

**February 25<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>**

**International:**

**China sets stage for Xi to stay in office indefinitely**

China's ruling Communist Party on 25<sup>th</sup> February set the stage for President Xi Jinping to stay in office indefinitely, with a proposal to remove a constitutional clause limiting presidential service to just two terms in office.

Since taking office more than five years ago, Xi has overseen a radical shake-up of the party, including taking down top leaders once thought untouchable as part of his popular war on deep-rooted corruption.

The latest announcement, carried by state news agency Xinhua, gave few details. It said the proposal had been made by the party's Central Committee, the largest of its elite ruling bodies. The proposal also covers the vice president position.

Xi, is currently required by China's constitution to step down as president after two five-year terms. Nearing the end of his first term, he will be formally elected to a second at the annual meeting of China's largely rubber-stamp parliament opening on March 5.

There is no limit on his tenure as the party and military chief, though a maximum 10-year term is the norm. He began his second term as head of the party and military in October at the end of a party congress held once every five years.

Zhang Lifan, a historian and political commentator, said the news was not unexpected, and it was hard to predict exactly how long Xi could stay on in power.

Though positive remarks filled the comments section under the pages of main state media outlets like the People's Daily, the move was not welcomed by everyone on China's Twitter-like Weibo service.

Constitutional reform needs to be approved by parliament, which is stacked with members chosen for their loyalty to the party - meaning the reform will not be blocked. There has been persistent speculation that Xi wants to stay on in office past the customary two five-year terms.

The October party congress ended without appointing a clear eventual successor for Xi. However, the role of party chief is more senior than that of president. At some point, Xi could be given a party position that also enables him to stay on as long as he likes.

Xi is currently the party's general secretary, but not chairman. China's first three leaders after the founding of the People's Republic in 1949 all carried the title party chairman -Mao Zedong, Hua Guofeng and then Hu Yaobang. It has not been used since.

**National:**

**Forty Fourth Khajuraho Dance Festival Held In Madhya Pradesh**

The 44th edition of Khajuraho Dance Festival 2018 was held at Khajuraho temple, a **UNESCO** world heritage site in Madhya Pradesh. It was inaugurated by Madhya Pradesh Governor Anandiben Patel and was organized by culture department of state government.

Khajuraho Dance Festival is an annual cultural festival that highlights the richness of various Indian classical dance styles. The 6-day festival showcased classical dances including Kathak, Odissi, Bharatnatyam, Kuchipudi, Kathakali, and Mohiniattam

### **Economy:**

#### **E-way bill for inter-state movement of goods likely from April 1**

A group of State Finance Ministers (GoM) led by Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi on 24<sup>th</sup> February mooted the implementation of Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime provision for electronic-way (e-way) bill generation for intra-state movement of goods from April 1, 2018.

E-way bill is generated on the GST-Network — a common and shared information technology (IT) infrastructure between the Centre and States.

Following a GoM meeting here on issues including the IT-related challenges in the GST regime, Mr. Modi said the e-way bill requirement for intra-state movement of goods worth over Rs 50,000 would be introduced in phases after looking into the response regarding the same.

The GoM's suggestion would be taken up by the GST Council at its meeting on March 10. E-way bill provision, meant to eliminate tax evasion and increase revenues by around 20%, was introduced on February 1, but it had to be put on hold following glitches in the system.

### **Science and Technology:**

#### **DRDO conducts successful flight of its Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle Rustom 2**

Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO on 25<sup>th</sup> February successfully flew its Unmanned Combat Air Vehicle Rustom 2 at its Aeronautical Test Range at Chalakere in Chitradurga district of Karnataka. The flight assumes significance as this is the first flight in user configuration with higher power engine. All parameters were normal.

### **Sports:**

#### **India women's team beat South Africa, Win Series 3-1**

Indian women cricket team defeated South African women by 54 runs in the fifth Twenty20 International to clinch the series 3-1, on 24<sup>th</sup> February

**Men team too.....:** India won the third T20I against South Africa at Newlands on 24<sup>th</sup> February to clinch the T20I series 2-1. For his brilliant all-around performance, Suresh Raina was awarded as the Player of the Match. Player of the series trophy went to Bhuvneshwar Kumar.

**Persons in news:**

**Sridevi:** Veteran Actress Sridevi passed away on 24<sup>th</sup> February. She starred in more than 150 films. She acted in Telugu, Tamil, and also in Bollywood. In 2013, the Indian government awarded her the Padma Shri, the fourth highest civilian honour.