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# National

## Arunachal Pradesh Declared Open Defecation Free

i. **Arunachal Pradesh** has been **declared open defecation free** ahead of the national deadline of October 2, 2019. The milestone was achieved after the state announced an incentive of Rs 8,000 in addition to the Rs 12,000-grant provided by the Centre for building toilets.

ii. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Haryana were declared open defecation free states in October 2017.

## Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Arunachal Pradesh CM-** Pema Khandu, **Governor-** Brigadier BD Mishra (Retd).

## 1st Draft of National Register of Citizens in Assam Released

i. The citizen of Assam witnessed the **release of the first draft of National Register of Citizens (NRC)** containing the first batch of **19 million names** of genuine Indian citizens in compliance with the Supreme Court 's orders.

ii. **Registrar General of India Sailesh** released the document. The first draft has listed 19 million people out of the 32.9 million applicants from within the state as legal Indian citizens.

## Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The NRC was last updated in Assam way back in 1951.
- Assam is the only state in the country that has an NRC.

## Assamese and Manipuri Versions of PM Modi's Official Website Launched

i. **The Assamese and Manipuri language** versions of Prime Minister's Official website- [www.pmindia.gov.in](http://www.pmindia.gov.in) were launched.

ii. Now the PM INDIA website is available in **11 regional languages** namely Assamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kannada, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Odia, Punjabi, Tamil and Telugu in addition to English and Hindi.

## GAIL Commissions India's Second-Largest Rooftop Solar Plant in UP

i. **State-owned gas utility GAIL India Ltd** has commissioned the **country's second-largest rooftop solar power plant in Uttar Pradesh**.

ii. The firm has installed a **5.76 MWp (Mega Watt peak) solar plant** at its petrochemical complex at Pata in Uttar Pradesh. The plant over the roofs of warehouses covers a total area of 65,000 square meters.

## Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Tata Power Solar commissioned a 12 MW solar rooftop project in Amritsar, Punjab which is India's largest rooftop solar plant.
- **GAIL-** Gas Authority of India Limited.

## Karnataka to Hold 'Largest B2B Travel Event' in the Country

i. The Karnataka government announced that **'Karnataka International Travel Expo' (KITE)** will be held from February 28, billing it as the **"largest" B2B travel event in the country**.

ii. The aim of the event is to project Karnataka globally and attract tourist footfall, with emphasis on promoting the state's wildlife, luxury and adventure destinations, historical monuments and UNESCO world heritage sites.

## Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Karnataka CM-** Siddaramaiah, **Governor-** Vajubhai Vala.

## Sushma Swaraj Embarked on Tour of 3 Southeast Asian Nations

i. **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** left on a 5-day visit to **three South East Asian countries – Thailand, Indonesia and Singapore**. On the first leg of the visit, Ms Swaraj will reach **Thailand** and will hold an official meeting with Thai Foreign Affairs Minister Don Pramudwinai.

ii. During the **visit to Indonesia**, Ms Swaraj will co-chair the 5th meeting of India-Indonesia Joint Commission. **In Singapore**, the External Affairs Minister will inaugurate the Regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas of ASEAN countries. She will have bilateral meetings with the leaders in Singapore.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Thailand Capital-** Bangkok, **Currency-** Thai baht.
- **Indonesia Capital-** Jakarta, **Currency-** Indonesian rupiah.

#### **Health Ministry and Tata Memorial Centre Launches India's First Digital Online Oncology Tutorial**

- Smt Preeti Sudan, Secretary (Health and Family Welfare)** launched the **country's first digital Online Oncology Tutorial Series** designed by the Tata Memorial Center in collaboration with the Health Ministry.
- The oncology tutorial series aims to train the doctors across the country to educate them in early detection, prevention, palliation, rehabilitation and treatment of various cancers.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Oncology is a branch of medicine that deals with the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

#### **World's Biggest Cleanliness Survey 'Swachh Sarvekshan 2018' Launched**

- The world's biggest cleanliness survey '**Swachh Sarvekshan Survey 2018**' was launched in India by PM Narendra Modi. It will be conducted from the 4th of January to 10th of March.
- The cleanliness survey was launched in 2016 as part of the Swachh Bharat Mission. The main objective of Swachh Sarvekshan is to encourage large-scale citizen participation and create awareness towards making towns and cities a cleaner and better place to live in.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Under the first survey, **Swachh Sarvekshan-2016**, 73 cities and all the state capitals were ranked. **Mysuru had topped the list.**
- In **Swachh Sarvekshan-2017**, 434 cities and all the state capitals were ranked. **Indore had emerged as the cleanest city.**

#### **India Excludes Pakistan from a SAARC Initiative**

- India has excluded Pakistan from the list of SAARC member countries** with which it will be connecting its **state-of-the-art National Knowledge Network (NKN)** for sharing scientific databases and remote access to advanced research facilities.
- The government has kicked off the process of appointing a telecom company that will connect and extend the NKN to research and education networks in six South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation member states- **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.**

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- NKN is a multi-gigabit pan-India network which facilitates the development of India's communications infrastructure, stimulates research and creates next-generation applications and services.
- **SAARC-** South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.
- The SAARC Secretariat is based in **Kathmandu, Nepal.**

#### **Goa to Host 3rd Edition of Science Film Festival**

- Goa will be hosting the third edition of the Science Film Festival of India** in January 2018. The festival, titled SCI-FFI Goa, is being organised by the state-based Vidnyan Parishad, Goa Department of Science and Technology.
- The competition aims to boost the culture of science films, all the films submitted should be related to science and technology.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Goa CM-** Manohar Parrikar, **Governor-** Mridula Sinha.

#### **India's Gross Enrolment Ratio in Higher Education up by 0.7%**

- The country's **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** in higher education has registered an increase from **24.5% in 2015-16 to 25.2% in 2016-17**, according to the All India Higher Education Survey (AIHES) launched by **Union Human Resource Development (HRD) Minister Prakash Javadekar.**
- According to AIHES of 2016-17, **Tamil Nadu has the highest GER in the country at 46.9%.** Bihar has the least GER of 14.9%.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- GER is a statistical measure for determining the number of students enrolled in undergraduate, postgraduate and research level studies within the country and is expressed as a percentage of the population.

### **RBI Introduces New Rs10 Banknote in Mahatma Gandhi Series**

- i. The Reserve Bank of India** will shortly issue **Rs10 denomination banknotes** in the Mahatma Gandhi (New) Series.
- ii.** The new denomination has the motif of **Sun Temple, Konark on the reverse**. The base colour of the note is **Chocolate Brown**. The dimension of the banknote will be **63 mm x 123 mm**.

### **West Bengal CM Unveils Official Emblem of West Bengal Government**

- i. West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee** unveiled the official emblem of the state government, which was recently approved by the centre.
- ii.** The logo highlights the Ashoka emblem on the top with the theme of "**Biswa Bangla**" at the centre. Ms Banerjee has also contributed to the design of the emblem.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Keshri Nath Tripathi** is the present Governor of West Bengal.

### **Defence Ministry Clears Arms Procurement Contracts worth Rs2,420 crore for Navy and Army**

- i. Defence Ministry has cleared contracts worth 2,420 crore rupees for Navy and Army** which includes the procurement of **P-8I Training Solution and Low-Intensity Conflict Electronic Warfare System (LICEWS)**.
- ii.** The training solution accurately simulates P-8I aircraft and mission systems. It will help Indian Navy train and realistically rehearse for sophisticated missions involving P-8I aircraft. The procurement of LICEWS will be done from Bharat Electronics Limited for 470 crore rupees.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Bipin Rawat** is the present chief of Army staff.
- **Sunil Lanba** is the present chief of Naval staff.

### **Haryana Becomes First State to Launch High-Risk Pregnancy Portal**

- i. Haryana has become the first state** in the country to launch **High-Risk Pregnancy (HRP) Portal**. This portal not only helps in early identification of high-risk pregnant cases up to the grass-roots level but also ensures their timely referral to the civil hospitals for further management and delivery by specialists.
- ii.** This innovative web application has been designed to track every high-risk pregnant woman till 42 days after delivery.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Haryana CM- Manohar Lal Khattar, Governor- Kaptan Singh Solanki.**

### **India's Second FTII to be Set up in Arunachal Pradesh**

- i. Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region Jitendra Singh** announced that **Arunachal Pradesh** would get its **first Film and Television Institute**, being set up by the Union Government.
- ii. This would be the second such one in the country.** The first Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) was set up in Pune.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **FTII Pune** Established in - 1960, **Current Chairman - Anupam Kher.**
- FTII is an autonomous institute operating under the Information and Broadcasting Ministry.

### **PM Modi Inaugurates 1st PIO Parliamentary Conference in Delhi**

- i. PM Narendra Modi inaugurates the first Persons of Indian Origin (PIO) Parliamentary Conference in Delhi** on the occasion of **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**. The day is celebrated every year to mark the contribution of the overseas Indian community in the development of India.
- ii.** It also commemorates the return of Mahatma Gandhi from South Africa to Mumbai on 9 January 1915. **In**

the Conference, the biggest delegation was from Guyana with 20 members of parliament and three mayors.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- This year a special regional Pravasi Bharatiya Divas to commemorate 25 years of partnership between India and the Association of South East Asian Nations Submit (ASEAN) is being held in Singapore.
- Established in 2003, and sponsored by the Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India, the Pravasi Bharatiya Divas is held from 7-9 January every year.

#### **India's 1st Multi-Petaflop Supercomputer 'Pratyush' Dedicated to Nation**

- i. Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan dedicated India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer named 'Pratyush' to the nation in Pune. It is established at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune.
- ii. It will be a national facility for improving weather and climate forecasts and services under the umbrella of the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

#### **In a First, Delhi Government Launches Common Card for Bus & Metro Rides**

- i. Delhi CM Arvind Kejriwal launched a common card for rides on public buses and the metro. Delhi is the first city in the country to have a common mobility card.
- ii. The card, which will function like a debit card, will be operational in all DTC and cluster buses from April 2018.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Transport Minister of Delhi- Kailash Gahlot.
- Lieutenant Governor of Delhi- Anil Baijal.

#### **Gujarat Tops Logistics Performance Index Chart: Report**

- i. Gujarat has topped the logistics index chart, according to a Report released by Union Minister for Commerce & Industry Suresh Prabhu in New Delhi. The chart is an indicator of the efficiency of logistical services necessary for promoting exports in particular and economic growth in general.
- ii. Among 22 states, Gujarat is followed by Punjab, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra on the index.
- iii. Among the Union Territories, Daman & Diu occupied the top slot followed by Delhi and Chandigarh. As regards the hilly states, Tripura was on top followed by Mizoram and Meghalaya.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Gujarat CM- Vijay Rupani, Governor- Om Prakash Kohli.

#### **India's 1st All-Women Railway Station in Mumbai Enters Limca Records**

- i. The Matunga suburban station on the Central Railway (CR) has found its way into the Limca Book of Records for having an all-woman staff.
- ii. The achievement comes six months after Matunga became the first railway station in the country to be run by an all-woman staff. The station is being manned exclusively by women staffers since July 2017, a first on the Indian Railways.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Matunga station is situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

#### **World Bank Projects India's Growth Rate at 7.3% in 2018**

- i. World Bank** has projected **India's growth rate at 7.3 percent in 2018 and 7.5 for the next two years**. According to the 2018 Global Economics Prospect release, despite initial setbacks from demonetisation and Goods and Services Tax (GST), India's economy is estimated to have grown at 6.7 percent in 2017.
- ii.** India's growth potential will be around 7 percent for the next 10 years. In comparison with China, which is slowing, the World Bank is expecting India to gradually accelerate.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **World Bank's Prospects Group Director-** Ayhan Kose.
- Jim Yong Kim is the 12th President of the World Bank Group.
- World Bank Headquarters in Washington DC, USA.

**President Ram Nath Kovind Inaugurated 4th International Dharma Dhamma Conference**

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated a **three-day International Dharma-Dhamma conference** at Rajgir in Bihar.
- ii.** The inaugural session was chaired by Mr Kovind. The conference was attended by **Sri Lanka's foreign Minister Tilak Marapana**.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Bihar Governor-** Satya Pal Malik, **Chief Minister-** Nitish Kumar.

**UIDAI Introduces 'Virtual ID' to Strengthen Privacy and Security of Aadhaar Data**

- i. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)** has introduced a concept of '**Virtual ID**' to further strengthen privacy and security of Aadhaar number holders. The Aadhaar number holder can use 'Virtual ID' in place of an Aadhaar number whenever authentication or KYC services are performed.
- ii.** Aadhaar card holder can generate the Virtual ID from UIDAI website and give for various purposes, including SIM card verification, instead of sharing the actual 12-digit biometric ID.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **UIDAI Chief Executive Officer(CEO)-** Ajay Bhushan Pandey, **Headquarters-** New Delhi.

**All You Need to Know about ISRO's Successful Launch of 42nd PSLV**

- i. The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched its **42nd Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)** from the First Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The **PSLV-C40** is to place 31 satellites, originating from seven countries, across two orbits.
- ii.** Its primary payload was the fourth satellite in the advanced remote sensing Cartosat-2 series. The satellite's design life is five years. ISRO successfully sent up a rocket carrying India's 100th satellite along with 30 others.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Rocket scientist **Sivan K** was recently appointed as the 9th chairman of ISRO.
- ISRO was established in 1969.
- **Founder and 1st Chairman of ISRO-** Vikram Ambalal Sarabhai, **Headquarters in-** Bengaluru,

**WEF Ranks India 30th on Global Manufacturing Index**

- i.** The World Economic Forum (WEF) has ranked India at 30th position on a global manufacturing index - below China's 5th place but above other BRICS peers, Brazil, Russia and South Africa.
- ii.** Japan has been found to have the best structure of production in the Geneva-based WEF's first 'Readiness for the future of production report' and is followed by South Korea, Germany, Switzerland, China, Czech Republic, the US, Sweden, Austria and Ireland in the top 10. Among BRICS nations, Russia is ranked 35th, Brazil 41st and South Africa at 45th place.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- WEF was established in 1971.
- The WEF is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.
- President of the World Economic Forum- Borge Brende.



### **PM Modi Inaugurates Project Commencement of Rajasthan's first Oil Refinery in Barmer**

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the project commencement of the Rajasthan Refinery at Pachpadra in Barmer district. This is the first oil refinery in the state. The 43,000 crore rupee project is a joint venture between HPCL and the Rajasthan government.
- ii. The refinery is expected to be operational in 4 years and the state will have an additional income of 34,000 crore rupees from it. The project is expected to generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs.

### **Sanjay Manjrekar Launches Autobiography, Titled 'Imperfect'**

- i. **Sanjay Manjrekar** launched his **autobiography named 'Imperfect'**, in Mumbai. The book 'Imperfect' was released by Dilip Vengsarkar, Sanjay Manjrekar's first international captain.
- ii. **The book was published by Harper Collins.** Sanjay Manjrekar has played 37 Test matches. His first test appearance was in the Delhi Test against the West Indies.

### **Israel PM Addresses India-Israel Business Summit in Mumbai**

- i. **Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu** visited Mumbai during the final leg of his visit to India. Mr Netanyahu addressed the India-Israel Business Summit at the iconic Taj Mahal hotel in south Mumbai.
- ii. Later in the day, Mr Netanyahu attended the **'Shalom Bollywood' event** at the Taj hotel. A **monthly magazine titled 'Namaste Shalom'** will also be launched to mark Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Mumbai visit.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The capital of Israel- **Jerusalem**, Currency- **Israeli new shekel**.

### **PM Modi, Netanyahu Inaugurates 'iCreate Centre' in Ahmedabad**

- i. **Prime Minister Narendra Modi and PM Benjamin Netanyahu** inaugurated the **'iCreate Centre'** at Deo Dholera in Ahmedabad. iCreate paves way for the two nations to jointly script new stories of success through innovation.
- ii. The two leaders also visited the startup exhibition at the venue and interacted with entrepreneurs and innovators.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The capital of Israel- **Jerusalem**, Currency- **Israeli new shekel**.

### **Election Dates in Tripura, Meghalaya and Nagaland Declared**

- i. **The Election Commission of India, Achal Kumar Joti** announced dates for **elections to the Assemblies of Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland**. The CEC announced the polling for legislative assembly elections in **Tripura on 18 February**, while **Meghalaya and Nagaland will go to vote on 27 February**.
- ii. All the three states have 60 seats each in their assembly. The tenure of the Meghalaya, Tripura and Nagaland Assemblies expire on March 6, March 13 and March 14, 2018, respectively.

### **Maharashtra Becomes 1st State to Unveil Public Cloud Policy**

- i. **Maharashtra** has become **the first state in the country that has come out with a public cloud policy**, virtually mandating its departments to shift their data storage onto the cloud. This move has created a USD 2- billion opportunity for the industry.
- ii. The announcement was made by Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis at the **Maharashtra Technology Summit**. The policy will result in additional private sector investments as the government is one of the biggest creators and consumers of data.

### **India Becomes 43rd Member of Australia Group**

- i. **India has joined the Australia Group export control regime and has become the 43rd Member of that Group**. It is an informal forum which seeks to ensure that exports do not contribute to the development of chemical or biological weapons.
- ii. India has managed entry into **Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), the Wassenaar Arrangement and Australia Group** despite not being a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Australian High Commissioner to India-** Harinder Kaur Sidhu.

### **Government Announces List of 9 New Smart Cities**

- i. **Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Hardeep Singh Puri** announced the list of **nine new Smart Cities**, which have emerged winners in Round 4.

ii. These nine cities are, **Silvassa** in Dadra and Nagar Haveli, **Erode** in Tamil Nadu, **Diu** in Daman and Diu, **Bihar Sharif** in Bihar, **Bareilly** in Uttar Pradesh, **Itanagar** in Arunachal Pradesh, **Moradabad** in Uttar Pradesh, **Saharanpur** in Uttar Pradesh and **Kavaratti** in Lakshadweep.

#### 4th India International Science Festival to be held in Lucknow

i. The fourth edition of the India International Science Festival will be held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh. The decision to hold the Festival in Lucknow was taken at the first preparatory meeting for the 4th India International Science Festival (IISF).

ii. The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Science & Technology, Dr. Harsh Vardhan. The 1st IISF was held at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) New Delhi.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The third in the series was held in October 2017 in Chennai.

#### President Kovind Unveils Book on Self-Development in Delhi

i. President Ram Nath Kovind unveiled a book on heartfulness techniques and principles titled 'The Heartfulness Way'. Kamlesh D. Patel is the author of this book. It is the fourth Global Guide of Heartfulness.

ii. Joshua Pollock is the second author of this book. It was launched by Commerce and Industries Minister Suresh Prabhu.

#### Sushma Swaraj Inaugurates Puducherry's 1st POPSK at Karaikal

i. The first Post Office Passport Seva Kendra (POPSK) of Puducherry was inaugurated by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Minister for External Affairs at Karaikal.

ii. The POPSK at Karaikal is the 60th POPSK to have become functional since the launch of the scheme in January 2017. It is the first POPSK to become operational in the UT of Puducherry.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Puducherry CM- V. Narayanasamy, Governor- Kiran Bedi.

#### India's 1st Garbage Festival Organised in Chhattisgarh

i. The Raipur Municipal Corporation in Chhattisgarh organised the three-day 'Kachra Mahotsav 2018'. It is India's first Garbage Festival.

ii. The festival aimed to increase awareness, use the waste generated in the city creatively, and to showcase multiple techniques for reusing things that are labelled as garbage.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chhattisgarh CM- Raman Singh, Governor- Balramji Dass Tandon.

#### India-ASEAN Business & Investment Conference Held in New Delhi

i. India-ASEAN business and investment conference held in New Delhi ahead of the landmark commemorative summit meeting on the 25th of January. In the conference, Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu stresses enhanced connectivity via land to strengthen trade ties.

ii. Silver jubilee of India-ASEAN partnership is being celebrated in New Delhi on the 25th January with an unprecedented summit meet.

#### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- ASEAN Secretariat- Jakarta, Indonesia.
- The Secretary-General of ASEAN 2018 -2022 is H.E. Lim Jock Hoi.

#### India to Grow at 7.4% in 2018: IMF

i. According to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), India is projected to grow at 7.4% in 2018 as against



China's 6.8%, making it the fastest growing country among the emerging economies.

ii. In 2017, India's growth rate dropped to 6.7%. In its latest World Economic Outlook update released in Davos, Switzerland on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum, the IMF has projected a 7.8% growth rate for India in 2019.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Managing Director of IMF-** Christine Lagarde, **Headquarters in-** Washington DC, USA.

#### **India, 5th Most Attractive Market for Investments: PwC Survey**

i. **India has emerged as the fifth most attractive market** for investments and the optimism over global economic growth is at a record level, as per the survey of CEOs by global consultancy PwC.

ii. **The US remains the top spot for global investment.** Around 46% of global CEOs consider the US as one of the three most important countries for growth, **followed by China (33%) and Germany (20%) at second and third places**, respectively.

#### **GoI, Uttarakhand, and World Bank Sign \$120 million Loan Agreement for Water Supply in Uttarakhand**

i. **The Government of India, the Government of Uttarakhand and the World Bank Board signed a \$120 million Loan Agreement** which will help increase access to improved water supply services in peri-urban areas in the State of Uttarakhand.

ii. The \$120 million loan from the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** and has a 5-year grace period.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Jim Yong Kim** is the 12th President of the World Bank Group.
- World Bank Headquarters in **Washington DC, USA.**

#### **Uttar Pradesh Diwas- 24 January**

i. **Uttar Pradesh Diwas is observed on 24th of January.** The Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu was the chief guest of the event (named Lucknow Utsav) organized in Lucknow.

ii. The objectives of the Uttar Pradesh Utsav is to present and promote the rich cultural heritage, literary, artistic and craftsmanship.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Uttar Pradesh CM-** Yogi Adityanath, **Governor-** Ram Naik.

#### **RIL Becomes India's 1st Firm to Cross Rs6-lakh crore Market Capitalization**

i. **Reliance Industries (RIL) become the first Indian company to cross the Rs6-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation** as its shares touched a 52-week high of Rs974.5.

ii. RIL is owned **40% by its chairman Mukesh Ambani**, making him the richest Indian with the personal wealth of \$40.7 billion and the 20th richest globally, according to Bloomberg's billionaire index.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **HDFC Bank** is the first lender to cross Rs5-lakh crore mark in market capitalisation.

#### **Ministry of Road Transport & Highways Signs MoU with IL&FS for Construction of Zojila Tunnel**

i. An MoU was signed between **National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL)** under the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, and **M/S IL&FS Transportation Networks Ltd** for construction of the 14.150 km long, 2-lane bi-directional **Zojila Tunnel in Jammu & Kashmir.**

ii. **This would be India's longest road tunnel and the longest bi-directional tunnel in Asia.** The construction of this tunnel will provide all-weather connectivity between Srinagar, Kargil and Leh. The total capital cost of the project is Rs 6808.69 crore. The construction period of the project is seven years. **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Minister of Road Transport & Highways-** Nitin Gadkari.

### India Ranks 177th in Environmental Performance Index

**i. India ranks 177 among 180 countries** in the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2018**, according to a biennial report by Yale and Columbia Universities along with the **World Economic Forum**. India ranked 141 in 2016 report.

**ii.** The report was released on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

**Switzerland leads the list**, followed by France, Denmark and Malta. **Important Takeaways from**

#### Above News-

- **Capital of Switzerland-** Bern, **Currency-** Swiss franc.
- **The founder and Chairman of WEF-** Klaus Schwab.

### India Ranks 81st On Global Talent Competitiveness Index

**i.** **India** has moved up on a global index of talent competitiveness to the **81st position** in the report that was released in the first day **the 48th World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting in Davos, Switzerland. Switzerland has topped the list.**

**ii.** India has improved its position from **92nd in 2017** on the index that measures how countries grow, attract and retain talent. Among BRICS countries, China has topped with 54th position. Among the countries, Switzerland is followed by Singapore and the US.

### Kolkata Becomes 1st Indian Metro to get a Floating Market

**Kolkata has become the first Indian Metro** to get a Floating Market. The market will be located on a water-body with boats doubling up as shops. The market, located on the eastern fringes of the city, was **inaugurated by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee.**

**ii.** The aim is to rehabilitate over 200 shopkeepers from a nearby market that was demolished for the widening of the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass. **The market will host at least 114 boats**, each one accommodating two shops.

### India, Vietnam Release First-Ever Commemorative Stamps

**i.** **India and Vietnam** released **first ever set of commemorative postage stamps** to mark the long-term friendly bilateral relationships between the two countries.

**ii.** The stamp was released by AN Nanda, Secretary, Department of Posts. The two set of stamps released carry picture of **Sanchi Stupa and Thien Mu Pagoda.**

## Economic Survey 2018

- FM Jaitley tables Economic Survey in Parliament.
- Economic Survey sees **FY19 GDP growing 7-7.5%** vs 6.75% in FY18.
- Economic Survey sees average **crude oil prices rising 12% in FY19.**
- Due to higher expected increase in imports, net exports of goods and services are slated to decline in 2017-18.
- Exports biggest source of the boost to growth.

### First Ever 'Khadi Haat' Inaugurated in Delhi

**i.** Marking the 69th Republic Day celebrations, **Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC)** have launched the **first ever 'Khadi Haat' in the country.**

**ii.** The Khadi Haat was **inaugurated by Union Minister of State Giriraj Singh** in Connaught Place, New Delhi.

#### from Above News-

- **KVIC Chairman-** V K Saxena.

#### Important Takeaways

- **NDMC Chairman-** Naresh Kumar.

### **Aadhaar is Oxford Dictionary's Hindi Word of 2017**

**Oxford Dictionaries has chosen 'Aadhaar' as the Hindi word of 2017.** The word gained popularity due to Aadhaar card, which was in news in 2017.

announcement was made in the Jaipur Literature Festival.

i.

ii. The

### **India Cheapest Country to Live in After South Africa: Survey**

**i. India is ranked second only to South Africa as the cheapest country** to live or retire, according to a recent survey of 112 countries by **GoBankingRates**. The survey ranked nations on the bases of four key affordability metrics which are **Local purchasing power index, rent index, Groceries index, and Consumer price index**.

**ii. India's local purchasing power is 20.9% lower, rent is 95.2% cheaper, groceries are 74.4% cheaper, local goods and services are 74.9% cheaper. The top three most expensive countries in the survey are Bermuda (ranked 112), Bahamas (111), and Hong Kong (110).**

### **India Ranks 6th in the List of Wealthiest Countries**

**i. India has been ranked sixth in the list of wealthiest countries with the total wealth of 8,230 billion US dollars.** The list was topped by the United States of America, according to a report by New World Wealth.

**ii. India was the best-performing wealth market globally in 2017 as its total wealth swelled from 6,584 billion dollars in 2016 to 8,230 billion dollars in 2017, registering a 25% growth.**

### **The top 3 countries on the List are-**

1. The United States of America (64,584 billion US dollars).
2. China (24,803 billion US dollars).
3. Japan (19,522 billion US dollars)

### **Environment Minister Harshvardhan Launches PetaFlop Super Computer**

**i. Environment Minister Harshvardhan launched a 2.8 PetaFlop capacity high-performance computer system 'Mihir' in Noida.**

**ii. The system will help the department in predicting severe climate-related calamities and warnings for fishermen. With the launch of the system, India has joined the elite 30 member group of countries which have this advanced technology.**

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Union Minister of Earth Sciences Dr Harsh Vardhan has recently dedicated **India's fastest and first multi-petaflops supercomputer named 'Pratyush'** to the nation in Pune.

## International

### Nepal bans Solo Climbing on Mount Everest

- i. Nepal has banned solo climbers from scaling its mountains, including Mount Everest, in a bid to reduce accidents.
- ii. The new safety regulations also prohibit double amputee and blind climbers from attempting to reach the summit of the world's highest peak without a valid medical certificate.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Avtar Singh Cheema was the first Indian to climb Mount Everest successfully.
- Mount Everest is the tallest Mountain (by Elevation) in the world.

### Israel Withdraws from UNESCO

- i. Israel has filed notice to withdraw from the UNESCO alongside the United States. Israel has blasted UNESCO in recent years over the organisation's criticism of Israel's occupation of East Jerusalem and its decision to grant full membership to Palestine in 2011.
- ii. Israel was the member of UNESCO since 1949. Both Israel and the US have filed its own withdrawal notice in October 2017.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- UNESCO- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.
- France's Audrey Azoulay- 11th DG of UNESCO, Headquarters- Paris, France.

### Saudi Arabia, UAE Introduce VAT for First Time

- i. Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) introduced value-added tax (VAT). These are the first two countries in the Gulf which have introduced the VAT system.
- ii. The 5% levy is being applied to the majority of goods and services. Petrol and diesel, food, clothes, utility bills and hotel rooms all now have VAT applied. But some outgoings have been made exempt from the tax or given a zero-tax rating, including medical treatment, financial services and public transport.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **UAE Capital-** Abu Dhabi, **Currency-** Dirham.
- **Saudi Arabia Capital-** Riyadh, **Currency-** Saudi riyal.

### **Romanian PM Mihai Tudose Resigns after Losing Party Support**

- i. Romania's left-wing Prime Minister Mihai Tudose resigned after losing the backing of his party due to internal power struggles, barely seven months after his predecessor suffered the same fate.
- ii. He handed in his resignation after senior members of the ruling Social Democrats (PSD) voted to withdraw their support at a leadership meeting.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Capital of Romania- Bucharest
- The Romanian leu is the currency of Romania.
- President of Romania- Klaus Iohannis

### **Six Countries Enter UN Security Council**

- i. **Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kuwait, Peru, Poland and the Netherlands** formally joined the ranks of the non-permanent members of the United Nations Security Council to make a difference.
- ii. The UN Security Council has 15 members, including five with permanent seats who have the power to veto resolutions - Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States. The six countries who left the UN Security Council recently are Egypt, Italy, Japan, Senegal, Ukraine and Uruguay.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The UN Security Council held its first session on 17 January 1946 in London.

### **Pakistan State Bank Allows use of Chinese Currency Yuan for Bilateral Trade & Investment Activities**

- i. **Pakistan has allowed Chinese currency Yuan** for exports and financing transactions. According to Pakistan, external affairs ministry, both public and private sector enterprises of Pakistan and China are free to choose Yuan for bilateral trade and investment activities.
- ii. As per current foreign exchange regulations, Chinese Yuan is an approved foreign currency for denominating foreign currency transactions in Pakistan.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Pakistan Capital-** Islamabad, **Currency-** Pakistani rupee.
- **Chinese Capital-** Beijing, **President-** Xi Jinping.

### **Iceland Becomes 1st Country to Legalise Equal Pay**

- i. **Iceland has become the first country in the world to legalise equal pay between men and women.** In Iceland now it will be illegal to pay men more than women for the work.
- ii. Under the new rules, companies and government agencies employing at least 25 people will have to obtain government certification of their equal-pay policies.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Iceland has been ranked by the World Economic Forum (WEF) as the world's most gender-equal country.
- **Iceland Capital-** Reykjavik, **President-** Guoni Th. Johannsson.

### **World's Largest Ice Festival Held in China**

- i. **World's largest Ice Festival 'International Ice and Snow Festival'** was held in Harbin, China. This is one of China's coldest cities in the winter. It is the **34th annual Ice Festival** in Harbin, north-east China.
- ii. It features sculptures of Moscow's Red Square and Bangkok's Temple of the Emerald Buddha.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi, **President-** Xi Jinping.

### **China Becomes Nepal's 2nd Internet Service Provider**

- i. China became Nepal's second internet service provider, breaking India's monopoly in providing internet access to Nepal.
- ii. The Hong Kong and Beijing based China Telecom Global (CTG) has teamed up with Nepal Telecom to provide alternate cyber-connectivity to Nepal. CTG was formed in 2012.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Nepal Capital- Kathmandu, Prime Minister- Sher Bahadur Deuba.
- China's Hong Kong Data Center is one of Asia's largest global data centres.

### **India, Top Borrower from China-Sponsored AIIB in 2017**

- i. India has emerged as a top borrower from the China-sponsored Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) with USD 1.5 billion worth of loans last year and USD three billion more in the pipeline.
- ii. India's Ambassador Gautam Bambawale met AIIB President Jin Liqun in Beijing and held in-depth talks on deepening India's engagements with the bank. Next to India, Indonesia has emerged as the second largest borrower with about USD 600 million loans.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- AIIB Headquarter- Beijing, China, Commenced operations in- January 2016.
- AIIB President- Mr Jin Liqun.

### **India Attends its 1st SCO Military Cooperation Meeting in Beijing**

- i. India, for the first time, took part in a two-day meeting of the international military cooperation departments of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Beijing, China. An Indian delegation was led by Major General Ajay Seth.
- ii. This is the first meeting attended by India in the field of defence cooperation under the SCO framework.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The SCO comprises of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, India and Pakistan.
- India and Pakistan were admitted in 2017 into the grouping in which China plays an influential role.

### **North and South Korea Agree to Jointly March Under Unification Flag in Winter Olympics**

- i. North and South Korea have agreed to march together under a single unified Korea flag at Winter Olympics in the South.
- ii. These are the first high-level talks between the two Koreas in more than two years. The Games will take place in February 2018 in Pyeongchang in South Korea.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- South Korea President- Moon Jae-in, North Korea Supreme Leader- Kim Jong-un.

### **Malta's Valletta Becomes Europe's Capital of Culture**

- i. Valletta, the capital of Malta, was officially named European Capital of Culture 2018. Valletta will share the title with Leeuwarden, a city in the Netherlands.
- ii. Notably, the 'European Capitals of Culture' initiative aims to highlight the diversity of European culture and to increase the citizens' sense of belonging to a common cultural area.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Valletta is the smallest capital in the European Union.
- It is located in a fortress and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

### **India Ranks 62nd on WEF's Inclusive Development Index**

- i. India was ranked at the 62nd place among emerging economies on an Inclusive Development Index of World Economic Forum (WEF). In the report, China is on 26th position and Pakistan is on 47th.
- ii. Norway remains the world's most inclusive advanced economy, while Lithuania again tops the list of emerging economies, according to the report. India was ranked 60th among 79 developing economies in last year survey.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The founder and Chairman of WEF- Klaus Schwab.

### **World Economic Forum Summit in Switzerland Concludes**



i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned home after concluding his visit to Davos, Switzerland. During the visit, the Prime Minister delivered a keynote address at the plenary session of the **48th annual meeting of World Economic Forum**.

ii. The theme of the WEF Annual Meeting this year is '**Creating a shared future in a fractured world**'. WEF 2018 will also see the largest ever proportion of women leaders including all co-chairs being women this time.

iii. Mr Modi outlined climate change, terrorism and protectionism as three global threats. He also met his **Canadian counterpart, Justin Trudeau**. The Prime Minister also held a **meeting with Queen Maxima of the Netherlands**. At the end, Mr Modi interacted with top global CEOs at the International Business Council event.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Capital of Switzerland-** Bern, **Currency-** Swiss franc.
- **The founder and Chairman of WEF-** Klaus Schwab.

#### **Google Introduces a New App Named "Bulletin"**

i. **Google has introduced a new app named "Bulletin"** that allows anybody to submit stories for and about their communities. This is a free, lightweight app for telling a story by capturing photos, video clips and text right from your phone.

ii. The app is made for contributing hyperlocal stories about your community. **The application has been launched as a limited pilot project** and is available in **Nashville, Tennessee and Oakland, California**.

#### **Important Takeaways from above news-**

- **Google CEO-** Sundar Pichai, **Parent organization-** Alphabet Inc., **Headquarters-** The USA.



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**Defence**

#### **India Test-Fires Nuclear-Capable ICBM Agni-V**

i. **India test-fired its nuclear-capable Agni-V inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM)**, which has a **strike range of over 5,000km**.

ii. It was test fired successfully **from Abdul Kalam island** off the coast of the eastern state of Odisha. The ICBM can reach the northern-most parts of China.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- General Bipin Rawat is the present Chief of Army Staff.

#### **INS Vikramaditya Formally Affiliated to Bihar Regiment**

i. **Indian Naval Ship Vikramaditya**, the Indian Navy's largest ship and its sole aircraft carrier was formally affiliated to the **Indian Army's highly-decorated and battle-hardened Bihar Regiment** and the Indian Air Force's No 6 Squadron.

ii. The ceremony was held onboard INS Vikramaditya at the **Karwar Naval Base, Karnataka**.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Admiral Sunil Lanba is the present Chief of Naval Staff.

### **NDRF Celebrated its 13th Raising Day**

- i. **The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)** celebrated its **13th Raising Day in New Delhi**. The Director Intelligence Bureau, Rajiv Jain was the chief guest on this occasion.
- ii. The meeting highlighted the disaster threat of country and important changes taken place in Disaster Management in India and across the world.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Sanjay Kumar** is the Director General of NDRF.
- NDRF came into existence on 19th January 2006.

### **Indian, Vietnamese Armies Hold 1st Military Exercise- VINBAX**

- i. **Armies of India and Vietnam** have begun a **six-day-long military exercise in Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh**. The exercise named 'VINBAX' is the first military exercise between the two countries.
- ii. **Vietnam's Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc** was in New Delhi to participate in the India-ASEAN Commemorative summit and attend the Republic Day celebrations.



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## **Appointments or Resign/Retired**

### **Vinay Sahasrabuddhe Named ICCR Chief**

- i. **National vice-president of the BJP, Vinay Sahasrabuddhe**, who is also the member of Rajya Sabha has been appointed the **President of Indian Council of Cultural Relations**.
- ii. **He will replace Lokesh Chandra**, who had been appointed by the NDA government in October 2014 and has completed his three-year-term.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Maulana Abul Kalam Muhiyuddin Ahmed** was the founder of ICCR.
- **Riva Ganguly Das** is the Director General of ICCR.

### **Vijay Keshav Gokhale Appointed Foreign Secretary**

- i. **Senior diplomat Vijay Keshav Gokhale** has been appointed **the foreign secretary of India**. He has succeeded **S Jaishankar**.
- ii. Mr Gokhale served as Indian Ambassador to China, Germany and as Indian High Commissioner to Malaysia in the past. He is at present **secretary (economic relations) in the Ministry of External Affairs**.

### **Rajinder Khanna Appointed Deputy National Security Adviser**

- i. **Rajinder Khanna** was appointed the **deputy National Security Adviser (NSA)**. He was the former chief of the country's external intelligence agency Research and Analysis Wing (RAW).

ii. Mr Khanna is at present officer on special duty (Neighbourhood Studies) in the National Security Council Secretariat.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The National Security Council is headed by the prime minister.
- It is the apex body on all internal and external security-related matters.
- National Security Adviser Ajit Doval is its secretary.

#### **A R Rahman Becomes Sikkim's Brand Ambassador**

i. Music composer **A R Rahman** became the **brand ambassador of Sikkim**. The declaration was made by Sikkim CM Pawan Kumar Chamling.

ii. Mr Chamling felicitated the legendary music composer during an inauguration of the **11-day Sikkim Red Panda Winter Carnival** at Palzor Stadium in Gangtok.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Sikkim Governor-** Shrinivas Dadasaheb Patil.

#### **IOA Appoints Harjinder Singh as 'Chef de Mission' for Winter Olympics 2018**

i. The Indian Olympic Association (IOA) appointed **Harjinder Singh as the Chef De Mission** for the **23rd Winter Olympic Games** to be held in **Pyeongchang, South Korea** in February 2018.

ii. Harjinder Singh is at present the General Secretary in the Ice Hockey Association of India.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **IOA President-** Narinder Dhruv Batra.

#### **Indian-Origin Businessman Sunny Verghese Appointed WBCSD Chairman**

i. Singapore-based Indian-origin businessman **Sunny Verghese** has been appointed as the **Chairman of the Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development (WBCSD)**.

ii. He succeeded **Paul Polman**. Verghese, Co-Founder and the CEO of Singapore's agri-business group Olam International Limited, is **the first WBCSD Chair from the agri-sector**.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **WBCSD CEO and President-** Peter Bakker.

#### **Dr Sivan K Appointed New ISRO Chairman**

i. Noted rocket scientist **Sivan K** was appointed as the **9th chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. He has replaced A.S. Kiran Kumar.

ii. The appointment has been made for the tenure of three years. Sivan was the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Kerala. Sivan joined the ISRO in 1982 in Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) project.

#### **Anil Khanna to Head IOA Finance Commission**

i. Senior sports administrator **Anil Khanna** was named **Chairman of the Finance Commission of the Indian Olympic Association**, which also formed a four-member advisory committee. The advisory committee comprises Tarlochan Singh, GS Mander, S Regunathan and BS Landge.

ii. The IOA also formed a Medical Commission and Games Technical Conduct Committee and nominated office bearers of IOA and **National Sports Federations (NSFs) to the Committees**.

#### **Indu Malhotra Becomes 1st Woman Lawyer Directly Appointed for SC Judgeship**

i. The Supreme Court collegium has recommended the name of **senior advocate Indu Malhotra as the first woman lawyer to be directly appointed as a judge of the Supreme Court of India**.

ii. She will be the **seventh woman judge since independence** to make it to the Supreme Court. At present, Justice R Banumathi is the lone woman judge in the apex court.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The first woman to be appointed as a judge of the apex court since independence was **Justice M Fathima Beevi in 1989**.

### **Vice Admiral A B Singh Takes Over as Chief of Staff Western Naval Command**

- i. Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, took over as **Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command** from Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh.
- ii. He was Promoted to Flag Rank in 2012. The Flag Officer was awarded **Vishisht Seva Medal in 2011** and **Ati Vishisht Seva Medal in 2016** for his exemplary service to the nation.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Admiral Sunil Lanba** is the present **Chief of Naval Staff**.

### **Om Prakash Rawat Appointed New Chief Election Commissioner**

- i. **Election Commissioner Om Prakash Rawat** was appointed as the **next chief election commissioner (CEC)** of India. Mr Rawat is the **22nd CEC** of India. **He succeeded Achal Kumar Joti**.
- ii. The government also appointed former finance secretary **Ashok Lawasa** as an Election Commissioner. Mr Rawat will take over the office from 23rd January 2018 onwards. **Sunil Arora** is the other Election Commissioner.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **1st Chief Election Commissioner of Independent India-** Sukumar Sen.
- **21st Chief Election Commissioner of India-** Achal Kumar Joti.

### **Anandiben Patel Named New Madhya Pradesh Governor**

- i. **Former Gujarat chief minister Anandiben Patel** has been named as the **new governor of Madhya Pradesh**.
- ii. She will replace Gujarat governor Om Prakash Kohli, who currently holds additional charge of the office of Governor of Madhya Pradesh. **Ms Patel became the first woman chief minister of Gujarat**.

### **Sudeep Lakhtakia Appointed New DG of National Security Guard**

- i. Senior IPS officer **Sudeep Lakhtakia** has been appointed as the **new Director General (DG) of the 'black cats' commando force NSG**.
- ii. The officer is currently serving as a Special DG in the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) headquarters New Delhi. **He will take over from incumbent S P Singh**.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The National Security Guard (NSG) was raised as the federal contingency force to counter terrorists and hijack- like incidents in 1984.

### **S Somanath Takes Charge as Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre's Director**

- i. ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC) director **S Somanath** has taken charge as **the new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)**. It is ISRO's lead centre for launch vehicles.
- ii. **He has replaced K Sivan** who has joined ISRO as Chairman.

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- VSSC had a small beginning in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala on the south-west coast of India, in 1962.

### **Usha Ananthasubramanian Becomes 1st Woman IBA Chief**

- i. **Usha Ananthasubramanian, MD and CEO, Allahabad Bank**, has been elected **the first woman chairman of Indian Banks' Association (IBA)**. Usha was elected IBA Chairman for the year 2017-18 by its Managing Committee.
- ii. IBA Chairman's position fell vacant following the superannuation of Jatinder Bir Singh. Rajnish Kumar, Chairman, State Bank of India, was elected Deputy Chairman of IBA for the year 2017-18.

### **Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen to Lead USISPF Board**

- i. **Indian-American Adobe CEO Shantanu Narayen** has been elected as the **Vice Chairman of the US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum**. It is a new organisation set up to enhance business relations between India and the US.

ii. The new representative body - US-India Strategic Partnership Forum (USISPF) was set up to promote bilateral trade and work on creating meaningful opportunities that have the power to change the lives of citizens.



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## Honours/ Awards

### **MAS Chief Ravi Menon Named Best Central Bank Governor in Asia-Pacific**

- i. The managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), Ravi Menon, has been named the best central bank governor in Asia-Pacific for 2018 by UK-based magazine, The Banker.
- ii. Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat was also given this award in 2011 when he was then MAS's managing director.

### **Golden Globe Awards 2018: The Complete List of Winners**

The 75th Golden Globe Award ceremony was held in Los Angeles, the USA. “Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri” dominated the 2018 Golden Globes, taking home four statues, including best drama, best screenplay, and acting awards for Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell in the drama category. Seth Meyers hosted the star-studded show.

### **Here is the Complete List of Winners of Golden Globe Awards 2018-**

1. Best motion picture, drama: **Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri.**

2. Best motion picture, musical or comedy: **Lady Bird**.
3. Best director, motion picture: **Guillermo del Toro**, “**The Shape of Water**”.
4. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, drama: **Frances McDormand**.
5. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, drama: **Gary Oldman**.
6. Best performance by an actress in a motion picture, musical or comedy: **Saoirse Ronan**.
7. Best performance by an actor in a motion picture, musical or comedy: **James Franco**.
8. Best motion picture, animated: **Coco**
9. Best motion picture, foreign language: **In the Fade**

### 63rd Filmfare Awards 2018: Complete List of Winners

- i. Bollywood came together to celebrate the industry's talent at **63rd Jio Filmfare Awards 2018**, held in Mumbai. Superstar Shah Rukh Khan and filmmaker Karan Johar hosted the show.
- ii. **Vidya Balan** won her career's sixth Filmfare award for her performance in 'Tumhari Sulu'.

Here is the complete list of winners of 63rd Filmfare Awards 2018:

Sl No	Category	Winner
1.	Best Film	'Hindi Medium'
2.	Critics' Award for Best Film	'Newton'
3.	Best Actor In A Leading Role (Female)	Vidya Balan for 'Tumhari Sulu'
4.	Best Actor In A Leading Role (Male)	Irrfan Khan for 'Hindi Medium'
5.	Critics' Award for Best Actor (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Trapped'
6.	Critics' Award for Best Actor (Female)	Zaira Wasim for 'Secret Superstar'
7.	Best Director	Ashwiny Iyer Tiwari for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
8.	Best Actor In A Supporting Role (Male)	Rajkummar Rao for 'Bareilly Ki Barfi'
9.	Best Actor in a Supporting Role (Female)	Meher Vij for 'Secret Superstar'
10.	Best Dialogue	Hitesh Kewalya for 'Shubh Mangal Saavdhan'

### Shah Rukh Khan Honoured with Crystal Award at World Economic Forum

- i. Bollywood actor **Shah Rukh Khan** was honoured with the **24th Crystal Award at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland**.
- ii. According to the WEF, Shah Rukh Khan received Award for "his leadership in championing children's and women's rights in India". Shahrukh received the award alongside Elton John and Hollywood actress Cate Blanchett.

### Padma Awards 2018 Announced: Full List of Recipients

- i. The President has approved the awards for **85 individuals, which includes 3 Padma Vibhushan, 9 Padma Bhushan and 73 Padma Shri**.
- ii. In sports personalities, **former India cricket captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni** and multiple world champion cueist **Pankaj Advani** have been conferred with the third-highest civilian award, Padma Bhushan.
- iii. The **2017 World Weightlifting Champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu** and former **Asian Games gold medallist**



tennis player **Somdev Devvarman** have been conferred with the Padma Shri. The awards are announced on the eve of the Republic Day every year.

### List of Padma Vibhushan awardees-

**Ilaiyaraaja- Ilaiyaraaja PVB** (born 2 June 1943 as Gnanathesikan) is an Indian film composer who works in the South Indian cinema, predominantly in Tamil since the mid 1970s. Ilaiyaraaja is also an instrumentalist, conductor, singer and songwriter. He has composed more than 6500 songs.

**Ghulam Mustafa Khan- Ustad Ghulam Mustafa Khan** (born March 3, 1931) is an Indian classical musician in the Hindustani classical music tradition. He belongs to the illustrious school of music of Rampur-Sahaswan Gharana which owes its allegiance to Seniya tradition represented by great Ustads like Ustad Wazir Khan, Ustad Bahadur Hussain

**P. Parameswaran- P. Parameswaran** (often referred to as **Parameswarji**) is a right wing Hindutvathinker and RSS ideologue in Kerala. He is the director of Bharatiya Vichara Kendra and the president of Vivekananda Kendra, Kanyakumari. He is also one of the founder members of the International Forum for India's Heritage (IFIH). He is considered as the seniormost Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh pracharak and ideologue in Kerala.

### Grammy Awards 2018- Complete List of Winners

**i. The 60th Annual Grammy Awards**, honouring the best achievements from October 2016 to September 2017 were held at Madison Square Garden in New York City, the USA. **James Corden** was the host of the ceremony for the second year in a row.

**ii.** It was **Bruno Mars'** night at the Grammy Awards held in New York, with the three biggest wins - **Album Of The Year and Record Of The Year for 24K Magic and Song Of The Year** for 'That's What I Like'.

**Here's the list of winners of the 60th Grammy Awards.**

- **Album Of The Year:** Bruno Mars
- **Song of the Year:** Bruno Mars', That's What I Like
- **Record Of The Year:** Bruno Mars, 24K Magic

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The first Grammy Awards ceremony was held on May 4, 1959.

### 5 MPs Chosen for Outstanding Parliamentarian Award

**i. The Indian Parliamentary Group (IPG)** headed by **Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan** announced that five members of parliament (MPs) selected for the **Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards**.

**ii.** This includes, Congress leader **Ghulam Nabi Azad (2015)**, Trinamool Congress' **Dinesh Trivedi (2016)**, Manipur's governor **Najma A Heptulla (2013)**, BJP's Lok Sabha member **Hukumdev Narayan Yadav (2014)** and five-time Rajya Sabha member **Bhartruhari Mahatab** of the Lok Biju Janata Dal (BJD) (2017).

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The Outstanding Parliamentarian Award was established in 1995. So far 18 eminent MPs have received the award.
- Chandra Shekhar of the Samajwadi Janata Party was the first member to receive this award.

### Asha Bhosle to Get Yash Chopra Memorial Award

**i. Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle** will be given the '**Yash Chopra Memorial Award**'. She will be the **fifth winner of the award**.

**ii.** The award has been instituted by the TSR Foundation of T. Subbarami Reddy in memory of producer-director Yash Chopra, who died in 2012.

#### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Previous recipients of the **Yash Chopra Memorial Award** are Bollywood playback singer Lata Mangeshkar, and actors Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha, and Shah Rukh Khan.

#### **Gallantry Award Winner list 2018:**

Gallantry Awards are given for dignity, exceptional courage and valor after independence Indian Government Introduced three Awards namely Param Vir Chakra, the Maha Vir Chakra and the Vir Chakra on 26th January 1950.

Each Republic Day Indian President Give this medal to those who are eligible for this awards.

#### **List of Awards Which is given on 26th January 2018:**

President of India total served 390 awards on the occasion of Republic Day the awards include one Ashok Chakra, one Kirti Chakra, 14 Shaurya Chakras and 28 Param Vishisht Seva Medals. Others include four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, 49 Ati Vishisht Seva Medals, Ten Yudh Seva Medals, two Bar to Sena Medals, 86 Sena Medals, one Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry), three Vayu Sena Medals, two Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 38 Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 13 Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), 14 Vayu Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty), one Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal and 121 Vishisht Seva Medals.

#### **The Ashok Chakra:**

The Ashok Chakra, posthumously awarded to Gaur commando Jyoti Prakash Nirala of Indian Air Force. This is the greatest military honor given at the time of peace. Nirala had killed 03 terrorists alone in an encounter with the terrorists in November 2017 in the Haigen area of Jammu and Kashmir.

#### **Kirti Chakra:**

Major Vijayant Bisht was announced to give Honor of the Kirti Chakra. Major Vijayant Bisht got information about the infiltration of militants in Uri district of Jammu and Kashmir on June 06, 2017, after which they reached to confrontation with them with his team. Major Bisht saved the lives of a rifle man injured by a bullet and shot a terrorist during a long encounter. Major Bisht is being awarded the Kirti Chakra for his adventures.

#### **Shaurya Chakra:**

- **Armed force** a total of nine warriors of the Army were honored with Shaurya Chakra. The names of the heroes like Major Akhil Raj RV, Capt Rohit Shukla, Captain Abhinav Shukla, Capt Pradip Sharya Arya, Havaldar Mubarik Ali, Havildar Rabindra Thapa, Nayak Narendra Singh, Lance Naik Badher Hussain and Paratrooper Manchu.
- **Air Force** Karporel Devendra Mehta, Air Force Medal Wing Commander Anshul Saxena, Scordon Leader Rajiv Chauhan and Scordon Leader Kamal Sharma were named.
- In **Paramilitary Force** two CRPF cobra commandos Vikas Jakhar and Riaz Alam Ansari were announced to be awarded with Shaurya Chakra.

## **Sports**

#### **Vidarbha Defeats Delhi to win Ranji Trophy for the First Time**

**i. Vidarbha** have created history by winning the Ranji Trophy for the first time in history with a thumping nine-wicket win over Delhi at the Holkar stadium in Indore.

**ii. Rajneesh Gurbani's 6/59**, including a hat-trick and a century from Akshay Wadkar were the key moments in Vidarbha scripting a fairytale run. For Delhi, Dhruv Shorey was the star with a century.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Rajneesh Gurbani was declared player of the Match.

**Indian Golfer Shiv Kapur Wins Royal Cup at Pattaya**

**i. Indian golfer Shiv Kapur** won the **Royal Cup at Pattaya**, which is his third Asian Tour title of 2017. The 35-year-old, who had just one win in almost 11 years till April 2017, has now won three times in last eight months.

**ii.** This latest win marks Kapur's fourth Asian Tour win and sixth international title as he won twice on European Challenge Tour also.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Shiv Kapur first won on Asian Tour in his debut season in December 2005.

**G Sathyan Becomes India's Highest-Ranked Player in Latest ITTF Rankings**

**i. G Sathyan** has become **India's highest-ranked player** in the latest International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) rankings. He surpasses his compatriot the legendary Sharath Kamal.

**ii.** The current ranking of Sathyan is 49. As for the women, Manika Batra is topping the world chart among Indians at 62th.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Thomas Weikert Germany is the present President of ITTF.

**Meghalaya signs host city contract for 39th National Games in 2022**

**i. Meghalaya signed the Host City Contract** with the **Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** for hosting the 39th National Games in 2022.

**ii.** The tripartite contract was signed between the IOA, the Meghalaya State Olympic Association and the state government. Meghalaya had successfully co-hosted the South Asian Games in 2017.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Meghalaya CM-** Mukul Sangma, **Governor-** Ganga Prasad.

**Philippe Coutinho Joins Barcelona, Becomes 2nd Most Expensive Transfer in World Soccer History**

**i. Team Liverpool sold Brazilian football player Philippe Coutinho to Team Barcelona for 160 million Euros (\$192 million).** With this, transfer of Philippe Coutinho has become the 2nd Most Expensive transfer in World Soccer History.

**ii.** World's most expensive transfer is **Brazilian football player Neymar's transfer** from Barcelona to Paris Saint Germain team in 200 million pounds in 2017.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **FC Barcelona President -** Josep Maria Bartomeu
- **Based in -** Barcelona, Spain.

**Federer-Bencic Lead Switzerland to Hopman Cup Title**

**i. Switzerland** won their third **Hopman Cup** as **Roger Federer and Belinda Bencic** beat Germany's **Alexander Zverev and Angelique Kerber** in the deciding mixed doubles to secure a 2-1 victory in the final at the **Perth Arena**.

**ii.** It was Federer's second Hopman Cup triumph after victory in 2001 alongside then world number one Martina Hingis.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The capital of Switzerland is Bern.
- The Association of Tennis Professionals was formed in September 1972.

### Sports Minister Rathore Launches 'Khelo India' Logo

- i. The vibrant **Khelo India logo**, reflecting the freshness, agility and vitality of New India was launched at a ceremony by the **Union Minister of State ( I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports Rajyavardhan Rathore** in New Delhi.
- ii. The logo also conveys an impression of fitness and competitiveness. The three-stroke Khelo India logo, **designed by Ogilvy India**, has in-built modularity, allowing plenty of adaptability and flexibility into endless pictorial forms.

### Anchal Thakur Bags Bronze, India's 1st International Medal in Skiing

- i. **Aanchal Thakur** made history as she won **India's first ever international medal in skiing**. The 21-year-old Manali resident **clinched bronze in the coveted Alpine Ejder 3200 Cup**.
- ii. The Championship was organised by the **Federation Internationale de Ski (skiing's international governing body) in Erzurum, Turkey**. She won the medal in the slalom race category.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Turkey Capital-** Ankara, **Currency-** Turkish lira.

### Ronaldinho Confirms His Retirement from Football

- i. **Brazilian World Cup winner Ronaldinho** has formally confirmed his retirement from football, more than two years since his last appearance as a professional report **in Brazil**. The 37-year-old former Paris Saint-Germain and Barcelona star, a key member of the Brazil side which won the **World Cup in 2002, last played in 2015** during a brief stint with Fluminense.
- ii. He spent five years with Barcelona between 2003 and 2008, helping the Catalans win the **Champions League in 2006**, after being awarded the **Ballon D'Or in 2005**.

### ICC Award 2017- Complete List of Winners

- i. **Australia captain Steve Smith** has been crowned the **International Cricket Council's Test Player of the Year** for a second time, while **Indian captain Virat Kohli** has been honoured twice in the ICC's annual awards.
- ii. It's the first time since 2011 that the winner of the Test Player of the Year Award was not also crowned the Cricketer of the Year. Kohli was the fourth-highest run-scorer's in Tests in 2017.

### Here is the Complete list of Winners of ICC Award 2017-

1. **Sir Garfield Sobers Trophy for ICC Men's Cricketer of the Year** - Virat Kohli (India)
2. **ICC Men's Test Cricketer of the Year** - Steve Smith (Australia)
3. **ICC Men's ODI Cricketer of the Year** - Virat Kohli (India)
4. **ICC Men's Emerging Cricketer of the Year** - Hasan Ali (Pakistan)
5. **ICC Men's Associate Cricketer of the Year** - Rashid Khan (Afghanistan)
6. **ICC Men's T20I Performance of the Year** - Yuzvendra Chahal (6-25 v England) (India)
7. **David Shepherd Trophy for ICC Umpire of the Year** – Marais Erasmus
8. **ICC Spirit of Cricket** - Anya Shrubsole (England)

### Virat Kohli Named Captain of ICC's Test and ODI Teams of the Year

- i. **Virat Kohli** was named the **captain of the International Cricket Council (ICC) Test and One-Day International (ODI) teams of the year** that included four other Indians as well.
- ii. He surprisingly pipped Australian skipper Steve Smith for the ICC's Test team captaincy. The Test team also comprises **Cheteshwar Pujara and Ravichandran Ashwin**. Kohli was chosen to lead the ICC ODI team, which includes **Rohit Sharma and Jasprit Bumrah** as the other two Indians.

### India Defeats Pakistan to Win Blind Cricket World Cup 2018

- i. **India beat Pakistan by two wickets to win the Blind Cricket World Cup 2018** for the second time after a thrilling match at Sharjah Cricket Stadium, the UAE.

ii. India conquered the modest target in the 39th over, with two balls to spare and eight wickets lost. For his brilliant all-round performance, **Sunil Ramesh was declared the man of the match.**

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- The inaugural World Cup in 1998 was won by South Africa, who defeated Pakistan in New Delhi to become the first blind cricket world champion.

**West Indies to Host 2018 Women's World T20**

i. The International Cricket Council (ICC) has announced, the **2018 edition of the Women's World T20** will be hosted by **West Indies in November 2018.**

ii. The three venues were selected by Cricket West Indies through a bidding process and have been ratified by the ICC.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **ICC Chief Executive-** David Richardson, **Headquarters-** Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

**Lifter Rakhi Halder Creates New National Record**

i. **Lifter Rakhi Halder** created a **new national record in clean and jerk to a gold medal** in the 63kg women's category in the **33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships**, in Mangaluru, Karnataka.

ii. Rakhi lifted 128kgs in the clean and jerk for a total of 230kgs to create a new national record, bettering Karnam Malleswari's feat (127kg) created in Athens in 1999.

**Sandeep Lamichhane Becomes 1st Nepal player to Get IPL Contract**

i. **Sandeep Lamichhane** became the **first cricketer from Nepal to land a deal an IPL contract.** He was picked by **Delhi Daredevils** in the player's auction. The 17-year-old, the **only Nepal player in the IPL auction**, was sold at his base price of Rs 20 lakh.

ii. The leg-spinner hogged the limelight in 2016 U-19 World Cup by becoming the **second-highest wicket-taker in the tournament with 14 scalps in six innings**

**Australian Open 2018- Complete List of Winners**

i. The **Australian Open** is a tennis tournament held annually in **Melbourne Park, Australia.** The **2018 Australian Open** is the **106th edition of the tournament.**ii. **Roger Federer** defeated **Marin Cilic** in the final. It was **Federer's 20th Grand Slam title.** In women's' single, **Caroline Wozniacki** became the first Danish player to win a Grand Slam singles title, **defeating Simona Halep in the final.**

**Here is the complete list of Winners of Australian Open:**

S.No.	Category	Winner	Runner Up
1.	Men's Singles	Roger Federer (Switzerland)	Marin Cilic (Croatia)
2.	Women's Singles	Caroline Wozniacki (Denmark)	Simona Halep (Romania)
3.	Men's Doubles	Oliver Marach (Austria) Mate Pavic(Croatia)	Robert Farah (Colombia) J. Cabal (Colombia)
4.	Women's Doubles	Kristina Mladenovic (France) Tímea Babos (Hungary)	Elena Vesnina (Russia) Ekaterina Makarova (Russia)
5.	Mixed Doubles	Gabriela Dabrowski (Canada)	Timea Babos (Hungary)

		Mate Pavic (Croatia)	Rohan Bopanna (India)
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### **Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan Wins Indonesian Masters**

- i. The world no.1 Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan has defeated Saina Nehwal in the finals of the Indonesia Masters in Jakarta.**
- ii. Tai Tzu has now defeated the former world No.1 nine times in their last 10 meetings.**

### **Melbourne to Host Final of 2020 World T20**

- i. Melbourne Cricket Ground will host the final of both the men's and women's World Twenty20 when the tournaments come to Australia in 2020.**
- ii. It will mark the first time the tournaments are held as stand-alone events in the same year in the same country. The women's final will coincide with International Women's Day (8th March).**

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Australia Capital-** Canberra, **Currency-** Australian dollar.

### **PM Modi Launched 1st Khelo India School Games**

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the first Khelo India School Games at Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium in New Delhi.**
- ii. Talented Under-17 players identified in priority sports disciplines at various levels by a High-Powered Committee will be provided annual financial assistance of Rs. 5 lakh per annum for 8 years.**

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Union Minister of State ( I/C) Youth Affairs and Sports-** **Rajyavardhan Rathore.**

### **Sharath Kamal Wins Table Tennis Nationals Championship**

- i. Sharath Kamal beat top-seeded Anthony Amalraj to win the men singles title for the eighth time, equalling the feat of Kamlesh Mehta in the 79th edition of the 11Even Sports Senior Nationals in Ranchi, Jharkhand.**
- ii. Suthirta Mukherjee from West Bengal emerged the new women champion, beating Hyderabad Nationals winner Manika Batra.**

### **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Sharath Kamal is from Tamil Nadu.**



# Obituaries

## **Veteran Poet Anwar Jalalpuri Passes Away**

- i. **Noted Urdu poet Anwar Jalalpuri** passed away at the age of 71 in Lucknow. He suffered a brain stroke.
- ii. Anwar Jalalpuri is **best known for his translation of shloks of Bhagavad Gita into Urdu verses.**

## **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Anwar Jalalpuri was a Yash Bharti Award recipient.

## **Peter Sutherland, 1st WTO Director-General, Passes Away**

- i. **Peter Sutherland, the first Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO)**, has passed away in Dublin, Ireland. He was 71.
- ii. Mr Sutherland became **Ireland's Attorney General in 1981** and served as the European Commissioner for Competition from 1985 to 1989. He left the WTO in 1995.

## **Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Dublin** is the capital city of **Ireland**.
- **Present DG of WTO-** Roberto Azevedo.

## **Former Union Minister Raghunath Jha Passes Away**

- i. **Senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leader and former Union Minister Raghunath Jha** passed away in Delhi. Raghunath Jha was **Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries and Public Enterprise** in the UPA government led by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.
- ii. He was elected Member of Parliament twice from **Gopalgunj and Bettiah Lok Sabha** constituencies in Bihar and was also the six-time legislator from Sheohar Assembly constituency of the State.

## **Hall of Famer Jo Jo White Passes Away**

- i. **Basketball Hall of Famer Jo Jo White**, a two-time NBA champion with the Boston Celtics and an Olympic gold medalist, has passed away.
- ii. He was 71. White played 10 seasons for Boston, which drafted him ninth overall from Kansas in 1969.

## **Iconic Cartoonist Chandi Lahiri Passes Away**

- i. **Famous Cartoonist Chandi Lahiri** passed away after a brief period of illness, marking the end of a chapter in Bengal's history of the cartoon. Lahiri was 86.

## **Hugh Masekela, 'Father of South African Jazz' Passes Away**

- i. **Trumpeter, composer and singer Hugh Masekela**, affectionately known as the **'father of South African jazz'**, has died after a long battle with prostate cancer. He was 78.
- ii. He opened the 2010 FIFA World Cup Kick-Off Concert and performed at the event's opening ceremony in Johannesburg's Soccer City stadium.

## **Ursula K. Le Guin, Best-Selling Science Fiction author Passes Away**

- i. **Ursula K. Le Guin**, the award-winning science fiction and fantasy writer who explored feminist themes and was best known for her **Earthsea books**, has passed away at the age of 88.
- ii. **Le Guin won an honorary National Book Award in 2014.** Le Guin's first novel was Roncannon's World in 1966. Her book, **'The Left Hand of Darkness'** won the Hugo and Nebula awards top science fiction prizes.

### Veteran Bengali Actress Supriya Devi Passes Away

- i. Veteran Bengali film actress and Padmashri awardee, Supriya Devi, passed away in Kolkata, following a severe cardiac arrest. She was 83.
- ii. Supriya Devi made her debut in the Uttam Kumar-starrer Basu Parivar in 1952. She was also awarded the Banga Vibushan - the highest-ever civilian award given by the Bengal Government, and a Life Time Achievement Award by Filmfare during their eastern India version of the award show.

## Important Days with theme

### All about National Youth Day- 12 January

- i. The National Youth Day has been celebrated every year on 12 January. This is the day when Swami Vivekananda, one of the greatest social reformers, thinkers, and philosophers of India, was born. The Indian government had declared back in 1984 that Swamiji's birthday would be celebrated as the National Youth Day.
- ii. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the National Youth Festival in Greater Noida through Video conferencing. The Theme of the Festival is 'Sankalp Se Siddhi'. Culture Minister Dr Mahesh Sharma will be the guest of honour on the occasion.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- The first National Youth Day was celebrated on 12 January 1985.
- He founded the Ramakrishna Math and Mission on 1 May 1897.
- In 1898, he established Belur Math.

### 15th January 2018: 70th Army Day

- i. The 70th Army Day is being celebrated today (15th January 2018). The day is celebrated to pay homage and salute to the courageous and brave Indian soldiers who have been sacrificing their lives for protecting the country.
- ii. Every year on this day, the 'Army Day' is celebrated to commemorate the day when General (later Field Marshal) K.M Cariappa took over the command of Army from General Sir F.R.R Bucher, the last British Commander-in-Chief in 1949 and became the first Commander-in-Chief of Indian Army post Independence.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chief of the Army Staff- General Bipin Rawat.
- The Indian Army is the land-based branch and the largest component of the Indian Armed Forces.
- The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Indian Army.

### 8th National Voters' Day- 25th January

- i. The Election Commission of India celebrated the 8th National Voters' Day across the country on 25th January for enhanced participation of citizens in the electoral process. The National level function was held in New Delhi.
- ii. President Ram Nath Kovind gave away awards for best electoral practices to District Collectors, Superintendents of Police and other functionaries involved in election management.

**Subhas Chandra Bose** (23 January 1897 – 18 August 1945) was an Indian nationalist whose defiant patriotism made him a hero in India, but whose attempt during World War II to rid India of British rule with the help of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan left a troubled legacy. The honorific **Netaji** (Hindustani: "Respected Leader"), first applied in early 1942 to Bose in Germany by the Indian soldiers of the Indische Legion and by the German and Indian officials in the Special Bureau for India in Berlin, was later used throughout India.

### Nation Celebrates 69th Republic Day

- i. The Country celebrates its 69th Republic Day on 26th January in Rajpath, New Delhi to be resplendently displaying the country's pride and glory. Heads of ten ASEAN countries are chief guests at Republic Day.

ii. The family members of **Corporal Jyoti Prakash Nirala (Posthumous) of the Indian Air Force (IAF)**, who died fighting militants in Kashmir valley, **received India's highest peacetime gallantry award, Ashok Chakra.**

**Martyr's Dat: 30 January**

i. India on Monday remembered the father of the nation on his 70th death anniversary. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Ram Nath Kovind, Congress president reached Rajghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi was shot dead 70 years ago on January 30, 1948, by Nathuram Godse.



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