

NATIONAL

- ❖ **India-ASEAN business and investment conference** held in **New Delhi** ahead of the landmark commemorative summit.
- ❖ The **7th Asia Steel International Conference** will be held in **Bhubaneswar** from February 6 to 9. Tata Steel, in association with the Indian Institute of Metals, announced it. The last **Asia Steel conference** was held in 2015 at **Yokohama, Japan**.
- ❖ The **16th International Energy Forum (IEF)** Ministerial meeting will be held in **New Delhi** in April 2018.
- ❖ Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, Shri **Rakesh Srivastava** launched the **Management Information System (MIS) portal** for Anganwadi Services Training Programme in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ India's first ever **International Dam Safety Conference** kicked off in **Tiruvananthapuram** inaugurated by **Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan**.
- ❖ The Minister of State (IC), for AYUSH, Shri **Shripad Yesso Naik** laid the foundation stone for **Central Research Institute (CRI) in Jaipur**.
- ❖ The **Secretary of Ministry of Women and Child Development Shri Rakesh Srivastava** launched the **Phase -1** i.e. the beneficiary module of the **Rapid Reporting System** for the **Scheme for Adolescent Girls**.
- ❖ The GOI announced the **Prime Minister's Shram Awards** for the year **2016**. It will be awarded to the **50 workers**. The award was given by **Ministry of Labour and Employment** every year.
- ❖ The government has announced **four new schemes** to promote young scientists and researchers in the country.
- ❖ The **External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj** inaugurated the **Bharat-ASEAN Maitri Park** in the national capital, a day ahead of the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit.
- ❖ An MoU was signed between National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation (NHIDCL) under **the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, and Infrastructure Leasing & Financial Services (IL&FS) Ltd.**
- ❖ The annual **Jaipur Literature Festival (JLF)** began in Rajasthan.

- ❖ **The labour ministry** will begin a drive in April to register over 47 crore unorganised sector workers and provide them with **Unorganised Worker Index Number or UWIN Card**.
- ❖ The Country celebrates its 69th Republic Day on **26th January in Rajpath, New Delhi**.
- ❖ Punjab chief minister launched the release of benefits under '**Mahatma Gandhi Sarbat Vikas Yojana**'.
- ❖ **Kolkata** became the first metro city to have a floating market.
- ❖ The project has been established in collaboration with a Japanese company, **New Energy Industrial Technology and Development Organisation (NEDO)**.
- ❖ Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister **Jai Ram Thakur** launched '**Shakthi**' app. The app has been launched for a **quick police response cases of crimes against women**.
- ❖ The **21st edition of India International Seafood Show** begins in **Goa**.
Theme: Safe and Sustainable Seafood from India
- ❖ Trade ministers from various countries including **Australia, Japan, and Switzerland** met for an informal **WTO ministerial gathering** in **Davos, Switzerland**.
- ❖ **Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis** said the government had approved a plan of **750 crore rupees** for a **law university at Nagpur**.
- ❖ The **Chairman of Railway Board, Ashwani Lohani**, launched '**Rail Yatri Guide**' kiosk at **New Delhi railway station**.
- ❖ **Information and Broadcasting Minister Smriti Irani** attended a **leadership conclave** organised by the **Art of Living in New Delhi**.
- ❖ Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has congratulated the team behind the **state's tableau** which won the **first prize** at the **Republic Day** parade in **New Delhi**.
- ❖ **A three-day international bird festival** will be held at the **Dudhwa National Park, Uttar Pradesh**.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government will set up around **6,000 solar power plants** to meet its clean energy **in the next five years**.
- ❖ The first ever '**Khadi Haat**' was launched by Village Industries Commission (KVIC) and New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC).

- ❖ **The Airports Authority of India** has allocated nearly **3,400 crore rupees** for the **upgradation of airports** in the **North East region**.
- ❖ The armies of **India and Vietnam** began a six day-long military exercise, '**VINBAX**'.
- ❖ **The Economic Survey for 2017-18** was tabled in Parliament by **Finance Minister Arun Jaitley**.
- ❖ The Indian Navy has launched the **third Scorpene class submarine Karanj in Mumbai**.
- ❖ The Indian Parliamentary Group headed by **Lok Sabha Speaker Sumitra Mahajan** has announced **five Outstanding Parliamentarian Awards**.
- ❖ Prime Minister Narendra Modi launches the **first Khelo India School Games** at the **Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium, New Delhi**.
- ❖ **Assam Governor Prof Jagdish Mukhi** has released a **postage stamp** on **former India football captain Dr Talimeren Ao** on his birth centenary year.
- ❖ **The Union Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeITY)** has launched "**Stree Swabhiman**" initiative.
- ❖ The **Asia's largest drip irrigation project** involving **2,150 kilometres** of pipeline will be started at Ramthal Marola area of Bagalkot district in Karnataka.

INTERNATIONAL EXAM GUIDER

- ❖ Multilateral lending agency **World Bank and India** inked **\$ 120 million loan** agreement which will help increase access to **improved water supply services** in **peri-urban areas in Uttarakhand**.
- ❖ The **Andhra Pradesh Government** and the Canton of **Zurich** signed a letter of intent, **to promote mutual prosperity and development**.
- ❖ The **third edition of international spice conference** will be held in **Jaipur, Rajasthan**.
- ❖ In the India-ASEAN summit, Prime Minister Narendra Modi held bilateral talks with his **counterpart from Thailand Gen Prayut Chan-o-cha** on strengthening cooperation in strategic areas of trade, defence and security.
- ❖ **National Small Industries Corporation (NSIC)** signed an MoU with **SME Corporation Malaysia** for exchange of information and cooperation.

- ❖ India and Vietnam released first ever set of **commemorative postage stamps**.
- ❖ India's offering to host the meeting was made after trade ministers from various countries including **Australia, Japan and Switzerland met in Davos**.
- ❖ In a aim to safeguard the world from hackers and growing data breaches, the World Economic Forum (WEF) announced a **new Global Centre for Cybersecurity**.
- ❖ For the first time, **rotavac vaccine**, entirely developed in India has been "pre-qualified" by the World Health Organisation.
- ❖ India and Cambodia signed four agreements and the documents were exchanged in presence of **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and visiting **Cambodian PM Hun Sen** following delegation-level talks between the two countries.
- ❖ **Qatar and Oman** have signed an agreement aimed at **enhancing trade and economic ties**.

BANKING & BUSINESS

- ❖ **India** has emerged as the **fifth most attractive market for investments and the optimism** over global economic growth is at a record level, a survey of CEOs by **global consultancy PwC**.
- ❖ **NIIF** has partnered with **DP World** to create an investment platform for **ports, terminals, transportation and logistics businesses in India**.
- ❖ **Indian Overseas Bank** has signed an MoU with **National Housing Bank** for the **Rural Housing Interest Subsidy Scheme (RHISS)** of the Ministry of Rural Development.
- ❖ The government will infuse **Rs 88,139 crore into 20 public sector banks** through **recapitalisation bonds and budgetary support** in **this financial year**.
- ❖ India has moved up on a **global index of talent competitiveness** to the **81st position**. **Switzerland** continues to top the list and it is followed by **Singapore and the US**.
- ❖ The Coconut Development Board under **Technology Mission on Coconut** has approved **23 projects** with an outlay of **Rs. 22.69 crore** and financial assistance of **Rs. 4.75 crore** with annual processing capacity of 521 lakh coconuts and 4200 tonnes production of coconut shell charcoal.

- ❖ India ranks **177th position among 180 countries in the Environmental Performance Index 2018.**
- ❖ **Vodafone India** has partnered with e-commerce marketplace **Flipkart** to provide a range of **entry-level 4G smartphones.**
- ❖ According to the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)** India is projected to grow at **7.4 percent in 2018** and **China at 6.8 percent.** It makes India as the fastest growing country among the emerging economies.
- ❖ The total **revenue collection under GST for December 2017** (received up to January 24) was **₹86,703 crore.**
- ❖ **Kishore Biyani's Future Supply Chain Solutions** has fully acquired Snapdeal's logistics service provider **Vulcan Express Pvt Ltd.**
- ❖ **Padma Vibhushan:**

Ilayaraja: Art (Music), Tamil Nadu

Ghulam Mustafa Khan: Art (Music), Uttar Pradesh

Parameswaran Parameswaran: Literature & Education, Kerala

- ❖ The social security scheme, the **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)** will now also be available at small finance and payments banks.
- ❖ India has ranked **second** after **South Africa** as the cheapest country to live or retire, according to a recent survey of **112 countries.**
- ❖ India will become the **fastest growing large economy** in the world, eclipsing China, in 2018 and the country's equity market will jump to become the fifth largest in the world.
- ❖ The **Hindi Word of the Year for 2017** is '**AADHAAR**'. This was announced by **Oxford Dictionaries** at the **Jaipur Literature Festival.** 'Aadhaar' also becomes the first Oxford Dictionaries Hindi Word of the Year.
- ❖ The **London Stock Exchange**, welcomed the issuance of **Export-Import (EXIM) Bank of India's USD one billion bond** which will be admitted to its International Securities Market (ISM).
- ❖ Mobile payments company **Paytm** and Alibaba Group-owned **AGTech Holdings Ltd** have formed a joint venture to launch **Gamepind.**

- ❖ **The cab hailing application Ola** announced plans to enter Australia and has begun on boarding private hire vehicles and driver partners in Sydney, Melbourne and Perth.
- ❖ The Rating agency CRISIL has revised its outlook on **18 public sector banks (PSBs)** from “**negative**” to “**stable**” after the government announced bank-wise capital infusion and reform plans.
- ❖ **Lulu Group and BRS Ventures** from the **United Arab Emirates** have come forward to invest **Rs 3,500 crore in Telangana state.**
- ❖ **India** has been **ranked sixth** in the list of wealthiest countries with total wealth of **USD 8,230 billion.**
- ❖ **Asian Development Bank** and the Centre have signed a **250 million dollar loan agreement.**
- ❖ India’s crude steel production grew by **6.2 percent to 101.4 million tonnes (MT)** in 2017 compared to **95.5 MT** in the previous year, a report by **World Steel Association.**
- ❖ Private sector Axis Bank launched the **fourth edition of ‘Evolve’** in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu.

APPOINTMENTS & RESIGNS

Name of the person	Appointed for	Replaces
S Somnath	new director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)	-----
Jerome Powell	head of the Federal Reserve	Janet Yellen
Usha Ananthasubramanian	elected the first woman chairman of Indian Banks’ Association (IBA)	Jatinder Bir Singh
president Milos Zeman	wins Czech presidential election	-----
Vikram Singh Sisodia	Chef-De-Mission For CWG	-----

AWARDS & HONOR

- ❖ The **Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Edappadi K Palanisamy** has received **UNESCO Award of Merit**.
- ❖ An **Indian-origin principal Neena Lall**, at one of the **UK's leading state-funded schools** has been branded as **"Hitler"** on social media over her efforts to ban the 'hijab' for very young students.
- ❖ **Dr Vinod Paul, Member of NITI Aayog** has been awarded the prestigious **IhsanDogramacı Family Health Foundation Prize** by the **World Health Organisation (WHO)**.
- ❖ **Bollywood playback singer Asha Bhosle** will be given the **'Yash Chopra Memorial Award'**.

BOOKS & AUTHOR

- ❖ **Vice President** releases the book **'Staniya Svasasan Mei Addhi Aabadhi'** has been authored by **Dr. Sadhana Pandey** in New Delhi..
- ❖ The former Chief Minister of Delhi, **Sheila Dixit's pictorial book** framed a book named **"Dilli Meri Dilli: Before and After 1998"**.
- ❖ **Bruno Mars** went **six for six** at the **Grammys**, winning all of the awards he was nominated for with his energetic and upbeat 90s-inspired R&B album.

A COMPLETE EXAM GUIDER SPORTS

- ❖ The **International Cricket Council (ICC)** has announced, the **2018 edition** of the **Women's World T20** will be **hosted by West Indies** in November 2018.
- ❖ **Rakhi Halder** created a new national record and en route to a **gold medal** in the **63kg women's category** in the **33rd Women Senior National Weightlifting Championships, in Mangaluru, Kerala**.
- ❖ **Bopanna and Babos** lost to the **Croat-Canadian pair of Pavic and Dabrowski** in mixed Doubles. Timea Babos hails from **Hungary**.
- ❖ **Caroline Wozniacki** clinched her 1st grand slam title in Women Singles category in Australian open.
- ❖ **Delhi** won their first **Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy** by beating Rajasthan.

- ❖ In Tennis, World Number Two **Roger Federer** has **retained his Men’s Singles title at the Australian Open**. In the summit clash in Melbourne, he defeated sixth seed Marin Cilic of Croatia in five sets.
- ❖ The world no.1 **Tai Tzu Ying of Taiwan** wins the **Indonesian Masters**.
- ❖ **Sandeep Lamichhane** became the first cricketer **from Nepal** to land a deal in IPL contract.
- ❖ Sharath Kamal has lifted the **National men’s singles title** for the eighth time, equals **Kamlesh Mehta record**.

OBITUARIES

- ❖ ‘**Father of South African jazz**’, who had career spanning more than five decades, **dies aged 78**.
- ❖ The Award-winning **science fiction and fantasy author Ursula K Le Guin** has passed away. She hails from Oregon,US.
- ❖ Famous actress Supriya Devi passed away. She hails from **West Bengal**.
- ❖ Noted Kannada actor Chandrashekhara popularly known as ‘**Edakallu Guddada Mele**’ Chandrashekhara passed away.
- ❖ **Saina Nehwal** lost her final match of **Indonesia Masters** in **Jakarta** to **Tai Tzu Ying** of Chinese Taipei.
- ❖ Billionaire IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad dies at 91
- ❖ Ottanthulal **artist Kalamandalam Geethanandan** (58) collapsed and died during a performance at Avittathur Mahavishnu Temple in **kerala**.

IMPORTANT DAYS

January	Important Event	Theme
24	National Girl Child Day	_____
24	UP Diwas	-----
25	National Voters’ Day	“Accessible Elections”

30

Martyrs' Day

