

PRELIMS EXCLUSIVE**1. Women Entrepreneurship Platform**

- NITI Aayog's Women Entrepreneurship Platform (WEP) and Shri Ram College of Commerce (SRCC), Office of International Programmes (OIP) University of Delhi, had jointly organised a two-day International conference on "**Empowering Women: Fostering Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Sustainability**".
- WEP was envisaged by NITI Aayog during Global Entrepreneurship Summit (GES) last year in Hyderabad. It aims to power a **vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem** through an enabling network of industry collaborations, partnerships, mentors and peer-to-peer connect.
- The initiative is aimed at building an ecosystem for women across India to realise their entrepreneurial aspirations, scale-up innovative initiatives and chalk-out sustainable, long-term strategies for their businesses.
- WEP acts as a point of **dissemination of information** about existing government schemes, programmes and various other initiatives in private sector to promote women entrepreneurship.
- It aims to develop a **national database** through a centralised portal for registration of women entrepreneurs; and provide evidence-based policy recommendations to develop a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

2. **Public Affairs Index 2018:** Kerala has topped the list of best governed States for third time.
3. **Justice Adarsh Kumar Goel:** He has been appointed as a Chairperson of National Green Tribunal.
4. **National Commission for Safai Karamcharis:** Cabinet approves creation of posts of Vice-Chairperson and Member.
5. **cVigil:** Election Commission launches app to report model code violations.
6. **30 June:** International Day of Parliamentarism.
7. **India's FDI ranking:** India has fallen out of top 10 destinations for Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) in terms of its attractiveness according to 2018 Kearney FDI Confidence Index, in which it was ranked 11th, down from 8th in 2017 and 9th in 2016. The index was released by report published by global consultancy firm A T Kearney.
8. **BSE:** BSE's iconic Phiroze Jeejeebhoy Towers has secured trademark.
9. **Elphinstone Road station:** Western Railway renames Elphinstone Road Station as Prabhadevi.
10. **PK Sinha:** Government has set up a task force under PK Sinha for reducing import.
11. **Index of Industrial Production (IIP):** Industry growth slips to 7-month low of 3.2% in May 2018.
12. **IR-BMS:** Indian Railways launches consolidated Bridge Management System.
13. **European Bank for Reconstruction and Development:** India formally announced as 69th shareholder.
14. **GM Crops:** India's genetically modified crop area fifth largest in world, USA has the highest area under GM crops.
15. **Samsung:** It has inaugurated world's largest mobile phone factory in Noida.
16. **Hyderabad:** AAI to set up Civil Aviation Research Organisation in Hyderabad.
17. **July 7:** International Day of Cooperatives

18. **Vishwas Patel:** He has been appointed as Chairman of Payments Council of India.
19. **Ravindra Dholakia committee:** Government forms panel to upgrade norms for state, district level economic data collection.
20. **Government Nod For Adding 6.5 MMT Oil Reserves**
- The Cabinet has approved the establishment of strategic petroleum reserve (SPR) facilities at two locations i.e. at **Chandikhol** in Odisha and **Padur** in Karnataka with a total capacity of 6.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT).
 - **Indian Strategic Petroleum Reserve** - a government-owned special purpose vehicle has already built underground rock caverns for storing a total 5.33 MMT of crude oil, which can supply approximately **10 days** of India's crude requirement, at **Vishakhapatnam** (1.33 MMT), **Mangaluru** (1.5 MMT) and **Padur** (2.5 MMT).
21. Financial services conglomerate **HDFC Group** has crossed the **Rs. 10 lakh crore** market capitalization milestone, only the country's second corporate entity to do so after the **Tata Group**. The Tata Group, with 28 listed firms, had a total market capitalization of Rs 10.93 lakh crore. HDFC Group has added Rs. 7.09 lakh crore to investor wealth in the last five years, the highest among all corporate groups and more than the combined market cap of three banking groups i.e Kotak, ICICI and Axis. HDFC Bank is the country's **third most valued** firm after Tata Consultancy Services and Reliance Industries.
22. Google received a record \$5 billion anti-trust fine from the European Union and was ordered to change the way it puts search and web browser apps on Android mobile devices. Google was given 90 days to stop the illegal practices on contracts with handset manufacturers that push Google services in front of users. Last year, Google faced a then-record 2.4 billion euro penalty following an investigation into shopping search service.
- THE ILLEGAL BEHAVIOUR

dating back to 2011
Includes forcing
manufacturers to pre-
Install Google Search and
Its Chrome browser
together with Its Play Store
or apps on their devices
23. **Resolution to Protect Children in Armed Conflict**
- The UN Security Council has adopted a resolution 2427. It is aimed at a framework for mainstreaming protection, rights, well-being, and empowerment of children throughout the conflict cycle.
 - The resolution strongly condemns the recruitment and use of children by parties to armed conflict as well as their re-recruitment, killing and maiming, rape and other forms of sexual violence, and abductions.
 - It also condemns attacks against schools and hospitals and the denial of humanitarian access by parties to armed conflict.
 - Over 21,000 cases of grave violations of children's rights in armed conflict have been verified by the United Nations for 2017, a drastic increase from the previous year with 15,500 violations, according to an annual report of the UN secretary-general on children and armed conflict.
24. The United Nations Security Council has imposed an arms embargo on South Sudan, almost 5 years after a ruinous civil war in the country started in 2013, two years after it gained independence from Sudan, when President Salva Kiir accused his then-deputy Riek Machar of plotting a coup. Over the years, the conflict has expanded and fighting has intensified with more than a dozen warring factions.
25. China has successfully launched two remote sensing satellites (PRSS-1 and PakTES-1A) for Pakistan. This event marked the first international commercial launch for the **Long March-2C** rocket in about 19 years. The PRSS-1 is China's first optical remote sensing satellite sold to Pakistan. The PRSS-1 will be used for land and resources surveying, monitoring of natural disasters, agriculture research, urban construction and providing

remote sensing information for the Belt and Road region. A scientific experiment satellite, PakTES-1A, developed by Pakistan, was sent into orbit via the same rocket.

26. The UK has selected the site for its first spaceport. The chosen location is Sutherland, on the A'Mhoine peninsula on the north coast of Scotland. The spaceport is being built with the hope that the UK can grab a slice of the growing market for small satellite launches. The country is already home to many component and satellite makers and adding the ability to launch satellites locally would increase its international appeal.
27. India is now the **69th member** of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). The membership, which will see India take up a small stake in the bank, would spur further investment by Indian firms in a range of sectors from solar to utilities, providing them access to fast growing markets. It will also enable Indian citizens to work for the organisation. India takes a shareholding in the EBRD but it will not be a recipient of EBRD financing. The EBRD is a multilateral development bank set up in 1991 after the fall of the Berlin Wall to promote private and entrepreneurial initiative in emerging Europe. It invests in 38 emerging economies across three continents, according to a set of criteria that aim to make its countries more competitive, better governed, greener, more inclusive, more resilient and more integrated.
28. Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated a countrywide emergency ambulance service for Sri Lanka through video conferencing from New Delhi. The service has been introduced in two provinces of Sri Lanka with grant assistance from Government of India and is being expanded to remaining seven provinces. The ambulance service is the largest Indian grant project in the island, after the India-assisted housing project that supports the construction of over 60,000 houses across the country, with a grant of nearly \$400 million.
29. Former Indian diplomat **Dr. TCA Raghavan** has been appointed as the Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA). The ICWA was established in 1943 by a group of Indian intellectuals as a think tank. It was registered under the Registration of Societies Act 1860. By an Act of Parliament in 2001, it has been declared an institution of national importance. The Vice President of India is the ex-officio President of ICWA. Historic international conferences like 'Asian Relations Conference' in 1947 under the leadership of freedom fighter Sarojini Naidu and 'United Nations and the New World Order' in 1994 have been held by this think tank in which world renowned dignitaries addressed huge gatherings of intellectuals.
30. NITI Aayog, in collaboration with various Ministries and industry partners, is organising '**MOVE: Global Mobility Summit**' in New Delhi on 7th and 8th September, 2018. This Summit will help drive Government's goals for vehicle electrification, renewable energy integration, and job growth and also speed up India's transition to a clean energy economy.
31. **17th World Sanskrit Conference** was held at Vancouver, Canada from 9th July to 13th July, 2018. This was the first time that the prestigious triennial event is being held in Canada. The conference was inaugurated by Union Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar.
32. The 6th edition of the biennial **World Cities Summit** was held in Singapore. The summit acts as a leading global platform to drive and connect innovators in sustainable integrated urban solutions. Its theme was "Liveable & Sustainable Cities: Embracing the Future through Innovation and Collaboration".
33. India has become the Vice-Chair (Regional Head) of the Asia Pacific Region of **World Customs Organisation (WCO)** for a period of two years, from July, 2018 to June, 2020. Being the Vice Chair of AP Region of WCO will enable India to take on leadership role. India has a wealth of experience in promoting security and facilitation of cross border trade.
 - WCO is an independent intergovernmental body whose mission is to enhance effectiveness and efficiency of Customs administrations.

- It is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium.
 - It was established in 1952 as Customs Co-operation Council (CCC).
 - WCO represents 182 Customs administrations across the globe that collectively process approximately 98% of world trade.
 - The WCO has divided its Membership into six Regions. Each of the six Regions is represented by a regionally elected Vice-Chairperson to the WCO Council.
34. External Affairs Minister (EAM) hosted the 10th edition of the Delhi Dialogue (DD X) in New Delhi from 19-20 July 2018. The theme of DD X was "**Strengthening India-ASEAN Maritime Cooperation**". DD X has been organized in partnership with **Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)**.
- Delhi Dialogue is a premier annual track 1.5 event to discuss politico-security, economic and socio-cultural engagement between India and ASEAN.
 - It has been held annually since 2009 and political leaders, policy makers, senior officials, diplomats, think tanks and academicians from both sides participate in the discussions pertaining to ASEAN-India relations.
35. For the first time ever, United Nations member states, except the US, have agreed on a deal to better manage international migration, address its challenges, strengthen migrant rights and contribute to sustainable development. Known as the **Global Compact for Migration**, the agreement will be formally adopted by world leaders in Morocco in December 2018. It does not encourage migration, nor does it aim to stop it. It is not legally binding. It fully respects the sovereignty of States.
36. The union cabinet has approved the signing of a MoU amongst BRICS nations for a **Regional Aviation Partnership Cooperation**. The objective of this MoU is that BRICS countries would benefit from the establishing of an institutional framework to cooperate in the field of civil aviation. This partnership has the potential to spur greater trade, investment, tourism and cultural exchanges amongst the BRICS Nations.
37. **Nelson Mandela International Day or Mandela Day** is observed every year on 18 July to mark the birthday of the great revolutionary, politician, and philanthropist. Nelson Mandela International Day 2018 marks 100 years since the birth of Nelson Mandela. This day also celebrates a campaign known as "46664", in reference to Nelson Mandela's Robben Island prison number. The campaign was originally launched to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS.
38. Uruguay Army general, Major General Jose Eladio Alcain, has been appointed as the chief military observer of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (**UNMOGIP**). The UNMOGIP was established in January 1949 with first team of unarmed military observers arriving in Jammu and Kashmir to supervise the ceasefire between India and Pakistan. Following the India-Pakistan war in 1971 and a subsequent ceasefire agreement, the tasks of UNMOGIP have been to observe, to the extent possible, developments pertaining to the strict observance of the ceasefire of December 17, 1971 and to report to the Secretary-General. However, India has maintained that UNMOGIP has outlived its utility and is irrelevant after the Shimla Agreement and the consequent establishment of the Line of Control.
39. The Indian Air Force (IAF) has participated for first time in multinational air exercise called **Pitch Black 2018 (PB-18)**. Exercise Pitch Black is a biennial three-week multi-national large force employment exercise conducted in Australia. The exercise began in 1990 between Australia and Singapore, while now the air forces involved are from the US, Canada, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Netherlands, Philippines, Singapore, Sweden, Thailand, New Zealand and Australia.

40. The Army will resume the trials of the U.S.-made **M777 Ultra-Light Howitzer (ULH)** in Pokhran firing range. The trials were suspended last September after barrel of a gun burst during firing. In November 2016, India signed a deal with the U.S. government under the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) programme for 145 M777 guns. The M777 is a 155 mm, 39-calibre towed artillery gun made of titanium and aluminium alloys and weigh just four tonnes, making it transportable under slung by helicopters. Of the 145 guns, 25 will be imported while the remaining 120 will be assembled in the country in partnership with Mahindra group.
41. Indian IT industry apex body [Nasscom](#) opened a Centre of Excellence for Data Science and artificial intelligence at Bengaluru. The centre was set up in collaboration with the Karnataka government with an aim to nurture innovation in emerging disruptive technologies such as AI and to leverage the power of data science. NASSCOM is global non-profit trade association (organization) of Indian Information Technology (IT) and Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) industry. It facilitates business and trade in software and services and encourages the advancement of research in software technology. It is registered under the Indian Societies Act, 1860. Its headquarters are in New Delhi.