



"A Leading Coaching Institute For
Bank PO/ Clerk, SSC, Railway, CAT, MAT, CLAT"

2nd Floor, Prahar Building, Opp. Mamtara Brothers, Danish Road, Panbazar, Guwahati-781001
Phone : 76700 26262, 98640 93327, **email:-** careerflite@gmail.com, **website:-** www.careerflite.com

Monthly GK Mania

NATIONAL NEWS

Apex Court quenched Karnataka's thirst

The Supreme Court of India gave most awaited verdict on Cauvery water distribution reducing Tamil Nadu's share of Cauvery water by 14.75 tmcft water per year and diverting the same to Karnataka on February 16, 2018. The court ordered the Karnataka government to release 177.25 tmcft of Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu from its inter-state Biligundlu dam, which is less in comparison to the state's earlier allocation of 192 TMC water. This will lead to Karnataka's enhanced share of 14.75 tmcft water per year. It is worth recalling here that previously, according to the Cauvery Water Tribunal's order of year 2007, Karnataka had a share of 270 tmcft of Cauvery water. And with this order of the Apex Court it will go up to 284.75 tmcft. Besides this, the bench of Chief Justice Dipak Misra and Justices Amitava Roy and A M Khanwilkar has kept the Cauvery tribunal's 2007 award of 30 tmcft water to Kerala and 7 tmcft water to Puducherry intact. The court's order on the Cauvery water allocation will be in effect for the next 15 years.

Punjab National Bank caught smeared with billion dollar fraud

15 February 2018 revealed disgraceful event of Punjab National Bank's 1.77 billion dollar scam in which billionaire jeweller Nirav Modi allegedly acquired fraudulent letters of undertaking from one of its branches for overseas credit from other Indian lenders. PNB has suspended its 10 officers in heat of this scam and the matter went to CBI for investigation. The Bank has detected some fraudulent and unauthorized transactions in one of its branches in Mumbai for the benefit of a few selected account holders with their apparent collusion. This is one of the biggest banking fraud in India as its quantum was found to be bigger than an estimated 9,000 crore scam at erstwhile Satyam Computers.

India-Iran got tied in 9 contracts

Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India and President Hassan Rouhani of Iran gave nod to nine contracts to bolster bilateral connection between the two nations at New Delhi's Hyderabad house on 18th of February, 2018. The duo focused on avoidance of double taxation and prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income, exemption from Visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passports, Lease Contract for Shahid Beheshti Port- Phase 1 of Chabahar for 18 months, Traditional Systems of Medicine, Trade Remedy Measures to promote cooperation in areas of mutual interest, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Health and Medicine and Postal Cooperation.

Theatre Olympics began in Indian setting

The 8th edition of Theatre Olympics began from February 17 which will continue up to April 8, 2018 on "Flag of Friendship" theme. Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu inaugurated the Theatre Olympics at the majestic Red Fort in New Delhi. This is for the first time India is hosting this event. The National School of Drama has organized this event at expenditure of Rs 51.81 crore under umbrella of Union Ministry of Culture with an urge to bridge borders and bring people of different cultures, beliefs and ideologies together using theatrical art as the medium. The event is likely to behold performances in 30 different Indian languages, 15 foreign languages as well as in non-verbal languages across 17 Indian cities. Around 25000 artists from across the globe are participating in the festival. The Theatre Olympics began in 1993 at Delphi, Greece for the first time.

Lunar mission Chandrayan-2 will loom in April

India's second lunar mission will be launched in April this year. According to Minister of Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh the mission will cost around 800 crore rupees which will include cost of orbiter, lander and rover. Besides this, he also spoke about the nuclear plants which are installed across the country for peaceful purposes in various sectors of electricity generation, agriculture and health sectors.

KPIT Sparkle 2018 sparked Platinum for IIT Kharagpur

Global technology company specializing in IT consulting and product engineering, KPIT conferred Platinum award of KPIT Sparkle 2018 upon 'Team Electrodes' of Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Kharagpur for developing a flexible and disposable battery by using bacteria from sewage water. KPIT organized a national design and development innovation contest for engineering and science students for promotion of innovation within and outside the organisation. It received over 12,000 registrations from more than 600 engineering and science colleges, including 28 premier institutes like IIT and NIT for making next-generation technologies applying artificial intelligence, new materials, and cybersecurity to ensure greener, safer, and user-convenient products for energy and transportation sectors. The platinum awardees swept Rs 10,00,000 as prize money. Besides them, Team SmartGear from Sahyadri College of Engineering & Management, Mangalore coined the gold prize for developing a smart helmet for motorcycles that provides accident alerts along with details of the location to emergency contact lists saved in the app. They bagged a cash prize of Rs 5,00,000.

Robots on task!

The government of Kerala will deploy robots named 'Bandicoot' for cleaning sewer holes in the state on March 2, 2018, during a state festival 'Attukal Pongala'. Developed by a startup company called Genrobotics, the robots are well equipped with Wi-Fi, bluetooth and control panels. In addition to these, they have four limbs and a bucket system attached to a spider web looking extension to scoop out the waste from sewers. Having capacity of cleaning four manholes in single day, the robots pulled out nearly 30 kg of garbage during the trials. Kerala Water Authority (KWA) has collaborated with Kerala start-up mission to address the issue of pipe leakage and sanitation. The robotic system will be implemented to eliminate manual scavenging. The innovation would fetch a significant change in maintaining proper hygiene and ensuring a well-working drainage system.

World Environment Day will bloom in Indian soil

The United Nations Under-Secretary General and head of UN Environment, Erik Solheim announced on 19th of February that India will host the upcoming World Environment Day on 5th of June, 2018. The theme for this year will be 'Beat Plastic Pollution'. United Nations wishes to encourage condemnation of plastic usage at government, industry, community and individual level as it is polluting oceans, damaging marine life and threatening human health. It is worth knowing that although India ranked third from the bottom in the global Environmental Performance Index and was reluctant to accept UN agreement to reduce plastic waste in oceans in December 2017, yet it got the opportunity to host the event on account of having one of the highest recycling rates across the globe.

Unregulated deposits are strictly prohibited!

Union Cabinet in an official release said yes for introduction of banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes Bill, 2018, in parliament on 20th of February, 2018. The bill is on purpose of curbing defrauding of gullible investors. The bill seeks amendment in the Chit Funds Act to facilitate orderly growth of the segment and remove bottlenecks being faced by the industry. Further the bill will enable greater financial access of people to other financial products. It will weed out the menace of illicit deposit taking activities which are carried out in the country by some companies or institutions that run schemes to exploit existing regulatory gaps to dupe poor and gullible people of their hard-earned savings.

Palace Queen will march between Mysuru and Udaipur

PM Narendra Modi green flagged Palace Queen Humsafar Express train at the Mysuru railway station on 19 February 2018. The train will run on tracks between Mysuru and Udaipur. It will boost tourism connecting the five Western Indian states viz. Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Karnataka. The

train will link 30 parliamentary constituencies enroute, 14 of which are in Karnataka. On this occasion the Prime Minister also dedicated a 140-km long fully electrified railway line from Mysuru to KSR Bengaluru covering four major districts like Bengaluru, Ramanagaram, Mandya and Mysuru in Karnataka that will help the Indian Railways in obtaining energy-efficient transport. This Rs 220 crore worth project will benefit around 25,000 passengers daily including 6000 commuters.

Avani Chaturvedi became the first Indian woman to fly fighter aircraft solo

Flying officer Avani Chaturvedi created history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft MiG-21 bison in her first solo sortie from IAF's Jamnagar base in Gujarat on 19th February 2018. It is worth recalling here that she is one of the three in the first batch of female pilots, besides Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh, who were inducted in Indian Air Force fighter squadron in year 2016. The trio underwent strenuous training programme to fly fighter jets.

UGC constituted committee for choosing IoE

The University Grants Commission constituted a four-member Empowered Expert Committee (EEC) for shortlisting 20 Institutions of Eminence (IoE). The committee took breath under air of the Union Government, as per the UGC (Institutions of Eminence Deemed to be Universities) Regulation, 2017, and UGC (Declaration of Government Educational Institutions as Institutions of Eminence) Guidelines, 2017. Former Chief Election Commissioner of India, N Gopalaswami is the chairperson and Tarun Khanna, Jorge Paulo Lemman Professor at Harvard Business School, Pritam Singh, former Director of IIM, Lucknow and MDI, Gurugram; and Renu Khator, Chancellor at the University of Houston System are the members of this committee. The expert committee will select 20 institutions, 10 each from the public and private category among 103 higher education institutions. The chosen ones will be accorded the status of Institutions of Eminence with a mandate to achieve world-class status over a period of 10 years and these institutions will enjoy the perk of enrolling 30 % foreign students.

SARAS soared successfully!

India's indigenous light transport aircraft 'SARAS' was successfully test flown for the second time from HAL's airport in Bengaluru on February 21, 2018. The flight test was carried out by Wing Commander U.P. Singh, Group Captain R.V. Panicker and Group Captain K.P. Bhat of Indian Air Force- Aircraft and System Testing Establishment. Designed and developed by CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL), the aircraft is equipped with flight control system, rudder area, main wheel and brakes to cater to 7100 kg AUV, native stall warning system and many more features. The first successful test was carried out on January 24, 2018.

The availability of BS-VI grade fuel

The Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Ministry informed the Supreme Court that it has advanced the availability of the BS-VI grade fuel by two years. The BS-VI grade fuel will be available to Delhi-National Capital Region (NCR) from April 1, 2018 which was earlier expected from April 1, 2020. The Ministry gave this information in an affidavit as it was asked to file by the apex court bench, headed by Justice Madan B. Lokur. The Union Government decided to switch over to BS-VI grade fuel directly from BS-IV skipping BS-V. It is worth recalling here that India had switched over to BS-IV grade fuel from April 1, 2017 following the directions of the court banning BS-III grade fuel.

NITI Forum for Northeast

The Union Government announced establishment of 'Niti Forum for North-East' on February 21, 2018. The forum will identify obstacles in the way of sustainable economic growth in the North East Region of the country. The forum will have its Secretariat in the Ministry of DoNER and it will be co-chaired by the Vice-

Chairman of NITI Aayog and Minister of State (I/C), Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER). The members of this forum will be Secretaries of Government Ministries like Transport, Railways, Water Resources, Power, Human Resource Development, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, New & Renewable Energy, Health & Family Welfare, Environment and Forest & Climate Change; Chief Secretaries of Assam, Nagaland, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. Besides them, Secretary of North East Council (NEC), Shillong, Joint Secretary (NE), MHA along with a number of experts from various fields will also play role of members in this forum.

BML Munjal University twinkled in ASSOCHAM's eye

The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India (ASSOCHAM) bestowed 'Most Upcoming Engineering College' award to School of Engineering and Technology of BML Munjal University at the 11th ASSOCHAM Higher Education Summit in February 2018. Dr BS Satyanarayana, Vice Chancellor, BML Munjal University and Mr Abhay Sharma, Registrar, BML Munjal University, received the prestigious award for varsity's remarkable contribution and excellent innovation that established a landmark in the education industry. For these awards universities and educational institutions were evaluated on the basis of innovation, scalability, ability to overcome challenges, achievements and impact potential.

NBFCs are under the lens!

The Reserve Bank of India has devised Ombudsman Scheme for redressal of complaints against Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs). The offices of the NBFC ombudsman will operate at four metro centres viz. New Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai. The scheme will encompass all deposit-taking NBFCs having asset size of 100 crore rupees and above with customer interface. The scheme is meant for a cost-free and expeditious complaint redressal mechanism regarding deficiency in the services by NBFCs covered under the scheme.

NCERT syllabus is in for a makeover!

As per the latest announcement of HRD Ministry the NCERT syllabus will be reduced to half from the academic session 2019 on account of poor faculty. The school syllabus was more than that of BA and B Com courses and as a result students were not getting time for other activities for their all-round development. Besides this, HRD Ministry is about to make reforms in school education by introduction of examinations and detentions. Javadekar said, "Without examination, there is no competition and no target. There must be an element of competition for better outcomes." He further added that if a student happens to fail in March, then s/he would get another chance in May but if the student fails both the times, then only s/he would be detained. A bill in this regard will be introduced in Parliament in the next part of Budget session.

Next generation technology loop looped in India

Team of Indian scientists led by Pradip Dutta and Pramod Kumar of the Department of Chemical Engineering, IISc Bangalore developed a Supercritical Carbon Dioxide Brayton Test Loop Facility for generating clean energy from future power plants that include solar thermal. Union Science & Technology Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurated the facility in IISc Bangalore on February 22, 2018. The innovation came via a research group at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Energy Research, IISc, as part of the Indo-U.S. consortium called Solar Energy Research Institute for India and the United States. In this context it is worth learning that thermal power plants employ steam to transfer heat away from the source and turn a turbine to generate power. However, it could produce more power if, instead of steam, Supercritical CO₂ (SCO₂) is employed. And the term "Supercritical" is the state of carbon dioxide above its critical temperature of 31°C and critical pressure of 73 atmosphere that makes it twice as dense as steam. With this the credential of establishing India's first S-CO₂ Brayton Cycle based solar thermal test loop at the laboratory scale got registered in IISc Bangalore.

Higher Education Institutes will soon be blissed out!

As per the Union Budget announcement of this year under the new funding model 'Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education (RISE)' all Centrally-Funded Institutes (CFIs), including central universities, IITs, IIMs, NITs and IISERs, will be able to borrow from Rs 1,00,000 crore corpus over the next four years to expand and construct new infrastructure. Among them IITs have been entitled for the lion's share as they will be able to take 25% of government loans. From Rs 1,00,000 crore, Rs 25,000 crore has been set aside exclusively for the 23 IITs. After them the second largest share, Rs 20,000 crore, will go to central universities. The National Institutes of Technology (NITs) will be able to borrow Rs 11,300 crore, the new IIMs will receive Rs 4,500 crore, and five IISERs will get Rs 5,000 crore. According to sources, in addition to loans for infrastructure development, about Rs 9,000 crore will be available for building robust research ecosystems, like world-class laboratories, in CFIs.

Rustom-2 took off from DRDO

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has successfully test flown its Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicle Rustom 2 at its Aeronautical Test Range at Chalker in Chitradurga district of Karnataka on 26th of February, 2018. It is worth registering that this is the first flight in user configuration with higher power engine. The unmanned vehicle is meant to discreetly enter enemy territory and capture images and destroy targets. The medium-altitude long-endurance RUSTOM 2 has the potential of flying for 24 hours at a stretch with more than 200 kilometres per hour speed for conduction of sustained surveillance and destruction of enemy targets.

Missile 'Dhanush' traversed sky

In February 2018 the Strategic Force Command (SFC) of the defence forces of India successfully test-fired nuclear capable surface-to-surface Dhanush ballistic missile from a naval ship off Odisha's coast near Paradip in the Bay of Bengal. This nuclear-capable missile with a strike range of 350 km is a naval variant of the native Prithvi-II missile. It is 8.53 meters long, 0.9m wide and 4.4 tonnes in weight. The missile can be utilized as an anti-ship weapon for destroying land targets depending on the range.

TV journalist turned into Rajya Sabha TV editor-in-chief

Vice President of India and chairman of Rajya Sabha, M.Venkaiah Naidu appointed TV journalist Rahul Mahajan as Rajya Sabha TV editor-in-chief on recommendation of five-member selection committee headed by Prasar Bharti chairman A. Surya Prakash at Prasar Bharti building, Mandi House, New Delhi. The post of Rajya Sabha TV's editor-in-chief was vacant since August 2017. He has succeeded Gurdeep Singh Sappal. The 46-year-old appointee has 26 years of rich experience in media. He has served in news channels like Zee News, Aaj Tak, Star News, News 24 in various capacities and is consultant editor at Prasar Bharati. The man has more than 12 years of experience of covering Parliament proceedings. Swapan Dasgupta, Shashi Shekhar Vempati, P.P.K. Ramacharyulu and Rahul Srivastava are the other members of the selection committee. Rajya Sabha TV was founded in 2008 to covers the proceedings of the upper house of the Parliament.

IIT Chennai has conceived NTCPWC

Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Nitin Gadkari laid foundation stone for National Technology Centre for Ports, Waterways and Coasts (NTCPWC) at IIT Chennai on 26th of February, 2018. The Union Ministry of Shipping and IIT Chennai inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for this set up worth Rs 70.53 crore. Ministry of Shipping, Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the Major Ports will share the expenditure. The center will serve as technology arm of the Ministry of Shipping for providing engineering and technological inputs and support for Ports, Inland Waterways Authority of India and other institutions. In addition to this, it will also contribute in Sagarmala Project which is associated with maritime, waterways and coastline in India.

Demise of the seer, Jayendra Saraswathi

Jayendra Saraswathi who was a seer as well as Shankaracharya of the Kanchipuram mutt died of breathing problem at the age of 82 on 25th of February, 2018. In 1954, Jayendra Saraswathi was given the title. In 1994, the senior pontiff succeeded as the 69th Shankaracharya of the Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam after Sri Chandrasekarendra Saraswathi Swamigal, hailed as Maha Periyava. Now the junior pontiff, Sri Sankara Vijayendra Saraswathi will be the 70th Jagadguru of Kanchi Kamakoti Peetam.

Innovation at IIT-Hyderabad

The Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, (IIT-Hyderabad) launched 'Fabless Chip Design Incubator Program (FabCI)' which is first-of-its-kind incubator in chip design sector, on 27th of February, 2018. The incubator is on purpose of incubating world-class semiconductor start-ups that can help accelerate change in the Indian landscape in semiconductor design. IIT-Hyderabad has partnered Cadence Design Systems, Inc and launched FabCI with the help of Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MEITY). In this context, Hemant Kanakia, chief advisor and mentor for FabCI, said, "India has an enormous potential to become a center of excellence for fabless semiconductor product and service companies. FabCI is a first step in realizing that potential by creating an ecosystem for start-ups in the semiconductor sector."

28th February came as National Science Day

India celebrated National Science Day (NSD) on 28th of February. The theme for this year is "Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future". It is worth recalling here that National Science Day is celebrated annually to commemorate the discovery of the 'Raman Effect', which made Sir Chandrasekhara Venkata Raman win the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930. Raman effect is the inelastic scattering of a photon by molecules which are excited to higher vibrational or rotational energy levels. National Science Day was celebrated for the first time on February 28, 1987. On this occasion national and state science institutions demonstrate their latest researches and students display science projects. According to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the National Science Day is all about the relentless quest to ask questions for knowing the truth.

Andaman & Nicobar Command to host Milan 2018

Andaman & Nicobar Command of Indian Navy will host the multinational mega event MILAN 2018 in the second week of March 2018. The event will present excellent opportunity for participating navies to foster co-operation via naval exercises and professional interactions and to nurture stronger ties. MILAN 2018 will begin at Port Blair from March 6 to March 13, 2018 on 'Friendship Across the Seas' theme. MILAN will witness mixture of professional exercises and seminars, social events and sporting fixtures which will lead to sharing of views and ideas on maritime good - order and enhancing regional cooperation for raising voice against unlawful activities at sea.

A new health-cum-life insurance scheme

Telangana government announced a new health-cum-life insurance scheme worth Rs 5 lakh for farmers on 26th February in the regional conference of Farmers' Coordination Committees in Karimnagar. The entire premium of the proposed scheme will be fully borne by the government and it is likely to benefit 70 lakh farmers in the state. The health insurance coverage will be offered in case of hospitalisation and the families of farmers will be paid the amount in case of the farmer's accidental or natural death.

Currency Derivative Trade Limit witnessed elevation

The Reserve Bank raised the exposure limit under exchange traded currency derivatives (ETCD) trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to USD 100 million across all currency pairs that involves the Indian rupee in February 2018. This will help entities engaged in forex transactions to maintain their currency risks in a better way. Prior to this, the RBI had imposed a limit of USD 15 million for USD-INR and USD 5 million for other currency pairs of Indian rupee with Euro, Japanese Yen and British Pound.

'India 2018' has hit the book shelves

Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani did official release of 'India 2018' which came via press of Publications Division. The released book is an annual government publication that reveals government policies and development programmes and is available in both print and online versions. The Publications division received praise from the minister for its efforts of comprehending the needs of the students and coming up with the e-versions of the reference book.

AK Pradhan : The Group Chief Risk Officer of PNB

General manager AK Pradhan of Punjab National Bank got appointed as Group Chief Risk Officer of PNB on February 27, 2018. However, the bank chose to keep the functions and responsibilities of the Group Chief Risk Officer as a secret. Nirav Modi the main culprit of PNB fraud worth Rs 12700 crore was figured in Forbes India's Richest People List in 2016 with a net worth of USD 1.74 billion. Presently, he is being investigated by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) for the alleged fraud. Besides him, three other jewellers viz. Gitanjali, Ginni and Nakshatra are also under the lens of the CBI. The Enforcement Directorate is investigating their arrangements with various banks and end use of the money. After this scam, the Union Finance Ministry had asked all the state-owned banks to examine all their Non-Performing Accounts (NPAs) of more than Rs 50 crore for possible fraud and accordingly report the matter to CBI. The Ministry has also asked the banks to reveal the pre-emptive risk mitigation action plan within 15 days to check recurrence of frauds.

IIT Kharagpur has given prominence to Artificial Intelligence

After developing profound expertise in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Sciences and its applications in various critical domains over a long period of time, IIT Kharagpur will now establish first of its kind Center of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence (AI) research using funds worth Rs. 5.64 crores of Capillary Technologies Limited. It is destined to possess computing infrastructure, hardware simulation platforms, software and designing the coursework. The centre will encompass education, training, research, projects, incubation, and entrepreneurship in AI and related domains viz. Digital Healthcare, Industrial Automation, Intelligent Transportation System, Intelligent Urban Infrastructure, Financial Analytics, Agricultural Internet of Things and Analytics, Safety Critical Cyber-Physical Systems, Big Data Analytics for rural development, climate studies and oil and gas. Faculty from IIT Kharagpur, Capillary specialist, and deep-learning industry experts will prepare the curricula for teaching, learning and knowledge dissemination program. Besides this, the curriculum will have short-term credit courses and a certificate program for internal and external students and industrial training programs.

Karnataka has conceived world's largest solar park

Karnataka has set up 'Shakti Sthala', world's largest solar park of 2,000 MW capacity at cost of Rs16,500 crore. Spanning across 13,000 acres in drought-prone Pavagada, Karnataka's Tumakuru district, it is about 180 km from Bengaluru. The park will generate 600MW in the first phase and the remaining 1,400MW is slated to get generated by the end of this year. The park is part of the "Karnataka Solar Policy 2014-2021" that eyes to reduce dependence on traditional power sources and increase reliance on environment friendly resources. The solar park is also part of the Siddaramaiah-led Congress government's "Nava Karnataka Nirmana" (building a new Karnataka) campaign for the 2018 assembly elections to underline its economic development and job creation efforts as well as to lure big ticket, high investment projects to the state.

Assembly Election Results 2018

The results of the 2018 Assembly Elections of three north-eastern states viz. Nagaland, Tripura and Meghalaya are out. As per Hindustan Times reporting, the BJP alliance swept through Nagaland that

witnessed elections on February 27, 2018 for the 60-seat Assembly. The elections were held in 59 constituencies. BJP- NDPP- JD(U) alliance won 30 seats, the Naga People's Front (NPF) won 27 seats and others won 3 seats while Congress failed to secure a single seat. It is worth registering here that the three-time Chief Minister of Nagaland, Neiphiu Rio, of the Nationalist Democratic Progressive Party (NDPP), got elected unopposed from his seat even before the counting of votes began and he will be taking oath on 8th of March 2018 as the next CM of Nagaland succeeding TR Zeliang. He will prove his government's majority by March 16.

In Tripura Election NDA toppled Left ending their 25-year rule. The BJP and Indigenous People's Front of Tripura (IPFT) alliance won 43 seats, CPM won 16 seats while Congress and others did not even win a single seat. In Meghalaya the Indian National Congress won the single largest tally of 21 seats from the total 60 seats. NDA ally, the National People's Party won 19 seats. Bharatiya Janta Party managed to win 2 seats, another NDA ally, the United Democratic Party (UDP) won 6 seats and others won 11 seats. Sangma took oath of Chief Minister of the state on March 6, 2018.

“Namaste Shalom” is all set to reveal India-Israel equations

The Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr Jitendra Singh launched “Namaste Shalom”, a magazine about India-Israel relations in March 2018 in presence of Israeli Ambassador to India, Mr. Daniel Carmon and other dignitaries . The magazine saw release at coincidence of festivals of Holi and Purim, the Jewish festival. The magazine has been edited by former MP Shri Tarun Vijay which speaks about the similar hardships faced by the two nations in past.

Conrad Sangma: The New Chief Minister of Meghalaya

The President of National People's Party (NPP), Conrad Sangma took oath as the 12th Chief Minister of Meghalaya on 6th of March, 2018. Governor Ganga Prasad administered his oath. Sangma is the youngest son of former Lok Sabha Speaker late PA Sangma who ruled NPP after his death in 2016. He is a Lok Sabha MP from the Tura parliamentary constituency in Meghalaya. He began his political career in the late 1990s as the campaign manager of his father for the Nationalist. Conrad became the youngest Finance Minister of Meghalaya in 2008, under a UDP- led government.

AWBI got shifted to Haryana

Government of India shifted Animal Welfare Board of India headquarters from Chennai to Ballabgarh in Faridabad District of Haryana on 7th of March, 2018 for better implementation of animal welfare act. Animal Welfare Board of India is a statutory advisory body which was set up in year 1962 under Section 4 of The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960 that prescribes norms for giving humanely treatment to animals. It has also frequently litigated to have stricter laws. AWBI will now coordinate with the Environment Ministry for this.

Chandragiri :‘All women’ station of Andhra Pradesh

The South Central Railway (SCR) management named Chandragiri station in Guntakal Division, near Tirupati as Andhra Pradesh's first ‘all women’ station on March 6, 2018. In wake of women empowerment drive, women staff is deployed for all the activities including train operations, ticketing, security and other relevant duties in this station. Two more railway stations on the South Central Railway viz. Begumpet railway station in Secunderabad Division and Phirangipuram railway station in Guntur Division are in pipeline which will emerge as ‘all women stations’. These ‘all women stations’ will have Railway Protection Force lady escorts, especially at night, to ensure enhanced security and safety of staff and passengers.

Biplab Kumar Deb : The rising Tripura Chief Minister

BJP's Biplab Kumar is about to become the new chief minister of Tripura. He will take oath on 9th of March, 2018. Deb was unanimously elected leader of BJP legislature party in the state, and will stake claim to form government in Tripura in presence of Governor Tathagata Roy. The decision came after announcement of assembly election results in which the BJP routed the CPM, which had been in power in Tripura for as long as 25 years.

The shower of 'Nari Shakti' awards

The Ministry of Women and Child Development distributed 'Nari Shakti' awards to acknowledge exemplary achievement in upliftment of women on 8th March 2018. Chief Justice of Delhi High Court, Justice Gita Mittal, Jayamma Bhandari who worked for rehabilitation of sex workers, Jetsun Pema who worked for Tibetan refugee children, Scientist Dr. Lizymol Philipose Pamadykandathil who made outstanding contribution in field of polymers and biomaterials and zoology teacher Dr. MS Sunil who made exemplary contribution in social work were the main recipients of these awards among 30 awardees.

'Nobel for architecture' accommodated Indian architect Doshi

90 year old legendary Indian architect, Balkrishna Doshi got chosen for the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize which is equal to the Nobel prize for architecture. With this he has become the first Indian to receive this honor in this profession. Prior to him, world acclaimed architects like Zaha Hadid, Frank Gehry, IM Pei, and Shigeru Ban were also honored with this award. The awardee designed high quality, authentic architecture buildings and institutions and materialized several projects for public administrations and utilities, educational and cultural institutions, and low-cost housing projects for private clients. He is an alumnus of the JJ School of Architecture in Mumbai and has worked with the legendary Le Corbusier in Paris in the 1950. He had also made his studio Vastu-Shilpa (environmental design) in 1955 and worked with Louis Kahn and Anant Raje in designing the campus of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad. It is worth knowing that the legend is also known as an institution builder; the first founder Director of the School of Architecture, Ahmedabad; first founder Director of the School of Planning; first founder Dean of the Centre for Environmental Planning and Technology ; founder member of the Visual Arts Centre, Ahmedabad and first founder Director of the Kanoria Centre for Arts, Ahmedabad.

NITI Aayog brought Women Entrepreneurship Platform

Amitabh Kant CEO of NITI Aayog launched the Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) on the occasion of International Women's Day in New Delhi. UN Resident Coordinator in India, Yuri Afanasiev, Kailash Kher, industry leaders and supporting partners graced the occasion with their presence in which the WEP theme song "Naari Shakti" composed and sung by Shri Kailash Kher was also released . It has been done to manifest an ecosystem for women across India to realize their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses. The platform appeared under the leadership of Ms Anna Roy, Adviser (Industry) of NITI Aayog and it is said to have three pillars viz. Ichha Shakti i.e. motivating aspiring entrepreneurs to start their enterprise, Gyaan Shakti i.e. providing knowledge and ecosystem support to women entrepreneurs to help them foster entrepreneurship and Karma Shakti i.e. providing hands-on support to entrepreneurs in setting-up and scaling up businesses.

All women patrolling squad roared in Delhi

The South District Police in Delhi launched an all women patrolling squad on March 8, 2018 to ensure safety and security of women at public places and to motivate police personnel. The squad has 16 women personnel, between age group 20-35 years, in the ranks of sub-inspectors and constables who have been trained in weapon handling, firing and unarmed combat. They have been given motorcycles with four riding gear, a gypsy with a woman police officer as the driver and in-charge to command the patrol team, wireless

sets, protection team and firearms. The squad will stroll in areas like Select City Walk Mall, Sarojini Nagar Market, Hauz Khas Village, Kamla Nehru College, Gargi College and schools and will put a check on the anti-social elements. In addition to this, the lady police officers will address the sensitive problems of school girls.

W-Power Trailblazers 2018

Forbes India chose 25 Women as Trailblazers in its "W-Power Trailblazers" issue of year 2018. The W-Power Trailblazers has highlighted female role models who are groundbreakers, game-changers and innovators and who inspired others to dream big and climb higher via their work and leadership. The list includes publisher of Juggernaut Books, Chiki Sarkar; founder-director of Bblunt, Adhuna Bhabani; CEO (India) of Publicis Media, Anupriya Acharya; co-founder of FIB-SOL Life Technologies, Kavitha Sairam; joint managing partners of J Sagar Associates, Dina Wadia and Shivpriya Nanda; Saahas Waste Manager in Bengaluru, Wilma Rodrigues; founder of Ampere Vehicles, Hemalatha Annamalai; Paytm Payments Bank's Renu Satti; Intellicap's Nisha Dutt; Founder and creative director of MissMalini Entertainment, Malini Agarwal are the prominent recipients among 25 chosen women. They were selected by jury comprised of Swati Piramal, Vinita Bali, Ashu Suyash, Naina Lal Kidwai, Zia Mody, Kalpana Morparia and Ireena Vittal.

Antibiotic-producing bacterium came in light

According to scientific publication, 'Journal of Antibiotics', scientists of University of Hyderabad discovered a species of an anaerobic ammonia oxidising bacterium, "Anamox" that produces antibiotic and it is also efficient in cleaning up ammonia waste, which is a growing environmental concern these days. The discovery came their way when they were trying to find drugs to meet the challenge of antimicrobial resistance in the wake of disease-causing germs failing to respond to even the most potent antibiotics. The credit of discovering this bacterium goes to Venkata Ramana, Professor and Head, Department of Plant Sciences, School of Life Sciences, UoH and his researchers from Bacterial Discovery Laboratory, Centre for Environment, Institute of Science and Technology, JNTU (Jawaharlal Nehru Technological University), Hyderabad and UoH.

Aadhar flew away from NEET's cage

According to latest verdict of the Apex Court, Aadhaar is no more necessary for National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) enrolment. A five-judge Constitution bench, headed by Chief Justice Dipak Misra, provided the option of submission of passport, driving licence, bank account, Voters identity or ration card as proof of identity for students registering for NEET. The decision came during a hearing on a petition challenging the Constitutional validity of the Aadhaar Act in which Senior Advocate Arvind Datar had drawn court's attention towards students of Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and Meghalaya who were allowed to provide other Government Identity proofs instead of Aadhaar. Earlier on February 27, the Gujarat High Court had dismissed a plea filed by a student against CBSE's decision to make Aadhaar mandatory for NEET then this decision was challenged in the Apex Court on March 7, 2018 which maintained that no separate appeal was necessary in the matter.

Rajasthan proclaims capital punishment for rapists

Assembly of princely state of Rajasthan approved Criminal Laws (Rajasthan Amendment) Bill, 2018 to award death punishment for rape of girls below 12 years of age on March 9, 2018. Home Minister Gulab Chand Kataria had introduced this bill in the House which got approved via a voice vote that followed debate. The bill adds new amendment in sections 376-AA and 376-DD to the Indian Penal Code, 1860 which says that a person who is convicted of raping or gang-raping a girl up to twelve years of age will be subjected to death sentence or rigorous imprisonment, which shall not be less than fourteen years. Moreover, it will ensure that the convict does not get out of the jail even after serving 14 years of sentence. With this Rajasthan has become the second state after Madhya Pradesh to award death penalty to child rapists.

TERI wishes to energize startups

The Energy Resource Institute (TERI)'s director Puneet Chandra inked memorandum of understanding with the managing director of L-Incubator IIM Lucknow, Prof M Akbar for blooming startups with a focus on the energy sector in New Delhi in March 2018. This proposal came via vice-president of L-Incubator, SM Rounaque Mustafa for encouraging the sustainability based startups and fostering sustainable industrial and environmental development. Established in 2013, L-Incubator aimed to seek and assist entrepreneurial talent in Delhi and the National Capital Region after getting shifted to Noida from Lucknow.

UGC-NET 2018 exam pattern witnessed revision

Minister of State (HRD) Dr Satya Pal Singh confirmed changes in UGC-NET 2018 exam pattern on 12th of March 2018. The revision of exam pattern advocates merger of Paper-II and Paper-III and the combination will be termed as Paper-II containing 100 compulsory objective type questions of two marks with two hours duration. And for paper first the Minister said, "The first paper of General Awareness consists of 50 compulsory questions of two marks each. The choice of 10 questions in Paper-I has been done away with. The duration of Paper-I has been reduced from the present 1 hour 15 minutes to 1 hour. The paper continues to be of 100 marks."

Obedience to NCERT curriculum can't be bypassed!

The Madras High Court ordained the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) to employ a mechanism to verify whether schools affiliated to it were adhering to the National Council of Educational Research and Training. Syllabus. The decision came on petition seeking a direction to the CBSE to ensure that the schools used only the syllabus and books prescribed by the National Council Of Educational Research and Training. Further the petitioner claimed that although the NCERT syllabus prescribed the study of mother tongue, English and maths for first standard students, but in reality the children were being forced to study up to 8 subjects. In addition to this, the dearth of funds was also brought into court's notice. For this, Justice N Kirubakaran made the observations in a recent interim order directing the Centre to inform the court when it would allocate more funds and man power to the CBSE to have effective control over the affiliated schools.

Best Crime Investigators Award will make appearance in the scene

The Union Government gave nod to a proposal of institution of the 'Union Home Minister's Medal for Excellence in Police Investigation' to encourage high professional standards of crime investigation among police forces. The Bureau of Police Research and Development (BPR&D) would invite nominations from different states, Union Territories and central investigating agencies based on the recommendations from a state-level committee headed by ADG rank officer. Total 162 medals will be bestowed annually, among which 137 will be for the states and Union Territories and 25 would be for the Central Investigating Agencies like National Investigation Agency (NIA), Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) and Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB). The average crime data for the last three years will be the decisive parameter for selection of the awardees.

'Samvedna': IAF's first multilateral disaster relief exercise

12th of March kick started Indian Air Force's first-ever multilateral Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) exercise 'Samvedna' on the coast of Kerala. Southern Air Command of Indian Air Force organized this six day exercise in collaboration with South Asian Region nations. The main objective of this exercise is to wake all the stakeholders in synergising unified Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief efforts. Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal and the United Arab Emirates are participating in this exercise.

Foreign lawyers & law firms got strictly prohibited

13th of March brought Apex Court's verdict that prohibited foreign law firms from establishing offices in India and practicing the profession of law in India, either in the litigation or in the non-litigation side. However, the court permitted flying visits of foreign lawyers for soliciting legal advice on foreign laws to clients, which would be casual in nature. The foreign lawyers can appear in arbitration cases related to international business disputes, but it will depend on the rules of the concerned institution. Further, the two-judge bench comprising Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel and Justice Uday Umesh Lalit has asked the Union Government and the Bar Council of India to frame rules in this regard.

Assam will ensure insurance scheme for journalists

On 13th of March Assam Finance Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma broke the news about proposal of insurance scheme for journalists and their families via doorway of the state government of Assam in the announcement of 2018-19 budget for the state. The state has earmarked a budgetary allocation of Rs 63 crore in 2018-19 for the Information and Public Relations Department that would implement schemes for the same. Apart from this, the state has made requisite provision for media fellowship for pursuing higher studies in journalism so that 20 media persons can be chosen for it at the rate of Rs 50,000 each. The state is providing a one-time grant of Rs 10 lakh to Media Trust to applaud its work as well as extending the one-time ex-gratia of Rs 5 lakh each to the next of kin of 31 journalists of the state who have lost their lives or have been declared missing while on duty. It is worth appreciating here that the state has launched a Pension Scheme for Journalists to give retirement benefits to journalists working for more than 20 years in Assam and has already distributed individual pensions worth Rs 8000 per month to many respected journalists.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

World Sustainable Development Summit 2018

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 (WSDS 2018) on 'Partnerships for a Resilient Planet' theme at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi on 16th of February, 2018. The summit is the flagship forum of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) which serves as a common platform for global leaders and thinkers from the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment. The summit is on purpose of creating action frameworks to resolve some of the most urgent challenges of land degradation, air pollution, transition towards clean energy and establishments of financial mechanisms faced by developing economies in the backdrop of climate change.

One of the world's largest recruitment process is in process!

The Ministry of Railways of India has announced one of the world's largest recruitment processes by inviting online applications for around 89409 posts in Group C Level I (Erstwhile Group D) & Level II categories. The posts under Group C Level-1 Category include Track maintainer, Points man, Helper, Gateman and Porter in the age group of 18-31 years. And the selected candidates will be offered monthly salary along with allowances as per the Seventh Pay Commission (level 1) scale (18,000- 56,900). The posts under Group C Level –II Category include Assistant Loco Pilots and Technicians such as fitter, crane driver, blacksmith and carpenter in the age group of 18-28 years. And the selected candidates will be given their monthly salary along with allowances as per the Seventh Pay Commission (level 2) scale (19,900-63,200). Applications for Group C Level-1 and Group C Level-2 are open till March 12, 2018 and March 5, 2018 respectively.

BSI & UK's NHM entered into a contract

The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) and Natural History Museum (NHM) of United Kingdom inked MoU in New Delhi on February 16, 2018 for enhanced cooperation in the field of genetic/taxonomic studies, research and training and conservation in India, including species and habitat conservation assessments. BSI Director Dr. Paramjit Singh and Head of the Algae, Fungi and Plants Division, NHM, Dr. Sandra Knapp were involved in signing ceremony. The agreement will help the duo to use scientific evidence to support the goals of the Convention on Biological Diversity, CITES and the Nagoya Protocol. It will open the doorway for the BSI personnel to work in London's Natural History Museum.

20 February came as World Day of Social Justice

Globe observed World Day of Social Justice on 'Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice' theme. United Nations used the occasion for addressing problems like exclusion, unemployment and poverty and encouraging social justice which is an underlying principle for prosperous and peaceful coexistence of people across the world. According to United Nations, most of the migration is triggered by job opportunities. There are around 258 million international migrants. The term 'Social justice' implies removal of barriers that people confront in the name of gender, ethnicity, age, religion, disability and culture.

Death is leading the race among newborns

According to UNICEF's latest report on newborn mortality, the number of newborn deaths are frighteningly high, among the world's poorest countries. In low-income countries, the average newborn mortality rate is 27 deaths per 1,000 births and in high-income countries, newborn mortality rate is 3 deaths per 1,000. The report says that 80% of newborn deaths are happening due to premature birth, infections like pneumonia and sepsis or some complications during birth, untrained midwives, lack of breastfeeding within the first hour of birth, malnutrition and many more. The report also identified 8 of the 10 most dangerous places for survival of newborn in sub-Saharan Africa, where pregnant women fail to receive requisite assistance during delivery

because of poverty, conflict and weak institutions. According to report the nations with highest newborn mortality rates are Pakistan (1 in 22), Central African Republic (1 in 24), Afghanistan (1 in 25), Somalia (1 in 26), Lesotho (1 in 26), Guinea-Bissau (1 in 26), South Sudan (1 in 26), Côte d'Ivoire (1 in 27), Mali (1 in 28) and Chad (1 in 28). Nations with lowest newborn mortality rates are Japan (1 in 1,111), Iceland (1 in 1,000), Singapore (1 in 909), Finland (1 in 833), Estonia (1 in 769), Slovenia (1 in 769), Cyprus (1 in 714), Belarus (1 in 667), Luxembourg (1 in 667), Norway (1 in 667) and Republic of Korea (1 in 667).

21 February hailed as International Mother Language Day

Globe observed International Mother Language Day on February 21, 2018 to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism. 'Linguistic diversity and multilingualism count for sustainable development' is the theme for this year. For sustainable development, mastery over mother tongue is the very first requisite. Local languages transmit cultures, values and traditional knowledge and hence play key role in promoting sustainable futures. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) instituted this day in November 1999. On 21st of February, 1952 Bangladesh (now) students who demonstrated for recognition of their language Bangla as one of the national languages of the then East Pakistan, were shot and killed by police.

India : The seventh prey of web application attacks

US-based cloud security solutions provider, Akamai released a report 'Akamai State of the Internet Security Q4 2017' on 21st of February, 2018 about the nations targeted worldwide for Web Application Attacks (WAA) in the fourth quarter of 2017. Web Application Attacks target application vulnerabilities in order to steal data or otherwise compromise the underlying system. In this report India emerged as 7th most targeted for these attacks. The report revealed that nearly 40% of more than 53,000 cyber attacks occurred in the financial services sector last year. The security incidents like phishing, website intrusions and defacements, virus and ransomware have attacked the rapidly growing of the Banking, Financial Services and Insurance (BFSI) sector in India. Besides this, the Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attack also came in light that brings down websites, disrupts businesses, and diverts resources and sometimes serve as cover for more deceptive data or systems breaches. The frequency of DDoS in the BFSI sector hiked by 50 % in the fourth quarter of 2017

Another National law university will peep via J&K

A bill for establishment of a national law university in Jammu and Kashmir got the will of the state legislature in February 2018. The proposed university will be made on lines of Bangalore-based National Law School of India University (NLSU). With this, the decision of making a new university for improving quality of professional legal education which was taken in the year 1995, in an All India Law Ministers' conference has eventually come to fruition. The department of law, justice and parliamentary affairs examined this proposal. The process to start it will begin this year.

First International Solar Alliance will radiate from India

India will host the first International Solar Alliance which is being scheduled for March 11, 2018. Leaders from 50 nations across the globe viz. French President Emmanuel Macron, United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid etc. will participate in this summit. The summit is likely to witness inauguration of two new programmes on Scaling Solar E-Mobility and Storage, and Rooftop Solar as well as collaboration for around 121 projects. Headquartered at Gurugram, International Solar Alliance is India's first international and inter-governmental organization of 121 nations that is meant to create a collaborative platform for increased deployment of solar energy technologies to upgrade energy security and sustainable development.

New shark species discovered in Atlantic Ocean

According to latest publication of journal Marine Biodiversity, a group of researchers have discovered a new shark species 'Atlantic sixgill shark' in the Atlantic Ocean. The scientists used genetic testing for confirming the difference between the new species from its counterparts residing in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. It is interesting to learn that the sixgills species differs in terms of size, molecular level, lower teeth configuration and many more aspects. The sixgills species has better chances of survival in long-term. It is worth learning that this newly discovered species is indeed among the oldest creatures on Earth, with its ancestors that existed 250 million years ago before the known existence of dinosaurs.

It's US again with largest ever sanctions on North Korea

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin broke the information about USA's fresh set of sanctions on North Korea on 23rd of February, 2018. This time the country chose to impose sanctions on 56 entities of the enemy nation viz. 27 shipping and trade companies, 28 vessels, and one individual, which were involved in sanctions evasion schemes. The new impositions are about curbing of the deceptive shipping practices that have enabled Pyongyang to fund its dangerous weapons programmes. North Korea is already under heat of international and US sanctions over its nuclear programme and missile tests. It has nuclear weapon and a long-range ballistic missile which is capable of reaching the US. Despite the sanctions of last year, it continued to carry out its tests.

Technology tied Taiwan & Telangana

The state government of Telangana inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in the state on the occasion of World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2018 which took place on February 21, 2018. Principal Secretary to Government, Jayesh Ranjan and Director of the Board, Taoyuan City, Robert Huang were the signatories of this MoU. It is worth knowing that Taoyuan is one of the fastest growing cities regarding entrepreneurship, innovation and IoT. Telangana used the occasion to showcase its ambitious Fiber Grid (T-Fiber) program at WCIT which was attended by 2,500 delegates from across the globe. It should be learnt that World Congress on Information Technology is also known as Olympics of the Global ICT Industry. World Information Technology & Services Alliance organized this event for the first time in 1978.

Finally the Australian Deputy Prime Minister tabled his resignation

Barnaby Joyce, the Deputy Prime Minister of Australia resigned from his post on 23rd of February under steady flames of sex scandals. He was accused of carrying out a clandestine affair with a former staffer, Vikki Campion who was appointed for a number of unadvertised roles in his team. However, he has denied the sexual harassment allegation against him that plagued the Australian government and dominated the news agenda for weeks. Despite of this, Joyce, the prime figure in Australian politics and leader of The Nationals, the junior coalition partner, will continue to stay in parliament to maintain Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's wafer-thin majority. The Nationals, the traditional party of farmers and rural voters, will now choose a new leader on Monday.

Michael McCormack: Australia's New Deputy Prime Minister

The leader of the National Party, Michael McCormack has been elected as the new Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. The junior partner in the country's coalition government became Deputy Prime Minister under the terms of the coalition agreement with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's Liberal party. He has succeeded Barnaby Joyce who was forced to resign in heat of extramarital affair with his former press secretary. Now the new appointee is expected to ease pressure on the government that was left reeling after revelations of Joyce's affair, a scandal that threatened to fracture the government.

Nhlanhla Nene: Finance minister of South Africa

South African President Cyril Ramaphosa made announcement of the new cabinet in which along with other substantial changes, he reappointed Nhlanhla Nene as finance minister who was earlier removed by former President Jacob Zuma. He kept many ministers appointed by his predecessor, while other former allies of the former president were demoted or lost their jobs. Apart from this David Mabuzza, the Deputy President of the African National Congress (ANC) ruling party, has been made Deputy President of South Africa. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, ex-wife of Mr Zuma got appointed as Minister to the Presidency.

Biofuels took attention of the globe

New Delhi witnessed the two day international conference on Sustainable Biofuels which was jointly organized on February 26-27, 2018 by Department of Biotechnology, Govt. of India and Biofuture platform. The conference focussed on comprehension of development in bio-economy made by participating nations, increase awareness of policy makers about the challenges confronted by the industry-investor for commercial scale up of advanced biofuels. The conference saw participation of 50 foreign delegates including country representatives from mission innovation member countries, International Energy Agency (IEA), Biofuture Platform member countries, the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). All co-leads of sustainable biofuel challenge - China, Brazil, Canada and India graced the conference with their presence.

Shahbaz Sharif : The interim President of ruling PML-N

Punjab Province Chief Minister, Shahbaz Sharif got elected as interim President of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) i.e. PML-N. Central Working Committee (CWC) unanimously approved his appointment in a meeting held in Sharif's Model Town Lahore residence for upcoming 45 days while his elder brother and ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif was disqualified by the Supreme Court was made the ruling party's top leader, 'Quaid' for lifetime.

Xi Jinping likely to reign for the third term

Communist Party of China (CPC) proposed amendments to China's Constitution for removal of two term limit for President as it is planning to set Xi Jinping for the third consecutive term of President. The proposal will be put forth in front of Standing Committee of the National People's Congress (NPC) in the annual meeting of parliament that will be held on March 5, 2018. Xi was named as the President of China in year 2012. His first five-year term as president came to an end in 2017. Xi Jinping is considered as one of the most powerful leaders after Mao Zedong, who ruled China for more than 30 years beginning from 1976. Besides this, Communist Party of China also suggested inclusion of Xi's political theory 'Xi Jinping Thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era' into the Constitution and formation of the National Supervisory Commission as a constitutional entity.

Russian-drafted resolution on Yemen sanctions

The United Nation Security Council (UNSC) adopted the Russian-drafted resolution on a technical rollover of the Yemen sanctions rule on February 26, 2018. As per the adopted resolution, which will remain in effect for a year till February 26, 2019, it will renew the sanctions against designated individuals and entities, and broaden the mandate of a Panel of Experts, which is assigned to help in the implementation of the sanctions regime, until March 28, 2019. The UNSC had put the Russian-drafted resolution for voting which won unanimous support of the 15 members of the UNSC. The UNSC is made of five permanent members viz. China, France, Russian Federation, the United Kingdom, and the United States, and 10 non-permanent members viz. Bolivia, Côte d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Netherlands, Peru, Poland, Sweden elected for two-year terms by the General Assembly. The past says, Yemen is witnessing civil war between Houthi forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Saleh forces loyal to the government of Abdrabbuh Mansur Hadi since 2015. In December 2017 a conflict erupted between the two which led to killing of Saleh.

February 28th spotted as World Rare Disease Day

Globe observed the World Rare Disease Day on the last day of February to create awareness about rare diseases and their effects. A rare disease is also known as orphan disease that signifies disorders that affect a small percentage of the population. The day witnessed 21 events in more than 80 nations. The theme of the event was 'Research' and the European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) used the occasion for promotion of research on rare diseases and commercial development of orphan drugs. Rare disease research contributes to the development of diagnostic tools, treatments and cures to ensure improved health and social care for patients and their families. It is worth knowing that rare diseases are significant because 1 in 20 people live with a rare disease at some point in their life and unfortunately at present there is no cure for the majority of rare diseases as a result many pass undiagnosed. EURORDIS and its Council of National Alliances began observation of this day on February 29, 2008, which itself was a rare date that comes only once in four years. On this occasion, the Indian government formulated a national policy for 'rare diseases' to begin a process of preparing a Registry of rare diseases.

Tokyo 2020 Olympics mascots

Japan has elected two futuristic fox-like creatures with "supernatural" powers as its mascots for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games on February 28, 2018. The chosen mascots are inspired from anime, which is a style of Japanese film and television animation, typically aimed at adults as well as children. Around 17,000 primary schools in Japan voted to select the mascots among 2,042 entries. Designed by Japanese illustrator Ryo Taniguchi, the mascots are on purpose of encouraging children's participation in the games. It is worth learning that mascots are significant and popular element of Japanese modern culture which are used by both private and public enterprises for promotion of their products.

Marshall Islands coined its own virtual currency

Country in Oceania, Marshall Islands began the world's first legal tender crypto-currency, the digital "Sovereign" or SOV for payment of bills and encouraging economy. The parliament approved a law to create its own digital currency. For this Marshall Islands has partnered a company Neema from Israel which will issue 24 million units of the Sovereign digital currency SOV. SOV will mandate the users to identify themselves for acquiring global support. The Marshall Islands is planning to sell some of the digital currency to international investors. It will sell six million SOVs and money raised via this will be utilized to help pay the budget, invest in anti-global-warming projects, and supporting people who got affected by US nuclear testing. From the issued 24 million coins, half of it will go to the government and the other half will make way to the Israeli financial technology startup helping with the plans. It is worth recalling here that Venezuela was the first country to launch its own crypto-currency 'Petro' in February supported by crude oil reserves. However, the SOV will be recognized in law as legal tender unlike the Petro, which will hold equal status as the US dollar. In this context President Hilda Heine found this as historic moment in manifestation of national liberty for people as they will be issuing and using their own currency, alongside the USD (U.S. dollar).

Armen Sarkissian : President of Armenia

According to news agency of Armenia, the Armenian parliament elected Armen Sarkissian as its 4th president. He will succeed Serzh Sargsyan. The man will be serving as president of this Asian nation for next seven years starting from 9th of April. The elected President is also a former prime minister who was in office from November 1996 until March 1997. Before stepping into politics he was a professor at Cambridge University and the Institute of Mathematics of London University. The ruling Republic Party of Armenia (RPA) nominated him. It is worth remembering that under the new amendments, despite being the head of state, the president will play a ceremonial role with real executive power lying in the hands of the prime minister.

Oscar Awards 2018

The 90th Annual Oscar Award function took place at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, the USA. Jimmy Kimmel was the host of the ceremony for the second consecutive year. The Shape Of Water was adjudged as Best Picture; Best Director award went to Guillermo del Toro for The Shape Of Water; Best Actress award was mesmerized by Frances McDormand for Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri; Best Actor award was conquered by Gary Oldman for Darkest Hour; Best Supporting Actress award supported Allison Janney, for I, Tonya; Best Supporting Actor award trailed Sam Rockwell for Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri; Best Original Screenplay award went to Get Out; Best Adapted Screenplay award called Call Me By Your Name; Best Animated Feature Film award captured Coco; Best Foreign Language Film award made way to A Fantastic Woman, Chile; Best Original Score award touched The Shape Of Water; Best Original Song award got tuned to Remember Me of Coco; Best Documentary Feature award went to Icarus; Best Documentary Short award blazed Heaven Is A Traffic Jam On The 405; Best Live Action Short award rushed to The Silent Child; Best Animation Short award went to Dear Basketball; Best Sound Editing award vibrated at Dunkirk; Best Sound Mixing award went to Dunkirk; Best Production Design award chose The Shape Of Water; Best Cinematography award went to Blade Runner; Best Makeup And Hair award lit at Darkest Hour; Best Costume Design award wrapped Phantom Thread; Best Film Editing award went to Dunkirk and Best Visual Effects award went to Blade Runner.

The forbidden words ...

China's censors, the Great Firewall of China banned the usage of 'my emperor', 'lifelong control', 'change the law', 'disagree', 'immortality', 'incapable ruler', 'I oppose', 'personality cult', 'to board a plane', 'long live', 'Winnie the Pooh' and many more along with letter 'N' on social media sites of the country in first week of March. According to linguists outside China, the banned letter 'N' denotes dissent and as per US professor, Victor Mair's blog 'N' was banned as it indicates 'number of terms in office' and the addition of another Sinograph - symbols used in written Mandarin - could mean 'successive terms in office'. Moreover the Chinese censors have done this to avoid comparisons between former dictator Mao Zedong and Xi Jinping.

What made Gary Cohn resign ?

The US President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, Gary Cohn, resigned in first week of March after losing a fight within the White House over plans to impose heavy steel and aluminium tariffs. There was a debate within the White House between Cohn and other advocates of free trade, on one side, and protectionist advisers such as Peter Navarro on the other. The impact of his resignation was seen on the the U.S. dollar that got weak, while an exchange-traded fund tracking the broad market S&P 500 dipped 1 percent. Prices for U.S. government debt barely budged. This resignation is the latest in a series of high-profile departures from the White House.

8 March: International Women's Day

Like every year International Women's Day got celebrated on 8th of March, 2018 worldwide. This global celebration of the social, cultural, economic and political achievements of women was done on "Time Is Now: Rural and urban activists transforming women's lives" theme. It is worth remembering that the suggestion for institution of this day came in 1910 International Women's Conference and in 1975, International Women's Day was celebrated for the first time by the United Nations. However New York began celebration of Women's Day on 28th of February 1909. In addition to this, in year 1917 Soviet Russia began observation of national holiday on March 8 after women gained right to vote. In India President Ram Nath Kovind bestowed Nari Shakti awards to acknowledge the achievements of women in different facets of life for promotion of women empowerment.

Jeff Bezos topped Forbes' 32nd World's Billionaires List

American magazine Forbes released its 32nd annual World's Billionaires List on March 6, 2018 in which Jeff Bezos with a fortune of USD 112 billion emerged as topper among 2208 billionaires. He surpassed Bill Gates, who consistently topped the list for 18 years and presently has fortune worth USD 90 billion. Warren Buffett was spotted third with a net worth of USD 84 billion. Bernard Arnault, who at present is the richest person of Europe grabbed 4th spot in the list with a fortune of USD 72 billion. Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook with net worth of USD 71 billion took 5th place in the list. They were followed by Spanish clothing retailer Amancio Ortega (Zara fashion chain), Mexico's richest man Carlos Slim Helu & family, Charles Koch, David Koch and Oracle cofounder Larry Ellison who held 7th, 8th, 9th and 10th places respectively in the list. The total combined net worth of the 2208 billionaires is around USD 9.1 trillion. It is worth learning that out of 2208, 1490 are self-made billionaires.

France devised a way to curb sexual violence

France decided to set 15 years as legal age of sexual consent for controlling sexual violence in the country. The decision came in wake of public outcry over two cases of sex involving 11-year-old girls. French Equality Minister Marlene Schiappa shared this news with media on 5th of March, 2018. Flashback says the issue came after critics and lawmakers criticised the French law for allowing two men to escape rape charges after being accused of sex with underage girls. In 2017, a 30-year-old man was acquitted of the rape of an 11-year-old girl after the court determined she had not been subjected to any kind of constraint, threat, violence or surprise. And the second case involved a 28-year-old man who was charged for having sexual relations with a 11-year-old minor girl, rather than rape, which outraged the girl's family. It is worth knowing that under the current French law, any sexual act by an adult with a child younger than 15 years can be prosecuted as a sexual offense.

Indo-Russia ties completed its 70 years

India and Russia celebrated the 70th anniversary of their collaboration via Vision for Future event that exposed youth to dynamic opportunities of cooperation between the two countries on 6th of March, 2018. The Ministry of External Affairs (Eurasia Division) and the International Federation of Indo-Russian Youth Clubs inaugurated the programme at the Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra. Chairperson of the National Youth Council in Moscow, Grigory Petushkov commented on Indo-Russia ties, "India and Russia have long-standing ties. And, art and culture and films have connected the countries for decades. People in Russia, think of India as a land of huge culture and history, and that is a strategic partner of our country."

Australia inked two MoUs with India

One of Australia's top 10 Universities, Macquarie University made two agreements with India on 6th of March 2018. It signed a MoU with Broadband India Forum (BIF) and another MoU with O P Jindal Global University (JGU), Haryana for wide range of academic and research activities and initiatives. Ms Nicole Brigg, Pro Vice-Chancellor (International), Macquarie University and Mr. T. V. Ramachandran, President, Broadband India Forum signed MoU for cyber security and business ethics. The contract will encourage research in spectrum management (5G), wireless and telecommunication, IoT and cyber security. It is worth learning here that Macquarie is an established world leader in field of telecommunications. Professor Stephen Brammer, Executive Dean, Faculty of Business and Economics, Macquarie University and Prof. C. Raj Kumar, Founding Vice-Chancellor, OP Jindal Global University signed MoU in joint conference titled 'Business, Law and Ethics: Conflict or Coherence' for joint lectures, conferences, short term programs and workshops on business and management. Apart from this, it is also worth appreciating that Professor Avirup Bose who became the first Indian to get recognized as a "Next Generation Antitrust Scholar" in 2016 and Professor Natasha Nayak, Assistant Professors of the Jindal Global Law School (JGLS) of the O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) have been bestowed the 2018 Thomas Edison Innovation Fellowship award and JGLS is the only law school in Asia whose professors have been awarded the prestigious fellowship award.

Indian-origin steel tycoon will play UK skills ambassador

Britain's Prince Charles appointed Indian-origin steel tycoon Sanjeev Gupta as UK skills official ambassador for the Industrial Cadets programme designed to nourish manufacturing skills. In this flagship programme, the appointee will create direct structured experience of industry for children and young people who are still in school or college. The 68-year-old Prince of Wales praised the appointee saying, "Gupta is doing so much to apply real imagination, innovative thinking and sustainable rejuvenation to our nation's heavy industries and I'm thrilled that he, through his GFG Alliance, has so enthusiastically become involved with Industrial Cadets as well." It should be noted that the Industrial Cadets programme, currently involves over 15,000 youngsters across the UK.

Central Banking Awards 2018

Central Banking's fifth annual awards got showered on 9th March 2018. It wrenched organizations that balanced monetary accommodation and financial stability in an environment of rapid innovation, political change and global uncertainty. The Bank of Canada became Central Bank of the Year for best practice. Central Bank of Ireland was awarded for its Transparency; Bank of Korea got titled as Reserve manager of the year; Norges Bank got Banknote and currency manager of the year award; Bank of England's FinTech Accelerator got Initiative of the year award; Bank of Lithuania clinched Website of the year award; BlackRock received Asset manager of the year award; HSBC got Innovation in reserve management award; BNY Mellon got Global custodian of the year award; Northern Trust got Securities lending services provider of the year award; Landqart got Banknote and currency services provider of the year award; Vizor Software got Technology consultant of the year award; Openlink got Risk management services provider of the year; BearingPoint got Consultancy and advisory provider of the year (data and regulatory management) award and Perago got Payments and market infrastructure provider of the year award

IIT Bombay Alumnus became CTO of Twitter Inc.

The microblogging site Twitter has appointed Parag Agrawal as its chief technology officer (CTO). Parag has succeeded Adam Messinger. The appointee will lead technical strategy for the company and will focus on artificial intelligence across Twitter's infrastructure and product teams. He has been with Twitter since 2011 as an Ads Engineer, and he has worked hard to build and deploy a platform for online machine learning at Twitter. He is an IIT Bombay alumnus who earned PhD in Computer Science from Stanford University. He has done research in large-scale data management at major companies like Yahoo! Research, AT&T Labs, and Microsoft Research. Headquartered in San Francisco, California, United States, Twitter is an online news and social networking service. Jack Dorsey, Noah Glass, Biz Stone, Evan Williams had founded the company and Jack Dorsey is the CEO of the company.

Andaman entertained MILES-18

First ever multinational naval exercise "MILES-18" started in Andaman sea on 11th of March, 2018. 11 naval ships of 8 nations and 9 Indian ships are participating in this three-day exercise. The exercise aims at enhancing interoperability, honing search and rescue procedures, maritime interdiction operations and core operational skills via a variety of maritime security scenarios. It is part of "Milan 2018" which began on March 6 and will continue till March 13, 2018 on 'Friendship Across the Seas' theme at Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar islands. Milan 2018 is being organized to increase regional cooperation for combating unlawful activities at sea.

Saudi Arabia added a new feather in its female's cap

The latest move in a series of state efforts to empower Saudi women under the Kingdom's Vision 2030 reform initiative, Saudi Arabia has permitted divorced mothers to retain the custody of their children without

filing lawsuits, provided there are no disputes between the parents. With this announcement of the Centre for International Communication, the separated Saudi women would be saved from lengthy legal battle and would be able to obtain the rights by simply submitting a request at a relevant court. Before granting custody to a mother, the judicial panel would judge her capacity for custody and then it would determine her application in accordance with Sharia and legal requirements, without the need for initiating a lawsuit. After this, the mother will have the right to carry out all formalities related to her children at government offices, embassies, education offices and institutions. Along with this, she would also be able to apply for and collect her children's passports and would be able to claim all child support and maintenance from government and civil entities.

The Bell Of First Indo-French Knowledge Summit

On March 11, 2018, the first ever Indo-French Knowledge Summit got concluded with a landmark agreement on mutual recognition of educational qualifications between the two nations in New Delhi. French Embassy in India and the Union Ministry of Human Resource Development together hosted the event for university, scientific and technology cooperation with the broader purpose of designing a roadmap of Franco-India cooperation for the next five years. The agreement will give impetus to 'Study in India' programme and will encourage mobility of students from both the nations by facilitating possibilities for them to continue their studies in the other country. In addition to this, the professionals will also be able to practice in each other's country on a reciprocity basis.

Stephen Hawking disappeared in darkness of death

Eminent British physicist Stephen Hawking who earned fame for his groundbreaking work on black holes and relativity died at the age of 76 near Cambridge University, United Kingdom. The deceased was diagnosed with a rare form of motor neurone disease at the age of 22 which made him wheelchair-bound and he was largely unable to speak except through a voice synthesiser. Despite of this, he became the first scientist to establish a theory of cosmology as a union of relativity and quantum mechanics. In addition to this, he also penned several popular science books including A Brief History of Time. Apart from his extraordinary accomplishments he was also known for his courage, persistence, brilliance and humour that inspired people across the world. In year 2014 a film, 'The Theory of Everything' starring Eddie Redmayne was made on his life.

Presidency of Nepal re-saluted Bidya Devi Bhandari

Nepal's woman President Bidya Devi Bhandari got re-elected as President for a second consecutive term with a big majority on 13th of March. Bhandari is Left alliance's candidate who outshone her rival Kumari Laxmi Rai of Nepali Congress. As per Election Commission spokesperson, Nawaraj Dhakal Bhandari secured 39,275 votes and Rai received 11,730 votes. She enjoyed the privilege of becoming Nepal's first woman President in year 2015.

Saudi Arabia is stirring nuclear power program policy

Saudi Arabia's Cabinet permitted the national policy of its atomic energy programme on 14th of March, 2018. The kingdom is preparing to give contracts for its first nuclear power plant. The proposed policy is about limiting nuclear activities to peaceful purposes, increasing safety measures and best practises for radioactive waste management. Saudi Arabia is the world's top oil exporter that is seeking nuclear power to diversify its energy supply mix in order to free up oil to boost exports. Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman will be on official visit to the United States from March 19 to 22 in which he will make efforts to reach a civilian nuclear cooperation accord with Washington.

15th March: World Consumer Rights Day

Globe observed World Consumer Rights Day on 'Making Digital Marketplaces Fairer' theme. The day was meant to encourage basic rights of all consumers, with a demand that those rights should be respected and protected. It was also an occasion when people got a chance to protest against the market abuses and social injustices. Many functions got organised across the nation to mark the occasion. The first World Consumer Rights Day was observed in 1983 . President John F Kennedy was the first world leader to formally address the issue of consumer rights in US Congress in year 1962. In context of India it is worth remembering that 24th of December is annually observed as National Consumer Day.

International Kochon Prize 2017 looked for ICMR

On March 13, 2018 International Kochon Prize 2017 went to the research body of the Union Health Ministry i.e. the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for acknowledging its significant contribution in TB research in New Delhi. This became possible via courtesy of national programme in Tuberculosis research which led to formation of the India TB Research Consortium (ITRC) to fast-track and align efforts in TB research. The Consortium received its due recognition for its outstanding efforts of harnessing national and international expertise to advance technology as well as product development by delivering effective diagnostics, shorter drug regimens, efficacious vaccines along with newer interventions for curbing the terminal disease in the country. The Kochon Prize worth USD 65,000 is awarded every year by Stop TB Partnership to individuals or organizations that have made a significant contribution in fighting tuberculosis. ICMR got chosen among 18 nominations.

CAREER FUTURE

Sports News

India conquered six match series against South Africa

India defeated South Africa by 8 wickets in the sixth and final One-Day International match at Centurion on 16th of February 2018. South Africa batted first and made 204 runs in 46.5 overs. Chasing a target of 205 runs, India posted 206 runs at loss of 2 wickets in the 33rd over. Skipper Virat Kohli scored his 35th ODI century and remained not out. For India, Shardul Thakur hitched four wickets.

'Roger Federer' The oldest World No. 1 in history of tennis

Twenty-time Grand Slam winner, Roger Federer has become the oldest world number one Tennis player after defeating Dutch Robin Haase by 4-6, 6-1, 6-1 in the quarterfinals in Rotterdam at the ABN Amro World Tennis Tournament on 16th of February, 2018. With this the 36 year and 195 days old has surpassed Agassi to become oldest World No. 1 in tennis history. Prior to him, the 33 year old, eight-time Grand Slam winner, Andre Agassi held this record on his name.

Australia's Blackwell announced retirement

The 34 year old Australia's vice-captain Alex Blackwell announced her retirement from international and state cricket on 19 February 2018. She made her debut for the nation in year 2003 and played around 251 matches across all three formats. In her context, it is worth knowing that she became the fourth female Australian to pass 5,000 runs when she batted in the Test, T20 and One-Day arenas, compiling 5,250 runs. Her career card reveals that she led Australia to victory at the ICC Twenty20 World Cup in the West Indies in year 2010. She was also a member of Australia's World T20 winning sides in 2012 and 2014 and has two World Cup trophies from 2005 and 2013.

Japan's Yuzuru Hanyu won gold

Japanese Yuzuru Hanyu won Japan's first gold medal at Winter Olympic PyeongChang Games on 17th of February, 2018. The man became the first figure skater in 66 years to win back-to-back Winter Olympic gold medals in the men's singles event. He obtained 317.85 points, after defeating compatriot Shoma Uno and multiple world champion Javier Fernandez of Spain to the second and third spots. Hanyu mirrored American Dick Button's feats of 1948 and 1952. It is worth registering that the 23-year-old also became the 1,000th gold medal winner in the history of Winter Olympics.

ICC T20 rankings became bliss of Bhuvneshwar & Dhawan

Indian opener Shikhar Dhawan and fast bowler Bhuvneshwar Kumar attained significant gains in the latest ICC T-20 Player Rankings on account of their outstanding performances in a 2-1, T-20 International series victory over South Africa. Dhawan scored 143 runs to become the top run-getter in the three-game T-20 International series to grab a career-best 28th spot. And Man of the series Bhuvneshwar Kumar took 7 wickets and gained 12th spot in the Player Rankings. New Zealand opener Colin Munro has become the top-ranked batsman and Australia's Glenn Maxwell has become the top-ranked all-rounder. India succeeded in retaining their third spot and South Africa their seventh position while Pakistan is on the top of the table at 126 points which is only fractionally ahead of Australia.

Parupalli Kashyap conquered Austrian Open

Former National badminton champion and second seed, Parupalli Kashyap defeated Malaysian badminton player Cheam June Wei by 23-21 21-14 in straight games in the men's singles final to register victory in the Austrian Open International Challenge on 25th of February, 2018. This was his first international title in more than three years. Last year he had reached the finals of US Open Grand Prix Gold.

Story of PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018...

PyeongChang Winter Olympics 2018 got concluded on 25th of February, 2018. The XXIII Olympic Winter Games were organized on "Passion.Connected" theme. Soohorang, a white tiger, and Bandabi, an Asiatic black bear were the official mascots for the event. Norway with total 39 medals including 14 Gold, 14 Silver and 11 Bronze emerged as the topper. It was followed by Germany that won total 31 medals viz., 14 Gold, 10 Silver and 7 Bronze while Canada was spotted third with total 11 medals with 8 Gold, 10 Silver and 29 Bronze. The games brought Czech Republic's Ester Ledecka in limelight for becoming the first woman to coin gold medals in two sports; Russian skater Alina Zagitova also claimed gold. The title of the most successful Winter Olympian in history got booked in Norwegian cross-country skier Marit Bjoergen's name. She won her 14th medal in the game. The 37-year-old, who has won 7 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze medals at Winter Olympics.

Norway's Havarud Lorentzen had set Winter Olympics record by winning the men's 500-metre speed skating by a margin of just 0.01 seconds. Yuzuru Hanyu clinched Japan's first gold medal and snowboarder Redmond Gerard won the first gold medal for the United States.

Sultan Azlan Shah Cup cheered in name of India

India thrashed Malaysia in their fourth match of the 27th Sultan Azlan Shah Cup hockey at Ipoh in Malaysia on 7th of March, 2018. Shilanand Lakra opened the scoring for India in the 10th minute before Malaysia's Faizal Saari equalised in the 33rd minute. Then Gurjant Singh scored twice with support of Sumit Kumar and Ramandeep Singh, as a result India was able to register their first win of the tournament.

India crushed Bangladesh in T-20 Tri-Series match

India enjoyed a six-wicket victory over Bangladesh in the Twenty20 Tri-Series match in Colombo on 8th of March 2018. Bangladesh batted first and posted 139 runs at loss of 8 wickets in 20 overs. India achieved the 140-run target with eight deliveries to spare. Opener Shikhar Dhawan contributed 55 runs which was his second successive fifty. Now the third match of the tournament will be played between Sri Lanka and Bangladesh in Colombo tomorrow.

Indian women's hockey got edge over Korea

The Indian women's hockey team produced an all-round performance to defeat the higher-ranked Korea by 3-1 in the fourth match of a five-match series in Seoul on 9th of March, 2018. Gurjit Kaur, Deepika and Poonam Rani's scored goals for India and Mi Hyun Park scored a consolation goal for South Korea in this game. The upcoming Sunday will feature another match in this series.

Australia sipped Sultan Azlan Shah cup

World champions Australia booked the most coveted Sultan Azlan Shah Hockey title in their name. The winners defeated defending champions England by 2-1 in the final at Ipoh, Malaysia on 10th of March, 2018. Australia has won this prestigious tournament for the 10th time. Prior to this, Argentina finished third after defeating Malaysia by 3-2 in the classification match and Malaysia ended at the fourth spot. India finished at a disappointing fifth place in the six-nation tournament.

India attained edge over Sri Lanka in tri-nation T-20 series

On 12th of March India defeated Sri Lanka by 6 wickets to register their second win in the tri-nation T-20 series at Colombo. Sri Lanka batted first and scored 152 runs at loss of 9 wickets. Due to the rain the match was reduced to 19 overs. For Sri Lanka, opener Kusal Mendis contributed 55 runs. In reply, India achieved the target with 9 balls to spare. Manish Pandey made unbeaten 42 and wicket keeper Dinesh Karthik made 39 not out. Medium pacer Shardul Thakur took the maximum of 4 wickets and became man of the match. India will play with Bangladesh on 14th of March and a victory in that game will book their berth in Final which will be played on 18th of March.

India reached finals of Nidahas Tri series

India defeated Bangladesh by 17 runs in T20 tri-series and got qualified for finals. In the final league match, batting first, India scored 176 for 3 in the stipulated 20 overs. Skipper Rohit Sharma made a 89-runs while Suresh Raina contributed 47 in this innings. Chasing the target of 177 against India, Bangladesh wound up at 159 runs at loss of 6 wickets in 20 overs at Colombo, Sri Lanka. Mushfiqur Rahim scored unbeaten 72. Indian off-spinner Washington Sundar took three wickets. India will play in final on 18th of March, 2018.

CAREER FLITE

CURRENT AFFAIRS TESTS

- Cyril Ramaphosa has been sworn-in as the new President of _____.
(a) Ethiopia (b) Gambia
(c) Albania (d) South Africa (e) Argentina
- Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli has been sworn-in as the ____ Prime Minister of Nepal.
(a) 40th (b) 41st
(c) 42nd (d) 43rd (e) 44th
- Who has been honored with the Scientific and Engineering Academy Award at the Oscars Scientific and Technical Awards 2018?
(a) Vikas Sathaye (b) Nirav Modi
(c) Sreenith Jayachandran (d) Keshav Ranjan (e) None of these
- In February 2018, the world's tallest hotel "Gevora" has opened in which of the following cities?
(a) Dubai (b) Paris
(c) Rome (d) Beijing (e) Tokyo
- Who has become the first player to score 100 Champions League goals for a single team?
(a) Lionel Messi (b) Cristiano Ronaldo
(c) Neymar (d) David Beckham (e) Wayne Rooney
- In February 2018, who has been honored with the 5th edition of Yash Chopra Memorial Award 2018?
(a) Amitabh Bachchan (b) Aamir Khan
(c) Asha Bhosle (d) Deepika Padukone (e) Jackie Shroff
- The World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on _____.
(a) 16 February (b) 17 February
(c) 18 February (d) 19 February (e) 20 February
- Who among the following wrote the book "The Diary of Domestic Diva"?
(a) Shilpa Shetty (b) Twinkle Khanna
(c) Sonali Bendre (d) Anu Agarwal (e) Soha Ali Khan
- Which among the following countries will impose a "Carbon tax" from 2019?
(a) Malaysia (b) China
(c) Japan (d) Nepal (e) Singapore
- Which movie has won the best film award at the 71st British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) Awards?
(a) Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri
(b) The Shape of Water
(c) Darkest Hour
(d) Moonlight
(e) Call Me by Your Name

11. Who has won the prestigious Aravindan Puraskaram award for the best debutant director of 2017?
(a) Sanju Surendran (b) Sagar Chaya Vanchar
(c) P.S. Manu (d) Atanu Ghosh (e) Ravi Jadhav
12. India has won _____ medals in Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament 2018.
(a) 11 (b) 12
(c) 13 (d) 14 (e) 15
13. In February 2018, RBI has raised currency derivative trade limit to how much amount for residents and foreign portfolio investors?
(a) \$ 140 million (b) \$ 150 million
(c) \$ 100 million (d) \$ 50 million (e) \$ 160 million
14. Who has clinched the 2017 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year and Comeback of the Year awards?
(a) Cristiano Ronaldo (b) Novak Djokovic
(c) Roger Federer (d) Leonardo Bonucci (e) None of these
15. In March 2018, which among the following banks has raised its lending rates to 8.15 Percent?
(a) Punjab National Bank (b) State Bank of India
(c) Bank of India (d) Bank of Baroda (e) ICICI Bank
16. In February 2018, which Indian naval command has conducted tri-Services maritime exercise 'Paschim Leher (XPL -18)' in the Arabian Sea?
(a) Western Naval Command
(b) Eastern Naval Command
(c) Southern Naval Command
(d) Northern Naval Command
(e) None of these
17. In February 2018, India has successfully test-fired Anti Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) Nag. The Nag missile has been developed by which organisation of India?
(a) ISRO (b) BARC
(c) DRDO (d) BrahMos Aerospace (e) None of these
18. Armen Sarkisian has been elected as the new President of _____.
(a) Argentina (b) Algeria
(c) Angola (d) Armenia (e) Azerbaijan
19. Who has won gold medal in Asian Wrestling Championship 2018 in women's 65 kg freestyle category?
(a) Vinesh Phogat (b) Navjot Kaur
(c) Sakshi Malik (d) Imai Miyu (e) None of these
20. Neiphiu Rio has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of _____.
(a) Nagaland (b) Tripura
(c) Assam (d) Meghalaya (e) Sikkim

ANSWERS

- 1.(d)** Cyril Ramaphosa, head of the ruling African National Congress (ANC) has been sworn-in as the new President of South Africa. He was elected as the new president of South Africa by the ruling party politicians after the resignation of Jacob Zuma.
- 2.(b)** Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli, the chairperson of Communist Party of Nepal, has been sworn-in as the 41st Prime Minister of Nepal. President Bidhya Devi Bhandari administered the oath of office and secrecy to the newly-elected Prime Minister under Article 76 of newly adopted Constitution of Nepal.
- 3.(a)** Vikas Sathaye, a Pune-born person has been honoured with the Scientific and Engineering Academy Award at the Oscars Scientific and Technical Awards 2018. Sathaye and his team received the award for his contribution towards conceptualisation, designing, engineering, and the implementation of the 'Shotover K1 Camera System'.
- 4.(a)** The world's tallest hotel 'Gevora' has opened in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE) in February 2018. It stands 356 metres and 53 centimetres tall. The hotel has 528 guest rooms and suites and four restaurants. It is one metre taller than the previous holder of the title, the JW Marriott Marquis, in the same city.
- 5.(b)** Portuguese professional footballer, Cristiano Ronaldo has become the first player to score 100 Champions League goals for a single team. The 33-year-old Ronaldo has 115 goals in Europe's premier club competition in total with 15 of those coming during his time at Manchester United.
- 6.(c)** Legendary singer Asha Bhosle has been honored with the 5th edition of Yash Chopra Memorial Award 2018. The award has been instituted by MP T. Subbarami Reddy in the memory of great film director, Yash Chopra. The award also carries a cash prize of Rs 10 lakh.
- 7.(e)** The World Day of Social Justice is observed every year on 20 February to recognize the need to promote efforts to tackle issues such as poverty, exclusion and unemployment. The theme for the year 2018 is "Workers on the Move: the Quest for Social Justice".
- 8.(a)** The book "The Diary of Domestic Diva" is written by famous bollywood actress, cum entrepreneur, and now an author, Shilpa Shetty. The book is a cookbook that contains recipes of various dishes along with the calorie intake details.
- 9.(e)** Singapore will impose a "Carbon Tax" from 2019 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions and make companies more competitive as global agreements on climate change take effect. The tax, to be applied to all sectors, will be Sg\$5.0 (\$3.8) per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions from 2019 to 2023.
- 10.(a)** Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri has won the best film award at the 71st British Academy Film Awards at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England. The film was directed by Martin McDonagh. The movie is about a woman seeking justice for her daughter's murder.
- 11.(b)** Sagar Chaya Vanchar, director of Marathi film 'Redu' (Radio), has won the prestigious Aravindan Puraskaram award for the best debutant director of 2017. The award was instituted in memory of iconic Malayalam filmmaker late G Aravindan. The award, comprising a cash prize of Rs 25,000, a memento and a citation.

- 12.(a)** India has won 11 medals in Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament 2018. In the total medals, five medals are won by men boxers and six medals are won by women boxers. Overall, India has won two gold, three silver and six bronze medals. Vikas Krishan claimed a gold medal in 75 kg category. Another gold medal was clinched by Amit Panghal.
- 13.(c)** The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) raised the exposure limit under Exchange Traded Currency Derivatives (ETCD) trading for residents and foreign portfolio investors (FPIs) to \$ 100 million across all currency pairs involving the Indian rupee. The RBI's decision to raise the limit will help entities engaged in forex transactions to maintain their currency risks in a better manner.
- 14.(c)** Roger Federer, 20-times Grand Slam champion, has won the 2017 Laureus World Sportsman of the Year and Comeback of the Year awards at the 18th edition of the awards ceremony in Monaco. Besides this, American tennis player Serena Williams has won the Sportswoman of the Year Award following her Australian Open success, her 23rd Grand Slam title. Serena is now the most decorated female Laureus Award winner with five Laureus statuettes.
- 15.(b)** State Bank of India has raised its lending rates to 8.15 Percent, with immediate effect, setting the tone for the industry to follow suit. This is likely to make home and car loans costlier. This is the first lending revision by the bank since April 2016.
- 16.(a)** The Western Naval Command has carried out three-week long tri-Services maritime exercise termed 'Paschim Leher (XPL – 2018)' in the Arabian Sea from 12 February with an aim of building interoperability. Units from Eastern Naval Command, Indian Army, Indian Air Force and the Indian Coast Guard also participated in the exercise. The exercise involves 40 warships and submarines, helicopters, reconnaissance aircraft and UAVs.
- 17.(c)** India has successfully test-fired Anti Tank Guided Missiles (ATGM) Nag in desert conditions against two tank targets at different ranges and timings. With this, the developmental trials of the missile have been completed and it is now ready for induction. The missile has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Program (IGMDP).
- 18.(d)** Armen Sarkisian has been elected as the new President of Armenia. Prior to this, he was the ambassador to the United Kingdom. He will succeed Serzh Sarkisian. He will assume presidential duties after his predecessor steps down in April 2018.
- 19.(b)** Navjot Kaur has won the gold medal in Asian Wrestling Championship 2018 in women's 65 kg freestyle category. In the final match, she defeated Imai Miyu of Japan. Besides this, Vinesh Phogat and Pinki of Indian Railways claimed silver medals while, Sakshi Malik won a bronze in the 62-kilogram category.
- 20.(a)** Neiphiu Rio has been appointed as the new Chief Minister of Nagaland. He will replace T.R. Zeliang. The Governor has also requested Rio to prove his majority on the floor of the House on or before 16th of March.