

Monthly Digest February -2018

Dear readers,

This **Monthly GK Digest** is a complete docket of important news and events that occurred in a month of **February 2018**. We have compiled important & expected questions, which can be asked in upcoming **Banking interviews** and all upcoming **Banking & Insurance exams**.

Banking & Financial Awareness

1. According to **6th Bi-monthly Monetary policy** statement for 2017-18, the current repo rate -- **6.0%**.
Note:
 - Keep the policy repo rate under the **liquidity adjustment facility (LAF)** unchanged at 6.0 percent.
 - The reverse repo rate under the LAF remains at 5.75 percent.
 - The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate at 6.25 percent.
 - The decision of the MPC is consistent with the neutral stance of monetary policy in consonance
 - Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) remains unchanged at 4%.
2. The **European Union (EU)** has announced a new funding package to help the Palestinians build their new state -- **42.5 million euros**.
Note: Any framework for negotiations must be multilateral and must involve all players, all partners that are essential to this process. Palestine is a de jure sovereign state in the Middle East claiming the West Bank (bordering Israel and Jordan) and Gaza Strip (bordering Israel and Egypt) with East Jerusalem as the designated capital.
3. **Axis Bank** has launched the fourth edition of --**Evolve**.
Note: It is an annual multi-city knowledge series for Bank's small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) customers. The current edition of 'evolve' is titled as "Transform your Family Business into your dream company".
4. **Retail inflation** for industrial workers rises in Dec -- **4%**.
Note: The food inflation stood at 4.32% in December last year against 3.91% of November. The year-on-year inflation measured by monthly Consumer Price Index- Industrial Workers (CPI- IW) as compared to 3.97% of previous month.
5. According to the **Reserve Bank of India**, country's foreign exchange reserves -- **417.789 billion dollars**.
Note: In the previous week, the reserves had increased by 959.1 million dollars to 414.784 billion dollars. Gold reserves remained unchanged at 20.421 billion dollars.
6. The union **Finance Minister 'Arun Jaitley'** has inaugurated **India's first** sentiment index **CriSidEx** for micro and small enterprises developed jointly by SIDBI and CRISIL.
Note: This index will give the detail breakup of the sentiment sentiments and analysis as the sector sees it for the current quarter and for the next quarter. CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of 8 parameters and measures MSE business sentiment on a negative to positive scale.
7. In the global Intellectual Property (IP) index, India has ranked 44 out of -- **50 nations**
Note: Last year, India ranked 43rd out of 45 countries in the index, released by the US Chambers of Commerce. The US tops the list followed by the United Kingdom and Sweden.
8. The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** will link the base rate with the MCLR from --**1st of April**.
Note: RBI observed that large proportion of bank loans continue to be linked to Base Rate. RBI 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.
9. The **Competition commission of India (CCI)** has imposed a fine of around **Rs. 136 crores on Google** for unfair business practices in the Indian market for online search.
Note: The order has been passed to complaints filed by Matrimony.com and Consumer Unity and Trust Society (CUTS) in 2012. It was alleged that Google is indulging in abuse of dominant position in the market for online search through practices leading to search bias and search manipulation, among others.
10. The union government's direct tax collection has grown during the **April-January period** of the current fiscal -- **Rs. 6.95 lakh crore**.

- Note:** The net collections for Corporate Income Tax (CIT) showed a growth of 19.2% and for Personal Income Tax, PIT, at 18.6%. The net direct tax collections represent around 69% of the revised estimates of 10 lakh five thousand crore rupees for direct taxes in 2017-18. Refunds amounting to 1.26 rupees lakh crore have been issued during 10-month period of the current fiscal.
11. **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** and Centre signed loan agreement for construction of roads in five states -- **250 mn dollar**.
Note: 250 million USD loan to finance the construction of over 6,200 kilometers all-weather rural roads in 5 States (Assam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal), under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).
 12. IndusInd Bank launched its new Sonic Identity, essentially a musical logo called -- **MOGO**.
Note: The objective for associating to a sonic identity is building the Bank's brand imagery with the strategic use of music and sound for brand experiences and audience connection.
 13. According to the Association of Mutual Funds in India, Investors have pulled out 110 crore rupees from gold exchange-traded funds in -- **January**.
Note: The total outflow to **679 crore rupees** in the first 10 months of the current fiscal. The outflow meant assets under management of gold funds plunged over 15% in January to 4,906 crore rupees, from 5,670 crore rupees in the year-ago period.
 14. The **SBI** -bank wrote off bad loans worth Rs 20,339 crore in 2016-17 which had a collective write off of Rs 81,683 crore for this fiscal.
Note: The data pertains to the period when the associate banks of State Bank of India (SBI) were not merged with it.
 15. The **Bank of Baroda** has decided to exit by March-end its South Africa operations amid a probe into alleged compliance lapses by the bank there.
 16. India has signed a loan agreement with **New Development Bank (NDB)** for 100 million dollars for **Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project** for Desert Areas.
Note: This is the first tranche loan approved by the NDB under the **Multi Tranche Financing Facility** of 345 Million dollars for this project. The objective of this project is to rehabilitate the Indira Gandhi Canal system (678-kilometre long) built during 1958 to 1963 to prevent seepage, conserve water, and enhance water use efficiency.
 17. The official **Wholesale Price Index (WPI)** for All Commodities for the month of January 2018 rose by -- **0.1%**.
Note: Build up inflation rate in the financial year was 2.30% compared to a build-up rate of 4.55% in the corresponding period of the previous year.
 18. **NABARD** has announced a development plans worth **Rs. 1,918 crores** for Punjab to supplement farmers' income.
Note: Under this plan, the activities like dairy, vegetable cultivation, bee keeping, mushroom growing will be promoted in order to provide income to farmers at the sustainable basis.
 19. The Digital payments entity **PhonePe** has partnered with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the adoption of its indigenously-designed Point of Sale (POS) device at IOCL retail outlets.
 20. **Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL)** has bagged an order worth **Rs. 560 crores from NTPC** for setting up a system for emission control.
Note: The order **involves the installation** of an indigenously developed Flue Gas Desulphurization system in the NTPC station.
 21. **Reserve Bank of India (RBI)** has constituted an expert committee to look into the entire gamut of issues relating to classification of bad loans, effectiveness of audits and rising incidents of frauds -- **Y H Malegam committee**.
 22. The **Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO)** has declared interest rate for 2017-18 -- **8.55%**.
Note: This was decided during the meeting of Central Board of Trustees of EPFO in New Delhi. Earlier, for 2016-17 the rate was 8.65% and 8.8% in 2015-16.
 23. India ranks in Global Corruption Perception Index for 2017-- **81st**.
Note: The index ranks **180 countries** and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. In the 2016 India was in the 79th place among 176 countries. The Transparency International is an international non-governmental organization which is based in Berlin, Germany, and was founded in 1993.
 24. The first sale of Electoral Bonds commenced from -- **1st March**.
Note: The State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorized to issue and encash Electoral Bonds initially at its four authorized branches. Electoral Bond will be valid for 15 days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee Political Party if the Bond is deposited after the expiry of the validity period.
 25. The Reserve Bank of India has launched **Ombudsman Scheme** for non-banking financial companies (NBFC) for redressal of complaints against them.

- Note:** The scheme will provide a speedy complaint redressal mechanism relating to deficiency in the services by NBFCs which will be of free of cost. The offices of the NBFC ombudsmen will be located in Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi.
26. The **Punjab National Bank** has clarified through a public notice that Virat Kohli continues to be its brand ambassador.
Note: Recently, PNB was hit by a **\$1.8 billion scam** and there are reports in the media that Virat Kohli, Bank's brand ambassador is going to discontinue his endorsement with Punjab National Bank.
27. The **National Council of Applied Economic Research** (NCAER) has projected India's economic growth in 2018-19 -- **7.5 percent**.
Note: The wholesale price index (WPI) inflation is projected at 6.4 percent for 2017-18. The growth rates in exports and imports, in dollar terms, are estimated at 12.8 percent and 24.8 percent, respectively.
28. Financial Intelligence Unit (FIU) has released a list of Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs), which have been categorized as high-risk financial institutions -- **around 9500**.
Note: The FIU under the Finance Ministry has released the list on its website showing the names of these NBFCs which have been found non-compliant to the Prevention of Money Laundering Act rules.
29. India's rank in the **2018 Inclusive Internet Index** (III), which is recently released by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) -- **47th**.
Note: India has been ranked 47th out of 86 countries in the latest Inclusive Internet Index (III-2018) report, which was commissioned by Facebook and conducted by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). The index is topped by the Sweden, followed by Singapore and the US.

New Appointments

- The new **Director General of Military Operations** (DGMO) of the Indian Army -- **Anil Chauhan**.
Note: As DGMO, Lt Gen Chouhan will oversee various operations of the Indian Army including along the LoC in Jammu and Kashmir.
- The new vice-chancellor of **Banaras Hindu University** (BHU) -- **B A Chopade**.
Note: Currently, He is the vice-chancellor of Babasaheb **Ambedkar Marathwada University**.
- The new Director-General of **Sports Authority of India** (SAI) -- **Neelam Kapur**.
Note: Currently, she is the Principal Director General of the Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP). The Sports Authority of India (SAI) is an apex National Sports body set up in 1984 by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports of Government of India for the development of sport in India.
- Justice **Syed Mahmud Hossain** appointed new chief justice of -- **Bangladesh**.
Note: Bangladesh's President Md Abdul Hamid administered the oath for Hossain as the 22nd chief justice of the in Dhaka.
- Cyprus President** has won the re-election for a second term -- **Nicos Anastasiades**.
Note: Anastasiades has taken credit for steering the economy of Cyprus to recovery after it was plunged into crisis in 2013 by its exposure to debt-wracked Greece and fiscal slippage under a former left-wing administration.
- Kannada litterateur **Chandrashekhara Kambara** has been elected as the president of the Sahitya Akademi.
Note: He replaced Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari (famous Hindi writer). The Sahitya Akademi is an organization dedicated to the promotion of literature in the languages of India. It is in **Rabindra Bhavan near Mandi House** in Delhi.
- Acting chairperson of National Green Tribunal (NGT) retired after completing a five-year tenure -- **Justice Umesh Dattatraya Salvi**.
Note: The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has Original Jurisdiction on matters of "substantial question relating to environment" & "damage to the environment due to specific activity" (such as pollution).
- The **Vinay Sheel Oberoi committee** to expedite capital acquisition for Armed Forces modernization.
Note: The Defence minister **Nirmala Sitharamn** has constituted a 13-member advisory committee headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernization of the armed forces
The committee will undertake an independent review and check the status of ongoing critical projects worth more than 500 crore rupees.
- The new Managing Director (MD) & Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SBI Card -- **Hardayal Prasad**.
Note: Currently, SBI Card is the country's second-largest credit card (first HDFC Bank) issuer. SBI Cards & Payments Services Pvt. Ltd. (SBICPSL) is a payment solutions provider in India.
- The National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has appointed **Biswamohan Mahapatra** as a non-executive chairman for two years.
Note: NPCI is an umbrella organization for all retail payments in India, set up with the guidance and support

- of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Indian Banks Association (IBA).
11. **Justice Abhilasha Kumari** has sworn-in as new Chief Justice of the High Court of Manipur.
Note: Justice Abhilasha was a judge of the Gujarat High Court.
 12. **Indra Nooyi** has been appointed ICC's first independent female director.
Note: PepsiCo Chairman and CEO Nooyi will join the Board in June this year to align with the term of the ICC Independent Chairman. Nooyi was born to a Tamil-speaking family in Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India.
 13. **Justice Antony Dominic** has been sworn-in as the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court.
Note: Justice Dominic has become the first Keralite to occupy the post of Chief Justice of Kerala in 17 years.
 14. **K P Sharma Oli** has become the 41st Prime Minister of Nepal.
Note: Mr. Oli had served as the country's prime minister from October 11, 2015 to August 3, 2016. The Left alliance of the CPN-UML secured 174 seats in the 275-member Parliament in the historic provincial and parliamentary polls.
 15. South Africa's embattled President has announced his resignation due to names in several scandals -- **Jacob Zuma**.
Note: Jacob Zuma served as the fourth President of South Africa from the 2009 general election.
 16. **Cyril Ramaphosa** has been sworn in as **South Africa's** new president.
Note: Ramaphosa is South Africa's fifth president since the end of the apartheid system of white minority rule in 1994.
 17. **Haruhiko Kuroda** reappointed as Bank of Japan Chief.
Note: Japan govt. has reappointed Bank of Japan Governor 'Haruhiko Kuroda' for another term and chose an advocate of bolder monetary easing as one of his deputies. The union government has also nominated Masazumi Wakatabe (Professor at Waseda University) as deputy governor.
 18. Archaeologist and historian is the Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) -- **Arvind P. Jamkhedkar**.
Note: The Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR) is an autonomous body of the Ministry of Human Resource Development, which had been established by an Administrative Order of the then Ministry of Education.
 19. The **UGC has constituted** a four-member Empowered Expert Committee headed by former Chief Election Commissioner for shortlisting 20 Institutions of Eminence -- **N Gopalaswami**.
Note: The committee will select 20 Institutions of Eminence from among 104 institutions that have applied for the status. The government is likely to announce the names of the selected institutions by April 2018.
 20. **Michael McCormack** has been elected new Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.
Note: He replaced Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce who was forced to resign last week amid public anger over an extramarital affair with his former press secretary.
 21. The **new editor-in-chief of the television** channel Rajya Sabha TV--**Rahul Mahajan**.
Note: currently, He is a consulting editor in Prasar Bharati.

Important News – India

1. The **2018 Kala Ghoda Arts festival** held in -- **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.
Note: The 2018 theme of the festival is “Hara Ghoda” to promote sustainable living, recycling, and environment-friendliness. It is an open platform to discuss contemporary issues led by individuals from different disciplines.
2. The 7th India Energy Congress 2018 organized by World Energy Council India with theme Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030 -- **New Delhi**.
Note: India's per capita power consumption of 1,200 units is likely to go up by three to four times by 2030 as it aspires to become a developed country with GDP growth rate averaging 8.5% and the country is also committed to environmental protection.
3. The book written by the **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and published by Penguin India -- **Exam Warriors**.
Note: Exam Warriors inspire youth to face the difficult moments of examinations and life with fresh and new energy.
4. The 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**.
Note: The JMVP is being implemented with the financial and technical support of the World Bank, completed by March, 2023. The development and operations of the

- National Waterway-1 project will lead to direct employment in the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, and West Bengal.
5. Vice-President **M. Venkaiah Naidu** has inaugurated the **first International Kala Mela** in -- **New Delhi**.
Note: The objective of the event is to focus on direct interaction between the artist and the connoisseur and also educating and raising awareness about art. More than 800 artists from all over the country are expected to participate in the event.
 6. India has successfully test-fired nuclear capable ballistic missile as part of a user trial from a test range off the Odisha coast -- **Agni-I**.
Note: The trial was conducted by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC) of the Indian Army from Launch Pad 4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island in Balasore, Odisha.
 7. According to the **railway board**, no diesel locomotive will be allowed in the Delhi area after -- **March 2019**.
Note: Railways will be completely LED lit in the next eight months. The railway ministry has set a target of 2022 to switch to electric locomotives completely by phasing out their diesel counterparts with a focus on increasing speed.
 8. President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 88th Mahamastakabhisheka Utsav of Lord Gommateshwara in -- **Karnataka**.
Note: Mahamastakabhisheka of Gommateshwara (known as Bahubali) takes place once in 12 years. It is an important Jain pilgrimage centre and lakhs of tourists visit Shravanbelagola to see 57 feet tall monolithic stone statue that is anointed from head to feet during the Utsav.
 9. The union ministry has launched the Start-up-India ranking framework -- **Commerce and Industry**.
Note: The Start-up-India ranking framework in New Delhi to help the Startup India initiative to drive economic growth of the country.
 10. The airport has become the world's busiest single-runway airport -- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj airport**.
 11. In Prime Minister's Research Fellows scheme, meritorious students of B. Tech and M. Tech to get fellowship every year -- **1000**.
Note: The Union Government will give fellowships to 1,000 meritorious students of B. Tech and M. Tech every year. The fellowship amount will be Rs. 70 to 80 thousand per month.
 12. **NCERT** has collaborated with the internet company **Google** to teach students **digital safety**.
Note: The NCERT has signed a pact with Google to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology curriculum. The integrated course will be implemented in more than 1.4 million schools across the country from next academic session in April 2018. his curriculum has four themes (being smart, being safe, being a digital citizen and being future ready).
 13. The National Informatics Centre (NIC) has organizing a three-day National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018 in-- **New Delhi**.
Note: The theme for VIVID 2018 is – Cyber Security and Innovation.
 14. India most famous captain Sourav Ganguly unveiled the first look of his autobiography titled -- **A Century is Not Enough**.
Note: The book co-authored by Gautam Bhattacharya and published by Juggernaut Books. The contents of the book shall draw from all the highs Ganguly enjoyed in his career as well as the lows.
 15. According to the tourism ministry, the number of foreign tourist arrivals in January 2018 was -- **10.66 lakh**.
Note: The highest percentage of tourists came from Bangladesh (16.36%) followed by the US (14.10%), the UK (10.81%), Canada (4.63%) and the Russian Federation (4.49%). The ministry compiles monthly estimates of foreign tourist arrivals including those with e-tourist visas, on the basis of their nationality and the port.
 16. President Ram Nath Kovind hosted the Panchayat at Rashtrapati Bhavan -- **LPG Panchayat**.
Note: The objective of the Panchayat is to provide a platform for LPG consumers to interact with each other. Each LPG Panchayat has about 100 LPG customers coming together to discuss safe and sustainable usage of LPG, its benefits and the link between clean fuel for cooking and women's empowerment.
 17. Recently, the Union Home Minister 'Rajnath Singh' has released a book titled -- **Mere Sapnon ka Bharat**.
Note: It is a compilation of interviews with former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by Tarun Vijay (ex-MP).
 18. The Union Minister of State Shri R.K Singh has launched a Web-based monitoring System and a Fly Ash mobile application -- **ASH TRACK**.
Note: These platforms will enable better management of the ash produced by thermal power plants by providing an interface between fly ash producers and potential ash users such as the road contractors, cement plants etc.
 19. NITI Aayog has released a comprehensive report titled in the national capital -- **Healthy States, Progressive India**.
Note: The report is the first of its kind, nation-wide analysis of health systems across the states, including Union Territories. 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 the top three states in the terms of annual incremental performance.
- 20.** The Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the sixth edition of **Hunar Haat**.
Note: The 'Haat' will encourage, promote and provide a national and international market to master artisans and craftsmen belonging to minority communities.
- 21.** The city to host the 2nd edition of **National Micro Drama Festival-2018 -- New Delhi**.
- 22.** The World Sustainable Development Summit -2018 held in - **New Delhi**.
Note: The summit is the flagship forum of the Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The theme of the summit is partnerships for a resilient planet, seeking to create action frameworks to resolve some of the most urgent challenges facing developing economies in the backdrop of climate change.
- 23.** The international exhibition and conference on Pharmaceutical & Medical Device sector 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018' in -- **Bengaluru**.
Note: The event is being organized by the Department of Pharmaceuticals (DoP), Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers, along with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI). Over 300 companies and 50 startups will showcase their products at the grand exhibition where more than 90 eminent industry leaders will speak at various sessions.
- 24.** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the 8th edition of the Theatre Olympics in __**Delhi**.
Note: It is for the first time that India is hosting the event and more than 25 thousand foreign artists will participate. The 51-day long nationwide theatre extravaganza will be held in 17 cities, including Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Patna, Kolkata, Mumbai, Guwahati and Jammu. The theme of the festival is - "Flag of Friendship".
- 25.** The 6th conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) of India Region inaugurated in **Patna**.
Note: Over one hundred delegates from across the country and abroad including Australia, Britain, Uganda and Tonga have arrived to participate this conference.
- 26.** Prime Minister of Canada **Justin Trudeau** arrived on a seven-day visit in India.
Note: The objective of the Mr. Trudeau India's visit would be to expand overall ties between the two countries with a focus on defence and security, counter-terror cooperation, trade and investment and tackling climate change.
- 27.** The Union govt. has extended the anti-narcotics scheme for -- **3 more years**.
Note: It will be provided to all the anti-narcotics agencies for strengthening their enforcement capabilities to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.
- 28.** India's second lunar mission Chandrayan-2 to be launched in -- **April 2018**.
Note: The mission will cost around 800 crore rupees which includes cost of orbiter, lander and rover.
- 29.** Four places in Chhattisgarh will get **airports as part of the UDAN** (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik) scheme -- **Ambikapur, Bilaspur, Jagdalpur and Raigarh**.
Note: UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik) is a regional airport development and "Regional Connectivity Scheme" (RCS) of Government of India. At the beginning of the scheme, out of total 486 airports, 406 were participating unserved airports, 27 well served airports out of 62 non-RCS airports and 12 operational out of 18 participating underserved regional operational airports with regular fixed-wing scheduled flights.
- 30.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the prestigious World Congress on Information Technology through a video link in **Hyderabad**.
Note: The World Information Technology and Services Alliance is organizing Congress while the National Alliance of Software and Services Companies and the Telangana state Government are jointly hosting the prestigious event.
- 31.** India's ballistic missile test-fired successfully from the Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast -- **Agni-II**.
Note: The Strategic Forces Command with logistics support from Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) carried out the test. The Agni-II missile (21-metre long & weigh 17 tonnes) can carry nuclear payload of 1000 kilograms with strike range of 2000 kilometres.
- 32.** The Centre has constituted a committee headed by the Vice Chairman of the NITI Aayog to study the Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and neighboring states -- **Mr Rajiv Kumar**.
- 33.** **India Posts** has started limited period online survey to gather consumer feedback on its services.
Note: This Customer Feedback Survey will be from 16 Feb to 15 May 2018 and available to public through India Post Website "www.indiapost.gov.in". India Posts at present has 1.55 lakh post offices in its network across country.
- 34.** Agriculture Minister launches new features of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform -- **Six**.
Note: The objective of the e-NAM flagship schemes to provide competitive and remunerative price to farmers for

- their products through an online competitive bidding process. Till now e-NAM has reached 479 mandis across 14 states and 1 union territory.
35. The Union Minister Uma Bharti has launched the Bagori Ganga Gram project, New Swajal Project and Gangotri as Swachh Iconic Place in **Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand**.
Note: Both projects will create cleanliness, provide basic amenities to the people of Ganga bank villages.
36. Veteran Tamil actor has launched his political party 'Makkal Neethi Maiyam' (People's Justice Centre) -- **Kamal Haasan**.
Note: The party's flag displays six joined hands altogether in alternate red and white colors with a white star at its centre in a black background besides a script saying 'Makkal Needhi Maiyam'.
37. The Union Government will set up the NITI Forum to identify constraints and recommend suitable interventions for speedy and sustainable growth in the **Northeast**.
Note: The forum will also review the development status in the region.
38. The 7th edition of the Youth Festival has started with theme "Let Love Live" in -- **New Delhi**.
Note: The main purpose of this fest is to promote young performers.
39. The joint military drill between India & Indonesia in Bandung -- **Garuda Shakti**.
Note: The exercises will include experience sharing in counter-terrorism operations, close quarter combat, and other areas of special operations, an official statement said.
40. India has signed an agreement with **Germany** for Sustainable Urban Development programme & Smart Cities in India.
Note: The main objective of this agreement is to develop and apply concepts for sustainable urban development about a provision of urban basic services and housing in selected cities and Smart Cities in India.
41. India and Asian Development Bank has signed a loan agreement for Improvement and Expansion of Water Supply in in Bihar_ **\$84 million**.
Note: The program aims to provide sustainable urban infrastructure and services in four towns in Bihar –Gaya, Bhagalpur, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur.
42. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) has launched the blue color cards -- **Baal Aadhaar**.
Note: It will be given to children below the age of five years. When the child becomes 5 years old, a mandatory biometric update is required. If a child is above the age of five, the enrollment form has to be filled out and crucial documents such as birth certificate and school's identity card have to be provided.
43. A two- day International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels held in -- **New Delhi**.
Note: The conference was organized by Department of Biotechnology on behalf of Mission Innovation and Biofuture Platform.

States News

1. The Union government has announced to build a tunnel through the **Sela Pass** located in **Arunachal Pradesh**.
Note: The Sela pass is located between the Tawang and West Kameng districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The proposal to build the Sela pass comes amid concerns in the defence establishment over China's growing assertiveness along the nearly 4,000 km-long Sino-India border.
2. The 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela 2018 started at **Faridabad, Haryana**.
Note: This year Uttar Pradesh is the theme state and Kyrgyzstan is the Partner Nation. Surajkund is located near the Surajkund village between the villages of Baharpur and Lakkarpur in Faridabad district of Haryana.
3. The state govt has signed an MoU with the Corporation for construction of Twin Tower Trade Centre in Guwahati -- **National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) Ltd**.
Note: The centre has enacted a pro-active 'Act East Policy' to elevate and harness the strengths of North- East India and reduce the isolation of the region by improving all round connectivity and civic infrastructure.
4. The **Maharashtra** govt. approves proposal to provide sanitary napkins at Rs 5 to women in rural areas.
Note: The decision would be effectively implemented from International Women's Day, which falls on March 8. The use of sanitary pads (among girls and women) stands at around 17% due to high costs.
5. Maharashtra govt approves new wildlife sanctuary at – **Ghodazari**.
Note: The decision was taken at the 13th meeting of the Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife chaired by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis. Wildlife sanctuaries are established by IUCN category IV protected areas.
6. Lieutenant Governor of Delhi has launched the upgraded version of app containing complete information of taxi and auto-rickshaw drivers across the NCR- region -- **Himmat App and QR code**.
Note: The new-version with a new logo is called 'Himmat Plus'. 'Himmat Plus' intends to ensure that only genuine

- and verified drivers take the passengers to their destination from Airport and Metro stations.
7. The 'Pelican Bird Festival-2018' was held in Atapaka Bird Sanctuary at Kolleru lake in -- **Andhra Pradesh**.
Note: It was organized jointly by Krishna district administration and Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority (APTA). Every year Over 5,000 pelican birds from various countries reach Kolleru lake during winter by travelling over 3500 km.
 8. The Chief Minister of U.P. Yogi Aditya Nath has launched massive door to door campaign against Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) and Japanese Encephalitis -- **DASTAK**.
Note: The war cry of DASTAK is 'Darwaja khatkhatoo, AES aur JE ko bhagao'. Now, the whole state machinery with the help of UNICEF will go door to door in 38 JES and AE affected districts which mostly fall in the Tarai region of the state which contributes to about 60% of the total AES cases all over the country.
 9. Haryana Chief Minister **Manohar Lal Khattar** has launched Yojana to provide for the sale of organic manure and cow urine to benefit farmers -- **Gobardhan Yojana**.
Note: Under this scheme, a provision of Rs 11 crore has been made to provide benefits of various projects. In Union Budget-2018-19, The Union Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley has announced the 'Gobar-Dhan' scheme.
 10. The **Assam** govt. has signed MoU with the cab company Ola for a pilot project of app-based river taxi services.
Note: Assam govt. has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with cab-hailing company Ola for a pilot project of app-based river taxi services in Guwahati. The river taxi will be a machine-operated boat, a faster and safer mode of travel than its conventional alternatives.
 11. The Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh laid the foundation stone for Rhododendron Park in the state at **Tawang district**.
Note: The 'Rhododendron Park' will be built in an area of 1.15 hectares and partly funded under Border Area Development Programme (BADP). Around 30 species of rhododendrons will be planted in the park and conserved. The park will also contain modern nursery, information center on rhododendron, resting sheds, vehicle parking facility, public toilet facility, signage and lightings and iron security gate.
 12. The first Indian state to have Transgender Welfare Board (TWB) -- **Maharashtra**.
Note: The Maharashtra government will construct TWB within one month and a provision of Rs. 5 crores for the welfare of the transgender community. Board for transgenders will be working for welfare for transgenders in various areas like education, employment, housing, and health scheme.
 13. The state Election department has deployed Mobile Democracy Van to create voter's awareness -- **Meghalaya**.
Note: The specially designed vans have been deployed in all 3 regions (Garo, Khasi, and Jaintia Hills) loaded with Voters education materials specially EVM and VVPAT. Efforts are being made to bring first-time voters to the polling booth on 27th of February.
 14. The union home minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the first center for spoken Sanskrit in **Gujarat University, Ahmedabad**.
Note: The center will offer a six-month course for people on how to speak the Sanskrit language. Earlier, around eight lakh students opted for Sanskrit as a language in class X but in the recent past, only 1.5 lakh students opt for Sanskrit language even in class X.
 15. The **Assam govt.** has introduced 'The Assam Yoga Council Bill, 2018' in the state Assembly to set up a yoga council for regulating the teaching and practice of yoga.
Note: The council is proposed to be set up in order to assure quality of service and avoid misinterpretation and misuse of the system. The council will be empowered to grant affiliation and accreditation to institutions teaching yoga as well as withdraw the same.
 16. The **Jammu and Kashmir state** has passed a bill to establish a maiden law university to improve the quality of professional legal education in the state.
Note: It was resolved at the All India Law Ministers' conference in 1995 to set up a law school in each state on the lines of the NLSU, Bengaluru. It will be set up on the lines of the Bengaluru-based National Law School of India University (NLSU).
 17. The Supreme Court has awarded an additional 14.75 TMC of Cauvery water to --- **Karnataka**.
Note: The Supreme court has upheld the 2007 decision of Cauvery Water Tribunal, while making some amendments. Earlier, while Cauvery Water Tribunal had allocated 192 TMC water to Tamil Nadu, the apex court has reduced it to 177 TMC. The apex court has kept water share of Puducherry and Kerala unchanged.
 18. Regional conference of southern states on water resources to be held in -- **Hyderabad**.
Note: The objective of the conference is to implementation of the latest orders of the Supreme Court on sharing of Cauvery waters, interlinking of rivers like Godavari-Cauvery, notification of jurisdiction of Krishna and Godavari Water Management Boards, Polavaram Project.

19. The country's only non-suburban railway station to be entirely run by women -- **Jaipur's Gandhinagar**.
Note: All 32 posts at the station from station (superintendent to head ticket collector, point woman to railway protection force constable and station master to ticket reservation clerk) were occupied by women. Matunga railway station of Mumbai is also managed by women and it is in the suburban category while our station is first in the main line category
20. 44th Khajuraho dance festival 2018 held in -- **Madhya Pradesh**.
Note: Khajuraho temple is a UNESCO world heritage site in Chhatarpur district, Madhya Pradesh. Khajuraho temple is a group of Hindu and Jain Temples in Madhya Pradesh build by Chandela Dynasty between 950 and 1050 AD.
21. The 21st national conference on e-Governance held in -- **Hyderabad**.
Note: The theme of the conference is 'Around- technology for accelerating development'. The conference was organized jointly by the government of India and Telangana Administrative Reforms Department.
22. The Assam government will observe 'Rhino Day' to generate public awareness on protection of the one-horned pachyderm -- **22nd September**.
23. The **Telangana** govt has announced five lakh rupees health-cum-life insurance scheme for farmers in the state.
Note: The state government will pay the entire premium behalf of the farmer and allocate 500 crore rupees in the coming budget for implementation of the scheme. Insurance scheme will benefit 70 lakh farmers in the state. The health incurrence cover will be made available in case of hospitalization and the amount will be paid to the family in case of farmer's accidental as well as natural death.
24. The **Tamil Nadu** state govt. has tied up with Microsoft to accelerate cloud technology adoption.
Note: The partnership aims to reform education sector, build tech capacity and enhance digital literacy across all levels.
25. The state govt. has launched 'Parivartan' scheme in 46 developmental blocks of the state __Haryana.
Note: Each of 46 top most IAS, IPS and IFS officers have been allocated one block in which they will undertake works in 10 selected common fields and one field of their choice.
26. The **Tamil Nadu state** government has set up toll-free helpline to provide information to students.
Note: The toll-free number – 14417 through the 24-hour Education Guidance Centre set up at the Secretariat that would offer information relating to school education and offer guidance to students.

Important Day

1. The world cancer day is being observed on -- **4th February**.
Note: The day raise awareness about cancer, its **treatment and to encourage methods** of its prevention. Cancer is a group of diseases involving abnormal cell growth with the potential to invade or spread to other parts of the body.
2. Sri Lanka celebrates 70th Independence Day -- **4th February**.
Note: Sri Lanka celebrated the **70th Independence Day** in a grand ceremony at the Galle Face Green in Colombo. The theme of the ceremony was "One Nation". In 1948 on this day, Sri Lanka achieved freedom from British rule.
3. International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation -- **6th February**.
Note: **International Day of Zero Tolerance** for Female Genital Mutilation is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day that takes place on February 6 as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation. It was first introduced in 2003
4. The National Productivity Day is observed every year on - **-12th February**.
Note: The main observance of the day is organized by National Productivity Council (NPC) for encouraging all stakeholders in the implementation of productivity tools and techniques with contemporary relevant themes. Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India" has been selected as the theme for the National Productivity Week -2018.
5. The World Radio Day (WRD) is celebrated every year on - **- 13th February**.
Note: The theme for this year is "Radio and Sports". The day provides an opportunity to honor how radio is uniquely positioned to bring communities together and promote positive dialogue for change.
6. The birth anniversary of **Maratha Warrior King** is being celebrated all over Maharashtra -- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj**.
Note: Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis visited the Shivneri Fort (birthplace of Shivaji) and paid tribute to the Warrior King. In 1674, he was formally crowned as the Chhatrapati (Monarch) of his realm at Raigad.
7. The United Nations' (UN) World Day of Social Justice is annually observed on -- **20th February**
Note: The theme for 2018 is " Workers on the Move: The Quest for Social Justice". The united nation has approved

- on 26th November 2007 and starting in 2009, as the World Day of Social Justice.
8. International Mother Language Day (IMLD) is a worldwide annual observance held on --**21st February**.
Note: The day promote awareness of linguistic and cultural diversity and promote multilingualism. 2018 Theme: Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development.
 9. India celebrates National Science Day every year on --**28th February**.
 - Note:** The objective of the day is to spread the message of the importance of science and its application among the people. The theme for the year 2018 is “Science and Technology for a sustainable future”.
 10. Maharashtra celebrates the birth anniversary of noted Marathi litterateur V. V. Shirwadkar __**Marathi Bhasha Diwas**.
Note: Various programmes like poetry recitation, musical performances, essay writing, cultural events, and seminars have been organized in schools and colleges across the state.

Honors & Award

1. The state government has won the **2018 Geospatial World Excellence Award -- Odisha**.
Note: The Odisha govt has won the award for successful IT application for tracking of mineral production, dispatch and value accrued on real time basis through its i3MS website-based software.
2. The eminent Magahi writer has been honored with the 2018 Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award -- **Shesh Anand Madhukar**.
Note: Madhurkar was conferred the award, comprising a Rs 1 lakh cheques and a memento, by Sahitya Akademi President Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari. Sahitya Akademi currently honors writers from 24 regional languages, but Bhasha Samman identifies those languages which are equally spoken in the different parts of the country.
3. The prestigious **V. Shantaram lifetime achievement Award 2018** for his contribution to the promotion of the documentary movement -- **Shyam Benegal**.
Note: Maharashtra Governor, Shri C Vidyasagar Rao has given V. Shantaram lifetime achievement Award 2018 to veteran film producer and director ‘Shyam Benegal’ at the MIFF 2018 valedictory function in Mumbai. The award carrying a Trophy, a shawl, citation and cash prize of Rs. 10 lakhs. Benegal has been selected for his contribution to the promotion of the documentary movement.
4. India’s App has won the best M-Government Service Award in the Accessible Government category at World Govt Summit 2018 in Dubai--**Umang App**.
Note: The mobile application provides users a unified platform that combines government departments and services, facilitating transactions for citizens. The world’s largest biometric enabled identification programme ‘Aadhaar’ won the best emerging technology award.
5. The film has won the best film award at the 71st British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA)-2018 __ **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri**.
Note: The movie was directed by Martin McDonagh. The movie is about a woman seeking justice for her daughter’s murder.
6. Indian engineer has won the Scientific and Engineering Academy Award at the Oscars Scientific and Technical Awards 2018 -- **Vikas Sathaye**.
Note: Mr. Sathaye received the award along with his team for their contribution towards the conceptualization, design, engineering and the implementation of the ‘Shotover K1 Camera System’ during his stint at Shotover Camera Systems in Queenstown, New Zealand.
7. Who has been recognized as ‘Startup of the Year -2017’ at the 7th Small Business Awards in New Delhi -- **Milkbasket**.
Note: The startup of the year award is dedicated to young SMEs (aged 7 years or less) with great potential to become big in local/international markets. Milkbasket has innovated flexi ordering and contactless delivery, both a first in the ecommerce industry and favourites of Milkbasket customers.
8. Track and field sprinter has set up a world record in 60 metres race at the US indoor national championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico -- **Christian Coleman**.
Note: Coleman (USA) smashed Maurice Greene’s (6.39 second) world indoor 60m record in 6.34 seconds. He won the 100-metres silver medal at last year’s world championships in London.
9. Flying officer **Avani Chaturvedi** has become the first Indian women to fly a fighter aircraft solo.
Note: She flew a MiG-21 bison in her first solo sortie from Indian Air Force Jamnagar base in Gujarat. **She** is one of the three (**other Bhawana Kanth & Mohana Singh**) in the first batch of female pilots, who were inducted in Indian Air Force fighter squadron in 2016.
10. The prestigious Aravindan Puraskaram for the best debutant director of 2017 -- **Sagar Chaya Vanchar**.
Note: The award, comprising a cash prize of Rs 25,000, a memento and a citation, is instituted by the Chalachitra Film Society.
11. The 2017 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year and Comeback of the Year award -- **Roger Federer**.

Note: Twenty-times Grand Slam champion Roger Federer has won the 2017 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year

and Comeback of the Year awards at the 18th edition of the awards ceremony in Monaco.

Important News – World

- India** has joined Ashgabat agreement on the establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan.
Note: The objective of this agreement is to enhance connectivity within Eurasian region and synchronize it with other transport corridors within that region including the International North–South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- United Arab Emirates (UAE)** has launched the world's longest zip Line "Jebel Jais Flight" in Ras al-Khaimah.
Note: The Jebel Jais Flight zip line (2.83km) launches from 1,680m above sea level, at the peak of the Jebel Jais Mountain.
- Rwanda** country has become the 1st poor country to provide eye care for all.
Note: Rwanda partnered with UK-based charity Vision for a Nation (VFAN) has become the first low-income country to provide universal eye care for its 12 million population. VFAN will 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.
- Bhutan** has opened the consulate **general's office in Guwahati** (Assam).
Note: It is the second country in the Indian subcontinent, after Bangladesh. Dorji also announced a Bhutan-Guwahati-Singapore flight service would be launched.
- The South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference (5th edition) was held in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Conference was hosted by Public Procurement Division (PPD) of Ministry of Finance and All India Management Association (AIMA). Theme of this edition of conference was "**Public Procurement and Service Delivery**".
- SpaceX** has launched 'the world's most powerful rocket' 'Falcon Heavy' from Kennedy Space Centre near Cape Canaveral, Florida (USA).
Note: It was launched from the same launchpad, from where Apollo 11 moon rocket was launched. SpaceX's Falcon Heavy is carrying CEO Elon Musk's cherry red Tesla roadster to an orbit near Mars. This rocket generated 22,819 kilonewtons (5.13 million pounds) of thrust through 27 Merlin engines.
- Dubai** city to host the 6th World Government Summit (WGS-2018).
Note: The summit acts as a knowledge exchange hub between government officials, policy makers and private sector leaders, and as an analysis platform for the future trends, issues and opportunities facing humanity.
- India and Russia have celebrated the 70 years of bilateral relations in the field of agriculture at **Suratgarh, Rajasthan**.
Note: In 1956, The Central State Farm (CSF) was set up in 'Suratgarh' with the assistance from erstwhile USSR. Russian scientists helped in laying the foundation of agriculture in the deserts of Thar, which brought about a change in the agriculture farming in nearby areas including the fringe area of Punjab.
- The world's first country to repeal same-sex marriage -- **Bermuda**.
Note: It is a step towards seeking to balance opposition to same-sex marriage on the socially conservative island while complying with European court rulings that make sure same-sex couples are recognized and protected in the territory.
- Former Prime Minister of Bangladesh has been sentenced to five years in jail in a corruption case in Dhaka -- **Begum Khaleda Zia**.
Note: In the same case, her son Tarique Rahman and four others have been sentenced to 10 years in jail. Bangladeshi politician Begum Khaleda Zia was the Prime Minister of Bangladesh from 1991 to 1996 and again from 2001 to 2006.
- India, Oman sign MoUs including in the defence, health and tourism sectors -- **eight**.
Note: India and Oman have signed eight Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) in different areas (like defense, health & tourism) during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to the Gulf nation. Oman is an Arab country on the southeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula in Western Asia.
- Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA)** has launched the world's smallest rocket from the Uchinoura Space Center in Kagoshima prefecture, Japan.
Note: The objective of the launch for testing the ability of JAXA to launch low-cost rockets that can put micro satellites into space at affordable rates. The rocket measuring 10 meters in length, 50 cm in diameter and some 2.6 tons in weight.
- The annual Munich Security Conference held in **Munich, Germany**.
Note: The Munich Security Conference is an annual conference on international security policy that has taken place since 1963. Each year it brings together about 350 senior figures from more than 70 countries around the world to engage in an intensive debate on current and future security challenges.
- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) suspended Romania's drug-testing laboratory for -- **six months**.

Note: WADA imposed the sanction on the lab in Bucharest due to a number of non-conformities with regulations. WADA has stepped up checks on laboratories around the world ever since uncovering evidence of wide-ranging doping and cover-ups at the Moscow laboratory.

15. The women of **Saudi Arabia** can launch their own businesses and benefit from governmental e-services without having to prove consent from a guardian.
Note: Earlier, In Under Saudi Arabia's guardianship system, women are required to present proof of permission from a male guardian to do any government paperwork, travel or enrol in classes.
16. The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit will be held this year in the city of Qingdao in **China**.
Note: It forms part of Shandong province which is the birthplace of many ancient Chinese thinkers, including Confucius. Currently, in SCO, there are 8-member states and 4 observer states (Afghanistan, Belarus, Iran, Mongolian).The Shanghai Five grouping was created 26 April 1996 with the signing of the Treaty on Deepening Military Trust in Border Regions of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia and Tajikistan.
17. The **UK- India Joint research projects** on Water Quality Research and Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment were launched in **New Delhi**.
Note: The Water Quality Research programme has eight projects and Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment programme has four projects. the objective of the project to **address shared global sustainable development goals of clean water and clean energy**.
18. The country will debut with its first ever Arab Fashion Week in -- **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia**.
Note: The fashion week would be held in Riyadh from 26 to 31th March. It is aiming to use the event as a platform to support local talent, as well as international names looking to enter the Arab market.
19. **Singapore** has declared to impose a 'carbon tax' from 2019 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions.
Note: The tax would be levied on all facilities producing 25,000 tonnes or more of greenhouse gas emissions a year.
20. The India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) held in -- **Colombo**.

Note: It is being organized by Power loom Development & Export Promotion Council with the support of Union Ministry of Textiles & Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India (GoI). This would be a unique opportunity to see the products of reputed Indian textile companies under one roof.

21. **Telangana** govt. has signed a technology partnership agreement with Taiwan at the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2018.
Note: Taiwanese city of Taoyuan is a hub for firms working in new-age technologies such as robotics and IoT (Internet of Things).
22. India will co-host the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit with the country ___ **France**.
Note: India and France will co-host will co-host the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi. The ISA will see representation from over 120 countries and multilateral bodies like the United Nations, World Bank and Asian Development Bank (ADB).
23. The 23rd edition of the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT-2019) will be held in -- **Yerevan, Armenia**.
Note: The WCIT is the largest and the most reputable international event among worldwide IT leaders.
24. The scientists have identified a new shark species **Hexanchus vitulus** in the Atlantic Ocean.
Note: The new species is different from its counterparts residing in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The new species have unique, saw-like lower teeth and reside at extreme depth ocean, sometimes thousands of feet below the surface. The sixgills in the Atlantic Ocean were found to be very different from the ones in the Indian and Pacific Oceans on a molecular level.
25. The country to host the 2018 SAARC Business Leaders' Conclave -- **Nepal**.
Note: The bi-annual event of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SAARC-CCI) is going to be held in Nepal for the second time.
26. **China** has been elected as vice chair of Financial Action Task Force (FATF).
Note: FATF is a global body mandated to combat terror financing and money laundering. Three votes from the FATF's 37 members are needed for a country not to be put in the grey-list. Pakistan, which was previously on the grey-list from 2012 to 2015.

Obituaries

1. Senior BJP leader & Lok Sabha MP from Kairana (U.P.) passed away -- **Hukum Singh**.
Note: He was previously elected as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly for seven terms before entering the Lok Sabha in the 2014 polls.
2. Senior TDP leader, former Andhra Pradesh minister **Gali Muddukrishnama Naidu** passed away in Hyderabad.

Note: Mr. Naidu was elected to the AP Assembly for six terms from Puttur and Nagari constituencies. He had served as a minister of education and forests in the cabinet of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP) founder-president, N T Rama Rao.

3. Kathakali maestro **Madavoor Vasudevan Nair** passed away while performing at Agasthyacodu Mahadeva Temple, Anchal.

- Note:** He was recipient of several awards including Padma Bhushan. Madvoor had worked as a faculty in the Thekkan Kalari (Southern school of Kathakali) of Kerala Kalamandalam.
- The doyen of Odia literature passed away in Bhubaneswar -- **Chandrasekhar Rath**.
Note: Rath was conferred with several awards, including Kendra Sahitya Akademi Award, Odisha Sahitya Akademi Award and Atibadi Jagannath Das Samman for his contribution in the field of literature. The writer was nominated for the prestigious Padma Shri award this year
 - Acclaimed Icelandic musician and Oscar-nominated composer **Johann Johannsson** passed away.
Note: In 2014, he was nominated for BAFTA, Grammy, and Oscar awards for his score for 'Theory of Everything'. He has embarked on a successful career in film composition, including an ongoing collaboration with director Denis Villeneuve on films such as 'Prisoner,' 'Sicario' and 'Arrival.'
 - Noted violinist an exponent of Parur style of violin playing has passed away -- **M.S. Anantharaman**.
Note: The Parur School is known for its violin recital by mixing the basic features of Carnatic and Hindustani styles.
 - Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLA killed in a road accident at Sitapur, Uttar Pradesh -- **Lokendra Singh**.
Note: Mr. Singh was born in district Bijnor of Uttar Pradesh.
 - Former Madhya Pradesh minister has passed away in Indore -- **Suresh Seth**.
Note: He was popularly known as 'Sher-e-Indore' for vociferously raising issues of public interest and corruption
 - The renowned Christian evangelist has passed away -- **Billy Graham**.
Note: He is credited with transforming American religious life through his preaching and activism. In 1983, President Reagan gave him the Presidential Medal of Freedom, America's highest civilian honor.
 - The Editor-in-Chief of the National Herald newspaper passed away -- **Neelabh Mishra**.
Note: He was critically ill and with complications resulting from non-alcoholic liver cirrhosis.
 - The brand ambassador of Swachh Bharat has passed away -- **Kunwar Bai**.
Note: In 2016, she got into the limelight when the story of Kunwar Bai got the nationwide publicity that how she sold her goats to build a toilet at home.
 - Veteran Bollywood actor **Sridevi** passed away due to cardiac arrest in Dubai.
Note: In 1978, she made her Bollywood debut with "Solva Sawan". In 2013, she was awarded the fourth highest civilian honor Padma Shri award. Her most remarkable films include Sadma, Chandni, Himmatwala, ChaalBaaz, Mr India, Nagina, Mawali, Tohfa and Gumrah among others
 - The former Cabinet secretary of India passed away in Delhi -- **TSR Subramanian**.
Note: He was the Cabinet Secretary from August 1996, to March 1998.
 - Kanchi Shankaracharya **Jayendra Saraswati** passed away at Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu.
Note: He is 69th pontiff of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham. The Kanchi mutt was founded by Adi Shankaracharya, though this is deemed "controversial" and "disputed" by a minority and answered. The Kanchi Mutt runs many schools, eye clinics, and hospitals.

Sports News

- The first gold medal in Khelo India School Games -- **Anu Kumar**.
Note: He grabbed the first gold medal of the 'Khelo India School Games' in 1500 metres (4 minutes and 4 seconds) at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
- Five-time world champion **M C Mary Kom** claimed a gold (48kg category) at India Open Boxing Tournament, in New Delhi.
Note: She defeated Filipino Josie Gabuco 4-1 in the. Shiva Thapa had to settle with a bronze medal after going down in the semi-finals of the 60 kg category.
- India** won the 12th edition of **ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup 2018** at Mount Maunganui in New Zealand.
Note: India defeated Australia by eight wickets, lifted the ICC Under-19 World Cup at Mount Maunganui in New Zealand. Now, India has won the World Cup **fourth times**, while Australia and (3-times), Pakistan(2-times) and England, South Africa & the West Indies once each.
- The **PyeongChang Cultural Olympiad kicked off** with an opening festival in the South Korean coastal city of -- **Gangneung**.
Note: Gangneung is co-hosting the 2018 Winter Games which are set to open on 9th February. All of the Olympic ice events including hockey, skating and curling will be held in the city.
- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has announced a cash reward of Rs. 50 lakhs for the **Under-19 chief coach -Rahul Dravid**.
Note: The victorious squad members will receive Rs. 30 lakhs each. The other members of the support staff

- including Abhya Sharma (fielding coach) and Paras Mhambrey (bowling coach) will be richer by Rs. 20 lakhs.
13. India's Golfer roared back from a four-stroke deficit to claim a remarkable two-shot win at the Maybank Championship in Malaysia -- **Shubhankar Sharma**.
Note: He shot 10 birdies in a sizzling closing round of 10-under-par 62 to aggregate 21-under for the tournament, finishing ahead of joint overnight leader Jorge Campillo who carded a 68.
 14. **Beiwen Zhang** won the India Open Badminton tournament at Sri Fort Complex in Delhi.
Note: Sindhu lost the final to Beiwen Zhang 18-21, 21-11, 20-22. The 2018 India Open was a badminton tournament which took place in India from 30th January to 4th February 2018 and had a total purse of USD 350,000.
 15. The world's first female cricketer to take 200 wickets in One-Day Internationals (ODI) -- **Jhulan Goswami**.
Note: Cathryn Fitzpatrick (Australia) occupies the second spot with 180 wickets followed by compatriot Lisa Sthalekar on 146 wickets. Goswami has taken just 166 one-day games to get 200 wickets with an economy of 3.23.
 16. The week-long Khelo India School Games concluded in New Delhi, **Haryana** topped the overall medal tally.
Note: The Haryana state won 102 medals which include 38 gold and 26 silver medals. Khelo India School Games was a part of the Khelo India programme which has been introduced by the Sports Ministry to revive the sports culture in the country at the grassroots level and make India a sporting nation.
 17. 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 of New Zealand.
Note: He covered the distance in eight hours and 37 minutes. With this feat, Rohan also became the ninth person in the world to swim across Cook Strait.
 18. **The Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB)** has lifted the 8th Senior National Women's Hockey Championship title.
Note: In the final, they thrashed Madhya Pradesh 4-0 and finish the tournament without losing a game. Haryana beat home team Jharkhand 2-0 and won the bronze medal.
 19. **Kishan Gangolli** has won the 13th edition of the National 'A' Chess Championship for the blind in Mumbai.
Note: At the end of the 13th round, Gangolli became the champion for the fifth consecutive time with 10.5 points. Ashvin Makwana (Gujarat) stood second with 9.5 points and Soundarya Kumar Pradhan (Orissa) with 9 points came third.
The championship was organized by All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB).
 20. **Tamil Nadu** has won the Senior Women's National Football Championship for the first time at the Barabati Stadium in Cuttack.
Note: Tamil Nadu defeated Manipur, 2-1. Skipper Indumathi has adjudged the player of the final as well as the tournament for her superlative performances.
 21. First Indian Tennis player to reach the quarter-finals of the Chennai Open ATP Challenger tournament -- **Yuki Bhambri**.
Note: He defeated compatriot Sidharth Rawat, 6-2, 6-3.
 22. Who has won the Chennai Open ATP Men's Singles -- **Jordan Thompson**.
Note: He beat India's Yuki Bhambri in three sets 7-5, 3-6, 7-5.
 23. **Roger Federer** has become the oldest world number one in Tennis history.
Note: Federer surpassed Andre Agassi (USA), who held the top spot aged 33, in 2003. Federer has won a record eight Wimbledon titles, Australian Open titles (6), a record five consecutive US Open titles, and French Open title (1).
 24. **Yuzuru Hanyu** has become the first figure skater in 66 years to win back-to-back Winter Olympic gold medals in the men's singles event.
Note: Hanyu won the title with 317.85 points, beating compatriot Shoma Uno and multiple world champion Javier Fernandez of Spain to the second and third spots.
 25. **India** has won the 5th Commonwealth bridge championship 2018.
Note: The Indian team has won the 5th Commonwealth bridge championship in Gold Coast, Australia.

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