

## **GK DIGEST – 2nd Week of FEBRUARY 2018**

### **Feb 11th - Feb 18th**

#### **International Affairs**

##### **Saudi Arabia temporarily bans poultry imports from India over bird flu**

- Saudi Arabia has temporarily banned imports of live birds, hatching eggs and chicks from India after a form of bird flu that is highly lethal for poultry was found in the south Asian country.
- In January, India had reported an outbreak of a highly contagious bird flu virus near Bengaluru in the southern state of Karnataka.

##### **Thailand most traffic congested country and Los Angeles most congested city of 2017**

- According to a global traffic scorecard published annually by Inrix, a company that aggregates and analyzes traffic data collected from vehicles and highway infrastructure, the top 10 most congested cities in the world, 2017 are: 1. Los Angeles 2. New York City (tie) 2. Moscow (tie) 4. Sao Paulo, Brazil 5. San Francisco 6. Bogotá 7. London 8. Atlanta 9. Paris 10. Miami The most

congested country in the world is Thailand, with drivers spending an average of 56 hours in peak-hour congestion.

- The top 10 most congested countries, 2017 are: 1. Thailand 2. Indonesia 3. Colombia 4. Venezuela 5. United States (tie) 5. Russia (tie) 7. Brazil (tie) 7. South Africa (tie) 9. Turkey 10. United Kingdom.

## Jacob Zuma Resigns As South Africa's President

- South Africa's embattled President Jacob Zuma. He announced the decision in a televised address to the nation after the ruling African National Congress (ANC) party threatened to eject him from office via a parliamentary vote of no confidence.
- The 75-year-old, who was the country's President for the last 9 years, has been under increasing pressure to give way to Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, ANC's new leader. Mr. Zuma's resignation followed weeks of intense public pressure to step down amid long-standing corruption allegations.

## Saudi Arabia allows women to start business without male permission

- Women in Saudi Arabia can now open their own businesses without the consent of a husband or male relative.
- The policy change, announced by the Saudi government also marks a major step away from the strict guardianship system that has ruled the country for decades.
- The Country's Ministry of Commerce and investment said on its website that women can now launch their own businesses and benefit from governmental e-services without having to prove consent from a guardian.

## World's First Autonomous Pods Unveiled In Dubai

- Dubai's Roads and Transport Authority (RTA) launched the first tests of the world's first autonomous pods at the World Government Summit.
- The autonomous pods are launched in cooperation with Next Future Transportation (US-Based) and are

designed to travel short and medium distances in dedicated lanes.

- They can be coupled together in as little 15 seconds or detached depending on the riders' destination in five seconds.

## National Affairs

### NHAI to start Pilot Project named Pay As You Use tolling system on Delhi to Mumbai National Highways

- Pay as You Use' tolling on the Delhi-Mumbai Highway, for which bids are expected to be submitted by February 26.
- The pilot project involves implementing a satellite based electronic toll collection system running on GPS/GSM technology for around 500 commercial vehicles on the Delhi-Mumbai National Highway. The project will run for one year.

### Central Government approves construction of over 1.86 lakh more houses under PMAY Urban

- The central government has approved the construction of over 1.86 lakh more houses under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) scheme,

taking the total number of affordable houses sanctioned to over 39.25 lakhs.

- The latest approvals under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, PMAY (Urban), entailed an investment of Rs 11,169 crores, with central assistance of Rs 2,797 crores.
- Haryana sanctioned the maximum number of 53,290 houses in this round of approval, followed by Tamil Nadu 40,623 houses, Karnataka 32,656 houses and Gujarat 15,584 houses.

### **Union Minister Rajnath Singh Inaugurated First Of Its Kind Spoken Sanskrit Centre**

- Union Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched the Centre for learning the Sanskrit language in Gujarat University, Ahmedabad.
- The center will offer a six-month course for people on how to speak the language.
- The coordinator of the course, Atul Ungar stated it was possibly the first such course launched in India.

## Union Minister Nitin Gadkari Released India's 1st Ever Highway Capacity Manual

- The Minister of Road Transport & Highways Mr Nitin Gadkari released India's first ever Highway Capacity Manual (HCM) in New Delhi.
- The manual is also known as Indo-HCM and it has been developed by CSIR – CRRI on the basis of an extensive, country-wide study of the traffic characteristics on different categories of roads like a single lane, two-lane, multi-lane urban roads, and the associated intersections on these roads.

### Business

## 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.

## 12th International Conference On CSR Held In Bengaluru

- The Institute Of Directors organized it's 12th International Conference on Corporate Social Responsibility in Bengaluru, Karnataka.
- In the conference, the Prestigious Golden Peacock Award 2017 were presented.
- The leadership award for philanthropy and social change was presented to Mr. Vineet Nayar, Founder Chairman, Sampark Foundation.

## World's Tallest Hotel 'Gevora' Opens In Dubai

- The Gevora Hotel in Dubai, developed by the Al Attar Group now become the “world’s tallest hotel”. It stands 356 meters and 53 centimeters tall.
- It is one meter taller than the previous holder of the title, the JW Marriott Marquis, in the same city.
- The title has been confirmed by Guinness Book of World Records.

## Sports

### Sharmila Nicollet first Indian Golfer To Qualify For China LPGA Tour

- Sharmila Nicollet become the first Indian golfer to qualify for the China Ladies PGA Tour.
- The 26-year-old Bengaluru golfer fought her way back into the tournament in the last two rounds to earn a card for the Tour.



- Sharmila, who played on the Ladies European Tour before losing her full card, played her three rounds in the CLPGA Tour Qualifying School to finish in tied 21st and pick one of the 30 cards available in the 88-player field.

### India To Host 8th Theatre Olympics

- In an effort to put India firmly among the top nations in the world theatre map, the country will play host to the 8th Theatre Olympics, the greatest carnival of the pianist.
- The 51-day theatre extravaganza which will be inaugurated at Red Fort will see 450 shows including 65 shows by international artists, 600 ambient performances, and 250 youth forum shows.

### Kishan Gangolli Wins 13th Edition Of National Chess Championship For Blind

- Karnataka's Kishan Gangolli won the 13th edition of the National 'A' Chess Championship for the blind in Mumbai.

- The championship was organized by All India Chess Federation for the Blind (AICFB).
- At the end of the 13th round, Asian Championship winner, Gangoli became the champion for the fifth consecutive time with 10.5 points.
- Gujarat's Ashwin Makwana stood second with 9.5 points, Soundarya Kumar Pradhan of Orissa with 9 points came third.

### **Sports Ministry to introduce ranking system for national sports federations**

- The Ministry of Sports and Youth Affairs is planning to introduce a ranking system for National Sports Federations (NSFs).
- This will be for the first time the Sports Ministry will have a system by which sports federations will be ranked or rated according to set parameters Key.
- The rankings will be based on federations' administrative capability, transparency, talent-spotting ability, and medal count of athletes.

## Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

- 1) Which union minister Inaugurated First Of Its Kind Spoken Sanskrit Centre ?
  - a) Shri Rajnath Singh
  - b) Shri Arun jaitley
  - c) Shri Suresh menon
  - d) Shri Vijay Prakash
  
- 2) Which country Retains Top Spot As Source Market For Dubai In 2017 ?
  - a) Pakistan
  - b) India
  - c) Saudi Arabia
  - d) Indonesia
  
- 3) Which bank Wrote Off Bad Loans Worth Over Rs 20,000 Crore Last Fiscal ?
  - a) Dena Bank
  - b) Canara Bank
  - c) State bank of India
  - d) Federal bank

4) Which country World's Tallest Hotel 'Gevora' Opens ?

- a) North America
- b) South Africa
- c) Australia
- d) Dubai

5) Who Inaugurates International Conference Indian Power Stations 2018 In New Delhi ?

- a) Shri Vijay Prakash
- b) Shri Naresh singh
- c) Shri R.K. Singh
- d) Shri Narayana Swamy

6) What is the name of the India's 1st Online Radio Station Launched ?

- a) Radio Bharat
- b) Radio Umang
- c) Mann Ki Baat
- d) All India Radio

- 7) Which app launches Scheduler feature to ease hiring process ?
- a) Linked In
  - b) Whatsapp
  - c) ) Facebook
  - d) Instagram
- 8) Which state Becomes First State To Opt Out Of Modicare?
- a) Tamil nadu
  - b) Kerala
  - c) West bengal
  - d) Andhra Pradesh
- 9) Which ministry to introduce ranking system for national sports federations ?
- a) Ministry of External affairs
  - b) Ministry of Telecommunications
  - c) Ministry of Internal Affairs
  - d) Ministry of Sports

- 10) Which country to Host 8th Theatre Olympics recently ?
- a) India
  - b) Pakistan
  - c) South Africa
  - d) Indonesia
- 11) Which company Bags Rs 560 Crore Order From NTPC ?
- a) SAIL
  - b) NTPC
  - c) Eastern Coal field
  - d) BHEL
- 12) Who Sworn In As New President Of South Africa ?
- a) Cyril Ramaphosa
  - b) Ashraf Ghani
  - c) Serzh Sargsyan
  - d) Michel Temer

- 13) Which bank lists \$600 million MTN bond on India INX ?
- a) Canara bank
  - b) Yes Bank
  - c) Andhra Bank
  - d) State bank of India
- 14) Which city did India's Biggest Global Pharma Conference Begins ?
- a) Bengaluru
  - b) New Delhi
  - c) Patna
  - d) Chennai
- 15) Which country launched Cargo Ship Progress MS-08 Launched ?
- a) Pakistan
  - b) Russia
  - c) Iran
  - d) Bulgaria

### Answers:

- 1) A 2) B 3) C 4) D 5) C 6) B 7) A 8) C 9) D 10) A  
11) D 12) A 13) B 14) A 15) B

## USEFUL LINKS

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