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## National

### King of Jordan in India on 3-Day Visit

**i. The King of Jordan Abdullah-II bin Al-Hussein** arrived in New Delhi on a 3-day visit to India. The King is accompanied by a business delegation. During his visit, he will also participate in a **CEO Round-table followed by India-Jordan Business Forum**.

**ii.** The two sides are expected to sign MoUs and agreements in diverse areas of bilateral cooperation.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Jordan Capital-** Amman, **Currency-** Jordanian dinar.

### I&B Minister Smriti Irani Releases 'India-2018' Book

**i. Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani** released '**India 2018**' (English Version) and '**Bharat 2018**' (Hindi Version). The books are published by the Publications Division. The book available in both print and online versions.

**ii.** It is an exhaustive publication dealing with all aspects of the country's development. With its latest edition, the book has entered into its **62nd year of publication**.

### Chilika Lake Largest Habitat of Irrawaddy Dolphins Globally

**i. The Chilika lake in Odisha** has emerged as the **single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world** with the spotting of **155 such animals**, according to the **Chilika Development Authority (CDA)**.

**ii. The first ever 'Annual Monitoring'** was conducted by the CDA to count the number of the marine mammals and to study the hydrological impacts of removal of pen culture (locally known as gherries).

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Chilika Lake is the largest coastal lagoon in India and the second largest coastal lagoon in the world.
- Chief Executive of Chilika Development Authority is **Susanta Nanda**.

### 9.9% Growth in Foreign Exchange Earnings In January 2018 over January 2017

**i. Ministry of Tourism** estimates monthly **Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs)** through Tourism in India, both in Rupee and Dollar terms based on the credit data of Travel Head from Balance of Payments of Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

**ii.** The highlights of the estimates of FEEs from tourism in India for January 2018 are as below:-

**(a) Foreign Exchange Earnings (FEEs) through Tourism (in Rs. terms)-**

- FEEs during the month of **January 2018 were Rs. 17,725 crore** as compared to **Rs. 16,135 crore in January 2017**.
- The growth rate in FEEs in rupee terms in **January 2018 over January 2017 was 9.9%**, compared to the growth of **18.0% in January 2017 over January 2016**.

### EPFO Makes Online Claims Must for PF Withdrawals Above Rs 10 lakh

**i. Retirement fund body Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)** has made it mandatory to file online claims for provident fund withdrawals **above Rs 10 lakh**, taking another step towards becoming a paperless organisation.

**ii.** The EPFO has also made it mandatory to file online claims for withdrawals of above Rs 5 lakh under the **Employees Pension Scheme 1995**.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- EPFO has recently reduced the interest rate on deposits to 8.55% for 2017-18 from 8.65% for 2016-17.

- EPFO came into existence under the promulgation of the Employee's Provident Fund Ordinance on the 15th November 1951.

### **Union Cabinet Approves Anti-Trafficking Bill Draft**

- The apex anti-terror body **National Investigation Agency (NIA)** will be the **nodal authority for probing cases of human trafficking** after the government approved a proposal in this regard.
- The Union Cabinet okayed the draft Trafficking of Persons (Prevention, Protection and Rehabilitation) Bill, which also proposes a punishment of life imprisonment for repeat offenders. The draft Bill divides various offences into "trafficking" and "aggravated trafficking".

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

- **Yogesh Chander Modi** is the Director General of NIA.

### **1st Mega Food Park Inaugurated in Maharashtra**

**i. The first Mega Food Park in the state of Maharashtra Satara Mega Food Park Pvt. Ltd.** at Village Degaon, District Satara was inaugurated by **Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Union Minister of Food Processing Industries.**

**ii.** This is the 10th Mega Food Park being operationalized in the country and the 8th operationalized during the tenure of the present government. Satara Mega Food Park has been set up in 64 acres of land at a cost of Rs. 139.30 crore.

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

- **Maharashtra CM- Devendra Fadnavis, Governor- CV Rao.**

### **India to Grow 7.6% in 2018: Moody's**

**i. Moody's Investors Service** estimated that **India will grow 7.6%** in the calendar year 2018 and **7.5%** in 2019, amid signs of economic recovery from the impact of demonetisation and GST.

**ii.** In its global growth forecasts for 2018 and 2019, Moody's stated the Budget for the fiscal year beginning April 1 (2018-19) includes some measures to stabilise the rural economy that was disproportionately hit by the scrapping of high denomination 500 and 1000 rupee notes.

### **India's GDP Growth Rises to 7.2% in December Quarter**

**i. The Indian economy grew at a five-quarter high of 7.2%** in the October-December period reflecting overall recovery due to good show by agriculture, manufacturing, construction and certain services.

**ii.** The economy is expected to grow at **6.6% in the current fiscal** ending March 31, as per the second advanced estimates of the **Central Statistics Office (CSO).**

**iii.** The earlier estimate was 6.5%. The growth for the second quarter (July-September) has been revised upwards to 6.5%, from 6.3% estimated earlier by the CSO.

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

- **Arun Jaitley** is the Present Finance Minister of India.

### **Cabinet clears setting up of NFRA to oversee auditors**

**i.** Union Cabinet has approved the establishment of **National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA).** NFRA will act as an independent regulator for the auditing profession which was one of the key changes brought in by the **Companies Act 2013.**

**ii.** The Cabinet also gave nod to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill - 2018 to deal with those escaping overseas to avoid getting caught.

### **India-Jordan sign 12 agreements**

**i. India and Jordan** has renewed their support to the Palestinian cause as the two sides signed **12 agreements**, including one on defence cooperation, following a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and King of **Jordan Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein**.

**ii.** These include agreement on Defence Co-operation, Visa waiver of **Diplomatic & Official Passport** holders, Cultural Exchange Programme, Manpower Co-operation agreement, Co-operation in field of Health and Medicine. Setting up of Next Generation Centre of Excellence. MoU for long term supply of Rock Phosphate and **Fertilizer/NPK**, Customs Mutual Assistance Agreement.

### **World's Largest Solar Park 'Shakti Sthala' Launched in Karnataka**

**i. The Karnataka government** inaugurated the first phase of a **2,000 megawatts (MW) solar park** in the drought-prone district, Tumkur. The first phase of the **Rs16,500 crore park** called "**Shakti Sthala**" will generate 600MW, while the balance 1,400MW is expected to be commissioned by the end of 2018.

**ii.** The solar project is the largest in the world, is spread over 13,000 acres and five villages. It is part of the "Karnataka Solar Policy 2014-2021" which aims to decrease dependence on traditional power sources and move to environmentally friendly ones to meet the growing power needs of the state. The park ties in with the centre's scheme to generate 100 gigawatts (GW) of solar power by 2020.

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

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

### **India, Vietnam calls upon all nations to adopt comprehensive approach in combating terrorism**

**i. India and Vietnam** unequivocally condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism.

**ii.** In a joint statement issued after the talks between Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** and Vietnamese President **Tran Dai Quang** in New Delhi, both leaders have called upon all nations to adopt a comprehensive approach in combating terrorism, includecountering **radicalisation, recruitment, training and movement of foreign terrorist fighters and blocking sources of financing terrorism.**

*CLAT coaching by NLU grads*

### **Shigmotsav 2018 Celebrated in Goa**

**i. Shigmotsav** has been organized enthusiastically in **Goa**. Shigmotsav or Shigmo is one of the several cultural festivals of the coastal state and is celebrated through colours, costumes, music, dance and parades.

**ii.** Shigmo parades offer glimpses of Goan life depicted through folk dance and music performances by locals.

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

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

### **Karnataka Unveils Healthcare Scheme 'Arogya Karnataka'**

**i. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah** unveiled a healthcare scheme named '**Arogya Karnataka**' (Healthy Karnataka) aimed at benefitting about 1.43 crore households in the state.

**ii.** It will provide quality primary, secondary and tertiary treatment to both **below-poverty-line (BPL) and above-poverty-line (APL)** families in the state.

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

- **Karnataka Capital- Bengaluru, Governor- Vajubhai Vala.**

### **Odisha Launches 'KHUSHI' Scheme To Provide Free Sanitary Pads**

**i.** The **Odisha government** launched **KHUSHI scheme** to provide free sanitary napkins to school girls across the state. The scheme will be implemented by the health and family welfare department of the state **at a cost of 70 crore per year.**

ii. Under the scheme, the state will provide free sanitary napkins to **17 lakh girls studying in Classes 6 to 12** in government and government-aided schools. The announcement was made by the **CM of Odisha Naveen Patnaik**.

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

- **Odisha Capital- Bhubaneswar, Governor- S C Jamir.**

#### **“Namaste Shalom”- Magazine on India-Israel Relations Launched**

i. The Union Minister of State (I/C) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), **Dr Jitendra Singh**, launched the social media of **“Namaste Shalom”**, a magazine on **India-Israel relations**.

ii. The magazine ‘**Namaste Shalom**’ is edited by **Tarun Vijay**, former MP.

#### **International Yoga Festival Held in Rishikesh**

i. **Uttarakhand Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat** inaugurated the **week-long 29th annual, world-famous International Yoga Festival (IYF)** in Rishikesh's Parmarth Niketan.

ii. The IYF offers daily classes from 4 a.m. until 9:30 p.m. with more than 80 revered saints, yogacharyas, presenters and experts from nearly 20 countries around the world.

#### **India's 1st Helicopter Taxi Service Launched in Bengaluru**

i. **India's first helicopter taxi service** was launched in **Bengaluru** to fly passengers from Kempegowda International Airport to Electronic City.

ii. The service is expected to reduce the time taken to cover the distance from 2 hours to 15 minutes. The helicopter will seat up to six people apart from the pilot and the service will cost Rs3,500 plus GST.

#### **Transport Ministry Launches a Scheme and Sukhad Yatra App**

i. **Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari** has announced that soon there will be no human interface in granting driving licences to heavy vehicle drivers in the country. **He has launched the scheme for District Driving Training Centres in New Delhi**.

ii. The process of approving such driving licenses will be made fully computerised. The Minister also launched **Sukhad Yatra mobile App** and **Toll-free Emergency number (1033)** for highway users.

#### **4th India-Europe 29 Business Forum Held in New Delhi**

i. **The fourth India-Europe 29 Business Forum (IE29BF)** took place in **New Delhi**.

ii. The theme of IE29BF 2018 was **‘Synergising Economic Vision for Expanded Relations’**. For IE29BF 2018, **Czech Republic was the ‘Focus Country’**. Eighteen other European countries participated in the Forum.

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

- The Forum was **created for the first time in 2014** by Ministry of External Affairs and **Federation of Indian Chambers and Commerce (FICCI)**.

- It aims to provide an institutionalized platform for promoting business exchanges between India and the twenty-nine countries of Central Europe region.

#### **‘Vision for Future’ Event to Marks 70 Years of Indo-Russia Ties Held in New Delhi**

i. An event named **‘Vision for Future’** was held in **New Delhi** to commemorate 70 years of the Indo-Russia ties. The event sought to expose the youth to the dynamic opportunities of cooperation between the two countries.

ii. The program inaugurated at the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra was organised by **the Ministry of External Affairs (Eurasia Division)** and the **International Federation of Indo-Russian Youth Clubs**.

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

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble, **President-** Vladimir Putin.

### **Itanagar Celebrates Silver Jubilee of Losar Festival**

i. The Buddhist Community of Itanagar celebrated the **silver jubilee of the Losar Festival in Arunachal Pradesh**. The three-day festival, organized by the Itanagar Buddhist Cultural Society (IBCS) was celebrated with a lot of enthusiasm and traditional zeal.

ii. For the Buddhist community, the festival is termed as the '**New Year**' according to their Buddhist calendar.

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

- **Arunachal Pradesh Capital-** Itanagar, **CM-** Pema Khandu, **Governor-** Brigadier BD Mishra.

### **Udyam Sakhi Portal Launched for Women Entrepreneurs**

i. On the occasion of **International Women's Day**, the **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME)** launched a portal for women entrepreneurs of India: [www.udyamsakhi.org](http://www.udyamsakhi.org).

ii. The portal was unveiled by the Minister of State (I/C) of MSME, Giriraj Singh, in a program in New Delhi. The portal is a network for nurturing entrepreneurship and creating business models for low-cost products and services in order to empower women and make them self-reliant and self-sufficient.

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

- International Women's Day is celebrated on 8th March.

### **Animal Welfare Board of India Headquarters Shifted to Haryana**

i. The headquarters of the **Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI)** has been **shifted from Chennai to Haryana's Ballabgarh** for "better coordination" between the environment ministry and the board.

ii. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of State for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, **Maresh Sharma**.

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

- S.P.Gupta is the Chairman of Animal Welfare Board of India.

### **Government Launches Biodegradable Sanitary Pads 'Suvidha'**

i. The government launched a **biodegradable sanitary pad 'Suvidha'** to mark **International Women's Day**. The oxo-biodegradable sanitary pads priced at Rs. 2.50 per pad will be available at **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi centres**.

ii. The biodegradable pad will ensure '**Swachhta, Swasthya and Suvidha**' for the underprivileged women.

### **Haryana's 1st Cyber Police Station Opened in Gurugram**

i. **Haryana's first cyber police station**, equipped with a digital forensic laboratory, **was inaugurated in Gurugram**. It will have a dedicated team of 35 specially trained cops, including two inspectors.

ii. **V. Umashankar, CEO of Gurugram Metropolitan Development Authority (GMDA)**, inaugurated the station. The police station will have modern equipment to deal with crimes in the cyber world.

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

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

### **Diu Becomes First UT to be 100% Powered by Solar Energy**



**i. Diu has become the first Union Territory in India to run 100 percent on solar power generated energy.** Diu has managed to generate surplus solar power for its residents, reducing their electricity costs, in a span of just three years.

**ii.** Diu, which is one of the least populated territories in India, **marking an area of 42 square kilometres**, has witnessed the installation of solar power plants in over more than 50 acres of its land.

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

- **Governor of Daman and Diu-** Praful Khoda Patel.

#### **Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018: Mumbai, 16th Most Expensive City**

**i. Mumbai ranks 16th among the top 20 costliest cities in the world**, according to the **Knight Frank Wealth Report 2018**. The rise in Indian financial capital's ranking on this count is supported by the rapid wealth creation in the country.

**ii.** The index is drawn from four major indicators: wealth, investments, lifestyle and future.

**iii. Top 3 Wealthiest Cities in the Report are-**

1. Guangzhou
2. Hong Kong
3. New York.

#### **French President Emmanuel Macron In India on 4-Day Visit**

**i. French President Emmanuel Macron** arrived in New Delhi on a four-day visit to India. The visit aims at strengthening the bilateral economic, political and strategic dimension of engagement between the two countries.

**ii.** During the visit, India and France will sign agreements in different fields tomorrow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Emmanuel Macron will co-chair the **Founding Conference of the International Solar Alliance**.

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

- France is the **9th largest foreign investor in India** with a cumulative investment of 6.09 billion dollars from April 2000 to October 2017.
- **France Capital-** Paris, **Currency-** Euro.

#### **PM Inaugurates National Legislators Conference on 'We For Development'**

**i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated **National Legislators Conference on the theme 'We For Development' in New Delhi**. The motive of the conference is to bring MPs and MLAs on a single platform where ideas and plans for development can be exchanged.

**ii.** The conference will hold discussions on how women help in the development work being done for the country where ideas on projects and plans can be debated. **NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant** will give a presentation on the first day and the plenary will be presided over by **Lok Sabha Deputy Speaker M Thambidurai**.

#### **India's Biggest M&E Services Market, enTTech 2018 Inaugurated**

**i. India's biggest Media & Entertainment Services Market - enTTech 2018** was inaugurated in Mumbai. The market, spread over two days saw fast matchmaking between 100 international delegates and their Indian counterparts.

**ii.** The event was organized by **Service Export Promotion Council (SEPC)** in association with MEAI (Media & Entertainment Association of India) and supported by the **Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India**.

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

- **Chairman of SEPC-** Vivek Nair, **Director General-** Sangeeta Godbole.
- Indian film industry is the world's largest industry in terms of the number of films produced.

#### **Telangana Launches India's 1st State-Led Incubator for Women**

**i. The government of Telangana launched Women Entrepreneurship Hub (WE-Hub), India's first state-led incubator for women entrepreneurs.**

**ii. The incubator will help women entrepreneurs establish their own enterprises by providing services including seed funding, mentoring, and business guidance. Deepthi Ravula is heading the incubator as its Chief Executive Officer.**

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Telangana CM- K Chandrashekhara Rao, Governor- ESL Narasimhan.**

**'Wings India 2018' Event Inaugurated in Hyderabad**

**i. Telangana IT and Industries Minister K T Rama Rao** inaugurated the biennial event on Civil Aviation and Aerospace titled '**Wings India 2018**' at the Begumpet Airport.

**ii. The four-day event was Jointly organised by the Civil Aviation Ministry, Airports Authority of India and the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.**

**World's Best Airport: Delhi and Mumbai Airports Tie at No. 1**

**i. Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) and Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport** have beaten 1,952 other airports from 176 countries to tie at number one for world's best airports, as per Airports Council International (ACI) ASQ 2017 rankings.

**ii. The Airport Service Quality Awards 2017 was announced by the Airports Council International (ACI), which conferred the ranking on the basis of a worldwide programme in which passengers were surveyed across airports for their feedback on 34 key performance indicators.**

**Karnataka to Become 2nd State in Country to Unveil its Own Flag**

**i. The Karnataka government unveiled the State flag (nada dhwaja ) for the state. If approved by the Centre, Karnataka will be the second State to have a flag after Jammu and Kashmir.**

**ii. The yellow-white-red flag has the State emblem at the centre. The proposal will be now sent to the Union Home Ministry for approval since a State has no powers to announce its own flag.**

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

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

**Paytm Money Receives Sebi Nod as Registered Investment Adviser**

**i. Financial services platform Paytm** has announced that its wholly-owned subsidiary, **Paytm Money**, has received approval of market regulator **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) to become a registered investment advisor.**

**ii. The nod from Sebi will allow the company to roll out investment and wealth management products to consumers across the country.**

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- Paytm is run by One97 Communications Ltd.
- Vijay Shekhar Sharma is the founder of One97 Communications.
- One97 Communications in all now have six companies under its umbrella including Paytm, Paytm Money, Paytm Mall and Paytm Payments Bank.

**Govt Makes Passport Mandatory For Bank Loans Of Rs. 50 Crore & Above**

**i. The government has made providing passport details mandatory for taking loans of 50 crore rupees and above to ensure a SWIFT action in case of fraud and prevent fraudsters from fleeing the country.**

**ii. According to Financial Services Secretary, all existing loans of over 50 crore rupees, banks have been asked to collect passport details of borrowers within 45 days.**

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**



- SWIFT stands for Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication.
- SWIFT provides a network that enables financial institutions worldwide to send and receive information about financial transactions in a secure, standardized and reliable environment.

### **PM Modi, French President Macron Jointly Inaugurate Solar Power Plant At Mirzapur In UP**

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting French President Emmanuel Macron jointly inaugurated 101-megawatt solar power plant at Dadar Kala village in Mirzapur district of Uttar Pradesh. The largest solar projects in the country has been set up by French company ENGIE.
- ii. The company was awarded the project in 2016 with the cost of Rs. 680 crore. Solar Energy Corporation of India has signed Power purchase agreement for 25 years with the company.

### **I- Metros' -An Association Of All Indian Metro Rail Companies Launched By Cabinet Secretary**

- i. The Union Housing Ministry has launched 'I-Metros', an association of all-India metro rail companies, which will act as a forum of exchange of ideas and innovations.
- ii. The association was launched by Cabinet Secretary P.K. Sinha at an event "Indian Metros: Collaborating for Excellence" in the presence of Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Managing Director Mangu Singh in New Delhi.

### **Rajasthan Passes Bill To Award Death Penalty For Those Who Rape Girls Under 12 Years Of Age**

- i. Rajasthan assembly has passed an amendment bill awarding death penalty for convicts involved in the rape of girls below 12 years of age. State Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria introduced 'The Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2018' in the assembly, which was passed in the House by a voice vote following a debate.
- ii. The new amendment added sections 376-AA and 376-DD to the Indian Penal Code, 1860. The amendment says that a person who is convicted of raping/gang-raping a girl up to twelve years of age will be given a death sentence or rigorous imprisonment, which shall not be less than fourteen years and 20 years, respectively.

### **Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill And Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill Introduced In Lok Sabha**

- i. The Fugitive Economic Offenders Bill 2018 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha. The Bill will help in laying down measures to deter economic offenders from evading the process of law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts. The cases where the total value involved in such offenses is Rs. 100 crore or more, will come under the purview of the Bill. Minister of State for Finance, Shiv Pratap Shukla introduced the Bill.
- ii. The Minister also introduced the Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill-2018. The amendment is aimed at facilitating the orderly growth of the chit funds sector and remove bottlenecks being faced by the industry and enabling greater financial access of people to other financial products.

### **Centre Forms Tribunal To Solve Mahanadi Water Dispute Between Odisha & Chhattisgarh**

- i. The Centre has constituted a three-member Mahanadi Water Disputes Tribunal to adjudicate the dispute between Odisha and Chhattisgarh over sharing the river's water. Supreme Court Judge AM Khanwilkar will be the Chairman of the tribunal, with Justice Ravi Ranjan of the Patna High Court and Justice Indermeet Kaur Kochhar of the Delhi High Court being the other two members.
- ii. The apex court had sought to refer the dispute to a Tribunal for adjudication under the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956.

### **Karnataka's Belgaum Is Now Home To India's Tallest Flag**

- i. India's tallest national flag was unfurled in Belagavi (also known as Belgaum) in Karnataka. The event was attended by leaders, schoolchildren, and leaders of Hindu, Muslim, Christian and Sikh

institutions at the Kote Kere front. Where size is concerned, this flag in Belgaum beats the one at the India-Pakistan border at Attari in Punjab.

ii. Belagavi District Minister Ramesh Jarkiholi unfurled the 9,600 sq ft wide flag on a 110-metre-tall flagpole.

### **SBI Reduces Charges On Non-Maintenance Of Minimum Balance**

i. The country's largest lender, SBI has slashed charges for non-maintenance of Average Monthly Balance (AMB) in savings accounts by nearly 75 percent. The revised charges will be effective from April 01, 2018 and will benefit over 25 crore customers.

ii. The charges for non-maintenance of AMB for customers in Metro and Urban centers have been reduced from a maximum of Rs 50 per month to Rs 15 per month. Similarly, for Semi-Urban and Rural centers, the charges have been reduced from Rs 40 every month to Rs 12 and Rs 10 GST charges will be applicable over and above the rates specified above.

### **Home Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurates Asia-Pacific Regional Conference Of IACP**

i. Home Minister Rajnath Singh has inaugurated the two-day Asia-Pacific Regional Conference of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) in New Delhi.

ii. The theme of the conference is "Challenges to Policing in 2020 - How is Cyber Space shaping our approach to Cybercrime and Terrorism, how do we perform within it and take advantage of it".

### **Pune Tops in Improved Quality Governance: Survey**

i. **Pune** came on top in the fifth edition of the **Annual Survey of India's City-Systems (ASICS)**, edging out Thiruvananthapuram which had topped the previous two editions of the survey. **Bengaluru was ranked at the bottom.**

ii. Thiruvananthapuram dropped two ranks to be placed third out of 23 cities spread across 20 states in the survey done by urban governance watchdog Janaagraha Centre for Citizenship and Democracy.

iii. **The top 3 cities in the list are-**

1. Pune,
2. Kolkata,
3. Thiruvananthapuram,

### **World Bank Projects India's GDP Growth at 7.3% for 2018-19**

i. The **World Bank** has projected India's **GDP growth at 7.3%** for 2018-19 and accelerates further to **7.5% in 2019-20**. The World Bank's biannual publication, **India Development Update - India's Growth Story**, expects the economy to clock a growth rate of **6.7%** in the current fiscal ending **March 31**.

ii. The report, however, observed that a growth of over **8% will require** continued reform and a widening of their scope, aimed at resolving issues related to credit and investment and enhancing the competitiveness of exports.

### **PM Inaugurates 105th Indian Science Congress in Imphal**

i. PM Modi inaugurated the **105th Indian Science Congress in Imphal, Manipur**. The theme for ISC 2018 is '**reaching the unreachable through science and technology**'.

ii. This event is being held in **Manipur for the first time** and for the second time in the North-East. Earlier it was held at Shillong in 2009.

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

- The 104th Indian Science Congress was held in Andhra Pradesh.
- The theme in 2017 was Science & Technology for National Development.

### **Andhra Pradesh Stands at 51st Position in Global Multidimensional Poverty Index**

- i. Andhra Pradesh** stands at **equivalent to 51st rank globally in Multidimensional Poverty Index (2017)** according to a recent household survey conducted in the state.
- ii. Andhra Pradesh becomes the first Indian state to conduct an exclusive household survey** at state and district level to estimate the multidimensional poverty of the state.
- iii. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu** launched the **Andhra Pradesh Multidimensional Poverty (MPI) Index Report 2017**. As per the report **Andhra Pradesh has an index value of 0.0825 whereas India as at 66th position with an index value of 0.1911.**

### **GST, 2nd Highest Tax Rate in World: World Bank Report**

- i. According to the World Bank Report, The goods and services tax (GST)** is one of the most SQWWcomplex with **the second highest tax rate** in the world among a sample of 115 countries which have a similar indirect tax system.
- ii. Further, there are several exempted sales and exports are zero-rated,** which allows exporters to claim the refund for taxes paid on inputs.

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

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

### **Lok Sabha Passes Gratuity Amendment Bill**

- i. Lok Sabha has passed gratuity amendment bill. The Payment of Gratuity (Amendment) Bill, 2017** aims at increasing the upper ceiling of the gratuity **from the present 10 lakh rupees to 20 lakh rupees** for employees in the private sector and in Public Sector Undertakings at par with Central Government employees.
- ii. The House also passed the Specific Relief (Amendment) Bill, 2017** which seeks to grant a party the right to seek damages from the other side in case of a breach of a business contract and to reduce the discretion of courts in such matters.

### **Lok Sabha Passes Amendment to Stonewall Scrutiny of Foreign Poll Funding**

- i. The Lok Sabha has passed** (without a debate) a **bill that will exempt political parties from the scrutiny of funds** they have received from abroad since 1976.
- ii. One of them was an amendment to the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010** that bans overseas corporations from funding political parties. This is only the third time since 2000 that Parliament has approved the budget without debate.

### **President Released Coins Commemorating Nabakalebara Festival**

- i. President Ram Nath Kovind** released **coins in denominations of Rs 10 and Rs 1,000 commemorating Lord Jagannath's Nabakalebara festival** observed in July 2015. He unveiled the coins at the centenary celebration of Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in **Puri, Odisha**.
- ii. The coins had been slated for release during the mega festival,** celebrated once every 12 to 19 years.

### **PM Modi Lays Foundation Stone Of Navi Mumbai Airport**

- i. Prime Minister Narendra Modi** laid the **foundation stone of the Navi Mumbai International Airport** site in Panvel, nearly 21 years after it was mooted.
- ii. The first phase the Rs 16,700-crore project** is expected to be completed by 2019. This is the country's largest greenfield airport. Navi Mumbai airport will have capacity of handling 60 million passengers.

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

- Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport is situated in Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### **BHEL Commissions 1st Unit of Kishanganga Hydro Project in Jammu & Kashmir**

**i. State-run power equipment maker BHEL** has commissioned 1st unit of 110 MW of the **Kishanganga hydroelectric project (HEP)** of NHPC in Jammu and Kashmir.

**ii. Located on the river Kishanganga**, a tributary of the Jhelum in Bandipora district, all the three units of the 340 MW project will generate 1,350 million units (MU) of clean electricity annually.

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

- Atul Sobti is the CMD of BHEL.
- BHEL Stands for Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd.

### **NCAA Becomes World's 1st Trusted Digital Repository**

**i. National Cultural Audiovisual Archives (NCAA)** project of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, implemented by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) **has been certified as the world's first Trusted Digital Repository** as per ISO standard, granted by **Primary Trustworthy Digital Repository Authorisation Body Ltd. (PTAB), United Kingdom.**

**ii.** The primary objective of the NCAA is to identify and preserve the cultural heritage of India available in audiovisual form through a process of digitization and making it accessible to the people.

### **Government Approves Plastic Park to be Set Up in Deoghar, Jharkhand**

**i. Union Minister for Chemicals & Fertilizers and Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Ananthkumar** announced that the Government of India has approved the setting up of a **Plastic Park in Deoghar District, Jharkhand.**

**ii. The project would be set up at a cost of Rs. 120 crores** in an area of **150 acres.** Mr. Ananthkumar also announced the setting up of Rs. 3.5 crore Plastic Recycling unit at Deoghar to tackle the menace of plastic waste being generated due to the place being a tourist attraction.

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

- **Jharkhand CM- Raghubar Das, Governor- Droupadi Murmu.**

### **IRCTC Ties Up With Ola**

**i. With an aim to providing first-and-last-mile connectivity, railway PSU IRCTC** announced a **partnership with cab aggregator Ola**, giving commuters an option book taxi on its app.

**ii.** The tie-up, a six-month pilot project, will give customers access to Ola booking services when they visit the IRCTC Rail Connect App and on its website.

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

- Headquarter of Ola is in Bangalore, Karnataka.
- CEO of Ola is Bhavish Aggarwal.

### **Indian Army Releases Book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees**

**i. General Bipin Rawat, Chief of the Army Staff** released a book on Paramveer Chakra Awardees - 'Paramveer Parwane'.

**ii.** The book illustrates the bravery of Paramveer Chakra Awardees from 1947 to 1965. The book is **written by Dr Prabhakiran Jain** and is published by Medha Books.

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

- Somnath Sharma (from 4 Kumaon Unit) was the first recipient of Paramveer Chakra.

### **106th Indian Science Congress to be Held in Bhopal**

**i. General President-elect of Indian Science Congress Manoj Kumar Chakrabarti** announced that the **106th edition of the Indian Science Congress** will be held in January 2019 at **Barkatullah University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

ii. The theme for 2019 ISC will be “**Future India: Science & Technology**”.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- PM Modi inaugurated the **105th Indian Science Congress in Imphal, Manipur**.
- The theme for ISC 2018 was '**Reaching the unreached through science and technology**'.

**German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier on 5-Day Visit to India**

i. **German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier** will arrive in New Delhi on a five-day visit to India. This will be his first visit to India as the President of Germany. He will visit Varanasi.

ii. The German President is also scheduled to attend a **business event in New Delhi** and visit to Chennai. Germany is India's largest trading partner in Europe and the 6th largest trading partner in the world.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Germany Capital-** Berlin, **Currency-** Euro, **Chancellor-** Angela Merkel.

**Union Cabinet Approves 'Ayushman Bharat' Health Scheme**

i. **The Union Cabinet** has approved the launch of '**Ayushman Bharat**' -**National Health Protection mission**. The Scheme has the **benefit cover of 5 lakh rupees per family per year**.

ii. The target beneficiaries under the scheme will be over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families. The scheme will subsume the ongoing centrally sponsored schemes- **Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY)** and **senior citizen health insurance scheme (SCHIS)**.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- JP Nadda is the present Health and Family Welfare Minister of India.

**Kerala Declares Jackfruit as Official Fruit of State**

i. **Jackfruit** has attained a respected status with the state government declaring it as the **official fruit of Kerala**. Kerala has been producing around **30 to 60 crore jackfruits every year**.

ii. As per the officials, the state can generate a revenue of around **Rs 30,000 crore** through value-added jackfruit products.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- **Kerala CM-** Pinarayi Vijayan, **Governor-** Palaniswamy Sathasivam.

**Punjab Government to Impose Permanent Ban on Hookah Bars**

i. **The Punjab government** decided to impose a **permanent ban on hookah bars in the state** instead of issuing temporary orders against them every two months.

ii. The state cabinet, at a meeting chaired by Chief Minister Amarinder Singh, approved an amendment to the **Cigarette and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003** for the prevention and control of diseases caused by the use of tobacco products.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**

- VP Singh Badnor is the present Governor of Punjab.

**In A First, Indian Oil Corporation Starts Home Delivery Of Diesel**

i. **State-owned Indian Oil Corporation (IOC)** has launched **home-delivery of diesel** on a pilot basis in **Pune** and plans to expand doorstep delivery of the fuel to other parts of the country in near future.

ii. **The country's biggest oil company** has mounted a diesel dispenser, similar to the one seen at petrol pumps, on a mid-sized truck along with a storage tank for delivering the fuel at customers doorsteps in Pune. **This is the first company** to have started doorstep delivery after receiving clearance from the **Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation (PESO)**.

**Important Takeaways from Above News-**



- **Sanjiv Singh** is the Chairman of **Indian Oil Corporation**.

### **Chandigarh Becomes North India's 1st City to Install Digital Automatic Speed Gun Cameras**

- Chandigarh** has become the **1st city** in North India to install **Automatic Speed Gun Cameras** with digital displays for traffic management.
- The high-tech speed cameras are equipped with night vision technology and will record the speed of oncoming traffic, helping Chandigarh Police to issue challans to anyone driving above the city speed limits. Chandigarh also happens to be among a few cities to accept driving on high-beam inside the city limits as a punishable offence.

### **World's Longest Sandstone Cave Discovered in Meghalaya**

- The **North-eastern state Meghalaya** of India, is home to the **longest sandstone cave in the world at 24,583m**, with dinosaur fossils from 66-76 million years ago.
- The sandstone cave named **Krem Puri** was first discovered in 2016, but during the recent 25-day expedition by the **Meghalaya Adventurers' Association (MAA)**, the actual length of the cave was uncovered. It is 6,000m longer than the current listed sandstone cave in the world, Cueva El Samán, (18,200m) in Venezuela.

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

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

### **1st Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 Words Launched**

- The **First Indian Sign Language Dictionary of 3000 words** was launched by **Thaawarchand Gehlot**, Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment at a function.
- The dictionary has been developed by **Indian Sign Language Research & Training Centre (ISLR&TC)** under Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD). The basic aim of developing the ISL Dictionary is to remove communications barriers between the deaf and hearing communities as it is focused on providing more information in Indian sign language.

### **Kerala CM Launches M-Kerala App**

- Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan** launched **M-Kerala**, a unified app for all government services at **#FUTURE 2018**. It is a first-of-its-kind digital tech summit in the state.
- Kerala also becomes the **state with the largest public Wi-Fi deployment** in the country. The internet penetration in the state is at 52%. **#FUTURE** is Kerala's first-ever Global Digital Summit and was inaugurated by P Vijayan in Kochi.

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

- **Palaniswamy Sathasivam** is the present Governor of Kerala.

### **Reliance Signs Deal to Merge JioMusic With 'Saavn'**

- Mukesh Ambani-helmed Reliance Industries Ltd** announced an integration with leading music app **Saavn** for its digital music service **JioMusic**.
- Reliance has executed definitive agreements for the combination of **Saavn** with **JioMusic**. The combined entity is valued at over \$1 billion, with **JioMusic's** implied valuation at \$670 million.

### **1st International Exhibition of Graphic Prints 'Print Biennale India 2018' Inaugurated**

- The country's National Academy of Art, the **Lalit Kala Akademi** hosted the **first-ever International Print Biennale in the country** with a record number of 17 countries taking part in it.
- The first-ever International Exhibition of Graphic Prints '**Print Biennale India 2018**' opened, at the **Rabindra Bhavan Galleries of the Lalit Kala Akademi in New Delhi**. The eminent Artist-Printmaker, **Shakti Barman** was the **Chief Guest**.



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

- Dr Mahesh Sharma is the Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Culture.

### **World's Oldest City Varanasi Goes 'Wireless'**

- i. Eighty-six years after the city got electricity, overhead power cables in **world's oldest city 'Varanasi'** is being dismantled after a project to lay underground lines over **16 sq-km** has been finally completed.
- ii. Laying cables for 50,000 consumers through the serpentine lanes and congested markets in one of the world's oldest cities was quite a challenge for Powergrid, the company conducting the **integrated power development scheme (IPDS) project**.

### **India Becomes 3rd Largest Electricity Producer in the World**

- i. **India has become the 3rd largest electricity producer in the world as its electricity production grew 34%** over seven years to 2017. The country now produces **more energy than Japan and Russia**, which had 27% and 8.77% more electricity generation capacity installed, respectively.
- ii. Electricity production stood at 1,003.525 Billion Unit between April 2017-January 2018, according to a February 2018 report by **India Brand Equity Foundation (IBEF)**, a trust established by the commerce ministry.
- iii. **The top 3 Producers of Electricity in the world are-**
  1. China
  2. USA
  3. India.

### **India Becomes 4th Largest Auto Market in the World**

- i. **India has overtaken Germany** to become the **fourth largest automobile market in the world**, According to the latest global data. Automobile sales, including passenger and commercial vehicles, in Asia's third-largest economy, **grew 9.5%**.
- ii. It is the fastest among major global markets, last year to more than 4 million units, outpacing Germany's 3.8-million vehicle sales, which rose by a modest 2.8% in the same period.
- iii. **The top 5 countries on the list are-**
  1. China
  2. USA
  3. Japan.

### **West Bengal Tops List of States with Most Number of Beggars**

- i. **The government of India** has come out with the total number of beggars in the country. As per the data, **based on 2011 census** released by Union ministry of Social Justice, there are around 4 lakh beggars in total. **The highest number of beggars, 81,000, are in West Bengal.**
- ii. **Lakshadweep**, a union territory, has **only two people (Least)** begging for their livelihood. West Bengal is followed by **Uttar Pradesh and Bihar** at number two and three respectively.

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

- Thawar Chand Gehlot is the Social Justice Minister of India.

### **Surat Becomes 1st District to Have 100% Solar Powered Health Centres**

- i. **Gujarat's Surat district** has become the **first district in the country to have 100 percent solar powered Primary Health Centers (PHC)**.
- ii. There are a total of 52 PHCs in the district and all of them are now powered by the solar system. This initiative will not only bring down the electricity bill by 40 percent but also help fight global warming.

### **Anushka Sharma & PV Sindhu Debut in Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 List**

**i. Bollywood actress-producer Anushka Sharma and Badminton Ace P V Sindhu** had featured in the **Forbes 30 Under 30 Asia 2018 list**. The list includes innovators and disruptors who are reshaping their industries and changing Asia for the better.

**ii.** Anushka, one of Indian film industry's highest paid actresses, is all of 29. Pakistani singer Momina Mustehsan too found a mention.

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

- **Forbes-** American Business Magazine, **Founded in-** 1917.
- **Headquarters-** New York City, USA.

### **India's 1st Insect Museum Opened In Tamil Nadu**

**i.** A Rs 5 crore insect museum with the state-of-the-art amenities was unveiled by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswamy at the Tamil Nadu Agricultural University. The museum, established at a 6,691 sqft area, is fully dedicated to insects and is first of its kind in the country.

**ii.** It would display insects preserved as specimens as also live ones depicting their different developmental stages, images, videos and models of their unique behavior, habits, and habitats.

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

- Tamil Nadu CM- Edappadi K Palaniswami, Governor- Banwarilal Purohit.

### **Ministry Of Power Joins Hands With Skill India To Support 'Saubhagya' Scheme**

**i.** Ministry of Power partnered with the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship to train the manpower in six states (Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Uttar Pradesh) for speedy implementation of its SAUBHAGYA scheme.

**ii.** SAUBHAGYA (Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojna) aims to achieve universal household electrification in all parts of the country in a time-bound manner. Around 4 crore households are expected to get electricity connections under the scheme. A special project under the PMKVY has also been launched in these Six States.

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

- Union Minister for Petroleum & Natural Gas and Minister for Skill Development & Entrepreneurship- Dharmendra Pradhan.
- Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New and Renewable Energy- R.K. Singh.

### **Department Of Posts Launches Cool EMS Service Between India And Japan**

**i.** Ministry of Communications has launched the Cool EMS Service between India and Japan. Cool EMS service is one-way service from Japan to India which allows customers in India to import Japanese food items for personal use which is allowed under Indian regulations.

**ii.** Initially, Cool EMS Service will be available in Delhi only. Food items will be carried by Japan Post in special cool boxes containing refrigerant to preserve the quality of the food items. All other features like track and trace, etc of Express Mail Service (EMS) will be available for Cool EMS service as well.

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

- Japan Capital- Tokyo, Currency- Japanese Yen, Prime Minister- Shinzo Abe.

### **India Successfully Launches GSAT-6A Communication Satellite**

**i.** ISRO successfully launched the GSLV-F08 carrying the GSAT6A communication satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. Today's launch adds another

feather in ISRO's cap as it is mastering the technique of making home-made communication satellites. The GSAT-6A satellite will be put into orbit around 17 minutes after the rocket's liftoff.

ii. GSLV Mk II (F08) carrying GSAT-6A took off from the second launch pad in Sriharikota. Today's launch marked its 12th flight of Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle GSLV-F08 and sixth flight with the indigenous Cryogenic upper stage.

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

- Dr. K Sivan is Chairman of ISRO.
- ISRO stands for Indian Space Research Organization.
- Headquarters of ISRO- Bengaluru.

#### **Harsimrat Kaur Badal Inaugurates Rajasthan's First Mega Food Park In Ajmer**

i. In Rajasthan, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal has inaugurated the first mega food park of the state at Roopangarh village near Ajmer. The Food Park is set up at an investment of Rs 113.57 crore and will benefit around 25 thousand farmers in Ajmer and neighboring districts. Center has given the 50 crore rupees subsidy for this project.

ii. The mega food park would attract an additional investment of about Rs. 250 crore in about 30 food processing units in the park and to a turnover of about 500 crore rupees per annum.

#### **Madhya Pradesh Has The Highest Number Of Tribal Habitations In The Country**

i. Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of 55770 fully covered tribal habitations with the safe drinking water in the country followed by Odisha and Jharkhand.

ii. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has informed that under the Scheme 'National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), 10% of the total allocation of funds is earmarked to be used for the supply of drinking water to Scheduled Tribe (ST) dominated habitations.

#### **Asia's Largest Tulip Garden in Srinagar Opens for Visitors**

i. **Indira Gandhi Memorial Tulip Garden** was opened for visitors in **Srinagar, Jammu & Kashmir. It is recognized as Asia's largest tulip garden.**

ii. This year, 12.5 lakh tulip bulbs of 48 varieties were sown in the garden by the floriculture department. Apart from the tulips, **40,000 hyacinth bulbs** have also been planted.

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

- **Jammu & Kashmir CM-** Mehbooba Mufti Sayeed, **Governor-** N. N. Vohra.

## International

### India, Bangladesh, Russia Sign Pact for Rooppur Atomic Plant

- i. **Indian companies can now participate** in construction and installation works in the “non-critical” category for the **Rooppur nuclear power plant in Bangladesh**, according to the Russian atomic energy agency Rosatom.
- ii. The Rooppur project is the **first initiative under an Indo-Russian deal** to undertake atomic energy projects in third countries. This will also be the first time Indian companies will be able to participate in a nuclear power project abroad. India, Bangladesh and Russia signed an agreement in this regard in Moscow, Russia.

### Indian Military Ranked 4th Strongest in World, USA Tops

- i. Out of 133 countries, **India is ranked fourth on a global index for its military strength**, only the **United States, Russia and China are ranked above India** on the list, according to the latest report of the **Global Firepower index 2017**.
- ii. Neighbouring **Pakistan is ranked 13th**. India maintained its position above France in the top five military powers in the world.

### Marshall Islands 1st Country to Launch Own Cryptocurrency as Legal Tender

- i. **The Marshall Islands** is creating its own digital currency in a bid to raise money. In doing so it becomes the **first country in the world to recognize a cryptocurrency as legal tender**.
- ii. The small Pacific Island nation passed the Sovereign Currency Act to create the ‘sovereign’, or SOV. The cryptocurrency will have equal status with the US dollar and, unlike many cryptocurrencies, users will have to reveal their identity in order to use SOV.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Capital of Marshall Island-** Majuro, **Currency-** United States Dollar.

### Iraq Becomes India’s Biggest Oil Supplier

- i. **Iraq has become India’s biggest crude oil supplier by overtaking Saudi Arabia** with a wide margin in this current financial year.
- ii. Iraq supplied 38.9 million tonnes (MT) of oil, which was more than 20% of country’s oil needs. India is 80% dependent on imports to meet its oil needs.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Iraq Capital-** Baghdad, **Currency-** Iraqi dinar

### Washington Becomes 1st State to Approve Net-Neutrality Rules

- i. **Washington has become the first state to enact its own net-neutrality requirements** after U.S. regulators repealed Obama-era rules designed to keep the internet an even playing field.

ii. The new law also requires internet providers to disclose information about their management practices, performance and commercial terms. Violations would be enforceable under the state's Consumer Protection Act.

### **European Development Bank Approves India's Membership**

i. India is all set to become the 69th member of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) after shareholders of the international financial institution gave their nod to the country's candidature.

ii. The formal membership process will now get underway, which includes the purchase of shares by India at an estimated cost of around 1 million euros. The EBRD's Board of Governors voted in favour of India's membership application.

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

- **Suma Chakrabarti** is the President of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.
- **EBRD headquarters in-** London, UK, **Established in-** 1991.

### **Forbes Billionaires List 2018: Amazon's Bezos Richest, Mukesh Ambani Ranked 19**

i. With a fortune worth **\$110 billion**, Amazon founder **Jeff Bezos** is the world's richest man and tops a 2018 Forbes Magazine list of billionaires. According to the Forbes, **Bezos is the first person to top \$100 billion** as number one on the Forbes list of the World's Billionaires.

ii. Microsoft founder **Bill Gates** is second (**\$90 billion**), investment guru **Warren Buffet** third (**\$84 billion**), **Bernard Arnault and family** fourth (**\$72 billion**), and Facebook founder-CEO **Mark Zuckerberg** fifth (**\$71 billion**).

iii. Indian industry titan **Mukesh Ambani**, the chairman of **Reliance Industries Limited**, is **19th** on the list. He's valued at **\$40.1 billion**.

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

- **Forbes-** American Business Magazine, **Founded in-** 1917.
- **Headquarters-** New York City, USA.

### **Microsoft Inks Renewable Energy Deal for Bengaluru Facility**

i. Tech giant Microsoft has inked its **first renewable energy deal in India** for powering its new facility in Bengaluru. The facility, which will be operational starting June, is spread over 5.85 lakh square feet.

ii. The agreement will see Microsoft purchase 3 megawatts of solar-powered electricity **from Atria Power** for its new office building in Bengaluru, meeting 80% of the projected electricity needs at the facility.

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

- Microsoft Corporation is an America Based technology company.
- **CEO-** Satya Nadella, **Headquarters-** Washington DC.

### **World ATM Congress 2018 Held in Spain**

i. The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** is participating in **World ATM Congress (WATMC) 2018** being held in **Spain**.

ii. Now entering its sixth year, World ATM Congress is the **world's largest international air traffic management (ATM) exhibition** and conference attracting thousands of delegates each year.

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

- **Spain Capital-** Madrid, **Currency-** Euro.

### **President Xi Jinping Becomes China's Leader For Life As Parliament Abolishes Presidential Term-Limit**

- i. China's Parliament has abolished the decades-old two-term limit for the President, allowing Xi Jinping to remain as the country's leader for life. The constitutional changes were passed in Beijing by the annual sitting of the National People's Congress - the country's legislature - with the two-thirds majority. Of the 2,964 delegates, only two voted against the change, while three abstained.
- ii. Earlier, the seven-member Standing Committee - the topmost body of the ruling Communist Party of China - had unanimously approved the amendment. 64-year old Xi Jinping is currently in his second five-year term and due to retire in 2023 under the current two-term system.

### **India Announces USD 100 MI LoC For Mauritius**

- i. India has announced a new Line of Credit of USD 100 million for defense procurement by Mauritius as the two sides signed many agreements on the second day of President Ram Nath Kovind's visit.
- ii. The agreements were signed after President Kovind held delegation-level talks with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth and members of his Cabinet.

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

- President of Mauritius- Ameenah Gurib-Fakim
- The capital city of Mauritian- Port Louis

### **Maldives Parliament Approved Anti-Defection Bill**

- i. The Maldives Parliament has approved the anti-defection bill with retrospective effect amidst the boycott by opposition MPs. According to the bill, MPs elected on political party tickets will lose their seat if they leave their party, get expelled, or switch parties.
- ii. The bill would take effect from 13th July 2017, meaning that the 12 MPs that switched to the Opposition last year would lose their seats. The bill was passed with 35 votes as opposition MPs continued to boycott the settings.

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

- Abdulla Yameen is President of Maldives.

### **Amazon Launches First Debit Card In Mexico E-Commerce Push**

- i. Amazon.com Inc launched its first-ever debit card in Mexico, part of a push to encourage shoppers without bank accounts to buy online.
- ii. Part of the challenge is attracting consumers who are wary of online fraud and do not have access to credit and debit cards. Less than a third of adults in Mexico have credit cards, according to a 2017 government report.

### **World Happiness Report 2018: India Ranks 133rd, Finland Tops**

- i. **The World Happiness Report** is a landmark survey of the state of global happiness. The World Happiness Report 2018, **ranks 156 countries by their happiness levels**, and 117 countries by the happiness of their immigrants.
- ii. **Burundi** in East Africa is the **unhappiest place in the world**. The study reveals the US has slipped to 18th place, five places down on 2016. **India ranks 133rd in the report** after Pakistan (75th), China (86th) and Nepal (101st).

### **Top 3 countries in the list are-**

1. Finland,
2. Norway,
3. Denmark,

### **President of India Inaugurates World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius**



**i. President Ram Nath Kovind** inaugurated **World Hindi Secretariat in Mauritius capital, Port Louis**. The Secretariat is **fully financed by India** and a grant of 33 crore rupees was provided. The land was provided by the Mauritius government.

**ii.** Prime Minister Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of this building in 2015.

### **WHO Member-Countries Commit to End TB by 2030**

**i. Member-countries of the World Health Organisation (WHO) South-East Asia Region**, including India, committed to intensifying efforts to eradicate tuberculosis by 2030.

**ii.** The summit sets the stage for the September 2018 United Nations high-level meeting on TB, wherein the issue will be discussed at the Heads of State level.

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

- The Health Ministry and the WHO signed an agreement for enhanced cooperation in the health sector.
- Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was awarded the **International Kochon Prize 2017** for contribution to the National Programme in Tuberculosis research.

### **Oklahoma to Become 1st US State to Use Nitrogen Gas for Executions**

**i. Oklahoma** plans to start using nitrogen gas for executions, in what would be the **first such method of capital punishment in the United States**.

**ii.** The state is turning to nitrogen after it and other states became unable to acquire drugs required for lethal injections because of opposition from manufacturers to their products being used for capital punishment.

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

- Donald Trump is the 45th President of the USA.
- Washington, D.C. is the capital city of the USA.

### **WEF Energy Transition Index 2018: India Ranks 78th, Sweden Tops**

**i. India has been ranked at 78th** among 114 countries on the **World Economic Forum's (WEF) energy transition index. The list was topped by Sweden.**

**ii. The report titled 'Fostering Effective Energy Transition'** ranks countries on how well they are able to balance energy security and access to environmental sustainability and affordability.

### **iii. The Top 3 Countries in the List are-**

1. Sweden,
2. Norway
3. Switzerland

### **Worldwide Cost of Living Report 2018- Singapore Most Expensive, Damascus Least**

**i. Singapore remains the most expensive city in the world**, according to **The Economist Intelligence Unit's Worldwide Cost of Living report 2018**.

**ii.** The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) published the Worldwide Cost of Living index 2018 for 133 cities across the world. **The Top 3 Expensive cities on the list are-**

1. Singapore.
2. Paris, France.
3. Zurich, Switzerland.

**iii. Damascus**, the capital of war-ravaged Syria, is the **cheapest city for living in the world**, followed by Venezuela's capital Caracas.

### **UN issues \$951 million appeal for Rohingya refugees**

**i.** The United Nations has issued an appeal for **951 million Dollars** to meet the needs of **nearly 900,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh**.

ii. Over the months since the most recent **Rohingya influx began**, it has become the **world's fastest-growing refugee crisis** with tens of thousands fleeing by land and sea daily from Myanmar's northern Rakhine state at the peak of the emergency.

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

- UN High Commissioner for Refugees is **Filippo Grandi**.
- The United Nations is an international organization founded in **24th of October 1945**.
- It is currently made up of **193 Member States**.
- The Headquarters of UN: **New York, USA**.

#### **USA Bans Use of Venezuelan Cryptocurrency- Petro**

i. The **Donald Trump administration** banned all use by Americans of **Venezuelan cryptocurrency (Petro)**, saying that its introduction is intended to skirt U.S. sanctions.

ii. The prohibition applies to all people and companies subject to U.S. jurisdiction. In February 2018, cash-strapped **Venezuela became the first country** to launch its own version of bitcoin, **the petro**.

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

- **Venezuela Capital- Caracas, Currency- Venezuelan bolívar, Venezuelan President- Nicolas Maduro**.
- The petro is backed by Venezuela's crude oil reserves which is the largest in the world.

#### **1st G20 Ministerial Meeting Held in Argentina**

i. The **first G20 meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors** began in Buenos Aires, Argentina with the presence of 57 delegations from countries and institutions.

ii. The summit, held at the capital's **Center of Exhibitions and Conventions (CEC)**, gathered 22 finance ministers, 17 central bank governors and 10 heads of international organisations, including **IMF Director-General Christine Lagarde**.

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

- The second meeting of G20 finance ministers and central bank governors will be held in **Washington, the USA**.
- **Argentina Capital- Buenos Aires, Currency- Argentine peso**.

#### **World's Most Liveable City Report- Vienna Tops, Baghdad Worst**

i. **Austria's capital city Vienna** has been rated the **world's most liveable city for the ninth consecutive year** by Mercer in its annual **Quality of Living survey**.

ii. It was followed by **Switzerland's Zurich**, while **New Zealand's Auckland** and **Germany's Munich** tied for third place.

iii. **Hyderabad and Pune** have been rated **India's most liveable cities** as they have tied for the **142nd place** in Mercer's global Quality of Living survey. **Iraq's capital city Baghdad** has been rated the **least liveable city** for the tenth consecutive year.

#### **GIC Re to Operate from Lloyd's in London**

i. **General Insurance Corporation** is going to start operations at the **Lloyd's London office** in April 2018 thereby increasing its share of international business.

ii. This will help GIC Re increase its share of international reinsurance business. The company had received approval to set up a syndicate at Lloyd's of London in December 2017. **GIC Syndicate 1947** will be the first Lloyd's syndicate to be backed solely by capital from an Indian reinsurance group.

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

- It was **incorporated in November 1972** under the Companies Act, 1956 as a private company limited by shares.
- **Alice G Vaidyan** is the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of GIC.
- Its headquarters in **Mumbai, Maharashtra**.

### **Singapore Airport Rated World's Best, Mumbai Ranked 63rd**

i. The Singapore Changi Airport has been named the world's best airport for the sixth consecutive year by consultancy firm Skytrax. The Incheon International Airport in South Korea and Haneda Airport in Japan were placed second and third respectively.

ii. While the Mumbai airport (Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport Mumbai) has been ranked 63rd, the airports in Bangalore (Kempegowda International Airport) and Delhi (Indira Gandhi International Airport) are at 64th and 66th place respectively.

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

- Singapore Currency- Singapore dollar, President- Halimah Yacob.

### **World's Largest Cruise Ship 'Symphony of the Seas' Sets Sail**

i. The world's biggest cruise-liner, **Symphony of the Seas**, has left the shipyard of **Saint-Nazaire in France** to embark on its maiden voyage in the Mediterranean. French shipbuilder STX handed over to U.S. giant Royal Caribbean International.

ii. The ship, which weighs **228,000 tonnes**, is **362 metres long** just 20 metres shy of the length of the Empire State Building. It is marginally bigger than its sister ship, the Harmony of the Seas, which STX France delivered to Royal Caribbean in 2016.

### **ISA and India Sign Host Country Agreement**

i. The **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** and the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**, signed the **Host Country Agreement**.

ii. The Agreement will give **ISA a juridical personality** and gives it power to contract, to acquire and dispose off movable and immovable properties, to institute and defend legal proceedings.

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

- The International Solar Alliance is an initiative jointly launched by the PM Modi and President of France on 30th November 2015 in Paris, France.
- The ISA became the first international intergovernmental treaty-based organization to be **headquartered in India**.
- NITI Aayog Vice-Chairman- Rajiv Kumar, CEO- Amitabh Kant.

### **Google Acquires GIF Search Platform Tenor**

i. Technology giant Google has acquired US-based Tenor, a GIF platform for Android, iOS, and desktop.

ii. Tenor's GIF-searching functionality will be integrated into Google Images and Gboard, the company's virtual keyboard. However, Tenor will continue to operate as a separate brand and Google will invest in their technology.

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

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

### **NASA To Send First Mission To Study 'Heart' Of Mars**

i. NASA is all set to send the first-ever mission dedicated to exploring the deep interior of Mars. Scheduled to launch on 5 May, InSight—a stationary lander—will also be the first Nasa mission since the Apollo moon landings to place a seismometer, a device that measures quakes, on the soil of another planet.

ii. InSight or the Interior Exploration using Seismic Investigations, Geodesy and Heat Transport mission, carries a suite of sensitive instruments to gather data.

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

- NASA stands for National Aeronautics and Space Administration.
- NASA is an independent agency of the executive branch of the United States.

## Defence

### **1st Ever Multi-Nation Naval Exercise At Sea Begins In Andamani.**

The first-ever multi-nation naval exercise at sea, MILES-18, began at the Andaman sea. 11 naval ships of 8 countries and nine Indian ships are participating in the three-day exercise.

ii. Apart from enhancing inter-operability, the exercise aims to hone search and rescue procedures, maritime interdiction operations, core operational skills and exercise a variety of maritime security scenarios.

### **Indian Navy to Host Bilateral Exercise 'Varuna' with French Navy**

i. **The Indian Navy and the French Navy** have conducted bilateral maritime exercises since May 1993. Since 2001, the exercises have been named **VARUNA** and there have been fifteen editions of the same till date. **The last edition of VARUNA was conducted off the French Coast in April 2017.**

ii. This year too VARUNA-18 would be conducted in three sea areas, namely, the Arabian Sea, the Bay of Bengal and South Western Indian Ocean.

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

- **Sunil Lanba** the 23rd Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy.
- France Capital-** Paris, **Currency-** Euro, **President-** Emmanuel Macron.

### **Navy Warship INS Ganga Decommissioned in Mumbai**

i. **INS Ganga**, an indigenously built frigate of the Indian Navy, **was decommissioned in Mumbai** after over three decades of service. Commissioned in December 1985, the ship represented a big step forward in the nation's warship building capability.

ii. The special guest of honour for the ceremony was Vice Admiral (Retd) **K K Kohli, the first Commanding Officer of INS Ganga.**

### **Navy Chief Sunil Lanba to be on a 5-Day Visit to USA**

i. **Navy Chief Admiral Sunil Lanba** is on a five-day visit to the USA. The visit aims to consolidate relations between the Armed Forces of both the nations and to explore new avenues of defence co-operation.

ii. During the visit, Admiral Lanba will hold bilateral discussions with **US Defence Secretary James Mattis, Secretary of the Navy Richard Spencer** among others.

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

- **Sunil Lanba** the 23rd Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy.

## Appointments or Resign/Retired

### Conrad Sangma to be Next Meghalaya CM

i. National People's Party (NPP) President **Conrad Sangma** will be the new chief minister of Meghalaya. There would be no deputy chief minister for the state.

ii. He will replace **Mukul Sangma**.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Conrad Sangma** is currently Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from **Tura Parliamentary constituency**.
- **Meghalaya Capital-** Shillong, **Governor-** Ganga Prasad.

### Biplab Deb to be Tripura's New Chief Minister

i. The Bharatiya Janata Party has named the party' State president **Biplab Kumar Deb** as the chief ministerial candidate for Tripura. He will replace **Manik Sarkar**. Jishnu Devvarma has been named for Deputy Chief Minister.

ii. The decision was announced after the meeting of BJP Legislature Party in Agartala. The swearing-in ceremony is likely to be held on March 8.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Tripura Capital-** Agartala, **Governor-** Tathagata Roy.

### Neiphiu Rio Appointed Nagaland CM

i. Nagaland Governor **PB Acharya** has appointed **Neiphiu Rio** as the new Chief Minister of the state. Mr Rio will replace **TR Zeliang**.

ii. Mr Rio will take the oath of his duties shortly. The Governor has also requested Mr Rio to prove his majority on the floor of the House on or before 16th of March.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- **Neiphiu Rio** is currently Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha from **Northern Angami-II Parliamentary constituency**.
- **Nagaland Capital-** Kohima, **Governor-** PB Acharya.

### Vivek R Wadekar Appointed New Special Director in ED

i. IRS officer **Vivek R Wadekar** was appointed as the new **Special Director in the Enforcement Directorate (ED)** by the government.

ii. He has been appointed for the tenure of five years. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi issued an order appointing the officer of the Income Tax Department to the new post.

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

- Karnal Singh is the present Director of Enforcement Directorate (ED).

### **Prakriti to be 1st ITBP Woman Combat Officer**

- In another first for women, 25-year-old Prakriti has been inducted as the first direct-entry combat officer in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police.**
- The ITBP is the last of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to induct women officers in combat roles after the government first allowed it to enrol them in 2016.

### **Prince Charles Appoints Sanjeev Gupta As UK Skills Ambassador**

- Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta has been appointed by Britain's Prince Charles as an official ambassador for the Industrial Cadets programme** designed to nurture manufacturing skills.
- Mr Gupta was appointed to the flagship programme to give children and young people direct structured experience of the industry while still at school or college. Mr Gupta is an Executive Chairman of UK-based GFG Alliance.

### **Virat Kohli Named 1st Brand Ambassador for Uber India**

- Indian cricket team captain Virat Kohli has been named cab-hailing startup Uber's first Brand Ambassador in India.**
- Kohli will also be involved in a series of marketing and customer experience initiatives.

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

- UBER is the US-based company.
- Dara Khosrowshahi is the CEO of Uber.

### **Ministers Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Y S Chowdary Submit Resignations to PM**

- Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju and Minister of State for Science and Technology Y S Chowdary have submitted their resignations to Prime Minister Narendra Modi.**
- The ministers have resigned but will continue to be a part of NDA. **Commerce minister Suresh Prabhu gets additional charge of aviation ministry.**

### **Bidya Devi Bhandari Re-Elected As Nepal President**

- Nepal's first woman President Bidya Devi Bhandari was re-elected for a second term in office with an overwhelming majority.
- Incumbent President Bhandari, the Left alliance's candidate, was elected with more than a two-thirds majority as she defeated her Nepali Congress (NC) rival Kumari Laxmi Rai in the presidential election.

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

- Prime Minister of Nepal- Khadga Prasad Oli

### **Gina Haspel Appointed CIA's First Female Director**

- Gina Haspel, the newly nominated first-ever female director of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), is a career intelligence officer with more than 30 years' experience.
- Ms. Haspel, 61, has extensive overseas experience and has served as chief of the station on several postings. Her leadership positions in Washington include deputy director of the National Clandestine Service - the CIA agency that co-ordinates clandestine operations - and chief of staff for the director of the National Clandestine Service.

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



- The Central Intelligence Agency is a civilian foreign intelligence service of the United States federal government.
- CIA founded on 18th September 1947.

### **Xi Jinping Re-Elected China President, Wang Vice President**

- Xi Jinping** was re-elected as **President** for a second five-year tenure by China's rubber-stamp parliament. The Parliament has recently allowed Xi to have a life-long tenure.
- Xi was also elected as the head of the powerful Central Military Commission, the overall high command of the Chinese military. He became president in 2013. **Wang Qishan has been elected as the new Vice President of China.**

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

- **China Capital-** Beijing, **Currency-** Renminbi.

### **Angela Merkel Elected to 4th Term as German Chancellor**

- Germany's Parliament** elected **Angela Merkel** for her fourth term as chancellor, putting an end to nearly six months of political drift in Europe's biggest economy.
- Lawmakers voted 364-315 to re-elect Merkel, Germany's leader **since 2005**, who ran unopposed.

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

- **Germany Capital-** Berlin, **Currency-** Euro.

### **Larry Kudlow Becomes Trump's New Economic Adviser**

- President Donald Trump** named **Larry Kudlow** as the next head of the White House National Economic Council. **He has replaced Gary Cohn.**
- Mr Kudlow is the conservative media analyst who served as his informal economic adviser during the 2016 campaign.

### **Vladimir Putin Wins Historic 4th Term as Russian President**

- Russian President Vladimir Putin** stormed to victory in presidential election, giving him another **six years in power.**
- He is well ahead of his **nearest rival Communist Party candidate Pavel Grudinin** at 13.2%. About 107 million Russians were eligible to cast ballots and turnout was 60% before polls closed in Moscow.

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

- **Russia Capital-** Moscow, **Currency-** Russian ruble, **President-** Vladimir Putin.

### **Mauritius President Ameenah Gurib-Fakim resigns over a financial scandal**

- Mauritius President **Ameenah Gurib-Fakim** has resigned after being embroiled in a scandal over the use of a credit card to buy **luxury personal items.**
- It has been alleged that Gurib-Fakim made personal purchases, buying jewellery and clothing using a credit card provided by **London-based Planet Earth Institute.**

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

- The capital city of Mauritius: **Port Louis.**
- The currency of Mauritius: **Mauritian rupee.**
- **Pravind Jugnauth** is Prime Minister of Mauritius.

### **Nanda Bahadur Pun Elected Nepal's Vice President**

- Nanda Bahadur Pun** has been re-elected as the **Vice-President of Nepal** for the second term unopposed.
- Pun has filed candidacy for the post of the Vice President and his candidacy remained unopposed as no candidate came forward to contest with him for the post.

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

- **Nepal Capital-** Kathmandu, **Currency-** Nepalese rupee, **President-** Bidhya Devi Bhandari, **Prime Minister-** Khadga Prasad Oli.

### **Myanmar President, Htin Kyaw Resigns**

i. Myanmar's President and Aung San Suu Kyi's right-hand man **Htin Kyaw** stepped down after two years in the position.

ii. As per the official report, a new leader would be selected “within seven working days”.

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

- **Myanmar State Counsellor-** Aung San Suu Kyi, **Capital-** Naypyidaw.

### **John Bolton Replaces McMaster as US National Security Adviser**

i. The 45th President of USA Donald Trump has announced that the former U.N. Ambassador **John Bolton will be the New US National Security Adviser.**

ii. He would replace present National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster.

### **Balesh Sharma Named CEO of Vodafone-Idea India Merged Entity**

i. Vodafone Group Plc's Indian unit and Idea Cellular, which are in the process of merging their operations to create the country's biggest telecoms carrier, named **Vodafone veteran Balesh Sharma as the new chief executive for the combined venture.** Sharma is currently the chief operating officer at Vodafone India.

ii. **Akshaya Moondra**, the current chief financial officer at Idea, will become the finance chief at the combined firm. **Kumar Mangalam Birla**, chairman of Idea's parent Aditya Birla conglomerate, will be the non-executive chairman of the merged telecoms company.

### **Martin Vizcarra Sworn In As Peru's New President**

i. **Martin Vizcarra** has been sworn in as the country's new president of Peru. Before the appointment, he was Peru's first vice president and ambassador to Canada.

ii. He has replaced **Pedro Pablo Kuczynski** who has resigned from the post recently.

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

- **Peru Capital-** Lima, **Currency-** Sol.

### **JS Rajput Nominated India's Representative to UNESCO's Executive Board**

i. The Government of India has decided to nominate **Prof. J S Rajput**, former Director NCERT, as India's representative to the **Executive Board (EXB) of UNESCO.** The EXB has a four-year term of office and 58 seats.

ii. The executive board is one of the constitutional organs of UNESCO and is elected by the General Conference. The next meeting of Executive Board of UNESCO is to be held in Paris, France in April 2018.

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

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

### **SC Appoints Justice Jawad Rahim As Acting Head For NGT**

i. The Supreme Court appointed Justice Jawad Rahim—a former judge of the Karnataka High Court—as acting chairman of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), three months after the previous chairperson retired. The NGT's previous chairman, Justice Swatanter Kumar—a former Supreme Court judge—retired in December 2017.

ii. Currently, a Judicial Member of the NGT, Justice Rahim was chosen over due to his seniority over other judges—including another senior judge, Justice Raghuvendra S Rathore.

### **Vijay Raghavan Appointed Principal Scientific Advisor To Government**

- i. Krishnaswamy Vijay Raghavan was appointed the principal scientific adviser to the government of India. Vijay Raghavan will succeed physicist Rajagopala Chidambaram who has been in the position for more than 16 years.
- ii. Vijay Raghavan, a former director of National Centre for Biological Sciences, was appointed Secretary of Department of Biotechnology in 2013.

### Win Myint Elected As New President Of Myanmar

- i. Myanmar's Parliament has elected Win Myint as the country's new President. This comes after Myanmar's first democratically elected President Htin Kyaw resigned from the position due to health issues.
- ii. Myint is considered a close aide of State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi and has been a speaker in the lower house since 2012.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Myanmar State Counsellor- Aung San Suu Kyi, Capital- Naypyidaw.

## Honours/ Awards

### Shatrughan Sinha Wins Lifetime Achievement Award in UK

- i. Actor-politician **Shatrughan Sinha** has been honoured with the **lifetime achievement award** for his contribution to the fields of arts and politics **in the United Kingdom**.
- ii. The annual Political and Public Life Awards **instituted by Britain's Asian Voice weekly newspaper** was presented at a ceremony in the UK's Parliament complex in London.

### Oscar Awards 2018: Complete List Of Winners

The **90th Annual Academy Awards (also known as Oscar Awards)** were held at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, the USA. **The Shape Of Water** won the top prize of the night - **Best Picture**. **Jimmy Kimmel** hosted the ceremony for the second year in a row. He has become the first host since Billy Crystal to do so.

### The full list of winners is below-

S. No.	Category	Winner
1.	Best Picture	The Shape Of Water
2.	Best Director	Guillermo del Toro, The Shape Of Water
3.	Best Actress	Frances McDormand, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
4.	Best Actor	Gary Oldman, Darkest Hour
5.	Best Supporting Actress	Allison Janney, I, Tonya
6.	Best Supporting Actor	Sam Rockwell, Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
7.	Best Animated Feature Film	Coco
8.	Best Foreign Language Film	A Fantastic Woman, Chile

### Architect BV Doshi Becomes 1st Indian to Win Pritzker Prize

- i. Architect **Balkrishna Vithaldas Doshi** has become the **first Indian to win the Pritzker Prize**, the highest award in architecture.

ii. Doshi's most noted works include a low-cost housing project in Indore which accommodates 80,000 people. The award was announced by Tom Pritzker of the Chicago-based Hyatt Foundation.

### ICMR Wins 2017 Kochon Prize for TB Research

- i. The Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) was awarded the International Kochon Prize 2017 for encouraging research and development (R&D) efforts towards tuberculosis treatment.
- ii. ICMR received the \$65,000 award from the Kochon Foundation, a non-profit organisation from Korea, for establishing the India TB Research Consortium to accelerate R&D efforts in the country.

### Indian Film 'Halkaa' Bags Award at Montreal Fest

- i. Indian filmmaker Nila Madhab Panda's "Halkaa", which had its world premiere at the 21st Festival International du Film Pour Enfants de Montreal Film (FIFEM), has bagged the Grand Prix de Montreal at the gala.
- ii. The film is a take on a slum child's heroism, aspirations, and dreams.

### Winners Of Central Banking Awards 2018

i. Central Banking's fifth annual awards recognise outstanding achievement within a community that has had to balance monetary accommodation and financial stability in an environment of rapid innovation, political change and global uncertainty. The Bank of Canada, this year's Central Bank of the Year, emerged as a beacon of best practice for much of the community.

### Here is the complete list of Winners-

1. Transparency: Central Bank of Ireland.
2. Reserve manager of the year: Bank of Korea.
3. Banknote and currency manager of the year: Norges Bank.
4. Initiative of the year: Bank of England's FinTech Accelerator.

### India Wins Best Exhibitor Award At ITB- Berlin

- i. India has won the "Best Exhibitor Award " at ITB – Berlin on its last day. 'ITB- Berlin World Tourist Meet' was convened at Berlin, Germany from 7th March to 10th March 2018. India was represented by the Minister of State (Independent charge) for Tourism Mr. K. J. Alphons along with a couple of Tourism Ministry officials.
- ii. More than 100 countries participated in the ITB- Berlin meet with their respective Tourism Ministers. India's Incredible India (Ministry of Tourism) presented a short film named "Yogi of the Racetrack " in the meet. The said the short film has got 3.2 million hits in 60 hours.

### Jackie Shroff's 'Shunyata' Wins International Award in US

- i. Actor Jackie Shroff's short film 'Shunyata' has won an award at Best of India Short Film Festival in Los Angeles, US. The 22-minute fiction film directed by Chintan Sarda was selected to be in top six from amongst thousands of entries and was played at a theatre in Los Angeles.
- ii. An industry based jury then adjudged it the best film. The prize includes a cash prize of \$1,000.

### Canadian Mathematician Robert Langlands Wins Abel Prize

- i. Canadian mathematician Robert Langlands won the prestigious Abel Prize for developing a programme connecting representation theory to number theory. The programme has enlisted hundreds of the world's best mathematicians over the last 50 years.
- ii. Now aged 81, Langlands will be awarded the 6.0-million-kroner Abel Prize by Norway's King Harald in Oslo on May 22.

### Important Takeaways from Above News-

- Abel Prize has been named after the **19th-century Norwegian mathematician Niels Henrik Abel**.
- The prize was established by the Norwegian government in 2002.

### **105th Indian Science Congress- NHAI Receives Best Design Pavilion Award**

- i. The NHAI (National Highways Authority of India) pavilion at 105th Indian Science Congress has been adjudged as Best Design Pavilion.** The award was conferred by **Dr. Najma Heptulla, Governor of Manipur.**
- ii. The NHAI had put up an exhibition stall to showcase its Projects and other initiatives like Electronic Toll Collection, Wayside Amenities, Incident Management, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Road Safety etc.**

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

- Nitin Gadkari is the present Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources.

### **105th Indian Science Congress- DRDO Gets 'Most Informative Pavilion' Award**

- i. Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has received the 'Most Informative Pavilion' Award in Pride of India Expo organized as part of the 105th Indian Science Congress at Manipur University, Imphal.**
- ii. DRDO participated in the expo showcasing cutting-edge indigenous defence technologies with over 150 exhibits and models from 18 DRDO laboratories.**

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

- **106th edition of the Indian Science Congress will be held in January 2019 at Barkatullah University Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**
- The theme for 2019 ISC will be **"Future India: Science & Technology"**.
- The Chairman of **DRDO is Dr S Christopher.**

### **G.K. Reddy award for journalist Karan Thapar**

- i. Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh presented the G.K. Reddy Memorial National Award for journalism to senior journalist and television presenter Karan Thapar.**

### **London Based Organisation SACF Wins Frederick Pincott Award**

- i. South Asian Cinema Foundation (SACF), a London based organisation has received the Frederick Pincott Award for 2017 from the Indian High Commissioner, Y K Sinha for promoting Hindi cinema in Britain for the last 18 years.**
- ii. The SACF has been doing commendable work for nearly two decades to promote Hindi and regional Indian cinema in the UK.**

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

- Lalit Mohan Joshi is the Director of SACF.
- The SACF was set up in London in January 2000.

## Sports

### **Roger Federer Becomes Most Decorated Laureus Award Winner**

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

### **India Clinched 11 Medals At Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament**

- i. **India** have come up with best ever performance at the **69th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Bulgaria**. At Sofia, the country ended with a whopping 11 medals – five from men and six from women boxers.
- ii. Overall, the contingent clinched **two gold, three silver and six bronze medals**. **Vikas Krishan**, who claimed a gold medal in 75 kg category, was also adjudged the **best boxer of the event, a first for an Indian**. Another Gold medal was clinched by **Amit Panghal**.

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

- **Bulgaria Capital- Sofia, Currency- Bulgarian lev.**

### **Viswanathan Anand Wins Tal Memorial Rapid Chess Title**

- i. **World rapid champion Viswanathan Anand** annexed the **Tal Memorial rapid chess title in Moscow, Russia** after an easy final round draw **against Boris Gelfand of Israel**.
- ii. His solitary loss came at the hands of **Shakhriyar Mamedyarov of Azerbaijan** in the third round.

### **Tokyo Unveils Mascots for 2020 Olympics and Paralympics**

- i. **Tokyo** unveiled its long-awaited mascot for the 2020 Olympic Games: a futuristic blue-checked, doe-eyed character with pointy ears and **“special powers”** that was picked by schoolchildren across mascot-mad Japan.



ii. One has an athletic figure and a **strong sense of justice**. The other is a **cherry blossom-inspired** superhero.

### **ISSF World Cup 2018- Shahzar Rizvi Sets World Record; Manu Bhaker Wins Gold**

i. On the opening day of the **ISSF World Cup at Guadalajara in Mexico**, India had won **four medals** which include two gold and two bronze. **Shahzar Rizvi clinched the gold medal with a world record score in his maiden ISSF World Cup appearance.**

ii. Rizvi shot a **world record 242.3 in the 10-metre air pistol event's final** to beat reigning Olympic champion, Christian Reitz of Germany, to win the top prize. **Manu Bhaker won the gold medal** in 10 metre Air Pistol Women.

iii. **Pistol ace Jitu Rai** won the bronze in the event, as three Indians made it to the finals of the season's first World Cup. **Mehuli Ghosh shot a world junior record 228.4** to win bronze in the women's 10-metre air rifle event.

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

- **National Rifle Association of India (NRAI) President-** Raninder Singh.
- ISSF stands for International Shooting Sports Federation.

### **IOC restores Russia's Olympic membership**

i. **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** has restored **Russia's Olympic membership** with immediate effect following its suspension from the Winter Olympics at **Pyeongchang in South Korea**. Russia was banned from February's Games by the IOC over state-sponsored doping.

ii. Before closing ceremony of **Winter Olympics**, the **IOC** had stated that the ban would be lifted, as long as there were no more anti-doping violations.

### **Navjot Kaur 1st Indian Woman to Win Gold in Asian Wrestling Championship**

i. **Navjot Kaur** has clinched the **1st gold medal for India** in the **Asian Wrestling championship in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**. She defeated Imai Miyu of Japan in the final of women's 65 kg freestyle. **With 1 gold, 2 silver and 1 bronze medal**, India was at the second spot in the medals tally.

ii. **Vinesh Phogat and Pinki** of Indian Railways claimed silver medals while **Sakshi Malik** won a bronze in the 62-kilogram category. **China was leading the table** with 4 gold and 1 bronze medal while **Japan was at the third place** with 1 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals.

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

- **Kyrgyzstan Capital-** Bishkek, **Currency-** Kyrgyzstani som.

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### **Advani-Led India Wins Snooker Team World Cup 2018**

i. **India won the inaugural IBSF Snooker Team World Cup in Doha, Qatar**. India beat Pakistan in the best-of-five final.

ii. In the finals, Indian duo of **Pankaj Advani and Manan Chandra** staged a remarkable recovery after being 0-2 down.

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

- **IBSF** stands for International Billiards & Snooker Federation.
- **Headquarters-** Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE).

### **Rashid Khan Becomes Youngest Captain in International Cricket History**

- i. The leg-spinner from Afghanistan, Rashid Khan** (19-year-old) has become the youngest captain in international cricket history.
- ii.** He now holds the **ICC No. 1 rank for bowlers in both the ODIs and T20Is** and also became the youngest player ever to hold the top spot for any form of ICC men's ranking.

### **MS Dhoni Becomes Brand Ambassador Of Gaming Platform Dream 11**

- i. Mahendra Singh Dhoni** has become a **brand ambassador of gaming platform Dream11**.
- ii.** Currently, the gaming platform has a user base of 2 crore sports fans playing "fantasy cricket, football, kabaddi and NBA".

### **Tejaswin Shankar Smashes National Record in High Jump**

- i. Delhi youngster Tejaswin Shankar** smashed his own national record **to claim the high jump gold** as three athletes booked their Commonwealth Games berths on the third and penultimate day of the 22nd Federation Cup Senior National Athletics Championships.
- ii.** The 19-year-old Shankar sailed over the bar at 2.28m to marginally improve his own national mark of 2.26m.

### **Australia Beat England 2-1 To Lift 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup**

- i.** World champions Australia have lifted the coveted 27<sup>th</sup> edition of Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey title. In the final at Ipoh, Malaysia, they beat defending champions England by a narrow 2-1 margin. Australia has now won the prestigious tournament for the 10th time.
- ii.** Earlier, in the classification match for the 3rd place, Argentina finished third after beating Malaysia 3-2. The hosts ended at the 4th spot.

### **Deepa Malik Becomes Asian Rank 1 in Javelin F-53 Category**

- i. Indian para-athlete Deepa Malik** won a gold medal in the **F-53/54 category javelin event** at the World Para Athletics Grand Prix in Dubai.
- ii.** With this, she became the **Asian rank one** in the F-53 category. With the win, Deepa has also qualified for the 2018 Asian Para Games in Indonesia, scheduled to be held in October 2018.

### **Nepal Cricket Team Gains ODI Status**

- i.** After Afghanistan's rapid rise to prominence in limited-overs cricket, **Nepal** took a massive step forward after **achieving One-day International status**, after their victory over Papua New Guinea.
- ii.** Nepal defeated the Pacific nation by six wickets in a playoff game in the ICC World Cup Qualifier being held in Zimbabwe, achieving the distinction for the first time.

### **Sri Lanka Pays Tribute to J Dalmiya With Book 'A Tribute to Jagu'**

- i. Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC)** paid tribute to former **BCCI president Jagmohan Dalmiya** with a book titled, **'A Tribute to Jagu'**.
- ii.** The cricket association felicitated Dalmiya posthumously as the greatest non-Sri Lankan contributor to Sri Lankan cricket.

### **English Cricketer Kevin Pietersen Announces Retirement**

- i. Kevin Pietersen, 37 years old,** has officially announced his retirement from the International cricket.
- ii.** A prolific scorer in all forms of the game, Pietersen has 8,181 runs in 104 tests, 4,440 runs in 136 ODIs and 1,176 runs in 37 Twenty20 Internationals. Pietersen is England's fifth highest test run-scorer.

### **Elavenil Valarivan Wins Gold in Junior ISSF World Cup Shooting**

**i. Indian shooter Elavenil Valarivan** shattered the qualification world record in **10-meter women's air rifle event** of the season's first junior ISSF World Cup in **Sydney, Australia**.

**ii.** Arjun Babuta bagged his second junior world cup medal, claiming a bronze in men's 10-meter air rifle event.

### **Purva Barve Wins Women's Singles U-19 Title at Israel Junior 2018**

**i. India's Purva Barve has won the Women's Singles (Under-19) title** at the **Israel Junior 2018 Badminton tournament** held in Rishon LeZion, Israel.

**ii.** She has defeated the third-seeded and top-ranked **Russian Anastasiia Pustinskaia** in three sets. The title is her first in 2018 and third overall. Earlier she won the Israel Junior 2017, Italian Junior International 2017 apart from a bronze at the Russian Junior White Nights 2017.

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

- **Israel Capital-** Jerusalem, **Prime minister-** Benjamin Netanyahu, **Currency-** Israeli new shekel, **President-** Reuven Rivlin.

### **ISSF Junior World Cup: Manu Bhaker Wins Gold**

**i. Shooter Manu Bhaker** secured **India's second individual gold** after prevailing over Thailand's Kanyakorn Hirunphoem in a thrilling final of the **women's 10m air pistol event at the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney, Australia**.

**ii.** The 16-year-old Manu shot 235.9 to finish top of the podium. India tasted success in the 10m Air Pistol men's event too with **Gaurav Rana winning a silver medal** while Anmol Jain bagged the bronze.

### **PV Sindhu to be India's Flag-Bearer at 2018 CWG**

**i. Indian Olympic Association (IOA)** chooses **PV Sindhu** as the **flag-bearer of the Indian contingent for the opening ceremony of the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games**. The opening ceremony will be held on April 4.

**ii.** Having won a silver medal at the Rio Olympics two years ago, the Hyderabad-based World No. 3 Sindhu is one of the favourites to win the badminton women's singles title in Gold Coast.

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

- In the last Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland in 2014, Sindhu bagged a bronze in women's singles.
- Pistol shooter Vijay Kumar was the flag-bearer in 2014.

### **ISSF Junior World Cup- Anish Bhanwala Wins Gold**

**i. India's 15-year-old shooter Anish Bhanwala** won a **gold medal at the ISSF Junior World Cup** in the **25 meter rapid fire pistol event in Sydney, Australia**. It was India's third gold at the event.

**ii.** India is now placed second in the overall standings with 15 medals, comprising six gold, three silver and six bronze, behind China and ahead of top shooting nations such as Italy and hosts Australia.

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

- **Australia Capital-** Canberra, **Currency-** Australian Dollar, **Prime Minister-** Malcolm Turnbull.

### **Sebastian Vettel Wins Australian Grand Prix**

**i. Sebastian Vettel (Ferrari)** won a dramatic **Australian Grand Prix** after leapfrogging **Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes)** during a safety car period.

ii. Kimi Raikkonen of Ferrari was in the third position. Sebastian Vettel was the first man to meet the chequered flag in 2018.

### **Pankaj Advani Wins Asian Billiards Championships Title**

i. **Pankaj Advani defended his Asian Billiards Championships title** by demolishing his practice partner **B Bhaskar 6-1 in the summit clash in Yangon, Myanmar**. With this win, Advani remains the reigning Indian, Asian and world champion in billiards for 2017-18.

ii. This is Advani's 11th gold medal at the Asian level of cue sports. India's **Amee Kamani won the Asian Women's Snooker title** by defeating her Thai opponent Siripaporn Nuanthakhamjan 3-0.

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

- **Myanmar State Counsellor-** Aung San Suu Kyi, **Capital-** Naypyidaw.
- Pankaj Advani won the **Arjuna Award** in 2004, **Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna** in 2006, and **Padma Shri** in 2009.

### **India U-16 Win Hong Kong Football Tournament**

i. **The India U-16 team** emerged champions in the **Jockey Cup International Youth Invitational Football Tournament** with a victory over **Hong Kong U-17** in the final in **Hong Kong**.

ii. The tournament was an U-17 event where India fielded their U-16 National Team. The team was coached by Bibiano Fernandes.

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

- Hong Kong is an autonomous territory, and former British colony, in southeastern China.

### **ISSF Junior World Cup- Manu Bhaker, Anmol Jointly Lift Gold**

i. The duo of Manu Bhaker and Anmol secured India's seventh gold medal in the ISSF Junior World Cup in Sydney, Australia. The pair won the mixed 10-meter air pistol event with a qualification world record.

ii. They finished 5.6 advantage over their closest rivals, China's Liu Jinyao and Li Xue. Overall, India occupied the second placed with 17 medals, including seven gold. China leads the tally with 21 podium finishes, including eight gold medals.

## Obituaries

### **Eminent Odia Writer Kanakalata Mohanty Passes Away**

- i. **Eminent Odia writer Kanakalata Mohanty** passed away. She was 82. Mohanty was suffering from old age-related problems.
- ii. Mohanty was the author of 12 novels and more than a 100 short stories. **Her novels Ete Andhara, Kete Jwala and Anuradha** shot her into the limelight in the 1960s.

### **Kanchi Seer Jayendra Saraswathi Passes Away**

- i. **Sri Jayendra Saraswathi Swamigal**, the senior seer of **Kanchi Kamakoti Mutt** situated in Tamil Nadu, passed away. He was 82-years-old. He passed away due to breathing problems.
- ii. The junior pontiff, Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi will be the 70th Jagadguru of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

### **Veteran Litterateur Prafulla Das Passes Away**

- i. **Veteran Litterateur Prafulla Das** passed away. He was 91. He worked in Odia language. He was a recipient of the prestigious "**Sarala Award**" for his achievement in the literary field.
- ii. 'Banhimana', the biography of freedom fighter Malati Chaudhury, brought him the Sarala Award in 2014.

### **Veteran Actor Shammi Passes Away**

- i. **Veteran Bollywood actor**, who was fondly called '**Shammi aunty**' by many in the film fraternity passed away at the age of 89. Born as Nargis Rabadi she has appeared in over 100 films.
- ii. She was well-known for her work in television series like Dekh Bhai Dekh, Zabaan Sambhal Ke, and Shriman Shrimati.

### **Veteran Sufi Singer Pyarelal Wadali Passes Away**

- i. **Ustad Pyarelal Wadali**, younger brother of **Ustad Puran Chand Wadali** passed away in Amritsar, Punjab. He was 75. He was one of the singers of popularly known 'Wadali Brothers'.
- ii. Wadali Brothers are famous for their **Punjabi Sufi music**.

### **Veteran Hindi Poet Kedarnath Singh Passes Away**

- i. **Renowned Hindi poet and critic Kedarnath Singh** passed away at the age of 83.
- ii. Prof. Singh was a recipient of the **Jnanapeeth award in 2013**. He won the Sahitya Akademi award in 1989 for his poetry collection Akaal Mein Saras.

### **Pulitzer Prize Winner Les Payne Dies**

- i. **Les Payne, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist** and columnist for Newsday who fiercely championed racial equality has passed away.
- ii. He was 76. He won Pulitzer Prize for "Heroin Trail" series in 1974.



## **Important Days with theme**

### **World Wildlife Day- 3 March**

- i. **World Wildlife Day (WWD)** is celebrated across the world on **3 March**. It is celebrated to raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora.
- ii. The theme for WWD 2018 is "**Big cats: predators under threat**".

### **International Women's Day- 8 March**

- i. **International Women's Day** is a worldwide event that celebrates the achievements of women everywhere. This year's celebration comes at the heels of an unprecedented movement for women's rights as **2018 marks 100 years since women gained the vote after the suffragette movement**.
- ii. There have also been global campaigns in the form of **#MeToo and #TimesUp** – bringing sexual harassment and equal pay to the forefront of the agenda. International Women's Day 2018 campaign theme is **#PressforProgress**. The day has been observed since 1908, and falls on March 8 each year.

### **World Consumer Rights Day- 15 March**

- i. **World Consumer Rights Day** is celebrated globally on **15th March**. It is an awareness day and theme for this year's WCRD 2018 is '**Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer**'.
- ii. The day is an opportunity to promote basic rights of all consumers, demanding that those rights are respected and protected. **On this day in 1962, President John F Kennedy** formally addressed the issue of consumer rights in US Congress and became the first leader to do so.

### **International Day of Happiness- 20 March**

- i. Since 2013, the United Nations has celebrated the **International Day of Happiness (on 20th March)** as a way to recognise the importance of happiness in the lives of people around the world.



The theme for IDH 2018 is "*Share Happiness*" - focusing on the importance of relationships, kindness and helping each other.

**ii. The World Happiness Report 2018** was also released recently in which **Finland was ranked as the happiest country** and **Burundi in East Africa is the unhappiest place** in the world. **India ranks 133rd** in the report.

### **World Sparrow Day- 20 March**

**i. World Sparrow Day** is observed on **20 March** every year globally to create awareness about the protection of sparrows. The theme for this year's WSD is '**I Love Sparrows**'.

**ii.** The first World Sparrow Day was observed in 2010 across the globe. The theme has been inspired by the hope that more and more of us will celebrate the relationship between people and Sparrows.

### **World Water Day- 22 March**

**i. The World Water Day** is observed on **22 March every year**, to raise awareness about the importance of water. The theme this year is, '**Nature for Water**' – exploring nature-based solutions to the water challenges the world faces in the 21st century.

**ii.** An international day to celebrate freshwater was recommended at the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro. The United Nations General Assembly responded by designating **22 March 1993 as the first World Water Day**.

### **World Tuberculosis Day- 24 March**

**i.** Each year we commemorate **World Tuberculosis Day on March 24** to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis (TB) and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic.

**ii.** The date marks the day in 1882 when **Dr. Robert Koch** announced that he had discovered the bacterium that causes TB. The theme of World TB Day 2018 - "**Wanted: Leaders for a TB-free world**".

### **World Theatre Day- 27 March**

**i. The World Theatre Day** has been celebrated annually on the **27th March** by ITI Centres and the international theatre community.

**ii.** World Theatre Day was initiated in 1961 by the **International Theatre Institute ITI**. The first World Theatre Day Message was written by **Jean Cocteau in 1962**.

CLAT coaching by NLU grads