

Current Affairs Pocket PDF – February 2018

Online Test for SBI Clerk 2018

www.OliveBoard.com

INDIAN AFFAIRS

- Central Government has sanctioned Rs 1500 crore to promote organic farming in Uttarakhand. The amount was sanctioned by Union Agriculture Minister, Radha Mohan Singh during his meeting with Uttarakhand Chief Minister, Trivendra Singh Rawat in New Delhi on January 30, 2018.
- On February 1, 2018, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley presented Union Budget 2018-19 in Parliament. To strengthen agriculture, rural development, health, education, employment, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) and infrastructure sectors.
- On February 2, 2018, Power and Renewable Energy Minister, R K Singh stated that, government will implement a Rs 140000-crore Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahaabhiyan (KUSUM) scheme as announced in Union Budget 2018 to promote use of solar energy for pumps and encourage use of barren land for setting up decentralised solar power plants.
- On 2nd February 2018, the Floating Treatment Wetland (FTW) on Nekkampur Lake was inaugurated in Hyderabad on World Wetlands Day (February 2). It has been named the largest FTW in India by the India Book of Records.
- On February 3, 2018, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr Harsh Vardhan appealed to the teaching community to join the ‘Green Good Deeds’ campaign. This campaign has been launched by Environment Ministry to sensitize students about climate change and global warming.
- Kala Ghoda Arts Festival is an annual multicultural festival held in the Kala Ghoda area of South Mumbai. Kala Ghoda Arts festival 2018, which is the 20th edition of this festival, began on February 3, 2018. This year’s theme is ‘Hara Ghoda’ (Green Horse) focusing on sustainability and environment-friendliness.
- On January 20, 2018, Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport, Mumbai created a new world record for single-runway operations by handling 980 arrivals and take-offs in 24 hours.
- According to the latest India research report by green energy market tracker Mercom Capital, India has achieved 20 GW (Giga watt) cumulative solar power capacities. Out of 20 GW, utility-scale cumulative installations stand at approximately 18.4 GW, while rooftop solar accounts for another 1.6 GW.
- Union Science and Technology Minister, Harsh Vardhan has stated that Government has set up a mechanism in the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) for regular interface with small-scale industry (SSI) for transfer of technologies from CSIR laboratories to industries.
- For the first time, Indian Railways has introduced new General Conditions of Contracts (GCC) for Services which defines terms & conditions for contractors engaged in service contracts for non-operational areas such as Facilities Management, Housekeeping, Consultancy etc.
- On February 6, 2017, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Suresh Prabhu launched three tools – States and Union Territory Startup Ranking Framework, Compendium of Good Practices for Promoting Startups in India and the Startup India Kit – for ranking States and Union Territories (UTs) on startup ecosystem.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan, Union Minister for Science & Technology, has formulated a mechanism in CSIR (Council of Scientific & Industrial Research) to facilitate regular interface with small-scale industry for transfer of technologies from CSIR laboratories.
- Under Union Budget 2018, Central Government has allocated Rs 5252 crore for different railway projects in Odisha. This year’s allocation is the highest ever budgetary allocation for railway infra development in Odisha till date.

- On February 7, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved following initiatives:
 - i. Union Cabinet has approved the proposal for ratification of Minamata Convention on Mercury and thereby enabling India to become a Party to the Convention.
 - ii. Cabinet approves changes in the Major Port Authorities Bill 2016
 - iii. Cabinet approves DSF Policy Bid Round-II for 60 un-monetised discoveries of ONGC and OIL
 - iv. Cabinet approves placing the new Instrument adopted by International Labour Organization (ILO)
 - v. Cabinet approves Implementation of 'Prime Minister Research Fellows (PMRF)'
 - vi. Cabinet approves rationalization of Autonomous Bodies under Department of Health & Family Welfare.
 - vii. Cabinet approves Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code bill
 - viii. Cabinet approves enhancement of target under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- On 7th February 2018, South Central Railway (SCR) chief public relations officer M Umashankar Kumar has announced that, it has become the first railway zone in India to achieve 100 % LED lighting in all 733 stations under its jurisdiction.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) is launching a pilot project includes developing a satellite based electronic toll collection system that works on GPS/GSM technology on Delhi Mumbai national highway to analyse the feasibility of "Pay as you use" tolling system in India.
- On February 9, 2018, NITI Aayog launched the 'Healthy States, Progressive India' Report. The report was jointly released by NITI Aayog CEO - Amitabh Kant, Ministry of Health, Secretary - Preeti Sudan and World Bank India Country Director - Junaid Ahmad.
- In terms of overall performance, Kerala, Punjab and Tamil Nadu have emerged as best performers among larger states. Highest annual incremental performance (among larger states) has been exhibited by Jharkhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh.
- On February 8, 2018, Central Government announced that it has approved the construction of over 1.86 lakh more houses for urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme. With this approval, total number of affordable houses sanctioned under this scheme has reached 39.25 lakhs.
- On February 9, 2018, 'Integrated Automatic Aviation Meteorological System (IAAMS)' was inaugurated at INS Garuda, a naval air station located in Kochi, Kerala. IAAMS is Indian Navy's project aimed at modernising the Meteorological infrastructure of the nine Naval Air Stations.
- On February 10, 2018, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda launched National Deworming Day. National Deworming Day is held on 10 February and 10 August to treat intestinal worm infections in all children aged 1- 19 years.
- On 10th February 2018, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Gujarat University's Centre for Spoken Sanskrit that will provide a spoken Sanskrit course. Co-ordinator of this course is Atul Unagar.
- India Health Fund (launched by Tata Trusts in association with The Global Fund) will financially support innovations and technologies aimed at combating tuberculosis and malaria. IHF's role will be to make such solutions sustainable and scalable.
- As per a report by Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and National Election Watch (NEW), based on analysis of self-sworn affidavits of current chief ministers (CMs), 35% of incumbent chief ministers in India have criminal cases against them and 81% of them are crorepatists.
- Union Minister of State for Rural Development, Ram Kripal Yadav has stated that Central Government is working towards connecting all villages through a road network by next year as part of the 'Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna'.
- On February 12, 2018, Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari released India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) which will guide road engineers and policy makers about road expansion. This manual is known as 'Indo-HCM' and has been developed by CSIR-Central Road Research Institute (CRRI).
- KPIT technologies has made a two-year statement of intent with NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog to promote innovative skills of students. This tie up between NITI Aayog and KPIT aims to improve the innovative skills of senior secondary students as part of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM).

- Central Government has extended the 'Assistance to States and UTs for Narcotics Control' scheme for three more years. Under this scheme, Union Home Ministry provides financial assistance to state governments and Union Territories which are contributing in controlling the inter-state and cross border drug trafficking.
- Indian government recently cleared the proposal for granting long-term visa (LTV) to minorities from Afghanistan seeking refuge in India. Besides, visa and residential permit norms for other nationals from Afghanistan have also been liberalised by Union Home Ministry.
- Union Health Ministry has made common National Entrance Exam viz. National Eligibility cum Entrance Test mandatory for admission to all medical courses in India. Union Ministry has approved the proposal of Medical Council of India (MCI) to amend the Screening Test Regulations, 2002, making it mandatory to qualify NEET to pursue foreign medical course.
- On February 15, 2018, former Indian Badminton player Pullela Gopichand initiated India's largest 'train the trainers' programme by inducting 1500 Physical Education (PE) teachers from across Gujarat for advanced training.
- On February 16, 2018, Tribal Affairs Minister Jual Oram stated that Central Government will set up 562 more Ekalavya Model Residential School (EMRS) in tribal areas across India to provide best quality education to the tribal children in their own environment.
- As per a report released by the NITI Aayog, sex ratio at birth (SRB) declined in 17 out of 21 large states of India. Among 17 states where SRB has dropped; highest decline has been recorded from Gujarat.
- On February 18, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid foundation stone of Navi Mumbai International Airport. Estimated cost for constructing this airport is Rs 16700 crore. It will have two parallel runways.
- A Home Ministry official has stated that a list prepared by UNESCO has mentioned 42 languages or dialects in India, spoken by less than 10000 people are considered endangered and may be heading towards extinction. As per a report of the census directorate, there are 22 scheduled languages and 100 non-scheduled languages in India.
- On February 19, 2018, Telangana State Government constituted a task force on urban mobility to study the feasibility of the monorail model and other modes of transport for the IT corridor in Hyderabad. Arvind Kumar, Principal Secretary, Municipal Administration is the Member Convenor of this task force.
- The parliament house will launch a crèche facility soon for women employees who prefer to bring their kids to the day care facility. In March 2017, Minister for women and child development Maneka Gandhi had notified Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan about the absence of crèche facility in the parliament house premises.
- Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given its approval to introduce Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 and Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018 in Parliament.
 - i. Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018 - Main objective to introduce this bill is to tackle the menace of illicit deposit taking activities across India by plugging the existing regulatory gaps and implement strict administrative measures.
 - ii. Chit Funds (Amendment) Bill, 2018 – Main objective behind this bill is to facilitate orderly growth of the Chit Funds sector and remove challenges being faced by the Chit Funds industry.
- On February 20, 2018, Union Cabinet approved six rail projects in 4 states for new lines as well as doubling and electrification of tracks. As per Indian Railways, these projects would generate more than 200 lakh person days of employment in Uttar Pradesh and three other states.

Company/Business Group	Amount of Investment	Time Horizon
Adani Group	Rs. 35000 crore	Over next five years, in various sectors
Aditya Birla Group	Rs. 25000 crore	Over next five years, in various sectors

Reliance Industries	Rs. 10000 crore	Over next three years, through Jio
---------------------	-----------------	------------------------------------

- On February 20, 2018, Union Drinking Water and Sanitation Minister Uma Bharati launched the Gangotri Swachh Iconic Place project and Swajal, a community owned drinking water programme, in Uttarakhand's Uttarkashi district. Ms. Uma Bharti also announced 'Bagori Ganga Gram' project for Uttarakhand's Bagori village, which has been declared open defecation free (ODF).
- On 19th February 2018, Jaipur's Gandhi Nagar railway station became India's first major railway station to be completely managed by women personnel. It was inaugurated by North Western Railway Zone general manager TP Singh.
- Central Government has cancelled plan to produce 114 Single-engine Fighters with foreign collaboration under the "Make in India" framework.
- On February 24, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched development schemes worth Rs 1000 crore for Daman and Diu. PM Modi also launched Ahmedabad-Diu flight service under UDAN (Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik—let the common citizen of the country fly), Regional Air Connectivity scheme.
- A NITI Aayog official has announced that, Nandan Nilekani will assist the government in developing IT infrastructure for National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS). It aims to offer medical cover for up to Rs 5 lakh to more than 10 crore poor families. This will cover up to 40 % of India's population.
- Union Commerce and Industry Ministry has appointed four institutes, to interact with stakeholders and suggest measures to push up India's ranking in ease of doing business index. ICSI and IIFT would look into 'starting a business' and 'trading across borders' parameters respectively, while NICMAR would get feedback on 'dealing with construction permits'.
- 15th edition of BioAsia, the annual flagship event of the Government of Telangana, was held from 22nd – 24th February, 2018 in Hyderabad. Theme of BioAsia 2018 was "RIGHT TIME, RIGHT NOW" focusing on strategies to keep up with pace of change and innovative ways to develop new models for distribution & healthcare delivery.
- 23 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) will be getting the largest portion of loans on offer under Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE) scheme. During Union Budget 2018 speech, Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley had announced RISE scheme with a corpus of Rs 100000 crore.
- On February 26, 2018, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), introduced a 'Baal Aadhaar' card for children below the age of five years. 'Baal Aadhaar' Card will be of Blue Colour.
- Union Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) is planning to set up "India corners" at educational institutes abroad, which will provide authentic reference material for students who wish to know more about India. "India corners" will comprise a set of books carrying information on different aspects of India.
- On 26th February 2018, Nitin Gadkari, Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, laid the foundation stone for National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC), at IIT Chennai. NTCPWC is set up under the Sagarmala programme of Ministry of Shipping.
- On February 26, 2018, Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao announced five lakh rupees health-cum-life insurance scheme for farmers in the state. Over 70 lakh farmers across Telangana will be covered under this scheme.
- On February 28, 2018, Union Cabinet approved the Commerce Ministry's proposal to give focused attention to 12 identified Champion Services Sectors for promoting their development and realizing their potential. For this purpose, a dedicated fund of Rs 5000-crore has been set up to support initiatives for sectoral Action Plans of the Champion Sectors.
- On February 28, 2018, Union Civil Aviation Minister, P. Ashok Gajapathi Raju inaugurated a one-of-its-kind aviation multi skill development centre in Chandigarh. This aviation multi skill development centre in Chandigarh is a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Airports Authority of India.

Online Test for RBI Grade B 2018

www.OliveBoard.com

- On 26th January 2018, 'SRIJAN' (Station Rejuvenation through Joint Action), an idea competition, in a move to redevelop nearly 600 major railway stations in India, was announced at MyGov portal. SRIJAN (Station Rejuvenation through Joint Action) was launched by Indian Railway Stations Development Corporation Limited (IRSDC).

State Wise National News

Andhra Pradesh

- On February 1, 2018, Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu laid the foundation stone for the Universal Peace Retreat Center of 'Prajapita Brahmakumari Eswariya University' in Amaravati.
- On 4th February 2018, 'Pelican Bird Festival-2018' was held at the Atapaka Bird Sanctuary on Kolleru Lake, in Andhra Pradesh. The Pelican Bird Festival-2018 was jointly organised by the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Authority (APTA) and Krishna district administration.
- In last few days, Central Government has released a sum of Rs. 1269 crore to Andhra Pradesh for various projects. Out of Rs. 1269 crore, Rs. 417.44 crore has been given as grant for the Polavaram multipurpose project across the Godavari River.

Arunachala Pradesh

- On 20th February 2018, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh announced that, the Central Government has sanctioned a special package to strengthen security in 3 eastern districts of Arunachal Pradesh: Tirap, Changlang and Longding.
- Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley, in his Budget address on February 1, 2018, announced that government will build a tunnel through the Sela Pass in Arunachal Pradesh. The tunnel will enable the movement of Indian troops in these sensitive areas and will check any unsolicited activities from Chinese side.
- On 6th February 2018, Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu laid foundation stone for Rhodendron Park in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh. It will be built in an area of 1.15 hectares. It will be partly funded under Border Area Development Programme (BADP).

Assam

- Assam has become the fourth state in the country to issue the Right of Way (RoW) guidelines for telecom service providers. These guidelines will regulate the establishment of underground and overground telecom infrastructure in Assam.
- In terms of maternal mortality rate (MMR), Assam is at the bottom of the list among all Indian States. MMR figure in Assam is 300 against the national average of 167.
- Assam State Government will be setting up 3 Terminal Mart for agricultural products in the state in order to give a boost to agricultural market in the state.
- On 23rd February 2018, 'Aadi Mahotsava', a tribal festival organized by Assam, began at Gandhi Mandir Indoor stadium, in Guwahati, Assam. It was inaugurated by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. It is conducted by the Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India jointly with the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Bihar

- On 9th Friday 2018 Bihar's health department's special secretary Lokesh Kumar Singh issued a notification announcing ban on the sale of loose cigarettes in Bihar. Bihar has become the 12th state in India to ban the sale of loose cigarettes.

- Indian Railways' first high speed electric locomotive which can run at a maximum speed of 120 kmph will be launched in March 2018 during French President Emmanuel Macron's Indian visit. The first 12,000 horsepower locomotive has been assembled at Madhepura plant in Bihar.

Chhattisgarh

- Residents of Bhalupani village in Balrampur district of Chhattisgarh finally got electricity connection for the first time after the district administration installed solar panels for every family.

New Delhi

- In April 2018, Delhi government will implement 'Mission Buniyaad' to improve learning levels of students attending primary classes in the state government and municipal schools. Announcement in this regard was made by Delhi Education Minister Manish Sisodia.
- On 22nd February 2018, the 7th edition of Youth Festival began at Central Park, New Delhi. The 7th edition of Youth Festival is themed: 'Let Love Live'. This year's Youth Festival celebrates the freedom to love.
- On February 23, 2018, India and Canada signed following six pacts in New Delhi, in presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Canadian Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau.
- On February 1, 2018, 7th India Energy Congress focusing on the theme 'Energy 4.0: Energy Transition Towards 2030' begun in New Delhi. India Energy Congress is the flagship event of World Energy Council India (WEC India), which functions under the Union Power Ministry.
- On February 4, 2018, Vice President of India, M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the First International Kala Mela (Art Festival) at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi. This festival has been organised by Lalit Kala Akademi.
- At 25th meeting of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council held in New Delhi on January 18, 2018, it was recommended that GST rate on services by way of admission to Amusement Parks may be reduced from 28% to 18%.
- National Meet on Grassroot Informatics- VIVID 2018 is being held from 8th – 10th February 2018 in New Delhi. It has been organised by National Informatics Centre (NIC) and inaugurated by Union Minister of Electronics & Information Technology, Ravi Shankar Prasad. Theme for VIVID 2018 is "Cyber Security and Innovation".
- On February 9, 2018, Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ms. Uma Bharti inaugurated Swachh Bharat Sanitation Park in Delhi. Objective behind developing this park is to create awareness on various safe technological options related to Sanitation.
- On 10th February 2018, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal and MoEF&CC minister Harsh Vardhan together launched the 'Clean Air Campaign' to focus on improvement of air quality in Delhi.
- On 15th February 2018, India's first Radio Festival was held in New Delhi, commemorating the World Radio Day which was celebrated on 13th February. The Radio festival was organised by International Association of Women in Radio and Television along with UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization).

Goa

- Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has sanctioned a new project to control pollution in River Sal at Navelim town in Goa. This project has been sanctioned under National River Conservation Plan. Estimated cost for this project is Rs. 61.74 crore.

Gujarat

- On 7th February 2018, PlastIndia 2018 10th edition of international plastics exhibition for 6 days from 7th February 2018 to 12th February 2018, started in Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It was inaugurated by Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani.

- On February 25, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the 'Run for New India' marathon in Surat, Gujarat. Chief Minister of Gujarat, Vijay Rupani was also present on the occasion. Objective behind this Marathon is to create awareness about social causes and call upon youth to resolve to build a New India.

Haryana

- On February 27, 2018, Haryana State Cabinet approved a proposal to bring in legislation for awarding death penalty to those found guilty of raping girls aged 12 years or less.
- 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela began on February 2, 2018 in Surajkund, Haryana. It was inaugurated by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. This event provides a platform for the artists and craftsmen from across the world to showcase their countries' rich diversity, cuisine and traditions.
- On February 6, 2018, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar stated that the State Government will establish 'Haryana Kisan Kalyan Pradhikaran', a farmers' welfare department which will be entrusted with the responsibility to make agriculture remunerative by enhancing productivity and thereby mitigate the distress of farm households and landless workers.
- On February 21, 2018, Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched 'Parivartan', a scheme designed to address 10 issues in 46 developmental blocks of the state. This scheme will not only help in achieving developmental objectives of Haryana State Government but will also provide practical training to employees.

Jammu and Kashmir

- On February 23, 2018, Jammu & Kashmir State Government constituted the State Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (SCPUL). Objective behind setting up this council is to promote J&K's official language (Urdu).

Jharkhand

- On 12th February 2018, Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das announced that "Dada-Dadi Park" for senior citizens will soon be set up in all cities of Jharkhand.

Karnataka

- On 15th – 17th February 2018, 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018': Affordable and Quality Healthcare is held in Bengaluru, Karnataka. The theme for 'India Pharma & India Medical Device 2018' is: 'Driving NextGen Pharmaceuticals'.
- Hampi monuments, regarded as Karnataka's pride, will be one among 10 tourist destinations across India to be developed as 'Iconic Tourism Site' by Central Government.
- On 19th February 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Palace Queen Humsafar Express train at the Mysuru railway station, Karnataka. Palace Queen Humsafar Express train will run from Mysuru in Karnataka to Udaipur in Rajasthan.
- On 7th February 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated the 88th Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsav of Lord Gomateshwara at Shravanabelagola in Hassan district, Karnataka. The Mahamastakabhisheka Mahotsav is held once in 12 years. It has been celebrated for nearly 1,000 years.

Kerala

- Kerala State Government has decided to geotag the houses and farms of over 10 lakh livestock and poultry farmers in the state. Objective behind this activity is to compile a comprehensive digital repository of the information of animal husbandry and dairying in Kerala.
- Kerala government has made vaccination cards mandatory for children to obtain first standard admission in schools as per its new health policy. Kerala State Cabinet approved the draft health policy presented by Health Minister KK Shylaja.
- On 17th to 21st February 2018, Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh inaugurated the National Banana Festival 2018 at the Vellayani Devi Temple grounds at Kalliyoore, in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.

Online test for SBI PO 2018

www.OliveBorad.com

- Kerala government has made vaccination cards mandatory for children to obtain first standard admission in schools as per its new health policy. Kerala State Cabinet approved the draft health policy presented by Health Minister KK Shylaja.

Madya Pradesh

- Madhya Pradesh's first butterfly park, at Gopalpur in Raisen district opened for public on February 15, 2018. It houses 65 species of butterflies and nearly 137 plant varieties.
- On 20th February 2018, the Khajuraho dance festival started off in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel lit the traditional lamp and inaugurated the 44th Khajuraho dance festival.
- On 24th February 2018, Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav celebrations began in Madhya Pradesh. Rashtriya Sanskriti Mahotsav is being celebrated to highlight the idea of unity in diversity.

Maharashtra

- Railways Minister Piyush Goyal said that, a coach factory will be set up by the Indian Railways in Latur district, Maharashtra. Decision regarding this was taken at a meeting between Piyush Goyal and Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis.
- On February 2, 2018, Maharashtra State Government launched four schemes aimed at extending loan along with interest subsidy, for promoting group farming, agro-industries and small and medium scale entrepreneurs and skill development training in agriculture.
- Maharashtra Minister of state for Social Justice Dilip Kamble has stated that Maharashtra State Government will set up a Transgender Welfare Board in a month's time to look after education, employment, housing, and health schemes for transgenders and also to protect their Constitutional and human rights.
- Maharashtra State government will be setting up India's first institute for artificial intelligence (AI) in Mumbai. Plan for this institute of artificial intelligence (AI) will be unveiled by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis during the Magnetic Maharashtra Summit, beginning on February 18, 2018.

Meghalaya

- On February 13, 2018, Meghalaya Governor Ganga Prasad inaugurated the 'Friendship Gate' for Indian and Bangladesh border guards. It has been constructed with an aim to have a Wagah-like beating retreat ceremony for India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh.

Mizoram

- Israeli Ambassador to India, Mr Daniel Carmon has stated that a first Centre for Agriculture in the North East region (NER) of India that is being established with Israeli collaboration, is going to be inaugurated in Mizoram on March 7, 2018.

Punjab

- On January 31, 2018, Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh approved a ban on the sale of Endosulfan and 19 other insecticides. These insecticides have been reported to be harmful for human beings as well as from the environmental sustainability and economic viability aspects.
- On February 12, 2018, Punjab State Government has issued notification to attach Super Straw Management System while using the combine harvester machines for harvesting the paddy (rice) crop.
- Punjab State Government has formed a six-member revenue commission to revisit the existing land Acts to make them relevant with the changed land use situation. The commission will be headed by Justice (Retd) SS Saron of Punjab and Haryana high court.

Rajasthan

- On February 27, 2018, Union Minister of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Uma Bharti, launched the Swajal pilot project at Village Bhikampura, in Rajasthan. Swajal is a community owned drinking water programme for sustained drinking water supply.

Tamil Nadu

- On February 24, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi Launched 'Amma', subsidised 2 Wheeler Scheme for working women in Tamil Nadu. This scheme was launched to mark 70th birth anniversary of Jayalalithaa, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

Uttar Pradesh

- On February 3, 2018, Uttar Pradesh State Government inaugurated state's first ever butterfly park in Kanpur. Estimated cost for constructing this butterfly park is Rs. 1 crore.
- On 5th February 2018, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in collaboration with UNICEF launched "Dastak Campaign against Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES)".
- On 19th February 2018, Uttar Pradesh government announced a new tourism policy aimed to raise tourist count and investment in Uttar Pradesh. The Department of Tourism aims for 10 % annual increase in the number of foreign tourists and 15 % annual increase in the number of domestic tourists.
- Uttar Pradesh (UP) has become the first state in India where business and investment projects can now be cleared digitally, without any human interface. This has become possible with launch of 'Nivesh Mitra', a digital platform which will serve as a single-window clearance system.

West Bengal

- On 22nd February 2018, the 15th edition of Vodafone Odeon Theatre Festival started off in Kolkata, West Bengal. This festival is conducted to provide a platform for theatre artists to display their talent.
- On 13th February 2018, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee announced in the Union Budget 2018-19 that, West Bengal has opted out of National Health Protection Scheme (NHPS) also known as 'Modicare'.
- On February 15, 2018, West Bengal State Government notified sale of West Bengal Stock (Securities) for an aggregate amount of Rs 2000 crore. The sale will take place through an auction conducted by the Reserve Bank of India on February 20, 2018.
- On February 13, 2018, President Ram Nath Kovind hosted the LPG Panchayat at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi. LPG Panchayat was organised by the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Rwanda has become the first low-income country in the world to provide universal eye care for its 12 million citizens. Rwanda government has partnered with Vision for a Nation (VFAN), a UK-based charity organization, to train 3,000 eye care nurses in 502 local health centres.
- On January 31, 2018, world's longest zip line, measuring 2.83 kilometres in length opened in Ras Al Khaimah, the smallest state of United Arab Emirates. This 2.83km zip line allows thrill seekers to jump from the peak of Jebel Jais, UAE's highest mountain.
- UK has permitted doctors to create three-parent babies through mitochondrial donation, in a move to prevent passing of incurable genetic diseases from mothers to babies. This will utilize mitochondrial donation therapy for those women, who are sure that their children would inherit a neurodegenerative disorder.
- New Manchester-India Partnership (MIP) aimed at connecting Indian companies with Northern regions of England was launched in London, UK on February 1, 2018. Manchester is referred to as

the Northern Powerhouse in Britain. MIP was launched by Jim O'Neill, the economist who coined the phrase BRICS.

- On February 1, 2018, India contributed an additional \$1 million to the India-UN Development Partnership Fund earmarked for South-South cooperation. India-UN Development Partnership Fund was launched in June 2017
- On February 5, 2018, Uttar Pradesh State Government, in association with United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) launched 'DASTAK', a door to door campaign to eradicate deadly Acute Encephalitis (AE) Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis (JES) disease from the state.
- Britain's Prince Charles has launched 10-million-dollar Development Impact Bond (DIB) with an objective to help improve education for over 200000 children in India. DIB is the latest fundraising initiative by the British Asian Trust (BAT).
- On February 7, 2018, Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj met Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz and inaugurated 'Janadriyah', the national heritage and cultural festival of Saudi Arabia at Riyadh. India was accorded the 'Guest of Honour' status at the Janadriyah Festival.
- On February 9, 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi travelled from New Delhi to Jordanian capital and Narendra Modi was conferred the 'Grand Collar of the State of Palestine' by Palestine President Mahmoud Abbas.
- PM Modi arrived in Abu Dhabi, the capital of United Arab Emirates (UAE) on February 10, 2018 and was received by the UAE Crown Prince Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan. Modi inaugurated a project for the construction of the first Hindu temple in Abu Dhabi.
- Gevora, world's new tallest hotel opened on February 11, 2018 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). Height of 75-storey Gevora Hotel is 356 metres. It has been built by Majid Al Attar.
- As per a report published in Water Resources Research, Phosphorus levels in freshwater bodies across the world are escalating and this could pose a serious threat to the ecosystem.
- 4th Nepal Buildcon and Wood International Expo 2018 was held in Kathmandu from 8th – 11th February, 2018. . The expo was inaugurated by Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal Kamal Thapa
- On 9th Friday 2018, Tanzanian President John Magufuli announced that Tanzania will withdraw from the UN's comprehensive refugee response framework. . Reasons for the withdrawal of Tanzania from UN refugee programme has been stated as security issues and lack of funds.
- On February 13, 2018, South African Government declared the ongoing drought as a "national disaster". The drought has afflicted southern and western regions of South Africa including Cape Town.
- India has secured access to the key Port of Duqm in Oman for military use and logistical support. This development was the highlight of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's official visit to Oman on 11th and 12th February, 2018.
- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) has suspended Romania's drug-testing laboratory for 6 months, quoting that the laboratory was not up to the required standards. It suspended for 6 months due to a lot of non-conformities. The laboratory is now banned from testing samples.
- On February 13, 2018, United Nations (UN) General Assembly spokesman Brenden Varma stated that Venezuela and Libya have been suspended from voting in the United Nations (UN) General Assembly because of millions of dollars in unpaid dues. Venezuela and Libya must pay at least \$25200296 and \$6594842 respectively.
- On 12th February 2018, tropical cyclone Gita devastated Tonga, a small South Pacific island country, with Category 4 intensity. The speed of sustained winds was 145 mph.
- On February 14, 2018, Amazon's market capitalisation touched \$702.5 billion. On account of this surge, Amazon became the third most valuable company in the world. In terms of market capitalisation, Apple is the most valuable company with \$849.2 billion market cap, followed by Google's parent company Alphabet at \$745.1 billion.
- On February 17, 2018, Haryana State Government launched four canteens at under the 'Antyodaya Aahaar Yojana' which will serve subsidised and healthy food to the poor. Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar launched these canteens at Faridabad, Gurugram, Hisar, and Yamunanagar.

- Haryana State Government is implementing a special micro irrigation project in 36 over exploited and critical blocks in 13 districts of the state. Micro irrigation (also referred to as Drip irrigation) is a method under which, water is directly placed at the root zone.
- On March 8, 2018 (International Women's Day), Maharashtra State Government will launch "Asmita Yojana" aimed at providing subsidised sanitary pads to girl student and women in rural areas.
- Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi has stated that an international educational institution for minorities will be built in Rajasthan's Alwar city. The institute in Alwar, will be one of the five such institutes, which the Central Government is planning to set up across India.
- On 5th February 2018, Saudi Arabia government announced that, Saudi Arabian women can start their own businesses without their guardian's consent; generally the guardian is a male relative.
- On February 19, 2018, Singapore Government announced that it would impose a carbon tax from 2019 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions. For the period 2019 – 2023, Carbon Tax will be levied at the rate of 5 Singapore Dollar per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions.
- On 19th February 2018, UK-India joint research projects on 'Water Quality Research' and 'Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment' were launched. The Water Quality Research programme consists of 8 projects and Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment programme consists of 4 projects.
- US India Business Council (USIBC), a business advocacy organisation has announced the formation of an India Advisory Council to enhance bilateral strategic and economic partnership between India and US. India Advisory Council has 11 members including Arun Kumar - Chairman and CEO of KPMG India,
- On 19th February 2018, the Pakistani Senate declared Mandarin as one of the official languages of Pakistan. This move has been made to improve ties between Pakistan and China.
- India has contributed USD 1 million for the rehabilitation works in Tonga, after the devastation caused by Tropical Cyclone Gita. India has allocated USD 500,000 in the India-UN Development Partnership Fund for rehabilitation purpose and USD 500,000 will be given for immediate relief assistance.
- On February 21, 2018, Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) declared that rate of interest on employees' provident fund for 2017-18 will be 8.55 per cent. This marks 0.10 per cent reduction as compared to 8.65 per cent for 2016-17.
- On February 21, 2018, Odisha State Cabinet approved long-term bauxite linkage policy that would help Vedanta's Lanjigarh alumina refinery to source bauxite from government-owned Odisha Mining Corporation (OMC).
- National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), India has retained its 'A' status of accreditation with Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) for the fourth consecutive term of five years. 'A' status accreditation is given to those NHRIs, which are found fully compliant with the UN mandated Paris Principles.
- A three –day India International Textiles Expo (IITExpo) was organised in Colombo, Sri Lanka from 21st to 23rd February, 2018. The expo was inaugurated by Sri Lankan Minister of Special Assignments, Dr. Sarath Amunugama.
- On 22nd to 24th February 2018, Saudi Arabia conducted the Groovz Jazz Festival, its first ever jazz festival, at the Riyadh Intercontinental Hotel, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The concert was organized by Time Entertainment.
- On February 23, 2018, Turkmenistan announced the start of construction work on the Afghan section of \$8 billion Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) natural gas pipeline that will link energy-rich Turkmenistan to Pakistan and India. TAPI is supported by United States and Asian Development Bank (ADB).



BANKING & FINANCE

RBI in News

- On February 7, 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced setting up ombudsman for addressing customer grievances in the non-banking finance companies (NBFCs).
- On February 7, 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced Sixth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement for financial year 2017-18. This time too, the Policy Repo Rate has been kept unchanged.

Post the Sixth Bi-Monthly Monetary Policy Statement announcement, the policy rates and reserve ratios are as follows:

Policy Repo Rate	6.00%	Unchanged – since 2nd August 2017
Reverse Repo Rate	5.75%	Unchanged – since 2nd August 2017
Marginal Standing Facility Rate	6.25%	Unchanged – since 2nd August 2017
Bank Rate	6.25%	Unchanged – since 2nd August 2017
Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR)	4.00%	Unchanged – since 9th February 2013
Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR)	19.50%	With Effect from 14th October 2017

- From April 1, 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will link the base rate for loans given by banks to the Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rates (MCLR). By linking Base Rate to MCLR, banks will mandatorily have to pass the benefits of rate cuts to borrowers.
- In Union Budget 2018, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had proposed to amend the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Act to empower RBI for adopting an additional instrument for liquidity management. The additional instrument that is being referred to is the 'Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Scheme'.
- On February 12, 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) tightened norms for bad loan resolution by setting timelines for resolving large Non-performing assets (NPAs). Along with setting new norms to be followed for identifying, reporting and resolving stressed assets, RBI has also withdrawn the existing resolution frameworks and the Joint Lenders' Forum (JLF).
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has instructed all banks to integrate SWIFT (Society for World Interbank Financial Telecommunication System platform) with its core banking solutions (CBS) by April 30, 2018. SWIFT system is used by banks across the world to transmit messages relating to cross border financial transactions.
- On February 26, 2018, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to USD 100 million across all currency pairs. As of now, four currency pairs, viz. USD/INR, EUR/INR (Euro), GBP/INR (Great British Pound) and JPY/INR (Japanese Yen) are traded on Indian exchanges.

Technology in Banking

Name of Entity	Technology implemented	Points to be noted
IndusInd Bank	MOGO, a musical logo	To build its brand image through music and sound for brand experiences and audience connection.
Equitas Small Finance Bank	'selfeSavings', an interactive digital savings account	This account can be opened with the web-based interactive video form hosted on Equitas's website by using Aadhaar number, PAN and other basic

		details.
National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	WhatsApp BHIM UPI	

MoU/Agreements in Banking & Finance

- On February 2, 2018, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) signed a project agreement with World Bank for Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP), aimed at enhancing navigation on National Waterway-1 (NW-1) from Varanasi to Haldia.
- On February 10, 2018, Punjab National Bank (PNB) entered into an agreement with National e-Governance Services Limited (NeSL) for utilizing its Information Utility Services envisaged under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- PNB Housing Finance Ltd has tied up with International Finance Corporation (IFC) to raise \$800 million for green and affordable housing in India. PNB Housing Finance Ltd. is a subsidiary of Punjab National Bank (PNB), while IFC is a part of the World Bank Group.
- On February 20, 2018, Capital First announced that regulator National Housing Bank (NHB) has approved its merger with IDFC Bank. . As per the terms of the merger deal, IDFC Bank will issue 139 shares for every 10 shares of Capital First.
- IndusInd Bank has announced its partnership with Ripple, the blockchain solution provider to facilitate cross border remittances into and out of India. IndusInd Bank will use the platform for settling payment of its retail remitters, recipients as well as institutional partners across the world.

Other Important Banking & Finance News

- Axis Bank has announced opening of off-shore banking unit at the International Financial Services Centre (IFSC) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar, Gujarat. It was inaugurated by Union Commerce Secretary, Rita Teatota in presence of Shikha Sharma, MD & CEO, Axis Bank.
- Government has made following amendments in the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 (PMLA) through Finance Act 2018 in order to enhance its effectiveness and widen its scope. Definition of "proceeds of crime" has been amended to include "property equivalent held outside the country.
- Under the Union Budget 2018, India's annual financial allocation to Nepal (through Union Ministry of External Affairs) for 2018-19 has nearly doubled to Rs. 650 crore. In Union Budget 2018, External Affairs Ministry has been allocated a total Rs. 15011 crore.
- As announced in Union Budget 2018, providing Permanent Account Number (PAN) will be mandatory for any entity entering into a financial transaction of Rs 2.5 lakh or more with effect from April 1, 2018.
- Forbes has released its first ever list of richest people in terms of cryptocurrency ownership. During 2017, cryptocurrency garnered lot of attention owing to meteoric price appreciation witnessed in popular cryptocurrencies viz. Bitcoin, Ethereum and XRP. With an estimated crypto net worth of \$7.5-8 billion, Ripple co-founder Chris Larsen has topped this inaugural list.
- On February 10, 2018, Department of Posts stated that India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will start pan-India roll out of its network from April 2018. Post completion of expansion plan, IPPB will have India's largest financial inclusion network, covering both urban as well as rural areas.
- Citi Bank, India has issued an email notification to its customers stating that credit and debit cards cannot be used to purchase cryptocurrencies. It has cautioned its customers that such transactions involves potential economic, financial, operational, legal, customer protection and security related risks.

- In a bid to remove existing ambiguities due to multiple Acts and rules for Small Saving Schemes Government of India has proposed merger of Government Savings Certificates Act, 1959 and Public Provident Fund Act, 1968 with the Government Savings Banks Act, 1873. Consequentially, Government has proposed 'Government Savings Promotion Act', a new amended umbrella Act which subsumes the relevant provisions of above stated acts.
- On February 14, 2018, Yes Bank announced the listing of US \$600 million bond issue under its maiden US \$1 billion medium-term note (MTN) programme on IndiaINX
- National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has announced that has prepared area development plans worth Rs 1918 crore for farmers of Punjab.
- Last week, about \$2 million was stolen from City Union Bank accounts after a cyberattack compromised the SWIFT(Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication) messaging system.
- On February 22, 2018, Union Finance Ministry announced that the first sale of electoral bonds will start from March 1, 2018 for a period of 10 days at select branches of State Bank of India (SBI). The bonds will be available in multiples of Rs.1000, Rs. 10000, Rs. 10 lakh, Rs. 1 crore.
- On February 21, 2018, One 97 communications, the parent company of Paytm, created Paytm Life Insurance Corporation Ltd. and Paytm General Insurance Corporation Ltd. Both have a share capital Rs 1000000 each.
- Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Limited commenced operations as a payments bank with effect from February 22, 2018. Aditya Birla Idea Payments Bank Ltd. is a 51:49 joint venture (JV) between Aditya Birla Nuvo Ltd. (ABNL) and telecom operator Idea Cellular.
- State Bank of India (SBI) will be undertaking a major restructuring of its business in the United Kingdom (UK) from April 2018. This transformation has been planned in order to comply with specific capital requirement norms of Bank of England (the Central Bank of UK).
- Catholic Syrian Bank Ltd (CSB) has partnered with Celebrus Capital Ltd (Celebrus), to offer online equity trading and demat services to its customers. As per the terms of the tie-up, CSB's customers will be able to open a Celebrus trading account free of cost.
- Moody's Investors Service has stated that India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated to grow at 7.6% in the calendar year 2018. . Moody's has outlined that Indian economy has started to recover from the negative impact of demonetisation in November 2016 and disruption caused by Goods and Services tax (GST) roll out in July 2017.
- In a bid to become a paperless organisation, Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) has made it mandatory to file online claims for provident fund (PF) withdrawals above Rs 10 lakh.

BUSINESS

- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with United Shipbuilding Corporation (USC), Russia to collaborate and engage in Design, Development and Execution of contemporary, State-of-Art vessels for Inland and Coastal Waterways.
- On 1st February 2018, Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, announced that, the Department of Telecom (DoT) in partnership with IIT, Chennai, will set up a development centre for 5G technologies.
- On February 3, 2018, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs, Arun Jaitley launched CriSidEx , India's first sentiment index for micro and small enterprises (MSEs). This index has been developed jointly by CRISIL & Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI).
- Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that, out of the two defence industrial production corridors that was mentioned in the Union Budget 2018, the first defence industrial corridor will link Chennai and Bengaluru.
- On February 5, 2018, Assam State Government and cab aggregator Ola entered into a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to pilot an app-based river taxi service in Guwahati. As per the MoU, Ola will pilot rivers taxis from Lachit Ghat and Machkhowa in Guwahati to North Guwahati across the river.

Online Test for SBI Clerk 2018

www.OliveBoard.com

- Nepalese tea has finally received its own brand logo or trademark in an international market after 154-year long cultivation. The trademark has an image of mountains with "Nepal Tea: Quality from the Himalayas" written below it. It will be formally unveiled during the 3rd International Tea Festival in Nepal in March 2018.
- On February 5, 2018, Google launched a public initiative "#SecurityCheckKiya" to create awareness around Internet safety and to protect young and first-time web users from account hijacking, safeguard Android devices from malicious mobile applications and secure their personal data. Maharashtra State Government will provide the infrastructure and financial support to facilitate 300 startups over next three years.
- Assam State Government would soon set up 'Invest Assam' a new dedicated agency to look into all aspects of business and investment in the state. This decision was taken post conclusion of the two-day 'Global Investors Summit-Advantage Assam'.
- On 6th February 2018, Google and NCERT signed an agreement to integrate 'Digital Citizenship and Safety' course in information and communication technology curriculum. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) contains a curriculum on IT and communication technologies in its teachers training programme.
- On 7th February 2018, Google India and Tata Trusts extended their Internet Saathi programme to 4,000 villages in six districts of Tamil Nadu. They have planned to provide Google Cloud credits and access through its affiliate for eligible startups coming under the Tamil Nadu government's startup initiative.
- On February 8, 2018, Saudi Arabia's Agriculture Ministry announced that it has temporarily banned imports of live birds, hatching eggs and chicken from India after a form of bird flu (that is highly lethal for poultry) was found on basis of World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE) report.
- Paisabazaar.com, an online marketplace for loans and cards has entered into a partnership with Microsoft to drive an 'industry first' technology innovation on its platform. As per the terms of the tie-up, entire infrastructure of paisabazaar.com will be moved to Microsoft Azure which is a cloud computing service.
- On February 10, 2018, a consortium of the Indian oil companies and UAE-based Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) signed a concessional agreement for the acquisition of 10% participating interest in the offshore Lower Zakum Concession.
- NTPC Vidyut Vyapar Nigam (NVVN), wholly-owned subsidiary of NTPC Limited has won a tender to supply 300 megawatts (MW) of electricity to Bangladesh for 15 years.
- Tata Steel and IT services provider, Wipro Ltd. are the two Indian firms that have featured in the list of 135 most ethical companies of the world for 2018. The list has been compiled by the US-based think tank Ethisphere Institute.
- Amazon has started its own food retailing business in India with a pilot in Pune and has thus become the first foreign ecommerce company to stock and sell food items directly to consumers.
- On February 20, 2018, Uttar Pradesh's Khadi and Village Industries Board signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Amazon India for online selling of Khadi products.
- On 20th February 2018, Facebook India announced that, it will work together with Andhra Pradesh government, to carry out innovative pilot projects in Andhra Pradesh.
- Facebook (India) Connectivity Policy Head Aswani Rana and Andhra Pradesh Information and Technology Minister Nara Lokesh decided to work on services like internet facility to every house by means of fiber grid, internet and WiFi.
- Andijan Region of Uzbekistan and Indian Government have inked an agreement for cooperation in the pharmaceutical industry. This pact envisages cooperation in the implementation of a program for the production of pharmaceutical, bio-pharmaceutical products and medical equipment in the Andijan region of Uzbekistan.

- Mahindra Aerospace and Canada's Viking Air have signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to form a strategic alliance for making smaller aircraft to support regional air connectivity in India.
- Bharti Airtel and Information and communications technology (ICT) solutions provider Huawei have successfully conducted India's first 5G network trial under a test setup at Airtel's network experience centre in Manesar, Gurgaon.
- On February 23, 2018, Union Telecom Minister Manoj Sinha launched India's first locally developed 4G/LTE telecom system. Mr. Sinha launched this system during an international buyers-sellers meet of telecom industry organised under the aegis of Telecom Equipment and Services Export Promotion Council.
- In a bid to protect domestic producers, India has imposed anti-dumping duty on import of ceramic tableware and kitchenware from China.
- On February 23, 2018, Tamil Nadu State Government announced an agreement with Microsoft to improve the integration of technology in teaching and learning across the state. As per the terms of the agreement, Microsoft will adopt seven schools identified by Tamil Nadu State Government.
- On February 26, 2018, Bharti Airtel announced that it has joined 'Seamless Alliance', a new global collaboration to bring high-speed and uninterrupted in-flight data connectivity to mobile customers. Along with Bharti Airtel, OneWeb, Airbus, Delta and Sprint are the other founding members of this alliance.
- Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Indian Ocean Rim Association's Regional Center for Science and Technology Transfer (IORA-RCSTT) for designating Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (CIMAP) in Lucknow as the coordinating centre on medicinal plants.

ECONOMY

- According to the report by BMI Research, India's fiscal deficit in financial year 2018-19 is expected to come in at 3.5 per cent of Gross Domestic Product (GDP). BMI's projection is higher than Government's fiscal deficit target of 3.3 per cent of GDP, announced in Union Budget 2018.
- Union Minister of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Sadananda Gowda has stated that during 2018-19, his ministry is proposing to initiate steps to revise the base years of gross domestic product (GDP), Index of Industrial Production (IIP) and Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- According to the CSO's revised estimates of national income released on January 31, 2018, gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate for 2015-16 stood at 8.2% from the earlier estimates of 8% while for 2016-17, revised GDP growth remained unchanged at 7.1%.
- India has become the top source market for Dubai, with 2.1 million visitors in 2017, as per data published by Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism). The data regarding this was published by Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism). Saudi Arabia (KSA) secured the second place with 1.53 million tourists in 2017. UK secured third position with 1.27 million tourists.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has imposed a fine of Rs 136 crore on Google for indulging in unfair business practices in the Indian market for online search. CCI's probe found Google to be guilty of "infringing anti-trust conduct".
- Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to introduce carbon dioxide(CO₂) injection in its Gandhar field to recover an extra 20 million barrels of crude oil. ONGC's CO₂ injection project would be first such large scale project in Asia.
- On February 20, 2018, Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs allowed private companies to mine coal for commercial use, thereby ending the monopoly of state-owned Coal India Ltd (CIL). The revenue generated from the auction of coal mines for sale of coal would go to the coal bearing States.
- On 26th February 2018, Sterlite Technologies announced that it has received a Rs 3500-crore advance purchase order to design, build and manage communications network of the Indian Navy.

- On February 24, 2018, government-run Energy Efficiency Services Ltd (EESL) signed memorandum of understanding (MoUs) with Andhra Pradesh State Government to invest Rs 3730 crore in the state. The MoUs envisage supply of 10000 electric cars and 4000 chargers to various departments of Andhra Pradesh.

MoUs

MoUs between Countries

No	MoU between	Field
1.	India and Tunisia	For cooperation on Youth matters
2.	India and USA	On Law Enforcement Training
3.	India-Australia	Secondment programme
4.	India and United Kingdom and Northern Ireland	On Cooperation in Skill Development, Vocational Training
5.	India and China	Protocol amending DTAA
6.	India-Morocco	Cooperation Agreement in Railway Sector
7.	India and Israel	Film Co-production
8.	Indo-German	“Implementation Agreement in Sustainable Urban Development and Smart Cities in India”.

MoU – States wise

No	State	MoU with	Field
1.	Jammu and Kashmir	Government of Dubai, global ports operator DP World	To explore opportunities to develop trade infrastructure in the state.
2.	Maharashtra	Union Ministry of Railways	To set up a rail coach factory at Latur, Maharashtra. With land area of 150 hectares and will entail investment of Rs. 500 crore in the first phase.
3.	Telangana	Taoyuan City of Taiwan	For better technology partnership in the state. It was signed during World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2018, in Hyderabad
4.	Maharashtra	Virgin Hyperloop One	To build a hyperloop between Pune and Mumbai

Other MoUs

- On February 17, 2018, Fiji (an island nation in South Pacific Ocean) signed a declaration of partnership with India's The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) for assistance in tackling climate change effects and achieving environmental sustainability. The declaration of partnership was signed on sidelines of the World Sustainable Development Conference (WSDS 2018) in New Delhi.
- On February 16, 2018, Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Natural History Museum (NHM), United Kingdom (UK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding for cooperation in the field of genetic/taxonomic studies, research and training, conservation in India, including species and habitat conservation assessments. As per the terms of this MoU, BSI staff will work in Natural History Museum, London and vice-versa.
- On February 20, 2018, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved following initiatives and bilateral agreements.
- Union Cabinet has given approval for creation of Rs. 60000 crore - National Urban Housing Fund (NUHF) under Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC).

- ii. Cabinet approves Silkyara Bend-Barkot Tunnel in Uttarkhand
- iii. Union Cabinet has approved the proposal to set up tribunal for adjudication of dispute on Mahanadi River Waters.
- iv. Cabinet approves Six Laning of Nidagatta - Mysuru Section of NH-275 in Karnataka
- v. Cabinet approves setting up of bus bay near Indian Defence University land in Gurugram
- On February 2, 2018, India formally joined Ashgabat Agreement, a Multimodal transport agreement for setting up of an international transport and transit (of goods) corridor, linking Central Asia with the Persian Gulf.
- Government of China, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Government of Pakistan have signed a USD 4 million agreement to provide assistance to help the people of Fata and Balochistan region in Pakistan.
- On 2nd February 2018, Sweden signed a Strategic Partnership Agreement with United Nations World Food Programme, committing 370 million dollars to World Food Programme (WFP) for the next 4 years.
- On February 11, 2018, PM Modi landed in Muscat, the capital Oman and begun the last leg of his three-nation tour. India, Oman sign 8 agreements as PM Modi meets Sultan Qaboos.
- On 19th February 2018, Indian government notified the revised Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) between India and Kenya. The revised DTAA offers reduction in withholding tax rate on dividend and interest to 10 % from 15 %.
- On February 6, 2018, Ministry of Railways signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Ministry of Ayush in New Delhi to scale up Ayush services in Railway's Zonal hospitals.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

National			
Name	Appointed as	Entity/Place	Points to be noted
Biswamohan Mahapatra	Non-executive chairman	National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)	
Chandrashekhara Kambar	President	Sahitya Akademi	Madhav Koushik, a Hindi poet, has been elected as the vice-president of Sahitya Akademi.
Rahul Mahajan	Editor-in-Chief	Rajya Sabha Television	
Neelam Kapoor	Director General (DG)	Sports Authority of India (SAI)	She is currently the Principal Director General of the Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP)
Indra Nooyi	director	International Cricket Council (ICC) Board	International Cricket Council (ICC) Board's first independent female director
Vikram Singh Sisodia	Chef-de-Mission	Commonwealth Games (CWG)	He will be Chef-de-Mission for Commonwealth Games (CWG) that will be held in Gold Coast, Australia from April 4 to 15, 2018

Lt Gen A K Bhatt	47thCorps Commander	Chinar Corps of Indian Army	replacing Lt Gen J S Sandhu
Pradeep Kumar Rawat	Ambassador of India	to Timor-Leste	
M. Subbarayudu	Ambassador of India	Plurinational State of Bolivia	
Mukul Asthana	Assistant Chief of Naval Staff (Air)	India	
Smriti Mandhana	Brand ambassador	'Power', Bata's sport wear brand	She is an Indian women's cricket team opener.
Amitabh Bachchan	Brand Ambassador	Muthoot Group	
Sachin Tendulkar	Brand ambassador	T20 Mumbai League	
Arvind P. Jamkhedkar	Chairman	Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR)	He will succeed Prof. K. Sudershan Rao.
Justice Abhilasha Kumari	Chief Justice	Manipur High Court	
Antony Dominic	Chief Justice	Kerala High Court	
Sudeep Lakhtakia	Director General (DG)	National Security Guard (NSG)	Sudeep Lakhtakia has replaced S P Singh as the Director General (DG) of National Security Guard (NSG)
M.M. Murugappan	Executive chairman	Murugappa Group	
Debashish Mukherjee	Executive Director	Canara Bank	
Murali Ramaswami	Executive Director	Vijaya Bank	
Philipose George Pynumootil	Flag Officer Naval Aviation	India	
Rakesh Singh	Head	HDFC Bank	
Thanglura Darlong	Ambassador of India	To Romania	
Hardayal Prasad	Managing Director and CEO	SBI Card	
Naba Kumar Nayak	State Election Commissioner in Odisha		
Shantanu Narayen	Vice Chairman	US-India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF) Board	Shantanu Narayen is a CEO of Adobe
Vinod Kumar	Vice Chancellor	Tezpur University	
B A Chopade	Vice-chancellor	Banaras Hindu University (BHU)	
Sajeev Krishnan	Additional Director	Board of Dhanlaxmi Bank	
KS Dwivedi	Director General of Police (DGP)	Bihar	He will replace PK Thakur
A K Pradhan	Group Chief Risk Officer	Punjab National Bank (PNB)	
Sudhir Tripathi	Chief secretary	Jharkhand	

INTERNATIONAL

Name	Appointed as	Entity/Place	Points to be noted
KP Sharma Oli	Prime Minister	Nepal	
Haruhiko Kuroda	Governor	Bank of Japan	
Cyril Ramaphosa	President	South Africa	

Online Test for RBI Grade B 2018

www.OliveBoard.com

Michael McCormack	Deputy prime minister	Australia	
John Hennessy	Chairman	Alphabet's Board	John Hennessy is former president of Stanford University.
Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain	Chief Justice of Bangladesh	Supreme Court in Dhaka	Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain's oath as the 22 nd chief justice of the Supreme Court in Dhaka.
Jerome H. Powell	16th Chairman	Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in the United States	Jerome H. Powell replaces Janet Yellen.
Krishna Kumari	Hindu lawmaker	Pakistan	To become the first female Hindu lawmaker in Pakistan since 1947
mountaineer Samina Baig	National Goodwill Ambassador	Pakistan	

Resignations

- On 14th February 2018, Jacob Zuma resigned from his position as South Africa's President. Jacob Zuma is a former anti-apartheid activist. He became President of South Africa in 2009. His term was supposed to end in 2019. Ramaphosa was elected as new South Africa's President.
- On 15th February 2018, Ethiopia Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn resigned from his position unexpectedly.
- On 23rd February 2018, Australian Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce announced that, he will resign as leader of the National party and Deputy Prime Minister of Australia.

Other Appointments

- On 7th February 2018, Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid was re-elected unopposed for another five-year term. Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda made this announcement.
- On 4th February 2018, Cyprus President Nicos Anastasiades won re-election for second five-year term. Nicos Anastasiades secured 56 % of the votes and beat his opponent Stavros Malas who scored 44 % of votes.
- On 3rd February 2018, the Department of Defence Production formed a task force lead by N Chandrasekaran to study the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in national security perspective. N Chandrasekaran is the chairman of Tata Sons.
- On 5th February 2018, NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant was given an extension till 30th June 2019. The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved extension of Amitabh Kant as CEO of NITI Aayog till 30th June 2019.
- Shoaib Akhtar has been named the advisor to the chairman on cricket affairs and the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) brand ambassador. He was the first bowler to cross the 100 mph mark
- On 19th February 2018, Vice Admiral R B Pandit, Flag-Officer-Commanding, Western Fleet at Mumbai, took charge as the Commandant of Indian Naval Academy (INA) at Ezhimala in Kannur district, Kerala. Vice Admiral R B Pandit succeeds Vice Admiral S V Bhokare. Vice-Admiral Pandit is the sixth Commandant of INA.

AWARDS & RECOGNITIONS

Name of Awards	Award Winner	Field	Points to be noted
'EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2017'	Sanjiv Bajaj		The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to E Sreedharan. He played a key role in the Kolkata Metro, Delhi Metro, Kochi Metro and Lucknow Metro projects.
'Times Power Woman 2017'- Pune	Shabnam Asthana	Global PR	Dilip Kamble, Minister of State for Social Justice and Special Assistance in the Government of Maharashtra, presented the award
4th edition of International Young Chef Olympiad (YCO) in Kolkata	Lai Jia Yi (Malaysia)		Indian student chef Surya Sekhar Roy Choudhury secured the second position
Best M-Government Service award	India's Umang App	Accessible Government category	
Golden Peacock Award 2017	Reliance Industries Ltd	corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives	
Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership	Ellen Johnson Sirleaf		The award consists of \$5 million, which will be paid over 10 years, and \$200,000 every year
'Raj Kapoor Award for Excellence in Cinema' at the 'Elevate 2K18' in Mumbai	Ramesh Sippy	filmmaker	
Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman award	Shesh Anand Madhukar	Magahi writer	Bhasha Samman award recognizes the languages that are equally spoken in different parts of India.
'Startup of the Year' 2017 at the 7th Small Business Awards, in New Delhi	Milkbasket	Best startup	The Small Business Awards 2018 was organised by Franchise India Group
V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award of the Mumbai International Film Festival for Documentary, Shorts & Animation Films - MIFF 2018	Shyam Benegal	Film maker	
World's Most Ethical Company for the year 2018	Tata Steel	'Metals, Minerals and Mining' category	It has honoured for the sixth time in the 'Metals, Minerals and Mining' category

- On 27th February 2018, Swiss tennis star Roger Federer won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year and Comeback of the Year awards at the 2018 Laureus World Sports Awards, in Monaco.

List of award winners:

Award	Awardees
Sportsman of the Year award	Roger Federer (Switzerland; Tennis)
Sportswoman of the Year award	Serena Williams (USA; Tennis)
Team of the Year	Mercedes-Amg Petronas F1 Team (Germany; Motor Racing)
Breakthrough of the Year	Sergio Garcia (Spain; Golf)
Comeback of the Year	Roger Federer (Switzerland; Tennis)
Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability	Marcel Hug (Switzerland; Athletics)
Action Sportsperson of the Year	Armel Le Cleac'h (France; Sailing)
Best Sporting Moment of the Year	Chapecoense (Brazil)
Sport For Good	Active Communities Network (UK, Ireland, South Africa)
Sporting Inspiration	J. J. Watt (USA)
Exceptional Achievement Award	Francesco Totti (Italy)
Lifetime Achievement Award	Edwin Moses (USA)

- On 15th February 2018, Bajaj will represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) from 13th to 17th June 2018 in Monte Carlo. The Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to E Sreedharan. He played a key role in the Kolkata Metro, Delhi Metro, Kochi Metro and Lucknow Metro projects.

List of awardees in the nine categories:

Awardee	Category
Nithin Kamath, Founder & CEO of Zerodha	Start-Up
Puneet Dalmia, MD of Dalmia Bharat Group	Manufacturing
Ajay Singh, Chairman & MD of SpiceJet	Business Transformation
Satheesh Kumar K. R., Chairman & MD of Enzen Global Solutions	Services
Rashesh Shah, Chairman & CEO of Edelweiss Group	Financial Services
Sunder Genomal, MD of Page Industries	Consumer Products & Retail
Glenn Saldanha, Chairman & MD of Glenmark Pharmaceuticals	Life Sciences & Healthcare
Akhil Gupta, Executive Chairman of Bharti Infratel	Entrepreneurial CEO
Sumant Sinha, Founder Chairman & CEO of ReNew Power Ventures	Energy, Real Estate & Infrastructure

Other Awards and Recognition

- On 10th February 2018, Vikas Sathaye, an Indian-born engineer, along with three other people won the scientific and engineering award, at the Oscars 2018 Scientific and Technical Awards in Beverly Hills, United States.
- On February 1, 2018, Goa Chief Minister Manohar Parrikar inaugurated the 2nd edition of 'Nobel Prize Series India 2018' in Panaji, Goa. Theme of Nobel Prize Series India 2018' is 'Science Impacts Life'.
- Four Indian sportspersons - Jasprit Bumrah, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia and Heena Sidhu – have featured in this year's Forbes India 30 Under 30 list.
- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) has been ranked the number one environment policy think tank in India. CSE has ranked 2nd in India and 38th in world-level in the 'Energy and Resource Policy Think Tanks' category. CSE has ranked 6th in India and 123rd in the world-level in the 'Best Independent Think Tanks' category.
- Sohini Roy Chowdhury, an eight year old Indian-origin school girl has made it to the UK's Mathletics Hall of Fame. UK's Mathletics Hall of Fame is a mathematics-based competitive online platform for primary school students. . She has entered the top 100 World Hall of Fame.

- Aadhar won the best emerging technology award, at the World Government Summit 2018, in Dubai. India had the ‘Guest of Honour’ country status in the World Government Summit.
- Raghbir Singh Khandpur will be awarded for his contribution to science and for transforming the Science City in Kapurthala, Punjab, to an international-level centre, on 28th February 2018.
- 71st British Academy Film Awards ceremony, popularly referred to as BAFTA Awards 2018 was held on February 18, 2018 in London, United Kingdom. The ceremony was hosted by English actress Joanna Lumley. Drama film, ‘Three Billboards Outside Ebbing Missouri’ got the most awards (in 5 categories), while ‘The Shape of Water’ was credited with most nominations (in 12 categories).
- On 19th February 2018, Flying Officer Avani Chaturvedi became the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo. Avani Chaturvedi achieved this feat by flying a MiG-21 "Bison".
- Dubai International Airport has retained its position as world’s busiest international airport in terms of passenger traffic. i. During 2017, Dubai International Airport served 88.2 million passengers, which marks 5.5% per cent increase as compared to 83.6 million passengers in 2016.
- Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been recognized as one of world’s best employers by the Top Employer Institute for the third consecutive year. . It has been recognized by Top Employer Institute for its excellent employee offerings.

Conference/Summit in National & International News

No.	Name of Summit/Conference	Place	Facts about the summit /conference
1	International Conference on 'Demetrios Galanos and His Legacy	New Delhi	It inaugurated at Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) to reconceive Indology from Bharat perspective is the principle host of this conference.
2	5th South Asia Region Public Procurement Conference	New Delhi	The Conference was inaugurated by Union Finance Minister, Arun Jaitley. Theme is “Public Procurement and Service Delivery”.
3	International conference on Unani Medicine	New Delhi	Theme of this two-day International conference on Unani Medicine is “Integration of Unani System of Medicine in main stream healthcare”
4	'Indian Power Stations 2018'	New Delhi	Theme of the Conference is "Technological Challenges: Risks and Challenges in Power Generation"
5	National Conference under the title of “Agriculture 2022 – Doubling Farmers’ Income”	New Delhi	Organized by Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
6	‘International R&D Conclave’	New Delhi	It is organised by Central Electricity Authority (CEA).
7	International Conference on Sustainable Biofuels, ICSB 2018	New Delhi	This conference is being jointly organised by Mission Innovation – India Unit and Biofuture Platform
8	21st National Conference on e-Governance	Hyderabad, Telangana	theme for this year’s Conference is: ‘Technology for accelerating Development’
9	“Regional Conference of Southern States on Water Resources”	Hyderabad, Telangana	This conference was organised by Union Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

10	22nd edition of World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) and 26th edition of Nasscom India Leadership Forum (ILF)	Hyderabad	Theme of the conference is “Amplify Digital – Disrupt The Core”
11	International conference ‘Agricon 2018’ and ‘Agriexpo 2018’	Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh	inaugurated the at Chandrashekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology (CSAUT)
12	12th International Conference on corporate social responsibility (CSR)	Bengaluru, Karnataka	The event was inaugurated by T. M. Vijay Bhaskar, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka
13	Global Investors Summit 2018 - 'Advantage Assam'	Guwahati, Assam	to showcase manufacturing opportunities in Assam and related geostrategic advantages to foreign and domestic investors
14	Third Global Procurement Summit	New Delhi	Union Minister of State for Finance & Shipping, Pon Radhakrishnan inaugurated the conference. Theme of Third Global Procurement Summit was ‘New Frontiers faced in the Transformation process of Procurement Today’.
15	first International Solar Alliance (ISA) Summit	New Delhi	French President Emanuel Macron will participate in the First International Solar Alliance Summit
16	India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit	New Delhi	India-Russia Agriculture Business Summit was organized by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
17	2018 edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018)	New Delhi	Theme is ‘Partnerships for a Resilient Planet’
18	‘Uttar Pradesh Investors’ Summit 2018’	Lucknow	
19	15th BioAsia Summit	Telangana	Aims to double the valuation of its life sciences ecosystem to \$100 billion in 10 years
20	4th Global Business Summit	New Delhi	Theme for Global Business Summit 2018 was ‘New Economy, New Rules’
21	2nd India-Korea Business Summit	New Delhi	Theme of India-Korea Business Summit 2018 was "India-Korea: Scaling up the Special Strategic Relationship through Trade and Investments".
22	6th edition of World Government Summit (WGS) 2018	Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE)	Theme: 'Technology for development'
23	20 th Conference of the Commonwealth Education Ministers (20CCEM)	Nadi, Fiji	Theme of 20CCEM was “Sustainability and Resilience: Can Education Deliver?”

Online test for SBI PO 2018

www.OliveBorad.com

Other conference/Summit

- On 16th February 2018, the annual Munich Security Conference started off in Munich, Germany. This is the 54th edition of the Munich Security Conference. It will be conducted till 18th February 2018.
- On 17th February 2018, Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurated the 6th Conference of Commonwealth Parliamentary Association (CPA) of India Region in Patna, Bihar. Main subjects for discussion in the conference are 'Parliament's role in the development agenda' and 'Legislature and Judiciary'.
- The annual three-day partnership summit of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) began in Visakhapatnam on February 24, 2018. It was inaugurated by Vice-President of India, M Venkaiah Naidu.
- On February 19, 2018, Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, J P Nadda addressed Global Digital Health Partnership Summit at Australia. At the Summit, Mr. Nadda spoke on the topic: Making Digital Health Services a Priority in Healthcare Reform.
- On February 14, 2018, China announced that this year's three-day Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) will be held in the city of Qingdao. Theme of World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS 2018) is 'Partnerships for a Resilient Planet'.

Committee/Meeting in National & International News

Committee/Meeting	Head person	Place	Purpose
13-member Advisory Committee on Ministry of Defence (MoD)	Headed by Vinay Sheel Oberoi	New Delhi	To monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for modernisation of armed forces.
4 member Empowered Expert Committee (EEC)	Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, N Gopalswami		To perform appraisal of applications in order to shortlist 20 Institutions of Eminence (ioe)
the seventh meeting of Eminent Persons Group (EPG)		Kathmandu, Nepal	Next meeting will be conducted in New Delhi.
13th meeting of the Maharashtra State Board for Wildlife	Maharashtra chief minister devendra fadnavis	Ghodazari, Maharashtra	

Other Committee or Meeting in National & International News

- Karnataka committee headed by G S Siddaramaya, chairman of Kannada Development Authority to analyse possibility of a separate flag for the state has submitted a report, recommends a three colored flag in yellow and red colour, with white colour in the middle containing the state symbol to replace an unofficial two-coloured flag currently in use.
- Central Government has constituted an Inter- ministerial Committee (IMC) under the Chairpersonship of Secretary, Women and Child Development to tackle the menace of trafficking (primarily done for sexual exploitation and forced labour).

- The Central Government has formed a committee lead by Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, to study the Brahmaputra and flood control measures in Assam and nearby states. Announcement regarding this was made by Assam Water Resource Minister Keshab Mahanta.
- Central Government has set up an inter-ministerial committee (IMC) on medicinal and aromatic plants for the north-east (NE) to suggest actionable measures to generate more livelihood opportunities in the region.
- On February 26, 2018, a high level committee chaired by Union Home Minister, Rajnath Singh approved a central assistance of around Rs 6000 crore for nine states which suffered from natural calamities during 2017-18.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has constituted an expert committee under the chairmanship of YH Malegam to look into a range of issues relating to classification of bad loans, rising incidents of frauds and effectiveness of audits.
- On 13th February 2018, on the occasion of Chinese spring festival, Indian and Chinese armies held a Border Personnel Meeting (BPM) in Chushul sector of Ladakh region. Indian delegation was led by Colonel Deependra Jasrotia and Chinese delegation was led by Senior Lieutenant Colonel Bu Hong Dong.
- China has been elected as the Vice President of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF). On 23rd February 2018, the FATF plenary meeting was held in Paris, France. Measures to fight terror financing and money-laundering were discussed.

RANKINGS

India in Rankings

Index/report/field	Position	Points to be noted
The international Intellectual Property (IP) index	44	Report released by Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce. . The Index is topped by the US with 37.98 points
Report by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	12	57% of neonatal deaths in India occur in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. , India has ranked 12 th among 52 lower middle-income countries in terms of neonatal mortality rate
Web Application Attacks (WAA)- "Akamai State of the Internet Security Q4 2017"	7	Report from content delivery network services Akamai Technologies
Global corruption perceptions index 2017	81	New Zealand is least corrupt among 180 countries, while Somalia ranked the lowest with score of 9
Inclusive internet index 2018	47	Sweden has topped the overall ranking in Inclusive Internet Index 2018. This year's ranking marks a drop of 11 spots as compared 36 th rank in 2017
India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017	10	In terms of land area under forest and tree cover

Indian states or Cities in Rankings

State or City	Index/Report/Field	Position	Points to be noted
Mumbai	New World Wealth	12	With USD 3 trillion total wealth, New York has topped the list of 15 wealthiest cities.

- Indian Institute of Science (IISc)) ranked 29th and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay ranked 44th are the only two Indian institutions to feature among Top 50 educational institutes in Asia in TIMES Higher Education (THE) World University Ranking's. National University of Singapore has been adjudged as Asia's top university for the third consecutive year.
- Jawaharlal Nehru Port (Maharashtra), Kamarajar Port (Tamil Nadu) and Visakhapatnam Port (Andhra Pradesh) have received 'Good' score in a new 'Port Performance Index' compiled by Dun & Bradstreet.

ACQUISITIONS & MERGERS

- Google has announced its deal of USD 1.1 billion with HTC, and its acquisition of HTC talent. According to the deal, Google has acquired nearly 2,000 HTC engineers. The engineers are mostly from the smartphone R&D team.
- On 5th February 2018, Capgemini said that, it will acquire LiquidHub to enhance its digital-consulting capabilities in North America. The cost of acquisition is estimated to be nearly 400 million euros.
- On February 13, 2018, Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Union Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved capital acquisition proposals of the defence services, valued at Rs 15935 crore. DAC has also approved the procurement of Advanced Torpedo Decoy Systems for enhancing the anti-submarine warfare capabilities of the Indian naval ships.
- On February 22, 2018, Kochi-based Federal Bank announced its foray into investment banking by acquiring a minority 26 per cent stake in Equirus Capital. Through Equirus Capital, Federal Bank will be able to offer wealth management services to its NRI customer base as well as other high networth individual (HNI) .
- French international banking group BNP Paribas has announced that it is acquiring the Luxembourg-based wealth management and insurance business of ABN Amro. This acquisition is part of its efforts to improve private banking assets in Europe.

DEFENCE

- Indian Navy's Andaman & Nicobar Command will be hosting a multinational mega event 'MILAN 2018' from 6th – 13th March, 2018 at Port Blair. Theme of 'MILAN 2018' will be 'Friendship Across the Seas'.
- Union Home Ministry has sanctioned nearly Rs. 370 crore to Border Security Force (BSF) and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to strengthen border infrastructure along Indo-Pak and Indo-China border.
- On 21st February 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that a defence industrial production corridor worth Rs 200 billion will be established in Bundelkhand. He made this announcement in the 'Investors Meet' at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan in Lucknow.
- Union Defence Ministry has started the process to set up India's first defence industrial 'Quad' (quadrilateral corridor) linking Chennai with four other cities of Tamil Nadu to promote industries manufacturing weapons and military equipments. 'Quad' project in Tamil Nadu will connect Chennai with Hosur, Coimbatore, Salem and Tiruchirappalli.
- According to the 'Military Balance 2018' report by the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), India overtook the UK as the fifth-largest defence spender in the world in 2017. For the year 2017, India's Defence Budget stood at \$52.5 billion, up from \$51.1 billion in 2016. UK's defence budget fell from \$52.5 billion in 2016 to \$50.7 billion in 2017.
- 8th edition of Indo-Seychelles joint counter insurgency/counter terrorism exercise, named 'Lamitye' began on February 24, 2018 in Seychelles. 'Exercise Lamitye' is conducted biennially with an aim of enhancing cooperation and interoperability between Indian Army and Seychelles People's Defence Forces.
- Union Defence Ministry has sanctioned Rs 1487 crore to Indian Army to fortify its bases in Jammu and Kashmir, North East and several other sensitive places. The funds will be used to plug security gaps at the bases and thereby building protection against any terror attacks. This project for strengthening perimeter security at army bases was cleared by Union Defence Minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.
- 'Paschim Lehar', a tri-service maritime exercise was held off India's Western Coast from February 12, 2018. Objective behind conducting this exercise was to build interoperability among Indian Navy, Air Force and Army.

- On February 12, 2018, Indian Army announced that about 2300 Indian Army personnel are leaving for South Sudan to join the UN peace keeping mission. Indian Army personnel, joining this UN mission, are from Infantry battalion of Garhwal Rifles regiment.
- On February 19, 2018, Indian and Indonesian armies began the sixth edition of ‘Garuda Shakti’ military drill in Bandung, the capital of West Java province of Indonesia. This joint exercise between Indian and Indonesian Special Forces will continue till March 4, 2018.
- On 13th to 23rd February 2018, Cobra Gold 2018 an international military exercise, is held in Thailand. This is the 37th edition of the Cobra Gold exercise. It is co-sponsored by the Royal Thai Armed Forces and the U.S. Armed Forces.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Mobile Apps/Portal	Launched by	Purpose
"Bulletin"	Google	Anyone to submit stories related to their local communities. Using this app users in the respective areas can sign up and contribute their stories with photos, vi deos and text.
'Smart OPD' – Health tech startup	mCURA	India's first integrated mobility platform that reduces waiting time in counters and provides e-prescriptions
'Pollution Metre'	Madhya Pradesh government	A mobile application to spread awareness against pollution in the western part of Madhya Pradesh
'ASH TRACK'	Fly Ash Mobile	
"Voluntary Safety Reporting"	Indian Railways	As employees can report issues anonymously and , employees can mention their contact details for confidential feedback
UMANG	Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO)	New facilities to link Universal Account Number (UAN) with Aadhaar
'marinefishsales'	Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI)	To help fishermen sell their products and marine catch directly to the customers
Genrobotics	Kerala government	To clean sewer holes, instead of involving humans

Other Science and Technology News of National & International

- On February 1, 2018, V-410, an interceptor boat, built for the Indian Coast Guard, was launched in Mangaluru, Karnataka by Bharati Defence and Infrastructure Limited (BDIL).
- On 2nd February 2018, China successfully launched 'Zhangheng 1', its first seismo-electromagnetic satellite to study seismic precursors. Zhangheng 1 will let scientists monitor the electromagnetic field, ionospheric plasma and high-energy particles for five years.
- On 3rd February 2018, Japan successfully launched a mini-rocket that sent a microsatellite into orbit. The No. 5 vehicle of the SS-520 series took off from the Uchinoura Space Center in Kagoshima prefecture, Japan.
- On February 6, 2018, India successfully flight-tested the indigenously developed Agni-I ballistic missile from a test range off the Odisha coast. The test involved 18th version of Agni-I and the test was conducted from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Abdul Kalam Island in Balasore, Odisha.

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has developed the first flight of Hawk-i with indigenous Real Time Operating System (RTOS). Hawk-i is the first indigenous RTOS developed from scratch in India. It has been certified by Center for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC).
- On 7th February 2018, India successfully test-fired Prithvi-II, an indigenously developed nuclear capable missile from a test range in Odisha. Prithvi-II is a surface-to-surface missile. All mission objectives were satisfied during the test launch and it was declared a successful launch.
- On 6th February 2018, SpaceX's launched its 'Falcon Heavy' rocket towards Mars from the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida. Falcon Heavy is said to be the world's most powerful rocket. It carried a Tesla roadster as a mock payload.
- Scientists have successfully accomplished growing of human eggs in a laboratory environment for the first time. Scientists have achieved successful growth of human egg from the earliest stage in ovarian tissue till maturity for the first time in laboratory.
- China's new generation J-20 stealth fighters have been commissioned into air force combat service. Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) Air Force has announced that the J-20 has been commissioned into combat units. J-20 is the fourth generation medium and long-range fighter jet of China.
- On February 11, 2018, Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) launched the first tests of the world's first autonomous pods. Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) has launched these autonomous pods in collaboration with Next Future Transportation.
- Radio Umang, claimed to be India's first online radio station, was launched recently. Users can listen to Radio Umang through web streaming or by downloading the mobile app. Theme of Radio Umang is love, peace and happiness.
- On 13th February 2018, the 'Progress' unmanned cargo ship was launched from the Russian space complex in Baikonur, Kazakhstan. The Progress capsule carries 2.7 metric tons of food, fuel and other supplies to the International Space Station.
- Indian Government is working on developing a "soft power matrix" to foster better diplomatic traction with neighbouring countries and rest of the world. Soft power is country's ability to persuade other countries to do what it wants without resorting to force or coercion.
- On 13th February 2018, British government introduced a new technology to remove extremist material from social media. The software has been developed by ASI Data Science. It was funded by the UK government.
- Zippserv has launched - 'PricePoint', a platform for transparent pricing in real estate. PricePoint enables users in Bengaluru to access the latest registered sale transactions on nearly 1600 highly searched for apartment projects.
- While investigating thousands of soil samples, a team of US Scientists have discovered 'malacidin', a new class of antibiotics capable of killing drug-resistant bacteria. The ability of diseases to evolve and become immune to known treatments is referred to as antimicrobial resistance.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has planned to launch Chandrayaan-2 Mission around April 2018. Chandrayaan-2 is India's second mission to the moon. ISRO Chairman K Sivan said that the total cost of Chandrayaan-2 mission will be nearly Rs 8 billion.
- The discovery of nearly 100 new exoplanets (planets outside solar system) has been confirmed based on data from the second mission of NASA's (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) Kepler Space Telescope or K2 released in 2014. This study has been published in the Astronomical Journal.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is planning to launch India's second space observatory, AstroSat-2. India's first space observatory, AstroSat-1 was launched on September 28, 2015.
- On 19th February 2018, Israel announced that it has successfully tested Arrow-3 advanced missile defence system. It has been developed by Israel Aerospace Industries and Boeing.
- On 20th February 2018, India successfully test-fired medium range nuclear capable Agni-II Missile from Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha. Agni-II missile has a strike range of 2,000km. It is an Intermediate Range Ballistic Missile (IRBM).



SSC CHSL 2018 - TIER 1
MOCKS - SECTIONAL TEST - GK - VIDEOS

FLAT 50% OFF
USE COUPON CODE: ACCHSL

*APPLICABLE ON ALL SSC CHSL PACKAGES ONLY
CLICK HERE
OFFER VALID FOR FIRST 100 LEARNERS ONLY!

- Union Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Radha Mohan Singh, launched 6 new features of National Agriculture Market (e-NAM) Platform, aimed to improve its user friendliness.
- On 21st February 2018, SARAS, indigenous light transport aircraft of India, successfully finished its second test flight. This was the second out of the 20 test flights that was planned for SARAS PT1N before freezing the production version.
- On 21st February 2018, India successfully conducted a night trial of Prithvi-II, an indigenously developed nuclear capable missile, from a test range in Odisha. Prithvi-II is a surface-to-surface missile with a strike range of 350 km.
- Siemens India has commissioned a first-of-its-kind Medium-Voltage (MV) training lab at INS Valsura, Gujarat, for the Indian Navy. This MV lab facilitates Indian Navy officials to train, manage and operate modern equipment of Indian Navy without going to the field.
- On February 25, 2018, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flew its Rustom 2, a medium-altitude long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle, at its Aeronautical Test Range at Chalakere in Chitradurga district of Karnataka.
- Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has started work on building igloos (referred to as lunar habitats) on the Moon. These lunar habitats will be built by sending robots and 3D printers to the Moon.
- CSIR-National Institute of Oceanography, Goa has announced the discovery of methane gas flares and active cold seeps from the seabed in the Krishna Godavari basin in the Bay of Bengal. High concentrations of hydrogen sulfide, calcium carbonate, unique faunal groups and shallow presence of methane hydrates has been found at these sites.
- On 26th February 2018, J P Nadda, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare, launched the "Viral Load testing for all People Living with HIV/AIDS (PLHIV)," initiative. . This initiative will offer free of cost viral load testing for 12 lakh people living with HIV/AIDS on treatment in India at least once a year.

ENVIRONMENT

- As per India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017 released by Union Environment Minister Harsh Vardhan on February 12, 2018, tree and forest cover in India increased by 8021 sq km (by 1%) in two years since 2015.
- At the time of releasing India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2017 on February 12, 2018, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Dr. Harsh Vardhan stated that in terms of land area under forest and tree cover, India has ranked 10th in the world.
- On 18th February 2018, Tropical Cyclone Kelvin hit the north coast of Western Australia. The storm crossed the north coast with winds up to a speed of 150 km per hour.
- A new shark species named "Atlantic sixgill shark" was discovered in the Atlantic Ocean. Through genetic testing it has been proved that, the new shark species named "Atlantic sixgill shark" is different from the similar ones found in Indian and Pacific Oceans.
- Indian "A" team won gold at the 5th Commonwealth Nations Bridge Championship held in Gold Coast, Australia, between 14 and 18 February 2018. . The Indian "A" team was headed by Kiran Nadar. The team members were Keyzad Anklesari, B. Satyanarayana, Rajeshwar Tewari, Jaggy Shivdasani and Sunit Chokshi.
- Indian scientists have discovered a new plant species named "Drypetes kalamii" in Jaldapara and Buxa National Parks in West Bengal. Drypetes kalamii was discovered by the scientists of Botanical Survey of India.
- Chilika Lake in Odisha has become the single largest habitat of Irrawaddy dolphins in the world.

SPORTS

Sports/Tournament/title	Winner	Points to be noted
U-19 Cricket World Cup	India	Against Australia at the Bay Oval, Mount Maunganui, in New Zealand.
23rd Senior Women's National Football Championship	Tamil Nadu	Indumathi was named the Player of the Final and also the Tournament
Maybank Championship, in Malaysia	India's Shubhankar Sharma	He was awarded USD 500,000
the men's singles title -Austrian Open International Challenge, Austria	India's Parupalli Kashyap	He is a former National badminton champion
69th Strandja Memorial boxing tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria	India's Vikas Krishan	Vikas Krishan defeated USA's Troy Isley in the middle-weight (75kg) finals and won the gold medal
SpiceJet India Open International Boxing tournament	India's M C Mary Kom-48kg category India's Pinki Rani fly (48-51 kg) category	
Chennai Open ATP Challenger tennis championship	Australian tennis player Jordan Thompson	
Rotterdam Open title ,Netherland	Roger Federer	

- India's Saurav Ghosal obtained rank number 14 became the highest ranked Indian in the Professional Squash Association (PSA) rankings released on 2nd February 2018. He has surpassed Joshna Chinappa who is currently at 17th position.
- On 4th February 2018, India's PV Sindhu lost to America's Beiwen Zhang in the women's singles finals of India Open Super 500 and won silver medal at Siri Fort Complex in New Delhi.
- Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) team has won 8th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2018 (B Division).
- On February 5, 2018, 21-year old Indian golfer Shubhankar Sharma was elevated from 193 to 72, in the Official World Golf Ranking (OWGR). Shubhankar is now the highest-ranked Indian in the world surpassing Olympian Anirban Lahiri, who is currently placed 76th.
- On 5th February 2018, British Athletics announced that, London will host a new World Cup at the London Stadium on 14th and 15th July 2018.
- On 7th February 2018, India's Jhulan Goswami became the first female cricketer to score 200 ODI (One Day International) wickets at the second ODI against South Africa in the ICC Women's Championship at Kimberley, South Africa.
- On 7th February 2018, Kangir Jamoh, former president of BJP Arunachal Pradesh unit, died after a long time illness, at a hospital in Guwahati, Assam.
- 1st Khelo India School Games were held in New Delhi from 31st January 2018 to 8th February 2018. The inaugural Khelo India School Games were a part of revamped 'Khelo India' Programme, the National Programme for development of sports in India. Haryana topped the overall medal tally with 38 gold medals. Haryana was followed by Maharashtra and Delhi with 36 and 25 Gold respectively
- On 9th February 2018, the 23rd Olympic Winter Games started with a grand ceremony at Pyeongchang in South Korea. The ceremony was named "Peace in Motion".
- Sharmila Nicollet has become the first Indian golfer to qualify for the China Ladies PGA Tour. The performance in the China LPGA Tour will earn players the Women's World Golf Rankings points.
- Rohan More, a Pune-based swimmer, has become the world's youngest and first Asian swimmer to complete the Ocean Seven Challenge. He is the ninth swimmer on the whole to complete the Ocean 7 Challenge.

- On 12th February 2018, Steve Smith, Australia cricket captain, won his second Allan Border Medal in Melbourne, Australia.
- On 11th February 2018, Kishan Gangolli of Karnataka won the 13th edition of the National 'A' Chess Championship for the 5th consecutive time, at the Andheri Sports Complex in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It was organised by the All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB).
- On 13th February 2018, world's first robot ski competition "The Edge of Robot: Ski Robot Challenge" was held near PyeongChang at Welli Hilli ski resort in South Korea.
- On 17th February 2018 – 8th April 2018, the 8th edition of 'Theatre Olympics' will be held in India for the first time. The 8th edition of Theatre Olympics will be inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu at the Red Fort, Delhi, on 17th February 2018. It will end in Mumbai on 8th April 2018.
- On 11th February 2018, Railway Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) won the 8th Senior National Women's Hockey Championship title, at the Astro Turf Hockey Stadium in Ranchi.
- On 15th February 2018, Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that Odisha government will sponsor the Indian National Hockey teams for the next 5 years.
- On 14th February 2018, Cristiano Ronaldo become the first player in history to score 100 Champions League goals for the same club.
- Virat Kohli has created a world record by becoming the first batsman ever to score 500 runs in a bilateral ODI series at the sixth and final ODI of the series against South Africa at Centurion on 16th February 2018. He has beat Rohit Sharma's record of 491 runs.
- Roger Federer has become the oldest player in the world to hold number 1 rank in the ATP world rankings.
- Bhuvneshwar Kumar, a fast bowler, has become the first Indian bowler to take a five-wicket haul in all three formats in international cricket.
- On 18th February 2018, Christian Coleman of US broke the 20 year old world record in 60 metre sprint with 6.34 seconds timing, at the US Indoor National Championships in Albuquerque.
- On 20th February 2018, ICC (International Cricket Council) announced that, Virat Kohli has become the first Indian to cross 900 points in the ICC ODI player rankings with 909 points.
- On 22nd February 2018, Canada's own first franchise-based Twenty20 league "Global T20 Canada", was announced in New Delhi. Global T20 Canada League is conceptualised, designed, developed and managed by Mercuri Group with Cricket Canada.
- On 24th February 2018, Aruna Budda Reddy became the first Indian gymnast to win an individual medal at the Gymnastics World Cup by bagging a bronze medal in the women's vault event, in Melbourne, Australia. Slovenia's Tjasa Kyssef won gold medal and Australia's Emily Whitehead won silver medal.
- PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018, officially known as the XXIII Olympic Winter Games was held in Pyeongchang, South Korea from 9th – 23rd February, 2018. Motto of PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018 was "Passion.Connected". Norway topped the medal tally at PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018 by winning 14 Gold, 14 Silver and 11 Bronze.
- On 26th February 2018, the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) announced that it has partnered with Edelweiss Financial Services Limited as sponsor of the Indian team for 2018 Commonwealth Games, the 2018 Asian Games and the 2020 Olympic Games and National Games 2018 and 2019.
- On 25th February 2018, Gopi Thonakal and Monika Athare won titles in the men's and women's category respectively, at the IDBI Federal Life Insurance New Delhi Marathon and retained the titles they won last year.

BOOKS & AUTHORS

Book Name	Author	Other Information
'Exam Warriio'	Prime Minister Narendra Modi	It was released by External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj. This book has been published by Penguin India
'Hisaab Kitaab'	Actress Anjana Sukhani	A book on household budgeting
'Even When There Is A Doctor'	Dr Yashwant Amdekar, Dr Rajesh Chokhani and Krishnan Sivaramakrishnan	Sachin Tendulkar and his wife Anjali Tendulkar launched, a book on child health care
'Hari Singh Nalwa: Champion of the Khalsaji (1791-1837)'	Dr Vanit Nalwa	Presented her book at National Archives of India, in Delhi.

- On 8th February 2018, Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh released "Mere Sapno Ka Bharat", a book on best interviews of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the Parliament premises.

OBITUARY

National Wise

Name of the person who passed away	Field	Points to be noted
Kanchi acharya Sri Jayendra Saraswathi	69th Shankaracharya Guru	Passed away in in Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu
Sridevi	Actress	She was awarded Padma Shri award in 2013
Kunhiraman Panoor	Author and civic rights activist	Passed away in Kerala
Lokendra Singh	BJP MLA	Passed away in Uttar Pradesh
Kalyan Singh Chouhan	BJP MLA	Passed away in Udaipur, Rajasthan
Manganlal Shah	BJP MLA	Passed away in Dehradun
Dr BK Goyal	cardiologist	Passed away in Mumbai
Kunwar Bai	Chattisgarh's Swachh Bharat Abhiyan mascot	Passed at Ambedkar Hospital, Raipur
TRS Subramanian	former cabinet secretary	He had written a few books: "India at Turning Point: The Road to Good Governance", "government In India: An Inside View" and "Journeys Through Babudom and Netaland: Governance in India".
Ram Swarup Sharma	Former MLA	He was also given the title of 'Raasacharya' in Uttar Pradesh
Jayant Sasane	Former MLA	Passed away in Maharashtra.
Bhanu Kumar Shashtri	Former MP	Passed away in Udaipur, Rajasthan
Prabodh Panda	Former MP and State Secretary of West Bengal for Communist Party of India (CPI),	Passed away in Kolkata

S Ratnavel Pandian	Former Supreme Court judge	Passed away in in Chennai, Tamil Nadu
Madavoor Vasudevan Nair	Kathakali maestro	He was the principal of the Kalabharathi performing art institute in Kerala
Hukum Singh	MP	Passed away Uttar Pradesh
Parbati Ghosh	Odia actress	Passed away in Bhubaneswar, Odisha
Chandrasekhar Rath	Odia litterateur	He had received the Sahitya Akademi Award and Sarala Award. He was selected for the Padma Shri award this year
Kanakalata Mohanty	Odia writer	
Kalamandalam Geethanandan	Ottanthullal artist	Passed away in Kerala
Sudha Karmarkar	Pioneer of Children's Theatre in Mumbai	She founded the children's theatre in Mumbai named as 'Bal Rangbhumi- Little Theatre'
Khwaja Haleem	Poilitics	Uttar Pradesh minister died
Kangir Jamoh	Politics	Guwahati, assam
Bolla Bulliramaiah	Politics	Passed away in Andhra Pradesh
Hafizbhai Dhature	Politics	Passed away in Miraj, Maharashtra
Suresh Seth	senior Congress leader and former Indore Mayor	He was also called as the 'Lion of Indore' or 'Sher-e-Indore'
Neelabh Mishra	senior journalist	He was the editor-in-chief of National Herald newspaper
Lakshmi Devi	Telugu actor	Passed away in Hyderabad, Telangana
Gundu Hanumantha Rao	Telugu actor	He has won three Nandi awards
M S Anantharaman	violinist	Passed away in Mylapore, Chennai
Muzaffar Hussain	writer and journalist	Passed away in Vikhroli, Maharashtra

International Wise

Name of the person who passed away	Field	Points to be noted
Louis Zorich	Actor	Passed away at his residence in New York City, US .He was well-known for the TV show show "Mad About You".
John Mahoney	Actor	Passed away in Chicago
Nanette Fabray	Actress	Passed away in California, US. She had won three Emmy awards
John Gavin	American actor	His important works are "Psycho", "Spartacus" and "Imitation of Life"
Penny Vincenzi	British novelist	She published her last book "A Question of Trust"
Bevan Congdon	Cricket	Former New Zealand Test cricket captain passed away after a long term illness in Auckland, New Zealand
Billy Graham	Evangelist	Passed away in Montreat, North Carolina
Jarrold Bannister	javelin thrower of Australia	He had won gold medal at the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games
Johann Johannsson	musician and producer	Passed away at his apartment, in Berlin, Germany.

Online Test for RBI Grade B 2018

www.OliveBoard.com

Asma Jehangir	Pakistan's lawyer	Asma Jehangir was known as Pakistan's Iron Lady
Ruud Lubbers	Prime Minister	Longest-serving prime minister of Netherlands
Didier Lockwood	Violinist	Jazz violinist from France

IMPORTANT DAYS

Observed date/week	Day	Other information
1st February	Indian Coast Guard celebrated its 41st Foundation Day	The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) was established in 1978. It was started with only 7 ships.
2 nd February	World Wetlands Day	Theme for World Wetlands Day 2018 is: "Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future"
4 th February	World Cancer Day	The theme for World Cancer Day for 2016-2018 period is: 'We Can. I can.'
6 th February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation	
11th February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science	aims to work towards gender equality and empowerment of women and girls
12 th February	National Productivity Day	The theme for the National Productivity Week 2018 is: Industry 4.0 Leapfrog Opportunity for India
12 th to 18 th February 2018	National Productivity Week is observed from	
12 th February	Darwin Week began in Kolkata	The Darwin Week is observed by the India March for Science Organising Committee, Kolkata and Breakthrough Science Society, West Bengal Chapter
13 th February	World Radio Day	The theme for World Radio Day 2018 is: Radio and Sports.
20 th February	World Day of Social Justice	The theme for World Day of Social Justice 2018 is: Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice.
21st February	International Mother Language Day	The theme for 2018 is: Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development.
24 th February	Central Excise Day	to encourage the excise department employees to perform their duties in a better manner and honour their contributions
28 th February	National Science Day	The theme for National Science Day 2018 is "Science and Technology for a sustainable future." to mark the discovery of the Raman effect by Indian physicist Sir CV Raman

- On February 19, 2018, Union Minister of Environment, Dr. Harsh Vardhan announced that this year's World Environment Day celebrations (on June 5, 2018) will be hosted by India. This year's theme of WED will be 'Beat Plastic Pollution' aimed at discouraging use of hazardous plastic.
- Assam government has announced that 22 September will be celebrated as "Rhino Day" to create awareness on protection of the one-horned rhinoceros of Assam. This announcement was made by Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal at the 10th meeting of State Board for Wildlife on 22nd February 2018.