

February 18th news:

National:

LS Speaker Sumitra Mahajan inaugurates 6th India Region CPA conference

Lok Sabha Speaker, Sumitra Mahajan 17th February inaugurated the 6th India region Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference at Patna in Bihar. The conference held discussions mainly on two topics -- 'Parliament's role in the development agenda' and 'Legislature and Judiciary - Two important Pillars of Democracy'. The Speaker stressed upon the need to strengthen the legislature, executive and the judiciary in order to make democracy strong.

Bilateral:

India-Iran ink Nine pacts

India and Iran on 17th February signed nine pacts in different areas.

The fields in which agreements were inked are Avoidance of Double Taxation and the Prevention of Fiscal Evasion with respect to taxes on Income, exemption from Visa requirement for holders of Diplomatic Passports, exchange of instrument of ratification of extradition treaty.

Other MoUs were signed in the areas of lease contract for Shahid Beheshti Port- Phase 1 of Chabahar, medicine and agriculture and allied sectors. T

The MoUs were signed after bilateral talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani in New Delhi.

In addition to these agreements, four other MoUs were signed on the sidelines of the visit between trade bodies of the two countries.

In his press statement, the Iranian President said, Chabahar Port will improve connectivity in the region. He said, Iran would like to further develop its relations with India in all spheres. He said, there is a need to combat terrorism and extremism.

The two Leaders also released a joint postage stamp depicting Deendayal Port, Kandla and Shahid Beheshti Terminal, Chabahar that reflected the enhanced prosperity through greater connectivity.

Environment:

Prime Minister Narendra Modi Inaugurates World Sustainable Development Summit 2018

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the World Sustainable Development Summit 2018 (WSDS 2018) at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi. The summit is the flagship forum of The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). The summit's theme this year was 'Partnerships for a Resilient Planet'.

The summit seeks to serve as a common platform for global leaders and thinkers from the fields of sustainable development, energy, and environment

ONGC to introduce CO2 injection technique

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC) is planning to introduce carbon dioxide (CO2) injection technology in its Gandhar oil field in Gujarat. It will be first large-scale CO2-injected project in Asia.

Its purpose is to recover extra 20 million barrels of crude oil under enhanced oil recovery. Gandhar located in Gujarat is one of ONGC's major brownfields and was discovered in 1983. The field produces approximately 30,000 barrels of oil per day.

Sports:

Top of the world: Roger Federer at 36, becomes oldest number one

Roger Federer became the oldest world number one on 16th February when the 20-time Grand Slam title winner reached the semi-finals of the Rotterdam Open.

The 36-year-old Swiss overcame an early setback to beat Robin Haase of the Netherlands and will replace old rival Rafael Nadal at the top of the rankings.

Federer surpasses Andre Agassi, who held the top spot aged 33 years and 131 days in 2003, as the oldest man to claim the world number one spot. It is Federer's first time back at the summit since October 2012 having first claimed the top position in February 2004.