

GK DIGEST – 3rd Week of FEBRUARY 2018

Feb 19th - Feb 25th

International Affairs

Saudi Arabia allowed 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.

Amazon Launches Its 1st Food Retail Service In India

- Amazon becomes the first foreign e-commerce firm to start its own food retail venture in India called Amazon Retail, piloting its services in Pune.

- It will reportedly be available on Amazon India platform and sell locally made and packaged food to the consumers directly.
- Amazon also launched Amazon Now app, which connects retailers with customers for sale of groceries.

Singapore To Impose Carbon Tax From 2019

- Singapore will impose a 'carbon tax' from 2019 to cut its greenhouse gas emissions and make companies more competitive as global agreements on climate change take effect.
- Finance minister Heng Swee Keat stated that the tax would be levied on all facilities producing 25,000 tonnes or more of greenhouse gas emissions a year.
- The tax, to be applied to all sectors, will be Sg\$5.0 (\$3.8) per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions from 2019 to 2023.

India Ranks 81st In Global Corruption Perception Index

- India ranked 81st in the global corruption perception index for 2017, released by Transparency International, which named the country among the "worst offenders"

in terms of graft and press freedom in the Asia Pacific region.

- The index ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption. In the 2016 India was in the 79th place among 176 countries.
- The index uses a scale of 0 to 100, where 0 is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean.
- In the latest ranking New Zealand and Denmark were placed the highest, with scores of 89 and 88, respectively.
- On the other hand, Syria, Sudan and Somalia were ranked lowest with scores of 14, 12 and 9, respectively.

National Affairs

Mumbai To Have India's First Artificial Intelligence Centre

- In a first in the country, the Maharashtra government will be setting up an institute for artificial intelligence (AI) in Mumbai.
- Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis will unveil the plan for the institute during the Magnetic Maharashtra Summit and at the Global Economic Conference in Canada in March 2018.

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari pitches for innovation to develop sustainable management of water resources

- It is necessary to study advanced technology and adopt them for the betterment of our country Union Minister for Water Resources Nitin Gadkari while addressing the 37th Annual General Meeting of the National Institute of Hydrology Society.
- Union Minister Nitin Gadkari called on research organizations to innovate in the area of water conservation and sustainable management of water resources.
- He has stressed upon the need to study advanced technologies and procedures like cloud bursting and water accounting being used in other parts of the world, and adopt those that are feasible for our country.
- The Minister further said that a lot of people and organizations are doing very good work in this field, and we need to network them on a single platform.
- Many departments are doing the same kind of work to achieve the same objective, but there is a lack of proper coordination and information sharing among them.

- Taking note of this he suggested that a website should be created for sharing available resources, information and best practices available in different parts of the country.

India to host first International Solar Alliance summit

- India is going to host first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit in March 2018 in New Delhi.
- It will be hosted by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and attended by leaders from over 50 member countries.
- It will include French President Emmanuel Macron, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, and Bangladesh President Abdul Hamid.
- During the summit, two new programmes – on scaling solar e-mobility.

Jaipur Gandhinagar Railway Station Becomes Fully Women Operated Station

- Gandhi Nagar railway station in Jaipur, Rajasthan became railway station to be fully-managed by women.
- Gandhi Nagar is an important railway station in Jaipur situated on the Jaipur-Delhi rail route.

- The station has a footfall of more than 7,000 passengers every day.
- There are 40 women staff at the station beside women personnel of the railway protection force have been deployed at the station.

India To Host 1st International Solar Alliance In March 2018

- India will host the first International Solar Alliance (ISA) summit on 11th March 2018. It will be attended by French President Emmanuel Macron and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.
- The summit will be held in Delhi. The ISA aims to launch 121 projects during the summit.
- During the summit, two new programmes will be inaugurated on- Scaling Solar E-Mobility and Storage, and Rooftop Solar.

Avani Chaturvedi Became 1st Indian Woman To Fly Fighter Aircraft Solo

- Flying officer Avani Chaturvedi scripted history by becoming the first Indian woman to fly a fighter aircraft solo.

- She flew a MiG-21 bison in her first solo flight from Jamnagar base of Indian Air Force (IAF) in Gujarat.

Agreements and MoU

India And Iran Signed Agreement For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation

- India and Iran signed an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation (DTAA) and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on income.
- The Agreement is on similar lines as entered into by India with other countries.
- The Agreement will stimulate the flow of investment, technology and personnel from India to Iran & vice versa, and will prevent double taxation.
- It will improve transparency in tax matters and will help curb tax evasion and tax avoidance.

PhonePe Partners With IOCL For Deployment Of PoS Terminals

- Digital payments entity PhonePe partnered with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for the

adoption of its indigenously-designed Point of Sale (POS) device at IOCL retail outlets.

- As part of this partnership, customers can pay using UPI, credit and debit cards, PhonePe wallet and other external wallets like Jio Money & Freecharge for their fuel purchases, through the PoS device at 30 IOCL retail outlets in Bengaluru.

UK and India Launched Joint Research Projects On Clean Water & Energy

- The UK- India Joint research projects on Water Quality Research and Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment were launched in New Delhi.
- The Water Quality Research programme has eight projects and Energy Demand Reduction in Built Environment programme has four projects, with a total joint investment of up to 15 million British Pound.

PNB Arm, IFC Tie Up To Raise \$800 Mn For Affordable Housing

- PNB Housing Finance Ltd tied up with International Finance Corporation (IFC), part of the World Bank

Group, to raise \$800 million for green and affordable housing in India.

- IFC is in negotiations with two other housing finance firms to invest another \$150 million, as well as with property developers to assist the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) from both the demand and supply sides.
- Under PMAY, the government offers interest subsidy of 6.5% to economically weaker sections on their home loans.
- The scheme is for people with an annual income up to Rs 3 lakh.

Telangana, Taiwan Sign MoU For Better Technology Partnership

- The Telangana Government signed an MOU with Taoyuan City of Taiwan for better technology partnership in the state. The agreement was signed after the World Congress on Information Technology (WCIT) 2018 in Hyderabad.
- IT Minister K T Rama Rao and principal secretary Jayesh Ranjan signed the agreement with Robert Huang, Director of the Board of Taiwan company at World IT Congress 2018.

Sports

Cricket Canada Unveils ICC-Approved T20 League

- Canada's own first franchise-based Twenty20 league "Global T20 Canada", was announced in New Delhi.
- The Global T20 Canada League will begin functioning from July 2018 at three venues in Toronto.
- It is conceptualized, designed, developed and managed by Mercuri Group with Cricket Canada.
- Global T20 Canada League has received official sanction of the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Cricket Canada become the first Associate member of the ICC to start a Twenty20 franchise league in the North America market.

Mary Kom steps into finals Strandja Memorial Tournament

- In Boxing, MC Mary Kom stormed into the Finals of the Strandja Memorial Tournament at Sofia in Bulgaria while Vikas Krishan and two other male boxers entered the semifinals.

- In the Women's 48 kg category, five-time world champion and Olympic bronze medallist Mary Kom, targeting her third successive international gold medal, defeated China's Ye Jiali to make the summit clash.
- However, former world and Asian champion L Sarita Devi bowed out in the 60 kg section with a bronze medal. Meena Kumari Devi in 54 kg also settled for a Bronze.
- In the Men's draw, former Asian Games gold-medallist Vikas Krishan in 75 kg, Asian Games bronze medallist Satish Kumar in +91 kg and Gaurav Solanki in 52 kg advanced to the semi-finals to assure themselves of medals.
- Earlier, Amit Panghal in 49 kgs had also made it to the last-4.
- It was a significant victory for Vikas, who is returning to action after recovering from a hand injury, which forced him out of the national championships as well as the India Open.

Important Quiz Questions - Weekly

- 1) Which country Successfully Test-Fires Agni-II Missile ?
 - a) India
 - b) Pakistan
 - c) Saudi Arabia

- d) North America
- 2) From which year Andhra Pradesh gears up for attract investments for innovation ?
- a) 2020
 - b) 2018
 - c) 2035
 - d) 2019
- 3) Which city to Impose Carbon Tax From 2019 ?
- a) Chennai
 - b) New York
 - c) France
 - d) Singapore
- 4) Which state Government To Launch Asmita Yojana To Provide Cheap Sanitary Pads?
- a) Kerala
 - b) West bengal
 - c) Maharashtra
 - d) Bihar
- 5) Who Partners With IOCL For Deployment Of PoS Terminals ?
- a) Paytm
 - b) Phone pe
 - c) Payzapp
 - d) BHIM app

6) Which country allows women to start business without male permission ?

- a) Saudi Arabia
- b) Pakistan
- c) Denmark
- d) Indonesia

7) Which country Signed Agreement with India For The Avoidance Of Double Taxation ?

- a) Iraq
- b) Pakistan
- c) Indonesia
- d) Iran

8) Who inks MoU with UK's Natural History Museum recently ?

- a) Agri Horticultural Society of India
- b) Botanical Survey of India
- c) Government Botanical Gardens
- d) Lloyd's Botanical Garden

9) Who Inaugurated 6th India Region CPA Conference recently ?

- a) Smt Lakshmi menon
- b) Smt Sushma Swaraj
- c) Smt Sumitra Mahajan
- d) Smt Devi Swaraj

10) Who is named as EY Entrepreneur Of The Year 2017 ?

- a) Naresh singh

- b) Sanjiv Bajaj
- c) Anil Ambani
- d) Mukesh raj

11) Who Launches Rs 1,918 Crore Area Development Plan For Punjab ?

- a) NABARD
- b) Ashok Leyland
- c) ONGC
- d) Reliance Communications

12) Who Recognised As 'Startup Of The Year' 2017?

- a) Milkbasket
- b) BI Graphics
- c) SutraHR
- d) SXSW Accelerator program

13) Which state Makes Vaccination Compulsory For School Admissions ?

- a) Tamil Nadu
- b) Andhra Pradesh
- c) Karnataka
- d) Kerala

14) Which city Becomes Fully Women Operated Station ?

- a) Jaipur
- b) Chandigarh
- c) Chennai
- d) Hyderabad

15) Which state Government Signs Pact With Amazon India For Khadi Products Sale ?

- a) Bihar
- b) Uttar Pradesh
- c) Tamil nadu
- d) Kerala

Answers:

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

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