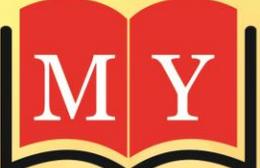
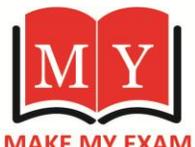


Weekly Current Affairs

03 February – 09 February, 2019

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National News

1. Indus River Dolphin declared Punjab's State aquatic animal

- ✦ One of the world's rarest mammals, Found only in India and Pakistan in the Beas river, the generally playful Indus Dolphins have been declared Punjab's State aquatic animal.
- ✦ The decision was taken in the Punjab State Wildlife Board presided over by the Chief Minister Capt Amarinder Singh, who shared the information on his official Twitter handle.
- ✦ As per the WWF figures, the number of dolphins presently is 1816, mostly found in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan between Chashma and Kotri barrages in the Indus River.

2. Odisha's Kalia scholarship scheme for farmers' to boost higher education

- ✦ Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced the new 'KALIA Chhatravritti Yojana', which is a scholarship for the children of farmers who are the beneficiaries of Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (KALIA) scheme.
- ✦ Under this scheme, the children of farmers, who are the beneficiaries of the KALIA scheme will be provided scholarships for pursuing higher education in professional courses free of cost.
- ✦ Children of farmers who have taken admission at Government Professional colleges on merit basis will be eligible for the scholarship scheme.

3. 325 child labourers rescued under 'Operation Smile'

- ✦ Operation Smile was launched on January 1 this year to trace missing children. The month-long programme aims to rescue child labourers, children engaged in begging for alms and so on.
- ✦ 325 child labourers have been rescued as part of 'Operation Smile' in Hyderabad.
- ✦ Besides rescuing children belonging to Hyderabad and other parts of Telangana, 100 children belonging to states like Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Uttar Pradesh, and even Nepal were rescued during this operation.

4. Government approves Schemes of National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation

- ✦ The schemes of National Minority Development Finance Corporation (NMDFC) are being implemented for the socio-economic development of the 'backward sections' amongst the notified minorities by the respective State Governments/UT Administration.
- ✦ For availing assistance under NMDFC schemes, the annual family income eligibility criterion under Credit Line-1 is Rs.98,000 for rural areas & Rs.1.20 lacs for urban areas.

- ✦ Higher annual family income eligibility criterion of upto Rs.6.00 lacs has also been introduced as Credit Line-2, for increasing coverage of beneficiaries under NMDFC schemes.

5. Sushma Swaraj and Nitin Gadkari flag off Suraksha Yatra

- ✦ External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Shri Nitin Gadkari flagged off Suraksha Yatra - a motor car rally from Rajghat in New Delhi to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- ✦ The flag off was also part of an event to launch the 30th National Road Safety Week.
- ✦ To underline its commitment and support for promoting safety on Indian roads, the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers (SIAM) has declared 2019 as the Year of Road Safety.

6. Government expects 7.5% GDP growth in FY20

- ✦ The finance ministry expects economic growth to accelerate to 7.5 per cent in 2019-20 from 7.2 per cent projected for the current fiscal.
- ✦ The growth was 8.2 per cent in 2016-17, the year in which the government demonetized high-denomination currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000.
- ✦ Finance Minister Piyush Goyal in the Budget Speech said that India is solidly back on track and marching towards growth and prosperity.

7. Government launches Shehri Samridhi Utsav to extend outreach of DAY-NULM

- ✦ The Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs in February 2019 launched the Shehri Samridhi Utsav, an initiative that aims to extend the outreach of Deendayal Antyodaya Mission – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) to the most vulnerable.
- ✦ The event will facilitate access of Self-Help Group (SHG) members to the other government schemes.
- ✦ The Day one of Shehri Samridhi Utsav began with a series of rallies led by women's SHGs across the country. These rallies spread awareness about DAY-NULM in urban poor communities.

8. Government notifies Rules to allow women to work in mines

- ✦ The government allowed women to work in underground mines and eased restrictions that prohibited them from working night shifts in surface mines, striking down a six-decade-old rule that disadvantaged female employees in a sector considered hazardous.
- ✦ Mines Act, 1952, had been amended, "An employer will need to obtain written consent from the female staffer and the underground deployment will be limited to roles that are "technical, supervisory and managerial"
- ✦ According to the new rules, in addition to requiring written consent, employers must provide the workers with adequate facilities and safeguards regarding occupational safety, security and health.

9. Visually impaired, blind voters to get braille voter slips in Lok Sabha polls

- ✦ Visually impaired and blind voters will be provided with braille voter slips in the Lok Sabha elections due this summer.
- ✦ Braille is a script with raised dots that can be read with the fingers by people who are blind or who have low vision.
- ✦ It is a tactile reading and writing system used by blind and visually impaired people who cannot access print material.

10. Govt launches 'India size' project; country to have own standard size for ready-to-wear clothes

- ✦ The Union Minister for Textiles Smt. Smriti Zubin Irani launched the India Size project in Mumbai.
- ✦ A first-of-its-kind project in the history of India, India Size aims to arrive at a standard Indian Size for the ready-to-wear clothing industry, on the lines of the standardized sizes available in countries such as the USA and the UK.
- ✦ The project is being undertaken by the Ministry of Textiles, in collaboration with The Clothing Manufacturers Association of India (CMAI).

11. India becomes world's 2nd largest LPG consumer after government's Ujjawla push

- ✦ The government's push to provide clean cooking fuel to every household has turned India into the world's second largest LPG consumer whose demand is projected to rise 34 per cent by 2025.
- ✦ Under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) of providing free cooking gas (LPG) connection to poor, over 6.31 crore connections have been provided since the launch of the scheme on May 1, 2016.
- ✦ The Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas estimates that LPG consumption would grow to 30.3 million tonnes by 2025 and 40.6 million tonnes by 2040.

12. Swachh Bharat Mission launches 'Darwaza Band - Part 2' campaign

- ✦ The Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) on February 6, 2019 launched the 'Darwaza Band -Part 2' campaign for sustainability of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status of villages across the country.
- ✦ The campaign was launched in Mumbai in the presence of actor Amitabh Bachchan, Maharashtra's Minister for Water Supply and Sanitation Babanrao Lonikar, Secretary of Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation Parameswaran Iyer and other dignitaries.
- ✦ The 'Darwaza Band- Part 2' campaign is supported by the World Bank and will be rolled out countrywide immediately after the launch.

13. Delhi government launches Zero Fatality Corridor

- ✦ The Arvind Kejriwal-led Delhi govt onlaunched the 'Zero Fatality Corridor' (ZFC) to assess the cause for crashes on the stretch between Burari Chowk and Bhalswa chowk on the outer ring road.

- ✦ The initiative aimed at bringing down injuries and deaths due to road crashes and to be run in partnership with Save LIFE Foundation, a leading road safety non-profit, was launched by Delhi's transport minister Kailash Gahlot.
- ✦ The three km stretch earmarked for the project has four blackspots namely - Burari Chowk, Bhalswa Chowk, Jahangirpuri Bus Stand and Mukundpur Chowk, known among the most dangerous stretches, claiming 67 lives in 2016 and 2017.

14. Vijay Sethupathi launches police App 'DigiCop' in Chennai

- ✦ Actor Vijay Sethupathi launched the mobile App 'DigiCop' of city police department at the Commissioner's office.
- ✦ The actor also released a DVD on CCTV awareness and several other police campaigns to make the police department people friendly.
- ✦ The details of 18,000 stolen mobile phones are stored in the App. So next time someone is buying a phone from a second hand shop they can verify if the phone is stolen or genuine.

15. Linking of PAN Card with Aadhaar Mandatory for Filing IT returns

- ✦ The Supreme Court has said linkage of PAN with Aadhaar is mandatory for filing of Income Tax returns. A bench comprising Justices AK Sikri and S Abdul Nazeer said the top court has decided the matter and upheld the section 139AA of the Income Tax Act.
- ✦ The court's direction came on an appeal filed by the Centre against a Delhi High Court order allowing two people, Shreya Sen and Jayshree Satpute, to file Income Tax returns for 2018-19 without linking their Aadhaar and PAN numbers.
- ✦ Section 139AA of the Income-Tax Act 1961 was introduced by the Finance Act, 2017.

16. Taj Mahal and Agra Fort are among the two highest revenue generating monuments for 2015-2018

- ✦ Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Qutub Minar, Red Fort, and Humayun's Tomb were the highest revenue generating monuments during 2015-2018. The monuments are protected by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).
- ✦ The other monuments that made it to the list of top 10 monuments with the highest revenue for 2015-2018 are Sun Temple in Konark, Ellora Caves, Mamallapuram, Khajuraho group of monuments, and Ajanta caves.
- ✦ Taj Mahal is the most prominent monument of India that was built by Mughal ruler Shah Jahan in the honour of his wife Mumtaz. It is globally known as the symbol of love, and attracts a huge number of tourists every year.

17. GeM and CCI join hands for fair environment in e-marketplace

- ✦ To enable a fair and competitive environment in e-marketplace, the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) and the Competition Commission of India (CCI) has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU).

- ✦ Competition Commission of India (CCI) is a statutory body of the Government of India, responsible for enforcing the Competition Act, 2002 throughout India and to prevent activities that have an adverse effect on competition.
- ✦ Both CCI and GeM appreciate the importance of advanced analytical tools and processes for identification of malpractices like cartelization.

18. Sikkim signs MoU with Microsoft for digital learning

- ✦ To improve the education system in the state of Sikkim, Microsoft has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Sikkim government.
- ✦ The MoU signed between the state Human Resource Department and the software giant's subsidiary in India aims to boost digital literacy and new age technology knowledge in students and teachers of government schools.
- ✦ Microsoft has also been working with several Indian state governments' to support their digital infrastructure, enhance their citizen services and make their administrative and governance operations much more efficient.
- ✦

International News & Foreign Affairs

1. Dinesh Bhatia appointed as the Ambassador of India to the Republic of Argentina

- ✦ Dinesh Bhatia appointed as the next Ambassador of India to republic of Argentina
- ✦ He is presently Consul General, Consulate General of India at Toronto .He is Indian Foreign Service Officer of 1992 batch.
- ✦ Capital of Argentina- Buenos Aires

2. Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya appointed as country's ambassador to India

- ✦ Former Law Minister of Nepal Nilambar Acharya has been appointed as country's ambassador to India.
- ✦ He has been appointed on the recommendation of cabinet. Mr. Acharya served as a member of Eminent Persons Group formed by India and Nepal on bilateral relations. He was Law Minister in the interim government of 1990.
- ✦ Mr. Acharya had also served as Nepal's envoy to Sri Lanka. The position of Nepalese ambassador to India was lying vacant after Deep Kumar Upadhyay resigned in October 2017 to join politics.

3. Assam tops in budgetary practices followed by states: Transparency International

- ✦ Assam occupied the top slot in the ranking of best practices followed by states in Budget formulation, followed by Andhra Pradesh and Odisha, says a survey by Transparency International.
- ✦ The survey is based on 4 parameters which include public disclosure, budgetary process, post budget fiscal management and efforts to make budget more transparent and citizen friendly.
- ✦ The states which figured lower in the ranking were Meghalaya, Manipur and Punjab.

4. Cabinet approves abolition of Ombudsman for direct, indirect taxes

- ✦ The Union Cabinet decided to abolish institutions of Ombudsman for income tax and indirect tax. The approval comes against the backdrop of people preferring online grievance redressal mechanism.
- ✦ The institution of Income-Tax Ombudsman was set up in 2003 to deal with grievances of public related to settlement of complaints relating to income tax.
- ✦ However, the institution failed to achieve its objectives as the number of new complaints have fallen to single digits, said an official release.

5. Thailand makes Siamese fighting fish national aquatic animal

- ✦ Tiny, testy and eye-catching with a colourful fin plumage, the Siamese fighting fish was named Thailand's national aquatic animal.
- ✦ Known in the West as a betta fish, the underwater brawler is popular in home aquariums for its iridescent body and many-hued tail.
- ✦ The Siamese fighting fish was registered as intangible cultural heritage in 2013.

6. India jumps 8 places to 36th on International IP Index

- ✦ Recognition of international standards of copyright protection and incentives for intellectual property have helped India jump eight places to 36th position on the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, the highest gain for any country this year.
- ✦ The index, which analyses the IP climate in 50 global economies, is brought out by the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC).
- ✦ India's overall score has also increased substantially from 30.07% (12.03 out of 40) in the previous edition to 36.04% (16.22 out of 45) in the present edition.

7. ICAI signs pact with Invest India to promote foreign investment

- ✦ The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) said it has signed a pact with Invest India to promote foreign investments in the country and Indian investments abroad.
- ✦ Invest India is a government agency that promotes and facilitates investment in the country.
- ✦ The objective of the MoU is to provide necessary guidance and advice to the potential inbound and outbound investors and promote India as an investment-friendly destination.

Banking

1. RRBs of Indian Bank and IOB merge to form Tamil Nadu Grama Bank

- ✦ The Ministry of Finance has announced the amalgamation of two regional rural banks in Tamilnadu- Pallavan Grama Bank, sponsored by Indian Bank and Pandyan Grama Bank, sponsored by Indian Overseas Bank (IOB) into a single regional rural bank in the state and name the new entity as Tamil Nadu Grama Bank.
- ✦ The amalgamated regional rural bank – Tamil Nadu Grama Bank will be under the sponsorship of Indian Bank, with its head office at Salem. The amalgamation would be effective from 1 April, said Indian Bank in a statement.
- ✦ This amalgamation has been conferred by Ministry of Finance under Regional Rural Banks Act 1976.

2. P V Bharathi assumes charge as CEO of Corporation Bank

- ✦ P V Bharathi, executive director of Canara Bank has assumed charge as managing director and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the city-based Corporation Bank.
- ✦ She is the first woman to serve the bank in this capacity,
- ✦ She has served in different branches in the national capital region (NCR) and also in Tamil Nadu. She has experience in rural, semi-urban, urban and metro branches of the bank as also in administrative offices of the bank.

3. RBI lowers repo rate by 25 basis points to 6.25%, first cut since August 2017

- ✦ The Reserve Bank of India lowered the repo rate, or the interest rate at which it lends to commercial banks, by 25 basis points to 6.25%. This is the first time in 17 months that the central bank has cut the rate.
- ✦ The reverse repo rate, too, was lowered to 6%, and the bank rate to 6.25%. The reverse repo rate is the rate at which the central bank borrows money from commercial banks.
- ✦ The six-member monetary policy committee, headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, changed the policy stance to “neutral” from “calibrated tightening”.

4. Government to Set up Unified Authority for Regulating Financial Services in IFSCs

- ✦ The Union Cabinet approved a Bill to set up a unified authority for regulating all financial services in international financial services centres (IFSCs) in the country.
- ✦ The first IFSC in India was set up at GIFT City in Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✦ The establishment of a unified financial regulator for IFSCs will result in providing a world-class regulatory environment to market participants from the ease of Doing business Perspective.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Rishi Kumar Shukla, MP cadre IPS, appointed as new CBI chief

- ✦ Rishi Kumar Shukla, 1983 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh cadre, appointed as the new chief of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).
- ✦ The appointment came almost a day after his name was short-listed during the second meeting of the PM Narendra Modi-led selection committee.
- ✦ Shukla is at present chairman of Madhya Pradesh Police Housing Corporation in Bhopal. He was recently transferred from the post of Director General of Madhya Pradesh Police to the police housing corporation.

2. Air India Chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola appointed civil aviation secretary

- ✦ The government appointed Air India chief managing director and Chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola the secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- ✦ Kharola, an Indian Administrative Services officer of Karnataka cadre from the 1985 batch, was named chairperson of Air India in November 2017.
- ✦ He will succeed Rajiv Nayan Choubey who retired on January 31, 2019, after the resignation he took over as member in the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC).

Science Tech & Defence

1. ISRO opens doors to India's first human spaceflight centre in Bangalore

- ✦ Gearing up for its maiden manned space mission 'Gaganyaan', ISRO unveiled its Human Space Flight Centre.
- ✦ The space agency is gearing up for the human spaceflight programme by 2021-end that is likely to include a woman astronaut.
- ✦ Gaganyaan is the "highest priority" for ISRO in 2019, according to the space agency, and the plan is to have the first unmanned mission in December 2020 and second for July 2021.

2. Observer Research Foundation named 'highest ranked' Indian think tank

- ✦ Observer Research Foundation (ORF) has been named the "highest ranked" Indian think tank in the "2018 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report
- ✦ Globally, ORF has been ranked as the top think tank in the "Best New Idea or Paradigm Developed by a Think Tank" category.

- ✦ ORF is ranked 118th in the "Top Think Tanks Worldwide" (US and non-US) category. In the top think tanks in China, India, Japan and South Korea category, ORF climbed one spot from 2017 to finish fourth last year.

3. Iran announces successful test of long-range cruise missile

- ✦ Iran announced the "successful test" of a new cruise missile with a range of over 1,350 kilometres.
- ✦ The test of the Hoveizeh cruise missile was carried out successfully at a range of 1,200 kilometres (840 miles) and accurately hit the set target.
- ✦ Iran has voluntarily limited the range of its missiles to 2,000 kilometres (1,250 miles), sufficient to reach Israel and Western bases in the Middle East.

4. GSAT-31: ISRO launches India's 40th communication satellite

- ✦ ISRO launched India's 40th communication satellite, GSAT-31, onboard European launch services provider Arianespace launch vehicle, this morning, from French Guiana.
- ✦ The satellite was placed into the orbit within 42 minutes of its launch from Ariane Launch Complex at Kourou, a French territory located in the northeastern coast of South America, at 02:31 am (IST).
- ✦ The satellite, GSAT-31, derives its heritage from ISRO's earlier INSAT/GSAT satellite series, the space agency said, adding that it provides Indian mainland and island coverage.

5. Parmanu Tech 2019 Showcases Indian Atomic Energy Conference held in new Delhi

- ✦ The Union Minister of State, Dr Jitendra Singh delivered the keynote address at the 'Parmanu Tech 2019' conference, organised by the Ministry of External Affairs and Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) at new Delhi
- ✦ The conference discussed issues related to Nuclear Energy and Radiation Technologies.
- ✦ The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary, Department of Atomic Energy, Shri K. N. Vyas said that the conference aims at showcasing the societal applications that DAE is pursuing.

6. US approves sale of two missile defence systems for Air India One

- ✦ The US has agreed to sell two state-of-the-art missile defence systems to Air India One for an estimated cost of \$190 million, a move that will enhance the security of planes flying the prime minister and the president.
- ✦ The defence systems, which would bring security of Air India One at par with that of Air Force One, would be installed in two Boeing 777 Head-of- State aircraft.
- ✦ US approved the purchase of the two systems known as Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCAM) and Self-Protection Suites (SPS) at cost of USD 190 million.

Important days

1. World Cancer Day Observed on 4 February

- ✦ World Cancer Day is a campaign built to resonate, inspire change and mobilise action long after the day has passed.
- ✦ A multi-year campaign offers a chance to create long-lasting impact by increasing public-facing exposure and engagement, more opportunities to build global awareness and impact-driven action.
- ✦ Theme 2019 marks the launch of the 3-year 'I Am and I Will' campaign. 'I Am and I Will' is an empowering call-to-action urging for personal commitment and represents the power of individual action taken now to impact the future.

2. World Wetlands Day Observed on 2 February

- ✦ This year's World Wetlands Day under the theme of "Wetlands and Climate Change" highlights the importance of healthy and intact wetlands to one of the most pressing challenges of our times: climate change.
- ✦ Celebrated annually on 2 February, the day the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands was adopted in 1971, World Wetlands Day is a success story of the international community ensuring efficient conservation and legal protection of wetlands worldwide.
- ✦ Almost 90% of disasters are water-related and affects 60% of humanity that lives along coastlines by flooding and tsunamis. Wetlands are key to climate.

3. 6 February is the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation

- ✦ In order to fight this phenomenon, which has affected at least 200 million women alive today in 30 countries, the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is celebrated on the 6th of February.
- ✦ The aim of the day, established by the United Nations on the 20th of December 2012 is to encourage governments, civil society and all involved parties to implement concrete actions and increase awareness campaigns against FGM.
- ✦ According UNICEF report Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: a Global Concern, 50 per cent of girls and women who have undergone some form of genital mutilation live in 3 countries: Egypt, Ethiopia and Indonesia.

Awards

1. Uniphore Software Systems Secures Prestigious Aegis Graham Bell Award 2019

- ✦ Aegis Graham Bell Award 2019 announced Uniphore as winner in "Innovation in Data Science" category for their innovation "auMina".

- ✦ Uniphore has been lauded as the winner at the 9th edition of Aegis Graham Bell Award 2019 hosted by Government of Goa at Entertainment Society of Goa, Panaji.
- ✦ Aegis Graham Bell Awards (AGBA) has been promoting innovations and entrepreneurship in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) domain.

2. President Kovind confers Sangeet Natak Akademi awards

- ✦ President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017 at Rashtrapati Bhawan
- ✦ Forty-two artists from the fields including Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional, Folk, and Tribal music were awarded. Eleven eminent artists were selected in the field of Music.
- ✦ They include Lalith J Rao, Umakant and Ramakant Gundecha in the field of Hindustani Vocal music and MS Sheela in Carnatic music.
- ✦

Sports

1. Qatar defeat Japan to secure first-ever Asian Cup crown

- ✦ Almoez Ali scored with a spectacular overhead kick for a record ninth goal of the Asian Cup to set Qatar on their way to a first continental title with a stunning 3-1 win over four-times champions Japan.
- ✦ Sudan born Almoez Ali, became the first player to score nine goals at a single Asian Cup. He break the record of Iranian Ali Daei, who scored eight goals in 1996.
- ✦ The victory was celebrated wildly by thousands of Omanis who had turned out to support Qatar in the absence of their own fans, who were unable to travel because of a deep political rift with the UAE.

2. Haryana Beat Defending Champions Punjab Royals to Lift PWL 4 Title

- ✦ Haryana Hammers won the fourth edition of the Pro Wrestling League (PWL) as they outclassed Punjab Royals 6-3 in the summit clash at the Gautam Buddha University indoor stadium.
- ✦ It was Aleksander Khotsianivski of Ukraine, who put Haryana on the road to victory winning the 125 kg super heavyweight bout against Canadian Corey Jarvis 3-0.
- ✦ The brilliant performances of Ali Shabanov, Kiran, Ravi Kumar and Anastasia Nichita put the Haryana Hammers on the road to victory.

3. Mithali Raj becomes first woman to play 200 ODIs

- ✦ India captain Mithali Raj became the first woman cricketer to play 200 ODIs, adding another achievement to her illustrious career.

- ✦ Mithali made her ODI debut way back in 1999 and has featured in 200 games out of the 263 ODIs India have played.
- ✦ The 36-year-old is also the highest run-getter in ODIs with 6622 runs at an average of 51.33, including seven hundreds.

Obituaries

1. Odisha: BJD MP Ladu Kishore Swain passes away at 71

- ✦ Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP from Aska Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha, Ladu Kishore Swain passed away at the age of 71.
- ✦ Swain was member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly from 2004 to 2009. He was elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in May 2014.
- ✦ The BJD MP was Chairman of Panchayat Samiti from 1984-1990 and 1992-95. From 2002 to 2004, he was member of the Zilla Parishad.

2. Longest-serving US congressman John Dingell dies aged 92

- ✦ John Dingell, the longest serving congressman in US history, has died aged 92.
- ✦ The Michigan Democrat was a driving force behind many key liberal laws, notably health programmes.
- ✦ He was first elected in 1955, serving in the House of Representatives for the next 59 years. He retired in 2015.



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