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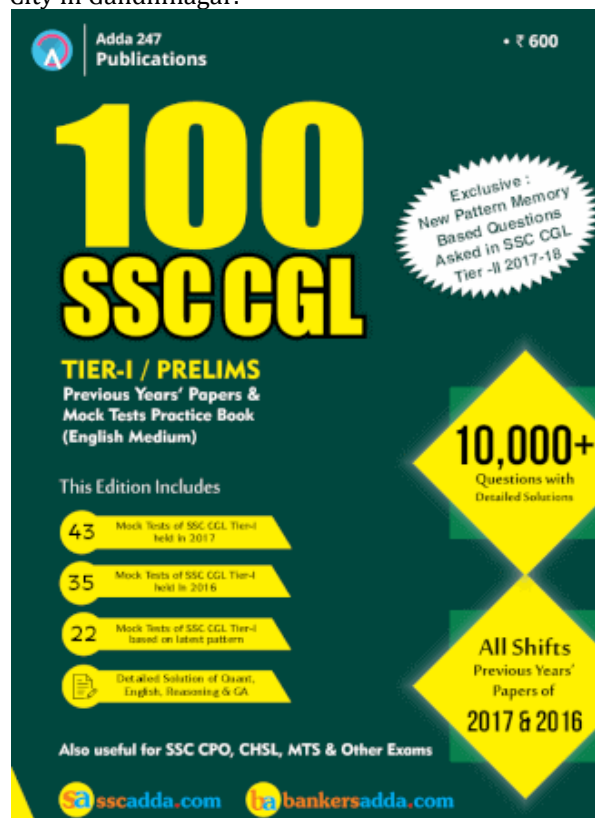
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The Most Important Current Affairs of February 2018

Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

- ✦ Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd and Celebrus Capital Ltd announced a new partnership to offer CSB's customers online trading and demat services. With this, CSB's customers can open a Celebrus trading account free of cost and also enjoy preferred rates on brokerage charges/ AMC fees on the demat account.
- ✦ RBI raised the exposure limit under Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD) trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to USD 100 million across all currency pairs involving the Indian rupee.
- ✦ Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) decided to keep the policy repo rate under liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 6.0%. Reverse Repo Rate remains at 5.75%, & MSF & Bank Rate at 6.25%. GVA growth for 2017-18 is projected at 6.6%. GVA growth for 2018-19 is projected at 7.2%.
- ✦ Reserve Bank of India will link the base rate with the MCLR from 1st of April 2018 to ensure expeditious transmission of its policy rate to borrowers. This has been decided to harmonize the methodology of determining benchmark rates by linking base rate to MCLR as it is more sensitive to policy rate signals.
- ✦ RBI announced setting up ombudsman for addressing customer grievances in non-banking finance companies. RBI will start **with deposit-taking NBFCs and widen the scope to cover NBFCs with asset size of Rs 100 crores**. There are around 20 banking ombudsmen have been appointed with offices mostly in state capitals.
- ✦ Competition Commission of India (CCI) **imposed a fine of around Rs. 136 crores on search engine major Google** for unfair business practices in the Indian market for online search.
- ✦ **IndusInd Bank** launched its new Sonic Identity, which is essentially a musical logo called 'MOGO', as part of its branding initiatives.
- ✦ **ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) Videsh Ltd and its partners** acquired a 10% in a large offshore oilfield Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.'s (ADNOC) in Abu Dhabi for \$600 million. It is the first time any Indian company has set foot in oil-rich Emirate.
- ✦ **SBI wrote off bad loans worth Rs 20,339 crores 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.
- ✦ **Direct tax collections** grew by **nearly 20% between April and January this year** with strong growth in both corporate and personal income tax receipts. Net direct tax collections grew by 19.3% up to January 2018 to Rs 6.95-lakh crore. While net corporate income tax grew by 19.2%, personal income tax receipts rose by 18.6% in January this year. Gross tax collections also grew at a robust 13.3% to Rs 8.21-lakh crore between April 2017 and January 2018.

- ✦ In order to remove existing ambiguities due to multiple Acts and rules for Small Saving Schemes, GOI proposed merger of Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 and Public Provident Fund Act, 1968 with the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873.
- ✦ RBI scrapped **numerous loan restructuring programmes, asking banks to immediately identify defaults and make disclosures** every Friday to the RBI credit registry, starting from February 23.
- ✦ **Bank of Baroda decided to exit by March-end its South Africa operations** after 21 years amid a probe into alleged compliance lapses by the bank there.
- ✦ RBI made **banks' priority sector norms lenient by saying that all loans to micro small and medium enterprises (MSME)** will henceforth qualify as priority sector lending. The sub-target for bank lending to **micro enterprises has been 7.50% of adjusted net bank credit**. Foreign banks will also have to follow 8% sub-target for lending to the small and marginal farmers.
- ✦ **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) has bagged an order worth Rs 560 crore from NTPC** for setting up a system for emission control at Dadri in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ **Yes Bank** announced listing of **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.



- ✦ **National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development** announced area development plans **worth Rs 1,918 crore for Punjab** to supplement farmers' income.
- ✦ **PhonePe** partnered with **Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL)** for the adoption of its indigenously-designed Point of Sale (POS) device at IOCL retail outlets.
- ✦ **PNB Housing Finance Ltd** tied up with **International Finance Corporation (IFC)**, part of the **World Bank Group**, to raise \$800 million for green & affordable housing in India.
- ✦ **Amazon** become the first foreign e-commerce firm to start its own food retail venture in India called **Amazon Retail**, piloting its services in Pune.
- ✦ To protect the **savings of the investors**, Cabinet has given its approval to introduce the following bills in the Parliament, **Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 in parliament & Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018.**
- ✦ **Fitch** placed **Punjab National Bank** on **Rating Watch Negative (RWN)**, reflecting a possibility of downgrade following the USD 1.77 billion fraud. The fraud is the biggest ever in the banking history.
- ✦ In a major reform in the coal sector since its nationalisation in 1973, **govt. allowed private companies to mine the fossil fuel for commercial use.** This move ended the monopoly of state-owned Coal India Ltd.
- ✦ As per 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.
- ✦ Google combined its **two payment services, Google Wallet & Android Pay**, into a new app called **Google Pay.**
- ✦ **Retirement fund body Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** reduced the interest rate on deposits to **8.55% for 2017-18** from 8.65% for 2016-17 following a general decline in interest rates.
- ✦ **Capital First** announced that the regulator **National Housing Bank (NHB)** approved the merger of the company along with Capital Home Finance & Capital First Securities Limited with IDFC Bank.
- ✦ **Paytm** launched **two insurance companies, Paytm Life Insurance & Paytm General Insurance.** Paytm Founder **Vijay Shekhar Sharma**, CFO **Madhur Deora**, & **Shankar Prasad Nath** are the three signatory stakeholders in both the companies.
- ✦ RBI 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 & effectiveness of audits.**
- ✦ **Chinese technology giant Huawei & telecom services provider Bharti Airtel** announced to have successfully conducted **5G network trial under a test set-up in India.**

- ✦ **Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd (ABIPBL)** started operations, making it **the fifth payments bank to roll out operations.** RBI 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.
- ✦ **RBI launched Ombudsman Scheme for non-banking financial companies (NBFCs)** for redressal of complaints against them. The offices of NBFC ombudsmen will function at **four metro centres – New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata & Chennai.**
- ✦ **State Bank of India (SBI)** is set 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.
- ✦ **Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** introduced **UAN-Aadhaar linking facility** for the convenience of members **using EPFO Link in UMANG Mobile App.**
- ✦ **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. It also made it mandatory to file online claims for withdrawals of above Rs 5 lakh under the Employees Pension Scheme 1995.

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- ✦ **CSO** revised the gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for 2015-16 to 8.2% from the earlier estimates of 8% & kept the 2016-17 growth unchanged at 7.1%. The

real GDP or GDP at constant (2011-12) prices for the years 2016-17 & 2015-16 stand at Rs121.96 trillion & Rs113.86 trillion respectively. In terms of real gross value added (GVA), it stated that the GVA at constant (2011-12) basic prices grew 7.1% in 2016- 17, as against a growth of 8.1% in 2015-16.

- Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) has received Rs173.06 crore capital infusion from the government in the current fiscal.
- Union Minister for Finance & Corporate Affairs Mr Arun Jaitley launched CriSidEx, India's first sentiment index for micro & small enterprises (MSEs) developed jointly by CRISIL & SIDBI. CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of 8 parameters & measures MSE business sentiment on a scale of 0 (extremely negative) to 200 (extremely positive).

Static Awareness Related to Banking, Economy & Business Related Current Affairs

- MD & CEO of Catholic Syrian Bank- C. V. R. Rajendran.
- Dr Urjit Patel is the 24th Governor of RBI. RBI Headquarters in Mumbai.
- CCI Chairperson- Devender Kumar Sikri, Head Office- New Delhi.
- IndusInd Bank Chairman- R. Seshasayee, Headquarter- Mumbai, Owner- Hinduja Group.
- ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) is the overseas arm of state-owned ONGC, Indian Oil Corp. (IOC) and a unit of Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd (BPCL).
- SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 01st July 1955.
- Bank of Baroda Chairman- Ravi Venkatesan, Managing Director & CEO- P.S.Jayakumar. Of the total 5,558 branches, the Baroda (Gujarat) headquartered bank has 107 overseas branches.
- Atul Sobti is Chairman & Managing Director of BHEL. Gurdeep Singh is Chairman & Managing Director of NTPC. Head Office of NTPC- New Delhi.
- Yes Bank MD & CEO- Rana Kapoor. Headoffice: Mumbai.
- The Bank of Japan (BOJ) is the central bank of Japan. Headquarters: Tokyo, Japan.
- NABARD came into existence on 12 July 1982. Chairman: Harsh Kumar Bhanwala, Headquarters in- Mumbai.
- Sanjiv Singh is the present Chairman of IOCL.
- PNB Chairman- Sunil Mehta, Headquarters- New Delhi.
- Finance ministry lowered interest rate on General Provident Fund (GPF) & Public Provident Fund (PPF) to 7.6%.
- EPFO Chairman- M. Sathiyavathy, Headoffice- New Delhi. Santosh Kumar Gangwar- Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.
- IDFC Bank Founder MD & CEO- Dr. Rajiv Lall, Headoffice- Mumbai.
- SBI Chairman- Rajnish Kumar, Headquarters- Mumbai, Established on- 01st July 1955.
- UAN stands for Universal Account Number. EPFO has reduced the interest rate on deposits to 8.55% for 2017-18 from 8.65% for 2016-17.

Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)** to start a pilot project called "pay as you use" on the Delhi-Mumbai Highway to study and implement the ability of the system in the country.
- 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**. These platforms will enable better management of the ash produced by thermal power plants by providing an interface between fly ash producers (Thermal Power Plants) and potential ash users such as – road contractors, cement plants etc.
- Government has extended the anti-narcotics scheme for 3 more years** to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substance. The purpose is to assist states and Union Territories, which are contributing in controlling the inter-state and cross-border drug trafficking.
- Union Cabinet given approval **for creation of National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) for Rs. 60,000 crores**. This fund will be situated in Building Materials & Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), an autonomous body under the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs.

- Haryana CM Manohar Khattar **launched 4 food canteens at Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar, & Yamunanagar via video-conferencing from Chandigarh**. These have been set up under the

'Antyodaya Aahaar Yojana' to provide healthy, nutritious & hygienic food at only Rs 10 per meal to all poor & needy.

- ✦ **Maharashtra govt. will roll out 'Asmita Yojana' on the International Women's Day (March 8, 2018)** to provide cheap (subsidised) sanitary pads to school girls & 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 the subsidised rate of Rs.24 & Rs.29.

- ✦ **Delhi government announced the launch of "Mission Buniyaad" for improving learning skills of children** studying in state & municipal-run schools. The announcement was made by Deputy CM Manish Sisodia.

- ✦ Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh launched **six new features in the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM)** platform to make it more user-friendly.

- ✦ **Haryana govt launched Parivartan, a scheme designed to address 10 issues**, including cleanliness & pollution, in 46 developmental blocks of the state. The scheme was launched by CM Manohar Khattar. The issues include facilitation of financing, making agriculture profitable & sustainable, improving health services, & implementing Swachh Bharat.

- ✦ PM Modi launched the **Amma Two-Wheeler Scheme (in Chennai) of the state government** coinciding with the birth anniversary of former CM of Tamil Nadu, Jayalalithaa. The scheme, with the objective of enhancing the livelihood of working women, aims to provide subsidised two-wheelers to women, transgenders & differently-abled persons.

- ✦ PM laid foundation stones **for projects worth 1000 crore rupees in Daman in the union territory of Daman & Diu. PM distributed keys for scooters to differently-abled beneficiaries, 'SWABHIMAN' cards** to pregnant & Lactating Women, 'Badhai Kit' to the newly born girl children under 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'. PM also distributed cycles to school going girls under Saraswati Cycle Yojna, extended loans under 'Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojna' & 'Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana' to beneficiaries.

- ✦ **UIDAI introduced a 'Baal Aadhaar' card for children** below the age of five years. No biometric details will be required to get **this blue-coloured Baal Aadhaar card**. A child below 5 years of age gets a blue in coloured Aadhaar known as Baal Aadhaar. When the child becomes 5 years old, a mandatory biometric update is required.

- ✦ **Union Minister of Drinking Water & Sanitation, Uma Bharti launched the Swajal pilot project at Village Bhikampur in Rajasthan.** Besides ensuring the availability of clean drinking water to every household round the year, the project would also generate employment. **Swajal is a community-owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.** Under the scheme, 90% of the project cost will be taken care by the Government & the remaining 10% of the project cost will be contributed by the community.

- ✦ Uttar Pradesh State government in association with UNICEF has launched massive door to door campaign DASTAK to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) & Japanese Encephalitis (JE) disease in the state. The war cry of DASTAK is 'Darwaja Khatkhatao, AES aur JE ko bhagao'. In DASTAK campaign, whole state machinery with the help of UNICEF will now literally go door to door in 38 JES & AE affected districts which mostly fall in the Tarai region.

Static Takeaways from Schemes/Portals/Missions Launched

- ✦ Nitin Jairam Gadkari is the present Minister for Road Transport & Highways.
- ✦ Haryana Governor- Kaptan Singh Solanki.
- ✦ Maharashtra CM- Devendra Fadnavis, Governor- C V Rao.
- ✦ Sultanpur National Park & Kalesar National Parks are situated in Haryana.
- ✦ Tamil Nadu CM- E Palanisami, Governor- Banwarilal Purohit.
- ✦ Governor of Daman Diu- Praful Khoda Patel.
- ✦ UIDAI Chief Executive Officer(CEO)- Ajay Bhushan Pandey, Headquarters- New Delhi.
- ✦ Rajasthan CM- Vasundhara Raje, Governor- Kalyan Singh.

RAILWAYS 2018

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ENGLISH	हिंदी (HINDI)	ଓଡ଼ିଆ (ODIA)
বাঙালি (BENGALI)	मराठी (MARATHI)	
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తెలుగు (TELUGU)	ಕನ್ನಡ (KANNADA)	
ગુજરાતી (GUJARATI)	অসমীয়া (ASSAMESE)	

National & State Related Current Affairs

- ✦ The government has announced a significant reduction in airfares for devotees travelling to Saudi Arabia, with the prices of round tickets being slashed by Rs. 20,000 to Rs. 97,000.
- ✦ PM Modi left for **his three-nation visit to Palestine, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Oman.** This is the first ever visit by an Indian PM to Palestine, and PM Modi's second visit to UAE and first to Oman.
- ✦ **President Kovind inaugurated 88th Mahamastakabhisheka Utsav of Lord Gomateshwara in Hassan district of Karnataka.** It is also known as Bahubali takes place once in 12 years.

- ✦ **Arunachal Pradesh CM Prema Khandu** laid the foundation stone for **Rhododendron Park in Tawang. Tawang is home to 50+ different varieties of Rhodos.**
- ✦ **Andhra Pradesh govt.** decided to hold the first-of-its-kind, one-day Pelican Festival at Atapaka Bird Sanctuary on Kolleru. Kolleru is one of the largest freshwater lakes in the country.
- ✦ **Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh** launched **Centre for learning Sanskrit language in Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.** The centre will offer a six-month course for people on how to speak the language.
- ✦ **Minister of Road Transport & Highways Mr Nitin Gadkari** released **India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) in New Delhi.** The manual is also known as Indo-HCM and it has been developed by CSIR – CRRI.
- ✦ **Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy, Shri R.K. Singh** inaugurated **'Indian Power Stations 2018' in New Delhi.** It is the three-day International Conference on Operations and Maintenance.
- ✦ **India's 1st Online Radio Station 'Radio Umang'** launched in India. Listeners can tune in to this online radio station through web streaming or download the app.
- ✦ **Claiming that the Bengal government had already enrolled 50 lakh people under its own Swasthya Sathi programme, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced the decision to opt out of Centre's 'Modicare' scheme.** This makes West Bengal the first state to withdraw from the ambitious programme.
- ✦ **PM Modi launched several projects in Arunachal Pradesh.** He inaugurated the Dorjee Khandu state convention centre at a function in Itanagar.
- ✦ **India's first radio festival is being held in New Delhi to mark World Radio Day.** The festival is being organized by International Association of Women in Radio and Television, in collaboration with UNESCO.
- ✦ **PM Modi will hold bilateral talks with visiting Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in New Delhi,** during which discussions on the issues of regional, international & mutual interest will be held. This is the first visit by Iranian President to India in 10 years.
- ✦ **As per the Union Minister of State of the Atomic Energy & Space, Dr Jitendra Singh, ISRO is planning to launch Chandrayan-2 Mission around April 2018.** Chandrayaan-2 is the country's second mission to the moon. Chairman of ISRO K Sivan stated that the total cost of the Chandrayaan 2 mission will be about Rs 8 billion.
- ✦ **In a first in the country, the Maharashtra govt. will be setting up an institute for artificial intelligence (AI) in Mumbai.**
- ✦ **Yogi Adityanath govt. in Uttar Pradesh presented its second budget.** Ahead of 2019, general elections, this is considered one of biggest budgetary allocation for the state. UP Finance Minister Rajesh Aggarwal presented a mega budget of over Rs 4.28 lakh crore with a focus on

farmers, artisans, youth, infrastructure & urban development.

- ✦ The government of India & the UN jointly announced that **India will host the global World Environment Day celebrations on 5 June 2018.** The theme for World Environment 2018 is "Beat Plastic Pollution".
- ✦ **Kerala govt. 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.
- ✦ 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 & Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Development of Northeastern Region (DoNER), Dr Jitendra Singh.
- ✦ **UP's Khadi & Village Industries Board** signed a pact with **Amazon India** to facilitate online selling of Khadi products.
- ✦ **Israeli Ambassador to India, Mr Daniel Carmon** stated that a Centre for Agriculture, with the collaboration of Israeli expertise, is going to be inaugurated in Mizoram in March 2018.
- ✦ **Goa CM Manohar Parrikar presented in the state assembly Rs. 17,123-crore budget for 2018-19,** an increase of 6.84% over the ongoing fiscal. The Budget focuses on education & job creation.
- ✦ **PM Narendra Modi flagged off the 'Run for New India' marathon in Surat, Gujarat.** The Marathon is aimed at creating awareness about social causes & call upon all to resolve to build a New India.
- ✦ **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 & Investments".
- ✦ **PM Modi inaugurated the UP Investors Summit in Lucknow.** It is organised by the **Uttar Pradesh government.** It is aimed at showcasing investment opportunities & potential across various sectors in Uttar Pradesh.
- ✦ **PM Modi inaugurated the 22nd edition of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) in Hyderabad** through a video conference. The WCIT is held for the first time in India.
- ✦ **India has joined Ashgabat Agreement on the establishment of an International Transport & Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan & Uzbekistan.**
- ✦ **Maharashtra govt. approved Ghodazari in Chandrapur district as a new wildlife sanctuary in the state.** It will include 159 sq km of Brahmapuri forest.

Static Takeaways from National & State Related Current Affairs

- ✦ **Palestine Capital- East Jerusalem, Currency- Israeli new shekel (one of its 3).**
- ✦ **United Arab Emirates Capital- Abu Dhabi, Currency- United Arab Emirates dirham.**
- ✦ **Oman Capital- Muscat, Currency- Omani rial.**

- ✦ Karnataka CM- Siddaramaiah, Governor- Vajubhai Vala.
- ✦ Arunachal Pradesh CM- Prema Khandu, Governor- Brigadier (Rtrd) B D Mishra.
- ✦ Andhra Pradesh CM- N Chandrababu Naidu, Governor- ESL Narasimhan.
- ✦ CSIR- Council of Scientific & Industrial Research.
- ✦ CRRRI- Central Road Research Institute.
- ✦ NHPS stands for National Health Protection Scheme.
- ✦ Maharashtra Governor- CV Rao.
- ✦ UP Governor- Ram Naik. Pilibhit Tiger Reserve & Wildlife Sanctuary is located in UP.
- ✦ Coal Minister of India- Piyush Goyal.
- ✦ Assam CM- Sarbanand Sonowal, Governor- Jagdish Mukhi. Kaziranga Wildlife Sanctuary (a UNESCO World Heritage Site) is situated in Assam.
- ✦ Kerala CM- Pinarayi Vijayan, Governor- Palaniswamy Sathasivam. Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary (famous for Tiger reserve & Asian elephant) is situated in Kerala.
- ✦ NITI- National Institution for Transforming India. NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman- Rajiv Kumar, CEO- Amitabh Kant. President of ADB is Takehiko Nakao.
- ✦ Mizoram CM- Lal Thanhawla, Governor- Lt. General (Retd.) Nirbhay Sharma. Dampa Wildlife Sanctuary (TR) & Khawnglung Wildlife Sanctuary are situated in Mizoram.
- ✦ Governor of Goa- Mridula Sinha. Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem) National Park is situated in Goa.
- ✦ CM of Gujarat- Vijay Rupani, Governor- Om Prakash Kohli.
- ✦ South Korea President- Moon Jae-in, Capital- Seoul.





IDBI EXECUTIVE 2018

10 MOCK TESTS

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New Appointments (National & International)

- ✦ Rear Admiral Mukul Asthana appointed as Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air) at New Delhi.
- ✦ PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Indra Nooyi appointed as the International Cricket Council's (ICC) first-ever independent female director.
- ✦ SBI Card, the country's second-largest credit card issuer, appointed Hardayal Prasad as new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the company. He has replaced Vijay Jasuja.
- ✦ National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) appointed Biswamohan Mahapatra as non-executive

chairman for two years with immediate effect. He succeeds B Sambamurthy who was the interim chairman.

- ✦ **Kannada litterateur Chandrashekar Kambar** elected as president of the Sahitya Akademi in the election held for the post. He has replaced Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari. Hindi poet Madhav Koushik has been elected as vice-president.
- ✦ **Ethiopia's PM Hailemariam Desalegn** suddenly **resigned** in what he described as a bid to smooth reforms, following years of violent unrest that threatened the ruling party's hold on Africa's second most populous nation.
- ✦ **Cyril Ramaphosa**, head of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) **sworn in as South Africa's new President**.
- ✦ Japan's government **reappointed Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda for another term**.
- ✦ **K.P. Sharma Oli** was **sworn in as Nepal's PM for the second time**, weeks after his Left alliance with the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist (CPN-Maoist) swept the parliamentary polls. He has replaced Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- ✦ **Archaeologist & historian Arvind P. Jamkhedkar** will be the next **Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)**. He will replace Prof. K. Sudershan Rao.
- ✦ **Television journalist Rahul Mahajan** has been appointed as editor-in-chief of the television channel Rajya Sabha TV.
- ✦ Lt. Gen Anil Chauhan took charge as the new Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of the Indian Army. He succeeds Lt General A K Bhatt.
- ✦ Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed its joint secretary Vikram Singh Sisodia as the Chef-de-Mission for the upcoming Commonwealth Games to be held in Gold Coast, Australia.
- ✦ Senior-most Indian Information Service (IIS) officer Neelam Kapur was appointed Director-General of Sports Authority of India (SAI). It is for the first time that an IIS officer has been appointed as SAI chief.
- ✦ Alphabet has appointed John L. Hennessy as the new board chairman of the company. He has replaced Eric Schmidt.
- ✦ President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid appointed Syed Mahmud Hossain as the new Chief Justice of the country. Justice Hossain is the 22nd chief justice of Bangladesh.
- ✦ Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades has won re-election for a second term.

Static Takeaways from New Appointments

- ✦ ICC Chairman- Shashank Manohar, Headquarters- Dubai, The UAE.
- ✦ HDFC Bank is India's largest credit card issuer.
- ✦ NPCI is an umbrella organisation for retail payment systems in India. NPCI's Registered Office is in Mumbai. NPCI had recently appointed Dilip Asbe as its Managing Director and CEO.

- ✦ Ethiopia: Capital: Addis Ababa|Currency: Birr
- ✦ South Africa: Currency: South African rand
- ✦ Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Currency- Nepalese rupee.

Sports Current Affairs

- ✦ Indian women's cricket team pacer Jhulan Goswami has become the first woman in the world to take 200 wickets in ODI.
- ✦ **The first Khelo India School Games concluded in New Delhi** with sports powerhouse **Haryana topped the overall medal tally**. The state won 102 medals. **Maharashtra with 110 medals (36 of them gold) finished second while Delhi with 94 medals came third**. Anu Kumar of Uttarakhand grabbed the first gold medal of the Khelo India School Games in 1500 metres Race.
- ✦ **23rd Olympic Winter Games officially kicked off** with a colourful 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.
- ✦ **Sharmila Nicollet** become **the first Indian golfer to qualify for the China Ladies PGA Tour**.
- ✦ **Pune-based swimmer, Rohan More** became **the first Asian as well as the first Indian to swim across the Ocean Seven**. He is the youngest to complete it. He swam across the Cook Strait between North and South Islands of New Zealand in 8 hours and 37 minutes. With this, More becomes only the ninth person in the world to complete it.
- ✦ Defending champion **Karnataka's Kishan Gangolli won the 13th edition of the National 'A' Chess Championship for the blind in Mumbai**. The championship was organised by All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB).
- ✦ In an effort to put India firmly among the top nations in the world theatre map, **India will play host to the 8th Theatre Olympics, the greatest carnival of thespianism**. It will be inaugurated at Red Fort.
- ✦ **Tamil Nadu 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.
- ✦ **Tennis legend Roger Federer** became **the most decorated winner in the history of Laureus World Sports Awards** after he won twin honours at the 18th edition of the awards ceremony in Monaco. It was his sixth award. The awards include the Sportsman 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.
- ✦ **India come up with best ever performance at the 69th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Bulgaria**. At Sofia, the country ended **with a whopping 11 medals – five from men and six from women boxers**. Overall, the contingent clinched two gold, three silver &

- six bronze medals. **Vikas Krishan**, who claimed a gold medal in 75 kg category, was also adjudged the best boxer of the event, a first for an Indian. Another Gold medal was clinched by **Amit Panghal**.
- ✦ **Roger Federer (Switzerland)** celebrated his return to the top of the world rankings by winning the Rotterdam Open, in the Netherlands. It was his 97th career title.
- ✦ Australia's **most-capped female player & vice-captain Alex Blackwell** announced her retirement from international & state cricket.
- ✦ **Canada's own first franchise-based Twenty20 league "Global T20 Canada"**, announced in New Delhi. The Global T20 Canada League will begin functioning from July 2018 at three venues in Toronto.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **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**.
- ✦ **Indian stars Seema Poonia & MC Mary Kom have settled for Silver medals** after losing in the final of 69th Strandja Memorial Boxing tournament at Sofia in Bulgaria.
- ✦ **PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018, officially known as the XXIII Olympic Winter Games were held in Pyeongchang, South Korea**. The motto of Winter Olympics 2018 was "Passion.Connected". Soohorang, a white tiger, & Bandabi, an Asiatic black bear were the official mascots for this event.
- ✦ 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 to grab the gold in the women's 48kg weight category.
- ✦ India has defeated Australia to lift the Under 19 World cup for the fourth time. The Men in Blue defeated the three-time champions Australia at Bay Oval, New Zealand. Manjot Kalra was the Hero of the match with his brilliant century. Shubman Gill was declared Player of the Tournament. Anukul Roy finished the 2018 edition with joint-highest 14 wickets.
- ✦ India Open is a badminton event held annually at the Siri Fort Sports Complex, New Delhi. In women's singles Defending champion **P V Sindhu** was defeated by American Beiwen Zhang to finish runner-up at the India Open Super 500 tournament.
- ✦ Indian cricketers **Jasprit Bumrah & Harmanpreet Kaur** as well India women's hockey team goalkeeper **Savita Punia & shooter Heena Sidhu** are among Forbes India 30 Under 30 list.
- ✦ **Shubhankar Sharma** has emerged as the best Indian golfer in the world, grabbing the 72nd position in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR). **Dustin Johnson** from the USA is currently the World Number 1 in Official World Golf Ranking.

Static Takeaways from Sports Current Affairs

- ✦ South Korea President- Moon Jae-in, Capital- Seoul.
- ✦ Netherlands Capital- Amsterdam, President- Mark Rutte.
- ✦ Australia Capital- Canberra, Currency- Australian Dollar, PM- Malcolm Turnbull.
- ✦ Bulgaria Capital- Sofia, Currency- Bulgarian lev.

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International Current Affairs

- ✦ **Bermuda** has become the first country to legalise and then repeal same-sex marriage.
- ✦ **The Gevora Hotel in Dubai**, developed by Al Attar Group has now **become the "world's tallest hotel"**. It stands 356 metres and 53 centimetres tall.
- ✦ **Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA)** launched **first tests of the world's first autonomous pods at the World Government Summit**. The autonomous pods are launched in cooperation with Next Future Transportation (US-Based).
- ✦ **South Africa's embattled President Jacob Zuma** has resigned.
- ✦ **Singapore** will impose a 'carbon tax' from 2019 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions & make companies more competitive as global agreements on climate change take effect.
- ✦ The **seventh meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG) on Nepal-India relations has concluded in Kathmandu, Nepal**. Various bilateral issues including 1950 Peace & Friendship treaty, trade, environment, border & hydropower were discussed during the two-day meeting.
- ✦ **China was elected as the Vice President of Financial Action Task Force (FATF)**, a global body mandated to combat terror financing & money laundering. China's election came after the FATF plenary meeting in Paris.
- ✦ **Michael McCormack has been elected new Deputy PM of Australia**. He has replaced former Deputy PM Barnaby Joyce.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ **Rwanda** become the first low-income country to provide universal eye care for its 12 million population.

- ✦ **Sri Lanka** celebrated the 70th Independence Day on 4th February 2018 in Colombo. The theme of the ceremony was "One Nation".
- ✦ **Sweden & 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.
- ✦ **Maldives president, Abdulla Yameen**, has declared a state of emergency in the country as heavily armed troops stormed the country's top court & a former president Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed was arrested in a deepening political crisis.
- ✦ **Jerome H Powell** was sworn in as the 16th Chairman of the Federal Reserve for a four-year term. Mr Powell has succeeded Janet Yellen, the first woman to lead the US central bank in its 100-year history.

Static Takeaways from International Current Affairs

- ✦ **Bermuda** Capital- Hamilton, Currency- Bermudian dollar.
- ✦ **Nepal** Capital- Kathmandu, PM- K P Sharma Oli.

Defence Current Affairs

- ✦ **India** successfully test-fired **its indigenously developed nuclear capable Prithvi-II missile** from Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, in Odisha. It is capable of carrying 500-1,000 kilogram of warheads and is thrust by liquid propulsion twin engines. It is a surface-to-surface missile **and has a strike range of 350 km**.
- ✦ **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited developed the first flight of Hawk-i** with indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS). Hawk-i is the first indigenous RTOS developed in India from scratch and certified by Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).
- ✦ **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. For the Indian Navy, DAC approved procurement **of Advanced Torpedo Decoy Systems (ATDS)** at a cost of Rs. 850 crore.
- ✦ **Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman** constituted a **13-member advisory committee to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernisation of the armed forces**. The committee will be headed by **Vinay Sheel Oberoi, former secretary in the government**.
- ✦ **India** successfully **test-fired Agni II medium-range nuclear-capable missile** from APJ Abdul Kalam island off the Odisha coast. It has a length of 20 metres, weighs 17 tonnes & can carry a payload of 1000 kgs over a distance of 2000 kms.
- ✦ **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.

- ✦ The Indian & Indonesian armies began the sixth edition of their annual military exercise **named 'Garuda Shakti' in Bandung, Indonesia.**
- ✦ Flying officer **Avani Chaturvedi scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman** to fly a fighter aircraft solo.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ India successfully **test-fired the nuclear-capable surface-to-surface 'Dhanush' ballistic missile with a strike range of 350 km** from a naval ship off Odisha coast. 'Dhanush' missile is capable of carrying a payload of 500 kg & hitting both land & sea-based targets.
- ✦ DRDO **successfully flown its Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle RUSTOM 2 in Karnataka.** It has the capability to fly for 24 hours at a stretch at over 200 km/hr speed, & can, not only conduct sustained surveillance but will be able to destroy enemy targets.
- ✦ 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 range of Missile is 700 km. It was 18th version of Agni-I.

Static Awareness related to Defence

- ✦ S Christopher is the chairman of DRDO. DRDO Headquarters in New Delhi. General Bipin Rawat is the Present Chief of Army Staff.
- ✦ HAL Chairman- T. Suvarna Raju, Headquarters- Bengaluru.
- ✦ DRDO- Defence Research & Development Organisation | Chairman- S Christopher| HQ- New Delhi.
- ✦ Thailand Capital- Bangkok, Currency- Thai baht.
- ✦ Indonesian Capital- Jakarta, Currency- Indonesian rupiah.
- ✦ Air Chief Marshal Birender Singh Dhanoa is the 25th Chief of the Air Staff of the Indian Air Force.
- ✦ Prithvi-II missile is capable of carrying 500 to 1,000 kg of warheads & is thrusted by liquid propulsion twin engines.



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Ranks/ Indexes Released

- ✦ Chilika lake in Odisha has emerged as the single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world with the spotting of 155 such animals, according to the Chilika Development Authority (CDA).
- ✦ **Centre for Science and Environment (CSE)** ranked the top environment policy think tanks in India while it has secured the 16th position in global rankings as **per the ranking by The Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP)** of the Lauder Institute at University of Pennsylvania.
- ✦ **Dubai International Airport held on to its No 1 ranking as the world's busiest airport for international travel**, after seeing around 88.2 million passengers in 2017.
- ✦ **Business magazine Forbes released its first-ever Crypto Rich List, comprising 20 wealthiest people** in the cryptocurrency space. The list was topped by **Ripple Co-founder Chris Larsen**, who is estimated to have a crypto net worth of \$7.5-8 billion.
- ✦ **India increased "substantially" its score in International Intellectual Property (IP) Index**, ranking 44th among 50 nations, as per US Chambers of Commerce report. The top 3 countries on the list are- The USA, The United Kingdom and Sweden.
- ✦ **NITI Aayog released the 'Healthy States, Progressive India Report'. Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu** have ranked top among the larger states in terms of overall performance. **Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh** are at the top in the terms of **annual incremental performance**. Among smaller states, **Mizoram ranked first & among UT, Lakshadweep showed best.**
- ✦ **Dubai witnessed 15% growth in tourist arrivals from India in 2017**, hosting 2.1 million visitors, retaining top spot as the source market. It also became the first country to cross the 2 million mark in a single year, as per the data published by **Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism).**
- ✦ **Mumbai, India's financial capital is the 12th richest city in the world** with a total wealth of \$950 billion, as per the report by New World Wealth. The list was topped by New York as the richest city in the world.
- ✦ **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%.** The top country availing e- Tourist Visa facilities- **UK (18.6%) & the top ports in foreign tourist arrivals on e-Tourist Visa is New Delhi Airport (37.3%).**
- ✦ **Assam is at the bottom of the list with regard to maternal mortality rate (MMR)** with a figure of 300 against the national average of 167, while the fund spending under National Health Mission (NHM) is just 13.58% for 2017-18.

- ✦ **India** has been ranked **12th-worst among 52 low-middle income countries based on the number of children dying within the first month of their birth**, which is 25.4 per 1,000 live births. Pakistan is the worst & Japan, with an NMR of 0.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, has been ranked the world's safest country.
- ✦ **India ranked 81st in the global corruption perception index for 2017**, released by Transparency International. In the latest ranking New Zealand & Denmark were placed the highest, with scores of 89 & 88, respectively. On the other hand, Syria, Sudan & Somalia were ranked lowest with scores of 14, 12 & 9, respectively.
- ✦ **India 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 & the US.
- ✦ India has slipped to 42nd place on an annual Global Democracy Index as per the data compiled by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The top 5 Countries in the list are: Norway, Iceland, Sweden, New Zealand & Denmark.
- ✦ Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport of Mumbai sets record with 980 flights in 24 hours or almost one flight every minute. With this, the Mumbai Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International airport bettered its own feat of 974 flights in 24 hours, recorded in December 2017. While Gatwick, the U.K.'s second-largest airport, remains the most efficient single-runway airport in the world.

Static Awareness Related to Rank & Reports

- ✦ TTCSP conducts a research on the role policy institutes play in governments and civil societies around the world.
- ✦ Dubai is a city and emirate in the United Arab Emirates. UAE Capital- Abu Dhabi, Currency- UAE Dirham.
- ✦ Forbes- American Business Magazine, Founded in- 1917. Headquarters- New York City, USA.
- ✦ National Institution for Transforming India, also called NITI Aayog, was formed via a resolution of the Union Cabinet on January 1, 2015. Dr Rajiv Kumar is the present Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- ✦ Minister of State of Tourism (I/C) is Shri. K.J. Alphons.
- ✦ Assam CM- Sarbanand Sonowal, Governor- Jagdish Mukhi.
- ✦ Union Minister of Health & Family Welfare of India is Jagat Prakash Nadda.
- ✦ UNICEF was Founded in 1946. It Headquarters in New York, the USA.
- ✦ Chilika Lake is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest coastal lagoon in the world. Chief Executive of Chilika Development Authority is Susanta Nanda.

Important Days


- ✦ **National Productivity Council** observed the National Productivity Day (NPD) on 12 February 2018. The theme

for NPD 2018 is 'Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India'.

- ✦ **World Radio Day** is observed annually **on 13 February**. The theme for WRD 2018 is "Radio and Sports".
- ✦ **World Day of Social Justice (WDSJ)** is observed globally **on 20th February**. The theme is "Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice".
- ✦ **UNESCO** celebrated **International Mother Language Day on 21 February**. The 2018 theme is "Linguistic diversity & multilingualism count for sustainable development".
- ✦ **Assam government** announced **to observe September 22 as 'Rhino Day'** to generate public awareness on protection of the one-horned pachyderm.
- ✦ **National Science Day (NSD)** is celebrated every year **on 28 February**. The theme of NSD-2018 is "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future". NSD is celebrated to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect', which led to Sir C.V. Raman winning the Noble Prize.
- ✦ World Cancer Day is observed on 4th February every year to raise awareness about cancer, its treatment & to encourage methods of its prevention. The theme for WCD 2016-18 is 'We can, I Can'.

Static Takeaways from Important Days

- ✦ The year 2018 is the 60th anniversary of the National Productivity Council (NPC).
- ✦ Chairman of NPC- Ramesh Abhishek, Headquarters- New Delhi, Established in- 1958.
- ✦ UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.
- ✦ ILO Headquarters- Geneva, Switzerland. ILO Director-General- Mr Guy Ryders.
- ✦ UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organization. France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.



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Agreement Signed

- ✚ **Google & National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)** signed a pact to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology curriculum. It was signed on the occasion of **Safer Internet Day (06th February)**.
 - ✚ **India and Palestine** have signed six Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) worth USD 40 million. This was welcomed by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.
 - ✚ **India and Oman signed eight MoUs 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. An MoU on legal and judicial co-operation in civil and commercial matters was also signed. The agreements were inked after Mr Modi held delegation-level talks with the Sultan of Oman, Qaboos bin Said al Said in Muscat.
 - ✚ **PM Narendra Modi and Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammad bin Zayed al Nahyan** held bilateral talks at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi, the UAE. PM Modi laid the foundation stone of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi. The two sides inked 5 agreements related to energy & railway sectors, manpower and financial services.
1. MoU between a consortium led by ONGC and Abu Dhabi national oil company for acquisition of 10% stake in offshore concession was inked.
 2. MoU aiming to institutionalize employment of Indian workers in UAE to safeguard their interests was also signed.
 3. MoU aiming at technical cooperation in rail sector between Ministry of railways and Federal transport authority and maritime of UAE signed.
 4. In the area of financial services, MoU between BSE and Abu Dhabi Securities exchange was also inked.
 5. MoU between Government of Jammu and Kashmir and DP World was also signed to establish multi-modal logistics park and hub in Jammu comprising warehouses and specialized storage solutions.
- ✚ On the last day of PM Modi's 3 Nation visit, he addressed business leaders at the 'India-Oman Business Meet', organised by Ministry of Commerce and Industry of Oman, in association with Embassy of India in Muscat.
 - ✚ **India & Iran** signed an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA) & the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.
 - ✚ **Govt. signed second Loan Agreement with New Development Bank (NDB)** for the financing of Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas. This is the first tranche loan of \$100 million was approved by the NDB under Multi-Tranche Financing Facility of \$345 million for this project.
 - ✚ **India & Iran** signed nine agreements in order to further the bilateral cooperation between the two sides. The two countries inked pacts to enhance cooperation in the areas of taxation, maritime

cooperation, health & medicine, trade, agriculture & postal cooperation.

- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Government of India & Asian Development Bank (ADB)** signed a \$84 million loan for improvement & expansion of water supply in Bhagalpur & Gaya towns in Bihar.
- ✚ **MoU between govt. of India & Canada's International Development Research Centre (IDRC)** signed in New Delhi to usher "programme based research support" in addressing current & future global & local developmental challenges.
- ✚ **Govt. of Tamil Nadu announced** signing an agreement with IT Major Microsoft to improve the integration of technology in teaching & learning in the state.
- ✚ The government & World Bank signed a \$100 million (about Rs 6,40 crore) loan agreement to promote rural economy in selected blocks of Tamil Nadu across 26 districts, benefiting over 4 lakh people.
- ✚ Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) & Joint Stock Company United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), Russia have signed an MoU to collaborate & engage in Design, Development & Execution of contemporary, State-of-Art vessels for Inland & Coastal Waterways. It will give a push to the Government's Make-in-India programme.
- ✚ Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) signed a project agreement with World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project on river Ganga. World Bank entered into a USD 375 million loan agreement with the Department of Economic Affairs for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP).
- ✚ Cab-hailing startup Ola & the Government of Assam signed an MoU to pilot an app-based river taxi service in Guwahati. The river taxis will be machine-operated boats & users will be able to book the rides through Ola's app.



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Awards & Recognition

- ✚ **PM Modi conferred the 'Grand Collar of the State of Palestine' by President of Palestine Mahmoud Abbas**, recognising his key contribution to promote relations between India and Palestine. Modi is the first Indian PM to make an official visit to Palestine.
- ✚ **India's Umang App** named winner of Best M-Government Service award in the Accessible

Government category while Aadhar won the best emerging technology award at World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai, where India had the status of 'Guest of Honour' country.

- ✦ **Vikas Sathaye**, a Pune-born person **honoured with the Scientific & Engineering Academy Award at the Oscars Scientific & Technical Awards 2018** at Beverly Hills in Los Angeles, California.
- ✦ **Crime drama Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri** won maximum prizes at the British Academy of Film & Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards 2018, which took place at the Royal Albert Hall in London, UK.
- ✦ **Milkbasket, India's first & largest micro-delivery platform** recognised as 'Startup of the Year' 2017 at the 7th Small Business Awards held in New Delhi.
- ✦ **Business consultancy firm EY has named Bajaj Finserv's Sanjiv Bajaj as the entrepreneur for 2017.** Sanjiv Bajaj will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year award (WEYO) in Monte Carlo.
- ✦ Magahi writer Shesh Anand Madhukar, who has been working extensively for the development of the language, was honoured with this year's Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award.
- ✦ Shabnam Asthana was awarded the 'Times Power Women of the Year 2017'- Pune for Global PR.
- ✦ Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF) committee has decided to bestow V. Shantaram lifetime achievement Award to veteran film producer & director Shyam Benegal.

Summits/Events Held

- ✦ **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** attended the opening ceremony of the 32nd Al Jana-driyah festival in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. India has been invited as the Guest of Honour country for the festival.
- ✦ **Fifth edition of South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference** held in New Delhi. The theme this edition of the conference was "Public Procurement and Service Delivery".
- ✦ **National Informatics Centre (NIC) organized National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018** at the India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. The Theme for VIVID 2018 is "Cyber Security and Innovation".
- ✦ Institute of Directors **organised it's 12th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility** in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- ✦ **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.
- ✦ India's biggest **Global Conference on Pharma Industry & Medical Devices held in Bengaluru** with the theme, 'Driving NextGen Pharmaceuticals'.
- ✦ Indian PM Modi inaugurated **World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 (WSDS 2018) in New Delhi.** The summit's theme this year was 'Partnerships for a Resilient Planet'.

- ✦ **China will host 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit at Qingdao, eastern Shandong Province** in June 2018. SCO is a Eurasian economic, political & security organisation headquartered in Beijing, China.
- ✦ Lok Sabha Speaker, Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated **6th India region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference at Patna in Bihar.** It focused on the objectives & role of the Parliamentary Association body.
- ✦ The prestigious **World Congress on Information Technology 2018 held in Hyderabad.** PM Modi addressed the inaugural session of the three-day IT summit through a video link.
- ✦ VP Naidu inaugurated **8th edition of the Theatre Olympics at Lal Quila in New Delhi.** The theme of the festival is - "Flag of Friendship". 30 countries are participating from across the globe.
- ✦ Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare organized a **National Conference under the title of "Agriculture 2022 - Doubling Farmers' Income" in New Delhi.**
- ✦ Mr. J P Nadda, Union Minister for Health & Family Welfare addressed **Global Digital Health Partnership Summit, at Canberra, Australia.** He spoke on the topic: Making Digital Health Services a Priority in Healthcare Reform.

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- ✦ Union Minister of State (IC) for Power & New & Renewable Energy, **R.K. Singh inaugurated the 'International R&D Conclave' in New Delhi.** It is a conference on Emerging Opportunities & Challenges of R&D in Indian Power Sector.
- ✦ **India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) of India** began in Sri Lankan capital of Colombo.
- ✦ India will host **first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit on 11th March 2018.** It will be attended by French President Emmanuel Macron & United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres. The summit **will be held in Delhi.**
- ✦ **44th Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018 was held at Khajuraho temple,** a UNESCO world heritage site in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ **15th edition of BioAsia,** the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana, **was held Hyderabad.** The theme of BioAsia 2018 was "Right Time, Right Now".

- ✦ 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 & 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'.
- ✦ **International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels** organized by Department of Biotechnology **held in New Delhi**. Union Minister for Science & technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the Conference.
- ✦ The **21st national conference on e-Governance will be held in Hyderabad**.
- ✦ 7th India Energy Congress was held in New Delhi. The theme of the 7th edition of India Energy Congress is 'Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030'.
- ✦ The 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela has begun in Faridabad, Haryana. The Mela is organized by the Surajkund Mela Authority & Haryana Tourism. This year Uttar Pradesh is the theme state & Kyrgyzstan is the Partner Nation.
- ✦ The first two-day Global Investment Summit has been organized in Assam. The summit emphasises on promoting investments in the state & the North East. The conference was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✦ First ever International Kala Mela was inaugurated by the VP, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu in New Delhi.

Miscellaneous includes the Visits, Science & Tech, Indian Railways & Other topics.

- ✦ **US-based SpaceX** successfully launched **the world's most powerful operational rocket Falcon Heavy towards Mars**. Falcon Heavy's thrust and capacity are the highest since NASA's Saturn V. It lifted off from Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
- ✦ **The first ever of its kind in the country chat-based job search mobile app 'Empzilla' is being launched** that will do away with existing limitations of employers and job seekers making selection process quick and cost-effective.
- ✦ **South Central Railway (SCR)** become the **first railway zone in the country to complete 100% LED lighting** at all the stations under its jurisdiction.
- ✦ **PM of Canada, Justin Trudeau will arrive in India** on a seven-day State visit. The visit is aimed at further strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries in key areas of mutual interest including trade & investment, energy, science & innovation, higher education, infrastructure development, skill development & space.
- ✦ **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley arrived in Riyadh** on a two-day visit to Saudi Arabia. He will co-chair the 12th India-Saudi Arabia Joint Commission Meeting to be held in the Saudi capital Riyadh.

- ✦ **Spiritual leader Aga Khan is on the 11-day visit to India**. Sunder Nursery, a 90-acre park near Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi, will be inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of the Aga Khan.
- ✦ **King of Jordan Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein arrived in New Delhi, India**. The King is accompanied by a business delegation. During his visit, he will also participate in a CEO Round-table followed by India-Jordan Business Forum.
- ✦ **PM Modi flagged off the Palace Queen Humsafar Express between Mysuru & Udaipur** in Mysuru Railway Station.
- ✦ **Gandhi Nagar railway station in Jaipur, Rajasthan became railway station to be fully-managed by women**. Gandhi Nagar is an important railway station in Jaipur situated on the Jaipur-Delhi rail route. The station has the footfall of more than 7,000 passengers every day.
- ✦ Russian space agency **Roskosmos successfully launched Progress MS-08**, an unmanned cargo spacecraft for the International Space Station (ISS).
- ✦ UK- India Joint research projects on **Water Quality Research & Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment** were launched in New Delhi.
- ✦ The Centre **has constituted a committee headed by the Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog Mr Rajiv Kumar** to study the Brahmaputra & flood control measures in Assam & neighbouring states.
- ✦ 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.
- ✦ External Affairs Minister (EAM) Sushma Swaraj has returned home after successful completion of the goodwill visit to Nepal. This was the first high-level visit from India after completion of historic three-tier elections in Nepal. In her first meeting, Swaraj held talks with CPN (Maoist Center) Chairman Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda.
- ✦ The book penned down by PM Narendra Modi named 'Exam Warriors' was launched to reach out to the students across the country ahead of their exams. The book was released by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj.
- ✦ Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) launched 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.
- ✦ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has left for her first official visit to Saudi Arabia. During her visit, she will meet with the Saudi leadership to discuss bilateral, regional & global issues of mutual interest. She will also participate in the National Heritage & Culture Festival 'Janadriyah'.



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Obituaries

- ✦ **Kathakali maestro Madavoor Vasudevan Nair** collapsed on stage and died while performing at Agasthyacodu Mahadeva Temple, Kerala. He was 89.
- ✦ **Actor John Mahoney passed away** after a brief illness in Chicago, the USA. He was 77 years old.
- ✦ **Eminent litterateur Chandrasekhar Rath** passed away at the age of 89. He died of old age ailments.
- ✦ **Asma Jahangir, Pakistan's renowned human rights lawyer**, social activist and an outspoken critic of the country's powerful military establishment, passed away of cardiac arrest. She was 66.
- ✦ **Acclaimed Icelandic musician and Oscar-nominated composer Johann Johannsson** passed away aged 48.
- ✦ **Noted violinist M.S. Anantharaman**, an exponent of Parur style of violin playing had passed away.
- ✦ **Veteran Bollywood actress & Padma Shri awardee Sridevi**, who had an illustrious career spanning over four decades, passed away. She was 54.
- ✦ **Former Cabinet Secretary T.S.R. Subramanian** passed away. He was 79. Mr Subramanian was a 1961 batch officer of the Uttar Pradesh cadre.
- ✦ **Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal**, the senior seer of Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt situated in Tamil Nadu, passed away.
- ✦ **Eminent Odia writer Kanakalata Mohanty** passed away. She was 82. Mohanty was suffering from old age-related problems.
- ✦ **The world's oldest man Francisco Nunez Olivera** has died just over a month after celebrating his 113th birthday.

Static Awareness Related to Miscellaneous Current Affairs

- ✦ Saudi Arabia Capital- Riyadh, Currency- Saudi Riyal.
- ✦ National Informatics Centre (NIC) was established in 1976. Neeta Verma is the Director General of NIC.
- ✦ Radha Mohan Singh is the Minister of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.
- ✦ Founder and CEO of SpaceX- Elon Musk, Established in- 2002.

- ✦ Piyush Goyal is the present Railways Minister of India. John Mathai was the first railway Minister of Independent India.
- ✦ Canada Capital- Ottawa, Currency- Canadian dollar.
- ✦ Iran Capital- Tehran, Currency- Iranian rial.
- ✦ NDB Headquarters in Shanghai, China.
- ✦ Russia Capital- Moscow, Currency- Russian ruble, President- Vladimir Putin.
- ✦ The full members of the SCO are China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, India & Pakistan. Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran & Mongolia have observer status at present. India & Pakistan were admitted as full members of the organisation at the summit in Astana 2017.
- ✦ ISRO was established in 1969. Founder & 1st Chairman of ISRO- Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, HQ: Bengaluru.
- ✦ Saudi Arabia Capital- Riyadh, Currency- Saudi Riyal.
- ✦ Australia Capital- Canberra, Currency- Australian dollar.
- ✦ Co-founder & CEO of Milkbasket is Anant Goel.
- ✦ Taiwan Capital- Taipei, Currency- New Taiwan dollar.
- ✦ Bihar CM- Nitish Kumar, Governor- Satya Pal Malik.
- ✦ Valmiki National Park is located in Bihar.
- ✦ Telangana CM- K Chandrasekhar Rao, Governor- ESL Narasimhan (Add. Charge).
- ✦ Madhya Pradesh CM- Shivraj Singh Chauhan. Panna Tiger Reserve is situated in Madhya Pradesh.
- ✦ Jordan Capital- Amman, Currency- Jordanian dinar.
- ✦ Kyrgyzstan Capital: Bishkek, Currency: Kyrgyzstani som.
- ✦ Iran Capital- Tehran, Currency- Iranian rial.
- ✦ Oman Capital- Muscat, Currency- Omani rial.
- ✦ Turkmenistan Capital- Ashgabat, Currency- Turkmenistan manat.
- ✦ Uzbekistan Capital - Tashkent, Currency- Uzbekistani som.
- ✦ Chairman & Managing Director, Cochin Shipyard Limited- Shri Madhu S Nair.
- ✦ United Shipbuilding Corporation President- Alexey Rakhmanov.
- ✦ Sagarmala Program aims to promote port-led development in the country. The concept of Sagarmala was approved by the Union Cabinet on 25th March 2015.
- ✦ UAE Capital- Abu Dhabi, Currency- UAE dirham.
- ✦ Rwanda Capital- Kigali, Currency- Rwandan franc, President- Paul Kagame.
- ✦ IOB MD & CEO- R. Subramaniakumar, Headquarters- Chennai.
- ✦ 21st Commonwealth Games will be held from April 4 to 15 in Gold Coast, the second largest city in Australia.
- ✦ Gregory Gaultier from France is currently at No. 1 Position in the Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings.
- ✦ Minister of State for Culture (I/C) & Environment, Forest & Climate Change is Dr Mahesh Sharma.
- ✦ Maharashtra Governor- C V Rao.
- ✦ Jim Yong Kim is the 12th President of the World Bank Group.
- ✦ Cyprus Capital- Nicosia, Currency- Euro.

- ✦ The 15-metre-long Agni-I weighing 12 tonnes can carry payloads up to 1,000 kg.
- ✦ United Nations International Children's Education Fund (UNICEF) is a UN program headquartered in New York City, the USA. Henrietta H. Fore is the Executive Director of UNICEF.
- ✦ Sweden Capital- Stockholm, Currency- Swedish krona.
- ✦ Maldives Capital- Male, Currency- Maldivian rufiyaa.
- ✦ The Federal Reserve System is the central banking system of the United States. It was created on December 23, 1913.

The Cabinet Approvals in February 2018

Union Cabinet chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi has given the following set of approvals. The Cabinet has approved-

1. Signing of India-Australia MoU for Secondment Programme.
2. Signing and ratification of protocol amending the Agreement between India and China for the Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion.
3. Signing of a MoU with United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland on Cooperation in the Field of Skill Development, Vocational Education and Training.
4. Signing of a Memorandum of Cooperation between India and USA on Law Enforcement Training.
5. Discovered Small Fields (DSF) Policy Bid Round-11 for 60 un-monetised discoveries of ONGC and OIL under Nomination and Relinquished Discoveries under PSC Regime.
6. Ratification of the Minamata Convention on Mercury.
7. Placing the new Instrument adopted by International Labour Organization (ILO) Recommendation concerning "The Employment and Decent Work for Peace and Resilience" before the Parliament.
8. Implementation of 'PM Research Fellows (PMRF)'.
9. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Bill, 2017 to replace the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2017.
10. Proposal for Amendment to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Act, 2006 to change the criteria of classification and to withdraw the MSMED (Amendment) Bill, 2015 – pending in Lok Sabha.
11. Cabinet apprised of an MoU signed between India and Tunisia for cooperation on Youth matters.
12. Changes in the Major Port Authorities Bill 2016.
13. Rationalization of Autonomous Bodies under Department of Health & Family Welfare.

Union Cabinet chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi has given the following set of approvals. The important Cabinet Approvals are given as follows-

- ✦ Proposal for Mahanadi Water Disputes – Constitution of a Tribunal under Inter-State River Disputes Act, 1956 – request from State of Odisha.
- ✦ India-Morocco Cooperation Agreement in Railway Sector. The Cooperation Agreement will enable technical cooperation in the following areas:- Training & staff

development; Expert missions, exchange of experience & personnel; & Mutual technical assistance, including exchanging of experts.

- ✦ Agreement between India & Israel on Film Co-production
- ✦ New Bill to ban Unregulated Deposit Schemes & Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018.
- ✦ Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarakhand as part of 'Chardham Mahamarg Pariyojana'.

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