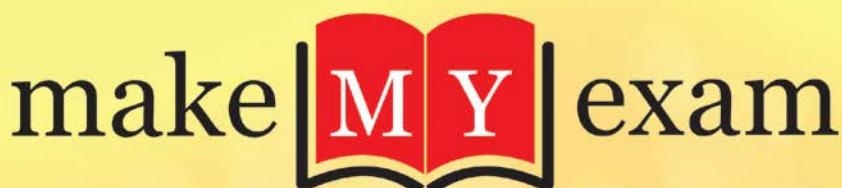


Monthly Current Affairs

01 February – 28 February, 2018



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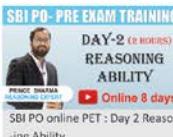
Current Affairs Bulletin of the week



President of India (Qualification & Election) By Vipan Goyal



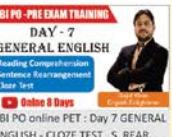
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DAY-2 (2 HOURS)



DAY-3 (2 HOURS)



DAY-7 GENERAL ENGLISH

National News**1. Environment Ministry launches Green Good Deeds Campaign:**

- ⊕ With an aim to sensitize people about climate change and global warming, the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change has launched Green Good Deeds Campaign.
- ⊕ The Environment Minister emphasized upon the need of 'Green Sainiks' on the lines of 'Polio Sainiks' to take the campaign at the grassroots level.

2. Maharashtra- First state to have Transgender Welfare Board:

- ⊕ A Transgender Welfare Board has been set up in Maharashtra to look after the education, employment, housing and health schemes for transgenders and protect their Constitutional and human rights.

3. DASTAK campaign in UP:

- ⊕ Uttar Pradesh Government has launched a campaign DASTAK to eradicate Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis disease in the state.
- ⊕ The door to door campaign has been launched in association with UNICEF.

4. Floating Island on Neknampur lake:

- ⊕ The Hyderabad Metropolitan Authority with NGO Dhruvanshhas established a floating treatment wetland in Neknampur lake in Hyderabad.
- ⊕ Plant will clean the lake by absorbing nitrates and other pollutants in the river.

5. First ever International Kala Mela inaugurated in New Delhi:

- ⊕ Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the first ever International Kala Festival in New Delhi.
- ⊕ The festival has been organized by the Lalit Kala Akademi in partnership with the Ministry of Culture.

6. Cabinet approves ratification of Minamata Convention on Mercury:

- ⊕ The Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for ratifying Minamata Convention on Mercury for enabling India to become party of the convention.
- ⊕ The convention aims to protect human health and the environment from anthropogenic emissions and release of mercury and mercury compounds.
- ⊕ The convention has derived its name after Japanese city Minamata which had witnessed devastating incident of mercury poisoning.

8. First ever Pelican Festival in Andhra Pradesh:

- ⊕ The Andhra Pradesh Government will organize the first ever, one day pelican festival at the Atapaka Bird Sanctuary on Kolleru.

9. Google-NCERT pact for digital safety:

- Google and National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has signed an agreement to integrate a course on 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' in information and communication technology curriculum.
- The agreement was signed on Safer Internet Day (6th February) to bring awareness among the youngsters of the country to make internet a safe space.

10. Karnataka - Committee recommends separate flag:

- The 9 member committee constituted by the Karnataka Government has recommended separate state flag.
- The committee, headed by the Principal Secretary has recommended new tricolor flag having yellow, white and red colors with the state's emblem "Gandaberunda" (a two-headed mythological bird) in the centre.

11. Mahamastakabhisheka Utsav in Karnataka:

- President Ram Nath Kovind has inaugurated the 8th Mahamastakabhisheka Utsav of Lord Gomateshwara in Karnataka.
- Mahamastakabhisheka of Gomateshwara, who is also known as Bahubali takes place once in 12 years.

12. Foundation stone of Rhodendron Park laid:

- Foundation stone of Rhodendron Park was laid in the Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh by Chief Minister Pema Khandu.
- Biodiversity is continuously declining in the district.
- More than 30 species of rhododendrons would be planted and conserve in the park.

13. Haryana launches GobardhanYojna for Farmers:

- The Haryana Government has launched the GobardhanYojna to provide opportunity to the farmers for the sale of organic manure and cow urine.

14. Government to change the MSME classification criteria:

- The Union Cabinet has given approval to amend Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 for classifying MSMEs.
- According to the new classification:
 - Micro enterprise- Annual turnover does not exceed Rs 5 crore.
 - Small enterprise- Annual turnover is more than Rs 5 crore but should not exceed Rs 75 crore.
 - Medium enterprise- Annual turnover is more than Rs 75 crore but should not exceed Rs 250 crore.

15. Government to launch National Women Entrepreneurship Council:

- The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development is going to establish National Women Entrepreneurship Council (NWEC).
- It will help to improve socio-economic gender parity, financial inclusion and economic empowerment of women in India and to promote entrepreneurship among them.

16. Cabinet approval for PM Research Fellows Scheme:

- Union Cabinet has given approval to implement Prime Minister's Research Fellows (PMRF) scheme for doctoral students pursuing research in technology related areas.
- With an aim to enhance the development of technology and innovation in the country, the scheme will be implemented for a period of seven years at the cost of Rs 1650 crore.

17. Government launches National Deworming Initiative:

- On the occasion of National Deworming Day (10th Feb), the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has launched National Deworming Initiative.
- It aims to cover more than 32.2 crore children aged between 1 to 19 years to fight parasitic worm infections.

18. CCEA approval to hike MSP for Copra:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has given approval to increase Minimum Support Price (MSP) for Fair Average Quality (FAQ) of "Milling Copra" for 2018 season.
- The approval has been given on the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP).

19. Government launches ASH TRACK mobile app for Fly Ash Management:

- The Union Ministry of Power has launched the web based monitoring system and Fly Ash mobile application named ASH TRACK.
- The app will enable better management of fly ash produced by thermal power plants by establishing interface between ash producers and potential ash users such as cement plants etc.

20. CriSidEx- India's first MSME Sentiment Index:

- SIDBI and CRISIL have launched CriSidEx, India's first MSE index for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- The index will help to indicate the current state and the quarterly growth of the MSMEs.

21. Government launches Sanskrit Centre in Gujarat University:

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh has launched the Centre for learning Sanskrit language in Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.

- ❖ The Centre will provide a comprehensive course of 6 months duration.

22. Bihar bans sale of loose cigarettes :

- ❖ The Government of Bihar has banned the sale of loose cigarettes to prohibit kids and youngsters who start smoking by buying loose cigarettes.
- ❖ This has been done under Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003.

23. Government to set up Cyber Crime Reporting Portal:

- ❖ With an aim to report Cyber Crimes against Women, the Union Home Ministry has decided to establish a Cyber Crime Reporting Portal.
- ❖ The step will be taken to stop Crimes against Women and Children.

24. 14th Meeting of EAC to PM held in New Delhi:

- ❖ With an aim to discuss the implementation of the National Health Scheme announced in Budget 2018-19, the 4th meeting of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) was held in New Delhi.
- ❖ The meeting took place under the chairmanship of Dr Bibek Debroy discussing World Bank report on Indian Economy and on Indian Fiscal framework apart from focusing on health reforms.

25. NHAI to launch ranking system of toll plazas:

- ❖ The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has decided to launch ranking system to address the issue of toll plazas.
- ❖ The ranking system will consider certain parameters like cleanliness, staff behavior, availability of ambulance and crane services in case of emergency.

26. First ever Highway Capacity Manual of India released:

- ❖ With an aim to guide road engineers and policy makers about road expansion, the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways has released India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual.
- ❖ The manual is known as Indo-HCM.

27. PM Modi opens first Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi:

- ❖ Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi has laid the foundation for the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi through video conference.

28. Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017:

- ❖ The Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has released the Indian State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017.
- ❖ The report reveals that total forest and tree cover in India has increased by 1%(forest cover- 6778 sq km and tree cover- 1243 sq km).

- The total forest and tree cover is 24.39% of the geographical area of the country.

29. India's first Online Radio Station launched:

- India's first Online Radio Station "Radio Umang" has been launched recently.

30. Punjab Government constitutes Revenue Commission:

- With an aim to bring greater efficiency and accountability in the functioning of the Revenue Department, the Government of Punjab has notified a 6 member Revenue Commission.
- The commission will be headed by (Retd.) Justice SS Saron of Punjab and Haryana High Court.

31. Kottayam to get 'Gender Park':

- A gender park has been opened for women and children at Kottayam, Kerala.
- Rehabilitation centres for sexual abuse victims will be established here apart from providing skill development courses and self-employment training facilities to the women.

32. Venkaiah Naidu to inaugurate the Global Theatre Olympics:

- The Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu will inaugurate the 8th edition of the Global Theatre Olympics on 17th February, 2018 in New Delhi.
- This will be for the first time that the festival is being organized by India.

33. Punjab makes super straw management mandatory:

- Punjab Government has made attachment of super straw management system to combine harvester machines mandatory for harvesting rice crop.
- This has been done to check the dangerous trend of stubble burning.
- The instructions were issued under section 31A of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.

34. World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 in New Delhi:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.
- The Summit is the flagship forum of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI).
- The summit provides a platform to the world leaders to work for sustainable development, energy and environment sectors.

35. India to change base year for GDP 2017-18:

- The Government is going to change the base year to 2017-18 for the calculation of GDP and IIP numbers.
- For retail inflation, the year will be revised to 2018.

36. Government extends anti-narcotics scheme for 3 more years:

- ❖ With an aim to combat illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances, the Union Home Ministry has extended the Anti-Narcotic Scheme for 3 more years.
- ❖ The scheme was launched in 2004 to provide financial help to states and union territories for controlling inter-state and cross-border drug trafficking.

37. India's biggest Global Pharma Conference held in Bengaluru:

- ❖ The Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers along with FICCI has organized the biggest Global Conference on Pharma Industry and Medical Devices in Bengaluru.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was- "Driving NextGen Pharmaceuticals".

38. Mumbai to host TiE Global Summit:

- ❖ The second edition of the TiE Global Summit will be hosted by Mumbai on 21st and 22nd February.
- ❖ The summit which is expected to be attended by over 2000 participant, will be held in association with the leading government agencies and will focus on business and innovation.

39. AtalBhujalYojna:

- ❖ The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has formulated a water conservation scheme "AtalBhujalYojna" to handle the alarming crisis of ground water level depletion.
- ❖ The scheme aim to creates sufficient water storage for agricultural purposes apart from reviving surface water bodies.

40. Home Ministry organizes "WatanKoJano"Programme:

- ❖ The Ministry of Home Affairs has organized a Youth Exchange Programme- WatanKoJano to give exposure to the youth and children of Jammu and Kashmir about the cultural and socio-economic development taking place in other parts of the country.

41. PM inauguates 4th Container Terminal of JNPT in Mumbai:

- ❖ Prime Minister NarendraModi has inaugurated the Fourth Container Terminal at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- ❖ With this, the container handling capacity of JNPT has been doubled.

42. Haryana opens four subsidized canteens under AntyodayaAahaarYojna:

- ❖ With an aim to provide healthy, nutritious and hygienic food at affordable prices to poor, the Haryana Government has opened four subsidized canteens under the AntyodayaAahaarYojna.

- The four districts are- Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar and Yamunanagar.

43. Regional Conference on Water Resources to be held in Hyderabad:

- Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is going to organize a regional conference of Southern states in Hyderabad to resolve the pending inter-state water issues.
- Ministers of six southern states- Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Kerala, Puduchery and Telangana will take part in the meeting to discuss crucial issues like Supreme Court order on Cauvery water, Polavaram Project etc.

44. Botanical Survey of India inks MoU with Natural History Museum:

- The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Natural History Museum (NHM) of UK have signed an agreement in the field of Genetics and Taxonomic studies, research and training, conservation in India (including species and habitat).
- The agreement includes capacity building and scientific exchanges between the two nations.
- The agreement will help both the nations to fulfill their commitment of Conservation of Biological Diversity.

45. Maharashtra to launch AsmitaYojna to provide cheap sanitary pads:

- The Government of Maharashtra has decided to launch AsmitaYojna on International Women's Day (8th March) to provide subsidized sanitary pads to school girls and women.
- The State Government has appointed "Umed", the Maharashtra State Rural Livelihood Mission, as the nodal agency for the effective implementation of the scheme.

46. ONGC to introduce Asia's first large scale CO2 injection technique in Gujarat:

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is going to introduce Carbon di Oxide Injection Technology in its Gandhar Oil field in Gujarat.
- It will be the first large scale CO2 injected project in Asia.
- The aim is to recover 20 million barrels of crude oil under the enhanced oil recovery program.

47. CCEA approval for Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarakhand:

- The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved the construction of 4.5 km long Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarakhand as a part of ChardhamMahamargPariyojna.
- The 2 lane bi-directional tunnel will provide all weather connectivity to Yamunotri, one of the dham on ChardhamYatra.

48. Deworming programme in Himachal Pradesh:

- With an aim to reduce the cases of worm infection among the children, the Himachal Pradesh Government has launched a Deworming Programme.
- In this programme, over 19 lakh children between the age group of 1-19 years will be given the deworming medicine.

49. Maharashtra signs 35K croreMoU with AmolYadav:

- The Government of Maharashtra has signed a Memorandum of Understanding worth Rs 35,000 cr with AmolYadav, the man who built an aircraft on his rooftop.
- The state government will provide infrastructure and financial support to him.

50. Government sets up NITI Forum for Northeast:

- With an aim to achieve speedy and sustainable growth in North East Region (NER), the Union Ministry for Development of North-East Region (DoNER) is going to set up the NITI Forum for North East.
- The Forum will be co-chaired by Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog and Minister of State for the North Eastern Region.
- The forum has been given the task of identifying various constraints of growth in NER and recommending various suitable interventions for addressing the same.

51. Government launches Swajal Program and GangotriSwachh Iconic Place Project:

- The Union Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has launched Swajal and GangotriSwachh Iconic Place Project in the Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand.
- These two projects will create cleanliness apart from providing basic amenities to the people on the bank of Ganga river and employment generation.

52. Northeast's first Regional Centre for Agriculture:

- Northeast's first Regional Centre for Agriculture will be inaugurated in Mizoram in March 2018.
- The Centre, which will be established in collaboration of Israel, will be exclusively for the processing of citrus fruits and will cater to the whole of North East.
- Israel will provide the expertise knowledge and professional support to the centre.

53. EPFO lowers interest rate to 8.55% for 2017-18:

- The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has lowered the interest rate to 8.55% for the financial year 2017-18, compared to 8.65% for 2016-17.

54. First sale of Electoral Bonds from will start from 1st March 2018- Finance Ministry:

- The Union finance Ministry has stated that the first sale of electoral bonds will start from March 1, 2018 for a period of 10 days at the Mumbai, Delhi, Chennai and Kolkata branches of SBI.
- Indian citizens and any entity established in the country can purchase these bonds.
- The bonds will have the life of 15 days.

55. India's first fully women operated non-suburban railway station in Jaipur:

- The Gandhi Nagar Railway Station in Japur, Rajasthan has become the first major non-suburban railway station in the country to be fully managed by women.
- It is the second station in the country to be solely managed by women after Matunga in Mumbai.
- This has been seen as a major step towards women empowerment.

56. Khajuraho Dance Festival in Madhya Pradesh:

- The 44th edition of the Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018 was recently inaugurated by Anandiben Patel in Khajuraho temple of Madhya Pradesh.
- It is an annual cultural festival that showcases the various Indian classical dance styles.

57. New features in E-NAM Platform:

- The Union Ministry of Agriculture has launched 6 new features in the National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) platform to make more user friendly.
- The new features are:
 - BHIM payment facility for traders.
 - Management Information System dashboard for better analysis.
 - Mobile payment facility for traders.
 - Integration of farmer's database.
 - Enhanced features on mobile app such as gate entry and payment through mobile.
 - e-Learning module for better understanding.

58. Amazon launches its first food retail service in India:

- E-commerce giant Amazon has started its own food retail venture in India called Amazon Retail, in Pune.
- The company will sell locally made and packaged food to the customers directly.

International News & Foreign Affairs**1. World's highest motorable road built in Ladakh:**

- The world's highest motorable road has been constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in the Ladakh region of Jammu and Kashmir.
- The 86 km long road is at a height of over 19,300 feet.

2. 5th South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference in New Delhi:

- The Public Procurement Division (PPD) and All India Management Division (AIMD) have jointly hosted the 5th edition of South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference in New Delhi.
- The theme of the conference was- "Public Procurement and Service Delivery".
- The conference aims to improve public procurement of member countries to ensure timely and quality delivery of public services.

3. India will be the Guest of Honour country in Saudi Arabian festival:

- External Affairs Minister SushmaSwaraj will inaugurate the Janadriyah festival in Saudi Arabia as India will be the Guest of Honour country in the festival.

4. Cabinet approves India-Australia MoU for Secondment Program:

- The Union Cabinet has approved the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for Secondment Program between India and Australia.
- The Program will help to understand the current economic policy issues in both the countries that will further enhance the opportunities for future collaboration and engagement.

5. Saudi Arabia temporarily bans poultry imports from India:

- Saudi Arabia has temporarily banned imports of live birds, hatching eggs and chicks from India after a form of bird flu that is highly lethal for poultry was found in South Asian Countries.

6. India ranks 44 in US Chamber's Intellectual Property Index:

- India has been ranked 44th out of 50 countries in the Intellectual Property Index released by US Chamber of Commerce.
- US has secured the top position on the list followed by UK and Sweden.

7. ONGC acquires 10% stake in UAE's Zakum oilfield:

- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) has acquired 10% stake in Abu Dhabi's offshore Lower Zakum Concession for \$600 million.
- With this deal, Indian Companies for the first time have acquired stake in in Abu Dhabi's hydrocarbon resources.

8. Mumbai- 12th richest city in the world:

- Mumbai, the financial capital of India is the 12th richest city in the world with the total wealth of \$950 billion.

- ❖ New York has secured the first position in the New World Wealth report.

9. Modi to address World Government Summit in Dubai:

- ❖ Prime Minister NarendraModi has address the crowd at the inaugural day of the World Government Summit in Dubai.
- ❖ India is the Guest of Honor country at the summit.

10. World's tallest hotel in Dubai:

- ❖ Dubai has opened world's tallest hotel Gevora (365 meters high), breaking its own record by 1 meter.
- ❖ The 75-storey hotel broke the record earlier held by JW Marriot Marquis situated in Dubai.

11. RajimKumbhMela created world record:

- ❖ Over 2,100 saints and locals by blowing "shankh" together have set a record on the second day of RajimKumbhMela in Chhattisgarh.
- ❖ The mela was inaugurated at the banks of river Mahanadi.

12. Tanzania withdraws from UN refugee programme:

- ❖ Tanzania has decided to withdrew from United Nation's "Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework" due to security reasons and lack of funds.

13. World's first driverless transport pods in Dubai:

- ❖ Dubai has started the testing of the world's first self-driving pods, designed to travel short and medium distances at 20 km/hr, can be coupled in 15 seconds and detached in 5 seconds.

14. China to host 2018 SCO summit:

- ❖ 2018 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will be hosted by the Qingdao province of China.
- ❖ SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization.
- ❖ Its headquarters is located in Beijing, China.

15. World Information Technology Congress 2018:

- ❖ Prime Minister NarendraModi has inaugurated the World Information Technology Congress 2018 in Hyderabad, Telangana via video conference.
- ❖ The conference was held for the first time in India.
- ❖ The theme of the conference was- "Future Enterprises".

16. Saudi Arabia allows women to start business without male:

- The Government of Saudi Arabia has allowed women to open their own business from government e-services without obtaining any consent from male guardian.
- Earlier, women were required to present proof of permission from husband, father, brother or any other male guardian to do any Government paper work.

17. India to host first International Solar Alliance Summit:

- India will host the first International Solar Alliance Summit in March 2018 in New Delhi.
- Two new programs- On scaling solar e-mobility and storage and On roof top solar will be inaugurated.
- The International Solar Alliance (ISA) aims at tapping solar energy in the countries that lie partially or fully between Tropics of Cancer and Capricorn.

18. India- Global Host for World Environment Day:

- India and UN Environment has signed a Letter of Intent (LOI) which has allowed India to be the global host for the World Environment Day which will be observed on 5th June.
- The theme for this year is- “Plastic Pollution”.

19. India-UK Joint Research on Clean Water and Clean Energy:

- India and United Kingdom have launched joint research projects on water quality research and energy demand reduction in built environment.
- The two projects aim to provide mutual benefits and research solutions to both the countries to fulfill sustainable development goals regarding clean water and clean energy.

20. India, Iran agreements:

- India and Iran have signed 9 agreements including the strategically important Chabahar port and a double taxation avoidance agreement.
- These agreements were signed after the bilateral talks between Prime Minister NarendraModi and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani.

Some other important agreements are:

- MoU on exemption from Visa requirement for diplomatic passport holders
- MoU on the exchange of Instrument of Ratification on Extradition Treaty
- MoU on Postal Cooperation
- MoU on Health and Medicine
- MoU in Agriculture and Allied Sectors

21. Canadian PM to attend Canada-India Business Forum in Mumbai:

- Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will attend the Canada-India Business Forum at Taj Palace Hotel in Mumbai.

22. Singapore to impose carbon tax from 2019:

- ❖ With an aim to fight climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions, the Government of Singapore is going to impose carbon tax from 2019.
- ❖ A tax of \$5 per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions will be levied.

23. Pakistan is the riskiest place to be born- UNICEF:

- ❖ According to a report released by UNICEF, Pakistan is the riskiest country to be born in.
- ❖ The safest country in this respect is Japan, where less than 1 in 1,000 babies die by the time they complete one month.

24. India ranks 81 in Corruption Perception Index 2017:

- ❖ India has secured 81st rank among 180 countries in the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2017 released by the NGO Transparency International.
- ❖ The Index has been compiled by using data of World Bank, World Economic Forum and other institutions.
- ❖ New Zealand has been ranked as the cleanest country.

25. India and Germany signs MoU for Smart Cities in India:

- ❖ India and Germany have signed anMoU for Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities in India.
- ❖ The aim of the program is to apply the concepts of sustainable urban development to provide basic services and housing in selected cities and smart cities of India.

26. Cabinet approval for India-Morocco Railway Cooperation Agreement:

- ❖ The Union Cabinet has given approval to the Agreement between India and Morocco to develop long term cooperation and partnership in the Railway sector.
- ❖ The agreement includes technical cooperation, training, exchange of experience and personnel etc.

Banking & Finance**1. ISA inks pact with EBRD:**

- ❖ The International Solar Alliance has signed a Joint Financial Partnership Declaration with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) for cooperation on renewable energy projects.
- ❖ This agreement will help in funding of solar projects in different parts of the world, especially in Africa.

2. PNB signs pact with National e-Government Services:

- Punjab National Bank has signed an agreement for information and utility with National e-Governance Services Limited.
- This has been done to augment the information infrastructure in India.

3. SBI tops in bad loans:

- Country's largest lender SBI' Non Performing Assets (NPA) accounts for Rs 20,339 crore in 2016-17, the highest among all the public sector banks.
- SBI has been followed by Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of India (BOI).

4. Bank of Baroda exit from South Africa:

- Bank of Baroda is going to exit the South African market due to allegations that the politically connected Gupta family has used its network for illicit transactions.

5. Government signs \$100 million loan agreement with NDB for Rajasthan Water Project:

- The Union Government has inked a loan agreement with the New Development Bank (NDB) for financing the Rajasthan Water Sector Restructuring Project for the Desert Areas.
- The project aims to rehabilitate 678 km long Indiara Gandhi Nahar Project.

6. NABARD allotted Rs 1918 crore for Punjab:

- The National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced an area development plan worth Rs 1918 crore for Punjab to Supplement farmer's income.

7. Government appoints two new Executive Directors in Canara and Vijaya banks:

- Government has appointed Debashish Mukherjee and MuraliRamaswamias the executive directors of Canara Bank and Vijaya Bank respectively.

8. RBI constitutes committee to monitor bad loans and cases of frauds:

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted a committee to monitor NPA or bad loans, effectiveness of audits and rising incidents of frauds.
- The committee will be headed by Y H Malegam, a former member of Central Board of Directors of RBI.

9. ADB to give loan for improved water supply in Bihar:

- The Union Government has signed \$84 million loan agreement with Asian Development Bank (ADB) for improvement and expansion of water supply in Bhagalpur and Gaya districts of Bihar.
- The loan has been provided for a term of 25 years with a grace period of 5 years.

New Appointments & Person in News

1. Nicos Anastasiades- New President of Cyprus:

- NicosAnastasiadeshas been elected as the President of Cyprus for the 2nd consecutive time.

2. Mahmud Hossain- New Chief Justice of Bangladesh:

- The President of Bangladesh, Abdul Hamid has appointed Mahmud Hossain as the new Chief Justice of the country.
- He is the 22nd Chief Justice of Bangladesh.

3. Chief Justice of Maldives arrested:

- Maldives Chief Justice Abdulla Saeed has been arrested after President Abdulla Yameen Abdul Gayoom declared a 15 days state of emergency.
- The crisis began after the Maldives Government refused to obey a court order to release political prisoners and accused the court of attempting to impeach the President.

4. Hardayal Prasad- New MD and CEO of SBI Card:

- Hardayal Prasad has been appointed as new MD and CEO of SBI Card.
- He has succeeded Vijay Jasuja.

5. Prince Charles launches Education Impact Bond for India:

- Celebrating the 10th anniversary of British Asian Trust (BAT), Prince Charles of Britain has launched a new \$ 10 Million Development Impact Bond (DIB) for improving the education for over 200,000 children in India.
- DIB is the latest fund raising initiative by BAT which was established 10 years ago to fight poverty in South Asia.

6. AbhilashaKumari- First Woman Chief Justice of Manipur High Court:

- AbhilashaKumari has been sworn in as the Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.
- Governor of Manipur NajmaHeptulla administered oath to her.
- With this, she has become the first woman Chief Justice of Manipur High Court.

7. Amitabh Kant gets extension till June 2019:

- ❖ The Union Government has decided to extend the tenure of NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant till June 30, 2019.
- ❖ The senior IAS officer's 2 years term was supposed to expire this month.

8. Abdul Hamid elected as Bangladesh President for the second time:

- ❖ Abdul Hamid has been elected as the President of Bangladesh for the second consecutive term.

9. Chandrashekhar Kambar- New President of Sahitya Akademi:

- ❖ Renowned Kannada litterateur Chandrashekhar Kambar has been elected as the President of Sahitya Akademi.

10. KP Sharma Oli sworn in as Nepal's Prime Minister:

- ❖ KP Sharma Oli has sworn in as the Prime Minister of Nepal for the second time.
- ❖ He is the 41st Prime Minister of Nepal.

11. Cyril Ramaphosa- New President of South Africa:

- ❖ Cyril Ramaphosa has been elected as the new President of South Africa.
- ❖ He has been elected after the scam-tainted Jacob Zuma has resigned.

12. Aravind Jamkhedkar appointed as the Chief of ICHR:

- ❖ Archaeologist and historian Aravind Jamkhedkar will be appointed as the next Chairman of the Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR).
- ❖ He will succeed Prof. K. Sudershan Rao.

13. National Award to Raghbir Singh Khandpur:

- ❖ The Department of Science and Technology is going to award Raghbir Singh Khandpur for his remarkable contribution to science and his efforts to make Science City in Punjab's Kapurthala.

14. Haruhiko Kuroda reappointed as the Chief of Bank of Japan:

- ❖ The Government of Japan has reappointed Haruhiko Kuroda as the Chief of the Bank of Japan for another term.

15. N Gopalaswami Committee to select top 20 educational eminence:

- ❖ The Union Government has constituted and Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) to select 20 institutions of eminence amongst 104 public or private institutions.

- The committee will be headed by former Chief Election Commissioner N Gopalswami.

16. Kamal Haasan launches Political Party:

- Veteran Actor Kamal Haasan has launched his political party 'Makkal Needhi Maiam' in Madurai district of Tamil Nadu.

17. AvaniChaturvedi becomes 1st Indian woman to fly fighter jet solo:

- AvaniChaturvedi, an Indian Air Force officer has become the first woman in the country to fly a fighter jet solo.
- She operated the Russian MiG-21 aircraft in her first training sortie.

18. Gambia suspends death penalty:

- The President of Gambia Adama Barrow has announced to suspend the death penalty in the country.
- He declared it as the first step towards its abolition.

Science Tech & Defence**1. China commissions J-20:**

- China's People's Liberation Army Air Force (PLAAF) has commissioned its new generation J-20 fourth generation stealth fighter into combat service.
- With this, China has become second country in the world to commission domestically developed stealth aircraft after US.

2. Prithvi-II missile successfully test fired:

- Indigenously developed nuclear capable surface to surface Prithvi II missile was successfully test fired from Odisha.

3. Japan launches world's smallest rocket:

- The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) has launched the world's smallest rocket with the ability to put tiny satellite into the orbit.

4. Agni-1 Missile successfully test-fired:

- Nuclear capable ballistic Agni-1 missile was successfully test-fired from mobile launcher located at Integrated Test Range of Dr Abdul Kalam Island in the Odisha.
- Agni-1 is an indigenously developed, intermediate range, surface-to-surface, single stage missile.

5. Google launches '#SecurityCheckKiya' Campaign:

- ❖ With an aim to create awareness about internet security, Google has launched '#SecurityCheckKiya' Campaign in India on the occasion of Safer Internet Day (6th February).
- ❖ The campaign aims to protect the first time web users from account hijacking and other security threats.

6. US Air Force chief flies Tejas:

- ❖ General David L Goldfein, the Chief of US Air Force flew a sortie in indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas at the Indian Air Force Station in Jodhpur, Rajasthan.
- ❖ With this, he has become the first foreign military chief to fly Tejas aircraft.

7. Indian Army launches Joint Training Node:

- ❖ With an aim to conduct joint military exercises with the foreign armies, Indian Army has launched an independent and fully-integrated Joint Training Node at Umroi cantonment in Shillong.
- ❖ It will focus specially on Meghalaya and Assam on the world map of foreign armies.

8. Defence Industrial Corridor between Chennai and Bengaluru:

- ❖ The first ever Defence Industrial Production Corridor, linking Chennai and Bengaluru will be developed in 2018.
- ❖ It was announced by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the budget speech 2018.

9. Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological Systems inaugurated at INS Garuda:

- ❖ The Indian Navy has unveiled the Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological Systems (IAAMS) at INS Garuda, naval air station located at Kochi, Kerala.
- ❖ IAAMS is an ambitious project of Indian Navy to modernize Meteorological infrastructure of 9 naval air stations to bring accuracy in weather monitoring system.

10. Vinay Sheel Oberoi Committee constituted to expedite capital acquisition:

- ❖ The Union Ministry of Defence has constituted 13 member Raksha Mantri Advisory Committee on Ministry of Defence Capital Projects (RMCOMP).
- ❖ The committee headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi, will monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for modernization of armed forces.

11. Tri-service exercise 'Paschim Lehar' concluded:

- ❖ Tri-service maritime exercise “Paschim Lehar” was recently held off India’s western coast with an aim to enhance interoperability between Indian Navy, Army, Air Force and Coast Guard.

12. Scientists discover new class of antibiotics from soil:

- ❖ Scientists from the Rockefeller University in New York have discovered a new class of antibiotics called “Malacidins”.
- ❖ It has been produced by microorganisms living in soil and dirt and is capable of killing several antibiotic-resistant pathogens.

13. Unmanned Russian Cargo ship launched:

- ❖ Russian space agency Roscosmos has successfully launched Progress MS-08, an unmanned cargo spacecraft for the International Space System.

14. Prithvi-II Missile- First night trial successfully conducted:

- ❖ The first night trial of nuclear capable surface to surface short range ballistic Prithvi-II missile was successfully conducted from Odisha Coast.
- ❖ The tactile missile is capable of attacking the targets at the range of 350 km.

15. Dhanush Missile successfully test fired:

- ❖ Nuclear capable, surface to surface Dhanush ballistic missile has been successfully test fired from Odisha near Paradip in the Bay of Bengal.
- ❖ The missile, also known as Prithvi-III has been tested by the Strategic Command Forces.
- ❖ The strike range of the missile is 350 km.

Important days**1. 4th February- World Cancer Day:**

- ❖ The World Cancer Day is observed every year on 4th February worldwide to raise awareness of cancer and encourage its prevention and treatment.
- ❖ The theme for this year is- “We can, I can”.

2. Sri Lanka celebrates 70th Independence Day:

- ❖ Sri Lanka celebrated its 70th Independence Day in Colombo.
- ❖ The theme of the event was “One Nation”.
- ❖ Sri Lanka Got freedom from the British rule in 1948.

3. National Productivity Week:

- The National Productivity Week will be observed from 12th to 18th February (3rd week of February) by the National Productivity Council.
- The week has been started on 12th February (National Productivity Day).
- The theme for the week is- “Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India.

4. 12th February- Darwin Day:

- With an aim to spread the principles in the world given by Charles Darwin, the Darwin Day is celebrated every year on 12th February.

5. 13th February- World Radio Day:

- World Radio Day is observed every year on 13th February across the globe .
- It marks the worldwide celebration of radio as a medium of information and entertainment that helps to bridge the communication gap in remote areas.

6. 20th February- World Day of Social Justice:

- World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on 20th February.
- The day aims to recognize the need to promote efforts to tackle alarming issues like poverty, exclusion and unemployment.
- The theme for 2018 is- “Workers on the Move: The Quest for Social Justice”.

7. 21st February- International Mother Language Day:

- The International Mother Language Day is observed on 21st February across the globe to promote awareness of linguistic, multilingualism and cultural diversity.
- The theme for this year was- “Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development”.

Books & Author**1. A Century is not Enough- Autobiography on SouravGanguly:**

- Former Indian Cricket Team Captain SouravGanguly’s autobiography is soon to be published with the name “A Century is not Enough”.
- The book is co-authored by Gautam Bhattacharya.

Awards**1. Ramesh Sippy wins Raj Kapoor Award:**

- Veteran filmmaker Ramesh Sippy has been chosen for the first Raj Kapoor Award for Excellence in Cinema.

2. Aadhaar and Umang App win awards at World Government Summit 2018:

- ❖ India's Aadhaar and Umang App have won awards at the 6th World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai.
- ❖ Umang App won in best m-Government Service Award for Accessible Government Category and Aadhaar has won in the Best Government Emerging Technologies Award.

Sports**1. India clinches Under-19 World Cup 2018:**

- ❖ India, by defeating Australia has won Under-19 World Cup 2018.
- ❖ The 8 wickets victory in the final match has made India the first nation to win four Under-19 World Cups.

2. National Chess Championship for 13th KishanGangoli wins blind:

- ❖ KishanGangoli has won the 13th edition of the National 'A' Chess Championship for the blind in Mumbai.
- ❖ The Championship was organized by All India Chess Federation for the blind.

3. Rohan More becomes first Asian to swim across Ocean Seven:

- ❖ Long distance swimmer of India, Rohan More has become the first Asian and the youngest to swim across the Cook Strait between North and South Islands called Ocean 7 in New Zealand.
- ❖ With this, he has become the 9th person in the world to swim across Cook Strait.

4. Roger Federer wins Rotterdam Open:

- ❖ Roger Federer of Switzerland, by defeating GrigorDimitrov of Bulgaria, has won the Rotterdam Open.

5. 8th Theatre Olympics inaugurated:

- ❖ Vice President Venkaiah Naidu has inaugurated the 8th edition of the Theatre Olympics in New Delhi.
- ❖ It was organized by the National School of Drama (NSD) with the theme "Flag of Friendship".

Obituaries

1. Veteran Telugu actress Lakshmi Devi passes away:

- Renowned Telugu actress Lakshmi Devi has passed away at the age of 78 years.

2. Kathakali dancer Madavoor Vasudevan passes away:

- Kathakali maestro Madavoor Vasudevan has passed away at the age of 89.
- He was died while performing at Agasthyacodu Mahadeva Temple.

3. Chandrasekhar Rath passes away:

- Renowned Odia author and poet Chandrasekhar Rath has passed away at the age of 89.
- He was nominated for Padma Shri this year for his contribution in Odia literature.

4. Musician Johann Johansson passes away:

- Renowned Musician and Oscar-nominated composer Johann Johansson has passed away at the age of 48.
- He belonged to Iceland.

5. 106 year old mascot for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan passes away:

- KunwarBai, a 106 year old woman who was chosen as the mascot for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, passed away after a prolonged illness.

6. Sridevi passed away:

- Veteran Bollywood actress Sridevi passed away in Dubai at the age of 54.
- She died due to cardiac arrest.

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