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History of February 18

- ◆ **1614** : Jahangir captured Mewar.
- ◆ **1911** : Mail was delivered by plane for the first time in India.
- ◆ **1999** : Agreement on bus service between Bangladesh and India
- ◆ **1998** : C. Subrahmanyam was awarded the Bharat Ratna.
- ◆ **1905** : Shyamji Krishnavarma established the India Home Rule Society in London.
- ◆ **1946** : There was a rebellion by the Royal Indian Navy in Mumbai.
- ◆ **2006** : Thar Express started between India and Pakistan.

Current Affairs Related to 18 February

- ◆ Female robot astronaut Vyommitra will fly in space before ISRO's ambitious Gaganyaan mission. This will be India's first manned space flight to carry Indian astronauts to space. The unmanned Vyommitra mission is scheduled for the third quarter of 2024, while the manned mission Gaganyaan is scheduled to be launched in 2025. It can perform tasks such as operating six panels and answering questions.
- ◆ Various amendments to various food safety and standards regulations were approved in the meeting chaired by Union Health Secretary Apoorva Chandra. The meeting approved amendments to scrap Bureau of Indian Standards or Agmark certification for food products. According to the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, once the amendments are finalized, food businesses will not need to approach various authorities for mandatory certification.
- ◆ The Center has introduced a new bill in the Lok Sabha to curb malpractices in examinations. A bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha by the government, which has a provision to remove malpractices and irregularities in competitive examinations, with a maximum jail sentence of 10 years and a fine of up to Rs 1 crore. The bill was introduced after a series of competitive examinations were cancelled. This includes teacher recruitment exam in Rajasthan, CET for Group D posts in Haryana, recruitment exam for junior clerk in Gujarat and Bihar Constable Recruitment Exam question paper leak.
- ◆ Defense Research and Development Organization successfully conducted four flight trials of High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target exercise from the Integrated Test Range at Chandipur, Odisha. Flight tests were conducted with four different mission objectives in the modified powered configuration. For this, a single booster designed by Advanced Systems Laboratory, Hyderabad was used.
- ◆ Kerala Finance Minister KN Balagopal presented the state budget for the financial year 2024-2025 in the Assembly. The state government will bring investment of more than Rs 3 lakh crore in the next three years. The government proposed to increase the minimum support price for rubber from Rs 170 to Rs 180 in the Kerala budget. Rs 8000 crore will be allocated to the Local Self Government Department for the financial year 2024-2025. A new assured pension system will also be introduced for government employees.
- ◆ The Union Cabinet has given permission to extend the scheme of sugar subsidy for beneficiary families of Antyodaya Anna Yojana distributed through the Public Distribution Scheme for two more years i.e. till 31 March 2026.
- ◆ Dr. Bina Modi was presented the award at a conference by the Indo American Chamber of Commerce. This conference was on the theme of strengthening India-US relations in Amritkal self-reliant India. The award recognizes Dr. Bima Modi's significant contribution to the industry. Her contributions have made her one of the few women chairpersons of Fortune 500 and ET500 India companies.
- ◆ Ishwari Prasad Namboodiri, the chief priest of the world famous Badrinath Dham in Uttarakhand, was honored with the Shankara Smriti Award in Kerala. This recognition marks a significant acknowledgment of his dedication and service in the spiritual realm, which enhances the rich tapestry of Indian religious practices. Badrinath Dham, often referred to as the earthly abode of Lord Vishnu, is a major pilgrimage site for Hindus around the world.
- ◆ Banwarilal Purohit resigned from the post of Governor of Punjab and Administrator of Union Territory Chandigarh. He resigned due to personal reasons and some other commitments. He has been in this post since August 2021. He has previously served as the Governor of Tamil Nadu and Assam. He became MP from Nagpur three times.

National & International Current Affairs

1. When and till when is Taj Mahotsav being organized in Agra?

- (A) From 16th to 26th February
- (B) From 17th to 27th February
- (C) From 18th to 28th February
- (D) From 19th to 29th February

(B) Taj Mahotsav is celebrated every year on 17 February in Agra. Which adds to the rich cultural heritage of our country. In 2024, the festival will start from 17th February and continue till 27th February. It represents the grandeur of the Taj Mahal of the Mughal period and features exquisite examples of Indian craftsmanship.



2. Where will the 242 feet high statue of Adiyogi Shiva be installed recently?

- (A) Ayodhya
- (B) Mathura
- (C) Lucknow
- (D) Noida

(D) The Civil Aviation Ministry has given in-principle approval for the installation of a 242-feet tall statue of Adiyogi Shiva near the upcoming Noida International Airport at Jewar in western Uttar Pradesh. This important decision paves the way for the establishment of this spiritual milestone for Isha Foundation.



3. After whom will Baramunda ISBT in Bhubaneswar be named recently?

- (A) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
- (B) BR Ambedkar
- (C) Sushma Swaraj
- (D) None of these

(B) Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik announced that the Baramunda Inter State Bus Terminal in Bhubaneswar will be named after jurist, social reformer, economist and one of the architects of the Indian Constitution, Dr BR Ambedkar. The Chief Minister said that Dr. Ambedkar was a visionary leader and dedicated social reformer. He was the light of hope for the underprivileged of the society.



4. Which state has recently launched the NITISH device by the Disaster Management Authority?

- (A) Bihar
- (B) Odisha
- (C) Tamil Nadu
- (D) Mizoram

(A) Recently Bihar State Disaster Management Authority has launched NITISH device. The full name of NITISH is Nobel Initiative Technological Intervention for Safety Human Lives. It is a pendant shaped technology designed to provide timely alerts to farmers and the public.



5. Recently, the UP government presented a budget of how many lakh crore rupees for 2024-2025?

- (A) 5.36 lakh crore
- (B) 6.40 lakh crore
- (C) 7.36 lakh crore
- (D) 8.36 lakh crore

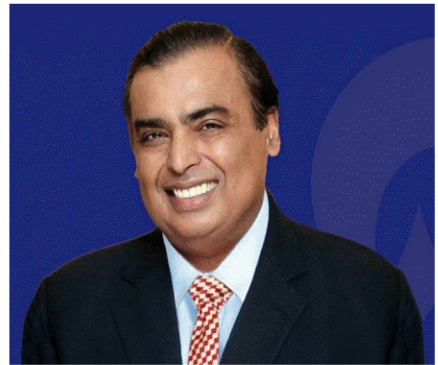
(C) Uttar Pradesh Finance Minister Suresh Khanna presented an annual budget of Rs 7.36 lakh crore for the financial year 2024-2025 in the state assembly. Of the total outlay, Rs 24,863.57 crore has been allocated for new schemes. Out of the total expenditure, Rs 5,32,655.33 crore has been allocated for the revenue account and Rs 2,03,782.38 crore has been allocated for the capital account.



6. Recently, which rank has Mukesh Ambani achieved in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024?

- (A) First (B) Second
(C) Third (D) Fourth

(B) Mukesh Ambani has secured the top position among Indians and second position globally in the Brand Guardianship Index 2024. With a score of 80.3, Mukesh Ambani is ahead of Microsoft's Satya Nadella, Google's Sundar Pichai, Apple's Tim Cook and Tesla's Elon Musk. The 2024 survey highlighted Ambani's leadership across diversified conglomerates.



7. Recently, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed an interim budget of how many lakh crore rupees for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2024-2025.

- (A) 1.18 lakh crore (B) 2.10 lakh crore
(C) 3.2 lakh crore (D) 3.20 lakh crore

(A) Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman proposed an interim budget of Rs 1.18 lakh crore for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir for the financial year 2024-2025. The interim budget envisages a fiscal deficit of Rs 20,760 crore and a growth of 7.5 per cent in gross state domestic product. According to the interim budget presented by Sitharaman in Parliament, capital expenditure for the financial year has been proposed at Rs 38,566 crore.



8. Recently, scientists of which country have discovered the underwater valley Eratosthenes near Cyprus?

- (A) Japan (B) America
(C) Israel (D) Germany

(C) Recently the Geological Institute of Israel has revealed a new underwater valley named Eratosthenes near Cyprus, which sheds light on geological events dating back 5.5 million years. A valley 10 km wide and 500 m deep was formed during the Messinian event.



9. Who has recently received the Lifetime Achievement Award?

- (A) Sachin Tendulkar (B) PT Usha
(C) Kapil Dev (D) None of these

(B) Legendary sprinter and current President of the Indian Olympic Association PT Usha was honored with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award. This honor has been conferred on him by the Sports Journalists Federation of India and Delhi Sports Journalists Association in recognition of his extraordinary contribution to Indian athletics.



10. Who will recently assume the role of Deputy Chief of the Indian Army?

- (A) Upendra Dwivedi (B) Apoorva Chandra
(C) Swadesh Mital (D) None of these

(A) In a strategic move within the Indian Army, Lieutenant General Upendra Dwivedi has been appointed as the new Vice Chief of the Army Staff, effective today. The change marks a seamless succession plan as Lt Gen Dwivedi is stepping into the role, succeeding Lt Gen MV Suchindra Kumar. Who is ready to take command at Northern Army Command in Udhampur.

