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Yearly Review of Political Affairs 2017 - Current Affairs Capsule in PDF February 2017

- **Gujarat Assembly passes Aadhaar Bill**

- The Gujarat Assembly passed Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies Benefits and Services) Bill 2017.
- This is to empower the state government to use Aadhaar number as the sole identifier for the delivery of various subsidies and benefits.
- This bill will help the government create a credible system to authenticate the identity of actual beneficiaries.

- **Bill to legalise Kambala**

- Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2017 was passed in the Karnataka legislative Assembly.
- It seeks to amend the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, in its application to Karnataka.
- This was passed to facilitate the conduct of traditional buffalo race - Kambalall and bullock cart races in South Kanara and Udupi district.

- **3.5 lakh cases settled in Lok Adalats**

- About 3.5 lakh cases were settled in the National Lok Adalat held at all levels ranging from district to high courts across the country in a day.
- National Legal Services Authority, said that as per the figures received till 5 in the evening, more than 3.5 lakh cases, including 1.9 lakh pending and 1.6 lakh pre-litigation cases, have been settled.
- National Lok Adalat is organised by the NALSA

- **Lok Sabha passes Motion of Thanks**





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- The Lok Sabha passed a Motion of Thanks on President Pranab Mukherjee's address to the joint sitting of Parliament.
- Motion was passed by the House by a voice vote.
- Motion of Thanks is a motion in Indian Parliament which follows the address of the President to the joint sitting of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha at the commencement of first session of a new Lok Sabha and first session of every year.
- **SC invokes proceedings against HC Judge**
 - The Supreme Court has issued a notice of contempt to a high court judge for writing letters, levelling allegations of corruption against several sitting and retired apex court and high court judges.
 - It charged Calcutta High Court judge CS Karnan regarding this.
 - A high court judge can be removed only through impeachment by the Parliament after both the Houses pass resolution.
- **"Pink" polling stations for women**
 - In its effort to encourage women voters to cast their votes for the Goa Assembly polls, the authorities have set up several pink polling stations in the state.
 - It will be one-phase polls. Results will be declared on March 11.
 - As many as 11 lakh voters will cast their votes to elect new MLAs for the 40-member Assembly.
 - The voting will begin from 7 am and will continue till 5 pm.

March 2017

- **Govt merges 'autonomous' tribunals**
 - The government has merged several powerful administrative tribunals and assumed powers to appoint and remove their chiefs.





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- The Central Administrative Tribunal has been established for adjudication of disputes with respect to recruitment and conditions of service of persons appointed to public services.
- This was done in pursuance of the amendment of Constitution of India by Articles 323A.
- **NSEBC As Constitutional Body**
 - Union cabinet has approved setting up of National Commission for Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.
 - The approval was given for amending the Constitution and inserting A-338B for setting up the new commission.
 - National Commission for Backward Classes is an Indian statutory body under the Min. of Social Justice and Empowerment.
- **Amendments to the NABARD Act, 1981**
 - Union Cabinet has approved Amendments to the NABARD Act, 1981.
 - Transfer of 0.4 per cent. equity of RBI in NABARD amounting to Rs. 20 crores to the Government of India.
 - The proposed amendments in NABARD Act, include, certain other amendments including changes in long title and certain Sections to bring Medium Enterprises and Handlooms in NABARD's mandate.
- **Comptroller and Auditor General**
 - The Comptroller and Auditor General is an authority, established by the Constitution under Constitution of India/Part V - Chapter V/Sub-part 7B/Article 148.
 - The CAG is mentioned in the Constitution of India under Article 148 – 151.
 - The CAG is ranked 9th and enjoys the same status as a judge of Supreme Court of India in Indian order of precedence.





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- **Kharge set to become next PAC Chairman**
 - The Congress floor leader in Lok Sabha, Mallikarjun Kharge is all set to become the next chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC).
 - Kharge will succeed his party colleague K V Thomas.
 - The chair of the PAC is given to an MP of the main Opposition party.
 - It is reconstituted every year with a strength of not more than 22 members, of which 15 are from Lok Sabha and 7 from Rajya Sabha.
- **Highest number of Women MLAs in UP**
 - The 17th Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly will have a record 38 women MLAs.
 - This is a record for UP since 1947.
 - All political parties put together only 96 tickets were given to women candidates.
 - The BJP had given the highest number of tickets to women. Of 43 women candidates who were given tickets by the Bharatiya Janata Party, 32 won the election.
- **Chief Justice appointed in four High Courts**
 - Chief Justice (CJ) for High Court (HC) in Kerala, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh (MP) and Jharkhand were appointed on March 10.
 - Hemant Gupta has been appointed CJ of MP High Court.
 - Acting CJ of Jharkhand High Court P K Mohanty has been appointed the 'regular' CJ there.
 - Justice Navniti Prasad appointed CJ of Kerala HC while Justice T B Radhakrishnan, has been made CJ of Chhattisgarh HC.
- **Lok Sabha passes Maternity Bill**
 - Women in India's organised sector workforce will get paid maternity leave of up to 26 weeks, up from the existing 12 weeks, under the



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Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016, that was passed in the Lok Sabha.

- The law will help 1.8 million women in the organised sector.

- **Centre amends Right To Education rules**

- The HRD Min. has amended the rules under the RTE Act to make it compulsory for all state govt. to codify expected levels of learning which students in Classes I to VIII should achieve in different subjects.
- This is the first time that learning indicators will be used in India to assess children.
- The amendment of Rule 23 (2) to this notification, applicable to all states, except J&K.

- **Specified Bank Notes Act**

- The government has notified the law that makes holding of more than 10 scrapped notes punishable with a minimum fine of Rs 10,000.
- The Specified Bank Notes (Cessation of Liabilities) Act, 2017, was passed by Parliament last month.
- The law, signed by President **Pranab Mukherjee** on February 27, also provides for a minimum fine Rs 50,000 for false declaration by persons who were abroad.

April 2017

- **Inter-State Council**

- The 11th Standing Committee meeting of the Inter-State Council examined recommendations of the Punchhi Commission report on april 9.
- The committee examined recommendations of the report related to Centre-State financial relations etc.
- The Inter State Council is an Indian constitutional body set up on the basis of provisions in Article 263 of the Constitution of India.





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- **Glaciers, forests 'living entities'**
 - HAVING declared the Ganga and the Yamuna as “living entities”, Uttarakhand HC has now declared glaciers, forests and lakes also as similar “biologically living” entities.
 - The bench said that like human beings, they also have a right to exist, persist, maintain, sustain and regenerate their vital ecology system.
 - These are scientifically and biologically living.
- **Change in MWPC Act**
 - The govt is mulling bringing legislative changes to remove the monthly ceiling of ₹10,000 on the maintenance paid by children to parents.
 - At present, children need not pay more than ₹10,000.
 - If the proposed amend. to the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens (MWPC) Act come through, the maintenance amount to be decided by senior citizen tribunals for the neglected parents.
- **Motor Vehicles Bill amended**
 - The government has approved changes to the motor vehicle bill.
 - The amended motor vehicle bill proposes a hefty penalty on auto companies caught manufacturing faulty vehicles, statutory guidelines for cab aggregators and a 10% annual increase in penalty for traffic violations.
 - The government has also proposed specific timelines for processing insurance claim.

October 2017

- **Satyapal Malik became new Bihar governor**
 - Satyapal Malik, a former lawmaker and the Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) national vice-president took oath as the governor of Bihar.
 - The post fell vacant after former Bihar governor Ramnath Kovind became the President in July.





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- West Bengal Governor Keshri Nath Tripathi was holding additional charge of Bihar after that.

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