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Today in History on 18 FEB

➤ 1998 - C Subramaniam was awarded Bharat Ratna

C Subramaniam was awarded Bharat Ratna in 1998. He was given this honor for his contribution to the Green Revolution in India. The first Bharat Ratna award was given to the first Governor General of independent India Chakravarti Rajagopalachari, former President Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and scientist Chandrashekhar Venkat Raman. Indira Gandhi was the first woman of India to receive the highest civilian award of the Republic of India, Bharat Ratna in 1971.



➤ 1999 - Agreement on bus service between India and Bangladesh.

An agreement on bus service was signed between India and Bangladesh in the year 1999. The Agreement for the Regulation of Motor Vehicle Passenger Traffic between India and Bangladesh was signed on June 17, 1999. This agreement

regulates the transport of passengers between the two countries by road.



➤ 1965 - The Gambia became independent from the rule of the United Kingdom.

The Gambia is a country located in West Africa. The Gambia is the smallest country on the African mainland, its northern, eastern and southern borders meet with Senegal, to the west there is a small coastal area on the Atlantic Ocean. The country is named after the Gambia River, along the course of which its border is. Independence Day (Gambia) On February 18, 1965, The Gambia became independent from the United Kingdom and joined the Commonwealth. Banjul is the capital of The Gambia, but the largest metropolis is Serekunda.





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➤ 1941 - American singer Irma Thomas was born.

Irma Thomas (February 18, 1941) is an American singer from New Orleans. She is known as the "Soul Queen of New Orleans". Ponchatoula, Louisiana, U.S. Thomas is a contemporary of Aretha Franklin and Etta James, but never achieved their level of commercial success.



➤ 1614 - Jahangir captured Mewar.

In 1614, Mughal emperor Jahangir captured Mewar with the help of his son Prince Khurram. After this campaign, a peace treaty was signed between Mewar and the Mughals. Under this treaty, all the territory of Mewar that Akbar had gained from the conquest of Chittor till 1614, and the fort of Chittor, was given to Maharana Amar Singh.



Important NEWS on 18 FEB

➤ India to Host First Regional Social Justice Dialogue in 2025

India is set to host the first-ever Regional Dialogue on the Global Coalition for Social Justice on February 24-25, 2025, at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Organized by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and the Employers' Federation of India (EFI), the event aims to bring together global stakeholders to discuss inclusive and sustainable social policies.





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➤ China to Build First Deepwater 'Space Station' in South China Sea

After years of deliberation and technical evaluations, China has officially approved the construction of a deep-sea research facility in the strategically significant South China Sea. The facility, referred to as a "deep-sea space station," will be anchored 2,000 meters (6,560 feet) below the ocean surface. It aims to advance marine exploration and strengthen China's geopolitical presence in the resource-rich region. Expected to be operational by 2030, the station will accommodate six scientists for month-long missions, enabling real-time experiments in extreme underwater conditions.



➤ Govt Approves Nilgai Culling in Haryana

The Haryana government has recently introduced new Wildlife (Protection) Rules allowing the shooting of male Nilgais, also known as blue bulls. This decision aims to address the growing human-wildlife conflict, particularly the damage Nilgais cause to agriculture. However, it has sparked

protests from environmentalists and local communities, particularly the Bishnoi community, who consider Nilgais sacred.



➤ West Bengal's "Nodi Bandhan" Scheme and Ghatal Masterplan

The West Bengal government, under Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, has introduced the "Nodi Bandhan" scheme in the 2025-26 budget to enhance riverine development and prevent erosion along the Ganga-Padma. Alongside this, a significant allocation for the Ghatal Masterplan has been made to address flooding in West Midnapore.



➤ Pankaj Tripathi Joins Velvet as Co-Founder

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, known for his performances in Stree 2, Gangs of Wasseypur, and Bareilly Ki Barfi,



has stepped into the world of audio storytelling as the co-founder of Velvet. Launched in October 2024, Velvet is a cinematic audio story platform that aims to provide immersive storytelling experiences. The platform, co-founded alongside Vikas Kumar, Akshat Saxena, Varad Bhatnagar, and Sharib Khan, primarily focuses on Hindi audio content, with plans to expand into English and regional Indian languages.



➤ Cristiano Ronaldo Tops 2025's Highest-Paid Athletes List

Cristiano Ronaldo has once again proven his dominance in the world of sports by securing the top spot on the 2025 list of highest-paid athletes. According to reports, the Portuguese football star earned a staggering \$285 million, combining his \$200 million annual salary from Saudi Arabian club Al Nassr and an additional \$65 million from endorsements and business ventures.



➤ ITER: The Future of Fusion Energy

The International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER) is the world's most advanced and largest tokamak-based fusion reactor, currently under construction in France. It is an international collaborative project involving 35 nations, including the United States, China, India, Japan, Korea, Russia, and the European Union. ITER aims to develop magnetic confinement fusion as a carbon-free, sustainable, and limitless energy source.



Current affairs MCQS on 18 FEB

Q.1. What is the name of the scheme recently launched by the National Research Foundation for Research for senior Indian scientists?

(a) J.C. Bose Grant Scheme



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- (b) Inspire Fellowship Scheme
(c) Raman Research Fellowship Scheme
(d) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Fellowship Scheme

Answer: (a) J.C. Bose Grant Scheme

Research National Research Foundation (ANRF) has launched the J.C. Bose Grant (JBG) scheme. It is a restructured version of the J.C. Bose Fellowship under the erstwhile Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). The grant recognises senior Indian scientists and engineers for their outstanding contributions. It supports senior-level researchers with proven excellence in publications, patents, technology transfer, awards and grants. It covers a wide range of areas at the interface of science and technology, including science, technology, agriculture, medicine, humanities and social sciences.

Q.2. Who has been recently nominated as the US diplomat for South Asia?

- (a) Tulsi Gabbard
(b) Jake Sullivan
(c) Paul Kapur
(d) None of these

Answer: (c) Paul Kapur

In another appointment aimed at prioritising US ties with India, the Donald Trump administration has appointed Paul Kapur, an expert on India-Pakistan security and nuclear issues, as Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia. If confirmed, Kapur will become only the second Indian-born US diplomat to oversee the South Asia Bureau, tasked with managing diplomatic ties with India and the region.

Q.3. Recently, President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the International Women's Conference at which place?

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

Answer: (c) Bengaluru

President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated the 10th International Women's Conference organized by the Art of Living International Center in Bengaluru. During this, she called upon women to muster courage, dream big and achieve their goals by using their full potential. Earlier, the President reached Hindustan Aeronautics Limited Airport in Bengaluru, where she was warmly welcomed by Karnataka Governor Thawarchand Gehlot.

Q.4. Who topped the medal tally in the recently concluded 38th National Games?

- (a) Services Sports Control Board
(b) Maharashtra
(c) Punjab
(d) Haryana

Answer: (a) Services Sports Control Board

The Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) won the title by winning a total of 121 medals including 68 gold, 26 silver and 27 bronze medals at the National Games 2025 held in Uttarakhand. Of these, nine medals including three gold were won on the last day of the competition. The 38th edition of the National Games, India's own multi-sport event inspired by the Olympics, saw athletes from 28 states, eight union territories and the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB) compete for medals in 32 different sports.

Q.5. Recently, which country will build a deep-water 'space station' in the South China Sea?

- (a) Russia
(b) America
(c) Japan
(d) China

Answer: (d) China

China has officially approved the construction of a deep-sea research station in the South China Sea, called the "deep sea space station." The station will be located at a depth of 2,000 meters (6,560 feet) below the sea surface and will promote marine exploration as well as strengthen China's geopolitical presence in the region. The station is





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expected to be operational by 2030 and will carry up to six scientists on missions of up to a month, allowing real-time experiments to be carried out in extreme ocean conditions.

Q.6. Jotham Napat has been elected as the Prime Minister of which country in February 2025?

- (a) Papua New Guinea
- (b) Fiji
- (c) Vanuatu
- (d) Tonga

Answer: (c) Vanuatu

Jotham Napat was elected as the new Prime Minister of Vanuatu, winning the position unopposed. His nomination was proposed by Charlotte 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 that there were no other nominations and congratulated Napat on his election.

Q.7. Where will the North East Unity Festival be organized?

- (a) Guwahati
- (b) Mumbai
- (c) Imphal
- (d) New Delhi

Answer: (d) New Delhi

Assam Rifles, in collaboration with North East Association Social Welfare, will organise a five-day Ekta Utsav celebrating the sporting spirit and cultural heritage of Northeast India. The event will be held in Delhi under the theme 'One Voice, One Nation'.

Q.8. Recently, Ilie Boloan has been sworn in as the interim President of which country?

- (a) Finland
- (b) Romania
- (c) Greece
- (d) Belarus

Answer: (b) Romania

Senate President Ilie Boloan has been sworn in as Romania's interim president following the resignation of Klaus Iohannis. The political shift comes at a time of uncertainty as the country prepares for new presidential elections in May 2025. Boloan, a veteran politician known for his administrative expertise, has stepped into the role to ensure stability during the transition period.

Q.9. Recently, who topped Bloomberg's list of Asia's richest families?

- (a) Mukesh Ambani family
- (b) Hartono family
- (c) Cheravantho family
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Mukesh Ambani family

Asia's wealthiest families are playing a vital role in shaping the global economy. According to Bloomberg's 2025 Asia's Richest Families ranking, Mukesh Ambani and the Ambani family have retained the top spot, proving their business prowess and wealth creation capability. The list reflects the legacy of Asia's leading business dynasties, who have been building their financial empires over generations.

Q.10. Who has recently chaired the 12th All India Pension Court?

- (a) Dr. Jitendra Singh
- (b) Jayant Chaudhary
- (c) Ashwini Vaishnav
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Dr. Jitendra Singh

Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare will organize the 12th Nationwide Pension Adalat under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of State, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions in New Delhi. The Pension Adalat will be held in the presence of Shri V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Personnel and Pension Welfare, Smt. Sankari Murali, Additional Controller General of Accounts, Shri A.N. Das, Chief Commissioner (Pension), Ms. Deepika Jain, Chief Auditor (Ministry





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of Home Affairs), Shri Rokam Lal Remruta and Joint Secretary (Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare), Shri Dhrubajyoti Sengupta. The Adalat will hear cases pending for more than 120 days. Senior officers and nodal officers from 16 departments will participate in it.

Q.11. Recently, Adi Mahotsav 2025 will be organized in which city?

- (a) Kolkata
- (b) New Delhi
- (c) Ranchi
- (d) Bhopal

Answer: (b) New Delhi

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs is going to organize the prestigious Aadi Mahotsav 2025 at Major Dhyan Chand National Stadium New Delhi. The festival aims to celebrate and showcase the vibrant culture, heritage and economic potential of the tribal communities of India.

Q.12. Recently who has become the co-founder of audio story platform Velvet?

- (a) Amitabh Bachchan
- (b) Pankaj Tripathi
- (c) Akshay Kumar
- (d) Ranveer Sharma

Answer: (b) Pankaj Tripathi

Actor Pankaj Tripathi, best known for his performances in Stree 2, Gangs of Wasseypur and Bareilly Ki Barfi, has entered the world of audio storytelling as the co-founder of Velvet. Launched in October 2024, Velvet is a cinematic audio story platform that aims to provide immersive storytelling experiences. Co-founded with Vikas Kumar, Akshat Saxena, Varad Bhatnagar and Sharib Khan, the platform focuses primarily on Hindi audio content, with plans to expand to English and regional Indian languages.

Q.13. Recently, who has organized the first regional dialogue on social justice?

- (a) America
- (b) Japan
- (c) France
- (d) India

Answer: (d) India

India is set to host the first regional dialogue on Global Alliance for Social Justice on February 24-25, 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and Employers Federation of India (EFI), the event aims to bring together global stakeholders to discuss inclusive and sustainable social policies.

Q.14. Recently which IIT has developed a conductive fabric that converts electricity and sunlight into heat?

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

Answer: (b) IIT Guwahati

Researchers at IIT Guwahati have developed a water-repellent, conductive fabric that converts electricity and sunlight into heat. The innovation aims to keep wearers warm in extreme cold, eliminating health risks. This material, made using silver nanowires, is durable and flexible, offering potential applications for localised heat therapy and other areas.

Q.15. Who has recently written a book titled The New Icon Savarkar and the Facts?

- (a) Arun Shourie
- (b) Devendra Kumar
- (c) Dinesh Shahra
- (d) None of the above

Answer: (a) Arun Shourie

Arun Shourie, one of India's most respected intellectuals, has written the most important book of his writing career, 'The New Icon: Savarkar and the





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Facts'. It offers a scathing analysis of the controversial legacy of Vinayak Damodar Savarkar. It is deeply critical of Savarkar's influence on modern Indian politics.

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