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Today in History on 17 FEB

- 1698 - Aurangzeb captured the fort of Gingee.

Gingee remained under Maratha domination for 22 years. Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, who made extensive efforts to consolidate the Mughal empire in the Deccan, had a long and protracted struggle with Shivaji's second son Rajaram. During his war with the Mughals, Rajaram stayed in Gingee fort which became the capital of the Marathas for some time. After a siege of about 8 years, Mughal general Zulfiqar Khan finally captured Gingee in 1698 AD. Under the Mughals, Gingee was again given a new name, Nusratgarh,



- 1959 - The first weather satellite called Vanguard 2 was launched into orbit.

Vanguard 2 was the first weather satellite launched by NASA on February 17 in the year 1959. Vanguard 2 was designed to measure cloud cover and resistance, but due to a poor rotation axis and its

elliptical orbit it could only collect a remarkably large amount of useful data. The first successful operational weather satellite is TIROS-1.



- 1947 - 'Voice of America' started broadcasting in the Soviet Union.

Voice of America (VOA) started radio broadcasting in the Soviet Union on February 17, 1947. VOA started its first radio broadcast with the words 'Hello! This is New York calling'. Its purpose was to broadcast news of the Second World War going on in Europe at that time. During the Cold War, VOA was placed under the United States Information Agency. In the 1980s, VOA also started Doordarshan service.



- 1933 - American weekly magazine 'Newsweek' was published.





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Newsweek was founded in the year 1933. Its first issue was published on February 17, 1933. It is an American weekly news magazine. Founded in 1933 as a weekly print magazine, Newsweek was widely distributed during the 20th century and had several notable editors-in-chief. It is currently co-owned by Dev Pragad, president and chief executive officer (CEO), and Jonathan Davis, who sits on the board



➤ 1882 - The first Test match is played at the Sydney Cricket Ground.

One of the oldest Test venues, the Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) hosted its first Test in 1882, an Ashes match between Australia and England. The Sydney Cricket Ground (SCG) is a sports stadium located in the Moore Park suburb of Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. It is used for Test, One Day International and Twenty20 cricket, as well as Australian rules football and occasionally rugby league, rugby union and association football.



Important NEWS on 17 FEB

➤ Constantine Tassoulas Elected as Greece's New President

On February, 2025, the Hellenic Parliament elected Constantine Tassoulas, the former parliamentary speaker, as the new president of Greece. Tassoulas, a senior member of the ruling New Democracy party, secured 160 votes in the 300-seat parliament. He will take over from Katerina Sakellariopoulou, Greece's first female president, whose term ends in March. The position of president in Greece is largely ceremonial, but the selection reflects the political direction of the country's leadership.





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➤ Ilie Bolojan Assumes Role as Romania's Interim President

Ilie Bolojan, the President of the Senate, has been sworn in as Romania's interim President following the resignation of Klaus Iohannis. This political shift comes at a time of uncertainty as the country prepares for new presidential elections in May 2025.



➤ Jotham Napat Becomes Vanuatu's New PM

Jotham Napat was elected as Vanuatu's new Prime Minister, securing the position unopposed. His nomination was proposed by Charlot Salwai, leader of the Reunification Movement for Change and a former prime minister. Ishmael Kalsakau, another former prime minister and MP for Port Vila, confirmed there were no other nominations and congratulated Napat on his election.

➤ Saab & HAL Join Forces for Advanced Laser Warning System in India

Swedish defence firm Saab has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) to collaborate on the Electronic Warfare Laser Warning System-310 (LWS-310). The agreement, signed on February, 2025, focuses on strengthening India's defence sector by allowing HAL to manufacture the advanced laser warning system domestically. This move aligns with the 'Make in India' initiative and aims to enhance self-reliance in critical defence technology.



➤ RBI Injects ₹2.5 Lakh Crore to Strengthen Banking Liquidity





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The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced a significant liquidity infusion of ₹2.5 lakh crore into the banking system through a Variable Rate Repo (VRR) auction. This move is aimed at addressing the current liquidity shortfall in the financial system, which has been impacted by various economic factors. The liquidity support will help stabilize the banking sector, ensuring the smooth flow of credit and preventing any major disruptions in financial markets.

➤ RBI Approves Temasek Unit's Stake Hike in AU Small Finance Bank

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has granted approval to Zulia Investments, a subsidiary of Temasek Holdings, to increase its stake in AU Small Finance Bank to up to 7%. This move highlights Temasek's growing interest in India's financial sector and AU Small Finance Bank's rising prominence. The Jaipur-based bank is the largest small finance bank in India, serving retail, micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with a strong presence across the country.

➤ Easebuzz Secures RBI Authorization as Online Payment Aggregator

Easebuzz, a leading payment solutions provider, has received final authorization from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) to operate as an online payment aggregator (PA). This regulatory approval allows the company to streamline digital transactions, ensuring secure and seamless payment processing for businesses across India. The license reinforces Easebuzz's commitment to compliance and enhances its role in the growing fintech sector.





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Current affairs MCQS on 17 FEB

Q.1. Recently, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla has announced the expansion of translation services in how many languages in Parliament?

- (a) Six
- (b) Two
- (c) Four
- (d) Seven

Answer: (a) Six

In a significant move to promote linguistic inclusivity, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla announced the extension of translation services in the House to six additional languages - Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Manipuri, Sanskrit and Urdu. The expansion aims to enhance accessibility for Members of Parliament and strengthen democratic participation. The initiative is part of a broader effort to eventually provide translation services for all 22 languages recognised under Schedule 8 of the Indian Constitution. However, the inclusion of Sanskrit sparked debate, with concerns raised about its communicability and official status in the states.

Q.2. Recently Constantine Tassoulas has been elected as the new President of which country?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Sweden
- (c) Greece
- (d) Spain

Answer: (c) Greece

Greece's parliament elected former speaker Constantine Tassoulas to the presidency, with the 160th-century president winning the support of Katerina Sakellaropoulou. The decision to nominate him sparked dissent outside parliament last month, demanding justice for a deadly train crash that took place in 2023.

Q.3. Recently 'Shoheli Akhtar' has become the first female cricketer of which country to be banned on corruption charges?

- (a) Afghanistan

(b) Pakistan

(c) Bangladesh

(d) None of the above

Answer: (c) Bangladesh

Bangladesh women cricketer Shoheli Akhter has become the first female cricketer to be banned by the International Cricket Council (ICC) on corruption charges. The 36-year-old cricketer was found guilty of trying to fix matches during the 2023 Women's T20 World Cup, which led to a five-year ban on her.

Q.4. Recently, 'Har Khet-Swasth Khet' campaign has been launched in which state to promote soil health?

- (a) Punjab
- (b) Uttar Pradesh
- (c) Maharashtra
- (d) Haryana

Answer: (d) Haryana

The Haryana government has launched the 'Har Khet-Swasth Khet' campaign to improve soil health and ensure sustainable agricultural practices. Under this initiative, soil samples will be collected from every acre of agricultural land in the state in the next three to four years and soil health cards will be provided to all farmers. The campaign aims to help farmers make informed decisions about soil fertility, nutrient management and crop productivity.

Q.5. Recently Prabhakar Karekar passed away. Who was he?

- (a) Singer
- (b) Journalist
- (c) Writer
- (d) Artist

Answer: (a) Singer

Famous classical singer Pandit Prabhakar Karekar passed away. He was 80 years old. Pandit Prabhakar was known for compositions like Bolava Vitthal Pahava Vitthal and Vakratunda Mahakay. He was a great singer and a good teacher. He was also honored with many awards including Tansen Samman, Sangeet Natak Akademi Award and Gomant Vibhushan Award. Karekar also tried his





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hand at fusion music with Ornette Coleman and Sultan Khan.

Q.6. Who has recently been honored by Hurun India for Fintech innovation?

- (a) Dr. Raj P Narayan
- (b) Rajiv Rai
- (c) Arun Goyal
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Dr. Raj P Narayan

Dr Raj P Narayanam, Founder and Executive Chairman of Zaggie was honoured with the prestigious 2024 Hurun Industry Achievement Award for Financial Solutions Innovation at India's most prestigious Entrepreneur Awards 2025. The awards celebrate the achievements of leaders from various industries who have significantly impacted their sectors and contributed to the growth of the Indian economy.

Q.7. Recently the upcoming World Audio-Visual and Entertainment Conference WAVES 2025 will be organized in which city?

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Kochi
- (d) Surat

Answer: (b) Mumbai

India is going to host the World Audio Visual Entertainment Summit (WAVES) from May 1 to 4, 2025 at Jio World Convention Centre, Mumbai. The event is a major initiative to establish India as a global media and entertainment hub, bringing together industry leaders including media CEOs, entertainment professionals and creative minds. The WAVES Summit aims to promote collaboration, investment and technological advancement in the global entertainment sector.

Q.8. Recently Tulsi Gabbard has been appointed as the intelligence chief of which country?

- (a) Britain
- (b) Japan

- (c) Russia
- (d) America

Answer: (d) America

Tulsi Gabbard made history when she was sworn in as the US Director of National Intelligence (DNI), making her the first Hindu to lead the US intelligence community. She now leads 18 intelligence agencies and coordinates national security efforts. Gabbard, a former Democratic congresswoman, Iraq war veteran and 2020 presidential candidate, has been in the news for her independent political stance, close ties with India and criticism of US foreign policy.

Q.9. Recently the 5th meeting of the National Traders Welfare Board was held in which city?

- (a) Hyderabad
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Mumbai
- (d) Kolkata

Answer: (d) Kolkata

The 5th meeting of the National Traders Welfare Board (NTWB) was held under the chairmanship of Chairman Sunil J. Singhi at Vanijya Bhavan in New Delhi. The benefits to small traders and MSMEs from the Union Budget were discussed in the meeting. Singhi gave information about the objectives of the board and the major initiatives of the budget. Singhi said that soon a Traders Welfare Board will be formed in every state. Board members from about 20 states put forward their suggestions in the meeting.

Q.10. Recently, ISRO has developed an indigenous semiconductor chip in collaboration with which IIT?

- (a) IIT Madras
- (b) IIT Guwahati
- (c) IIT Delhi
- (d) IIT Mumbai

Answer: (a) IIT Madras

IIT-Madras and ISRO together developed and successfully booted the Shakti-based semiconductor chip IRIS (Indigenous RISC-V Controller for Space Applications). Shakti systems use RISC-V (Reduced





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Instruction Set Computer Five), an open-source instruction set architecture (ISA) for custom processor designs. The project is supported by the Ministry of Electronics and IT under the Digital India RISC-V (DIRV) initiative. It aims to promote indigenous microprocessor-based products with high security and transparency. IRIS is an important step towards India's self-reliance in semiconductor technology, especially for space applications.

Q.11. Recently the name of Foy Sagar Lake has been changed, in which state is this lake?

- (a) Rajasthan
- (b) Kerala
- (c) Odisha
- (d) Maharashtra

Answer: (a) Rajasthan

The Rajasthan government has renamed two important British-era landmarks in Ajmer to honour Indian heritage. The 132-year-old Foy Sagar lake has been renamed Varun Sagar and the 113-year-old King Edward Memorial Bhawan has been renamed Maharshi Dayanand Vishrant Grih. The renaming was confirmed by Rajasthan Assembly Speaker Vasudev Devnani, who stressed that the changes reflect India's journey towards shedding colonial remnants and embracing cultural pride.

Q.12. Recently which new digital platform has been launched by SEBI?

- (a) Samarth
- (b) Mitra
- (c) Sajag
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (b) Mitra

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a new digital platform called Mutual Fund Investment Tracing and Retrieval Assistant (MITRA). The initiative aims to assist investors in tracking inactive or unclaimed mutual fund folios. The platform responds to concerns where investors lose track of their investments due to outdated

contact information or lack of awareness about investments made in their name.

Q.13. Recently in which country the oldest bird fossil of the Jurassic period has been found?

- (a) America
- (b) China
- (c) France
- (d) Africa

Answer: (b) China

A research team led by Professor Wang Min of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Paleoanthropology (IVPP) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences has discovered two bird fossils from the Jurassic era (about 149 million years ago) in Fujian Province, China. The study is published in the journal "Nature" and challenges prevailing beliefs about the evolution of birds.

Q.14. Recently which country has topped the World Bank Logistics Performance Index released?

- (a) Australia
- (b) Finland
- (c) Singapore
- (d) Japan

Answer: (c) Singapore

The top 12 performing countries on the 2023 LPI are high-income countries. Singapore ranks first with a score of 4.3, a position it also held in 2007 and 2012. Eight of the top 12 scorers – Finland (4.2), Denmark, the Netherlands, Switzerland (4.1), Austria, Belgium, Germany and Sweden (4.0) – are from Europe. Canada, the United Arab Emirates and Hong Kong SAR, China are also present. For many years, most of these economies have dominated the global supply chain network.

Q.15. Which Indian has recently been appointed as the event ambassador for the ICC Championship Trophy 2025?

- (a) Shikhar Dhawan
- (b) Rohit Sharma
- (c) Suryakumar Yadav





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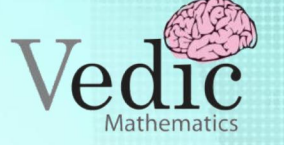
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(d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Shikhar Dhawan

The ICC Champions Trophy 2025 will be held in Pakistan and Dubai from February 19 to March 9, 2025, which has increased the excitement in the cricket world. Former India opener Shikhar Dhawan has been named as one of the four official brand ambassadors of this prestigious tournament. Dhawan's presence adds a different excitement to the tournament, especially considering his illustrious legacy in the Champions Trophy.

