Committee was headed by Dilip C Chakraborty and it suggested that industry should move ahead with RBC to ensure that capital held by a company will take into account its overall risk profile, rather than current solvency regime.
 -  New RBC Regime is expected to be implemented by March 2021.
 26.  Karnataka Government constituted a committee to study possibility of designing a separate state flag and providing it a statutory standing.
 27.  Law Ministry created a panel (Second National Judicial Pay Commission) to recommend new salary structure for 21000 judges of lower courts in India. It will be headed by Former SC judge PV Reddi and will submit its recommendations in early 2019.
 28.  Maharashtra State government formed a panel to study feasibility of merging financially weak District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs) with Maharashtra State Cooperative (MSC) Bank, to be headed by Yashwant Thorat.
 29.  Maharashtra government has set up a committee headed by Sudhir Shrivastava (*Additional Chief Secretary (Home)*) to recommend ways to stop custodial deaths.

30. ▶ Ministry of Commerce and Industry constituted a Task Force on Artificial Intelligence (AI) for India's Economic Transformation, to be headed by V. Kamakoti of IIT Madras. Task force will explore possibilities to leverage AI for development across various fields.
31. ▶ Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology constituted a Committee under Chairmanship of B N Srikrishna (Former SC Judge) to study and identify key data protection issues and recommend methods for addressing them as Protection of Data is expected to provide big boost to Digital economy of the country.
32. ▶ Nagaland Government constituted a committee (to be headed by Temjen Toy), to review Nagaland Municipal Act 2001 by consulting all tribal hohos and stakeholders for reviewing Municipal Act and submit its report.
33. ▶ National Commission for Minorities (NCM) has set up three member committee to study the matter to give minority status to Hindus in 8 states where their population is less than 50%. Committee will be led by George Kurien.
 - ✎ Govt also formed a committee for consultation on matters pertaining to implementation of drug price control order (DPCO) including technicalities involved in pricing and new launches.
34. ▶ National Institution for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog constituted Expert Task Force to provide major thrust to job creation by enhancing India's exports. It will be headed by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Rajiv Kumar. It will give sector-specific recommendations in key employment sectors for policy interventions and suggest measures to enhance trade in services with high employment potential.
35. ▶ PM Narendra Modi reconstituted Economic Advisory Council (EAC) to assist on economic issues, with Bibek Debroy appointed as its chairman. EAC was defunct since former C Rangarajan resigned as its chairman.
36. ▶ President Ram Nath Kovind appointed a 5 member Committee headed by G Rohini to examine subcategorisation of Other Backward Classes (OBCs), to ensure more backward among OBC communities can avail benefits of reservation.
37. ▶ RBI panel under Chandan Sinha recommended a list of commodities which can be hedged in overseas markets by all Indian residents (including gold, silver, zinc, tin, crude oil and its derivatives, coal, natural gas, tea, coffee, sugar and cocoa).
 - ✎ Panel also recommended that domestic banks should be allowed to offer commodity hedging facility to their customers, on both Over The Counter (OTC) as well as international and domestic exchanges.
38. ▶ Rajya Sabha Committee headed by Vinay P Sahasrabudhe has recommended body wearable cameras for traffic policemen and Regional Transport Offices (RTOs) officials enforcing Motor Vehicles Act, to reduce arbitrariness and corruption by enforcement officials.
39. ▶ Reserve Bank of India (RBI) panel on external benchmark rate for banks headed by Janak Raj submitted its report. Panel observed that several practices including violation of RBI guidelines, inflating of base rate and arbitrary adjustment of spreads are prevalent among major banks in India.
40. ▶ Reserve Bank of India appointed committee on Household Finance, headed by Tarun Ramdorai has suggested that banks must link their home loan rates to the RBI's repo rate (rate at which RBI lends to banks), instead of Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate (MCLR), which banks follow now.
41. ▶ Reserve Bank of India constituted a 10-member High Level Task Force on Public Credit Registry (PCR) for India, which will suggest a roadmap for developing a transparent, comprehensive and near-real-time PCR for India. It will be Headed by YM Deosthalee.
42. ▶ SEBI formed a committee on *fair market conduct* that which will suggest measures for improving surveillance of the markets and strengthen rules for trades. It will be headed by T K Viswanathan and would suggest measures for improvement in PIT (Prohibition of Insider Trading) norms, PFTUP (Prohibition of Fraudulent and Unfair Trade Practices) regulations.

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