

## **GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS**

### **MONTH OF FEBRUARY-2018**

#### **List of Important Days**

- February 1 - 41<sup>st</sup> Indian Coast Guard Day.
- February 4 - World Cancer Day. (Theme - "We can. I can")
- February 4 - Independence Day of Sri Lanka.
- February 6 - International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation.
- February 10 - National Deworming Day.
- February 13 - World Radio Day. (Theme - "Radio and Sports").
- February 20 - World Day of Social Justice. (Theme - "Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice").
- February 21 - International Mother Language Day. (Theme - "Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development").
- February 23 - World Rotary Day.
- February 28 - (Last Day of February) Rare Disease Day. (Theme - "research")
- February 28 - National Science Day. (Theme - "Science and Technology for a sustainable future.")

#### **Reserve Bank of India**

- In its 6<sup>th</sup> **Bi-Monthly Policy Review** released, the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **kept the Repo rate**, the rate at which banks borrow from RBI, steady at 6% for the **third time** in a row.
- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has **cautioned** people about a **fake website** in its name which is asking for personal and confidential **banking details of bank customers**.
  - The layout of the **fake website, www.indiareserveban.org**, is similar to that of the original RBI website. Further, the RBI also cautioned the public about other fake websites such as **www.rbi.org** and **www.rbi.in**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it **will link the base rate for loans** with the **marginal cost of funds-based lending rate (MCLR)** from **1 April** to improve monetary policy transmission.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced setting up **ombudsman** for addressing **customer grievances** in the **Non-Banking Finance Companies (NBFCs)**.
  - The rules was be laid out by the end of February. RBI will start with deposit taking NBFCs and widen the scope to cover NBFCs with **asset size of Rs 100 crore**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that **KYC (Know Your Customer)** verification of **payments bank customers** done by **telecom companies** is **not permissible**.
  - It has instructed payments banks to complete the KYC process **independently** through **third parties**.
  - This comes after **Airtel** was penalized by **UIDAI** for allegedly opening **payments bank accounts** without 'informed consent of the users.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has **refused to extend the February 28 deadline** for mandatory **KYC (Know Your Customer) compliance** by **prepaid wallet customers**.
  - However, the central bank clarified that customers won't lose their outstanding balance even if KYC is not done.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has raised exposure **limit** under **Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD)** trading for **residents** and **Foreign Portfolio Investors (FPIs)** to **\$100 million** across all currency pairs involving **Indian rupee**.

## State Bank of India

- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** reported a **loss of Rs.2,416.4 crore** for the December quarter, marking its first quarterly loss in at least 17 years.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** wrote off bad loans worth **Rs.20,339 crore** in 2016-17, the **highest** among all the state-owned banks.
  - All the public sector banks wrote off **Rs.81,683 crore** during the fiscal, a three-fold jump in 5 years.
- According to the recent data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), at least **one bank staffer** is caught and punished for involvement in fraud **every four hours on an average**.
  - According to this data, around **5,200 officials of public sector banks** punished between January 1, 2015, and March 31, 2017.
  - Among them, **1,500 officials** were the employees of the **State Bank of India (SBI)**.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** cautioned its **cardholders** of **potential legal, financial** and other **risks associated** with **Bitcoin** and other **Crypto currencies**.
  - However, the bank did **not ban** the **use** of its **cards** for such **investments**.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> sale of Electoral Bonds** will start from **March 1, 2018** for period of 10 days at **four main branches** of **State Bank of India (SBI)** in **Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata** and **New Delhi**.
  - These bonds will have a life of **15 days**, and citizen of India or an entity incorporated or established in the country can purchase them.
  - **India** is the **1<sup>st</sup> country** in the **world** to have such **unique bonds** for **electoral funding**.
  - The electoral bonds scheme was announced in **Union Budget 2017** with an aim for **increasing transparency** in **political funding**.

## Other Banks

- **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** announced that it will start **pan-India roll out** of its **network** from **April, 2018**.
  - All **1.55 lakh** post office **branches** will operate as **access points** and **650 payments bank branches** will provide them **back-end support**.
  - This will enable IPPB to provide digital payment services at doorstep with help of **Postmen** and **Gramin Dak Sewaks (GDS)**.
- **Bank of Baroda** is going to **exit** the **South African market** amid allegations that **politically connected Gupta family** used its **network** for **illicit transactions**.
  - Bank of Baroda was the last lender in **South Africa** that offered services to **Guptas' companies**.
- India's largest lender **State Bank of India (SBI)** has the **highest** amount of **wilful defaults** amounting to **Rs.27,716 crore** till December, 2017.
  - The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)**, which is under the scanner by top probing agencies for **\$1.77 billion** alleged fraud by firms of jeweller **Nirav Modi**, stood at **second** place with wilful defaults of **Rs.12,574 crore**.
  - **Bank of India** is at **3<sup>rd</sup>** spot with **314 wilful defaulters** who owe **Rs.6,104 crore** to the bank.
- Top US banks like **JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America** and **Citigroup** have announced that they are **halting** the **purchases of crypto currencies** on their **credit cards**.
- The UK's **Lloyds Banking Group** has **banned** its **customers** from **buying crypto currencies** like **Bitcoin** using credit cards as it fears their falling value could leave it with huge debt.
  - The ban applies to **Lloyds Bank, Bank of Scotland, Halifax** and **MBNA** customers.
- **Citibank India** has **banned** the use of its **credit and debit cards** towards **purchase or trading** of **cryptocurrencies** like **Bitcoin**.
  - The decision came following concerns expressed by the **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** regarding **potential risks** associated with **cryptocurrencies**.
- State-owned **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** announced it has **detected** a **USD 1.77 billion** scam.

- **Yes Bank's MTN (Medium Term Note) bonds** issuance has received overwhelming **response** from **international investors**.
  - It has been already listed on **London Stock Exchange International Securities Market (LSE ISM)** and **Singapore Exchange Securities Trading Limited (SGX)**.
- **IndusInd Bank** launched its new **Sonic Identity**, which is essentially a **musical logo**, as part of its **branding initiatives**.
  - The **objective** for associating to a sonic identity is building the **Bank's brand imagery** with the strategic use of **music** and **sound** for brand experiences and audience connection.
- **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)** has identified **21 banks** (6 Public sector banks, **14 Regional Rural Banks** and **1 Cooperative Bank**) as **Makers of Excellence under Atal Pension Yojana (APY) Outreach Programme** as the number of current APY subscribers crosses **86 Lacs** mark.
- Private sector lender **Axis Bank** has opened an Off-shore **Banking Unit** at the **International Financial Services Centre (IFSC)** at **Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City)**.
- The owner of **Rotomac Pens, Vikram Kothari**, has been accused of allegedly fleeing with loans of more than **₹800 crore** from state-owned banks.
- The **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** **lowered** the **interest rate** to **8.55%** for the financial year 2017- 18, compared to **8.65%** for **2016-17**.
  - This is the **second** straight year that the provident fund body, which manages a corpus of over **Rs.11 lakh crore**, has **reduced** the **interest rate**.
- Following the PNB fraud, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to integrate **SWIFT interbank messaging system** with **Core Banking Solution (CBS)** by **April 30**.
  - SWIFT network is used by financial institutions worldwide to **securely transmit information** and instructions using a system of codes.
- The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has signed an agreement for **information utility** with **National e-Governance Services Limited**.
  - The objective of the agreement is to augment the **information infrastructure in India**.
  - This agreement will enable **storing of financial information** that will help **substantiate defaults** and **verify claims expeditiously**.
- The **Punjab National Bank (PNB)** has announced that the amount of **fraudulent transactions**, involving **Nirav Modi** and **Mehul Choksi**, could be over **Rs.1,300 crore** more than the current estimate of **Rs.11,400 crore**.
  - The amount of over **Rs.12,700 crore** relating to the faulty transactions, which were carried out using fraudulent Letters of Undertaking to get overseas credit, is nearly **10 times PNB's 2016-17 net profit**.

### **Insurance**

- Digital payments startup **Paytm** has launched 2 insurance companies, **Paytm Life Insurance** and **Paytm General Insurance**.

### **Supreme Court**

- Following a Supreme Court directive, the **Union Cabinet** has approved the setting up of a **tribunal** to resolve the dispute between **Odisha** and **Chhattisgarh** on **sharing water** from the **Mahanadi River**.
  - In 2016, Odisha had moved the SC against **Chhattisgarh building dams** on the river alleging that it was affecting the river flow and water supply to its farmers.

## **Election Commission**

- **Meghalaya Election Commission** roped in Bollywood singer **Usha Uthup** to **motivate young voters** to go and vote on the day of elections.
  - The department has made a three-minute-long video with the singer to motivate voters.
- Polling has concluded in **Tripura** to elect a **new Assembly**. A total of 292 candidates, including 20 women, are in the fray.
  - The counting of votes will be taken up on the 3, March along with **Nagaland** and **Meghalaya**, which polls on the 27<sup>th</sup> February.

## **Central Government**

- The **Union Budget 2018-19** was presented by **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** in the Parliament on February 1.
  - It is the last full budget of PM Narendra Modi's government before the 2019 elections and the country's **first Union Budget after the implementation of Goods and Services Tax**.
- The government has made **Permanent Account Number (PAN)** **mandatory** for any entity conducting financial transactions of **Rs.2.5 lakh** or more.
- The government is going to assign **four crore milk-producing cows** in the country an **Aadhaar-like cheap, Unique Identity Card (UID)**.
- The **Union Finance Ministry** is going to **ban cryptocurrencies** from **payments system** and at the same time appoint regulator to oversee unregulated exchanges that trade in crypto assets.
  - The **Dinesh Sharma committee** constituted by the Government to look into **issues relating** to cryptocurrencies will finalise its recommendations by submitting its report in current fiscal year, ending on **March 2018**.
- The government is going to issue **tamper-proof degree certificates** secured using **blockchain technology** from the 2019 academic year.
- The Cabinet has approved a proposal to redefine **Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)**, based on their **annual turnover**.
  - The move, which replaces earlier classification based on investment in plant and machinery, is expected to improve **ease of doing business**.
- The **Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs** has approved the **construction of 1,86,777 more affordable houses** under its flagship **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**.
  - The approval was given at the **30<sup>th</sup> meeting** of the **Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee**.
- The government has directed the **banks** to only accept **online applications** for **education loans** in a bid to make the **loan disbursement process transparent** and **efficient**.
- The **Competition Commission of India (CCI)** has imposed **Rs.136 crore fine** on world's most popular search engine **Google** for **unfair business practices** in **Indian market** for **online search**.
  - The penalty was imposed on Google for infringing **anti-trust conduct**.
- The Centre has drafted a plan to check the **flow of sewer water** into the **river Ganga** by installing **Sewage Treatment Plants (STP)** in **10 major cities**.
  - These cities contribute about **65%** of the total **polluted water flowing** into the river.
- The **Union Government** is developing a tool titled **Soft Power Matrix**.
  - **Aim:** To calibrate effectiveness of India's soft power outreach and foster better diplomatic traction in India's immediate neighbourhood and beyond.
- The Centre announced that **Karnataka's Hampi monuments** will be among the **10 destinations** selected as '**Iconic Tourism**' sites.
  - Other selected sites include the **Taj Mahal, Konark Sun Temple, and Ajanta and Ellora caves**.

- The government proposed to make it easier for **small savings scheme** holders to close their accounts early as well as permit the opening of such accounts in the name of a **minor**. At present, small savings accounts like **public provident fund (PPF)** **cannot** be **closed prematurely** before the completion of **five years**.
- **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley** has ruled out **privatisation** of **public sector banks** as a response to the **\$1.77-billion PNB fraud**.
  - Industry bodies **Assocham** and **FICCI** and **businessmen** including **Adi Godrej** and **Rahul Bajaj** had called for privatization.
- According to latest government data, **women constitute** only **7.28% of India's police force**.
  - This comes despite the government's repeated directions to all state governments and union territories to increase the strength of women police personnel to **33%**.
- The **Finance Ministry** has released a **list** of nearly **9,500 Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs)** which have been categorized as '**High-Risk Financial Institutions**'.
  - Some of the companies: **Adani Capital, Cello Capital, DLF Finvest** etc.

### States

- The **Maharashtra** government has announced a scheme titled '**Asmita**' under which a **packet of sanitary pads** will be made available to **seven lakh girls** from government schools in **rural** parts for **Rs.5**.
- The **Maharashtra** government has decided to set up a **Transgender Welfare Board** to **protect their Constitutional and human rights**.
  - This will make **Maharashtra** the **first Indian state** to have such a board.
- **Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar** was launched **20 bike ambulances** to deal with casualties in the **state's tourism belt**.
  - A total of 100 bike ambulances will be introduced in the next six months.
- The **Madhya Pradesh** government launched a **mobile application** titled '**Pollution Metre**' to **spread awareness against pollution** in the **western part** of the state.
- **Bihar Government** has **banned sale** of **loose cigarettes** in the state. This decision **aims** to be **deterrent** to **kids and youngsters** who start smoking by buying loose cigarettes.
- To provide healthy, nutritious and hygienic food at affordable prices to all poor and needy persons, the **Haryana** government has opened **subsidized canteens** in **four districts** under the '**Antyodaya Aahaar Yojana**'.
  - These four districts are **Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar and Yamunanagar**.
- The **Delhi Metro Rail Corporation** has announced that commuters can now use their **Smart Cards** to make payments in **feeder buses** and at parking lots of **13 stations** in the **NCR**.
  - The move is part of **Common Mobility Card project** and is aimed at ensuring last-mile connectivity to commuters.
- To generate **public awareness** on **protection** of **one-horned rhinoceros (pachyderm)**, the **Assam** government will be observing **September 22<sup>nd</sup>** as **Rhino Day**.
  - The day will be dedicated to approximately **2,500 rhino** population in state.

### Place in the News

- To preserve the ecosystem, the **Uttar Pradesh** government has inaugurated the **state's 1<sup>st</sup> ever Butterfly Park** in **Kanpur**.
- **Dubai** has opened the **tallest hotel** in the **world** (356-metres) titled **Gevora Hotel**.
  - The 75-storey structure broke the record earlier held by **JW Marriott Marquis**, which is also situated in **Dubai**, by just one metre.

- A '**Gender park**' open exclusively to **women** and **children** will be set up in **Kerala's Kottayam**.
  - While skill development courses and self-employment training facilities will be offered to women visiting the park, **rehabilitation centres** for **sexual abuse victims** will be set up in its premises.
- An all-woman crew started operating the **Gandhinagar Railway Station** in **Jaipur**, in a first for **Rajasthan**.
  - This is India's **second railway station** with an all woman crew, with the first being **Matunga Railway Station** in **Mumbai**.

### Personalities

- **15<sup>th</sup> Death anniversary** of 1<sup>st</sup> **Indian American woman** in space **Kalpna Chawla** was observed on February 1.
- The **Ministry of External Affairs** has **suspended** the validity of passport of **Nirav Modi** who is accused of defrauding **Punjab National Bank** of over **Rs.11,000 crore**.
- **World's richest man Jeff Bezos** revealed installation of the **500-feet-tall clock**, which will keep time for 10,000 years, has begun in the **US**.
- Indian Air Force officer **Avani Chaturvedi** has become the country's **first woman** to fly a **fighter jet solo**, as she operated **Russian-made MiG-21 aircraft** in her first training sortie.
- Nation paying tribute to martyr **Chandrashekhar Azad** (23<sup>rd</sup> July 1906 – 27<sup>th</sup> February 1931) on his **Death Anniversary** on February 27.

### Defence and National Security

- State-run **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** for **first time** has successfully flown home-made 5.8-tonne **Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)** with its own **automatic flight control system**.
- The **Indian Navy** launched the **third Scorpene class submarine Karanj**.
  - Navy chief **Admiral Sunil Lanba's wife Reena Lanba** launched the submarine, which has been constructed by shipbuilder **Mazagon Dock Limited**.
- **US Air Force Chief of Staff General David L Goldfein** became the 1<sup>st</sup> **foreign military chief** to fly a sortie in the **made in-India Tejas light combat aircraft**.
- **India** successfully **test-fired** the indigenously developed nuclear capable **Agni-1** ballistic missile from the **Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast**.
- **India** successfully **test-fired** indigenously developed nuclear capable **Prithvi-II** missile from **APJ Abdul Kalam island** off the **Odisha coast**.
  - The surface-to-surface missile, which has a strike range of 350 km, is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kg of warheads.
- The **Indian Navy** has unveiled the **Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS)** at **INS Garuda**, naval air station located in **Kochi, Kerala**.
  - It is expected to bring accuracy in **weather monitoring mechanism** in the **Indian Navy**.
- In a strategic move to expand its footprint in the **Indian Ocean region**, **India** has **secured** access to the key Port of **Duqm** in **Oman** for **military use** and **logistical support**.
  - This was one of the key takeaways of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's visit to Oman**.
- '**Paschim Lehar**', a tri-service **maritime exercise** was held at **India's western coast**. Around 40 ships, submarines and fighter aircraft participated in this exercise.
  - **Objective:** To build interoperability.
- **India's indigenous** light transport aircraft **SARAS** has been successfully **test flown** for a **second time**. This was the second of the 20 test flights planned for **SARAS PT1N**, before **freezing** the production version.

- The **Strategic Forces Command** successfully **test-fired** the nuclear-capable **Dhanush** ballistic missile from an **Indian Navy vessel off Odisha coast**.
- The **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)** successfully ran a **test flight** of India-made **Rustom 2**, which is developed along the lines of **US' Predator drones**.
- The **Indian Navy** is going to host the multi-national **MILAN exercise 2018** at **Port Blair** in **Andaman and Nicobar (A&N) islands** from March 6 to 13, 2018.
  - Theme - 'Friendship Across the Seas'
  - **Maldives** has declined India's invitation to participate in this exercise amid the **state of emergency** in **Maldives** after the government refused a Supreme Court order to release political prisoners.

### Committees/Commissions

- The **Ministry of Defence** (Department of Defence Production) constituted a **17 member task force** to study use and application of **Artificial intelligence (AI) in military**.
  - Head of this Task force - **N Chandrasekaran** (Chairman, Tata Sons)
- The **9 member committee** constituted by **Karnataka** government has submitted its report recommending **separate state flag**.
  - The committee has recommended **new tricolour having yellow** (at top), **white** (in middle) and **red** (at bottom) **colorus**, with state's emblem **Gandaberunda** (a two-headed mythological bird) in centre.
  - The **white colour** in new flag symbolizes **peace** and captures Karnataka's image the best, while other **two colours** are synonymous with **Kannada identity**.
- To bring **greater efficiency** and **accountability** in functioning of the **Revenue Department, Punjab government** has notified **6- member Revenue Commission**.
  - Head of this Commission: **SS Saron**
- **Ministry of Defence (MoD)** constituted **13-member Raksha Mantri Advisory Committee** on **Ministry of Defence Capital Projects (RMCOMP)**.
  - This committee will **monitor** and **expedite capital acquisition projects** for **modernization of armed forces** and bolster armed forces preparedness.
  - Head: **Vinay Sheel Oberoi**.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an expert committee to look into the **entire gamut** of issues relating to **classification of bad loans, effectiveness of audits** and **rising incidents of frauds**.
  - Head of this Committee: **Y H Malegam** (Former member of Central Board of Directors of RBI).
- **Government** has constituted an **Empowered Expert Committee (EEC)** to select **20 Institutions of Eminence** from among **104 institutions** (public or private) that have applied for the status.
  - Head of this Committee: **N Gopalaswami** (Former Chief Election Commissioner (CEC))

### Schemes/Initiatives

- The **Ministry of Commerce & Industry** has launched the **3<sup>rd</sup> version** of the **Government e-Marketplace (GeM 3.0)**.
  - GeM is an Online Market platform to facilitate procurement of goods and services by various Ministries and agencies of the Government.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated the annual **Udyanotsav** of the **Mughal Gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
  - Its major attraction will be 10,000 Tulips imported from the **Netherlands**.
- Environment Minister **Dr Harsh Vardhan** launched **Green Good Deeds campaign** in **New Delhi**.
  - Aim: To sensitize people and students, in particular about climate change and global warming.

- The Union Cabinet has approved the implementation of '**Prime Minister's Research Fellows' scheme** at a cost of **Rs.1,650 crore** for a period of **seven years** starting 2018-2019.
  - Under the scheme, students pursuing **PhD in IITs and IISc** will be offered fellowships worth **Rs.70,000-80,000** per month for **five years**.
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated **88<sup>th</sup> Mahamastakabhisheka** of **Lord Gomateshwara** by unveiling an idol of **Bahubali** at **Shravanabelagola** in **Hassan district, Karnataka**.
  - President also lighted lamp to mark inauguration of the mega event which is held once in **12 years**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** laid the **foundation** for **Abu Dhabi's first Hindu temple** via video conferencing.
- **Britain's Prince Charles** has launched a new **10-million-dollar Development Impact Bond (DIB)** to help improve **education** for **over 200,000 children in India**.
  - DIB is the latest fundraising initiative by **British Asian Trust (BAT)** set up by royal 10 years ago to fight **poverty in South Asia**. It is the largest bond of its type in South Asia.
- **Uttar Pradesh State government** in association with **UNICEF** launched massive **door to door campaign** titled **DASTAK**, to eradicate deadly **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)** and **Japanese Encephalitis (JE)** disease in the state.
- **West Bengal** became the **1st state** to opt out of **Centre's National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS)** announced in **Union Budget 2018-19**.
  - According to State Government, it has already made hospitalization and medical treatment **free for its citizens** and has already enrolled 50 lakh people under its **Swasthya Sathi programme**.
- Gujarat Chief Minister **Vijay Rupani** launched the maiden flight of **Bhubaneswar-based airline Air Odisha**, connecting **Ahmedabad and Mundra**.
- To tackle ever-deepening crisis of depleting **groundwater level**, the **Union Government** has formulated ambitious water conservation scheme **Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY)**.
  - Rs.6,000-crore will be piloted under the **Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation** for this scheme.
- **United Kingdom** and **India** have launched joint research projects on '**Water Quality Research**' and '**Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment**'.
  - The '**Water Quality Research**' programme has **8 projects** and '**Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment**' programme has **4 projects**, with total joint investment of up to **£15 million**
- The **Tamil Nadu health** department launched a **Cosmetic Surgery Clinic** at a **government hospital** in **Chennai** to provide **free breast reconstruction surgeries** to the poor.
- The **Maharashtra Women and Child Development Department** has launched an **online portal** titled '**Asmita scheme**' portal (<https://mahaasmita.mahaonline.gov.in/>) for people interested in sponsoring a year-long supply of **sanitary pads** for rural schoolgirls for **Rs.182.40**.
- During his monthly address on **Mann Ki Baat**, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** announced that the newly-launched **GOBAR-Dhan scheme** would make the **farmers** more **selfreliant** apart from converting '**waste to energy**.'
  - **GOBAR-DHAN** : Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan
  - **Aim**: To collect cattle and solid waste from farmers for sale to entrepreneurs who will convert it into manure, biogas and bio-CNG. Will be rolled out in : **April 2018**
- **Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad** has inaugurated the "**Friendship Gate**" near **Integrated Check post**, 90 km **South** of capital **Shillong** on border with **Bangladesh**.



- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** launched subsidized **Amma two wheeler Scheme** for **working women** in **Tamil Nadu**, on the occasion of former **Chief Minister Jayalalithaa's 70<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary**.
  - Under the Amma Two Wheeler Scheme, every beneficiary will be given **50% of cost** of a two-wheeler or grant of **Rs.25,000**.

### **Summit/Conference**

- The **5<sup>th</sup> Edition of South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference** was held in **New Delhi**.
  - This conference was hosted by **Public Procurement Division (PPD)** of **Ministry of Finance** and **All India Management Association (AIMA)**.
  - **Theme: "Public Procurement and Service Delivery"**.
- The **6<sup>th</sup> edition of World Government Summit (WGS) 2018**, a global platform dedicated to shaping future of government worldwide, was concluded at **Madinat Jumeirah** in **Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)**.
  - **India** is the **guest country** at this year's event.
- The **International Conference on Unani Medicine** was held in **New Delhi**. This conference was organized by the **Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM)**, under **Ministry of AYUSH**.
  - **Theme** - "Integration of Unani System of Medicine in main stream healthcare".
- **China** is going to host **Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit 2018** at **Qingdao**, eastern Shandong Province in **June 2018**.
  - **Kazakhstan (Astana)** hosted the **last year's summit** during **8-9th June 2017**.
  - **India, Pakistan** becomes **full members** of SCO on **9<sup>th</sup> June 2017**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **World Sustainable Development Summit 2018** in **New Delhi**.
  - The three-day event has been organized by **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**Magnetic Maharashtra' Convergence Summit 2018** at the **MMRDA grounds** at **Mumbai's Bandra Kurla Complex**.
  - This is Maharashtra's first **Global Investors Summit** and is being regarded as one of the biggest such events, especially on the lines of the '**Make In India**' initiative launched by the Prime Minister in 2016 in Mumbai.
  - It is being run with the tagline **#MadeForBusiness**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** inaugurated the '**UP Investors Summit 2018**' in **Lucknow**.
- **India** is going to host the **1<sup>st</sup> International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit** in **March 2018** at **New Delhi**.
  - This summit will be attended by the leaders from over 50 member countries of ISA including **French President Emmanuel Macron, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid**.
  - During the summit, **two** new programmes **On scaling solar e-mobility and storage**, and **On rooftop solar** will be inaugurated.
- American multinational technology company **Google** recently conducted a three-day '**Developer Students Club' Summit** in **Goa**.
  - **Aim:** To impart knowledge about latest technologies amongst students.
- The 2 day **International conference on Sustainable Bio-fuels** was held in **New Delhi**.
  - This conference was jointly being organized by **Department of Biotechnology** and **Bio-future platform**.
  - **Aim:** To provide common platform to Government policy makers, industry, investors and research community to exchange experiences and challenges related to development and scaling of advance bio-fuels.

- The 21<sup>st</sup> **National Conference on e-Governance** was held in **Hyderabad** (Telangana).  
– **Theme** - 'Technology for accelerating Development'.

#### **Agreement/Deal/Signed**

- The **Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency (IREDA)** and **Rewa Ultra Mega Solar Limited (RUMSL)** signed a sub-loan agreement for financing the shared infrastructure of **two solar power projects in Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Infosys Foundation**, the philanthropic arm of IT major Infosys, has signed a MoU with the **Kailash Satyarthi Children's Foundation** for a grant to create a child-friendly village towards improving children's health, providing education and creating a **non-violent environment**.
- The **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** inked pact with the **World Bank** for **Jal Marg Vikas Project** to enhance navigation on **National Waterway-1** from **Varanasi to Haldia**.
- The **Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)** has inked MoU with **Russian firm United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC)** to develop specialized vessels for **Inland and Coastal shipping**.
- **India** has joined the **Ashgabat Agreement** which plans to facilitate **trade between Central Asia** and the **Persian Gulf** by creating a transport and transit corridor.  
– **Turkmenistan, Iran, Oman and Uzbekistan** had signed the pact in **2011**.
- **Indian Railways** signed MoU with **Department of Posts** for setting up of **Passenger Reservation System** counters at **Post Offices**.
- **Sweden** has signed **Strategic Partnership Agreement** with **United Nations** for committing record **\$370 million dollars** to **UN World Food Programme**.  
– It is the biggest ever contribution made by donor within a **WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement**.
- Cab-hailing startup **Ola** and the **Government of Assam** have signed a MoU to pilot an app based **river taxi service** in **Guwahati**.
- The Union Cabinet approved signing of MoU for **Secondment Programme** between **India and Australia**.  
– The MoU will be signed between **Department of Economic Affairs (DEA)-Indian Economic Service Cadre** and **The Treasury, Government of Australia** for period of **three months**.
- Search Engine giant **Google** and **National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** has signed an agreement to integrate a course on '**Digital Citizenship and Safety**' in **information and communication technology (ICT)** curriculum.  
– The course aims to bring awareness amongst the young generation of India to make **Internet a Safe space**.
- **India and Palestine** signed **6 agreements** on the **infrastructural development** in the **Palestine**.
- During Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** maiden visit to **Oman**, both **India and Oman** have signed **8 Agreements** in various fields.
- During the President of **Iran Hassan Rouhani's** India visit, both countries have signed **9 MOUs**.
- **Botanical Survey of India (BSI)** and **Natural History Museum (NHM)**, **UK** signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of **genetic/taxonomic studies, research and training, conservation** in **India**, including **species and habitat conservation assessments**.
- **Government** has signed **second Loan Agreement** with **New Development Bank (NDB)** for financing of **Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project** for the **Desert Areas**.  
– This is the first tranche loan of **\$100 million** was approved by the NDB under **Multi Tranche Financing Facility** of **\$345 million** for this project.
- **US-based Virgin Hyperloop One** has signed an MoU with **Maharashtra** government for a **Hyperloop** between **Mumbai and Pune**.

- The **Maharashtra** government signed a MoU of **Rs.35,000** crore with **Amol Yadav**, the man who built an **aircraft on his rooftop**.
  - According to the MoU, the state government has promised to give **infrastructural** and **financial support** to Yadav.
- The Union Cabinet has approved **Cooperation Agreement** between **India** and **Moroccan National Railways Office** (ONCFM) to develop long-term cooperation and **partnership** in different areas of railway sector.
- The **Indian Railways** has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the **Maharashtra** government to set up a **Rs.600-crore metro coach factory** in **Latur** district.
- **India** and **Canada** have signed a bilateral agreement to support **entrepreneurs** and **startups** from both the countries.
- **Madhu Mantena**, co-producer of the **Rs.500 crore** film being planned on the epic **Ramayana**, signed a MoU with the **Uttar Pradesh** government's **cinema arm Film Bandhu** to support making of the film in the state.
  - The film will reportedly be **India's most expensive film** to be made.
- **India** and **Canada** have agreed to work together against **Sikh terror outfits Babbar Khalsa International** and the **International Sikh Youth Federation** (ISYF).
- The **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry** (FICCI) has entered into partnership with **Department of Science and Technology** (DST) to implement and execute the **ASEAN India Research Training Fellowship** (AIRTF).
- **India** has inked MoU with **Canada's International Development Research Centre** (IDRC) for supporting its 'programme based **research** support in addressing current and future global and local developmental challenges.
- The **Union Government** has inked **\$84 million loan** agreement with **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) for improvement and expansion of **water supply** in **Bhagalpur** and **Gaya** towns in **Bihar**.
- The **Andijan Region of Uzbekistan** and **India** have signed an agreement for cooperation in the **pharmaceutical industry**.
- **India** and **Germany** have inked MoU for "Implementation Agreement in Sustainable **Urban Development** and **Smart Cities** in India.
- The **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research** (CSIR) has entered into MoU with **Indian Ocean Rim Association's** (IORA's) **Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer** (RCSTT) for designating **Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Lucknow** (CSIR-CIMAP) as **Coordinating Centre on Medicinal Plants**.
- **Flipkart's payments platform PhonePe** has signed a partnership with **Indian Oil Corporation Limited** (IOCL) to deploy its recently launched **Point of Sale** (POS) devices at IOCL retail outlets.

### **Meet/Visit**

- **Nepal's last king Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev** was visited to **Odisha** for **six** days from **6<sup>th</sup>** February 2018.
  - During this visit, he was inaugurated the '**Mission Wow Cow Goshala**' at **Rathipur near Jatni** on February 7.
  - He also visits the 12th century **Shree Jagannath Temple** at **Puri** and visit **Sakhigopal Temple**.
  - He is going to lay the foundation stone for a **Gaumata Mandir**.
- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** was visited to **Jordan, Palestine, UAE** and **Oman**.

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** became the **1st Indian Prime Minister** to **visit Palestine** after he arrived in Ramallah as part of his three-nation tour.
  - **Aim:** Strengthening India's ties with the Gulf and West Asian region.
- The **4<sup>th</sup> meeting** of the **Economic Advisory Council** to the **Prime Minister** (EAC-PM) was held in **New Delhi** under the **chairmanship** of **Dr Bibek Debroy**, **Chairman, EAC-PM & Member, NITI Aayog**.
  - Besides, presentations were also made on **Health Reforms**, **World Bank Report on Indian Economy** and on **Indian Fiscal – Monetary Framework**.
- **Iran President Hassan Rouhani** was visited to **India** for a three-day visit and was received by **Union Minister RK Singh** at **Hyderabad airport**.
  - During his **India** visit, **Iranian President Hassan Rouhani** has announced that his country will **simplify visa norms** for **India** so that people of India find it convenient to sustain their relationship with the people of **Iran**.
- **Canadian PM Justin Trudeau** was visited to **India** for his 7-day state visit.
- Finance Minister **Arun Jaitley** was visited to **Saudi Arabia**.
  - During this visit, he was co-chairing the **12<sup>th</sup> India Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting (JCM)** which was held during **18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2018** at **Riyadh**.
- The **7<sup>th</sup> Meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG)** on **Nepal-India** relations was recently held at **Kathmandu**.
  - Various bilateral issues including **1950 Peace and Friendship** treaty, trade, environment, border and hydropower were discussed during the two-day meeting.
  - Next meeting of the group will be held in **New Delhi**.

#### **Bills**

- **Canada's Upper House of Parliament** has passed a **bill** to modify the country's **National Anthem** in a bid to make it **gender neutral**.
  - The words "**thy sons command**" in the **second line** of the anthem will be replaced with "**all of us command**".
- Under its new **Wealth Order law**, the **UK** will **seize assets** held by **foreign criminals and corrupt politicians**.
  - This law allows authorities to freeze assets exceeding **£50,000** (over **Rs.45 lakh**) in value if their **owners** are **unable** to **explain** how they acquired them.
- The government is going to reintroduce the **Transgender bill** in the **Parliament** with changes suggested by a **parliamentary committee** and **various rights groups**.
  - Some of the changes include, dropping the phrase "**neither wholly male or female**" from the definition of transgender and doing away with the need to have a screening committee at the district level.
- The **Rajasthan** government has announced the **withdrawal** of a **bill** seeking to **bar courts** from taking up **complaints** against **public servants without government sanction**, after it was triggered widespread protests.

#### **Fund**

- The **Union Government** has announced **Rs.1.4 lakh-crore Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme** for promoting **solar farming** i.e. decentralized solar power production of up to **28,250 MW** to help **farmers**.
  - The Union Budget 2018-19 has allocated **Rs. 48,000 crore** for the scheme for the **ten-year period**.
- India has contributed additional **\$1 million** to **India-UN Development Partnership Fund**, earmarked for **South-South cooperation**.
  - The contribution aims to intensify its partnerships with other developing countries in south.

- The flag carrier airline of India, **Air India** is going to get a **onetime grant** of **€750,000** (approximately **Rs.6 crore**) from **Israel** for launching **direct flights between New Delhi and Tel Aviv**.
- **Singapore** is going to **pay** its **citizens** aged **21** and above a one off '**SG Bonus**' of up to **S\$300** each as the 2017 budget included a **surplus** of **Singapore \$10 billion**.
- **India** has contributed **\$1 million** aid to **Tonga** for **rehabilitation efforts** after the **Island nation** was hit by **Tropical Cyclone Gita** which had caused massive destruction across the pacific ocean archipelago.

### Economy

- **Venezuela** formally launched a pre-sale of its **state backed crypto currency 'Petro'** in a bid to recover from its worst financial crisis.
  - '**Petro**' is the world's **first** state-issued crypto asset.
- **Goa CM Manohar Parrikar** presented the **Rs.17,123- crore budget** for 2018-19, an increase of **6.84 per cent** over the ongoing fiscal, with a stress on **education** and **job creation**.
- **Iran** is planning to launch its own national **crypto currency**. This crypto currency would help **Iran evade** the potential **US sanctions**.
- The **Assam Assembly** will introduce **Digital budget** in its **next session**, doing away with the traditional printed booklet form practice.
  - The state budget will be presented by Finance Minister **Himanta Biswa Sarma** on **March 12** in a digital format.
- **Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Dr Raman Singh** presents **Budget** for the financial year 2018-2019.
  - With an outlay of **Rs.83,179 crore**, the budget focuses on **infrastructure**, **school education** and **agriculture**.
- **Yogi Adityanath** govt in **Uttar Pradesh** presented its first full-fledged **budget** for **Rs.4,28,384.52 cr** for financial year 2018-19.

### Companies/Industry

- **South Korean** electronics giant **Samsung** has started manufacturing **hardware** specialized for **Bitcoin mining**.
  - The move will see Samsung supply the chips to a **Chinese company** that makes **Bitcoin mining** equipment.
- Mobile payments company **Paytm** and **Alibaba** Group-owned **AGTech Holdings Ltd** have formed a joint venture to launch **Gamepind**, a gaming platform aimed at mobile users in **India**.
- Technology giant **Apple** is going to open a **data centre** in **China** by **2020** with an investment of **\$1 billion**.
  - The centre will cover 67 hectares in the **Guian New Area** and will offer **iCloud services** on the **Chinese mainland**.
- To create awareness around **Internet safety**, the search engine giant **Google** has launched '**#SecurityCheckKiya**' campaign in **India**.
  - Aim: To protect first time web users from account hijacking, safeguard Android devices from malicious apps and secure all their personal data if they lose their device.
- Social media major **Facebook** has confirmed that it is testing a '**Downvote**' **button** in the comment section of posts on **public Pages**.
  - The intention behind the test is to gain **feedback** from users about comments on the posts.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** has given consent to launch **WhatsApp BHIM UPI beta** with limited user base of **1 million** and low per transaction limit.

- **Google-spinoff Waymo** has become the **first company** to receive approval to launch a **driverless commercial ride-hailing** service in the **US**.
- **Amazon** has launched its own **food retail venture** titled **Amazon Retail** in **Pune**. With this, Amazon has become the **first foreign e-commerce firm** to start its **own food retail venture** in **India**.
- **Google** announced that users can now pay **utility bills** with its **Unified Payments Interface-based** payment app '**Tez**', **without any transaction charges**.
  - The feature includes bills for **electricity, gas, water, DTH** as well as **mobile postpaid bills** and **recharge**.
- In order to take on **Apple Pay**, the technology giant **Google** has launched a new payments app called **Google Pay**.
  - The platform includes features like the ability to **pay at checkout counters** with a smart phone, or pay for **public transportation**.
- **Microsoft** is going to add support for **email addresses** in **15 Indian languages** across its **apps** and **services**.
- In order to provide access to information on commonly-searched symptoms, **Google** has rolled out a new feature called '**Symptom Search**' in **India**.
  - If a user searches for symptoms like 'cough and pain', the Search app will show a list of related conditions.
- E-commerce major **Amazon India** launched its ad-free **music** streaming service, **Amazon Prime Music**, for the Prime members, at no extra-cost.
  - The service offers unlimited offline downloads and includes a wide range of songs across international and Indian music labels in **over 10 languages**.

#### Exports/Imports

- **Saudi Arabia** has temporarily **banned** imports of live **birds**, hatching eggs and chicks from **India** over an outbreak of a **bird flu virus** in the state of **Karnataka**.

#### Taxation/Trade

- Amid severe financial constraints, **Punjab Chief Minister Captain Amarinder Singh** has suggested that all **MLAs** in the state pay their **own income tax**, which is currently borne by the state.
  - This move will help the state save **Rs.11.08 crore** annually.
- **Singapore** is going to **impose** a '**Carbon Tax**' from **2019** to reduce **greenhouse gas emissions** in an effort to **fight climate change**.
  - A tax of **S\$5 per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions** will be levied from 2019 to 2023 and will be imposed on facilities producing 25,000 tonnes or more of greenhouse gas emissions per year.
- To protect domestic producers, the **Indian** government has imposed an **anti-dumping duty** on import of **ceramic tableware** and **kitchenware** from **China** for **five years** starting **June 2017**.
  - They will attract an anti-dumping duty of **\$1.04 (Rs.67.3)** per kg, making the imports expensive.

#### Space

- The **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** is going to **send** the **Chandrayaan-2** on the world's first-ever mission to soft land near the **Moon's** south pole.
  - The mission could take place either in the first quarter or **second half of 2018**. The **Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle Mark II** will carry the **Chandrayaan-2**.
- **Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency** has claimed to set a new **spaceflight record** for launching the **smallest rocket** ever to carry a satellite into orbit.

- The **SS-520 sounding rocket** carried a three-unit microsatellite measuring **13.6 inches** in length and **weighing 3 kgs**.
- **Elon Musk-led SpaceX** has successfully launched the **world's most powerful operational rocket Falcon Heavy** towards **Mars**.
  - The rocket, carrying a **Tesla Roadster car**, will revolve around the **Sun** in a way that will repeatedly bring it close to the Earth and Mars.
- Russian space agency **Roskosmos** has successfully launched **Progress MS-08**, an unmanned **cargo spacecraft** for the **International Space Station (ISS)**.
  - It was launched onboard of **Soyuz-2.1a rocket** from **Russian leased Baikonur** launch facility in **Kazakhstan**.
- **Elon Musk-led** space exploration startup **SpaceX** has successfully launched its **Falcon 9** rocket, which carried two test satellites for its planned **Global Internet Broadband Service**.
- For safe keeping of astronauts, the **Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO)** has started working towards developing '**Igloos**' on **Moon**, called the **lunar habitats**.
  - The habitats will be built by **sending robots** and **3D printers** to the **Moon** and using **lunar soil**.

### Science and Technology

- To **prevent** the passage of incurable **genetic diseases** from **mothers** to off-springs, the **Britain's** fertility regulator **Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA)** has allowed doctors to create country's first '**Three-Parent**' Babies through **Mitochondrial Donation Therapy (MRT)**.
- **World's first robot citizen Sophia** is expected to make a public appearance in **India** at a **global technology** event in **Hyderabad**.
  - The humanoid, designed by **Hong Kong-based Hanson Robotics**, was given citizenship by **Saudi Arabia** last year.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** announced that it successfully completed the first flight of **Hawk-i fighter jet** with indigenous **Real Time Operating System (RTOS)** developed by it.
- **Indian Railways** in collaboration with **General Electric (GE)** has inducted two **Digitally Enabled Locomotives** based on state of art **insulated-gate bipolar transistor (IGBT) technology**.
- **Germany** and **France-based researchers** have recorded **100 million** distance values per **second**, demonstrating the fastest distance measurement so far.
  - The team studied a bullet travelling at **540 kmph** with micro-metre accuracy using laser-based **LIDAR** (light detection and ranging).

### Health/Diseases/Drugs

- According to a recently released **UNICEF** study, every year in **India**, at least **6,00,000 newborns die within 28 days** of their birth.
  - The study also revealed that **Pakistan** is the **riskiest country** to be **born** in as it accounted for the world's highest newborn mortality rate.
- The **Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare** launched '**Viral Load testing**' for all **People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)**.
  - The viral load test measures amount of HIV in blood number of copies of HIV RNA in millilitre of blood.

### Energy/Gas/Oil

- An Indian consortium led by **ONGC** has agreed to pay **\$600 million** (over ₹3,850 crore) for a **10% stake** in an **offshore oilfield** in **UAE's Abu Dhabi**.
  - This mark the first time Indian oil companies have been given a stake in **Abu Dhabi's hydrocarbon resources**.

- India's biggest electricity producer NTPC Ltd has **won tender** to supply **300 megawatts (MW)** of **electricity** to power-starved **Bangladesh** for 15 years.
  - The tender was floated by **Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB)** for supply of **500 MW power** from **India** for short term (2018-2019) and long term (2020 - 2033).
- President **Ram Nath Kovind** hosted '**LPG Panchayat**' at **Rashtrapati Bhavan**.
  - **Aim:** To provide a platform for LPG consumers to interact with each other, promote mutual learning and share experiences.
  - It was organized by the **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas** under the **Pradhan Mantri Ujjawala Yojana (PMUY)**.

## Environment

- In an initiative to improve India's weather forecasting, the **Ministry of Earth Science (MoES)** launched a **high performance computer (HPC)** system named **Mihir**.
  - The **HPC** will be **India's largest** in terms of peak capacity and performance and will propel the country's ranking from the **368<sup>th</sup> position** to the **top 30** in list of HPC facilities across the world.
- The **Union Ministry of Power** has launched a **Web based monitoring System** and **Fly Ash mobile application** titled **ASH TRACK**.
  - It was launched by **Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy R.K Singh** in **New Delhi**.
  - **ASH TRACK Mobile App** will manage **200 million tonnes of fly ash** by tracking coal based power plants situated within **100 km and 300 km** from given location and availability of fly ash, along with prospective users within same radius.
- **Belgium's capital Brussels** is going to provide **free public transport** on days of excessive **air pollution** under new **emergency rules**.
  - **Speed limits of cars** would be **reduced** by a **third** and wood fires will be **banned** unless they are the only source of heating for households.

## Education

- The **1<sup>st</sup>** part of the **Oxford English Dictionary** was published on **1<sup>st</sup> February** in the year **1884**.
- The **Madhya Pradesh education department** has decided to implement a **uniform dress code** for government **teachers** to check their **personality differences**.
  - Teachers will also have to wear a name tag with '**Rashtra Nirmata**' (maker of the nation) written on it.
- The **Union Health Ministry** has passed a proposal that makes it **mandatory** for **Indian students** to clear **National Eligibility cum Entrance Test (NEET)** to obtain an eligibility certificate for applying to **medical colleges abroad**.
- **Kerala** has made **vaccination compulsory** for **school admissions** from next academic year onwards.
- **Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar** announced that the **NCERT syllabus** will be **reduced to half** from the **2019** academic session.
  - The move is aimed at ensuring that students get time to **pursue other activities** for their all-round development.
- To improve the **learning skills** of **students** in government and municipal-run schools, the **Delhi** government has announced the launch of '**Mission Buniyaad**' from this year.

## Transport/Cars/Scooters

- **Indian Railways'** all new 12,000 horsepower **Electric Locomotive**, which is being produced in collaboration with **Alstom of France** and which can run at speeds of up to **120 kmph**, would be rolled out in **March** when **French President Emmanuel Macron** visits **India**.



- To **guide road engineers** and **policy makers** about **road expansion**, the **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways** has released India's first ever **Highway Capacity Manual** named **Indo-HCM**.
  - It lays down guidelines for when and how to **expand** or **manage different types of roads** and their **intersections** and **level of services** to be put in place.

### **Films and Film Festival**

- **Guillermo del Toro**, director of **'The Shape of Water'**, which has received **13 nominations** at **Oscars 2018**, won the **Prize for Outstanding Directorial Achievement** in **Feature Film** at the **Directors Guild of America Awards**.
  - **Reed Morano** was named **best director** in **Dramatic Series** for **'The Handmaid's Tale'**.
  - **Jordan Peele** was awarded **best First-Time Feature Film Director** for **'Get Out'**.
- The drama film **'Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri'** written, produced, and directed by **Martin McDonagh** has won the **Best Film Award** at the **British Academy Film Awards (BAFTAs)** 2018.
  - **Gary Oldman** was honored with **Best Actor Award**.
  - **Frances McDormand** was honored with **Best Actress Award**.
- Veteran filmmaker **Ramesh Sippy**, who directed the classic blockbuster **"Sholay"** and tele-serial **"Buniyaad"**, would be conferred the **1st 'Raj Kapoor Award for Excellence in Cinema'**.

### **Festival**

- The **32<sup>nd</sup> edition** of **Surajkund International Crafts Mela** was recently held at **Faridabad, Haryana**.
  - Theme - **Uttar Pradesh Partner Nation of 2018 : Kyrgyzstan**
- Vice President **Venkaiah Naidu** inaugurated the **1<sup>st</sup> International Kala Mela** in **New Delhi**.
  - **Lalit Kala Akademi**, the premier institution for the promotion of **Art and Culture** is organizing this mela, wherein artists and groups can showcase their art works from **4<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> February 2018**.
- The **'1<sup>st</sup> Pelican Bird Festival-2018'** was held at **Atapaka Bird Sanctuary** located at **Kolleru Lake** in **Andhra Pradesh**.
  - This festival was jointly organized by **Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority (APTA)** and **Krishna district administration**.
- The King and **Prime Minister of Saudi Arabia Salman bin Abdulaziz** along with **Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj**, have inaugurated the **32<sup>nd</sup> edition** of **Saudi Arabia's National Heritage Festival** in **Janadriyah village, Riyadh**.
- For the first time, **India** has hosted the **8<sup>th</sup> Theatre Olympics**, the largest international theatre festival, with participation from **30 countries** in a series of performances to be held across **India**.
  - The 51-day-long event was inaugurated at the **majestic Red Fort** on **February 17** by **Vice President Venkaiah Naidu**.
  - The festival will be concluded on **April 8** with a grand ceremony at the iconic **Gateway of India** in **Mumbai**.
  - **Theme: 'Flag of Friendship'**
- **Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel** inaugurated the **44<sup>th</sup> edition** of **Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018** at **Khajuraho temple**, a **UNESCO world heritage site** in **Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh**.

### **Media /I.T / Telecommunication**

- According to a recently released report by **UK-based wireless coverage mapping company OpenSignal**, **India** has recorded the **lowest 4G LTE speed** in the world at an average of **6.07 Mbps**.

- **Singapore topped** the list with an **average 4G speed of 44.31 Mbps**, followed by the **Netherlands and Norway**.
- Telecom Major **Bharti Airtel** and **Chinese telecom equipment** manufacturer **Huawei** announced they have successfully conducted India's first-ever **5G trial**, achieving a data speed of over **3 GB per second**.
  - This comes days after state-run **BSNL signed** a pact with **Japan's NTT AT** and their Indian partner **Virgo Corps** to create a "**5G test-bed**".
- **Indian** multinational information technology (IT) provider, **Tech Mahindra** has set up a **lab** in **Bangalore** in association with **US chipmaker Intel** to prepare for **5G services**.
  - The company expects to roll out 5G services by **2019**.
- As part of a first privately-funded mission, the **Moon** is going to get its **1<sup>st</sup> 4G mobile network** next year to allow lunar exploration vehicles to stream high-definition data back to a base station.
  - **Vodafone Germany, Nokia**, and carmaker **Audi** jointly announced that they were working in collaboration with **Berlin-based space exploration scientists**.
- Telecom operator **Aircel** announced it has filed for **bankruptcy** as the company has been facing "troubled times" in "highly financially stressed" industry.

#### **Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?**

- Distinguished scientist **Dinesh Srivastava** took over as **Chief Executive of Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC)**.
  - He has replaced **G Kalyanakrishnan** who retired on superannuation.
- 1982 batch officer of **Indian Information Service (IIS)** **Neelam Kapoor** has been appointed as the **Director General (DG)** of the **Sports Authority of India (SAI)**.
- The government appointed **Errol D'Souza** as the **new director** of **IIM, Ahmedabad**.
  - **A V Vellayan**, executive chairman of **Murugappa Group** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Board of Governors (BoG)** at **IIM Kozhikode**.
- **Japanese conglomerate SoftBank** has hired **Andrew Kovacs** as its **Global Head of Communications** for its \$100 billion **Vision Fund**.
- **Bangladesh** appointed **Syed Mahmud Hossain** as the **new Chief Justice**.
- Senior IPS officer **Sudeep Lakhtakia** took charge as the new **Director General of National Security Guard (NSG)**.
  - He has replaced **S P Singh** and will hold post till **July 2019**.
- The government has approved a proposal to **extend the tenure** of **Niti Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** till June 30, 2019.
- India's second largest Credit Card Issuer, **SBI Card** has appointed **Hardayal Prasad** as its new **MD & CEO**. He has replaced **Mrs Vijay Jasuja** who retired on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018.
- **Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan**, who has vast experience in counterinsurgency operations, took charge as the **new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO)** of the **Indian Army**.
  - He has replaced **Lt General A K Bhatt** who will assume charge of the **Srinagar-based 15 Corps**.
- Retired bureaucrat **Naba Kumar Nayak** has been **appointed** as the **State Election Commissioner (SEC)** in **Odisha**, ahead of this year's **urban local body (ULB) elections**.
- **Cypriot President Nicos Anastasiades** beat his leftist rival to clinch a **second term** in a runoff election.
- **Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari** announced that the Bollywood actor **Akshay Kumar** is going to be the **Brand Ambassador** for the **government's Road Safety Awareness Campaign**.
- IFS Officer **Thanglura Darlong** has been appointed as the **next Ambassador of India to Romania**.

- An officer of **Indian Railway Accounts Service (IRAS)** of 1981 batch, **A.K. Prasad** has been appointed as the **new Financial Commissioner (Railways)**.
- **PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi** has been appointed as the **International Cricket Council's (ICC)** first ever **independent female director**.
- **Acting Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, Antony Dominic**, was sworn in as the **Chief Justice of Kerala**.
  - **Kerala Governor P. Sadasivam** administered the **Oath of Office** in the presence of **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan** at **Raj Bhavan**.
- **Abhilasha Kumari** was sworn in as the **Chief Justice of the Manipur High Court**.
  - With this, she became **first women and third full-time Chief Justice of Manipur High Court**.
- The **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)** appointed **Biswamohan Mahapatra** as non-executive **Chairman** for two years with immediate effect.
  - He is going to replace **B Sambamurthy** who was the interim chairman.
- **Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid** has been **re-elected** for a **second term**.
- **Jnanpith recipient and Kannada litterateur Chandrashekhar Kambar** has been appointed as the new **President of the Sahitya Akademi**. He will serve for a period of 5 years.
  - Hindi poet **Madhav Kaushik** was elected as **vice president** of the **Sahitya Akademi**.
- US President Donald J. Trump appointed **Lt Gen Paul Nakasone** as the **next Director of National Security Agency and US Cyber Command**.
- Following the resignation of scandal-hit Jacob Zuma, **Cyril Ramaphosa** has been elected as **President of South Africa** by a parliamentary vote.
- **Former Managing Director of Facebook India and South Asia Umang Bedi** has joined **Bangalore-based news and local language content application Dailyhunt** as its **President**.
- Rear Admiral **Mukul Asthan** has been appointed as the **Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air)** at **New Delhi**.
- **Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli** from the **Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist)** has been sworn in as the **41<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of Nepal**.
  - **Nepal President Bidya Devi Bhandari** administered the oath of office.
- **Ashok Das**, a 1987 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, was named **India's new Ambassador to Brazil**.
- **Pakistan Peoples Party's Krishna Kumari** became the first **female Hindu lawmaker in Pakistan** since 1947.
- **Japan's government** reappointed **Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda** for another term.
- BJP nominated **Rajendra Trivedi**, a two-time BJP MLA from Raopura as the **Speaker** of the 14<sup>th</sup> state **Legislative Assembly, Gujarat**.
- **Rakesh Singh** has been appointed as **head of private banking at HDFC Bank**.
- Cricket icon **Sachin Tendulkar** has been made **the brand ambassador** of the upcoming **T20 Mumbai League**.
- **Indian women's cricket team opener Smriti Mandhana** was named as the **new brand ambassador** of **Bata's sport wear brand 'Power'**.
- The **Muthoot Group** has roped in **Amitabh Bachchan** as **brand ambassador** to represent them in their national campaigns.
- Grand Master **Vidit Gujrathi** has been appointed as the **brand ambassador** of **All India Chess Federation** for the **Blind (AICFB)**.

- **Pakistan's** ruling **Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N)** party appointed ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's brother **Shehbaz Sharif** as its interim **president**.
- Archaeologist and historian **Arvind P. Jamkhedkar** has been appointed as the **next Chairman** of the **Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**.
  - He is going to replace the present **Chairman K. Sudershan Rao**.

#### **Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit**

- **South African President Jacob Zuma** has **resigned** from the post after defying a 48-hour deadline given by the ruling **African National Congress (ANC)** to leave the office.
- **Ethiopia's Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn** announced that he has submitted his **resignation** as both **premier** and the **chairman** of the ruling coalition amid a political crisis in the **African** country.
- Former **England** captain **Kevin Pietersen** has announced that he is going to **retire**.
  - The upcoming **Pakistan Super League** will be his last professional tournament as a **cricketer**.

#### **Arrests/Jailed**

- A **Bangladesh court** sentenced Opposition leader and two time ex-PM **Khaleda Zia** to **five years** in **jail** for **corruption**.
- Former Finance Minister **P Chidambaram's** son **Karti Chidambaram** was **arrested** at **Chennai Airport** by the CBI for not cooperating in the investigation of the **INX Media money laundering case**.

#### **Deaths**

- **Fidel Castro Diaz-Balart (68)**, the **eldest son** of late Cuban revolutionary leader and **President Fidel Castro**, committed suicide after being suffering from depression.
- **Spain's Francisco Nunez Olivera (113)**, the **world's oldest man**, has passed away. Olivera was born on December 13, 1904, months after Spanish painter Salvador Dalí.
- Former Minister and presently member of **Andhra Pradesh** Legislative Council **Gali Muddukrishnama Naidu (70)** passed away.
- **Pakistan's** well known human right activist and senior lawyer **Asma Jahangir (66)** passed away in Lahore.
- Noted **French jazz violinist Didier Lockwood (62)**, a disciple of the late Stephane Grappelli, passed away.
- The **mascot** of **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan Kunwar Bai (106)** passed away due to a prolonged illness.
- Veteran Bollywood actress **Sridevi (54)** passed away in **Dubai**.
- The **Shankaracharya** of **Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham**, **Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal (82)**, passed away.

#### **Awards/Honours**

- **Legendary Bengali actor Soumitra Chatterjee (83)** was awarded **France's highest civilian award, Legion d'Honneur**.
- **Assam Governor Prof. Jagdish Mukhi** released a **postage stamp** as a **mark of respect** to the legendary footballer **Dr. Talimeren Ao** on the occasion of his birth centenary year.
  - Dr. Talimeren Ao, an ace footballer who was born on January 28, 1918 was instrumental in popularizing football in **Assam**.
- **Kerala Governor** and **Calicut University Chancellor P. Sathasivam** conferred the **D. Litt** on Malayalam superstar **Mohanlal** and veteran athlete **P.T. Usha**, "the Payyoli Express".

- **Minister of State (IC) of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), Jitendra Singh** has been conferred with **degree of Honorary Doctorate** by **Amity University** in recognition of his **lifetime achievements** in field of academics, research and public life.
- **Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar** was honored with **Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman Award**.
  - He is **second writer** of **Magahi** language to be honored with this award.
- The **Odisha Government** has won '**Geospatial World Excellence Award-2018**' for successful **IT application** for **tracking of mineral production**, dispatch and value accrued on real-time basis through its **i3MS web-based software**.
- Bollywood Actors **Bhumi Pednekar** and **Vicky Kaushal** have featured in **Forbes India's '30 under 30' list**.
  - **Mithila Palkar**, known for her roles in web series, singer **Jubin Nautiyal**, fashion designer **Alan Alexander Kaleekal** and jewellery designer **Suhani Parekh** were also included in the list, which focuses on young achievers under the age of 30.
- **Indian** cricketers **Jasprit Bumrah** and **Harmanpreet Kaur** have been named in **Forbes India 30 Under 30 achievers list**.
  - The list also includes **women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia** and shooter **Heena Sidhu**.
- Veteran filmmaker **Shyam Benegal** has been selected for the prestigious '**V. Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award**' of the **Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF-2018)**.
  - The award was conferred on Benegal by **Maharashtra Governor CV Rao** at the **MIFF 2018 valedictory function**.
- In a special recognition of Prime Minister **Narendra Modi's** contribution to relations between **Palestine and India**, **Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas** conferred the **Grand Collar of the State of Palestine** on him.
- **Indian princess Sophia Alexandra Duleep Singh** was honored by the **Royal Mail** of the **UK**, which marked the centenary of the suffragette movement with **eight special stamps**.
- **Reliance Industries (RIL)** has been awarded the **Golden Peacock Award 2017** for **corporate social responsibility (CSR)** initiatives.
  - The award was recognition, in particular, of the work done by its CSR arm **Reliance Foundation** under Founder and Chairman **Nita Ambani**.
- **Vikas Sathaye**, an engineer from **Mumbai**, is part of a **four member team** that bagged the '**Scientific and Engineering Award**' at the **Oscars 2018 Scientific and Technical Awards**.
  - The team was honored for the development and implementation of **Shotover K1 Camera System**.
- **Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati** has won the '**Best Minister in the World**' award at the **World Government Summit** in **Dubai**.
  - She was honored with this prestigious award for her efforts in implementing successful **reforms** to tackle **corruption** and **increase transparency** in her country.
- **India's Aadhaar and Umang App** have won awards at recently concluded **6<sup>th</sup> World Government Summit 2018** in **Dubai**.
  - **Umang App** won in **Best m-Government Service Award** for **Accessible Government Category**.
  - **Aadhaar** won in the **Best Government Emerging Technologies Award**.
- Veteran singer **Asha Bhosle** was honored with the **Yash Chopra Memorial Award**.

- The **Department of Science and Technology** was honored **Raghubir Singh Khandpur** with a national award on **National Science Day** (February 28) for his contribution to science and his efforts to make the **Science City in Punjab's Kapurthala** into an international-level facility.

### Sports/Game

- Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** has launched the first '**Khelo India**' school games at **Delhi's Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium**.
  - Talented players identified by a government committee at the games will be provided with an annual assistance of **Rs.5 lakh** for **eight years**.
- **India** defeated **Australia** by 8 wickets to **win** their **ICC Under-19 World Cup**.
  - This is the **4<sup>th</sup> time** **India** won ICC Under-19 World Cup (2000, 2008, 2012 and 2018) the most for any nation.
  - For the first time, an Indian was the **top wicket-taker** in the tournament after spinner **Anukul Roy** finished the 2018 edition with joint-highest 14 wickets.
- **Luger Shiva Keshavan** and cross country skier **Jagdish Singh** were **representing India** at the **PyeongChang Winter Olympics** which begins on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2018.
- **7 Indian boxers**, including five-time world champion **Mary Kom**, won **gold** medals in the **India Open International Boxing Tournament**.
- Professional table tennis player of Tamil Nadu, **Sharath Kamal** beats top-seed **Anthony Amalraj** to win the **Men's singles title** for the **8<sup>th</sup> time**, equaling the feat of **Kamlesh Mehta** at the **11<sup>th</sup> Even Sports Senior Table Tennis Nationals in Ranchi**.
- 18 years and 86 days old **Prithvi Shaw**, has become the **youngest-ever captain** to win an **ICC Under-19 World Cup final**.
  - With 261 runs, Shaw also became the **highest scoring Indian captain** ever at the Under-19 World Cup.
- Indian Golfer **Shubhankar Sharma** has won the **Maybank Championship** in **Malaysia**.
  - This is his **second European Tour** title. He had won his maiden title at the **Joburg Open** in December last year.
- Rio Olympic silver medalist **PV Sindhu** finished as **runner-up** in **India Open Super 300** badminton tournament after losing to **America's Beiwen Zhang** in the final.
- **Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF)** were crowned as **champions** of the **8<sup>th</sup> Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2018 (B Division)** after they defeated **Kerala Hockey** in the final match held at **Ranchi (Jharkhand)**.
- **Indian women's cricket team pacer Jhulan Goswami** has become the **first woman** in the world to take 200 wickets in ODI cricket.
- **Mumbai Indians** have appointed **IPL history's leading wicket-taker** and their former player **Lasith Malinga** as the bowling mentor ahead of the **2018 season**.
- **Virat Kohli** became the **first Indian batsman** to **score 100 runs** by running in an **ODI innings**, achieving the feat during his 160\* (159) against **South Africa**.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> edition of Khelo India School Games (KISG)** was recently held during **31<sup>st</sup> January to 8<sup>th</sup> February, 2018** at **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi**.
  - **Haryana** had emerged as **overall champions**, finishing with **102 medals** (38 gold, 26 silver and 38 bronze medals) followed by **Maharashtra** (111 medals) and **Delhi** (94 medals).
- The **Indian** contingent won a **silver medal** and **two bronze medals** at the **Asian Para-Cycling Championships** held in **Naypyidaw, Myanmar**.
- **South Africa** was playing the fourth ODI against **India** in **Johannesburg** dressed in **pink** to mark '**Pink Day**' to create awareness for **breast cancer** in the country.

- South Africa had played the first-ever **Pink ODI** against **Pakistan** in 2013.
- 17-year-old snowboarder **Redmond Gerard** won the 1<sup>st</sup> **gold medal** for the **United States** at this year's **Winter Olympics**, with his victory in the snowboarding slope style competition.
- **Pune-based swimmer Rohan More** (32) became the **youngest** in the **world** and **first Asian** to complete the **Ocean Seven Challenge**, which involves crossing **seven** of the **world's toughest ocean channels** covering a distance of around 200 km.
- The 23<sup>rd</sup> **Winter Olympic Games 2018** has held at **Pyeongchang** in **South Korea**. 2,920 athletes from 92 countries have been participating in 102 events. The closing ceremony was held on **25<sup>th</sup> February 2018**.
- Former **Australian spinner Shane Warne** has been appointed as the **mentor** of **Rajasthan Royals** for this **IPL season**.
- **World's first robot ski competition** was held in **South Korea**. 8 teams from local universities and tech firms took part in the competition.
- The **Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs** is going to introduce **ranking system** for **National Sports Federations (NSFs)**. It is aimed at inculcating **healthy competition** between **sports bodies**.
- **Tamil Nadu** beat **Manipur** to lift their maiden title in **23<sup>rd</sup> edition of Senior Women's National Football Championship 2017-18** at **Barabati Stadium** in **Cuttack**.
- 4-time champions **Pakistan** will participate in the upcoming **Hockey World Cup** which will be hosted in **Bhubaneswar, Odisha**, later this year.
- The state government of **Odisha** is going to sponsor **India's national men's and women's hockey teams** for the next 5 years.
- **Karnataka's Kishan Gangolli** has won the **National 'A' Chess Championship for Blind** for the **fifth** consecutive time.
- 20-time Grand Slam champion **Roger Federer** (36) has become the **oldest-ever men's singles world number one tennis player**.
  - Federer surpassed eight-time Grand Slam winner **Andre Agassi**, who was 33 years old when he became **world number one** in 2003.
- Former Pakistani fast bowler **Shoaib Akhtar** has been appointed as the **Brand Ambassador** of **Pakistan Cricket Board**.
- A total of **225 Indian athletes** will participate in **15 sports** of this year's **Commonwealth Games**, which will be held in **Australia** from **April 4 to April 15**.
  - The **Indian basketball teams** would be participating at the Commonwealth Games after a gap of **eight** years.
- **India's Yuki Bhambri** has finished as **runner-up** in the **Men's Singles** in the **Chennai Open ATP Challenger Tennis Championships**.
  - In the finals, he was beaten by top-seeded **Australian Jordan Thompson** in three sets.
- **Swiss tennis ace Roger Federer** has **won** his career's **97<sup>th</sup> title** by winning the **Rotterdam Open**, two days after becoming the oldest world number one men's player.
  - Federer defeated **Grigor Dimitrov** of **Bulgaria** in the final match.
- Fast bowler **Bhuvneshwar Kumar** has become the **1<sup>st</sup> Indian bowler** to take a **five-wicket haul** in all **three formats** in **international cricket**.
- **USA's Christian Coleman** broke the 20-year-old world record in the **60 metres sprint** after registering a timing of **6.34 seconds** at the **US Indoor National Championships** in **Albuquerque**.
- **Star India Pvt. Ltd** has won the rights for **audio-visual production services** for the **Indian Premier League (IPL)** and **BCCI domestic cricket** for the 2018-19 season.

- Indian captain **Virat Kohli** has become the **first Indian batsman** to go past **900 points** in the **ICC ODI rankings**.
- The **Hockey India** selectors brought back **Sardar Singh** as **captain** of a 28-member Indian squad for the 27<sup>th</sup> **Sultan Azlan Shah Cup** to be held in **Ipoh, Malaysia** from March 3.
- With a total of 14 medals, **Norway's Marit Bjørgen** became the **most successful athlete** in **Winter Olympics history** after winning **bronze** for **USA** in cross country **skiing's women's team sprint free**.
- The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has approved the **Cricket Canada's** maiden venture '**Global T20 Canada**', which is going to be held in **July 2018**.
- **Virat Kohli** received the **ICC Test Championship** mace on behalf of **Team India** for the **second** consecutive year for being the **number one Test team**.
- Indian gymnast **Aruna Budda Reddy** has become the **1<sup>st</sup> Indian** to win an **individual medal** at the **Gymnastics World Cup**.
  - She achieved the feat by securing **bronze** in the **women's vault event** with 13.649 points to finish behind **gold** medalist **Slovenia's Tjasa Kysslef** and **Australia's Emily Whitehead**, who finished **second**.
- **Czech Republic's Ester Ledecka** became the **first woman** to claim **gold** medals in **two sports** at a **Winter Olympics** after claiming her **second** one in a **snowboarding** event at the **PyeongChang Winter Games**.
- The **2018 Winter Olympics** concluded in **Pyeongchang, South Korea**. **Norway** ended the event as the **top medal-winning nation** with 14 gold, 14 silver, and 11 bronze medals.
  - **Germany** ended the event at the **second** position with 14 gold, 10 silver, and seven bronze medals.
  - **India** was represented by **two male athletes**.
  - **Motto: Passion, Connected.**
- **Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap** won the **Men's singles title** in the **Austrian Open International Challenge 2018** by defeating **Malaysia's June Wei Cheam**.
  - This is **Kashyap's** first international title in over three years.
- Indian off-spinner **Ravichandran Ashwin** has been named the **Captain of Kings XI Punjab** ahead of the upcoming season of **IPL**.
- Indian shuttler **Sameer Verma** clinched the **Men's singles** title at the **Swiss Open Super 300** tournament.
- **Indian boxer Vikas Krishan** won a **Gold** medal and was named the best boxer of the tournament at the **69<sup>th</sup> Strandja Memorial boxing** tournament in **Bulgaria**.
- **Karnataka** has **won** the **Vijay Hazare Trophy** by defeating **Saurashtra** by 41 runs in the **finals**.
- The **Davis Cup**, in existence since 1900, is going to be converted into a '**World Cup of Tennis**' from next year.
  - This new format will feature 18 teams playing a week-long event at one venue, instead of the existing 16 teams playing across **four** different months.
- 20-time Grand Slam champion **Roger Federer** and 23-time Grand Slam champion **Serena Williams** won the **Laureus Sportsman** and **Sportswoman of the Year** awards respectively.

## Report

- **India** has slipped to **42<sup>nd</sup> place** in recently released **Global Democracy Index (GDI) 2017** amid “rise of conservative religious ideologies” and **increase in vigilantism and violence against minorities** as well as other dissenting voices.
  - Last year India ranked **32<sup>nd</sup>**.



- Top 10 countries - **Norway**, Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand, Denmark, Ireland, Canada, Australia, Finland, and Switzerland.
- Business magazine **Forbes** has released its first-ever **Crypto Rich List**, comprising **20 wealthiest** people in the **crypto currency space**.
  - The list was topped by **Ripple** Co-founder **Chris Larsen**, who is estimated to have a crypto net worth of **\$7.5-8 billion**.
  - He is followed by **Ethereum** Co-founder **Joseph Lubin** (\$1-5 billion) and Founder of crypto currency exchange **Binance Changpeng Zhao** (\$1.1-2 billion).
- **India** has been **ranked 44** out of 50 nations in the latest **international Intellectual Property index** released by the **US Chambers of Commerce**.
  - **Top 3: US, UK, and Sweden**.
- With a total wealth of **\$950 billion**, **India's financial capital Mumbai** has been **ranked** as the **12<sup>th</sup> richest city globally** by South Africa-based market research group **New World Wealth**.
  - **Mumbai** also featured among the **top 10 cities** in terms of **billionaire population** with **28 billionaires**.
  - The list was topped by **New York** with **\$3 trillion wealth**.
- **Two Indian institutes** featured in **top 50 Asian institutes** in **TIMES Higher Education (THE) World University Rankings** for educational institutes in Asia.
  - They are **Indian Institute of Science (29<sup>th</sup>)** **Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (44)**.
  - This list was **topped** by **National University of Singapore**.
- According to a global traffic scorecard published annually by **Inrix**, a company that aggregates and analyzes **traffic data collected from vehicles and highway infrastructure**.
  - **Top 10 most congested cities** in the world are: **Los Angeles New York City (tie), Moscow (tie), Sao Paulo, Brazil San Francisco, Bogotá, London, Atlanta, Paris, and Miami**.
  - The company also published the list of **Top 10 most congested countries**. They are: **Thailand, Indonesia, Colombia, Venezuela, United States (tie), Russia (tie), Brazil (tie), South Africa (tie), Turkey, and United Kingdom**.
- According to a report released by the **Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)**, the **CM of Andhra Pradesh, Chandrababu Naidu** is the **richest Chief Minister in India** with declared assets worth over **Rs.177 crore**.
  - Naidu is followed by **Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu** with assets worth over **Rs.129 crore** and **Punjab's Amarinder Singh** with **Rs.48 crore**.
  - **Tripura's Manik Sarkar** with **Rs.27 lakh** is the **Poorest Chief Minister in India**.
- The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)** has released **India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017**.
  - According to this report, the total forest and tree cover in India has **increased** of over **8,021 sq km** (about 80.20 million hectare) which is **one percent increase** from 2015.
  - **Top States** with maximum Forest cover (in terms of area): **Madhya Pradesh (77,414 sq km) Arunachal Pradesh (66,964 sq km) Chhattisgarh (55,547 sq km)**.
  - **Top states with highest Forest cover** in terms of percentage geographical area : **Lakshadweep** with (90.33%) **Mizoram (86.27%) Andaman & Nicobar Islands (81.73%)**.
- **India** has been **ranked 81<sup>st</sup>** in the **Global corruption perception index** for 2017, released by **Transparency International**.
  - Last year, **India** was in the **79<sup>th</sup>** place. **New Zealand** and **Denmark** were placed the **highest** in the list.
  - **Syria, South Sudan** and **Somalia** were ranked **lowest**.
- The **Grace Bay beach** in the **Turks and Caicos Islands** has **topped** the **2018 Travellers' Choice Beach Awards** by **TripAdvisor**.

- The **Baia do Sancho beach** in **Brazil** and **Varadero Beach** in **Cuba** have been placed **second** and **third** respectively.
- The **Agonda Beach** in **Goa** was placed **18<sup>th</sup>** on the **list** and was the only **Indian beach** in the **top 25**.
- According to recently released **Global Passport Index 2018**, **South Korea** and **Singapore** have the most **powerful passports** in the **world** with a visa-free score of **162**.
  - **India** has been ranked **73<sup>rd</sup>**.
  - **Top 5: South Korea, Singapore, Germany, Japan, UK, and US.**
- **India** has been ranked **47<sup>th</sup>** out of 86 countries on the **Inclusive Internet Index** by the **Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU)**, which was commissioned by **Facebook**.
  - **Sweden** took the **first** place, followed by **Singapore** and the **US**.

#### **National Parties/Regional Parties**

- **West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee-led Trinamool Congress (TMC)** has **won** the by polls for the Lok Sabha constituency of **Uluberia** and the Assembly seat of **Noapara**.
- **Congress** candidates have won **Ajmer** and **Alwar** parliamentary seats and the Assembly seat for **Mandalgarh** in the **Rajasthan** by polls.
- Former **Nagaland CM Neiphiu Rio**, the chief ministerial candidate of the **Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party**, has been declared **elected unopposed** before the polls set for February 27.
  - This comes after the only other candidate from the constituency, **Chupfuo Angami** from the **Naga People's Front**, **withdrew** his nomination.
- Actor **Kamal Haasan** launched his political party '**Makkal Needhi Maiam**' and hoisted a flag carrying the party's symbol in **Tamil Nadu's Madurai**.
  - The flag of **Makkal Needhi Maiam Party** depicts **6 hands** holding onto each other with a six-pointed star in the middle.

#### **General - National**

- The **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development** is going to establish **National Women Entrepreneurship Council (NVEC)**.
  - **NVEC** will promote entrepreneurship as it would be the **umbrella organization** for **socioeconomic gender parity, financial inclusion** and **economic empowerment** of **women in India**.
- **India** started nationwide **Tiger census 2018**. This is the **largest survey** of wildlife anywhere in the **world**.
  - This **Rs.10 crores exercise** will involve **40,000 forest guards** traversing **4,00,000 sq. km. of forests**.
  - The last census, in 2014, had estimated India's tiger population at **2,226, up** from **1,706** in 2010.
- Taking prime minister **Narendra Modi's Digital India** initiative forward, a chat based job search mobile app '**Empzilla**', first ever of its kind in the country, is being launched.
  - This will do away with existing limitations of employers and job seekers making **selection process quick** and **cost effective**.
- **India** will host the **World Environment Day 2018** on **June 5**, **Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan** and **United Nations Environment Programme Executive Director Erik Solheim** have jointly announced.
  - Theme - '**Beat Plastic Pollution**'
- The **Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has announced that it is going to introduce a **blue-coloured 'Baal Aadhaar'** card for the **children below** the age of **five years**.

## General - International

- **Rwanda** has become the 1<sup>st</sup> low-income country to provide **universal eye care** to its entire **1.2 crore population**.
- **Hong Kong** voted to **ban ivory sales** by **2021**. **Hong Kong** is considered as the **world's largest ivory retail market**.
- **Australia's Brisbane Airport** has announced that it will become the **world's first airport** to let **travelers pay** with **crypto currency** like **Bitcoin** and **Ethereum** at its terminal shopping areas.
- **Indonesia's Health Ministry** has announced that it has listed **homosexuality** as a **mental disorder** and will publish a medical guide stating the same.
- The **Nigerian Army** has declared **victory** over the **Boko Haram militant group** after capturing the militants' stronghold **Camp Zairo** under counter-insurgency operation **DEEP PUNCH II**.
  - Boko Haram began insurgency in **northeast Nigeria** in 2009 in its attempt to create an Islamic state in the region.
- **Bermuda** has become the **world's first country** to **abolish same-sex marriages**, almost a year after it had allowed the same in May 2017.
- The **European Commission (EC)** has announced that **Serbia** and **Montenegro** could join the **European Union (EU)** in 2025 as part of the **EU enlargement plan** for the **Western Balkans**.
- **Tanzanian President John Magufuli** has announced that the country will pull out of the UN's "comprehensive refugee response framework", which provides **lasting solutions** for **refugees**, including integration into host communities, citing **security reasons** and **lack of funds**.
  - Tanzania has long been considered as safe haven for refugees, particularly from conflict hit Democratic Republic of **Congo (DRC)** and **Burundi**.
- **South Africa** declared the **drought** which has struck **several parts** of the country a "national disaster" after reassessing its magnitude and severity.
  - The city of **Cape Town** is facing drought for the third consecutive year and is expected to run out of water soon.
- **Venezuela** and **Libya** were **suspended from voting** in **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)** in **2018-19 sessions** for not **paying dues** to 193-member world body.
  - It is for **third** time in three years these countries have been suspended from voting for unpaid dues.
- For the first time, **Pakistan** is going to **send transgender** to **Saudi Arabia** to serve as **volunteers** during **2018 Haj pilgrimage**.
  - The move was aimed at promoting the social inclusion of transgender youths and helps them attain confidence.
- **Women in Saudi Arabia** can now **open their own businesses without** the consent of a **husband or male relative**, as the kingdom pushes to expand a fast-growing private sector.
  - The policy change, announced by the Saudi government, also marks a major step away from the strict **guardianship system** that has ruled the country for decades.
- **Pakistan senate** has approved declaration of **Mandarin** (the main language spoken in China), as one of the **official languages** of the country.
- On the eve of 53<sup>rd</sup> **independence anniversary** of the country, **Gambia** announced the **suspension of death penalty** in the country.
- **Japan** has donated over **10,000 ballot boxes** worth **\$7.5 million** (over **Rs.48 crore**) for **Cambodia's 2018 general elections**.
- The **US state of Indiana** has passed a **resolution** recognizing the contributions of **Sikhs** across the state and the country.

- The United States has announced that it will open its embassy to **Israel** in **Jerusalem** on **May 14** this year, coinciding with **Israel's 70th Independence Day**.
- The **US Citizenship and Immigration Services** has dropped the phrase '**Nation of Immigrants**' from its mission statement.
- **China's** ruling **Communist Party** proposed a constitutional **reform** to allow **President Xi Jinping** to stay in office indefinitely.
  - The party came up with a proposal to **remove** a clause **limiting presidential service** to **two terms** in office.
- As part of the **Vision 2030** social program launched by **Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman**, the **Saudi Arabia's General Security** division allowed **women** aged between 25 and 35 to apply for the **rank of soldier**.
- **China** was elected as vice chair of **Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, a global body mandated to combat terror financing and **money laundering**.
- **Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani** offered to recognize **Taliban** as a legitimate **political** group in order to end the over 16- year-long war.
- **Pakistan's President Mamnoon Hussain** has signed an ordinance amending the country's **Anti-Terrorism Act** to list groups s sanctioned by the **United Nations Security Council** as **terrorist organizations**.

## Books and Authors

### Book's Name

### Author's Name

- 'Exam Warriors' PM Narendra Modi
- Hisaab Kitaab Bollywood Actress Anjana Sukhani
- 'The Diary of a Domestic Diva' Bollywood Actress Shilpa Shetty
- **Historia del Huérfano' (The Orphan's Story)** , a novel on Spain's imperial age, which was written 400 years ago and rumored to be cursed, has been published.
  - The story was written between 1608 and 1615 by **Martín de León y Cárdenas**.
- **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** released a book titled "**Mere Sapno Ka Bharat**" in Parliament premises **New Delhi**.
  - This book is about the **best interviews of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee**.
  - This book has been compiled by **Tarun Vijay**.
- **Indian** cricketer **Sachin Tendulkar** and his **wife Anjali Tendulkar** jointly launched a **book** on child health care titled '**Even When There Is A Doctor**'.
  - Authored by **Dr Yashwant Amdekar** along with **Dr Rajesh Chokhani** and **Krishnan Sivaramakrishnan**, the book describes the role of an individual or parents in improving their **child's health**.
- Former **US First Lady Michelle Obama** has announced that her memoir titled '**Becoming**' will be published on November 13, 2018. The book will be published in 24 languages worldwide.

## TO THE POINTS: FEBRUARY-2018

- 7th India Energy Congress recently held in **New Delhi**.
- Indian Coast guard recently celebrates its 41st foundation day on **February 01**.
- **Neelam Kapoor** has been director general of the Sports Authority of India (SAI).
- The inauguration of 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela held in **Faridabad**.
- **Rwanda** to become 1st poor country to provide eye care for all.
- A state-wide e-network of ambulance services on the lines of uber taxi will be formulated by **Kerala**.
- Indo-UK Institute of Health will pump in Rs.1600 crore to set up a medi-city with a 1000-bedded hospital in **Assam**.
- Mehrauli Archaeological Park situated in **New Delhi**.
- Telangana to set up clean authority with the help of **Tokyo, Japan**.
- The startup incubator EduMentum recently launched by **SD Shibulal**.
- **Falcon 9** recently into orbit by SpaceX.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has been laid foundation stone to set up Universal peace research center.
- **Punjab and Haryana** have been won Khelo India Girls' Hockey games.
- World Wetland day to be observed on **February 02**.
- **Australia's Brisbane Airport** to accept crypto coins at its terminal shopping areas.
- Saurav Ghosal is related to **Squash**.
- **Mary Kom** has been clinched gold medal at India Open International Boxing Tournament.
- **John Hennessy** has been appointment as Alphabet's Board Chairman.
- **Thanglura Darlong** recently appointed as Ambassador of India to Romania.
- India recently joined **Ashgabat Agreement** which envisages setting up of an international transport with the Persian Gulf.
- Uttar Pradesh government has recently set up its first ever butterfly Park in **Kanpur**.
- India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) developed jointly by CRISIL & SIDBI has been launched by **Arun Jetley**.
- **Shyam Benegal** has been received lifetime achievement award at MIFF.
- The Book "Exam Warriors" recently launched at a function in Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra. **Narendra Modi** is the author of this Book.
- World's Longest Zip Line is launched **UAE**.
- **India** team has been won ICC Under-19 World Cup Final 2018.
- **Shabnam Asthana** recently won Times Power Woman 2017 Award.
- **Lai Jia Yi** has been won International Young Chef Olympiad 2018.
- **Ranjit Rae** is the Indian Ambassador to Nepal.
- **IWAI - Inland Waterways Authority of India**.
- The first of the two defence industrial production corridors link connected **Chennai and Bangalore**.

- **Syed Mahmud Hossain** recently appointed as new chief justice of Bangladesh.
- International Conference on 'Demetrios Galanos and His Legacy' held in **New Delhi**.
- **Environment Ministry** recently launched 'Green Good Deeds' campaign.
- **Vice President of India** has been inaugurated First International Kala Mela in New Delhi.
- The Lokopriya Gopinath Bordoloi International Airport is situated in **Guwahati**.
- **Maharashtra** is to set up country's First transgender welfare board.
- Maharashtra government approved as new wildlife sanctuary at **Ghodazari**.
- World Cancer day is to be observed on **February 04**.
- Biggest floating island of India is introduced in **Neknampur Lake**.
- **Japan** recently launched world's smallest rocket to carry a satellite.
- **Shubhankar Sharma** recently won title of Maybank Championship in Malaysia.
- Kanwar Lake Bird Sanctuary is situated in **Bihar**.
- Hukum Singh, who recently passed away related to **Politician**.
- **Nicos Anastasiades** recently won Cyprus presidential Election for the 2nd term.
- The capital of Cyprus is **Nicosia**.
- **Dubai International Airport** recently topped world's busiest Airport for international Passengers.
- UP government has fined Rs.10 lakh over e-waste on **Ramganga River**.
- **Umesh Dattatraya Salvi** is the chairman of National Green Tribunal.
- **Jharkhand** state would organize Global Agriculture Summit.
- **Draupadi Murmu** is the Governor of Jharkhand.
- With **Ola** recently signed an MoU to brought app based river taxi service in Assam.
- Jasprit Bumrah is related to **Cricket**.
- **US** researchers recently developed AI system to train robots for army.
- Mahatma Gandhi Marine National Park is situated in **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**.
- Ajit Singh Kohar is passed away recently. He is related to **Politician**.
- **Vinod Tahlilani** has been appointed as CEO of RIL-BP JV India Gas Solutions.
- CSE ranked top environment policy think tanks in India, which secured **16th** rank in global rankings.
- **Union Minister of Commerce and Industry** recently launched new tools for States and Union Territories for ranking of startups.
- **Dr. Himadri Das** recently appointed as new director of Management Development Institute, Gurugram.
- **Madhya Pradesh** recently launches an app to spread awareness against pollution.
- **A K Prasad** has been appointed as new Financial Commissioner of Railway Board.
- An Indian Institute of Technology Madras alumnus has launched a non-profit accelerator. They launched such a startup in **US**.
- **Surina Rajan** is the Director General of Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS).
- Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsav 2018 would be held in **Karnataka**.

- India recently test fired its nuclear capable missile named **Agni I**.
- Abdul Kalam Island situated in **Odisha**.
- **Sweden** recently signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement committing an unprecedented \$370 million dollars to UN World Food Programme.
- **Stefan Löfven** is the Current president of Sweden.
- Safer Internet Day 2018 to be observed in **February 06**.
- **SpaceX** space agency recently launched World's Most Powerful Rocket to mars.
- Frida Topno, who is a Congress leader of **Odisha**.
- **Alcon Laboratories** has been won ASSOCHAM Medical Technology Excellence Award for Best Technology Solution in Surgical and Best Technology Solution in Ophthalmology.
- **Sandeep Jajodia** is the head of ASSOCHAM.
- **Maharashtra** recently organized 'India Grape Harvest, Wine Festival 2018'.
- The government of Maharashtra would develop app recently for **Autorickshaw**.
- First ever Global submit on Information Technology to be held in **Kerala**.
- **Pinarayi Vijayan** is the current Chief Minister of Kerala.
- Assam Government recently signed an MoU with AISECT Group of Universities worth **Rs.300 crore**.
- **Paytm Payment bank** recently partnered with the Mumbai Dabbawala Association for the pioneers of home-cooked food delivery.
- **Vijay Shekhar Sharma** is the Chairman of Paytm Payment Bank.
- India's Central bank RBI has kept its repo rate at **6%**.
- ISRO established Village Resource Centres (VRCs) on a pilot scale in **473** villages to demonstrate for development of rural areas.
- **Prithvi-II** recently test-fired it's indigenously developed nuclear capable.
- Olympics 2032 to be hosted by **Africa**.
- Veteran sports player Jhulan Goswami is associated with **Cricket**.
- **Biswamohan Mahapatra** recently appointed as non-executive chairman of National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI).
- **Manohar Parrikar** recently launched bike ambulances in the state.
- **Nitin Gadkari** has launched a campaign to connect people with the "Rashtra Raksha Mahayagya".
- **14** coastal economic zones were going to be developed under Sagarmala Project.
- With **Canada**, India recently signed an agreement for Nuclear Energy Collaboration.
- **Justin Trudeau** is the current President of Canada.
- Recently Bank of Baroda launched **Baroda DigiNext**, a product of digitizing cash management of corporate and government customers.
- **P. S. Jayakumar** is the managing director and CEO of Bank of Baroda.
- India has been signed a MoU between **Britain** to improve transport system and passenger service.
- **Jio TV** channel has been bagged the rights to broadcast the Winter Olympic Games PyeongChang 2018 across India.

- A transgender activist **Vidya Kamble**, who has become a member of the judicial panel at a National Lok Adalat conducted.
- **Kerala** to set up first ever co-operative society for transgenders.
- **Gujarat University** recently offered a course on Spoken Sanskrit.
- Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan recently inaugurated the PNG supply to kitchens in the Campus of Border Security Force (BSF) is located in **Chhwala**.
- Brahmaputra Literary Festival 2nd edition has been inaugurated in **Assam**.
- The two-day International conference on Unani Medicine recently inaugurated on 10th February, 2018 in **New Delhi**.
- National Deworming Day 2018 to be observed on **February 10**.
- Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare launched the National Deworming Day at a function at **Gurugram**.
- Union Culture and Environment Minister Mahesh Sharma has inaugurated the 16-day Grand Spiritual Expo, 2018 in **Noida**.
- The defence Minister recently sanctioned **1487 crore** to Army to boost perimeter security.
- **India post Payment Bank** to enable digital payment by April.
- **Standing Deposit Facility Scheme** is the name of additional instrument for liquidity management released by RBI.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently inaugurated First Hindu Temple in **Abu Dhabi**.
- **\$50 Million** amount would be given by India to boost capacity building in Palestine.
- India and Palestine have signed **6 MoUs** worth USD 40 million.
- **Tanzania** recently withdraws from UN refugee programme.
- **John Magufuli** is the president of Tanzania.
- **Redmond Gerard** has been won 1st gold medal at 2018 Winter Olympics.
- **Haryana** won 1st Khelo India School Games with 38 gold medals.
- Rohan More is related to **Swimming**.
- Shiva Keshavan recently retired from **Luge**.
- Asma Jahangir recently died, who is hails from **Pakistan**.
- Qazi Wajid is related to **Pakistan**.
- Film composer Johann Johannsson is belongs to **Iceland**.
- **Indonesia's** minister recently won world's Best Minister Award.
- **Joko Widodo** is the president of Indonesia.
- **India's** Engineers have been won Sci-Tech Oscars 2018.
- A Three day long Youth Festival organized by Indian Red Cross Society in **Noida**.
- 12th International Conference on corporate social responsibility to be held in **Bengaluru**.
- **Punjab** state recently launched the Crime and Criminal Tracking Network and Systems (CCTNS).
- National Productivity day to be observed on **February 12**.
- **Rajasthan** would be provided free sanitary pads in rural areas.



- **Prime Minister** recently inaugurated World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2018 recently.
- The Rekhi Centre of Excellence for Science of Happiness was set up in **IIT Karagpur**.
- **RBL Bank** has tied up with ICICI Lombard General Insurance for non-life insurance products.
- **Bank of Baroda** would be no longer operating in South Africa.
- The ADB would provide USD 100 million to **Nepal**.
- India and Oman have signed **8** agreements while Prime Minister visited recently to Oman.
- Darwin Week to be observed on **February 12 to 18**.
- **Steve Smith** recently won Allan Border Medal and was named Test Player of the Year at the prestigious event in Melbourne.
- Parbati Ghosh was passed away recently who belongs to **Odisha**.
- **Chandrashekar Kambar** has been elected as president of the Sahitya Akademi.
- **Raj Kumar Singh**, union minister of state (I/C) recently inaugurated the 'Indian Power Stations 2018'.
- Raj Kumar Singh, who is Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Power and New and Renewable Energy, constituency is **Arrah**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has hosted the LPG Panchayat is organized by **Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas**.
- **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has inaugurated the Global Theatre Olympics.
- The theme of India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018 is **Driving NextGen Pharmaceuticals**.
- TN Global Investors Meet to be held in Jan 2019. **Rs.75 Crore** amount allotted for this summit.
- **Punjab National Bank** has signed with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for information utility.
- **N Rangachary** is the chairman of National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL).
- ICICI bank has tied up with **Zoho** Company for integrated platform.
- **M. K. Sharma** is the chairman of ICICI Bank.
- **New Delhi** is the host city of India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit.
- World radio day to be observed on **February 13**.
- **Mauritius** recently planned to set up a panel for issuing of sovereign fund.
- **Shane Warne** has been appointed as Rajasthan Royals' mentor for IPL 2018.
- Kishan Gangolli is related to **Chess**.
- **TERI - The Energy and Resources Institute**.
- **Sultan Qaboos bin Said al Said** is the president of Oman.
- **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf** won the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership.
- Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, who belongs to **Liberia**.
- The capital of Liberia is **Monrovia**.
- **Manoj Jhalani** recently appointed as Director of Ayushman Bharat Scheme Mission.
- TiE Global Summit was hosted by **Mumbai**.

- **West Bengal** has first ever to opt out of Medicare.
- **Yes Bank** recently has listed USD 600 million bonds issued under its maiden USD 1 billion MTN programme.
- **Rana Kapoor** is the CEO of Yes Bank.
- **Equitas Small Finance Bank** recently launched the interactive digital savings account.
- The International conference 'Agricon 2018' and 'Agriexpo 2018' was held in **Kanpur**.
- **Prime Minister** has been launched DD Arun Prabha, a new 24×7 satellite television channel.
- Duqm port is situated in **Oman**.
- **Tamil Nadu** Team has won maiden senior national football championship.
- Former Union minister Bolla Bulliramaiah is passed away. He belongs to **Andhra Pradesh**.
- **Ashok Das** has been appointed as Indian envoy to Brazil.
- **GSM - Global Securities Market**.
- **Cyril Ramaphosa** is recently appointed as president of South Africa.
- **Umang Bedi** is the president of dailyhunt, news and regional language content app.
- **Nithish kumar** recently inaugurated ambitious pump canal project named Bateshwar Nath Pump Canal Project.
- **S.C. Jamir** is the governor of Odisha.
- Jaikwadi Bird Sanctuary is situated in **Maharashtra**.
- India has signed an agreement with New Development Bank for financing of Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project. **USD 100 million** amounts approved for this agreement.
- The upcoming summit of Shanghai Cooperation Organization is held in **Qingdao**.
- Head Quarter of Shanghai Cooperation Organization is situated in **Beijing, China**.
- Ruud Lubbers is passed away recently who belongs to **The Netherlands**.
- Vidit Santosh Gujrathi is related to **Chess**.
- **Hailemariam Desalegn**, Ethiopian prime minister who recently resigned his post.
- **Arvind Jamkhedkar** is chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- **Haruhiko Kuroda** is the chief of Bank of china.
- **Ajay Singh** recently won the award named 'Indian Entrepreneur of the Year 2017 for Business Transformation'.
- **Speaker of Lok Sabha** has inaugurated the two-day 6th conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Region.
- **Nepal** re-elected K P Sharma Oli as Prime Minister.
- Khwaja Haleem is passed away recently who is related to **Politician**.
- **What's app** has approved to launch BHIM UPI.
- Jayadeva Yogendra is passed away recently, he is a **Yoga** trainer.
- With **UK**, Botanical Survey of India and Natural History Museum have signed MoU in the field of genetic/taxonomic studies.
- **M S Dhoni** has become the third wicket keeper to take 600 catches in international cricket.

- **Shoaib Akhtar** has been named as brand ambassador of Pakistan Cricket Board.
- **Kaushik Ganguly** has recently won best director award in Jio Filmfare Awards East 2018.
- Khajuraho Dance Festival to be held in **Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Arvind Kejriwal** recently inaugurated water pipeline project in Narela.
- International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) will be set up in **PudhuCherry**.
- **Air Odisha** has launched center's first flight under UDAN scheme.
- **SBI** recently launched the Global NRI Center to enhance customer experience.
- 9 agreements were signed between India and Iran during bilateral talks.
- Russia has dealt with **Indonesia** for \$1.1 bn deal to bought 11 jets.
- **Manavaditya Singh Rathore** recently won silver medal in the Qatar Open Shotgun meet in Lusail, Qatar.
- **Brjesh Damani** has won CCI All India Open Snooker Championship.
- **Roger Federer** has become the Oldest World No 1 in Tennis, Defeats Dutch Opponent Robin Haase.
- **Rajasthan** to be set up a international educational institution for minorities.
- **Arun J Sanyal and Parthik Naidu** have been won the Virginia's top science award for their contribution and deep commitment towards the betterment of human health globally.
- **Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra** is the director (HR) of Indian Oil Corporation.
- **Telangana** has issued orders to constitute a task force on urban mobility.
- India and United Nations signed a document declaring **India** as the Global Host of World Environment Day, 2018.
- World Environment Day is to be observed on **June 05**.
- **Debashish Mukherjee** recently appointed as executive director of Canara Bank.
- **Amazon** has launched its first food retail service in India.
- **Singapore** would be recently imposed carbon tax from 2019.
- **Murali Ramaswami** recently appointed as executive director of Vijaya Bank.
- India won 5 total medals in Czech Junior and Cadet Open shooting tourney held in Hodonin, Czech Republic.
- Gunda Hanumantha is passed away recently who is a **Comedian**.
- **Rajiv Joshi** has been conferred for top emerging technologies award.
- **Rajesh Kakkar** has taken over as charge of ONGC's offshore director.
- The union cabinet has approved setting up of a tribunal to resolve the dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over **Mahanati** River.
- **Mizoram** has celebrated its 31st statehood day on February 20.
- With **Telangana**, Nasscom has inked pact to establish a Centre of Excellence for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence.
- Sakina Khatun is related to **weight lifting**.
- Indian and **Canada** has signed bilateral agreement to support startups.

- What is the constituency Union Minister of State with Independent Charge in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs Hardeep Singh Puri's constituency is **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Rs.6000 Crore** amount has approved from union cabinet for National Urban Housing Fund to finance the government's Housing for All programme.
- For this fiscal year, The budget has proposed **Rs.25,000 crore** budgetary support in order to finance housing programmes under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY).
- The Union Cabinet has given its ex-post facto approval to the cooperation agreement between India and **Morocco**.
- The capital of Morocco is **Rabat**.
- K Kunjiraman Panoor was passed away recently. He was a **Writer**.
- The Indian Railways has decided to manufacture Metro coaches and is setting up a factory in **Maharashtra**.
- B K Goyal died, who is an eminent doctor of **Cardiologist**.
- The seventh edition of the three-day International Conference on Clean and Green Energy (ICCGE-2018) held in **Paris**.
- **Ankur Mehta** has won awarded at Clean Energy Conference in Paris.
- Prime Minister has announced a Rs.20,000-crore defence industrial corridor in **Bundelkhand**.
- **Odisha** has decided to set up an Integrated Project Monitoring Unit for its proper Mineral utilization.
- **Ashish kumar Chauhan** are the Managing director and CEO of Bombay Stock Exchange.
- International Mother Language Day has to be observed on **February 21**.
- SEBI has recently approved **Bombay Stock Exchange** to launch cross-currency derivatives.
- Marit Bjoergen became the most successful athlete in Winter Olympics history. He belongs to **Norway**.
- Kalyan Singh passed away recently who is a **Politician**.
- **West Bengal** has commemorated Language Movement Day on 21 February 2018.
- UP Investors' Summit 2018 has been inaugurated by **Prime Minister**.
- **\$1 Million** amount has been contributed by India for rehabilitation work in cyclone-hit Tonga.
- India placed **81** rank positions in Global Corruption Perception Index released by Berlin-based non-government organisation Transparency International (TI).
- **Anil Baijal** is the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi.
- An Inter-Ministerial Committee (IMC) on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) has been set up for **North-East Region** in India.
- **Jitendra Singh** is the Minister of state independent charge of Development of North Eastern Region.
- **Gaku Nakanishi** is the President and CEO of India operations of Honda Company.
- Union ministry of agriculture and farmers, the government of Israel and **Mizoram** state government collaborate for setting up a Agri center.
- **Daniel Carmon**, Israel Ambassador to India, who led a discussed issues of common interest including start-ups, food processing, innovation and technology with Union Minister for Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) Jitendra Singh.

- **Haryana** has launched Parivartan, a scheme designed to address 10 issues, including cleanliness and pollution.
- Telangana Government has signed a MOU with **Taiwan** for better technology partnership in the state.
- **Sri Lanka** to host a three day long International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) of India.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) has approved the merger of the company along with Capital Home Finance and Capital First Securities Limited with **IDFC Bank**.
- National Housing Bank (NHB) Head Quarters Situated in **New Delhi**.
- **Prithvi -II** successfully conducted the first night trial of nuclear-capable surface-to-surface short-range.
- **India** scientists develop next generation technology loop to generate clean energy.
- **Avani Chaturvedi** Flying Officer created history by becoming the first Indian woman fighter pilot to fly, solo.
- Billy Graham, the Christian evangelist, who passed away recently. He belongs to **US**.
- India's central bank RBI recently launched an Ombudsman scheme for **Non-Banking Financial Companies**.
- The offices of the NBFC ombudsmen will not function at **Pune**.
- **ASSOCHAM** and Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs (EPCES) have signed an agreement for sharing information relating to special economic zones.
- **Sandeep Jajodia** is the president of ASSOCHAM.
- Paytm has incorporated **2** insurance companies with an initial paid-up capital / authorised capital of \$15,390 (INR 1 Mn).
- **2022** is the dead line to achieve 175 GW renewable energy in India stated by New & Renewable Energy Secretary Anand Kumar.
- **USD 84 million** amounts to be given by ADB to improve water supply in Bihar.
- **Dhanush**, the nuclear-capable ballistic missile, India has successfully test-fired.
- **Falcon 9**, the sate rocket carrying internet satellites test series launched successfully by SpaceX at Vandenberg Air Force Base.
- **6** agreements signed between India and Canada including in the area of nuclear science, energy cooperation and information communication technology.
- **Sri Lanka** has signed recently with India to exchange information to check smuggling.
- India has signed an agreement for cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry with **Uzbekistan**.
- The capital city of Uzbekistan is **Tashkent**.
- Kunwar Bai, the 106-year-old icon for Swachh Bharat campaign has died recently, who is belongs to **Chhattisgarh**.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched the subsidized scooter scheme for working women in **Tamil Nadu**.
- The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) Partnership Summit is held in **Andhra Pradesh**.
- Andhra Pradesh government has signed **77 MoUs** with various companies at the CII Partnership Summit.
- Central Excise Day to be celebrated on **February 24**.

- UIDAI has announced that children under five years of age Aadhaar called 'Baal Aadhaar'. The specified color of this Aadhaar is **Blue**.
- Google has commenced its first ever Developer Students Club (DSC) Summit in India. The summit is held in **Goa**.
- **Parallel Wireless** is the award winner of Graham Bell Award.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched several development programmes worth Rs.1000 crore in **Daman and Diu**.
- **Saudi Arabia** to host first-ever jazz festival.
- **Aruna Budda Reddy** has been won first ever individual medal at Gymnastics World Cup.
- Neelabh Mishra is passed away recently, who is related to **Journalism**.
- **Ram Nath Govind** would be inaugurated a museum dedicated to former Odisha chief minister Biju Patnaik.
- **Haryana** government has decided to prepare an integrated economic development plan.
- **Kaptan Singh Solanki** is the governor of Haryana.
- India Gas Solutions Pvt Ltd has signed with **Andhra Pradesh** to create marketing infra for natural gas.
- **CP Ramanarayanan** is the Director General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) in India.
- Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) has successfully flown its first flight **Rustom-2** in user configuration.
- **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd** commenced operations with effect from 22 February, 2018.
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has asked banks to integrate SWIFT (Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) with its core banking solutions (CBS) by **April 30, 2018**.
- **National School of Drama** will be the host of 8th Theatre Olympics.
- **M C Mary Kom** has been won silver medal at 69th Strandja Memorial boxing tournament in 48kg category.
- **Parupalli Kashyap** recently won Austrian Open International Challenge.
- Veteran Bollywood actress Sridevi is passed away recently, who conferred **Padma Shri** national award.
- **Hyderabad** is the host city of 21st National Conference on e-Governance.
- **J P Nadda** has launched initiative for free viral load test for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- **Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR)** has entered a MoU with the Regional Center for Science and Technology Transfer (RCSTT) of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) for designating Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants.
- **Narendra Modi** is the present chairman of Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR).
- Lalbhai Contractor Stadium is situated in **New India**.
- The seventh meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations has concluded in **Kathmandu**.
- Microsoft had tied up with **Tamil Nadu** government to Accelerate Cloud Technology Adoption. T.S.R. Subramanian is passed away recently. He is a former **Cabinet Secretary**.
- **Reliance Infrastructure Ltd (RInfra)** has won an arbitration award of Rs.292 crore against the Goa government for non-payment of electricity dues.

- The head Quarters of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is situated **Ebene, Mauritius**.
- International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels 2018 held at **New Delhi**.
- **A K Pradhan** has been appointed as Group Chief Risk Officer of Punjab National Bank.
- The Head Office of Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) is situated in **Chennai**.
- **Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)** has developed a multivendor e-commerce website and mobile app to help fishermen.
- **Uma Bharti** has been launched second Swajal Yojna project in Rajasthan.
- Global search engine giant Google integrated its mobile payment app, Tez with **State Bank of India**.
- Retirement fund body EPFO has launched the facility of linking Aadhaar with universal account number, through **UMANG mobile app**.
- UMANG - Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance.
- **Bajaj Allianz Life** insurance company has launched online-only ULIP product.
- India has placed **47** in Inclusive Internet Index, released by Facebook.
- India-Korea Business Summit is to be held in **New Delhi**.
- India and Nepal would hold a joint exercise in **Uttarakhand**.
- **Roger Federer** has been conferred for the 18th edition of Laureus World Sports Awards in Men's category.
- Penny Vincenzi is passed away recently. He is a **Writer**.
- Union Environment and Science and Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan constituency is **Chandni Chowk, Delhi**.
- **Harsh Vardhan** has launched a mobile application that enables people to better connect with him and provides information about his work.
- **Lakshadweep** recently joined with UDAY scheme.
- **7.8 percentage** of the growth of India that estimated by Moody's Investors Service in 2018.
- Retirement fund body EPFO has made it mandatory to file online claims for provident fund withdrawals above the amount of **10 lakh**.
- The capital city of Jordan is **Amman**.
- The Union cabinet recently gave its approval of host of pacts, including cooperation in the field of health, manpower, customs and mining with **Jordan**.
- The union cabinet has approved a MoU on Economic and Trade Cooperation with **Vietnam**.
- The Union Cabinet has been apprised of a MoU on Cooperation in Renewable Energy with **Fiji**.
- The Union Cabinet has been apprised of a MoU on cooperation in the field of Health with **Macedonia**.
- The mascots for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games is **Tradition and Innovation**.
- Kanchi Shankaracharya Jayendra Saraswathi is passed away recently; He is related to **Spiritual leader**.
- National Science day is to be observed on **February 28**.
- **Axio Bio**, Med-tech startup has received US health regulator's approval for its first aid dressing product AxioStat.

**CURRENT AFFAIRS: FEBRUARY-2018**  
**MODEL QUESTIONS**

1. The 2018 World Cancer Day (WCD) is observed on which date?  
(1) February 5 (2) February 3 (3) February 4 (4) February 2 (5) None of these
2. What is the theme of the 2018 World Wetland Day (WWD)?  
(1) Wetlands and Tourism  
(2) Wetlands for our Future – Sustainable Livelihoods  
(3) Forests and Wetlands  
(4) Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future  
(5) None of these
3. The 2018 National Unani Day (NUD) is celebrated on which date in India?  
(1) February 10 (2) February 13 (3) February 12 (4) February 11 (5) None of these
4. The 2018 National Productivity Day (NPD) is observed on which date in India?  
(1) February 09 (2) February 12 (3) February 11 (4) February 10 (5) None of these
5. What is the theme of the World Day of Social Justice 2018?  
(1) Preventing conflict and sustaining peace through decent work  
(2) Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice  
(3) Promote global justice & poverty eradication  
(4) A Just Transition – environmentally sustainable economies and societies  
(5) None of these
6. What is the current repo rate, according to 6th Bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2017-18?  
(1) 6.55% (2) 6.25% (3) 6.0% (4) 5.75% (5) None of these
7. Which state government has launched the 'Gobardhan Yojana' to support farmers?  
(1) Assam (2) Gujarat (3) Rajasthan (4) Haryana (5) None of these
8. The celebration of 70 years of India-Russia Agricultural Relations has held in which state?  
(1) Rajasthan (2) Uttar Pradesh (3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Assam (5) None of these
9. Which state to launch cheap sanitary pad scheme "Asmita Yojana" for rural women?  
(1) Punjab (2) Haryana (3) Maharashtra  
(4) Rajasthan (5) None of these
10. Which state to have India's first artificial intelligence centre?  
(1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Maharashtra (3) Kerala  
(4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
11. In the Union Budget 2018, the Union government has announced to build a tunnel through the Sela Pass. The Sela pass is located in which state?  
(1) Sikkim (2) Arunachal Pradesh (3) Manipur  
(4) Himachal Pradesh (5) None of these
12. Which city is hosting the 2nd edition of Nobel Prize Series-India 2018?  
(1) Panaji= (2) Chandigarh (3) New Delhi (4) Kochi (5) None of these
13. Which city is hosting the first-ever International Kala Mela?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Surat (3) Kolkata (4) Jaipur (5) None of these



14. The Ghodazari Wildlife Sanctuary (GWS) will come up in which state?  
(1) Tamil Nadu (2) Karnataka (3) Odisha (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
15. Which city is hosting the 4th Nepal Buildcon and Wood International Expo 2018?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Shimla (3) Lucknow (4) Kathmandu (5) None of these
16. Which city is hosting the World Congress on Information Technology?  
(1) Jaipur (2) Patna (3) Hyderabad (4) New Delhi (5) None of these
17. The Union Cabinet has recently approved Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel as part of 'Chardham Mahamarg Pariyojana'. The tunnel is located in which state?  
(1) Jammu & Kashmir (2) Uttarakhand (3) Himachal Pradesh  
(4) Punjab (5) None of these
18. Where is the headquarters of the Centre for Policy Research (CPR)?  
(1) Kochi (2) Lucknow (3) New Delhi (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
19. The Raja Lakhamagouda dam is built across on which tributary of Krishna river in which Karnataka?  
(1) Koyna River (2) Ghataprabha River (3) Mand River  
(4) Venna River (5) None of these
20. The India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) has started in which city?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Kathmandu (3) Kolkata (4) Colombo (5) None of these
21. Which country to host the 23rd edition of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT-2019)?  
(1) Mexico (2) Brazil (3) Canada (4) Armenia (5) None of these
22. Avani Chaturvedi has become the first Indian woman to fly fighter aircraft solo. She hails from which state?  
(1) Gujarat (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) Madhya Pradesh  
(4) Rajasthan (5) None of these
23. The 6th edition of annual joint military exercise 'Garuda Shakti-2018' has started between India and which country?  
(1) Indonesia (2) Brazil (3) Sri Lanka (4) Myanmar (5) None of these
24. Which task force has been constituted by the Union government to study use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in military?  
(1) Gulshan Rai task force (2) Natarajan Chandrasekaran task force  
(3) Ravi Shankar Prasad task force (4) Alphons Kannanthanam task force (5) None of these
25. Which HRD Ministry-appointed committee is drafting new National Education Policy (NEP)?  
(1) Ram Shanker Kureel committee (2) K Kasturirangan committee  
(3) V G S Rathore committee (4) KJ Alphonse committee (5) None of these
26. Which committee has been constituted by the Union Government to study Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam?  
(1) Rajiv Kumar committee (2) Prithvi Gupta committee (3) Nishal Jain committee  
(4) Kirti Kumar committee (5) None of these

27. Which committee has been constituted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to look into bank frauds?  
(1) Y H Malegam committee (2) A.K. Misra committee  
(3) Nandkumar Saravade committee (4) S Raman committee (5) None of these
28. Which country has launched the world's longest zip line?  
(1) Oman (2) UAE (3) France (4) China (5) None of these
29. Which union ministry has launched Green Good Deeds campaign?  
(1) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
(2) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
(3) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare  
(4) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(5) None of these
30. Which union ministry has launched the Start-up-India ranking framework?  
(1) Ministry of Commerce and Industry  
(2) Ministry of Human Resource Development  
(3) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
(4) Ministry of Law and Justice  
(5) None of these
31. The world's first autonomous pods has launched in which city?  
(1) Berlin (2) Dubai (3) Paris (4) New York (5) None of these
32. Which union minister has inaugurated the 'International R&D Conclave' in New Delhi?  
(1) R.K. Singh (2) Manoj Sinha (3) Mahesh Sharma  
(4) Alphons Kannanthanam (5) None of these
33. Which city is hosting the 7th India Energy Congress (IEC) 2018?  
(1) Jaipur (2) New Delhi (3) Bhopal (4) Shimla (5) None of these
34. Which city is hosting the 5th edition of South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference (SARPPC-2018)?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Kathmandu (3) Dhaka (4) Colombo (5) None of these
35. Which city to host the 6th World Government Summit (WGS-2018)?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Kathmandu (3) Colombo (4) Dubai (5) None of these
36. The India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit 2018 was held in which city?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Pune (3) Bhopal (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
37. Which city is hosting the India's biggest international conference on pharmaceutical industry "India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018"?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Pune (3) Bengaluru (4) Jaipur (5) None of these
38. Which state hosted the 6th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) India Regional Conference?  
(1) Assam (2) Bihar (3) West Bengal (4) Chhattisgarh (5) None of these
39. The 54th Munich Security Conference (MSC-2018) was held in which country?  
(1) France (2) Belgium (3) Brazil (4) Germany (5) None of these

40. Which city is hosting the regional conference of southern states on water resources?  
(1) Hyderabad (2) Thiruvananthapuram (3) Kochi  
(4) Chennai (5) None of these
41. India will co-host the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit with which country?  
(1) France (2) Germany (3) Japan (4) Canada (5) None of these
42. The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has recently signed a project agreement with World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP). It is signed for which river?  
(1) Narmada (2) Ganga (3) Godavari (4) Kaveri (5) None of these
43. The Ministry of Railways has signed MoU with which Union Ministry to augment services in Railway hospitals?  
(1) Ministry of Women and Child Development  
(2) Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation  
(3) Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment  
(4) Ministry of AYUSH  
(5) None of these
44. The Uttar Pradesh government has signed pact with which online company for khadi products sale?  
(1) FlipKart (2) Paytm (3) PhonePe (4) Amazon India (5) None of these
45. Which city is hosting the National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018?  
(1) Pune (2) Nagpur (3) New Delhi (4) Jabalpur (5) None of these
46. Under whose chairmanship the 4th meeting of Economic Advisory Council to Prime Minister (EAC-PM) held in New Delhi?  
(1) Narendra Modi (2) Arun Jaitley (3) Arvind Panagariya  
(4) Bibek Debroy (5) None of these
47. Which Indian state hosted the 12th edition of International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR-2018)?  
(1) Chattisgarh (2) Odisha (3) Karnataka (4) AP (5) None of these
48. In the Union Budget 2018, the Central Government has allocated Rs 48,000 crore for which scheme to encourage farmers for solar farming?  
(1) KUSUM scheme (2) KUTSUB scheme (3) KUSUN scheme  
(4) KUTUB scheme (5) None of these
49. India has signed how much amount of 2nd loan agreement with New Development Bank (NDB) for Rajasthan Water Project?  
(1) \$200 million (2) \$100 million (3) \$115 million (4) \$185 million (5) None of these
50. Which state government has launched Zero Budget Natural Farming (ZBNF) project to promote organic farming?  
(1) Punjab (2) Himachal Pradesh (3) West Bengal  
(4) Assam (5) None of these
51. Which online security campaign has been launched by Google India to safeguard internet users?  
(1) #SecureInternetKiya (2) #OnlineSecurityKiya (3) #InternetSafetyKiya  
(4) #SecurityCheckKiya (5) None of these
52. NCERT has collaborated with which internet company to teach students digital safety?  
(1) Microsoft (2) Twitter (3) Facebook (4) Google (5) None of these

53. Which of the following start-ups has been recognized as the Startup of the Year 2017?  
(1) 9Stacks (2) Milkbasket (3) Vahdam Teas (4) WishBerry (5) None of these
54. Which country has successfully launched the world's smallest rocket to carry tiny satellite into orbit?  
(1) China (2) Japan (3) Australia (4) South Africa (5) None of these
55. Which union minister has launched 2.8 Peta Flops High Performance Computer (HPC) system 'Mihir'?  
(1) Arun Jaitley (2) Suresh Prabhu (3) Harsh Vardhan  
(4) Nitin Gadkari (5) None of these
56. Which state government has launched DASTAK campaign to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease?  
(1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Madhya Pradesh (3) Andhra Pradesh  
(4) Himachal Pradesh (5) None of these
57. Which oil company to introduce Asia's first large scale CO2 injection technique at Gandhar field?  
(1) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation  
(2) Indian Oil Corporation Limited  
(3) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited  
(4) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited  
(5) None of these
58. Which state government has recently made vaccinations compulsory for school admissions?  
(1) Karnataka (2) Punjab (3) Uttar Pradesh  
(4) Kerala (5) None of these
59. Which Indian airport has become the world's busiest single-runway airport?  
(1) Indira Gandhi International Airport  
(2) Rajiv Gandhi International Airport  
(3) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport  
(4) Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport  
(5) None of these
60. Which film has won the best film award at the 71st British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards?  
(1) The Shape of Water  
(2) Call Me by Your Name  
(3) Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri  
(4) Darkest Hour  
(5) None of these
61. Which country is the partner country at the 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2018?  
(1) Uzbekistan (2) Turkmenistan (3) Kyrgyzstan  
(4) Oman (5) None of these
62. Which city is hosting the 2018 Kala Ghoda Arts festival?  
(1) New Delhi (2) Kochi (3) Mumbai (4) Kolkata (5) None of these
63. Which state hosted the first-ever Pelican Bird Festival-2018?  
(1) Karnataka (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Kerala  
(4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these

64. Which city to host the 2nd edition of National Micro Drama Festival (NMDF-2018)?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Jaipur (3) Bhopal (4) Patna (5) None of these
65. Which city is hosting the India's first-ever radio festival?  
 (1) New Delhi (2) Pune (3) Mumbai (4) Kanpur (5) None of these
66. Which state is hosting the National Banana Festival (NBF) 2018?  
 (1) Karnataka (2) Odisha (3) New Delhi (4) Kerala (5) None of these
67. What is the theme of 7th edition of the Youth Festival 2018 in New Delhi?  
 (1) Let Love Live (2) Let Unite for Nation (3) Let Save Trees  
 (4) Let Help Nation (5) None of these
68. Who has been appointed the new director general of the Sports Authority of India (SAI)?  
 (1) Neelam Kapoor (2) Parag Kishore (3) Nandani Jain  
 (4) Rajiv Saxena (5) None of these
69. Who has taken charge as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army?  
 (1) J S Sandhu (2) Anil Chauhan (3) P S Jain (4) A K Bhatt (5) None of these
70. Who has been appointed the new vice-chancellor of Banaras Hindu University (BHU)?  
 (1) Neeraj Tripathi (2) B A Chopade (3) Kuldeep Mehta  
 (4) Ajay Singh (5) None of these
71. Who is the newly appointed Chief Executive of the Nuclear Fuel Complex (NFC)?  
 (1) Dinesh Srivastava (2) Garima Singh (3) Nitin Chopra  
 (4) Vikram Jha (5) None of these
72. Who has been sworn-in as the new Chairman of the Federal Reserve?  
 (1) Jerome H Powell (2) Janet Yellen (3) Ben Bernanke  
 (4) Randal K. Quarles (5) None of these
73. Who has been appointed as the first independent female director of International Cricket Council (ICC)?  
 (1) Indra Nooyi (2) Archana Bhargava (3) Tulasi Munda  
 (4) Tulasi Munda (5) None of these
74. Who has been sworn-in as new Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur?  
 (1) Manjula Chellur (2) Sujata Manohar (3) Abhilasha Kumari  
 (4) Sukhda Pritam (5) None of these
75. Who has been appointed as non-executive chairman of the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)?  
 (1) B Sambamurthy (2) Dilip Asbe (3) Uttam Nayak  
 (4) Biswamohan Mahapatra (5) None of these
76. Who has been appointed as the new MD & CEO of SBI Card?  
 (1) Hardayal Prasad (2) Vijay Jasuja (3) Dinesh Khara  
 (4) Puneet Gulgotia (5) None of these
77. Who has taken charge as the new Inspector General of Police (IGP) Kashmir Range?  
 (1) Munir Ahmad Khan (2) Swayam Prakash Pani (3) Ashok Ambre  
 (4) Rajendra Ramrao Nimbhorkar (5) None of these

78. Who has been elected as the new President of Sahitya Akademi?  
 (1) Chandrashekhara Kambar (2) Madhav Koushik (3) Prathibha Ray  
 (4) Bhalachandra Nemade (5) None of these
79. Who has been appointed as the new Vice Chancellor of the Tezpur University?  
 (1) Jagadesh Kumar (2) Yoginder K Alagh (3) Tariq Mansoor  
 (4) Vinod Kumar Jain (5) None of these
80. Who has been appointed the new governor of Bank of Japan (BOJ)?  
 (1) Hiroshi Nakaso (2) Haruhiko Kuroda (3) Masayoshi Amamiya  
 (4) Kikuo Iwata (5) None of these
81. Who has been sworn-in as new President of South Africa?  
 (1) Cyril Ramaphosa (2) Kgalema Motlanthe (3) Cyril Mso Motlanthe  
 (4) David Mabuza (5) None of these
82. Who will chair the NITI Forum for Northeast, which will be set up by the Union Government?  
 (1) Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog  
 (2) Minister of State (I/C)  
 (3) Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER)  
 (4) All of the above  
 (5) None of these
83. Hukum Singh, who passed away recently, was the MP from which Lok Sabha constituency of Uttar Pradesh?  
 (1) Saharanpur (2) Rampur (3) Kairana (4) Ghaziabad (5) None of these
84. Sudha Karmarkar, the veteran theatre artist has passed away. She hailed from which state?  
 (1) Tamil Nadu (2) Karnataka (3) Goa (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
85. John Mahoney, the noted actor passed away. He hailed from which country?  
 (1) United Kingdom (2) United States (3) Brazil  
 (4) Canada (5) None of these
86. B.G. Banakar, who passed away recently, was the former speaker of which legislative assembly?  
 (1) Himachal Pradesh (2) Punjab (3) Karnataka  
 (4) Jammu & Kashmir (5) None of these
87. Chandrasekhar Rath, the veteran litterateur has passed away. He hailed from which state?  
 (1) Jharkhand (2) Odisha (3) Manipur (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
88. Asma Jahangir, the renowned human rights lawyer passed away. She hailed from which country?  
 (1) India (2) Israel (3) Myanmar (4) Pakistan (5) None of these
89. Johann Johannsson, the renowned musician has passed away. He hailed from which country?  
 (1) Brazil (2) Iceland (3) Zambia (4) Italy (5) None of these
90. Bolla Bulli Ramaiah, the former Union minister has passed away. He was associated with which political party?  
 (1) Indian National Congress (2) Telugu Desam Party (3) Bahujan Samaj Party  
 (4) Telangana Rashtra Samithi (5) None of these
91. Didier Lockwood, the noted jazz violinist has passed away. He hailed from which country?  
 (1) Canada (2) Germany (3) Brazil (4) France (5) None of these

92. Kunhiraman Panoor, the renowned author and human rights activist has passed away. He hailed from which state?  
(1) Kerala (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Karnataka  
(4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
93. Which state government has won the 2018 Geospatial World Excellence Award?  
(1) West Bengal (2) Gujarat (3) Punjab (4) Odisha (5) None of these
94. Who has been bestowed with the V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award 2018?  
(1) Shatrughan Sinha (2) Anurag Kashyap (3) Vishal Bhardwaj  
(4) Shyam Benegal (5) None of these
95. Michael N Hall has been chosen for the 2018 Genome Valley Excellence Award of Telangana. He hails from which country?  
(1) United States (2) France (3) Switzerland (4) Japan (5) None of these
96. Who has won the 'Times Power Women of the Year 2017' – Pune for Global PR award?  
(1) Pooja Chopra (2) Sonali Kulkarni (3) Shabnam Asthana  
(4) Niharika Kumari (5) None of these
97. Who has been chosen for the 2nd edition of Akbar Kakkattil Award 2018?  
(1) U K Kumaran (2) N S Madhvan (3) T D Ramakrishnan  
(4) Subhash Chandran (5) None of these
98. Who has been conferred with the 2017 Sahitya Akademi Award for Assamese literature?  
(1) Vyakaranna Baso Varsh (2) Urmi Ghanshyam Desai (3) Afsar Ahmed  
(4) Jayant Madhab Bora (5) None of these
99. Which Indian app has won the best Best M-Govt Service Award at 2018 World Government Summit 2018?  
(1) Paytm app (2) Tele-Law app (3) Umang App  
(4) mAdhaar app (5) None of these
100. Who has been named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017?  
(1) E Sreedharan (2) Sanjiv Bajaj (3) Puneet Dalmia  
(4) Nithin Kamath (5) None of these
101. Anu Kumar has grabbed the first gold medal of the Khelo India School Games in 1500 metres. He hails from which state?  
(1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Jharkhand (3) Uttarakhand  
(4) Rajasthan (5) None of these
102. Mary Kom has won gold in which weight category at the 2018 India Open boxing Tournament?  
(1) 64kg category (2) 60kg category (3) 54kg category  
(4) 48kg category (5) None of these
103. Srihari Natraj has grabbed gold medal in 100-metre Backstroke category in swimming at the Khelo India School Games. He hails from which state?  
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Uttarakhand (3) Maharashtra  
(4) Karnataka (5) None of these
104. Which country's team has won the 12th edition of ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018?  
(1) Australia (2) New Zealand (3) West Indies (4) India (5) None of these

105. Zhang Beiwen has won the 4th edition of India Open Badminton tournament 2018. She hails from which country?  
 (1) Germany (2) United States (3) Thailand  
 (4) France (5) None of these
106. Shubhankar Sharma is associated with which sports?  
 (1) Cricket (2) Golf (3) Tennis  
 (4) Badminton (5) None of these
107. Who has become the world's first female cricketer to take 200 wickets in One-Day Internationals (ODI)?  
 (1) Jhulan Goswami (2) Veda Krishnamurthy (3) Smriti Mandhana  
 (4) Neetu David (5) None of these
108. Which state has topped the overall medal tally at the first-ever Khelo India School Games (KISG-2018)?  
 (1) Tamil Nadu (2) Maharashtra (3) Haryana  
 (4) Punjab (5) None of these
109. Kishan Gangolli has won the 13th edition of National Chess Championship for blind. He hails from which state?  
 (1) Karnataka (2) Odisha (3) West Bengal  
 (4) Assam (5) None of these
110. Which hockey team has won the 8th Senior National Women's Hockey Championship tournament-2018?  
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Railway Sports Promotion Board  
 (3) Jharkhand (4) Haryana (5) None of these
111. Who has been honored with the 2018 Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership?  
 (1) Hifikepunye Pohamba (2) Pedro Pires (3) Joaquim Chissano  
 (4) Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (5) None of these
112. Who has become the first Indian golfer to qualify for the China Ladies PGA Tour?  
 (1) Vani Kapoor (2) Gaurika Bishnoi (3) Sharmila Nicollet  
 (4) Saaniya Sharma (5) None of these
113. Which country has become the world's largest steel producer in 2017, as per latest report published by World Steel Association (WSA)?  
 (1) Japan (2) India (3) United States  
 (4) China (5) None of these
114. What is the India's rank in the 2017 EIU Global Democracy Index?  
 (1) 42nd (2) 64th (3) 33rd (4) 21st (5) None of these
115. Which union minister has launched India's first sentiment index "CriSidEx"?  
 (1) Nitin Gadkari (2) Arun Jaitley (3) Narendra Modi  
 (4) Sushma Swaraj (5) None of these
116. Which state has topped the Health Index progressive report, which is recently released by NITI Aayog?  
 (1) Punjab (2) Kerala (3) Uttar Pradesh  
 (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these



117. What is the India's rank in the 2018 Intellectual Property Index (IPI), which is released by U.S. Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC)?  
 (1) 46<sup>th</sup> (2) 44<sup>th</sup> (3) 45<sup>th</sup> (4) 47<sup>th</sup> (5) None of these
118. Which Indian city has been named in the list of 15 wealthiest cities globally, as per latest report by New World Wealth?  
 (1) Delhi (2) Hyderabad (3) Mumbai  
 (4) Chennai (5) None of these
119. Which of the following is the India's first online radio station?  
 (1) Radio Sansar (2) Radio Umang (3) Radio Aadhaar  
 (4) Radio Teacap (5) None of these
120. The book "Exam Warriors" has been authored by which union minister?  
 (1) Piyush Goyal (2) Maneka Gandhi (3) Prakash Javadekar  
 (4) Narendra Modi (5) None of these

**Check Your Answer:** 1-3, 2-4, 3-4, 4-2, 5-2, 6-3, 7-4, 8-1, 9-3, 10-2, 11-2, 12-1, 13-1, 14-4, 15-4, 16-3, 17-2, 18-3, 19-2, 20-4, 21-4, 22-3, 23-1, 24-2, 25-2, 26-1, 27-1, 28-2, 29-4, 30-1, 31-2, 32-1, 33-2, 34-1, 35-4, 36-1, 37-3, 38-2, 39-4, 40-1, 41-1, 42-2, 43-4, 44-4, 45-3, 46-4, 47-3, 48-1, 49-2, 50-2, 51-4, 52-4, 53-2, 54-2, 55-3, 56-1, 57-1, 58-4, 59-3, 60-3, 61-3, 62-3, 63-2, 64-1, 65-1, 66-4, 67-1, 68-1, 69-2, 70-2, 71-1, 72-1, 73-1, 74-3, 75-4, 76-1, 77-2, 78-1, 79-4, 80-2, 81-1, 82-4, 83-3, 84-4, 85-2, 86-3, 87-2, 88-4, 89-2, 90-2, 91-4, 92-1, 93-4, 94-4, 95-3, 96-3, 97-3, 98-4, 99-3, 100-2, 101-3, 102-4, 103-4, 104-4, 105-2, 106-2, 107-1, 108-3, 109-1, 110-2, 111-4, 112-3, 113-4, 114-1, 115-2, 116-2, 117-2, 118-3, 119-2, 120-4.

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**THE CHENNAI SCHOOL OF BANKING**