## Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – February 2018

### CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No</th>
<th>Topics</th>
<th>Page No.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Important Days</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Important Banking News</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Important Financial &amp; Economy Affairs</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Important State Wise National News</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Important Ministry Affairs</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Important International News</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Important Appointments</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Important Awards and Honors</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Important MoU and Agreements</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Important Summit &amp; Conference</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Important Mobile App and Web Portal</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12.</td>
<td>Important Defence News</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13.</td>
<td>Important Schemes And Programs</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14.</td>
<td>Important Ranking and Indexes</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>Important Books and Authors</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16.</td>
<td>Important Sports News</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>Important Obituaries</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Pyeongchang Winter Olympics-2018</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Important Days

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Important Days</th>
<th>Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 1</td>
<td>Indian Cost Guard Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 2</td>
<td>World Wetlands Day</td>
<td>Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 4</td>
<td>World Cancer Day, National Day of Sri Lanka, Facebook day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 6 -</td>
<td>International Day against Female Genital Mutilation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 10</td>
<td>National Deworming Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 11 -</td>
<td>World Day of the Sick</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 12</td>
<td>Darwin Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 13</td>
<td>World Radio Day</td>
<td>Radio and Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>No Uniform Day</td>
<td>The Love</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 20</td>
<td>The World Day of Social Justice</td>
<td>Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 21 -</td>
<td>International Mother Language Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 22</td>
<td>World Thinking day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 23</td>
<td>World Peace and Understanding Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>Central Excise Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 27</td>
<td>World NGO Day</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>National Science Day</td>
<td>Science and Technology for a sustainable future</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd week of February</td>
<td>National Productivity Week</td>
<td>Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
IMPORTANT BANKING NEWS

RBI warns of fake website seeking personal info by its name:
- The 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 official website of RBI is https://www.rbi.org.in/

RBI Relaxes Priority Sector Lending Rule For Banks:
- Reserve Bank of India has made banks' priority sector norms lenient by saying that all loans to micro small and medium enterprises (MSME) will here after qualify as priority sector lending. This was a long time demand from banks.
- Till date, loans up to Rs 10 crore per MSME borrower was considered for priority sector calculation.
- The sub-target for bank lending to the micro enterprises has been 7.50 percent of adjusted net bank credit or credit equivalent amount of off-balance sheet exposure, whichever is higher.

RBI asks banks to accept notes & coins of small denominations at their counters:
- RBI has directed all banks to accept small denomination notes and coins tendered at their counters.
- The apex bank issued a notification in Mumbai by saying such denial of service causes inconvenience to the public at large as shopkeepers and traders refuse to accept coins for payment of goods and services.

RBI Sets Up Committee a To Monitor Bad Loans:
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of YH Malegam to look into a range of issues relating to classification of bad loans, rising incidents of frauds and effectiveness of audits.
- Y H Malegam is a former member of the Central Board of Directors of RBI. A K Misra – Executive Director of RBI will be the Member-Secretary of the committee.

RBI Launches Ombudsman Scheme For NBFCs:
- The Reserve Bank of India has launched Ombudsman Scheme for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) for redressal of complaints against them.
- The scheme will provide a cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism relating to deficiency in the services by NBFCs covered under the scheme.

AIBEA has said the RBI Governor Urjit Patel should Resign:
- All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has said the RBI Governor Urjit Patel should take up "moral responsibility" for $1.77-billion PNB fraud and resign from his post.
- AIBEA said that RBI Governor's continued silence with regard to the scam is "surprising and astounding".
- It added this indicates the failure of RBI in non-monitoring the account of PNB's fraud-hit Mumbai branch.

State Bank of India to offer credit cards to farmer:
- State Bank of India is planning to sell credit cards to farmers on easier terms.
- The country’s largest lender has tied up with its credit card issuing subsidiary SBI Card to make it happen.

State Bank of India inks information utility pact with NeSL:
- State Bank of India has signed an Information Utility (IU) agreement with National E-Governance Services Ltd (NeSL) to share financial and security information under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IU) regulation 2017.

SBI’s bad loans are the highest among all the public sector banks:
- The country’s largest lender SBI wrote off bad loans worth Rs 20,339 crore in 2016-17, the highest among all the public sector banks, which had a collective, write off of Rs 81,683 crore for the fiscal.
The data pertains to the period when the associate banks of State Bank of India (SBI) were not merged with it. Besides SBI, Punjab National Bank had a write-off of Rs 9,205 crore in 2016-17, followed by Bank of India (Rs 7,346 crore), Canara Bank (Rs 5,545 crore) and Bank of Baroda (Rs 4,348 crore).

**RBI uncovers Rs.23,000 crore bad loans in SBI’s books for FY17:**
- The Reserve Bank of India has unearthed hidden bad loans worth over Rs.23,000 crore in the books of SBI for the last fiscal.
- The central bank's audit also showed the biggest private lender HDFC Bank had a bad loan divergence of over Rs.2,000 crore in FY17.
- Divergence is the difference between the bank's reported bad loans and RBI's audit findings.

**SBI launches Global NRI Centre in Kochi**
- The State Bank of India, which has a strong NRI customer base of over 33 lakh, has launched its Global NRI Centre (GNC) in Kochi.
- The GNC will be a one-stop customer service centre for all Non-Resident Indian (NRI) banking related services.
- To enhance the service experience of NRIs, the bank also launched other services such as Wealth Management, SBI Intelligent Assist, Free Post Box Service, SBI Mingle for NRIs and Remittance facility for US-based customers.

**State Bank Of India Planned For UK Restructuring:**
- State Bank of India (SBI) is planned for a major restructuring of its business in the United Kingdom from April.
- SBI's UK operations will transform into a subsidiary named State Bank of India UK Limited from April 1, in compliance with wider ring-fencing of capital requirements by the Bank of England.

**Google ties up with SBI for mobile payments app Tez**
- Internet giant Google has tied up with State Bank of India (SBI) for its mobile payments app Tez.
- Through this partnership, Google Tez will allow users to create an SBI UPI Id - @oksbi and get access to exclusive offers for SBI customers.
- The partnership will focus on building unique propositions for users and merchants, including specially curated offers.

**PNB signs pact with National e-Gov Services:**
- Punjab National Bank 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.
- The agreement will enable storing of financial information that will help substantiate defaults and verify claims expeditiously.

**PNB fraud amount of Rs.11,360 crore is 8 times its FY17 profit:**
- The fraud amount of Rs.11,360 crore detected by PNB at a Mumbai branch is equivalent to 8.5 times the bank's FY17 net profit of Rs.1,325 crore.
- The amount is also 49 times its December quarter profit of Rs.230 crore. It is also nearly one-third of the bank's total market capitalization of Rs.35,365 crore.

**PNB reveals additional Rs.1,300-crore fraud in Nirav Modi case:**
- PNB declares the amount of fraudulent transactions, involving Nirav Modi and Mehul Choksi, could be over Rs1,300 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.

**HDFC Bank becomes first Indian bank to cross Rs 5 trillion market capital:**
Private sector lender HDFC Bank became the first Indian bank to cross ₹5 trillion (about $78 billion) market capitalisation.
In the last one year, the bank’s shares have gained around 56%. The bank is also only the third Indian company to achieve this milestone after Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) and Reliance Industries.

**HDFC Bank appoints Rakesh Singh as Private Banking Head:**
- HDFC Bank has appointed Rakesh Singh as Private Banking Head. He will be responsible to head Bank’s Investment Banking, Capital Markets and Financial Institutions businesses.
- He will report his work to Abhay Aima who is the Country head.

**YES BANK**

**YES Bank to raise $1 billion to fund solar energy projects:**
- Yes Bank will mobilise $1 billion till 2023 and $5 billion till 2030 towards financing solar energy projects in India.
- The private sector bank made this announcement at the International Solar Alliance (ISA) conference organised at the World Future Energy Summit 2018 in Abu Dhabi.

**YES Bank Lists Country’s First $600m MTN Bond On IndiaINX:**
- Private sector lender, Yes Bank has announced the listing of the Bank’s debut US $600 million bond issue under its maiden US $1 billion medium-term note (MTN) bond on country’s first international exchange BSE’s IndiaINX at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at GIFT City in Gandhinagar.
- The Yes Bank’s MTN programme—a debt note that matures or has a payback period of 5 years on Global Securities Market (GSM) became the country’s first capital raising platform for international investors in any currency.

**YES Bank to sell $300 million bonds through IFSC unit:**
- Mid-scale private sector lender Yes Bank is in the global debt market with a $300-million bond issue, as part of its $1-billion global medium-term note programme.
- This is the first overseas debt sale by a domestic issuer from the International Finance Centre at the Gift City in Ahmadabad.

**ADB**

**ADB invests $50 million in True North to support mid-market biz:**
- The ADB has invested USD 50 million in True North VI LLP (True North VI) to provide equity capital to middle-market companies in India embarking on their next phase of growth.

**ADB Gives $84 Million Loan For Water Supply In Bihar:**
- The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a $84 million loan for improvement and expansion of water supply in Bhagalpur and Gaya towns in Bihar.
- The tranche 2 loan is part of the $200 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Bihar Urban Development Investment Program that was approved by ADB in 2012.

**Bank of Baroda exit from South Africa:**
- Bank of Baroda will exit the South African market amid allegations that politically connected Gupta family used its network for illicit transactions.
- Authorities alleged that the Gupta family used the bank to transfer large sums of illegal money and influence President Jacob Zuma.
- Bank of Baroda was the last lender in South Africa that offered services to Guptas’ companies.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>USEFUL INFO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bank of Baroda Headquarters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The government has directed the banks to only accept online applications for education loans:**
- The government has directed all the banks to only accept online applications for education loans in a bid to make the loan disbursement process transparent and efficient.
The banks have also been asked to not consider any application received in physical form. The move also aims to tackle the delay in sanctioning of the education loans.

**Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has received Rs.173.06 crore for capital infusion from the government:**

- In a regulatory filing, IOB said it has received Rs.173.06 crore as contribution of the central government in the preferential allotment of equity shares of the bank as government’s investment during the 2017-18 fiscal.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>IOB Headquarters</th>
<th>Chennai</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CEO</td>
<td>R. Subramaniakumar</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ICICI Bank, HDFC Bank approve JFC Finance’s bid to acquire Palogix Infrastructure**

- ICICI Bank and HDFC Bank have approved JFC Finance (India) Ltd's bid to acquire the insolvent Palogix Infrastructure, a 20-year old firm in railways logistics.
- JFC Finance, the Delhi-based non banking firm, has proposed to acquire close to 80% in Palogix for Rs 100-crore.
- The logistics firm owes Rs 150 crore to creditors.

**IPPB to enable Digital Payments in Post Offices by April 2018**

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) Expansion Programme continues to make brisk progress and a nation-wide roll-out is scheduled beginning April 2018.
- Additionally, the IPPB will enable acceptance of digital payments across post offices in the country in line with the digital payments initiative of the government.

**SGX falls nearly 9% over Nifty contract termination:**

- After the termination of contract with Nifty, Singapore stock market SCX falls nearly 9% on the share market.
- SGX offers the hugely popular Nifty contracts that attract many global investors due to its low trading costs and also the attractive tax regime of the country.

**KVGB tops in code compliance rating:**

- The Dharwad-headquartered regional rural bank (RRB) Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank (KVGB) has been awarded an overall rating of ‘above average’ on code compliance by the Banking Codes and Standards Board of India (BCSBI).
- The bank has been ranked first among 28 RRBs at an all-India survey during 2017-18 by BCSBI.

**Zoho ties up with ICICI Bank for integrated platform**

- Software Company Zoho has tied up with private lender ICICI Bank to provide accounting and banking on an integrated platform.
- The partnership will deliver a streamlined digital banking experience to customers using Zoho's cloud accounting software, 'Zoho Books'.

**Citibank India bans use of its cards to buy cryptocurrencies:**

- Citibank India has banned the use of its credit and debit cards towards purchase or trading of cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.
- It said the decision came following concerns expressed by the RBI regarding potential risks associated with cryptocurrencies.
- The government had said it will take all measures to eliminate use of cryptocurrencies in illegitimate activities but did not declare them illegal.

**Equitas Bank launches digital savings account**

- Equitas Small Finance Bank has introduced ‘selfeSavings’, an interactive digital savings account.
- This account can be opened with the web-based interactive video form by using Aadhaar number, PAN and other basic details.
- The new selfeSavings account has no minimum balance requirement.
- It pays an interest rate of 6 per cent per annum for balance below 10 lakh and 6.5 per cent for 10 lakh and above.

**NDB to finance USD 345 Million for Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project:**
The Loan Agreement for financing of Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas was signed between Government of India and the New Development Bank (NDB) on 13th February 2018 at New Delhi.

This is the first tranche loan of USD 100 million approved by the NDB under the Multi Tranche Financing Facility of USD 345 million for this project.

**UCO Bank has exposure of over Rs.2, 650 crore in PNB scam:**
- State-owned UCO Bank has said that it has an exposure of over Rs.2, 650 crore in the Rs.11, 400-crore PNB scam linked to billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi.
- The bank's Hong Kong branch granted loans against letters of credit issued by PNB.
- UCO Bank said it is fully confident to receive the payment while PNB had said it will honour its bonafide commitments.

**City Union Bank affected by Rs.12 crore frauds:**
- City Union Bank has said it had suffered three "fraudulent remittances" of over $1.8 million (over Rs.12 crore).
- No entries were made in the bank's ledgers and transfers were pushed through SWIFT messaging platform.
- The lender said it was able to block a remittance of $500,000 immediately which was made to a Dubai-based bank from Standard Chartered in New York.

**KYC verification of payments bank customers should not do by telecom companies:**
- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has said 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.

**NHB has approved the merger of Capital First and IDFC Bank:**
- Capital First announced that the regulator National Housing Bank (NHB) has approved the merger of the company along with Capital Home Finance and Capital First Securities Limited with IDFC Bank.
- The amalgamation is subject to the receipt of approval from the Reserve Bank of India and other statutory and regulatory approvals.
- The share swap ratio for the merger is fixed at 139:10, meaning IDFC Bank will issue 139 shares for every 10 shares of Capital First.

**RBS hires “digital human” Cora on probation**
- A life-like avatar called Cora is being put through her paces by Royal Bank of Scotland; helping customers with basic queries and giving its digital banking drive a more human face.
- RBS, which recently axed a quarter of its branches and has announced thousands of job cuts in the past year alone as it reduces costs, will only deploy Cora to NatWest customers if the bank’s female avatar passes her probation period.
- Cora, which is undergoing advanced testing as part of a pilot programme at RBS, could even be used to train members of staff.

**Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited commences operations:**
- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited has commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from February 22, 2018.
- The Reserve Bank has issued a licence to the bank under Section 22 (1) of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 to carry on the business of payments bank in India.

**KYC norms for e-wallets made mandatory from March 1**
- Users of prepaid payment instruments (PPI) such as mobile wallets will have to complete the KYC requirements by February 28 as the Reserve Bank of India has refused to extend the deadline any further.
- Those who do not comply with the KYC norms will not be allowed to load money into their respective wallet accounts or carry out remittance-based transactions.
- They will also not be allowed to transfer the cash in the wallet account to their bank accounts.
Important Financial & Economy Affairs

Union Government allocated Amounts for women safety:
- In the Union Budget 2018 Finance minister Arun Jaitley has been sanctioned Rs. 100 crore for Nirbhaya Fund to the safety of women.
- Rs.81.75 crore has been allocated for the National Emergency Response System and prevention of cybercrimes against women and children.

Govt makes PAN mandatory for all transactions over Rs.2.5 lakh:
- The government has made Permanent Account Number (PAN) mandatory for those entity conducting financial transactions of Rs.2.5 lakh or more.
- Adding that an Aadhar-like identity number is being developed for enterprises, the government stated that PAN will also be used as a Unique Entity Number for non-individuals from April 1.

India contributes $1 million to UN Development Partnership Fund
- India 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 the south. India has pledged a multi-year contribution of $100 million to the fund establishment in June 2017.

Google to spend $2 billion to buy Chelsea Market building:
- Google has reportedly agreed to buy New York City’s Chelsea Market building for more than $2 billion.
- Google, the largest tenant in the building with about 400,000 square feet, is buying it from real estate investment firm Jamestown LP.

Uber, transport ministry partner to push road safety awareness:
- As part of its ongoing efforts to encourage road safety awareness, ride-sharing company Uber has joined hands with union ministry of road transport and highways to push for the cause in the country which witnesses around five lakh accidents every year.

SEBI rules for mandatory 25 % fund-raising by September:
- SEBI Chairman Ajay Tyagi said the rules for mandatory 25 % fund-raising by listed companies through this route would be out by September.
- He said the volatility in the Indian markets may continue for some time due to global reasons, but there are no issues of concern for investors.

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<tr>
<td>SEBI Headquarters</td>
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India to change base year for GDP, IIP to 2017-18:
- The government will change the base year to 2017-18 for the calculation of GDP and IIP numbers while for retail inflation the year will be revised to 2018.
- The statistics ministry has proposed the new base year for GDP and IIP as 2017-18 while for CPI it will be 2018.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has been allocated Rs 4,859 crore in the Union Budget 2018-19.

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- The government will change the base year to 2017-18 for the calculation of GDP and IIP numbers while for retail inflation the year will be revised to 2018.
- The statistics ministry has proposed the new base year for GDP and IIP as 2017-18 while for CPI it will be 2018.
- The Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MOSPI) has been allocated Rs 4,859 crore in the Union Budget 2018-19.
EPFO lowers interest rate to 8.55% for 2017-18:
- 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 for which the provident fund body manages a corpus of over Rs.11 lakh crore has reduced the interest rate. Notably, the interest rate was 8.80% in 2015-16.

Ambani's Reliance to buy 5% stake in Eros for Rs.316 Cr:
- Mukesh Ambani-led Reliance Industries on Tuesday said it will buy a 5% stake in NYSE-listed Eros International for $48.75 million (over Rs.316 crore).
- Separately, the companies also announced an Rs.1,000-crore fund to produce and acquire Indian films and digital content.
- Last year, Reliance had purchased 25% stake in media company Balaji Telefilms for Rs.413 crore.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetha Invests 1.3 Crore Across 3 Startups:
- Tamil Nadu-based incubator will be investing Rs.1.3 crore across 3 startups, Yellow Messenger, Linksmart DNA, and Book My Diamond.
- The startups were selected as part of a pitching contest organised by a Coimbatore-based university.
- Entrepreneurs and investors including R Natarajan, COO and CFO of RNT Capital Ventures, and Matrimony.com CEO M Janakiraman participated in the event.

First Sale of Electoral Bonds to Commence from 1st March:
- The first sale of Electoral Bonds will commence from the 1st of next month for a period of ten days.
- The Ministry of Finance said, State Bank of India has been authorized to issue and encash Electoral Bonds initially at its four authorised branches.

India contributes USD 1 Million Aid to Tonga:
- India has contributed USD 1 million aids Tonga for rehabilitation efforts after island was hit by Tropical Cyclone Gita which had caused massive destruction across the Pacific Ocean archipelago.
- India will provide USD 50000 for immediate relief assistance and remaining USD 500000 from the India-UN Development Partnership Fund (UNDP) for the rehabilitation efforts.

Paytm Launches Two Insurance Companies:
- Digital payments startup Paytm has launched two insurance companies, Paytm Life Insurance and Paytm General Insurance.
- Paytm Founder Vijay Shekhar Sharma, CFO Madhur Deora, and Shankar Prasad Nath are the three signatory stakeholders in both the companies.

Paytm to Give Users Its Own Credit Rating:
- Digital payments startup Paytm is launching its own credit scoring product called 'Paytm Score,' according to reports.
- The Vijay Shekhar Sharma-led startup will give credit score to users based on their digital transactions across the company's multiple offerings, including e-commerce and bookings platforms, the reports added.

BMW Developed Driverless Car:
- German carmaker BMW has developed an autonomous i3 electric car that riders can summon just by using their smartphone.
- The car's entertainment system allows users to control some vehicle functions like flashing the headlight, door locking and unlocking, and also the horn.
- Once the rider reaches the destination, the car heads off to find a parking spot for itself.

Government Listed 9500 High Risk NBFCs:
- The government has categorised about 9,500 non-banking financial companies (NBFCs) in the country as “high risk” prone as they had not complied with a stipulated provision of the anti-money laundering law.
- A list of 9,491 “high risk financial institutions” has been published by the Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) that functions under the Union Finance Ministry.
EPFO Makes Online Claims Must For PF Withdrawals Above Rs 10 Lakh:
- Retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made it mandatory to file online claims for provident fund withdrawals above Rs 10 lakh, taking another step towards becoming a paperless organisation.
- The EPFO has also made it mandatory to file online claims for withdrawals of above Rs 5 lakh under the Employees Pension Scheme 1995.
- Under the pension scheme, there is a provision of part withdrawal of pension, commonly known as commutation of pension money.

Important State Wise National News
Andhra Pradesh
Capital – Amravati; CM – Chandrababu Naidu; Governor - Ekkadu Srinivasan Lakshmi Narasimhan

First-Ever Pelican Festival Held At Atapaka Bird Sanctuary In Andhra Pradesh:
- The Andhra Pradesh government has decided to hold the first-of-its kind, one-day Pelican Festival at the Atapaka Bird Sanctuary on Kolleru.
- Kolleru is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the country. Atapaka village is located on the borders of the Krishna and the West Godavari districts.

USEFUL INFO
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Andhra Pradesh Capital</th>
<th>Hyderabad</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CM</td>
<td>Chandrababu Naidu</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor</td>
<td>E. S. L. Narasimhan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Andhra Pradesh CM Chandrababu Naidu is richest CM in India:
- Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu is the richest Chief Minister in India with assets worth over Rs.177 crore, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) stated.
- 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 CM with lowest declared assets.

RIL to invest in mobile making unit at Tripathi:
- Mukesh Ambani-led RIL has plans to manufacture 10 million mobile phones per annum in Andhra Pradesh.
- The RIL is looking for 150 acres of land to start a cell phone manufacturing unit near Tripathi in Chittoor district.

Arunachal Pradesh
Capital – Itanagar; CM – Prema Khandu; Governor - B D Mishra

PM Modi Launched Three Key Projects In Arunachal Pradesh:
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has launched several projects in Arunachal Pradesh.
- He inaugurated the Dorjee Khandu state convention centre at a function in Itanagar. The Centre has an auditorium, conference halls and an exhibition hall.
- Prime Minister's focus was also on the information revolution and now, the newly erected Secretariat building in the state capital is a big step in that direction. The building will have digital technology at its core and will have 2,500 officers and other employees.

Special package of Rs 925 Cr to strengthen power transmission in Arunachal Pradesh:
- The Centre has announced a special package of 925 crore rupees for strengthening the power transmission and distribution system in Arunachal Pradesh.
- Union Minister of State for Power and New and Renewable Energy, RK Singh made the announcement yesterday while chairing a review meeting of the power sector with senior officers of the state government in Itanagar.

Central Government sanctions more than Rs. 700 crore under PMGSY for Arunachal Pradesh
• Union Rural Development Ministry sanctioned more than Rs. 700 crore for 43 roads and 15 bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) for Arunachal Pradesh. The total of 685 KM of roads and 577 meters of bridges will be constructed out of the sanctioned amount.
• Chief Minister Pema Khandu has thanked Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the grant and said his concern for Arunachal Pradesh in terms of connectivity is evident from the positive gesture.
• The state is rising under dynamic leadership of Mr. Modi and with such continuous support; Arunachal Pradesh shall transform itself at par with other developed states.

Assam
Capital – Dishpur; CM – Sarbananda Sonowal; Governor – Jagdish Mukhi.

Government Formed Committee To Study Brahmaputra And Flood Control Measures In Assam:
• The Centre has constituted a committee headed by the Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog Mr Rajiv Kumar to study the Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and neighboring states.
• According to the Assam Water Resource minister, Keshab Mahanta, measures are being taken by the Water Resource department to repair the damaged river embankment due to flood.

Bihar
Capital – Patna; CM – Nitish Kumar; Governor – Satya Pal Malik

Government of Bihar bans sale of Loose Cigarettes
• The government of Bihar banned the sale of Loose Cigarettes.
• This initiative has been taken by the Government of Bihar to stop kids and youngsters who start smoking by buying loose cigarettes.

ADB Gives $84 Million Loan For Water Supply In Bihar:
• The Government of India and Asian Development Bank (ADB) signed a $84 million loan for improvement and expansion of water supply in Bhagalpur and Gaya towns in Bihar.
• The tranche 2 loan is part of the $200 million multi-tranche financing facility (MFF) for the Bihar Urban Development Investment Program that was approved by ADB in 2012.

Bihar is national topper in FY17 growth, with 10.3 pc
• Bihar clocked a growth rate of 10.3 per cent in 2016-2017 as against 7.5 per cent in the corresponding fiscal a year ago, according to the latest Economic Survey tabled in the state Assembly.
• Bihar's growth rate is higher than that of the national average of 7.0 per cent, the 12th Economic Survey of Bihar said.

Gujarat
Capital: Gandhinagar; CM: Vijay Rupani; Governor: Om Prakash Kohli

Rajim Kumbh Mela created world record:
• A record was set on the second day of Rajim Kumbh Mela in Chhatisgarh after over 2,100 saints and locals blew 'shankh' (conch shells) together. Golden Book of World Records certified the record.

Haryana
Capital – Chandigarh; CM Manohar Lal Khattar; Governor - Kaptan Singh Solanki

Haryana launches 'Gobardhan Yojana' to support farmers:
• The Haryana government has launched the 'Gobardhan Yojana' to provide for the sale of organic manure and cow urine with an aim to benefit farmers.
• A provision of Rs 11 crore has been made to provide benefits of various projects under this scheme, Khattar said while addressing villagers at a 'Kisan Samman Samaroh' in Nizampur village of Sonipat district.

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Karnataka
Capital – Bengaluru; CM – Siddaramaya; Governor - Vajubai Rudabai Vala

Karnataka schools to have lessons on road safety in syllabus:
- The Karnataka government has announced that all children studying in government, aided and unaided schools will have lessons on road safety from the academic year 2019-20.

The President inaugurated the 88th Mahamastakabhisheka Utsav in Karnataka:
- The President of India Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 88th Mahamastakabhisheka Utsav of Lord Gomateshwara in Hassan district of Karnataka.
- Mahamastakabhisheka of Gomateshwara, who is also known as Bahubali takes place once in 12 years.

Bengaluru to get electric vehicle charging points across the city
- Bengaluru city has the highest number of electric car owners in India, with over 6,000 electric vehicles. Now, the government is planning to install 11 public charging points for e-vehicles.

Centre selects Karnataka's Hampi as 'Iconic Tourism' Among 10 site:
- The Centre on Tuesday announced that Karnataka's Hampi monuments will be among the ten destinations selected as 'Iconic Tourism' sites.
- In his Union Budget speech, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had said that the sites will be provided support for holistic infrastructure and skill development.
- Other selected sites include the Taj Mahal, Konark Sun Temple, and Ajanta and Ellora caves.

PM Flags Off Palace Queen Humsafar Express In Karnataka:
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Palace Queen Humsafar Express between Mysore and Udaipur in Mysore Railway Station.
- Both the Mysore Palace and Udaipur palace are iconic tourist attractions and this special train will create a new tourist circuit connecting North India and the South.
- The train between Mysore and Udaipur will act as a backbone of tourism, an employment generating industry.

Kottayam to get 'gender park' for women, children
- A 'gender park' opens 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.
- The Ettumanoor panchayats will invest Rs.80 lakh for the initial phase of the park's construction.

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Cochin Shipyard Limited Signs MoU With Russian Firm USC
- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) and Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), Russia have signed an MoU to collaborate and engage in Design, Development and Execution of contemporary, State-of-Art vessels for Inland and Coastal Waterways.

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For Online Mock Test & Ebooks – Visit: estore.ibpsguide.com
• Kerala government has made vaccination compulsory for school admissions from next academic year onwards. Parents will have to show details of shots given to children at the time of enrolment in schools.
• The health minister of Kerala KK Shailaja has released the new health policy draft. The move comes in the wake of stiff opposition from certain communities against the vaccination drive.

**Madhya Pradesh**

Capital – Bhopal; CM – Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Governor – Anandiben Patel

**44th Khajuraho dance festival held in Madhya Pradesh**

- The 44th edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018 was held at Khajuraho temple, a UNESCO world heritage site in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh.
- It was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and was organised by culture department of state government.

**Maharashtra**

Capital – Mumbai; CM – Devendra Fadnavis; Governor – Vidyasagar Rao

**Maharashtra Government to give sanitary pads to 7L girls for Rs. 5 per pack:**

- The Maharashtra government has announced a scheme under which a packet of sanitary pads will be made available to seven lakh girls from government schools in rural parts for 5.
- Named ‘Asmita’, the scheme will cover girls aged between 11 and 19 and nearly 1.75 crore rural women, who will receive two types of packets for 24 and 29 each.

**Maharashtra government approves new wildlife sanctuary at Ghodazari:**

- The Maharashtra government has approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as a new wildlife sanctuary in the state.
- The decision was taken at the 13th meeting of the Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife, chaired by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.

**Maharashtra Tops in India’s Exports and GST:**

- The Economic survey found that Maharashtra had the largest share of the tax base at 16 per cent.
- Each state’s share in the GST tax base is almost perfectly correlated with the state’s share in the overall gross share domestic product (GSDP).

**Maharashtra govt to develop app for auto rickshaws in Pune:**

- The Maharashtra government has announced plans to develop a mobile application for regulating auto rickshaws in Pune, making the service transparent and efficient.
- The app will be beneficial for commuters as most auto rickshaws reportedly do not ferry customers for short distances and overcharge at odd hours.

**Bombay HC quashes resolution making MDCB official bank for teachers:**

- The Bombay High Court today set aside a 2017 government resolution that made the Mumbai District Co-operative Bank (MDCB) the official bank for disbursement of salaries to teachers in aided schools in the megapolis.

**Maharashtra records highest growth in mangrove cover in India:**

- Maharashtra has reported the highest growth in mangrove cover, of 82 square kilometers, in the last two years in the country.
- ‘The State of Forest Report 2017’ said that the state’s mangrove cover increased from 222 sq km to 304 sq km, registering an increase of 37% over the previous assessment in 2015.

**Thane unveiled buses with CCTVs, panic buttons for women safety:**

- The Thane Municipal Transport in its 2018-19 budgets has announced the installation of CCTV cameras and panic buttons aiming to improve women safety.
- Special squads will be stationed at bus stops and will board the vehicle if the panic button is pressed during an emergency.
- The corporation also plans to introduce 50 women special buses by March end.
India’s first artificial intelligence centre inaugurated in Mumbai:
- In a first in the country, Maharashtra government will be setting up an institute for artificial intelligence (AI) in Mumbai.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will unveil the plan for the institute during the Magnetic Maharashtra Summit.

Maharashtra Government To Launch Asmita Yojana:
- Maharashtra government will roll out 'Asmita Yojana' on the International Women’s Day (March 8, 2018) to provide cheap (subsidised) sanitary pads to school girls and women.
- Under the scheme, schoolgirls studying in Zilla Parishad schools will get sanitary napkin packet at Rs 5 while rural women can avail it at subsidised rate of Rs.24 and Rs.29.

Elephanta Island gets permanent power supply for 1st time:
- The Elephanta Island near Mumbai has received permanent electricity connection for the first time since 70 years of Independence.
- The project will benefit around 1,200 residents on the island, which houses UNESCO World Heritage site Elephanta Caves.

Mumbai bus service authority to get 40 eco-friendly buses
- The Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport (BEST) panel has approved the procurement of 40 smaller electric vehicles, 20 AC and 20 non-AC buses, for the city.
- Electric buses are eco-friendly and don't emit gases and create less noise, it said. BEST, which already has four electric buses, will receive all the 40 buses within the next nine months.

Meghalaya
Capital – Shillong; CM - Mukul Sangma; Governor – Shri Ganga Prasad.
Meghalaya Governor inaugurates India, Bangladesh 'Friendship Gate':
- Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad has inaugurated the "Friendship Gate" constructed with an aim to have a Wagah-like beating retreat ceremony for the Indian and Bangladesh border guards.
- The Friendship Gate has been constructed near Integrated Check post, 90 km south of capital Shillong on border with Bangladesh.

Mizoram
Capital – Aizawl; CM - Lal Thanhawla; Governor – Nirbhay Sharma.
First Northeast Regional Centre for Agriculture inaugurates in Mizoram:
- First Northeast Regional Centre for Agriculture will be inaugurated in Mizoram. This Centre will be inaugurated with the collaboration of Israel.
- It will be first Regional Centre for Agriculture of Northeast. Israel will give professional and expert support to run the centre. This Centre will be beneficial for the farmers of the North-Eastern region in the long run.

New Delhi
Hrithik opens new store OF Rado at Delhi Airport:
- Bollywood megastar Hrithik Roshan yesterday opened Rado's stylish new store at Delhi IGI Airport.
- This is the first time Rado has opened a monobrand store in an airport.
- Hrithik Roshan is brand ambassador of Hrithik opens new store at Delhi Airport.

R.K. Singh Inaugurates ‘International R&D Conclave’ In New Delhi:
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh inaugurated the ‘International R&D Conclave’ in New Delhi.
- It is a two-day conference on Emerging Opportunities and Challenges of R&D in Indian Power Sector.
- It has been organized by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The conference was stressed upon the need of a dedicated R&D department in CEA to coordinate the research in the power sector.

Govt sanctions Rs. 1200 Cr to clear pollution in Delhi:
In a move to provide Delhi residents relief from the burgeoning air pollution crisis in the city, the central government has sanctioned schemes worth Rs 1,200 crore to keep a check on alarming pollution levels in the capital.

According to NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant, on account of the air quality worsening in Delhi due to burning crop residue from October to December months, the schemes will help curb pollution.

**Punjab**

Capital – Chandigarh; CM – Amarinder Singh; Governor – VP Singh Badnore

**Punjab government bans sale of Endosulfan, other insecticides**

- Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh approved a ban on the sale of Endosulfan and 19 other insecticides reported to be harmful for human beings as well as from the environmental sustainability and economic viability aspects.

**Rajasthan**

Capital – Jaipur; CM – Vasundhara Raje; Governor - Kalyan Singh

**Rs.25 lakh award for Indian pacer Kamlesh Nagarkoti:**

- The Rajasthan government has announced an Rs.25 lakh award for Indian pacer Kamlesh Nagarkoti, who reached a bowling speed of 149 kmph at the recently concluded U-19 World Cup.
- Nagarkoti, who took nine wickets in the World Cup, was India's joint second-highest wicket-taker in the tournament.

**Gandhinagar Railway Station of Jaipur becomes fully female operated Station:**

- Jaipur’s Gandhinagar Railway Station has become fully women’s operated Station. This Station is fully operated by 28 female employees and has become Country’s first female operated Railway Station.
- This station has a footfall of more than 7,000 passengers every day. This Station has female ticket checkers, RPF, operations staff and reservation and booking supervisors.

**Tamilnadu**

Capital – Chennai; CM – Edapadi Palanisamy; Governor - Banwarilal Purohit

**Kamal Haasan launches political party ‘Makkal Needhi Maiam’ in Tamilnadu:**

- Actor Kamal Haasan launched his political party 'Makkal Needhi Maiam' and hoisted a flag carrying the party's symbol in Tamil Nadu's Madurai.
- Haasan, who has embarked on a statewide tour, visited former President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam's residence and addressed three public meetings earlier in the day.

**Tamil Nadu Join Hands With Microsoft To Accelerate Cloud Technology:**

- The government of Tamil Nadu announced signing an agreement with IT Major Microsoft to improve the integration of technology in teaching and learning in the state.
- The partnership aims to reform education sector, build tech capacity and enhance digital literacy across all levels.
- As a part of the agreement, Microsoft will adopt seven schools identified by the government and train their teachers and students around building 21st century skills.

**Uttar Pradesh**

Capital – Lucknow; CM – Yogi Adityanath; Governor – Ram Naik

**Uttar Pradesh to provide employment to kin of martyrs**

- The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet approved a scheme aimed at providing employment to the family members of the security personnel who were martyred after April 1, 2017.

**UP fined Rs.10 lakh for e-waste on Ramganga river bank:**

- The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has imposed a fine of Rs.10 lakh on the Uttar Pradesh government as environment compensation for failing to take action to dispose of the e-waste on banks of Moradabad's Ramganga River.
- The green court also imposed an environment compensation of Rs.50, 000 on the Moradabad District Magistrate.

**PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates UP Investors Summit In Lucknow:**
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2-Day long UP Investors Summit in Lucknow. The mega event has been organised by the Uttar Pradesh government.

It is aimed at showcasing investment opportunities and potential across various sectors in Uttar Pradesh.

**Reliance Jio to invest Rs.10,000 crore in UP:**

Reliance Industries Chairman Mukesh Ambani has said Reliance Jio, which has already invested Rs.20,000 crore in Uttar Pradesh, will invest another Rs.10,000 crore in the state.

Ambani said that this will create over one lakh jobs in UP over the next three years.

**UP Government Signs Agreement With Amazon India For Khadi Products:**

Uttar Pradesh's Khadi and Village Industries Board have signed a pact with Amazon India to facilitate online selling of Khadi products.

As part of a MoU, Amazon India will educate, train and enable rural khadi artisans to directly sell their products to Amazon in customers across the country under the brand of UP Khadi.

**Adityanath inaugurates 2-day ‘Rasotsav’ in Mathura**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated two-day Rasotsav, jointly organised by the state tourism department, the Brij Tirth Vikas Parishad and the Brajbhumi Vikas trust.

Local MP, actress-turned-politician Hema Malini has been instrumental in organising the event which is being held at the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Veterinary Institute.

**CCEA approves Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarakhand:**

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved construction of 4.531 km long 2-Lane Bi-Directional Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarakhand as part of ‘Chardham Mahamarg Pariyojana’.

The project will come along NH-134 (old NH-94) in Uttarakhand and will be built under Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Mode.

**West Bengal Becomes First State To Opt Out Of ‘Modicare’:**

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced the decision to opt out of Centre’s ‘Modicare’ scheme.

Bengal government had already enrolled 50 lakh people under its own Swasthya Sathi programme.

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India aimed for 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030:
- While addressing the 7th Indian Energy Congress in New Delhi Coal Minister Piyush Goyal has said India should strive for 50 per cent of its power generation capacity from renewable sources by 2030 on the back of technological advancements in solar and wind energy.

Bhupinder Singh Hooda has been accused in Manesar land scam:
- Former Haryana CM Bhupinder Singh Hooda has been named as accused in the 80,000-page CBI chargesheet in the Manesar land scam.

60 Solar Cities to be developed across country:
- The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy under its scheme “Development of Solar Cities” has approved/sanctioned 60 Cities including 13 Pilot and 5 Model Cities up to 12th Five-year Plan period.

Patanjali supports legalization of marijuana in India:
- By supporting the legalization of marijuana, Patanjali CEO Acharya Balkrishna said that the nation should consider the benefits and positive uses of marijuana.

NHAI to launch ranking system of toll plazas:
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is going to launch a ranking system of the toll plazas.
- NHAI Chairman Deepak Kumar said every quarter, the three best toll plazas will be identified and their names will be published on the NHAI website.

2300 Indian Army personnel to join UN peace keeping mission in South Sudan:
- About 2,300 Indian Army personnel are leaving for South Sudan to join the UN peace keeping mission in the war-torn African country.
- Army Spokesperson Col Aman Anand said in New Delhi that to support the UN efforts in bringing peace and normalcy in a war torn country of South Sudan, Indian Army is contributing around 2,300 personnel.

Approves Proposals Worth Rs. 15,935 Crore
- The defence ministry of India approved capital acquisition proposals worth Rs.15,935 crore which included the purchase of 7.40 lakh assault rifles, 5,719 sniper rifles and light machine guns to bolster the strength of the armed forces.
- The long-pending proposals were cleared at a meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), the defence ministry's highest decision-making body on procurement. The meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.

Government of India makes Amendments in Small Savings Act:
- In order to remove existing uncertainties due to multiple Acts and rules for Small Saving Schemes and further strengthen the objective of “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance”, Government of India has proposed merger of Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 and Public Provident Fund Act, 1968 with the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873.
- In Proposal the government gives highest priority to the interest of small savers, especially savings for the benefit of girl child, the senior citizens and the regular savers who form the backbone of our country’s savings architecture.

India's 1st Online Radio Station 'Radio Umang' Launched:
- India's 1st Online Radio Station 'Radio Umang' was launched.
- Listeners can tune in to this online radio station through web streaming or download the app.
- With 24 hours programming, it has found listeners in Hindi speaking regions of India and in over 60 countries worldwide.

The growth rate in FTAs in January 2018 over January 2017 was 8.4%:
- Ministry of Tourism compiles monthly estimates of Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) & FTAs on e-Tourist Visa on the basis of Nationality-wise, Port-wise data received from Bureau of Immigration (BOI).
- The growth rate in FTAs in January 2018 over January 2017 was 8.4%.

All villages to be linked by roads in 2019:
• As part of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna' the center going to efforts to connect all villages through a road network by next year.
• Earlier, the target to complete these works was 2022 but it has been advanced to 2019.
• The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched by the Central government to provide connectivity to unconnected habitations as part of a poverty reduction strategy.

**BHEL Bags Rs 560 Crore Order From NTPC:**
• Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has bagged an order worth Rs 560 crore from NTPC for setting up a system for emission control.
• BHEL has secured the order for "supply and installation of the flue gas desulphurization (FGD) system from NTPC for 2x490 MW National Capital Power Station at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh.

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**Government Extends Anti-Narcotics Scheme For 3 More Years:**
• The government has extended the anti-narcotics scheme for 3 more years to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substance.
• The purpose of the scheme is to assist states and Union Territories, which are contributing in controlling the inter-state and cross-border drug trafficking.

**President inaugurates ‘Agricon 2018’ and ‘Agriexpo 2018’**
• The President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind, inaugurated the international conference ‘Agricon 2018’ and ‘Agriexpo 2018’ at Chandrasekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (CSAUT), Kanpur on February 14, 2018.
• Speaking on the occasion, the President said that in a country as vast as India, problems of farmers in different regions are different.

**Centre to appoint tribunal committee to settle Mahanadi water dispute:**
• 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. Odisha alleged the construction was affecting the river flow and water supply to its farmers.

**Priyanka quits as brand ambassador for Nirav Modi’s brand:**
• Actress Priyanka Chopra’s spokesperson has confirmed that she has quit as the global ambassador of jewellery designer Nirav Modi’s brand following allegations of money laundering against him.

**Sand artist Sudershan Patnaik pays tribute to Sridevi with sculpture:**
• Sand artist Sudershan Patnaik made a sculpture of late actress Sridevi at Puri beach in Odisha while tweeting, "Tribute to one of the brightest stars of Indian cinema #Sridevi."
• Meanwhile, Karnataka-based cartoonist Satish Acharya dedicated a sketch to the late actress. Sridevi passed away in Dubai on Saturday after a cardiac arrest.

**UIDAI introduces special blue coloured ‘Baal Aadhaar’**
• Aadhaar is increasingly becoming mandatory to make use of most of the government schemes and other activities such as getting a new SIM card or opening a new bank account.
• Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has now introduced a blue coloured ‘Baal Aadhaar’ card for children below the age of 5 years.
• All children below the age of 5 don’t need to give biometric details for getting an Aadhaar card.

**Railways to start all-weather glass-roof train in Kashmir:**
• The Northern Railways has decided to introduce an all-weather, glass-roof AC train with 40 seats in Kashmir in order to enhance tourism in the valley.
• The train will have Vista dome coaches, which will have rotatable-pushback seats, GPS-based information system, LED lights, and automatic sliding compartment doors.

Railways to install sanitary pad dispensers at 200 stations:
• The Railway Ministry on Monday said it aims to install sanitary pad dispensers and incinerators at about 200 stations by International Women's Day on March 8.
• The move is aimed to benefit Railway employees and passengers from financially weaker sections.
• The dispensers have already been installed at railway stations in New Delhi and Bhopal.

Amarnath Yatra to begin from June 28th; registration from March 1:
• Amarnath Yatra will begin from 28th of June this year via both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes. The Yatra will conclude on 26th of August.
• The Registration of the Yatris commences from Thursday through the notified bank branches. Ex-Indian Pilgrims can also register for the Yatra.
• The Shrine Board has also issued advisory relating to health and do's and don'ts for the Yatris.

IMPORTANT MINISTRY AFFAIRS

Rs 51,616 crore released to states under MGNREGA in 2017-18: Government:
• Minister of State for Rural Development Ram Kripal Yadav has released more than Rs 51,616 crore to states under rural employment guarantee scheme MGNREGA till January 31 in financial year 2017-18, Rajya Sabha was informed.

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Commerce Minister Stated Consultations on The New Industrial Policy:
• Commerce and Industries Minister Mr Suresh Prabhu set off a series of nation-wide consultations with the industry on the proposed new Industrial Policy. The first consultation was held at Guwahati in February 2018.

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Rajnath Singh launched Sanskrit Center in Gujarat University, Ahmadabad:
• Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the Centre for learning Sanskrit language in Gujarat University, Ahmadabad.
• The centre will offer a six-month course for people on how to speak the language. The coordinator of the course, Atul Unagar stated it was possibly the first such course launched in India.

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<tr>
<th>USEFUL INFO</th>
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<tr>
<td>Union Home Minister</td>
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<tr>
<td>Constituencies</td>
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</table>

Government to set up a Cyber Crime Reporting Portal
• The Union Home Minister has said the Government has decided to establish a Cyber Crime Reporting Portal to report Cyber Crimes against Women.
• We will also establish a dedicated Cyber Crime Laboratory to stop Crimes against Women and Children, he added.

About 5 crore jobs to be created by next year: MSME Minister:
• Around five crore employment opportunities will be created in the country by next year, Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Giriraj Singh said on Saturday.
• Adding that it was PM Modi's dream to create jobs through self-employment, he said employment opportunities were also being created by the Mudra (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) loan scheme.

USEFUL INFO

| Union Minister of State for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises | Giriraj Singh |
| Constituencies | Nawada, Bihar |

Union Cabinet Approves Creation Of National Urban Housing Fund:
• The Union Cabinet has given approval for creation of National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) for Rs.60, 000 crores.
• This fund will be situated in Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
• NUHF will facilitate raising requisite funds in next four years so that flow of Central Assistance under different verticals i.e.
• Beneficiary Linked Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR) and Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS).

USEFUL INFO

| Minister of State for Housing and Urban Development | Hardeep Singh Puri |
| Constituencies | Raja Shaba, Bihar |

The Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018:
• Cabinet has approved the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 on February 20th.
• The bill is aimed at tackling the menace of illicit deposit-taking activities in the country.
• Companies/ institutions running such schemes exploit existing regulatory gaps and lack of strict administrative measures to dupe poor and gullible people of their hard-earned savings.

The Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018:
• The Union Cabinet has given its approval to introduce the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in Parliament in order to facilitate orderly growth of the Chit Funds sector.
• The following amendments to the Chit Funds Act, 1982 have been proposed:
  i. Use of the words "Fraternity Fund" for chit business under Sections 2(b) and 11(1) of the Chit Funds Act, 1982, to signify its inherent nature, and distinguish its working from "Prize Chits" which are banned under a separate legislation;
  ii. Increasing the ceiling of foreman's commission from a maximum of 5% to 7%, as the rate has remained static since the commencement of the Act while overheads and other costs have increased manifold;
  iii. Allowing the foreman a right to lien for the dues from subscribers, so that set-off is allowed by the Chit company for subscribers who have already drawn funds, so as to discourage default by them; and
  iv. Amending Section 85 (b) of the Chit Funds Act, 1982 to remove the ceiling of one hundred rupees set in 1982 at the time of framing the Chit Funds Act, which has lost its relevance.

NITI Aayog Budget Allocation Increased To Rs 339.65 crore:
According to the Minister of State (IC) for Planning Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, allocations for the Ministry of Planning, which is embodied by the NITI Aayog, have increased by more than 20% over last year i.e. to Rs 339.65 crore in 2018-19 from Rs 279.79 crore in 2017-18.

Further, the budget envisages a defined role for NITI Aayog in critical areas of artificial intelligence and agriculture policy, apart from reiterating a shared vision for national development in line with NITI Aayog’s Three Year Action Agenda, the Seven Year Strategy and the 15 Year Vision Document.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>NITI Aayog’s Chairman</th>
<th>Prime Minister</th>
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<tr>
<td>Rajiv Kumar</td>
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<tr>
<th>NITI Aayog’s Vice Chairman</th>
<th>CEO</th>
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<td>Amitabh Kanth</td>
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6 New Features In E-NAM Platform:

- Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched six new features in the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform to make it more user-friendly.
- The six new features of e-NAM platform includes
  1. Management Information System dashboard for better analysis.
  2. BHIM payment facility for traders.
  3. Mobile payment facility for traders.
  4. Enhanced features on mobile app such as gate entry and payment through mobile.
  5. Integration of farmer’s database.
  6. e-Learning module for better understanding.

IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Maldives’ Chief Justice arrested after emergency declaration:

- Maldives police have arrested the country’s Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed along with Supreme Court judge Ali Hameed after President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom declared a 15-day state of emergency on 05-02-2018.
- The political crisis began after the Maldives government refused to obey a court order to release political prisoners and accused the court of attempting to impeach the President.

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<tr>
<th>President</th>
<th>Abdulla Yameen</th>
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Venezuela announces pre-sale of oil-backed Cryptocurrency:

- Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced February 20 as the pre-sale date for a Cryptocurrency backed by the country’s vast oil reserves.
- The Cryptocurrency, named “petro”, will have a great impact on the country’s economy.

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<th>Venezuela Currency</th>
<th>Venezuelan Bolívar</th>
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<tr>
<th>Venezuela President</th>
<th>Nicolás Maduro</th>
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Canada has modified its national anthem to make it gender-neutral:

- 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”.

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<th>Ottawa</th>
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</table>
**Currency** | **Dollar**
---|---
PM |James Trudeau

**Bhutan becomes second country to open consulate in Guwahati:**
- Bhutan became the second country after Bangladesh to open a consulate in Guwahati, the principal city of a state trying to shake off the militancy tag.
- Bhutan has already had a consulate in Kolkata for years.

**USEFUL INFO**

| Bhutan Capital | Thimbu  
| Currency | Nagultram  
| PM | Tshering Tobgay

**UAE Launches World’s Longest Zip Line:**
- The United Arab Emirates has made a record by opening the world's longest zip line, measuring 2.83 km in length. Guinness World Records officials certified the zip line in Ras al-Khaimah.
- The Jebel Jais Flight takes thrill-seekers atop the country's largest mountain peak, from a launch pad 1,680 meters (5,512 feet) above sea level.

**USEFUL INFO**

| UAE Capital | Abu Dhabi, dirham  
| Currency |  
| President | Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

**Rwanda Becomes 1st Poor Country To Provide Eye Care For All:**
- Rwanda has become the first low-income country to provide universal eye care for its 12 million populations.
- The government has partnered with the organisation Vision for a Nation (VFAN) to train more than 3,000 eye care nurses based in 502 local health centres, prescribing glasses and referring those with serious eye problems to national clinics.

**USEFUL INFO**

| Rwanda Capital | Kigali  
| Currency | franc  
| President | Paul Kagame.

**Dubai International Airport is the world’s busiest International Airport**
- Dubai International Airport named as the world's busiest airport for international traffic.
- It has maintained the title for 4 years, with some 90 airlines flying into skyscraper-studded Dubai.
- Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in Georgia remains the world's busiest airport overall.

**USEFUL INFO**

| UAE Capital | Abu Dhabi  
| Currency | Dirham  
| President | Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**Sweden Commits Record $370m Of Aid To UN World Food Programme:**
- Sweden and the United Nations World Food Programme signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement committing an unprecedented $370 million dollars to WFP over the next four years.
- The contribution for the period 2018-2021 is the biggest ever made by a donor within a WFP Strategic Partnership Agreement.

**USEFUL INFO**

www.ibpsguide.com  | estore.ibpsguide.com  | www.sscexamguide.com
For Online Mock Test & Ebooks – Visit: estore.ibpsguide.com
Sweden Capital
Currency
President
Stockholm
Krona
Stefan Lofven

Thailand most traffic congested country of 2017:

- Thailand is considered as the world's worst traffic congestion in the year 2017, with drivers spending an average of 56 hours in peak congestion, according to a study by transportation analytics company INRIX.
- Drivers in Los Angeles spent 102 hours in congestion on average during peak time periods, making the US city the world's most gridlocked cities for the sixth straight year.

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<th>Thailand Capital</th>
<th>Bangkok</th>
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<td>Currency</td>
<td>Bhatt</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Yingluck Shinawatra</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

China to reopen Nathu La pass for Mansarovar yatris in India

- China has agreed to reopen the Nathu La pass for Indian pilgrims to undertake the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra, Minister of State for External Affairs VK Singh informed the Lok Sabha.
- China had closed the route last year citing "unfavourable conditions", at a time when India and China were engaged in a military standoff at Doklam.
- The four-month travel period to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra starts from June.

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<th>China Capital</th>
<th>Beijing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Currency</td>
<td>Yuan</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Xi Jinping</td>
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</table>

Dubai opens world's tallest hotel:

- Dubai opens world's tallest hotel Gevora Hotel (The 356-metre-height) and breaks its own record by 1 m.
- The 75-storey structure broke the record earlier held by JW Marriott Marquis, which is also situated in Dubai, by just one meter.
- The Gevora Hotel has 528 rooms, four dining options, a luxury spa and a swimming pool, among other facilities.

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<th>UAE Capital</th>
<th>Abu Dhabi</th>
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<td>Currency</td>
<td>Dirham</td>
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<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan</td>
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World's first driverless transport pods unveiled in Dubai:

- Dubai has started testing the world's first self-driving pods that can travel individually and can also couple together to behave like a bus.
- The pods, designed to travel short and medium distances at 20 kmph, can be coupled in 15 seconds and detached in 5 seconds. Each pod can carry 10 riders and last for 3 hours on single charge.

Abraham Lincoln George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt’s face is carved into a mountain in the US:

- The face of United States' 16th President Abraham Lincoln is carved into Mount Rushmore, along with the faces of three other former US Presidents, namely George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Theodore Roosevelt.
- Lincoln, who was born on February 12, 1809, led the country through its Civil War and is credited with paving the way for the abolition of slavery.
Rio kicks off Carnival parade:
- The Carnival is celebrated in just about every state in Brazil. The carnival putting the spotlight on regional diversity, cultural barriers and political affairs.
- An anti-establishment tone is echoing through this year’s celebrations in Brazil because of the country’s political leadership at a moment of economic slump and political scandal.

PM Narendra Modi Opens first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi:
- India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi lays a foundation for first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi through video conference.
- While talking about this temple, PM Modi thank UAE’s Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan and said that this temple will give a message of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’ to people across the world.

Tanzania withdraws from UN refugee programme:
- Tanzania announced its withdrawal of United Nation’s “Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework” citing security reasons and lack of funds.
- Tanzania considered a safe haven for refugees, particularly from conflict-hit Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Burundi.

US President Trump seeks to end US funding for ISS by 2025:
- President Donald Trump wants to end US funding for the International Space Station (ISS) by 2025 with the aim of putting it into private hands.
- His plans for ISS and the NASA space programme were unveiled in his 2019 budget proposal.

South African President Jacob Zuma has resigned:
• Jacob Zuma has resigned from the post of South Africa's President after defying a 48-hour deadline given by the ruling African National Congress (ANC) to leave the office.
• Zuma, who had to face a no-confidence vote in Parliament on Thursday, said, "I fear no motion of no confidence. No life should be lost. The ANC should never be divided in my name."

**US Gives first approval for commercial driverless service:**
• Google-spinoff Waymo has become the first company to receive approval to launch a commercial driverless commercial ride-hailing service in the US.
• The company will reportedly use its fleet of driverless minivans to pickup and drop off paying riders through a smartphone app or website.
• The company aims to start paid service in 2018, a Waymo spokesperson said.

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<td>US Capital</td>
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<td>Currency</td>
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<td>President</td>
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**Saudi Arabia allows women to join armed forces:**
• Saudi Arabia's General Security division on Sunday allowed women aged between 25 and 35 to apply for the rank of soldier as part of the Vision 2030 social program launched by Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman.
• However, Saudi women will have to fulfill 12 conditions including a mandatory medical checkup and a good weight to height ratio.

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<td>Saudi Arabia Capital</td>
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<td>Currency</td>
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<td>Prime Minister</td>
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**Michael McCormack named Australia's new deputy prime minister:**
• In Australia, Michael McCormack has been elected new Deputy Prime Minister after being selected as the leader of the country's National Party, the junior partner in the country's coalition government.
• McCormack replaces former Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce who was forced to resign last week amid public anger over an extramarital affair with his former press secretary.

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<td>Australia Capital</td>
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<td>Prime Minister</td>
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**China Plans to build military observatory in Maldives:**
• China is planning to build an ocean observatory in the Maldives for military purposes, located in Makunudhoo.
• The observatory will also give China access to an important shipping route in the Indian Ocean.
• Both China and the Maldives had finalised an official agreement called the 'Protocol on Establishment of Joint Ocean Observation Station' last year.

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<td>China Capital</td>
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<td>Currency</td>
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<td>Prime Minister</td>
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**China may overtake US as biggest producer of nuclear power in 20 Years:**
• The International Energy Agency has said that China may overtake the US as the world's biggest producer of nuclear power as it is expected to triple its nuclear capacity in the next 20 years.
• It added that lesser investment in nuclear energy and no lifetime extension of the existing plants threatened the US' position as the global leader in nuclear power.

**China was elected as the Vice President of FATF:**
• China was elected as the Vice President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF), a global body mandated to combat terror financing and money laundering.
• China's election came after the FATF plenary meeting in Paris.
• China's election to the FATF assumes significance as Pakistan is set to be put in the FATF 'grey list' in June 2018.
• The grey lists put countries under the scanner for not implementing the objectives of the task force.

### APPOINTMENTS

#### National Appointments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Person</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of Odisha</td>
<td>Surendra Kumar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Director-General of Sports Authority of India (SAI).</td>
<td>Neelam Kapur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Niti Aayog CEO till June 2019</td>
<td>Amithab Kant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Commissioner (Railways),</td>
<td>A.K.Prasad</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Chief of Naval Staff – Foreign Cooperation and Intelligence</td>
<td>Atul Anand</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16th Chairman of the Federal Reserve</td>
<td>Jerome H Powell</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hardayal Prasad</td>
<td>MD &amp; CEO of SBI Card</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-Executive Chairman of NPCI</td>
<td>Biswamohan Mahapatra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>president of the Sahitya Akademi</td>
<td>Chandrasekhar Kambara</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador of India to Brazil</td>
<td>Ashok Das</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ambassador of Bolivia</td>
<td>M. Subbarayudu</td>
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#### International Appointments

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Designation</th>
<th>Person</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President of Bangladesh</td>
<td>Abdul Hamid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Governor of Bank of Japan</td>
<td>Haruhiko Kuroda</td>
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<tr>
<td>President of Daily hunt</td>
<td>Umang Bedi</td>
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<td>South Africa's new President</td>
<td>Cyril Ramaphosa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepal PM</td>
<td>K P Sharma Oli</td>
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**Sony CEO Kazuo Hirai will step down:**
• The Japanese technology company Sony’s CEO Kazuo Hirai will step down from the position from April 1, 2018,
Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – February 2018

- The company's current CFO Kenichiro Yoshida will take over the role of CEO.

**Ethiopia’s Prime Minister submits resignation after protests:**
- Ethiopian Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn announced that he has submitted a resignation letter after the worst anti-government protests in a quarter-century.
- Ethiopia has been rocked by months of protests demanding wider freedoms that have left hundreds dead and tens of thousands detained.
- The protests have disrupted life and business in one of Africa’s fastest-growing economies.

**UNICEF Deputy Executive Director Justin Forsyth quits:**
- Justin Forsyth resigned as Deputy Executive Director of UNICEF on February 22, 2018 following accusations of inappropriate behavior towards female staff while serving as the Chief Executive of Save the Children.

**Australian deputy prime minister Barnaby Joyce to resign:**
- Australian Deputy Prime Minister and National Party leader, Barnaby Joyce today said he will step down.

### AWARDS AND HONORS

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<tr>
<th>Awards</th>
<th>Winners</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) lifetime achievement Award</td>
<td>V. Santarem</td>
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<tr>
<td>UK’s Mathletics Hall of Fame</td>
<td>Sohini Roy Chowdhury</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Jananpith Award</td>
<td>Krishna Sobti</td>
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<tr>
<td>'Scientific and Engineering Award' at the Oscars 2018 Scientific and Technical Awards</td>
<td>Vikas Sathaye</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>'Best Minister in the World' award</td>
<td>Indonesia's Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati</td>
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<td>Raj Kapoor Award</td>
<td>Ramesh Sippy</td>
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<td>'most ethical company' award</td>
<td>Tata Steel</td>
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<tr>
<td>'Start-up of the Year' 2017</td>
<td>Milkbasket</td>
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<td>EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017</td>
<td>Sanjiv Bajaj</td>
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<tr>
<td>Best MSME Award 2017</td>
<td>Interactive Bees</td>
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### Important MoU and Agreements

**India has joined Ashgabat Agreement:**
- India has joined Ashgabat Agreement on the establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
- The agreement was signed in 2011, which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf.

**IWAI signs agreement with World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project:**
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed an agreement with the World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) to enhance navigation on National Waterway-1 from Varanasi to Haldia.

**IWAI Signs MoU with World Bank For Jal Marg Vikas Project:**
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has signed a project agreement with the World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project on river Ganga.
- The World Bank sanctioned USD 375 million loan agreement to the Department of Economic Affairs, Union Ministry of Finance for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- Jal Marg Vikas Project, which is expected to be completed by March 2023, is being implemented with the financial and technical support of the World Bank.
India-UAE to ink 12 pacts during PM Modi’s visit:
- During the PM Modi Visits to UAE there are 12 MOU’s have signed.
- The agreements will include areas like finance and skills development.
- Modi will start his visit to three West Asian countries - Palestine, the UAE and Oman - on February 9 with focus on cooperation in key areas of defence, security and counter-terrorism.

India and Palestine Pact:
- India and Palestine has signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) s worth USD 40 million. This was welcomed by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.
- During the term of this Government, the President of India made the first ever visit to Palestine in 2015. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas made an official visit to India in May 2017 and now for the first time Prime Minister of India has made a visit to Palestine in 2018.

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<td>Palestinian Capital</td>
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<td>President</td>
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India, Oman Signed 8 MoU’s:
- India and Oman have signed eight MoU’s in different areas during PM Narendra Modi’s maiden visit to the Gulf nation. The fields in which the agreements were inked include defence, health and tourism.
- The agreements were inked after Mr Modi held delegation-level talks with the Sultan of Oman; Qaboos bin Said al Said in Muscat.

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MoU between Botanical Survey of India and Natural History Museum, UK
- 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, etc.
- NHM will help BSI in capacity building in areas of systematic botany and long-term conservation of plant genetic resources in India.

National Conference “Agriculture 2022- Doubling Farmers’ Income”
- The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare (MoA&FW) is organizing a National Conference under the title of “Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers’ Income” at National Agriculture Science Complex (NASC), Pusa, New Delhi.
- It is a two days conference scheduled on 19th and 20th February, 2018.

India-Iran Sign 9 MoUs To Boost Bilateral Ties:
- India and Iran has signed nine agreements in order to further the bilateral cooperation between the two sides.
- The pacts were signed after delegation level talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Iran President Hassan Rouhani at New Delhi’s Hyderabad house.
- The two countries inked pacts to enhance cooperation in the areas of taxation, maritime cooperation, health and medicine, trade, agriculture and postal cooperation.

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<tr>
<td>Iran Capital</td>
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India-Morocco Cooperation Agreement in Railways:
- PM has signed India-Morocco Cooperation Agreement in Railway Sector. The Cooperation Agreement will enable technical cooperation in the following areas:
  
  i. Training and staff development;
  ii. Expert missions, exchange of experience and personnel; and
  iii. Mutual technical assistance, including exchanging of experts.

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<th>Morocco Arabia Capital</th>
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<td>Currency</td>
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<td>Prime Minister</td>
<td>Saadeddine Othmani</td>
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Cabinet approves Agreement between India and Israel on Film Co-production
- On Feb 20th Cabinet approves Agreement between India and Israel on Film Co-production.
- This Co-production of an Indian film with an international party means that Indian producer can access international funds and can collaborate on the script, talent and distribution at international level.
- Co-production of a film under this treaty will qualify it to be national production both in India and Israel.
- The signing of the Film co-production agreement will lead to mutual exchange of art and culture, create goodwill and better understanding among the people of both the countries as well as various aspects of film making.

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<td>Benjamin Netanyahu</td>
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India, Canada sign bilateral agreement to support startups:
- India and Canada have signed a bilateral agreement to support entrepreneurs and startups from both the countries.
- Under the agreement, the governments of both the countries have partnered with startup accelerator Zone Startup India, which will identify 40 startups that will receive support.
- The program will especially focus on women entrepreneurs.

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<td>Prime Minister</td>
<td>Justin Trudeau</td>
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Telangana tie-up with Taiwan for better technology partnership:
- The Telangana Government signed an MOU with Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in the state.
- The agreement was signed after the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2018 in Hyderabad.
- IT Minister K T Rama Rao and principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan signed the agreement with Robert Huang, Director of the Board of Taiwan Company at World IT Congress 2018.

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India Signs MoU with IDRC:
- Government of India signed MOU with Canada’s International Development Research Centre (IDRC) was signed in New Delhi.
- The agreement was signed to use the “programme based research support” in addressing current and future global and local developmental challenges.
- IDRC has funded 551 research activities worth CA$159 million in India through institutions, researchers and NGOs.

Indo-German MOU on technical cooperation under Urban Development:
- An India-German has been signed MOU for an “Implementation Agreement in Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities in India”.
- The objective of the programme is to develop and apply concepts for sustainable urban development about the provision of urban basic services and housing in selected cities and Smart Cities in India.

EESL signs MoUs of Rs. 3,730 crore with Andhra Government:
- The government-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) has signed MoUs with Andhra Pradesh government to invest Rs 3,730 crore in the state.
- The MoUs, spanning across e-mobility, energy efficiency and renewable energy and aimed to create 15,000 jobs, were signed at CII Partnership Summit.

CSIR signs MoU with IORA: CSIR-CIMAP to host coordinating center on medicinal plants:
- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) has entered into 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, Lucknow (CSIR-CIMAP) as Coordinating Center on Medicinal Plants.
- The MoU was signed by Prof. Anil Kumar Tripathi, Director CSIR-CIMAP and Dr. A. Sedrpousan, Director, IORA-RCSTT.
- The Indian delegation was led by Dr. Girish Sahni, DG, CSIR and Secretary, DSIR.
- The delegation also attended the 31st Khwarizmi International Award Ceremony which was addressed by H.E. Dr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

IMPORTANT SUMMIT & CONFERENCE

Global Investment Summit has been organized in Assam:
- The first two-day Global Investment Summit has been organized in Assam.
- The summit emphasizes on promoting investments in the state and the North East. The conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Two-day International Conference on Unani Medicine Started in New Delhi:
- Minister of Development of North-East Region, Dr Jitender Singh today inaugurated a two-day International Conference on Unani Medicine as part of Unani Day Celebration in New Delhi.
- Unani Day is celebrated on 11th February every year to mark the birth anniversary of Haqim Ajmal Khan.

USEFUL INFO

| Theme                                      | Integration of Unani System of Medicine in Mainstream Healthcare |

Modi to address World Government Summit in Dubai:
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi will deliver the keynote address at the inaugural day of the World Government Summit in Dubai today. India has been given the status of Guest of Honour at the Summit. More than 140 countries are participating in the Summit.

12th International Conference On CSR Held In Bengaluru:
Important Monthly Current Affairs Capsule – February 2018

- The Institute Of Directors organised it’s 12th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- In the conference, the Prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 were presented.
- The leadership award for philanthropy and social change was presented to Mr. Vineet Nayar, Founder Chairman, and Sampark Foundation.

**India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit Held In New Delhi:**
- India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit 2018 was held in New Delhi.
- The two countries discussed trade relations in the agricultural sector. The summit was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- Gajender Singh Shekhawat, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Sergey Beletskiy, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Russia addressed the India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit.

**India’s biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices**
- The Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), is organizing ’India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018’, with the theme - 'Affordable and Quality Healthcare’.
- This is the 3rd International exhibition and conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector and to be held from 15th-17th February, 2018 in Bengaluru.

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**Mumbai to host TiE Global Summit**
- The TiE Global Summit (TGS) will be held in Mumbai on February 21 and 22.
- Helmed by TiE Mumbai, the second edition of the summit will have over 2000 participants, including successful entrepreneurs, industry leaders, leading investors, senior corporate professionals and academia in attendance at the JW Marriott Sahar.
- The summit is being held in association with leading government agencies and over 20 TiE chapters across India, USA, Canada, Singapore, Hong Kong, Australia and Dubai, with the aim of setting the tone for the next wave of business and innovation.

**India’s Biggest Global Pharma Conference Begins In Bengaluru**
- India’s biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices began in Bengaluru.
- The theme of the conference is ‘Driving NextGen Pharmaceuticals. Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers Ananth Kumar inaugurated the three-day event.
- The event is being organised by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI).

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**World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai:**
- India’s Umang App was named winner of the Best M-Government Service award in the Accessible Government category.
- Aadhaar won the best emerging technology award at the recently concluded World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai, where India had the status of ‘Guest of Honour’ country.

**Prime Minister to inaugurate World Sustainable Development Summit 2018:**
- The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, will inaugurate the 2018 edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) at Vigyan Bhawan in the New Delhi on 16thFebruary.
• WSDS is the flagship forum of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) and seeks to bring together on a common platform, global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment sectors.
• The theme of the Summit this year is ‘Partnerships for a Resilient Planet’.

CPA conference of India region to begin in Patna today:
• The sixth conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) of India Region will begin in Patna today. Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan will inaugurate the two-day event.
• Our correspondent reports that over one hundred delegates from across the country and abroad including Australia, Britain, Uganda and Tonga have arrived to participate this conference.

China To Host 2018 SCO Summit At Qingdao In June:
• China will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit at Qingdao, eastern Shandong Province in June 2018.
• China had taken over rotating chair of SCO after 17th SCO summit concluded in Astana, capital of Kazakhstan in June 2017.
• SCO is a Eurasian economic, political and security organization headquartered in Beijing, China. It was founded in 2001.

World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 Begins In New Delhi:
• Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 (WSDS 2018) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
• The summit is the flagship forum of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The summit’s theme this year was ‘Partnerships for a Resilient Planet’.
• The summit seeks to serve as a common platform for global leaders and thinkers from the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment.

PM Narendra Modi Inaugurates UP Investors Summit In Lucknow:
• Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 2-Day long UP Investors Summit in Lucknow. The mega event has been organised by the Uttar Pradesh government.
• It is aimed at showcasing investment opportunities and potential across various sectors in Uttar Pradesh.

Nadda addresses Global Digital Health Partnership Symposium Held at Australia:
• Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare addressed at the Global Digital Health Partnership Symposium at Sydney, Australia.
• The Union Health Minister spoke on the topic: The role of digital health in supporting improved health outcomes in India.
• The Union Health Minister informed the participants that the National Health Policy (2017) of India clearly articulates the healthcare aspirations of people of India with three distinct goals.

India will host the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit on March 11:
• India will host the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit on March 11, 2018 in New Delhi. It will be hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
• The International Solar Alliance Summit will be attended by leaders from over 50 member countries.
• The International Solar Alliance aims to launch 121 projects during the summit.
• These 121 projects will be signed in two phases - with 50 on March 11 and another 71 on April 20.

Andaman & Nicobar Command To Host Milan 2018:
• The second week of March will witness Andaman & Nicobar Command hosting a multinational mega event MILAN 2018.
• MILAN is a congregation of littoral navies conducted biennially by Indian Navy at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
• The theme of this year’s MILAN International Maritime Seminar is ‘In Pursuit of Maritime Good Order - Need for Comprehensive Information Sharing Apparatus’.
• With the underlying theme of 'Friendship Across the Seas', MILAN 2018

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7th Meeting Of EPG On Nepal-India Relations Concludes:
• The seventh meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations has concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal.
• Various bilateral issues including 1950 Peace and Friendship treaty, trade, environment, border and hydropower were discussed during the two-day meeting.
• EPG is a joint mechanism consisting experts and intellectuals from India and Nepal.
• Next meeting of the group will be held in New Delhi.

International Conference On Sustainable Biofuels Begins In New Delhi:
• A two-day International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels organized by Department of Biotechnology has begun in New Delhi.
• Union Minister for Science and technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Conference.
• More than 300 participants with representatives from 18 countries attended it. This event aims to provide a common platform to Government policy makers, industry, investors and research community to exchange experiences and challenges related to development and scaling of advanced biofuels.

National Conference On E-Governance Started In Hyderabad:
• The 21st national conference on e-Governance will be held in Hyderabad.
• The government of India and Telangana Administrative Reforms department are jointly organizing the conference with the main theme around- technology for accelerating development.
• The two-day conference will deliberate on several aspects of the e-governance including its universalization and replication, governing e-governance, best practices, emerging technologies and synergizing role of national and state governments.

International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels 2018:
• A two-day International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels is jointly being organized by Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India on behalf of Mission Innovation and Biofuture Platform at the Stein Auditorium, India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.
• The event will bring together experts from Biofuels sector to take stock of current knowledge, share information and best practices, and build consensus on the actions most needed to move forward.

CII partnership summit held in Visakhapatnam
• The third Partnership Summit of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) begins in Visakhapatnam, with over 2,000 delegates attending the meet, 40 per cent of them being from abroad.
• Vice-president M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the three-day event.
• This summit is being jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh State Government, the CII, and the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion under Union Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

Hyderabad hosted 15th edition of BioAsia 2018:
• The 15th edition of BioAsia, the annual flagship programme of Government of Telangana was held from 22-24th February 2018 at Hyderabad International Convention Center (HICC) in Hyderabad.
• Theme of BioAsia 2018 was “RIGHT TIME, RIGHT NOW”.
• For this year’s event, Ireland, Netherlands and South Africa were international partners whereas the States of Gujarat, Assam and Rajasthan were the state partners.

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India-Korea Business Summit In New Delhi:
• PM Narendra Modi addressed the 2nd India-Korea Business Summit in New Delhi.
The theme of the Summit this year is “India-Korea: Scaling up the Special Strategic Relationship through Trade and Investments”.

The Summit aims to create the framework for an open and action-oriented dialogue between top business leaders and Government officials from both countries.

India and Korea are the third and fourth largest economies in Asia. The two-way trade between India and South Korea currently stands at nearly 17 billion dollars.

**USEFUL INFO**

| Theme | India-Korea: Scaling up the Special Strategic Relationship through Trade and Investments |

**IMPORTANT MOBILE APP AND WEB PORTAL**

**Alibaba invests $146 million in BigBasket:**
- A unit of China’s Alibaba has invested $146 million in Indian online grocer BigBasket, strengthening its position in the country’s online retail space and potentially posing a challenge to its U.S. rival Amazon.com.

**Minister of state of Power has inaugurated mobile application named ASH TRACK:**
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh, launched a Web-based monitoring System and a Fly Ash mobile application named ASH TRACK.

**Govt allows WhatsApp payments to roll-out to 1 mn beta users:**
- 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, the regulator said.

**Google Launches Google Pay:**
- Google has combined its two payment services, Google Wallet and Android Pay, into a new app called Google Pay.
- The platform includes features like the ability to pay at checkout counters with a smartphone, or pay for public transportation.

**USEFUL INFO**

| Google CEO | Sunder Pichai |

| Parent organization | Alphabet Inc |

**Indra’s 1st 5G Network Trial Successful:**
- Chinese technology giant Huawei and telecom services provider Bharti Airtel announced to have successfully conducted 5G network trial under a test set-up in India.
- The trial was conducted at Airtel’s Network Experience Centre in Manesar (Gurugram).

**‘SRIJAN’ has been launched at MyGov portal**
- Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC) is taking up redevelopment of around 600 major Railway stations across the country.
- In this mega exercise, assistance and involvement of all stakeholders i.e. railway passengers, urban planners, architects, engineers is important.
- Towards this objective of stakeholders’ consultation, an idea competition for development of 635 stations on Indian Railways, ‘SRIJAN’ (Station Rejuvenation Initiative through Joint ActioN) has been launched at MyGov portal since 26.01.2018.

**Important Defence News**

**NS Karanj launched in Mumbai:**
- The Indian Navy’s third state-of-the-art Scorpion class submarine, INS Karanj, was launched by Reena Lanba, wife of Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sunil Lanba in Mumbai.
India successfully tested Agni I:
- India successfully test-fired the indigenously developed short-range nuclear capable Agni-I ballistic missile. The missile was fired from the Abdul Kalam Island off Odisha coast.
- The test was conducted by the Strategic Force Command of the Indian Army. The range of Missile is 700 km. It was 18th version of Agni-I.

Japan Launches Smallest Rocket Into Orbit:
- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched the world’s smallest rocket with the ability to put a tiny satellite into orbit.
- It carried a microsatellite TRICOM-1R, a three-unit CubeSat weighing about 3 kilograms. This satellite launch was a re-flight of the TRICOM-1 mission, which was lost in SS-520’s failure in 2017.

SpaceX Launches Its Most Powerful Rocket Towards Mars:
- The US-based 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.
- Falcon Heavy’s thrust and capacity are the highest since NASA's Saturn V, which carried astronauts to the Moon.

Over 200 scientists simulate tests for 1st manned mission to Mars in Oman desert:
- Over 200 scientists from 25 nations are conducting simulation tests in the vast sandy terrain of Dhofar Desert in southern Oman for a manned mission to Mars.
- The cutting-edge spacesuit, weighing about 50 kilograms, is called a “personal spaceship” because one can breathe, eat and do hard science inside it. The suit’s visor displays maps, communications and sensor data.

China ready to launch stealth fighter’s combat:
- China has said that its new J-20 fourth-generation stealth fighter combat was ready and officially commissioned into the country’s air force.
- The stealth jets will improve the air force’s comprehensive fighting ability and enable it to better safeguard China’s sovereignty, security and territorial integrity.

Chandrayan-2 to be launched in April:
- Minister of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitender Singh has said that the country will send its second mission to the moon - Chandrayan-2 in April this year.
- The mission will cost around 800 crore rupees which includes cost of orbiter, lander and rover.

Unmanned Russian Cargo Ship Progress MS-08 Launched:
- 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.
- Soyuz-2.1a has four strap-on boosters and core engine, all fueled by a mix of kerosene and liquid oxygen.

Cobra Gold Military Exercise Held In Thailand:
- US Marines in Thailand for the Cobra Gold training exercise took part in one of the wildest parts of the drills - drinking cobra blood.
- This was the 37th edition of the exercise. Cobra Gold is an annual military exercise for Marines and one of the largest in the Indosphere-Pacific region.
- This year, seven countries are participating in Cobra Gold - the US, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea, and Singapore.
- Part of the drill involves jungle survival. Marines learn which plants and animals are safe to eat if they're ever stranded.

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India, Indonesia Joint Military Drill 'Garuda Shakti' Started:
- The Indian and Indonesian armies began the sixth edition of their annual military exercise named 'Garuda Shakti' in Bandung, Indonesia. It is a two-week long joint Military drill.
- The exercises will include experience sharing in counter-terrorism operations, close quarter combat, and other areas of special operations.

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ISRO plans to launch India’s Second Space Research Observatory

- Indian Space Research Organization has currently planning to launch the Country’s second Space research Observatory AstroSat-2.
- The mission tells the study of astronomy or celestial bodies and astrophysics. In 2015, it launches the 1515 KG AstroSat-2 in September. Now it planning to launch the Space Observatory 2.

IAF officer becomes 1st Indian woman to fly fighter jet solo:
- 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.
- She is one of the three from the first women-batch inducted into IAF fighter stream in 2016. Notably, women are barred from combat roles in the Army and Navy.

India has successfully Conducts Night Trial Of Prithvi-II Missile:
- India successfully conducted a night trial of its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile with a strike range of 350 km, from a test range in Odisha.
- The surface-to-surface missile was test-fired from a mobile launcher from launch complex-3 of the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha.
- The perfect test launch came after the successful trial of the Agni-5 missile.

SpaceX launches Falcon 9 rocket:
- SpaceX has successfully launched its Falcon 9 rocket, which carried two test satellites for its planned global internet broadband service.
- The rocket also carried Spanish company Hisdesat's PAZ satellite to low Earth orbit as payload. The launch was carried out from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, United States.

India successfully tested nuclear-capable Dhanush ballistic missile:
- India has successfully test-fired the nuclear-capable Dhanush ballistic missile from an Indian Navy vessel off Odisha coast.
- The surface-to-surface missile has a 350-km range and can carry a 500-kg nuclear payload. The missile, which can attack both land and sea-based targets, has already been inducted into the defence services.

DRDO Successfully Launched Rustom-2 Drone:
- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully flown its Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle RUSTOM 2 in Karnataka.
- The flight assumes significance as this is the first flight in user configuration with higher power engine.
- India at present depends on America and Israel for such predator drones.
- DRDO is developing within India a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle RUSTOM 2.

ISRO plans to build 'igloos' on Moon for astronauts:
The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started working towards developing 'igloos' on Moon, called the lunar habitats, for safe keeping of astronauts. The habitats will be built by sending robots and 3D printers to the Moon and using lunar soil. Although no mission plan has been prepared yet, scientists want to have the technology ready for building these structures.

Maldives declines India's invite for naval exercise 'Milan':
Maldives has declined India's invitation to participate in the biennial naval exercise 'Milan' beginning on March 6. This comes amid the state of emergency in Maldives after the government refused a Supreme Court order to release political prisoners. India had said it is important that Maldives returns to the path of democracy.

Maldives Capital: Male
Currency: Rufiyaa
President: Abdulla Yameen

7th India Energy Congress 2018 inaugurated by RK Singh:
Power and New and Renewable Energy Minister R K Singh inaugurated the 7th India Energy Congress 2018 organised by World Energy Council India in New Delhi.

The 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela has begun, Haryana:
The 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela has begun in Faridabad, Haryana. The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority and Haryana Tourism in collaboration with Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture and External Affairs.

National Meet On Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018:
National Informatics Centre (NIC) has organized a three-day National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018 at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi.

Center approves 1.86 lakh more houses under PMAY Urban:
The central government has approved the construction of over 1.86 lakh more houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme, taking the total number of affordable houses sanctioned to over 39.25 lakhs. The latest approvals under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, PMAY (Urban), entailed an investment of Rs 11,169 crores, with central assistance of Rs 2,797 crores.

International Conference of ‘Indian Power Stations 2018’ In New Delhi:
Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh inaugurated the ‘Indian Power Stations 2018’ in New Delhi.
It is the three-day International Conference on Operations and Maintenance. The Minister exhorted the NTPC to become India’s power sector multinational by setting up power plants in other Nations and become world’s largest power producer.

**Battle Of Orange Festival:**
- The Battle of the Oranges is a festival in the Northern Italian city of Ivrea, which includes a tradition of throwing of oranges between organized groups.
- Around 500 tonnes of Sicilian oranges were used in the event.

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**Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate the Global Theatre Olympics:**
- The Vice President of India, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the 8th Global Theatre Olympics on 17th February, 2018 at the majestic Red Fort in New Delhi.
- This Global Theatre Festival is being held in India for the first time.

**Archaeologist Aravind Jamkhedkar to head ICHR**
- Archaeologist and historian Aravind P. Jamkhedkar will be the next Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- He will replace Prof. K. Sudershan Rao, whose term as ICHR chief was mired in controversy.
- The post fell vacant after Prof. Rao’s retirement. Prof. Jamkhedkar is at present Chancellor of Deccan College, Pune.

**The Huddle 2018 begins in Bengaluru:**
- The Huddle’s second edition on February 17 and 18 at the ITC Gardenia in Bengaluru.
- The two-day thought conclave features distinguished guests including Sachin Tendulkar, Nirmala Sitharaman

**World Security conference begins in Munich**
- World leaders and Ministers are meeting in Munich to discuss pressing security issues, including North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and the Syrian civil war.

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**Delhi Government To Launch 'Mission Buniyaad':**
- The Delhi government announced the launch of "Mission Buniyaad" for improving learning skills of children studying in state and municipal-run schools. The announcement was made by Deputy Chief Minister Manish Sisodia.
- Under the programme which will run from April to June for Class 3 to 5 in Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) schools and for Class 6 to 8 in government's schools, children will undergo a reading level assessment based on which they will be enrolled in specialised "Mission Buniyaad" classes.

**Nagaur Fair, 2018 Begins in Rajasthan:**
- The Nagaur fair, also called the Nagaur cattle fair, is a famous fair of Rajasthan, India.
- Every year It Begins in February 22 and ends on February 25.

**India International Textiles Expo Begins In Colombo:**
- A three–day India International Textiles Expo (IITEexpo) of India began in Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.
• It is being organized by Power loom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) with the support of Union Ministry of Textiles & Ministry of Commerce & Industry.

**Government Sets Up The “NITI Forum For Northeast”**

• The Union Government has issued order setting up the ‘Niti Forum for North-East’.
• The forum will be co-chaired by the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog Mr Rajiv Kumar and Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh. The forum will have its Secretariat in the Ministry of DoNER.

**Haryana Government Launched Parivartan Scheme:**

• The Haryana government launched Parivartan scheme which was designed to address 10 issues, including cleanliness and pollution, in 46 developmental blocks of the state.
• The 10 issues include facilitation of financing, making agriculture profitable and sustainable, improving health services, implementing Swachh Bharat, decongesting market areas, engaging the youth, checking air pollution, ensuring availability of identity-related services, effective policing, and ensuring road order and conduct.

**Saudi Arabia holds its first-ever jazz festival**

• Saudi Arabia is holding its first-ever jazz, food and arts festival in the capital city of Riyadh.
• The three-day event, which will end on Saturday, involves bands from Riyadh, Beirut and New Orleans.

**Prime Minister launches Amma Two-wheeler Scheme in Chennai:**

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Chennai and launch the Tamil Nadu government's Amma Two-wheeler Scheme.
• The scheme of providing 50 percent subsidy to working women to buy two-wheelers is a pet project of late Chief Minister J Jayalalithaa and is being launched on her birth anniversary.

**PM Modi inaugurates projects worth 1,000 crore rupees at Daman:**

• Prime Minister Narendra Modi today inaugurated projects worth 1,000 crore rupees at Daman city in Union territory of Daman and Diu.
• He also inaugurated helicopter service between Daman and Diu.

**Shri Anant Kumar Singh Inaugurates Five-Day Handicraft and Gifts Fair:**

• Shri Anant Kumar Singh inaugurated the 45th edition of IHGF Fair at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida.
• Speaking on the occasion, he said handicrafts sector plays a significant role in the country’s economy and provides employment to a vast segment of craft-persons in rural and semi-urban areas and generates substantial foreign exchange for the country while preserving its cultural heritage.
• The Fair will remain open till 27th February, 2018.

**‘Ras Banaras Sanskriti Mahotsav’- Ended In Varanasi:**

• ‘Ras Banaras – Swachhagrah – Bapu ko Kaaryaanjali’, a diversified cultural festival organized by the Ministry of Culture at Maan Mandir and Assi Ghat of Varanasi concluded successfully.
• The festival witnessed folk dance and songs, food & shopping delights in full swing.

**Assam has organised tribal festival ‘Aadi Mahotsav’**

• Assam has organised a tribal festival called ‘Aadi Mahotsava’ at Gandhi Mandir Indoor stadium field in Guwahati to celebrate the ethnic tribal culture of the country.

**Adityanath inaugurates 2-day ‘Rasotsav’ in Mathura**

• Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated two-day Rasotsav, jointly organised by the state tourism department, the Brij Tirth Vikas Parishad and the Brajbhumi Vikas trust.
• Local MP, actress-turned-politician Hema Malini has been instrumental in organising the event which is being held at the Deen Dayal Upadhaya Veterinary Institute.

**India International Textiles Expo begins in Colombo:**

• A three day India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) of India began in Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.
• It is being organized by Power loom Development & Export Promotion Council (PDEXCIL) with the support of Union Ministry of Textiles & Ministry of Commerce & Industry.
Union Government to launch GOBAR-Dhan Yojana:
- The Union Government is going to roll out Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan (GOBAR-DHAN) scheme.
- It was first announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during his 2018-19 budget speech.
- The scheme focuses on managing and converting cattle dung and solid waste in farms to the use composition.
- It will also help in keeping the village clean while increasing income of farmers and cattle herders.

IMPORTANT RANKING AND INDEXES

India 6th wealthiest country with total wealth of $8,230 billion:
- India has been ranked sixth in the list of wealthiest countries with total wealth of $8,230 billion, while the United States topped the chart.

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been ranked the top environment policy think tanks in India:
- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been ranked the top environment policy think tanks in India while it has secured the 16th position in global rankings, climbing up two positions from the last year.

India Ranks 44th In Global Intellectual Property Index:
- India has increased “substantially” its score in the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, ranking 44th among 50 nations, according to the US Chambers of Commerce report. Last year, India ranked 43rd out of 45 countries in the Index.

New World Wealth Report: Mumbai -12; Newyork-1ST
- India’s financial capital Mumbai is the 12th richest city in the world with a total wealth of $950 billion, according to a report by New World Wealth.
- The list was topped by New York as the richest city in the world.
- Total wealth refers to the private wealth held by all the individuals living in each city. It includes all their assets (property, cash, equities and business interests) less any liabilities. Government funds are excluded from the figures.

India Ranks 8th in the World in Terms of Forest Area:
- As per the latest FAO report, India is placed 8th in the list of Top Ten nations reporting the greatest annual net gain in forest area.
- In the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017 Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan has said that India has shown an increasing trend in the forest and tree cover, in comparison to the global trend of decreasing forest cover during the last decade.

Amazon briefly overtook Microsoft to be 3rd most valuable firm:
- Amazon has surpassed Microsoft for the first time to become the world's third most valuable company.

India ranks 81st in global corruption perception index
- India has been ranked 81st in the global corruption perception index for 2017, released by Transparency International, which named the country among the "worst offenders" in terms of graft and press freedom in the Asia Pacific region.
- The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- India’s score in the latest ranking, however, remained unchanged at 40. In 2015, the score was 38.
- In the latest ranking New Zealand and Denmark were placed the highest, with scores of 89 and 88, respectively. On the other hand Syria, South Sudan and Somalia were ranked lowest with scores of 14, 12 and 9, respectively.

India ranks 47th on Inclusive Internet Index:
- India has been ranked 47th 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.
- The scores on the index, which covered 91% of the.world's population, are based on the scores of Availability, Affordability, Relevance and Readiness categories.
**IMPORTANT BOOKS AND AUTHORS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Book</th>
<th>Author</th>
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<tr>
<td>Exam Warriors</td>
<td>Narendra Modi</td>
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**Smriti Irani Releases 'India-2018' Book:**
- Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani released 'India 2018' (English Version) and 'Bharat 2018' (Hindi Version). The books are published by the Publications Division.
- The book available in both print and online versions.
- It is an exhaustive publication dealing with all aspects of the country’s development.
- With its latest edition, the book has entered into its 62nd year of publication.

**IMPORTANT SPORTS NEWS**

**CRICKET**

**Kholi hit century In all the countries where he played:**
- After scoring his first ODI century in South Africa Indian captain Virat Kohli now has scored ODI tons in all the nine countries he has played in. This was Kohli’s 33rd ODI ton of his career.
- Note: Kohli has not played in Pakistan yet.

**Rahane is the 4th Indian to hit 5 straight 50+ ODI scores**
- Indian middle-order batsman Ajinkya Rahane smashed 79(86) against South Africa in the first ODI and becoming the fourth Indian to hit five consecutive 50+ scores in ODIs.

**India Win U-19 Cricket world cup:**
- India Beat Australia by 8 wickets in the ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018.
- The ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018 is an international limited-overs (50) cricket tournament currently being held in New Zealand from 13 January to 3 February 2018.

**Bumrah, Harmanpreet named in Forbes India 30 under 30 lists:**
- Indian cricketers Jasprit Bumrah and Harmanpreet Kaur have been named in Forbes India 30 under 30 achievers list.
- Bumrah finished 2017 as the third highest ODI wicket-taker, while Harmanpreet scored 171* against Australia in 2017 World Cup, the fourth-highest individual score in Women’s World Cup history.
- The list also includes women's hockey team goalkeeper Savita Punia and shooter Heena Sidhu.

**Steve Smith wins second Allan Border medal**
- Steve Smith and Ellyse Perry stole the show at the Australian cricket’s Allan Border Medal night.
- While Smith claimed his second Allan Border Medal and was voted as the Test Player of the Year at the annual awards night,
- Ellyse Perry was conferred with the Belinda Clark Medal.
- Incidentally, Smith had also won the coveted medal in 2015 and thus became only the fifth player to win it on more than one occasion.
- Along with Smith, teammate David Warner was voted as one-day player of the year while Aaron Finch was named as T20 International Player of the Year.
- Meanwhile, young Jhye Richardson was announced as the Bradman young cricketer of the Year.

**Rohit Sharma becomes 2nd Indian to hit most sixes:**
- India opener Rohit Sharma slammed four sixes against South Africa in the fifth ODI to take his sixes tally in international cricket to 265, the second-most by an Indian player.
- Sharma surpassed Sachin Tendulkar, who slammed 264 international sixes, and is only behind MS Dhoni (338 sixes).
Shane Warne appointed Rajasthan Royals’ mentor for IPL 2018:
- Former Australian spinner Shane Warne, who led Rajasthan Royals to the IPL title in the inaugural edition in 2008, has been appointed as the team's mentor for this season.
- Warne, who last played in the IPL in 2011, has 57 wickets in 55 IPL matches.

Martin Guptill becomes highest run-scorer in T20Is:
- New Zealand's Martin Guptill surpassed former Kiwi captain Brendon McCullum's tally of 2,140 runs to become the highest run-scorer in T20I cricket.
- Virat Kohli is the third-highest run-scorer in T20Is, with 1,956 runs.

Kohli first Indian captain to hit 3 tons in an ODI series:
- Virat Kohli has become the first Indian captain and second overall to slam three hundreds in a bilateral ODI series, achieving the feat in the sixth ODI against South Africa on Friday.
- This was Kohli’s 35th ODI hundred and 56th in international cricket. Kohli also became the first-ever batsman to score 500-plus runs in a bilateral ODI series.

Virat Kohli becomes fastest to 17,000 international runs:
- Virat Kohli has become the fastest batsman to reach 17,000 international runs, achieving the feat in his 363rd innings during the sixth ODI against South Africa.
- Kohli surpassed South Africa's Hashim Amla, who had reached the feat in 381 innings last year.
- Kohli had become the fastest to 16,000 runs last year, reaching the landmark in 350 innings.

Bhuvneshwar Is The First Indian to take a 5-wkt in all formats:
- Fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar has become the first Indian bowler to take a five-wicket haul in all three formats in international cricket.
- Bhuvneshwar is the second Indian to take a five-wicket haul in T20Is after Yuzvendra Chahal.

Saurashtra requests to host one play-off game in IPL 2018:
- The Saurashtra Cricket Association, in an email to the BCCI and the IPL Governing Council, has requested to stage a play-off game in the Indian Premier League this season.
- In the mail the association cited their experience after having hosted ten IPL matches during the tournament's 9th and 10th edition. The IPL is set to begin on April 7.

Shoaib Akhtar named brand ambassador of Pak Cricket Board:
- Former Pakistani fast bowler Shoaib Akhtar has been appointed as Pakistan Cricket Board's brand ambassador and advisor to the chairman on cricket affairs.
- The news was revealed on Twitter by PCB chairman Najam Sethi, who was earlier accused of deteriorating Pakistani cricket by Akhtar.
- The 42-year-old former pacer represented Pakistan in 224 international matches from 1997 to 2011.

Rohit Sharma records most ducks by an Indian in T20I cricket:
- Indian opener Rohit Sharma, who got out for a golden duck against South Africa on Wednesday, now has four ducks in T20Is, the most by an Indian batsman.
- Rohit surpassed veteran all-rounder Yusuf Pathan and former fast bowler Ashish Nehra, who had been dismissed for zero three times each. Overall, it was Rohit's 20th international duck and fifth golden duck.

Harmanpreet Kaur was offered the Punjab Police DSP:
- Punjab government offered India women's T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur as DSP.
- India women's T20 captain Harmanpreet Kaur was offered the Punjab Police DSP job after she played a key role in the team's run to the World Cup Final.
- She was earlier employed by Western Railway.

Cricket Canada Announced ICC-Approved T20 League:
- Canada's own first franchise-based Twenty20 league “Global T20 Canada”, was announced in New Delhi.
- The Global T20 Canada League will begin functioning from July 2018 at three venues in Toronto.

Morne Morkel Announced His Retirement:
- South African pacer Morne Morkel announced that he will retire from international cricket after the end of the Test series against Australia.
- The 33-year-old has played in 83 Tests and has picked up 294 wickets so far.

**Karnataka win Vijay Hazare Trophy:**
- Karnataka defeated Saurashtra by 41 runs in the Vijay Hazare Trophy final on Tuesday to win the tournament for the third time.
- Batting first, Karnataka put up a total of 253/10 driven by Mayank Agarwal's 90(79), before Saurashtra were bowled out for 212 in 46.3 overs.
- Agarwal hit 723 runs in eight matches in the tournament, including seven 80+ scores.

**Uncapped Indian batsman breaks Sachin's 15-year-old record:**
- Uncapped 27-year-old Indian batsman Mayank Agarwal has broken Sachin Tendulkar's 15-year-old record of most runs by an Indian in a List A tournament.
- Agarwal slammed 723 runs in eight matches in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, surpassing Tendulkar who slammed 673 runs in the 2003 World Cup.
- Agarwal is the only player to slam 2,000+ runs in an Indian domestic season.

**Tennis**

**118-yr-old Davis Cup to convert into ‘World Cup of Tennis’**
- The Davis Cup, in existence since 1900, may be converted into a ‘World Cup of Tennis’ from next year.
- The 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.
- A 25-year, $3 billion partnership with investment group Kosmos is in place for the new event.

**Paes wins 25th Challenger doubles title at Newport Beach:**
- Veteran Indian tennis star Leander Paes won his 25th ATP Challenger level doubles title with partner James Cerretani after beating Denis Kudla and Treat Huey in the final of the Newport Beach event.

**Federer becomes oldest ATP World No.1**
- Roger Federer added yet another record to his vast collection when he become the oldest ATP world number one by beating Dutchman Robin Haase 4-6 6-1 6-1 to reach the semi-finals in Rotterdam.
- Federer took a wildcard into the ABN AMRO World Tennis event with his eyes fixed on a return to number one for the first time since November 2012.

**Roger Federer And Serena Williams Becomes Most Decorated Laureus Award Winner:**
- Tennis legend Roger Federer became the most decorated winner in the history of Laureus World Sports Awards after he won twin honors at the 18th edition of the awards ceremony in Monaco.
- It was his sixth award. The awards include the Sportman and Comeback titles.
- American tennis great Serena Williams won the Sportswoman of the Year Award following her Australian Open success, her 23rd Grand Slam title.
- Serena is now the most decorated female Laureus Award winner with five Laureus statuettes.

**Football**

**Ronaldo 1st ever player with 100 goals for one club in UCL:**
- Real Madrid front man Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first player in UEFA Champions League history to score 100 goals for a single club.
- His overall tally in the tournament has gone up to 116 goals, 19 more than Lionel Messi.
- Further, Ronaldo has scored 10+ UCL goals for the seventh straight season, no other player has done so in three.

**Tamil Nadu Wins Senior Women's National Football Championship:**
- Tamil Nadu has won the Senior Women's National Football Championship for the first time. Tamil Nadu, which was playing its first-ever final, defeated Manipur, 2-1 at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack, Odisha.
- Skipper Indumathi and Indrani found the net for Tamil Nadu, while Ratanbala scored Manipur's only goal.

**India loses to Jordan in FIBA World Cup qualifiers:**
Indian basketball team put up a spirited fight before losing 88-102 to higher-ranked Jordan in the Asian qualifiers for the 2019 FIBA World Cup at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru.

OTHERS

Rohan More becomes first Asian to swim across Ocean Seven:
- Pune-based Indian long-distance swimmer, Rohan More has become the first Asian and the youngest to swim across the Cook Strait between North and South Islands called Ocean 7 of New Zealand.

India win 1 silver, 2 bronze at Asian Para-Cycling C'ships:
- The Indian contingent won a silver medal and two bronze medals at the Asian Para-Cycling Championships held in Naypyidaw, Myanmar.
- Last year's silver medalist Divij Shah repeated his silver-winning performance while BSF soldier Harinder Singh won bronze adding to his bronze from the last year.
- New entrant Madhu Bagri, meanwhile, won bronze in hand-cycling.

23rd Winter Olympic Games 2018 Starts In Pyeongchang, South Korea:
- The 23rd Olympic Winter Games officially kicked off with a colorful ceremony at Pyeongchang in South Korea.
- Ninety-two countries are participating in the event.
- There will be 102 medals up for grabs in Pyeongchang, covering seven sports and 15 disciplines.
- The ceremony was directed by Song Seung-whan, a South Korean actor. Hosts South Korea also produced a show of unity with neighbors North Korea during the ceremony.

Sharath Kamal lifts National Men’s singles title for 8th time:
- Sharath Kamal has lifted the National men’s singles title for the eighth time, equalling the feat of Kamlesh Mehta.

India Open Boxing: Mary Kom Clinches Gold:
- The five-time World Champion MC Mary Kom claimed the gold medal in the India Open International Boxing tournament at Thyagraj Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.
- She defeated Josie Gabuco from the Philippines in a split 4-1 decision to grab the gold in the women's 48kg weight category.

India wins 7 golds at India Open Int'l Boxing Tournament:
- Seven Indian boxers won gold medals in the India Open International Boxing Tournament. Boxers Mary kom, Sanjeet, Manish Kaushik, Pwialo Basumatar, Lovlina Borgohain, Pinki Rani and Manisha emerged victorious at the event in Delhi.

Shiva Keshav, Jagdish Singh to represent India at Winter Olympics.
- Luger Shiva Keshavan and skier Jagdish Singh will represent India at the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics which begins on February 9.

Shubhankar Sharma Becomes Best Indian Golfer In The World:
- Shubhankar Sharma has emerged as the best Indian golfer in the world, grabbing the 72nd position in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR). He has won the Maybank Championship in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Kishan Gangolli wins 13th edition of National Chess Championship for blind:
- Karnataka's Kishan Gangolli won the 13th edition of the National ‘A’ Chess Championship for the blind in Mumbai today. The championship was organized by All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB).
- At the end of the 13th round today, Asian Championship winner, Gangolli became the champion for the fifth consecutive time with 10.5 points.
- Gujarat's Ashvin Makwana stood second with 9.5 points; Soundarya Kumar Pradhan of Orissa with 9 points came third.

Railway lifts 8th Senior National Women's Hockey Championship:
- Railway Sports Promotion Board today lifted the 8th Senior National Women's Hockey Championship title.
- They thrashed Madhya Pradesh 4-0 in the final to finish the tournament without losing a game.
Vandana scored two goals while Priyanka Wankhede and Anupa Barla one each.

**Sharmila Nicollet, 1st Indian Golfer To Qualify For China LPGA Tour:**
- Sharmila Nicollet has become the first Indian golfer to qualify for the China Ladies PGA Tour.
- The 26-year-old Bengaluru golfer fought her way back into the tournament in the last two rounds to earn a card for the Tour.

**World's first robot ski competition held in South Korea**
- World's first robot ski competition was held in South Korea in which self-operational humanoid skiers with two legs participated wearing skis.
- The robots were reportedly equipped with sensors, batteries and deep learning algorithms that allowed them to move on their own.
- Eight teams from local universities and tech firms took part in the competition.

**Dipa Karmakar ruled out of 2018 Commonwealth Games:**
- Indian gymnast Dipa Karmakar, who finished fourth at Rio Olympics, has opted out of this year's Commonwealth Games to avoid any further risk to an injury she suffered last year.
- The 24-year-old said her next target is the Asian Games, which will take place in August. Dipa had undergone an Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL) surgery in April last year.

**Norway's Bjoergen becomes most successful Winter Olympian:**
- Norway's Marit Bjoergen became the most successful athlete in Winter Olympics history today as she took bronze in Pyeongchang, South Korea in cross country skiing's women's team sprint free.
- However, Kikkan Randall and Jessica Diggins won the gold and the first Olympic cross country title for the United States.

**PM Inaugurates Run For New India' Marathon In Surat:**
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 'Run for New India' marathon in Surat, Gujarat.
- The Marathon is aimed at creating awareness about social causes and call upon all to resolve to build a New India.

**Aruna Budda Reddy Becomes 1st Indian To Win Individual Medal At Gymnastics World Cup:**
- Aruna Budda Reddy has created history by becoming the first Indian to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup in Melbourne, Australia. She clinched a Bronze medal in the Women's Vault

**Parupalli Kashyap Wins Austrian Open:**
- Reigning Commonwealth Games champion Parupalli Kashyap overcame Malaysia's June Wei Cheam in straight games in the men's singles final to clinch the Austrian Open International Challenge, his first international title in over three years.
- The Indian looked in good touch throughout the tournament as he didn't drop a single game en route to his title win.

**Sameer Verma lifts Swiss Open title:**
- Indian Shuttler Sameer Verma dished out a clinical performance to outwit former world no 2 Jan O Jorgensen and clinch the men's singles title at the $150,000 Swiss Open Super 300 tournament.
- The 23-year-old Sameer showed great anticipation and technique to bamboozle Jorgensen 21-15, 21-13 in a lopsided contest.

**Vikas Krishan Bag Gold Medals In Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament:**
- Indian boxer Vikas Krishan claimed a gold medal after defeating Troy Isley of the USA. Vikas was adjudged the best boxer of the event, a first for an Indian in Strandja memorial boxing tournament.

**MC Mary Kom And Seema Poonia Bag Silver Medals In Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament:**
- Indian stars Seema Poonia and MC Mary Kom have settled for Silver medals after losing in the final of 69th Strandja Memorial Boxing tournament at Sofia in Bulgaria.
- While Mary Kom lost to Bulgarian Sevda Asenova in the 48-kilogram title bout, Seema went down to Russian Anna Ivanova in the 81 kg final. Overall Indian women ended up with two silver and four bronze medals in one of the oldest boxing tournaments in Europe.

Javelin thrower Davinder Singh Kang failed in dope test stares at 4-yr ban
• Top Indian javelin thrower Davinder Singh Kang has been suspended provisionally by the world athletics governing body after he returned positive for a steroid in an out-of-competition test last week.

**Important Obituaries**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERSON</th>
<th>FIELD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Mahoney</td>
<td>Hollywood Actor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gali Muddukrishnama Naidu</td>
<td>Andhra Pradesh Politician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madavoor Vasudevan Nair</td>
<td>Kathakali maestro</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chandrasekhar Rath</td>
<td>Eminent Odia author and poet</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asma Jahangir</td>
<td>Pakistan’s social activist</td>
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<td>Johann Johansson</td>
<td>Musician</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parbati Ghose</td>
<td>Odisha’s first female filmmaker</td>
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<td>Bolla Bulliramaiah</td>
<td>Former Union minister</td>
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<td>M.S. Anantharaman</td>
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<td>Kunwar Bai</td>
<td>Swachh Bharat Abhiyan ambassador</td>
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<td>Sridevi</td>
<td>Veteran Bollywood actress</td>
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<td>TSR Subramanian</td>
<td>Former Cabinet secretary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jayendra Saraswathi Swamy</td>
<td>Seer of Kanchepuram Sankara Mutt</td>
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**PYEONGCHANG WINTER OLYMPICS-2018**

**History Of Winter Olympic Games:**

The Olympic Winter Game is a major international sporting event held once every four years for sports practiced on snow and ice. The first Winter Olympics, the 1924 was held in Chamonix, France. The modern Olympic Games were inspired by the ancient Olympic Games, which were held in Olympia, Greece, from the 8th century BC to the 4th century AD. Baron Pierre de Coubertin founded the International Olympic Committee (IOC) in 1894, leading to the first modern Summer Games in Athens, Greece in 1896. The IOC is the governing body of the winter Olympics.

**About Pyeongchang Winter Olympics-2018:**

23rd Winter Olympic was kick started in Pyeongchang, South Korea from 9 to 25 February 2018. Pyeongchang was elected as the host in July 2011, during the 123rd IOC Session in Durban, South Africa. It marks the first time South Korea has hosted the Winter Olympics, and the second Olympics in the country overall after the 1988 Summer Olympics in the nation's capital, Seoul.

Mascot: *Soohorang* is a white tiger and *Bandabi* is an Asiatic black bear.
Moto: *Passion, Connected.*

**Number Of Events And New Games Added:**

The games featured 102 events in fifteen sports, out of these 15 sports 4 new sports are added in this session they are big air snowboarding, mass start speed skating, mixed doubles curling, and mixed team alpine skiing to the Winter Olympic programme. 2,914 athletes from 92 NOCs competed, including the debuts of Ecuador, Eritrea, Kosovo, Malaysia, Nigeria and Singapore.

**Indian Players Participated in Pyeongchang Winter Olympics-2018:**

• Jagdish Singh - men's 15 km freestyle cross-country skiing.
• Shiva Keshavan- men's singles Luge.

**Medal Table:**

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<th>S.No</th>
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<tr>
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<td>Norway</td>
<td>14</td>
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</table>
Marit Bjorgen of Norway won 14 Medals and tops the table with 8 gold, 4 Silver, 3 Bronze Medals.

**About Beijing Winter Olympics-2022:**

24th Winter Olympic will going to host by Beijing, China from 4 to 20 February 2022. It will be the first Winter Olympic Games ever to be held in China. Having previously hosted the 2008 Summer Olympics, Beijing will become the first city to ever host both the summer and the Winter Olympic Games, and the second city in Asia to hold the Olympic Games twice after Tokyo 2020.