

**All India Radio News Summary: 03 FEBRUARY 2018**

**1. India's first sentiment index, CriSidEx, for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) was launched**

Finance Minister launched India's first sentiment index, CriSidEx, for micro and small enterprises (MSEs) in New Delhi.

- ❖ The index has been developed jointly by Small Industries Development Bank of India and CRISIL.
- ❖ *CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of eight parameters and measures Micro and Small Enterprises business sentiment on a negative to positive scale.*
- ❖ The current parametric feedback was captured through a survey of one thousand one hundred MSEs in November and December last year.

**Significance:**

- ❖ This index will give the detailed breakup of the sentiments and analysis as the sector sees it for the current quarter and the next quarter.
- ❖ The index will be of greater use as far as policy making is concerned so that the necessary changes can also be brought in to ensure that the government continues to perform its role as facilitator.

MSE sector is almost the backbone of the economy as it is one of the largest employers in the country and its health is quite vital to the economy.

This is one sector where people not only exhibit their entrepreneurial Skills, become part of large value change, but then also become job creators in the process.

**2. Political uncertainty prevails in Maldives following Supreme Court order to release former President Mohammed Nasheed.**

- ❖ Political unrest continued in the country after the Supreme Court ordered the release and retrial of opposition leaders including exiled former President Mohammed Nasheed.
- ❖ Maldivian President Yameen said, he was open to holding an election several months before his term ends next November.
- ❖ Opposition parties in the Maldives have appealed to the international community including the United Nations, European Union, and India to impress upon the Government to respect the Supreme Court ruling.

- ❖ The court has ordered the release of Opposition leaders including former President Mohamed Nasheed and called for a fair retrial of cases against them.
- ❖ Western countries including the US and UK have welcomed the Supreme Court verdict.
- ❖ India has said, in the spirit of democracy and rule of law, it is imperative for all organs of the Government of Maldives to respect and abide by the order of the apex court.

### **3. First ever global investors summit at Guwahati in Assam – ‘Advantage Assam’**

One hundred and sixty MoUs with investment proposals of over 64,000 crore rupees were signed on the opening day of the first ever global investors summit at Guwahati in Assam.

The summit hosted by the Assam government is a new beginning and will open a new chapter in boosting the relationship with ASEAN countries.

- ✓ Prime Minister said, North-East is at the heart of the Act East policy of the Government.
- ✓ Development of North-Eastern states is important for the overall development of the country.
- ✓ The two-day event will showcase the state's manufacturing opportunities and geo-strategic advantages to foreign and domestic investors.
- ✓ The objective of the Summit is to position Assam as India's Expressway to ASEAN countries.
- ✓ Assam is ranked first among the North Eastern states in the ease of doing business.

### **4. Government has removed the minimum export price (MEP) of onion to boost exports**

A notification issued by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade said that all varieties of onions can be exported now without any MEP.

Last month, the government had cut the MEP by one hundred and fifty dollars per tonne as prices of the vegetable were moderating.

*MEP is imposed time and again to check rising prices.*

### **All India Radio News Summary : 04 FEBRUARY 2018**

#### **1. Maldives crisis deepens as Supreme Court orders President Abdulla Yameen to comply with its order to release political prisoners**

The Supreme Court clarification has made it clear that there is no hurdle in implementation of its Thursday ruling ordering the release of convicted opposition leaders and the reinstatement of 12 parliamentarians.

- ✓ On the other hand, Maldives government has shown no intent to release the opposition leaders and begin retrial. This has led to constitutional breakdown and military is seen all over the capital city of Male.
- ✓ Former President and current opposition leader Mohamed Nasheed described the government's refusal to obey the Supreme Court as a "coup".
- ✓ Opposition parties have sought international help.

## **2. World Cancer Day – February 4<sup>th</sup>**

World Cancer Day is observed on 4th February every year to raise awareness about cancer, its treatment and to encourage methods of its prevention.

- The primary goal of the day is to reduce the illness and related deaths by 2020.
- Theme: **'We can, I can'** which aims to explore how everyone can do their part to reduce the global burden of cancer.
- The World Cancer Day aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year by raising awareness and education about the disease, pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action.
- Cancer is one of the leading causes of morbidity and mortality worldwide, with approximately 14 million new cases in 2012.
- Tobacco use is the most important risk factor for cancer and is responsible for approximately 22 per cent of cancer deaths.
- Health Ministry had launched the *flagship AMRIT programme in 2015* to provide affordable life-saving cancer, and cardiac drugs and medical disposables.

## **3. The Global Investors Summit in Assam called for strengthening the business, economic and cultural ties with the ASEAN and South East Asian countries**

The Global Investors Summit in Assam has called for strengthening the business, economic and cultural ties with the ASEAN and South East Asian countries through the Northeast region of India by tapping the advantage of physical and cultural proximity of the region with those countries. Ministers from Bangladesh, Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar and Bhutan also took part in discussion on the issue. The deliberations at the summit are likely to give a road map to bolster the economic ties and prospective investment areas.

## **4. North Korea is to send its highest ranking official to the South**

North Korea is to send its highest ranking official for years to the South amid an easing of tensions during the Winter Olympics. The two Koreas' athletes will march under one flag at the opening ceremony.

## **5. National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) – Ayushman scheme**

Niti- Aayog Vice-Chairman said, the newly announced mega healthcare scheme is a game changer and revenue from the 1 per cent additional cess, would be enough to meet the funding needs.

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- Finance Minister in budget for 2018-19 announced the National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) to provide health insurance cover of 5 lakh rupees to over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families.
- This will be the world's largest government funded health care programme.
- There is an existing facility of 2,000 crore rupees for the ongoing **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)** scheme.
- The government has provided further financial space to the health ministry by establishing an alternate mechanism of Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) for funding capital expenditure needs of the health education project.
- Central scheme will have 60-40 ratio. Those states which want to join the scheme will contribute 40 per cent. North East states will pay 10 per cent.

**ALL India Radio News Summary : 05 FEBRUARY 2018**

**1. Centre and States have to focus on agriculture and rural infrastructure for higher growth**

Finance Minister said that over the next few years, government at both Centre and States will have to focus on agriculture and rural infrastructure.

- There are sectors where we lagged behind conventionally but now we are on track, infrastructure is one such sector.
- Agriculture was one sector which did need support, that is where potential for further growth and a better higher pace in GDP, the potential really lies and therefore both in terms of rural infrastructure and rural incomes are the areas which needed a spending.
- Education is also extremely important so is healthcare.
- The health schemes that were announced are very ambitious ones and now in the next couple of months expeditiously we have to work towards putting the loose ends together and emerging out with the implementable idea behind the health scheme.

**2. Prime Minister Narendra Modi to embark on a four-day visit to Palestine, UAE and Oman from Friday.**

The Prime Minister will hold discussions on matters of mutual interest with their leaders, apart from participating in many community events.

- ✓ India is committed to deepening its engagement with Palestine. India's position has been very clear and consistent on the issue of Jerusalem. For last three years, **India made** significant and positive contribution for the Palestinian cause. In December 2017, India voted in favour of very very important resolution on Jerusalem.
- ✓ In Dubai, the Prime Minister would be addressing the **Sixth World Government Summit** for which India has been extended 'Guest of Honour' status.
- ✓ PM will lay the foundation of a Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi.

**Sixth World Government Summit:**

The sixth edition of the World Government Summit (WHS) is scheduled to be held from February 11th – 13th, 2018 in Dubai, UAE. India will be the guest of honour in this summit. The summit is the largest movement to review and share the best experiences, and the first global forum for governments, countries, organizations and private sector leaders interested in the industry of the future.

**3. The Supreme Court warned khap panchayats not to become self-appointed conscience keepers**

The court asked the Centre and petitioner to come up with effective suggestions in connection with the protection of the couples in Khap Panchayat matters.

The apex court said it was contemplating appointing a high level police committee to devise ways and means to protect couples married inter-caste, inter-faith, or similarly opposed alliances and keep them safe from any violence directed by Khaps, panchayats, parents and relatives.

**4. Maldives government has declared state of emergency for 15 days in wake of the ongoing crisis with Supreme Court**

Maldives government has declared state of emergency for 15 days in wake of the ongoing crisis with Supreme Court.

The declaration came after Maldives President Abdullah Yameen expressed his government inability to implement the Supreme Court ruling which ordered for release of nine opposition leaders. Exiled former Maldivian President Mohammed Nasheed has urged India and the US of intervention to resolve the crisis in the island nation.

**All India Radio News Summary: 06 FEBRUARY 2018**

**1. External Affairs Minister pays her first official visit to Saudi Arabia**

During the three-day visit, minister will meet with the Saudi leadership to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest.

- She will also participate at the inauguration of the prestigious National Heritage and Culture Festival '*Janadriyah*'. India is the guest of honour country at the fest.
- India's participation in the Festival will be multifaceted. There will be an Indian pavilion which will show the glimpses of traditional and modern India.
- India's rich socio-cultural heritage, folklore, traditional costumes, perfumes, bridal costumes, artifacts, specimen of calligraphy, food at the Flavours of India will be showcased at the prestigious festival.
- Yoga practitioners will also be displaying their skills and educating the people of its general health benefit.

Saudi Arabia is the *fourth largest trading partner for India with bilateral trade* exceeding 25 billion dollars in 2016-17. As India's largest supplier of crude oil, Saudi Arabia accounts for about 20 per cent of total annual imports. About 3.2 million strong and vibrant Indian community forms the largest expatriate group in Saudi Arabia.

**2. Supreme Court to set up a fresh Constitution Bench to review the Citizenship Act 1955, including the question of Bangladeshi immigrants in Assam**

A five-judge bench of the apex court in April last year had said it would deal with 13 questions related to the constitutional validity of section 6A of the Act, which were referred to it for consideration by a two-judge bench in December 2014.

The Section 6A of the Act relates to special provisions for citizenship of people covered by the Assam Accord.

- **A bill has been introduced in the US House of Representatives to end non-defence aid to Pakistan**
- A bill was introduced in the US House of Representatives to end non-defence aid to Pakistan as Islamabad provides military aid and intelligence to terrorists.
- The bill seeks that the amount be redirected to infrastructure projects in the US.
- The legislation will prohibit the US State Department and the United States Agency for International Development from sending American taxpayer money to Pakistan.

**4. Exiled former Maldivian President Mohammed Nasheed urged India and the US of intervention to resolve the crisis in the island nation.**

- ❖ Nasheed called upon India to send an envoy backed by military to release judges and political detainees. He also requested US government to stop all financial transactions of Maldives regime leaders going through US banks.
- ❖ Earlier, United States had said that it is troubled and disappointed with the decision and called on President Yameen, the army, and police to comply with the rule of law and implement the Supreme Court's ruling.
- ❖ Britain called on President Yameen to peacefully end the state of emergency, restore all articles of the constitution, and to permit and support the full, free and proper functioning of Parliament.
- ❖ Former President Abdul Gayoom and two Supreme Court judges including chief Justice were arrested after the declaration of emergency.