

CURRENT AFFAIRS OF FEBRUARY 2018

Awards

The veteran filmmaker who has been chosen for the V Shantaram Lifetime Achievement Award of the Mumbai International Film Festival 2018 – **Shyam Benegal**

The Magahi language writer who has been awarded the Bhasha Samman by the Sahitya Akademi – **Shesh Anand Madhukar**

Defence

The joint military exercise between special forces of Indian and Indonesian Army being held at Bandung from 19 Feb to 04 March is named – **Garuda Shakti**

The Indian Air Force pilot who has become the first woman to fly a MiG-21 fighter aircraft (from Jamnagar Air Force base) – **Avani Chaturvedi**

Sports

The Indian gymnast who has become the first Indian to win a medal in an individual event at the Gymnastics World Cup by claiming a bronze medal in the women's individual vault event – **Aruna Budda Reddy**

The Indian long-distance swimmer who has become the first Indian (and 9th in the world) to swim across the Cook Strait (between North and South islands of New Zealand) – **Rohan More**

The Indian cricketer who has become the first woman cricketer to claim 200 wickets in one-day internationals (She achieved this landmark when she took the wicket of Laura Wolvadaart of South Africa) – **Jhulan Goswami**

The American badminton player who has won the India Open 2018 Women's Singles title defeating Indian player PV Sindhu in the finals at Siri Fort Indoor Stadium, New Delhi – **Zhang Beiwen**

Persons

The new President of South Africa (fifth) who has taken over following the resignation of Jacob Zuma – **Cyril Ramaphosa**

The CPN-UML candidate who has been appointed the new Prime Minister of Nepal by its President Bidya Devi Bhandari – **KP Sharma Oli**

The PepsiCo Chairperson and CEO who has been appointed to the International Cricket Council as its first female independent director – **Indira Nooyi**

The former Prime Minister of Bangladesh who has been sentenced to 5 years jail in a corruption case – **Begum Khaleda Zia**

The veteran Kathakali artiste (Padma Bhushan - 2011) who passed away on 06 February 2018 – **Madavoor Vasudevan Nair**

The new Director General of Sports Authority of India – **Neelam kapur**

Places

The railway station in Jaipur (North Western Railways) which has become the first non-suburban station to be entirely run by women – **Gandhinagar**

The venue of 6th India Region Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference held from 16 to 19 February 2018 – **Patna**

The venue of National Banana Festival held from 17 to 21 February 2018 with the focal theme 'Conserving diversity, Preserving Identity, Promoting Value Addition' – **Kalliyoor, Thiruvananthapuram (Kerala)**

The State which has launched door-to-door DASTAK campaign against Acute Encephalitis Syndrome and Japanese Encephalitis – **Uttar Pradesh**

Miscellaneous

The theme of National Science Day being observed on 28 February 2018 – **Science and Technology for a Sustainable Future**

The theme of 8th Theatre Olympics to be held for the first time in India at Red Fort, Delhi – **Flag of Friendship**

World's most powerful rocket launched by SpaceX from Kennedy Space Centre near Cape Canaveral, Florida and carrying Elon Musk's Tesla roadster is named – **Falcon Heavy**

The sanctuary in Andhra Pradesh where the first of its kind Pelican Festival 2018 was held on 04 February 2018 – **Atapaka Bird Sanctuary**

The partner nation for 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela being held in Faridabad, Haryana from Feb 02 to 18 – **Kyrgyzstan**

The theme State for 32nd Surajkund International Crafts Mela being held in Faridabad, Haryana from Feb 02 to 18 – **Uttar Pradesh**

The four major rivers in Jammu and Kashmir which have been declared National Waterways by the Union Government – **Jhelum, Chenab, Indus and Ravi**

Important Days of February

World Wetlands Day: 02 February 2018

Designated by: Ramsar Convention Secretariat

Theme: Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future

First Observed in: 1997

World Cancer Day: 04 February 2018

Designated by: Union for International Cancer Control (UICC)

Theme: We Can, I Can (for 2016-18)

First Observed in: 2000

<p>International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation: 06 February 2018 Designated by: U.N.O. First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p>Safer Internet Day: 06 February 2018 Designated by: European Union Theme: Create, connect and share respect: A better internet starts with you First Observed in: 2004</p>
<p>World Radio Day: 13 February 2018 Designated by: UNESCO Theme: Radio and Sports First Observed in: 2013</p>
<p>World Day of Social Justice: 20 February 2018 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Workers on the Move: The Quest for Social Justice First Observed in: 2008</p>
<p>International Mother Language Day: 21 February 2018 Designated by: UN General Assembly Theme: Linguistic Diversity and Multilingualism count for Sustainable Development First Observed in: 2008</p>
<p>Rare Disease Day: 28 February 2018 (Last day of February) Designated by: European Organisation for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS) First Observed in: 2008</p>

Chennai Open 2018

Held in - **Chennai**

Singles title winner - **Jordan Thompson** (Australia)

Singles title runner-up - **Yuki Bhambri** (India)

Doubles title winners - **Sriram Balaji** and **Vishnu Vardhan** (India)

Doubles title runners-up - **Cem Ilkel** (Turkey) and **Danilo Petrovic** (Serbia)

India South Africa ODI Series 2018

Held in: South Africa

#	Venue	Winner	Man of the Match
1.	Durban	India	Virat Kohli
2.	Centurion	India	Yuzvendra Chahal
3.	Cape Town	India	Virat Kohli
4.	Johannesburg	South Africa	Heinrich Klaasen
5.	Port Elizabeth	India	Rohit Sharma
6.	Centurion	India	Virat Kohli

Man of the Series: Virat Kohli

2018 Under-19 Cricket World Cup

Held in - **New Zealand**

Held from - 13 January to 03 February 18

Winners - **India** (4th title)

Runners-up - **Australia**

Player of the series - **Shubman Gill**

Most runs - **Alick Athanaze** (West Indies)

Most Wickets - **Anukul Roy, Qais Ahmed, Faisal Jamkhandi** (14 wickets)

Participants - Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, West Indies, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Afghanistan, Kenya, Canada, Papua New Guinea, Ireland (16)

CriSidEx

CriSidEx is a composite index based on a diffusion index of 8 parameters, and measures MSE (Micro and Small Enterprises) business sentiment on a scale of 0 (extremely negative) to 200 (extremely positive).

Developed by - **CRISIL** and **SIDBI**

Launched by - Shri Arun Jaitley, FM of India

First reading for October to December - 107

Winter Olympics 2018

Host City: **PyeongChang** (South Korea)

Motto: **Passion Connected**

Mascot: **Sooorang**, a white tiger

Nations participated: 92

Held from 09 Feb to 25 Feb 2018

Medals Tally

#	Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
1.	Norway	14	14	11	39
2.	Germany	14	10	07	31
3.	Canada	11	08	10	29
4.	United States	09	08	06	23
5.	Netherlands	08	06	06	20

Next in 2022 at Beijing

Death of actress Sridevi

Born - 13 August 1963

Death - 24 February 18

First film - Kandan Karunai (Tamil) at the age of 4

Padma Shri - 2013; Order of Afghanistan - 1991 for Khuda Gawah

Corruption Perception Index 2017

Released by: Transparency International

Scale: 0 for highly corrupt and 100 for very clean

Rankings

#	Country	2017 Score	2016 Score
1.	New Zealand	89	90
2.	Denmark	88	90
3.	Finland	85	89
3.	Norway	85	85
3.	Switzerland	85	86
77.	China	41	40
81.	India	40	40
117.	Pakistan	32	32

Electoral Bond Scheme 2018

Eligibility for purchase: A person, who is a citizen of India or incorporated or established in India. A person being an individual can buy Electoral Bonds, either singly or jointly with other individuals.

Eligibility to receive: Only the Political Parties registered under section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 (43 of 1951) and which secured not less than one per cent of the votes polled in the last general election to the House of the People or the Legislative Assembly of the State, shall be eligible to receive the Electoral Bonds. The Bond shall be encashed by an eligible political party only through a bank account with the authorized bank.

State Bank of India (SBI) has been authorised to issue and encash Electoral Bonds initially at its 4 authorised Branches in Chennai, Kolkata, Mumbai and New Delhi.

The first issue of the Scheme will be opened in March 2018 in place of January 2018 for the first quarter of 2018. Accordingly, the first sale of Electoral Bonds will commence from 01st March 2018 for a period of 10 days i.e. up to 10th March 2018.

Electoral Bond shall be valid for fifteen days from the date of issue and no payment shall be made to any payee Political Party if the Bond is deposited after expiry of the validity period.

Performance Health Outcomes Index

Prepared by - NITI Aayog in technical collaboration with World Bank and Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Large States: **21**

Top Overall Performers: **Kerala**, Punjab and Tamil Nadu

Most Improved: **Jharkhand**, Jammu & Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh

Smaller States: **8** (Mizoram, Manipur, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Goa, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura and Nagaland)

Top Overall Performers: **Mizoram**, Manipur and Meghalaya

Most Improved: **Manipur**, Goa and Meghalaya

Union Territories: **7**

Top Overall Performers: **Lakshadweep**, Chandigarh and Delhi

Most Improved: **Lakshadweep** and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

Khelo India School Games 2018

Held in: New Delhi

Held from 31 January to 08 February 2018

Medals Tally

State	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Haryana	38	26	38	102
Maharashtra	36	32	43	111
Delhi	25	29	40	94
Karnataka	16	11	17	44
Manipur	13	13	8	34

Highlights of Budget 2018-19

- MSP for all unannounced kharif crops will be one and half times of their production cost like majority of rabi crops.
- Institutional Farm Credit raised to 11 lakh crore in 2018-19 from 8.5 lakh crore in 2014-15.
- 22,000 rural haats to be developed and upgraded into Gramin Agricultural Markets to protect the interests of 86% small and marginal farmers.
- Operation Greens launched to address price fluctuations in potato, tomato and onion for benefit of farmers and consumers.
- Two New Funds of Rs 10,000 crore announced for Fisheries and Animal Husbandary sectors.
- Re-structured National Bamboo Mission gets Rs.1290 crore.
- World's largest Health Protection Scheme covering over 10 crore poor and vulnerable families launched with a family limit upto 5 lakh rupees for secondary and tertiary treatment.
- Deficit pegged at 3.5 %, projected at 3.3 % for 2018-19.
- Ten prominent sites to be developed as Iconic tourist destinations
- NITI Aayog to initiate a national programme on Artificial Intelligence(AI)
- Standard Deduction of Rs. 40,000 in place of present exemption for transport allowance and reimbursement of miscellaneous medical expenses. 2.5 crore salaried employees and pensioners to benefit.

Relief to Senior Citizens proposed:-

- Exemption of interest income on deposits with banks and post offices to be increased from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 50,000.
- TDS not required to be deducted under section 194A. Benefit also available for interest from all fixed deposit schemes and recurring deposit schemes.

- Hike in deduction limit for health insurance premium and/ or medical expenditure from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 under section 80D.
- Increase in deduction limit for medical expenditure for certain critical illness from Rs. 60,000 (in case of senior citizens) and from Rs. 80,000 (in case of very senior citizens) to Rs. 1 lakh for all senior citizens, under section 80DDB.
- Proposed to extend Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana up to March, 2020. Current investment limit proposed to be increased to Rs. 15 lakh from the existing limit of Rs. 7.5 lakh per senior citizen.

Tax-Receipts

- More concessions for International Financial Services Centre (IFSC), to promote trade in stock exchanges located in IFSC.
- To control cash economy, payments exceeding Rs. 10,000 in cash made by trusts and institutions to be disallowed and would be subject to tax.
- Tax on Long Term Capital Gains exceeding Rs. 1 lakh at the rate of 10 percent, without allowing any indexation benefit. However, all gains up to 31st January, 2018 will be grandfathered.
- Proposal to introduce tax on distributed income by equity oriented mutual funds at the rate of 10 percent.
- Proposal to increase cess on personal income tax and corporation tax to 4 percent from present 3 percent.
- Proposal to roll out E-assessment across the country to almost eliminate person to person contact leading to greater efficiency and transparency in direct tax collection.
- Proposed changes in customs duty to promote creation of more jobs in the country and also to incentivise domestic value addition and Make in India in sectors such as food processing, electronics, auto components, footwear and furniture.

Abbreviations in News

GOBAR DHAN: Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan

FATF: Financial Action Task Force

SRIJAN: Station Rejuvenation Initiative through Joint Action

Books in News

Exam Warriors - Shri Narendra Modi

One century is not enough - Saurav Ganguly

Mail your suggestions, corrections and comments to admin@leadthecompetition.in