

## Weekly Current Affairs (Feb 19 to Feb 25)

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- The Indian Navy's second sailboat 'Tarini' was inducted into service which is a all-women global circumnavigation.
- The government said that the tenure of the next chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi), Ajay Tyagi, will "initially" be for three years.
- Reserve Bank permitted multilateral financial institutions to invest in rupee denominated bonds popularly known as 'masala bonds' issued by Indian entities.
- RP Shah, one of the three General Managers of BCCI, resigned from his post citing his age as a "reason".
- Speakers of six countries will deliberate on ways to achieve sustainable development goals during a two-day South Asian Speakers' Summit.
- India won the silver medal at the women's Asian Rugby Sevens Trophy having won five matches and lost one.
- State Bank of India has announced a tie-up with Greenply Industries to grow a channel financing business.
- Bharat Electronics (BEL) has reportedly launched a new communication radio for the Indian armed forces, called STARS-V Mk III, at the Aero India 2017 show.
- Sandeep Kumar of Haryana won the gruelling men's 50-kilometre event of the National Race Walking Championships held in New Delhi.
- UAE based merchant solutions provider OMA Emirates today said it has entered into Indian market with the acquisition of mobile point of sale (mPOS) firm MobiSwipe.
- The National Regulatory Authority of India (NRAI) has been given the maximum ratings by global health body World Health Organisation for vaccine regulations.
- Now, it is easier for the middle and relatively lower income group to avail the legal services of the country.
- To avail benefits under the Central Sector Scholarship Scheme for College and University students, applicants will now have to furnish proof of possession of Aadhaar card or undergo Aadhaar authentication
- Jharkhand government and Microsoft India has inked an MoU for the state government to explore cloud, machine learning and mobile based solutions to improve citizen services and provide better facilities in the fields of education and agriculture.

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- India will host Uzbekistan on the hard courts of Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) in Bangalore when the two sides clash in an Asia Oceania Zone group I Davis Cup tie in April, the AITA announced.
- Two Indian films 'Newton' and 'Aaba' bagged top honours at the annual Berlin International Film Festival.
- Virat Kohli became the first Indian sports personality to strike a Rs 100-crore endorsement deal with a single brand. Kohli signed an eight-year deal with sports apparel brand Puma worth Rs 110 crore.
- Dream Girl Hema Malini's incredible journey from an actor, a danseuse and filmmaker to a politician is being chronicled in a new book which will hit stores on her 69th birthday this October. Billed as an authorised biography, 'Hema Malini: Beyond the Dream Girl' is penned by author-columnist Ram Kamal Mukherjee.
- Melbourne Commonwealth Games gold medalist boxer Akhil Kumar and Olympian Jitender Kumar today confirmed turning professional after signing a multi-year deal with IOS Boxing, the company which has been managing Vijender Singh's pro-boxing career.
- Former Chief Justice of India Altamas Kabir passed away at a city hospital, recently. He was 68. He was suffering from a kidney ailment and related complications.
- In order to focus on deep space missions, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has proposed to set up of two multi-disciplinary, university-led research institutes that will work to develop technologies having potential to extend human presence deeper into the solar system.
- Fabindia has started removing the brand name 'Khadi' it uses to promote its cotton products after a legal notice by Khadi India that the use of the word amounted to unfair trade practice and misusing its trade name.
- T C A Ranganathan and Sunil Mehta were tappointed as Non-Official Directors in Indian Overseas Bank and Punjab National Bank respectively.
- India's only live volcano+ in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands has started spewing smoke and lava again.
- AirAsia became the first foreign airline ever to start its operations from Srinagar international airport in Jammu and Kashmir.
- On the occasion of its 75th Foundation Day, Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) has come up with several digital offerings including launch of mobile wallet 'Oriental Batuaa'.
- The CA Institute's Accounting Research Foundation (ARF) has signed an agreement with Railways.

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- Savings accounts holders will now be able to withdraw up to Rs 50,000 per week.
- Ending more than two weeks of standoff with Nagaland Tribes Action Committee (NTAC), Nagaland chief minister TR Zeliang resigned from his post.
- Famous Hindi novelist Ved Prakash Sharma was passed away in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh on February 18, 2017 . He was 62. He has written nearly 176 novels includes "Qaidi No 100" and "Vardi Wala Gunda".
- Afghanistan cricket broke a new barrier when Mohammad Nabi and Rashid Khan became the first from the war-torn nation to be picked in the Indian Premier League (IPL) auction.
- Pakistan all-rounder Shahid Afridi has announced his retirement from international cricket, but stated that he wants to play in his country's domestic league for two more years.
- SpaceX has launched the first private rocket from the same historic site that saw some of NASA's greatest space missions, then landed a booster nearby in a resounding success.
- Tata Sons Chairman designate Natarajan Chandrasekaran will also hold the chairmanship of the group's crown jewel Tata Consultancy Services .
- Tata Steel's Katamati iron mine has been honoured with the the Best Green Organisation of the Year Award at the Global Green Future Leadership Awards in recognition of its environmental protection measures.
- Jo-Wilfried Tsonga engineered a comeback to defeat David Goffin at the Rotterdam Open and earn a first ATP title
- IT giant Microsoft today announced a "strategic partnership" with Flipkart, wherein as a first step, the online retailer will adopt Microsoft Azure as its exclusive public cloud platform.
- US President Donald Trump has appointed Lt Gen Herbert Raymond McMaster as his new National Security Advisor following the ouster of Michael Flynn last week.
- After making Bihar a dry state in keeping with his 2015 Assembly election promise, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar has taken his policy to a whole new level.
- The Khajuraho Dance Festival started at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh from February 20, 2017. The seven day festival will conclude on February 26, 2017.
- V. K. Srinivasan, noted bureaucrat, columnist and director of the Institute of Economic Studies passed away after a prolonged illness in Hyderabad.
- Bharat QR code the world's first inter-operable payment acceptance solution was launched as part of efforts to move towards less-cash economy at an insignificant cost, according to RBI.

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- UNESCO celebrated International Mother Language Day (IMLD) on February 21, 2017 under the theme "Towards Sustainable Futures through Multilingual Education".
- Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM), a mobile app pushed by the government to make digital payments a mass movement in India, has seen over 17 million installs (downloads), a world record, Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, has stated.
- According to a report released by Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) India emerged as the world's largest importer of major arms during 2012–16. As per the report, India accounted for 13% of the global total sales.
- Country's largest lender State Bank of India (SBI) has rebranded its corporate website as "bank.sbi" from the earlier sbi.co.in. Bank.sbi is the highest domain protocol, known as generic top level domain (gTLD).
- Apollo Hospitals Foundation will provide medical support to forest department employees and local communities in the areas where WWF-India operates for conservation.
- Nagaland People's Front (NPF) president Shurhozelie Liezeitsu will be sworn in as the state's eleventh Chief Minister.
- Shri C K Mishra, Secretary, Health and Family Welfare launched the SAATHIYA Resource Kit including 'Saathiya Salah' Mobile App for adolescents as part of the Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK) program.
- Adding to the growing strength of the Indian Coast Guard (ICG), vice admiral A R Karve, flag officer commanding-in-chief, Southern Naval Command, commissioned CGS Ayush, the final vessel in the series of twenty fast patrol vessels (FPVs) designed and built by the Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL).
- The government through its Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-in) launched "Cyber Swachhta Kendra" — a new desktop and mobile security solution for a secure cyber space in the country. The new solution will notify, enable cleaning and secure systems of end-users to prevent further infections.
- Direct-to-home operator Dish TV has tied-up with private lender ICICI Bank for digital payments.
- India and China will hold their first Strategic Dialogue in Beijing. The two sides are expected to discuss all issues of mutual concern and interest including friction points.
- Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Vijaya Bank for providing concessional finance to micro and small enterprises (MSEs).
- The Ahmedabad-based Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), an acknowledged national resource institute for entrepreneurship education, research, training and institution-building,

has received the prestigious International Mercury Awards for the year 2016-17 for the best overall presentation of its 2015-2016 annual report.

- Tata group entered into a new era on Tuesday as N Chandrasekaran took over as chief of the holding company of multinational conglomerate.
- Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti declared 2017 as 'Year of Apple' in a major bid to promote the famed Kashmiri apples in domestic and foreign markets.
- The RBI is not aware of the number of bank accounts in which more than Rs 2.5 lakh in the scrapped currency notes of Rs 500 and Rs 1,000 were deposited between November 8 and December 30, 2016 under the Right to Information Act.
- The first heliport in India will be inaugurated by Civil Aviation Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju in North Delhi on (28 February 2017).
- Azerbaijan's President Ilham Aliyev appointed his wife Mehriban Aliyev as the First Vice President of the country.
- The chief minister Chandrababu Naidu and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella signed an MoU during an event called 'Microsoft Future Decoded' in Mumbai.
- American professional golfer Dustin Hunter Johnson has claimed No 1 Position in Official World Golf Ranking for the first time in his career.
- The Haryana government gave away the Bhim awards to 42 sports persons of the state, spotting them for their outstanding performance at the national and international fronts between the years 2013 and 2017.
- Britain appointed experienced counter-terrorism officer Cressida Dick as London's new police chief, the first woman to hold the job.
- Debt mutual funds can now invest up to 15 per cent of their total net assets in housing finance companies with Sebi easing the regulations in this regard.
- In a step to maintain secrecy of one's mobile phone number getting exposed to retailers for possible misuse, Vodafone on Wednesday introduced its Private Recharge Mode for its subscribers in West Bengal.
- Benjamin Netanyahu arrived in Sydney on Wednesday on the first visit to Australia by a serving Israeli prime minister.
- India won the men's Roll Ball World Cup Championship as they beat Iran 8-7 in the final on Wednesday.

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- Punjab government has prohibited the manufacture, storage, sale or distribution of food products containing tobacco or nicotine like gutkha and pan masala in the state for one year.
- Ola, India's most popular mobile app for transportation has entered into a first of its kind partnership with Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited.
- Union Sports Minister Vijay Goel announced that the first Gramin Khel Mahotsav will be held from 25th to 31st of next month in New Delhi.
- The Asian Hockey Federation (AHF) on Wednesday confirmed the appointment of Abhijit Sarkar as its new Vice Chairman and also the Chairman of the AHF Commercial and TV Committee with immediate effect.
- India's growth is projected to slow to 6.6% in 2016-17 fiscal due to the strains that have emerged in the economy as a result of temporary disruptions caused by demonetization.
- Russia's ambassador to the United Nations, Vitaly Churkin has died in New York City. He was 64.
- The government has allowed women working in industries to take six months maternity leave pre-empting parliamentary approval on the maternity benefit amendment bill that is pending in the Lok Sabha.
- Karnataka Bank has bagged two 'IBA-Banking Technology' awards. The bank was the winner in 'Best financial inclusion initiatives (small bank)' category, and was runner-up in 'Best use of digital and channels technology (small bank)' category.
- Sikkim becomes 22<sup>nd</sup> state to join UDAY.
- The chief executive officer of Jasper Infotech-owned digital payments platform FreeCharge, Govind Rajan has submitted his resigned.
- Astronomers of NASA have discovered seven Earth-sized planets orbiting a star called TRAPPIST-1. Three of them are in the habitable zone the happy place where liquid water can exist on the surface of rocky planets, as it's not too hot or cold.
- India's one day captain Mithali Raj and Harmanpreet Kaur were placed 2nd and 10th in the ICC batswomen's rankings released after the World Cup qualifier that ended recently.
- German Sportswear giant Adidas announced its ties up with FIFA U-17 World Cup Local Organizing Committee for the Mission XI Million programme.
- Maneka Gandhi announces compensation fund for child abuse victims.
- The National Rifle Association of India(NRAI) announced that India will be hosting the Combined World Cup for shooting in 2019 during the meeting held in New Delhi.

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- The Jammu and Kashmir government has banned the big fat weddings to curb the wastage of food in these social events.
- The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, released the book "Judicial Reforms – Recent Global Trends" and presented the first copy to President Pranab Mukherjee.
- The state-owned AAI, along with International Air Transport Association (IATA) launched its e-billing solution for airport operators and air navigation services providers across the world.
- India and Japan ink pact on rail safety.
- Microfinance institution Bharat Financial Inclusion Ltd today launched an initiative for instant loan approval and disbursed them to three women in a village near Bassi in Jaipur district.
- Oriental Bank ties up with Chola MS to sell Insurance products.
- Ms. Suman Saxena took charge as the Whole Time Member, Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI).
- Bharti Airtel Ltd agreed to acquire the assets of Telenor ASA's India business, as the country's biggest telecom operator seeks to preserve its position in a market where new entrant Reliance Jio Infocomm Ltd's aggressive pricing has spurred a wave of consolidation.
- Supreme Court sitting judge Justice Abhay Manohar Sapre will head the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal, a post that had been lying vacant for nearly one year.
- Punjab Congress chief Amarinder Singh's biography, 'The People's Maharaja', was released.
- Nobel-Winning Economist Kenneth J Arrow dies at 95.
- 9<sup>th</sup> BRICS summit to be held in China's Xiamen city.
- The government has roped in actress Shilpa Shetty as a brand ambassador for the Modi government's cleanliness initiative Swachh Bharat Mission.
- Kumar Sangakkara becomes second Asian to feature in 1000 matches.
- Limite Zero, a new zipline that connects Sanlucar de Guadiana, in Andalucia, Spain, to Alcoutim, in Algarve, Portugal—which is one hour behind.
- The Gujarat Assembly on Thursday passed an amendment bill which proposes a total ban on hookah bars and imposes maximum jail term of three years on those operating such joints despite absolute restriction.
- Somalia's new President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed has chosen political newcomer Hassan Ali Khaire, a former oil company executive, as the country's prime minister.

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- Rajasthan has become the second largest crude oil producer in the country after the offshore field Bombay High, Governor Kalyan Singh said in the Assembly today, highlighting the achievements of the state government.
- Minister of State (Independent Charge) for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik will inaugurate the World Integrated Medicine Forum on Regulation of Homeopathic Medicinal Products: National and Global strategies in New Delhi.