

– Current Affairs –

February 2018

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PM Modi conferred with highest Palestinian honour

In a special recognition of the Prime Minister Narendra Modi's contribution to relations between India and Palestine, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas conferred the "Grand Collar of the State of Palestine" on him after the conclusion of the bilateral meeting. The Grand Collar is the highest order given to foreign dignitaries- such as Kings, Heads of State/Government and persons of similar rank.

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Which rank has been secured by Mumbai in the list of richest city by wealth, by South Africa-based market research group New World Wealth?

- A. 10
- B. 12
- C. 15
- D. 18

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

India's financial capital Mumbai has been ranked as the 12th richest city globally by South Africa-based market research group New World Wealth.

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Bihar Government bans sale of loose cigarettes

Bihar Government has banned sale of loose cigarettes in the state. This decision aims to be deterrent to kids and youngsters who start smoking by buying loose cigarettes. In this regard, state health department has issued notification under Section 20 of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003. Bihar is the 12th state in the country to bring such a ban into effect after Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Punjab, Delhi and others.

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Who is currently operating International Space station on behalf of NASA?

- A. SpaceX
- B. Orbital TMK
- C. Space 90
- D. Boeing

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

The ISS is currently operated by Boeing on behalf of US space agency NASA.

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Andhra's Chandrababu is richest CM in India

Andhra Pradesh's Chandrababu Naidu is the richest Chief Minister in India with declared assets worth over Rs177 crore, the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) stated. Naidu is followed by Arunachal Pradesh CM Pema Khandu with assets worth over Rs129 crore and Punjab's Amarinder Singh with Rs48 crore. Tripura's Manik Sarkar with Rs26 lakh is the CM with lowest declared assets.

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Which govt has world's highest spending?.

- A. Russia
- B. Australia
- C. India
- D. US

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

US govt has world's highest spending.

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West Bengal becomes first state to opt out of 'Modicare'

Claiming that the Bengal government had already enrolled 50 lakh people under its own Swasthya Sathi programme, Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has announced the decision to opt out of Centre's 'Modicare' scheme. This makes West Bengal the first state to withdraw from the ambitious programme. Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had announced the NHPS on February 1, making it the biggest global plan to provide quality health cover to a population larger than the combined citizenry of the US, UK, Germany and France.

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What is the annualized rate of expansion of economy of Japan in the fourth quarter of 2017?

- A. 0.3%
- B. 0.5%
- C. 2%
- D. 3%

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

The world's third largest economy expanded at an annualized rate of 0.5% in the fourth quarter of 2017, the eighth straight quarter of expansion.

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Wipro among 135 most ethical companies in world

Tata Steel and Wipro are the two Indian companies that have been named by US-based Ethisphere Institute in the list of World's Most Ethical Companies for 2018. The think tank has honoured 135 companies from 23 countries and 57 industries. Notably, Tata Steel and Wipro are receiving the award for the sixth and seventh time respectively.

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The Govt is considering selling between 51% and 76% stake in which company?

- A. New India Assurance
- B. Air India
- C. BSNL
- D. ONGC

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

The Govt is considering selling between 51% and 76% stake in Air India.

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Punjab Government bans sale of 20 insecticides

Punjab Government's Department of Agriculture has issued directions to discontinue the sale of 20 pesticides (insecticides) including Endosulfan harmful to health of humans and environment with

immediate effect. This decision was taken based on the recommendations of Registration Committee, Punjab Agricultural University (PAU) and Punjab State Farmers' Commission (PSFC).

_____ approves ban on local ivory trading by 2021

- A. China
- B. US
- C. Japan
- D. Hong Kong

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

Hong Kong approves ban on local ivory trading by 2021.

India Joins Ashgabat agreement

India joined Ashgabat Agreement on the establishment of an International Transport and Transit Corridor between the Iran, Oman, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The agreement was signed in 2011, which envisages facilitation of transit and transportation of goods between Central Asia and the Persian Gulf. According to the External Affairs Ministry, the accession to the Agreement would diversify India's connectivity options with Central Asia and have a positive influence on its trade and commercial ties with the region.

Which country will include the sales of illegal drugs in its GDP calculations in compliance with EU rules?

- A. France
- B. Spain
- C. Britain
- D. Germany

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

France will include the sales of illegal drugs in its GDP calculations in compliance with EU rules that require all bloc members to account for such revenues.

Shabnam Asthana wins Times Power Woman 2017 Award

Shabnam Asthana was awarded the 'Times Power Women of the Year 2017'- Pune for Global PR. The Times Group celebrated the invaluable contribution of women by introducing The Times Power Woman 2017 (Pune) awards. These awards focused on the women of Pune and the prestigious list included 34 select women with power, supremacy, command, and control. The award was conferred on her by Dilip Kamble, Minister of State for Social Justice and Special Assistance in the Government of Maharashtra.

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Ashraf Ghani is the President of ____

- A. China
- B. Afghanistan
- C. Japan
- D. Hong Kong

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Ashraf Ghani is the President of Afghanistan.

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India's 1st defence industrial corridor

The first of the two defense industrial production corridors, as announced in the Union Budget, will link Chennai & Bengaluru and will pass through Coimbatore and several other industrial clusters. The corridor shall provide impetus to the defence production industry in the country and in the region. The announcement on the second corridor would be made soon.

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Who is the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog?

- A. Rajnish Kumar
- B. Rajiv Kumar
- C. K Venugopal
- D. Arun Jaitley

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Rajiv Kumar is the Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.

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Shubhankar Sharma won European Tour title

India's Shubhankar Sharma came back from a four-stroke deficit to claim a two-shot win at the Maybank Championship in Malaysia for his second European Tour title. Sharma had won his maiden title at the Joburg Open in December last year. The Indian holed 10 birdies to claim the title ahead of Spain's 31-year-old Jorge Campillo.

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What is the name of the operation by Nigerian Army in capturing the camps of the Boko Haram militant group?

- A. Boko Mission
- B. Black Commando
- C. Deep Punch II
- D. Black Star II

Answer and Explanation

Answer:

Deep Punch II is the name of the operation by Nigerian Army in capturing the camps of the Boko Haram militant group. Boko Haram began insurgency in the northeast Nigeria in 2009 in its attempt to create an Islamic state in the region.

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R.K. Singh Inaugurates 'International R&D Conclave' In New Delhi

Union Minister of State (IC) for Power and New & Renewable Energy, R.K. Singh inaugurated the 'International R&D Conclave' in New Delhi. It is a two-day conference on Emerging Opportunities and Challenges of R&D in Indian Power Sector. It has been organized by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). The conference was stressed upon the need of a dedicated R&D department in CEA to coordinate the research in the power sector.

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Which of the following country is not participating in the Cobra Gold Military Exercise which is to be held in Thailand?

- A. Indonesia
- B. India
- C. Malaysia
- D. The US

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

India is not participating in the Cobra gold military exercise. This year 7 countries are participating in Cobra Gold- the US, Thailand, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, South Korea and Singapore.

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Evangelist Billy Graham dies at 99

The Rev. Billy Graham, one of the world's most famous Christian evangelists, has died at the age of 99. The evangelist brought his "Billy Graham Crusades" around the world, preaching to more than 210 million people in 185 countries and territories. His largest such gathering drew 1 million people in Seoul, South Korea, in the 1970s. As Graham prepared at age 86 for what he called his final U.S. crusade, a three-day event in New York City the weekend of June 25, 2005, he pondered his own mortality.

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_____ has suggested arming teachers to prevent school shootings.

- A. Melanie Trump
- B. Donald Trump
- C. Ivanka Trump
- D. Theresa May

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Donald Trump suggests arming teachers to prevent school shootings.

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Parivartan Scheme launched in Haryana

The Haryana government launched Parivartan, a scheme designed to address 10 issues, including cleanliness and pollution, in 46 developmental blocks of the state. The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar. The 10 issues include facilitation of financing, making agriculture profitable and sustainable, improving health services, implementing Swachh Bharat, decongesting market areas, engaging the youth, checking air pollution, ensuring availability of identity-related services, effective policing, and ensuring road order and conduct.

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Who is the founder of Paytm?

- A. Vijay Shekhar Sharma
- B. Madhur Deora
- C. Shankar Prasad Nath
- D. Harshit Goel

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

Vijay Shekar Sharma is the founder of the Paytm.

Maldives announces Presidential elections in September this year

Despite facing these worse situations, Maldives started doing preparations for the upcoming Presidential elections to be held this year. The first round of the elections is to be held in early September. It is mentioned that the authorities welcome the election body to start the preparations for the elections. The Government took note of its announcement to hold the first round of Presidential elections during early September and encouraged all relevant stakeholders to offer the Commission their full, unreserved support for the conduct of their work.

Which country has stopped calling itself 'nation of immigrants'?

- A. UK
- B. Mexico
- C. US
- D. Canada

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

US stops calling itself 'nation of immigrants'.

Andhra Pradesh gears up for Partnership Summit 2018 to attract investments for innovation

Andhra Pradesh woke up welcoming over more than 2000 delegates in its Partnership Summit 2018. The 3rd edition of Partnership Summit 2018 aims to facilitate investments, foster innovations in creating business models. Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu expressed his keenness towards Partnership Summit 2018 eager to establish partnerships aimed at collective development and hoping for great engagements with global investors at the Partnership Summit 2018, Vizag. I invite you all to be a part of Andhra Pradesh's incredible growth story.

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Who is world no. 2 bowler in T20I?

- A. Jasprit Bumrah
- B. B Kumar
- C. R Ashwin
- D. Ish Sodhi

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

New Zealand's Ish Sodhi is world no. 2 bowler in T20I. He was born in Punjab, India.

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India's Aadhaar and Umang App win awards at world Government Summit 2018

India's Aadhaar and Umang App have won awards at recently concluded 6th World Government Summit 2018 in Dubai. Umang App won in Best m-Government Service. Umang App won in Best m-Government Service Award for Accessible Government Category and Aadhaar won in the Best Government Emerging Technologies Award. The award for it recognized India's efforts of invention and innovation in the field of technology and making the country completely digitalized.

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Who is the Communication Director of international Monetary Fund(IMF)?

- A. Thomas Fitz
- B. William Lagarde
- C. Gerry Rice
- D. Daniel Coats

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

Gerry Rice is the Communication Director of international Monetary Fund(IMF). He recently has said that the tax collection assumptions in India's 2018-19 Budget are ambitious.

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Canadian PM arrives for 7-day visit to India

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on 17 February 2018 embarked on his first visit to India. The Canadian Prime Minister on his seven-day visit will be focused on job creation and strengthening ties

between the two nations. Canadian Prime Minister will visit the Golden Temple. While in India, Trudeau will engage with youth and visit several landmarks, including the Taj Mahal, the Jama Masjid, and Swaminarayan Akshardham.

Who is the Indian cricket player with most Man of the Match awards?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Sachin Tendulkar
- C. Sourav Ganguly
- D. MS Dhoni

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Sachin Tendulkar has won 62 Man of the Match awards.

Ethiopia declares national state of emergency

A state of emergency has been declared in Ethiopia after the resignation of Prime Minister Desalegn. Emergency has been declared as protests have caused massive displacement of citizens, destruction of properties & threats against constitutional order of the country. In August 2017, Ethiopia lifted a 10-month state of emergency imposed after hundreds of people were killed in anti-govt protests.

How many career titles has Federer won?

- A. 96
- B. 97
- C. 98
- D. 100

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Federer has won 97 career titles.

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Amazon Dethrones Microsoft as Third Most Valuable Company

According to a report in The New York Post, with a market cap of \$702.5 billion, Amazon has become the third most valuable company in the world, racing past Microsoft, which has a market cap of \$699.2 billion. Apple and Alphabet stand ahead of Amazon as the most valuable companies in the world.

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Who broke the 20-year old record in the 60 meters sprint?

- A. Tim Montgomery
- B. Harvey Spencer
- C. Christian Coleman
- D. Maurice Greene

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

After registering a timing of 6.34 seconds at the US Indoor National Championships in Albuquerque, Christian Coleman broke the 20-year old world record in the 60 metres sprint. Former American sprinter Maurice Greene had held the record of 6.39 seconds.

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Aga Khan's 11-Day Visit To India Begins

Spiritual leader Aga Khan is on the 11-day visit to India. Sunder Nursery, a 90-acre park near Humayun's Tomb in New Delhi, will be inaugurated by Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu in the presence of the Aga Khan. In addition to these engagements, he will be visiting the cities of Ahmadabad, Hyderabad and Mumbai, where Aga Khan Development Network is involved in various development projects. During his previous visit in 2015, the Aga Khan was conferred Padma Vibhushan for his contributions to social development in India.

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The matter involving PNB and which of the following is being described as India's largest banking fraud?

- A. Vijay Mallaya
- B. Lalit Modi
- C. Nirav Modi
- D. Harshad Mehta

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C The matter involving PNB and Nirav Modi is being described as India's largest banking fraud.

Andaman & Nicobar Command To Host Milan 2018

The second week of March will witness Andaman & Nicobar Command hosting a multinational mega event MILAN 2018. MILAN is a congregation of littoral navies conducted biennially by Indian Navy at the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The theme of this year's MILAN International Maritime Seminar is 'In Pursuit of Maritime Good Order - Need for Comprehensive Information Sharing Apparatus'. With the underlying theme of 'Friendship Across the Seas', MILAN 2018 will witness a diverse mix of professional exercises and seminars, social events and sporting fixtures.

Who is the beneficiary of the 'Badhai Kit' which were distributed by PM Modi recently in Daman?

- A. Pregnant women
- B. Lactating mothers
- C. Newly-married women below BPL
- D. Newly born girl child

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

'Badhai Kit' were given to the newly born girl children under 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao'.

TV Journalist Rahul Mahajan named Rajya Sabha TV Editor-in-Chief

Television journalist Rahul Mahajan has been appointed as editor-in-chief of the television channel Rajya Sabha TV. Mahajan's name was recommended by a five-member selection committee headed by Prasar Bharti chairman A. Surya Prakash and was approved by the vice-president of India M.Venkaiah Naidu. The committee also included Swapan Dasgupta, Shashi Shekhar Vempati, P.P.K. Ramacharyulu and Rahul Srivastava.

Which state's cricket team has won the Vijay Hazare Trophy?

- A. Saurashtra
- B. Karnataka
- C. Telangana

D. Maharashtra

Answer and Explanation

Answer: B

Karnataka won the Vijay Hazare Trophy.

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India Clinched 11 medals at Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament

India have come up with best ever performance at the 69th Strandja Memorial Boxing Tournament in Bulgaria. At Sofia, the country ended with a whopping 11 medals – five from men and six from women boxers. Overall, the contingent clinched two gold, three silver and six bronze medals. Vikas Krishan, who claimed a gold medal in 75 kg category, was also adjudged the best boxer of the event, a first for an Indian. Another Gold medal was clinched by Amit Panghal.

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Who has been awarded the Laureus Sportswoman of the Year award?

- A. Maria Sharapova
- B. Venus Williams
- C. Serena Williams
- D. Caroline Wozniacki

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

23-times Grand Slam champion Serena Williams won the Laureus Sportswoman of the Year award while Roger Federer has been awarded the Laureus Sportsman of the Year award.

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Google launches '#SecurityCheckKiya' campaign

Search engine giant Google has launched '#SecurityCheckKiya' campaign in India to create awareness around Internet safety. It was launched on the occasion of Safer Internet Day (6 February). The campaign aims to protect first-time web users from account hijacking, safeguard Android devices from malicious apps and secure all their personal data if they lose their device.

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Agni-1 has been test fired by ____

- A. India

- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. None of the above

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

Agni-1 is test fired by India.

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India successfully test-fires nuclear capable Agni-1 missile

An indigenously developed short-range nuclear capable ballistic Agni-1 was successfully test-fired from a mobile launcher at Pad 4 of the Integrated Test Range at Odisha's Dr Abdul Kalam Island. It was 18th version of Agni-1, which could achieve all parameters within the stipulated time period. The defence Research and Development Organization (RDO) has successfully tested country's longest indigenously developed nuclear missile Agni-V on 18 January 2018.

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What is the name of rocket that US-based SpaceX recently launched towards Mars?

- A. Heavy Falcon
- B. Mars Star
- C. Twin Mission
- D. Mars V

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

The US-based SpaceX has successfully launched the world's most powerful operational rocket Falcon Heavy towards Mars.

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Rajnath Singh releases book titled "Mere Sapnon ka Bharat"

Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh released a book titled "Mere Sapnon ka Bharat". It is a compilation of interviews of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee by Tarun Vijay, an ex-MP, at a function in New Delhi. The Home Minister described Mr Vajpayee as a distinguished personality who stands alone because of his stature. He is respected by all cutting across the political parties divides.

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PM's Research Fellows Plan will provide ____ per month as fellowship.

- A. 30,000
- B. 50,000
- C. 70,000
- D. 90,000

Answer and Explanation

Answer: C

PM's Research Fellows Plan will provide 70,000 per month as fellowship.

India ranks 44th in Global Intellectual Property Index, US tops

India increased "substantially" its score in the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index, ranking 44th among 50 nations, according to the US Chambers of Commerce report. India's overall score has increased substantially from 25% in the 5th edition of the Index to 30% in the 6th edition, according to the annual report prepared by the Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce. Last year, India ranked 43rd out of 45 countries in the Index.

The top 3 countries in the list are-

The USA.

The United Kingdom.

Sweden.

Who has been appointed as SBI Card MD and CEO?

- A. Hardayal Prasad
- B. Vijay Jasuja
- C. Amar Jindal
- D. Rajkumar Upadhyay

Answer and Explanation

Answer: A

Hardayal Prasad has been appointed as SBI Card MD and CEO. He replaced Vijay Jasuja.

India retains top spot as source market for Dubai in 2017

Dubai witnessed 15% growth in tourist arrivals from India in 2017, hosting 2.1 million visitors, retaining top spot as the source market. It also became the first country to cross the 2 million mark in a single year, according to the latest data published by Dubai's Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing (Dubai Tourism). The growth is mainly due to the success of Dubai Tourism's ongoing collaboration with Bollywood superstar Shah Rukh Khan in the 'BeMyGuest' campaign.

Modi will visit ___ in his 3-nation visit

- A. Libya
- B. Russia
- C. China
- D. Oman

Answer and Explanation

Answer: D

Modi will visit Oman in his 3-nation visit.

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