

GENERAL AWARENESS-CURRENT AFFAIRS

MONTH OF FEBRUARY-2020

List of Important Days

- February 2 - World Wetlands Day. (Theme - "Wetlands and Biodiversity")
- February 4 - World Cancer Day. (Theme - "I can we can")
- February 6 - International Day Of Zero Tolerance To Female Genital Mutilation.
- February 10 - National Deworming Day.
- February 10 - World Pulses Day.
- February 13 - World Radio Day.
- February 14 - National Donor Day.
- February 16 - National Almond Day.
- February 17 - World Human Spirit Day.
- February 12 - International Darwin Day. (Theme - "Sequencing Life For The Future Of Life")
- February 21 - International Mother Language Day. (Theme - "Languages without borders")

Reserve Bank of India

- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has given its approval for loan worth **Rs 140 crore** at low interest rate to **Punjab State Agricultural Development Bank (PSADB)**.
- RBI Monetary Policy Committee decided to keep repo rate unchanged at 5.15%.
 - RBI expects the GDP to grow by 6% next year
 - Policy **Repo Rate** - 5.15%
 - Reverse Repo Rate - 4.90%
 - Marginal Standing Facility Rate - 5.40%
 - Bank Rate - 5.40%
 - CRR - 4%
 - SLR - 18.25%

Insurance

- **Insurance cover** on bank deposits increases from Rs 1 lakh to **5 lakhs**.

States

- Govt of **Andhra Pradesh (AP)** has launched a **doorstep pension delivery scheme** named **YSR Pension Kanuka**.
- **Karnataka** launched **Janasevaka** programme under the **Sakala** scheme in a few municipal corporation wards to ensure **home delivery of various services** like ration cards & senior citizen identity cards.
- **Tamil Nadu** govt decides to declare **Cauvery Delta Region** as **Protected Special Agricultural Zone**.
- **Andhra Pradesh** inaugurated the first **Disha Police Station**. The police stations are first of their kind in the state and will deal with **crimes against women**.
- **Haryana govt** launched **Mukyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana scheme** on the mark of successful 100 days of the present state government.
- Kerala's Finance Minister **T.M. Thomas Isaac** has unveiled an initiative of setting up 1,000 '**Kudumbashree**' hotels to provide subsidised Kerala meals at Rs 25.

- **Haryana** launches '**Reading Mission**' initiative for **Students**.
- **Rajasthan** to create separate **Identity Card** for the **Transgender Community**.
- **Tamil Nadu** (TN) govt will celebrate the birth anniversary of former **CM Jayaram Jayalalithaa** on February 24 as '**State Girl Child Protection Day**' in honor of the passion with which she worked for the well-being of children, especially girls.
- **Haryana** government will open **Atal Kisan - Majdoor canteens** in all mandis and sugar mills across the state to provide affordable and cheap meals to farmers and labourers at a concessional rate of 10 rupees per plate.
- **Tripura** hosts the "**Run for India Tea**" which was organized in collaboration by Tripura Tea Development Corporation (TTDC) and Tea Board of India.
- **Andhra** CM Jagan Mohan launches '**Jagananna Vasthi Deevana**' Scheme to Provide Financial Assistance to students.
- **Madhya Pradesh** has become the first state in the country to introduce the **unified registration card** and the second state to launch the unified driving license after **Uttar Pradesh**.
- Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant flagged off the **Carnival 2020** float parade in **Panaji**.

Place in the News

- Northern Frontier Railway construction has constructed **India's tallest railway pier bridge** across the Makru river in the Tamenglong district of **Manipur**.

Defence and National Security

- The Indian Army's College of Military Engineering with a private firm developed the **gun shot locators** called "**Parth**".
- **Defence Expo 2020** starts in **Lucknow**.
 - Theme - "India: the emerging defence manufacturing hub".
- **Larsen & Toubro Limited** and European defence major **MBDA Missile Systems** have set up a missile integration facility in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu** (TN).
- The **Indian Navy** recently launched a unique coastal security exercise **Malta Abhiyan** in the Sunderbans region **Kolkata**.
- The National Disaster Response Force of Government of India is to host the second **BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020** (BIMSTEC DMEEx-2020) held in Bhubaneswar, **Odisha**.
- Lightweight new **Bullet Proof Jacket** named "**Bhabha Kavach**" developed by BARC.
- The **United States** and **India** deal \$3 billion dollar defence deals in **Delhi**.

Committees/Commissions

- The Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) announced the appointment of its **three-member Cricket Advisory Committee**.
 - The committee comprises Madan Lal, Rudra Pratap Singh and Sulakshana Naik.
- Indian Army Major **Anoop Mishra** has developed first of its kind **bulletproof helmet** that can stop AK-47 bullets round from a distance of 10 meters.

Schemes/Initiatives

- President Ram Nath Kovind opened the annual **Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan** in **New Delhi**.
- Around **38 Crore** bank accounts have been opened under the **Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana** (PMJDY), till January 2020.

- **Jitendra Singh** will launch the **CPGRAMS** (Central Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) Reforms at the National Workshop on e-office in New Delhi.
- Vice President inaugurates four-day **Indian Students' Parliament** in New Delhi.
- Union Minister **Mansukh Laxmanbhai Mandaviya** has laid the foundation stone for a 50-metre high modern lighthouse at **Dhanushkodi** in **Rameswaram**, Tamil Nadu.
- Ministry of **MSME** launches National Level Awareness Programme (NLAP) 2020.
- On the 1st anniversary of launch of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN), Agriculture Minister Narendra Singh Tomar launched **PM KISAN mobile application**.
- Ministry Of Corporate Affairs Secretary Injeti Srinivas inaugurated the **SPICe+** Web Form as part of govt's Ease of Doing Business initiatives.
- Minister of State (MOS) for Home Affairs Ministry, Mr. Gangapuram Kishan Reddy has Inaugurated **National Cyber Research, Innovation and capacity centre** at Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) in Hyderabad, **Telangana**.

Summit/Conference

- The 35th edition of **India International Leather Fair (IILF)** Chennai, will be held at Chennai Trade Centre, Nandambakkam, **Chennai**.
- Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of **Bangladesh** inaugurated the month long **Ekushey Book fair** in **Dhaka**.
- The Ministry of **External Affairs** is to organize **East Asia Summit** in **Chennai**. This is the fifth time the conference is being held in India.
- **National Conference on e-Governance 2020** concluded in Mumbai.
- The **African Union Summit** was held in **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia to tackle terrorism in the continent.
- State Minister for Cultural Affairs of **Bangladesh** K M Khalid inaugurated the fifth edition of the biennial art extravaganza of **Bangladesh-Dhaka Art Summit**.
- In **Madhya Pradesh**, a **National Water Conference** is going to be held in the capital Bhopal to solve water crisis.
- **ClimFishCon 2020**, a 3-day international conference on the impact of climate change on 'hydrological cycle, ecosystem, fisheries and food security' will begin on 12 February in **Kochi**.
- PM Modi to inaugurate two-day **International Judicial Conference 2020** in New Delhi.
- **International Judicial Conference** was held in New Delhi.
- Union Minister Shri Nityanand Rai presided over the valedictory session of the 1st '**National Conference on Coastal Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience (CDRR&R) - 2020**', organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), in New Delhi.
- 16th Session of the Joint Ministerial Commission (JMC) between **India and Australia** was convened in **New Delhi** on 24th February 2020.

Agreement/Deal/Signed

- **APEDA** (Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) signed MoU with **CSIR-CFTRI** (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research-Central Food Technological Research Institute).
- **India & Maldives** signed 5 MoUs for establishing the Addu Tourism zone in 5 islands of Addu atoll at a cost of USD 2.49 mn.
- **Bank of Baroda** signed pact with **CARE Ratings** to assess the credit quality of SMEs.

- Russian state-owned firm **Rosneft** signed an agreement with **Indian Oil Corporation** for exporting 2 million tonne of Urals-grade crude oil to India.
- **India & Norway** signed 4 MoUs in the field of research & higher education to strengthen the bilateral alliance.
- **India** and **African nations** sign '**Lucknow Declaration**' for enhanced collaboration.
- Indian Institute of Technology **Madras** (IIT-M), in Tamil Nadu and All India Institutes of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) **Mangalagiri** in Andhra Pradesh has announced to collaborate in areas such as patient safety and **quality healthcare**.
- **Andra Pradesh** signed MoUs with **11 reputed institutes** to help **Agriculture Sector**.
- Competition Commission of India approves formation of a **joint venture** between **Mahindra & Mahindra** and **Ford Motor** and the transfer of the automotive business of Ford India to the Joint venture.
- **Energy Efficiency Services Limited** (EESL) has signed an MoU with **BSNL** (Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited) for installing **1000 public charging stations** for Electric Vehicles.
- **Axis Bank** and **Max Financial Services** signed a confidentiality & exclusivity arrangement to explore the possibility of the private sector lender entering a long-term strategic partnership with Max Life Company Ltd.
- **Microsoft** India announced a partnership with **SBI Foundation** to create opportunities for youth with disabilities in the banking, financial services and insurance (BFSI) sector.
- Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Department under **Odisha** government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **HDFC Bank** to provide smart banking solutions to Startups in the state.

Meet/Visit

- President of **Myanmar U Win Myint** visited to India.
- US President **Donald Trump** visited to Ahmedabad.
 - In Ahmedabad, he visited **Sabarmati Ashram** and take part in a roadshow with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
 - The two leaders jointly address over one lakh people at the **Namaste Trump** event at **Motera cricket stadium**, Ahmedabad, Gujarat.
- **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** is hosting the inaugural **G20 finance ministers** and central bank governors' meeting.
- 24th meeting of the **Eastern Zonal Council**, comprising of the States of Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and West Bengal, is scheduled to be held on 28th February 2020 at Bhubaneswar.

Bills

- **Uttar Pradesh** approved the **Ground Water Act-2020**. The act aims to improve ground water level.
- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has brought **medical devices** within the regulatory ambit, treating them as a category of '**drugs**' for the purpose of regulating them under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act (DCA). A list of 37 devices has been included.

Fund

- **NTPC**, India's largest power generator has raised syndicated **Japanese Yen** loan (JPY) worth **\$750 million** (around Rs5,367 crore). The raised fund will be used to reduce air pollution in power projects across the country.
- **Asian Development Bank** (ADB) has approved to sponsor **\$2 million** as funding to combat the outbreak of novel **coronavirus** (nCoV).

- “**Bezos Earth Fund**” has been launched by Amazon CEO **Jeff Bezos**. The fund will aim to help preserve and protect the natural world against the climate change.
- **National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)** has sanctioned an amount of over **400 crore** rupees to the Union Territory of **Jammu and Kashmir** during the current financial year for giving boost to the infrastructure in the rural areas.

Economy

- Government allocated **Rs 4,400 Cr** to encourage states to implement plans for **cleaner air**.
 - India has raised import tax on crude palm oil to **44%** from existing 37.5%.
 - In Budget, FM said **Rs 99,300 Cr** has been allocated for the **education** sector and **Rs 3,000 Cr** for **skill development** for the next fiscal.
 - Railways spent about **Rs 98.41** to earn every Rs 100, according to the Union Budget 2020.
 - In budget, National Mission on **Quantum Technologies & Applications (NM-QTA)** with a total budget outlay of **Rs 8000 Crore** for a period of five years to be implemented by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
 - A total of **Rs. 2.83 lakh crore** has been allocated in the union Budget 2020 for the **Sixteen Action Points** for **Agriculture**, Irrigation and Rural Development.
 - **Rs. 1.23 lakh crore** has been allocated for the Rural development and Panchayati Raj projects.
 - **Bharatnet Programme** in 2020-21 - Rs.6000 Crore
 - **Tourism promotion** - Rs. 2500 crore
- Central Government has released **19,950 crore rupees** as **GST** compensation to states which gets to a total of over 1.20 lakh crore rupees paid by the government towards GST compensation to the states during current fiscal.
- Country’s foreign exchange reserves swelled by **\$3.091 billion** to a lifetime high of \$476.092 billion mainly due to a rise in **foreign currency assets**, according to the RBI data.
 - Country’s reserve position with the IMF declined by \$9 mn to \$3.590 bn
 - Gold reserves rose by \$344 million to \$29.123 billion

Companies/Industry

- **Religare Enterprises Ltd.** is set to sell part of stake in its health insurance subsidiary Religare Health Insurance Company Ltd. to the **Kedaara group** for Rs 400 crore.
- The E-Commerce Giant **Amazon Web Services** has planned to invest **1.5 billion USD** to set up two data centres in **Hyderabad**.
- **Birla Estates** recently launched an interactive AI Powered ChatBot solution **LIDEA** for its customers on WhatsApp.
- IT company **Tech Mahindra** has signed an agreement to acquire 100 per cent stake in US-based **Zen3 Infosolutions** for \$64 million (Rs 460 crore) in an all-cash deal.
- **Facebook** launched its ‘**We Think Digital**’ programme, under which the social media giant will provide digital literacy training to 1 lakh women across seven states, including Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar.

Taxation/Trade

- To achieve the twin objectives of supporting local manufacturers & generating funds to create **health infrastructure**, the budget has imposed a **5% health cess** on **import of medical devices**.
- I-T dept launches **E-Calculator** to compare due tax under **New, Old Regime**.
- The **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** has issued guidelines for **benchmarking** the performance of **Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs)** with a view to streamlining disclosure standards and helping investors in assessing scheme performance.

- The **Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA)**, the regulator of the National Pension System (NPS), has doubled the **minimum net worth criterion for pension fund managers to 50 crore** from the 25 crore stipulated earlier.
- The **US** has surpassed **China** to become **India's top trading partner**, showing greater economic ties between the two countries.

Space

- Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F10) will launch **Geo Imaging Satellite (GISAT-1)** from the Second Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota.

Science and Technology

- Researchers from **IIT Madras** develops **AI technology** to convert brain signals of speech-impaired humans into English language.

Health/Diseases/Drugs

- **World Health Organization** has called for **675 million US dollar** in donations for a plan to fight the **novel coronavirus**, mainly through investment in countries considered particularly "at risk".

Environment

- Government of **Somalia** announced a **National Emergency on Locusts** (family- Acrididae) attack because these insects caused major damage to the food supply.
 - The Prime Minister (PM) of **Pakistan** Imran Khan has also declared a national emergency due to the massive locust's attack.

Transport/Cars/Scooters

- **Air India** begun the direct daily flight operations from **Bhubaneswar to Varanasi** under the RCS-UDAN marking it as the **250th route** under UDAN.
- **Hyderabad Metro Rail** becomes country's **2nd** largest operational metro project.
- Services of **Kashi Mahakal Express** 3rd private train of Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) begins from **Varanasi**.
- Railway Board launched **HRMS Mobile App** which has been designed and developed by Centre for Railway Information System (CRIS).
- **Indian Railways** launches joint research initiatives with **University Of Birmingham**.
- In order to resolve queries of railway passengers, the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation Limited (**IRCTC**) has now powered voice enabled '**ASKDISHA**' to converse with customers in Hindi language.

Films and Film Festival

- 16th edition of **Mumbai International Film Festival (MIFF)** 2020 was held at Nehru Centre Auditorium, Worli, Mumbai, **Maharashtra**.
 - Golden Conch Award For Best Documentary Film - Babenco: Tell Me When I Die By Barbara Paz.
- Sam Mendes' '**1917**' ruled the 73rd edition of **BAFTAS** (British Academy of Film & Television Arts) with **7 wins**, including best film, best British film & best director. Joaquin Phoenix & Renee Zellweger won the best actor & actress awards respectively.
 - **Micheal Ward** was named the **Bafta rising star**.
- **Joaquin Phoenix & Renee Zellweger** won the best actor & actress trophies respectively at the 92nd Academy Awards ceremony at Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles.
 - Director **Bong Joon Ho** bagged the best director Oscar for his sensational class satire 'Parasite'.
 - Parasite- 1st foreign-language movie to win Best film award.

- **Chitra Bharati Film Festival** held at Gujarat University in **Ahmedabad**.
- The 65th **Filmfare Awards 2020** was held at Indira Gandhi Athletic Stadium in Guwahati, **Assam**.
 - Zoya Akhtar's directorial '**Gully Boy**' emerged as big winner as it bagged several awards including the prestigious best film award.
 - **Ranveer Singh** bagged Best Actor's trophy for his performance in Gully Boy, while **Alia Bhatt** won the Best Actor in a Leading Role (Female) for the same film.

Festival

- The 1st-ever **hornbill festival** in **Tripura** has begun with an aim to raise awareness among people for **bird conservation**.
- 8th edition of the "**Ganga Kayak festival**" was inaugurated by MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) Vinod Kandari in Devprayag, **Uttarakhand**.
- Union Ministers Harsimrat Kaur Badal, Smriti Irani jointly inaugurate **National Organic Food Festival** in New Delhi.

Media /I.T / Telecommunication

- **Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** has launched '**5G Hackathon**' in association with government, academia and industry stakeholders.

Appointments/Election (or) Latest who is who?

- **Dame Karen Pierce**, the UK's permanent representative to the UN, has been appointed **Britain's ambassador to US**, becoming the first woman to hold the position - the most prominent in the diplomatic service.
- **LV Prabhakar** has assumed office as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of **Canara Bank**.
- **Albin Kurti** (44 years) has been appointed as the new and 4th Prime Minister (PM) of the Republic of **Kosovo** by its parliament.
- **Pramod Agrawal** became the new Chairman & Managing Director (MD) of **Coal India Limited (CIL)**.
- **Amitabh Bhatt** has taken over as Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru-headquartered defence PSU, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Bangalore Complex.
- **Shri Gopal Baglay** has been appointed as the Next High Commissioner of India to The Democratic Socialist Republic of **Sri Lanka**.
- **Deepa Malik** was elected as President of the Paralympic Committee of India.
- **Mohammed Allawi** is appointed the **PM of Iraq** by the President Barham Salih.
- Online travel agency MakeMyTrip's founder **Deep Kalra** has stepped down as group chief executive officer (CEO) of the Gurugram-based company and will be succeeded by co-founder and India CEO **Rajesh Magow**.
- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) approved appointment of **Sunil Gurbaxani** as managing director and CEO of **Dhanlaxmi Bank**.
- Retired IAS officers **Amarjeet Sinha** and **Bhaskar Khulbe** have been appointed as **Advisers to Prime Minister** Narendra Modi.
- Smartphone brand **realme** has appointed Bollywood actor **Salman Khan** as its brand ambassador.

Resignation/Dismissed/Retired/Quit

- **Canara Bank** announced that its Managing Director (M.D) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) **Sankara Narayanan** (60) has retired.

- **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**'s First Deputy Managing Director **David Lipton** would be leaving the multilateral lender Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva announced.
- **Prasar Bharati** (India's public service broadcasting agency), Chairman, A Surya Prakash retired from his position.
- Indian left-arm spinner **Pragyan Ojha** announced retirement from international and first-class cricket with immediate effect.
- The International Cricket Council (ICC) has banned Oman player **Yousuf Abdulrahim Al Balushi** from all forms of cricket for seven years for his involvement in trying to fix matches.
- Malaysian Prime Minister **Mahathir Mohamad** resigned.
- **Bob Iger** has stepped down as CEO of the Walt Disney Company (DIS), effective immediately.
 - Bob Chapek is the new CEO, the board of directors announced.
- Five-time Grand Slam winner Russian **Maria Sharapova**, one of the world's most recognizable sportswomen, announced her retirement at the age of 32.

Deaths

- Congress MLA and former Assam Assembly speaker **Pranab Gogoi** died at 84.
- Famous Odia poet and freedom fighter **Rabindranath Singh**, 89 years old, passed away.
- The Eminent Punjabi Writer, Novelist and Sahitya Academy Awardee **Jaswant Singh Kanwal** (101), passed away.
- Author **Mary Higgins Clark**, known as 'Queen Of Suspense', passed away at 92.
- Padma Shri awardee and renowned Punjabi novelist, **Dalip Kaur Tiwana** passed away.
- American actor and comedian **Orson Bean** has died.
- Writer and the founder director of Bharatiya Vichara kendram **P Parameswaran** passed away in Kerala.
- Well-known Hindi novelist and Padma Shri awardee **Giriraj Kishore** passed away in Kanpur.
- **Roger Kahn** known for his best-selling book in 1972 "The Boys of Summer" passed away.
- **Velagapudi Lakshmana Dutt** former FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry) President & Executive Chairman of KCP Group passed away.
- **Larry Tessler**, Computer Engineer behind 'Cut, Copy And Paste', Passes Away.
- Former Karnataka minister **C Channigappa** passes away in **Bengaluru**.
- Tripura seven-time CPI-M parliamentarian, **Bajubian Reang** passed away.
- Former Indian footballer **Ashok Chatterjee** died recently.
- **Egypt's** former President **Mohammed Hosni Mubarak**, who ruled the country for 30 years, died.
- NASA mathematician **Katherine Johnson**, whose calculations helped get the first Americans to space & back safely died.

Awards/Honours

- **Madhya Pradesh** has bagged the 1st position for the implementation of **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana**.
- Noted Hindi poet-novelist and Sahitya Akademi honouree **Vinod Kumar Shukla** has won the inaugural **Mathrubhumi Book of the Year** award for his translated book "Blue Is Like Blue".
- **Waheeda Rehman** is one of the most popular leading ladies of Hindi cinema. She will be honoured with **Madhya Pradesh Government's National Kishore Kumar Samman**.

- Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor **Shaktikanta Das** has been named the **Central Banker of the Year, Asia-Pacific 2020**, by the Banker magazine, a unit of Financial Times (FT).
- **Amulya Mica** (Purbanchal Laminates Pvt Ltd) was chosen as the **Most Promising Brand of the Year Award 2019**, Gold Category during the 7th edition of the MSME Excellence Award.
- Dr **Saima Yunus Khan** became the 1st Indian to be granted with the famous International Association of Dental Research John Clarkson Fellowship.
- **Kaamya Karthikeyan** became the youngest girl to climb the highest peak in South America, Mt Aconcagua.
- **Singareni** Chairman and Managing Director **N. Sridhar** received the prestigious **Bharatiya Mahantam Puraskar 2019-20**, at the 13th Asian Business and Social Forum conference held on at **Bangkok, Thailand** under the auspices of the AsiaOne magazine.
- **Pullela Gopichand**, the Chief National coach for the Indian Badminton team has received the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Coaches **Lifetime Achievement Award** in Male Category of the year 2019 on the 3rd edition of International Olympics Committee Annual Awards.
- India forward **Lalremsiami** has been named as the 2019 **FIH Women's Rising Star of the Year** by the International Hockey Federation.
- **P V Sindhu** won the ESPN's **Female Sportsperson of the Year** award for a 3rd consecutive time while young shooter **Saurabh Chaudhary** bagged the honour in the male category.
- In **Maharashtra**, 48 talented sportspersons were conferred with State Government's prestigious **Shiv Chhatrapati Award** for the year 2018-19 in a glittering ceremony held at Gateway of India in South Mumbai.
- **Adline Castelino** has been crowned as the winner of **LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020** competition held at Mumbai.
- **Dr Niti Kumar**, Senior Scientist from Division of Molecular Parasitology and Immunology, CSIR-CDRI, Lucknow has received **SERB Women Excellence Award-2020**.
- **K.V. Jeyasri**, a Tamil teacher from Tiruvannamalai, has won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2019 for her translation of the Malayalam novel **Nilam Poothu Malaranna Naal** (The day the land bloomed and blossomed) into Tamil as **Nilam Poothu Malarantha Naal**.

Sports/Game

- In Weightlifting, former world champion **Mirabai Chanu** bettered her own national record by two kilogram as she lifted a total of 203kg to win the 49kg gold in the National Championships in **Kolkata**.
- Indian Olympic Association (IOA) has invited BCCI President **Sourav Ganguly** to become the **Goodwill Ambassador of the Indian** contingent at the **Tokyo Olympics Games 2020**.
- **India's junior youth** dominated the ring at the **Golden Girl Championship in Boras, Sweden**, claiming **14 medals**, including six golds.
 - **Prachi Dhankar** won 'Best Boxer' award in the junior category.
- **K.L Rahul** moved up to No.2 in the rankings released by International Cricket Council for T20 International batsmen.
- Pakistan's **Babar Azam** retained his top spot with 879 points and India's Vice-Captain Rohit Sharma entered the top-10. Virat Kohli remained in ninth position.
- **American Sofia Kenin** won her 1st Grand Slam title with victory over Spain's Garbine Muguruza at the **Australian Open**.
 - Serbia's **Novak Djokovic** won his record 8th Men's singles title in **Australian Open** at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne.

- Men's doubles title - Joe Salisbury of UK and American Rajeev Ram who beat Australia's Luke Saville and Max Purcell.
- Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships, **Rakhi Halder** of Bengal has bagged gold in the 64kg category of the 35th edition of the event in Kolkata.
- Haryana's **Adarsh Singh** and Madhya Pradesh's **Shreya Agrawal** won double titles at the national trials for rifle and pistol disciplines in **Thiruvananthapuram**.
- **Haryana** thrashed Sports Authority of India (SAI) win the 10th **Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division)** title at **Kollam**.
- **Australia** were awarded the ICC (International Cricket Council) **Women's Championship trophy 2020**, which they maintained by winning victories in the eight-team one-day championship between 2017 and 2020.
- Ankita **Ravinderkrishan Raina**, an Indian professional tennis player along with her partner Bibiane Schoofs of the Netherlands, won the finals of the ITF (International Tennis Federation) **Women's doubles** held in Nonthaburi, Thailand.
- **Aditya Mehta** from Mumbai, Maharashtra won the **National Snooker championship** held at **Pune**.
- World-famous Ski destination **Gulmarg** is all set to host a five-day national **winter games** event from 7th March under the banner of Khelo India.
- **Divya Kakran** became only the 2nd Indian woman to win a **gold** medal at the **Asian Wrestling Championships** defeating junior world champion Naruha Matsuyuki in **New Delhi**.
- **India** finish with 11 medals **Badminton World Federation (BWF)** has organized Brazil Para badminton International 2020 in Sao Paulo, **Brazil**.
- PM Modi to inaugurate first-ever **Khelo India University Games in Odisha**.
- Indian women team registered its best-ever performance at the **Asian Wrestling Championship** returning with eight medals in New Delhi.
- **Sakshi Malik** claimed a silver while **Vinesh Phogat** dominated her bronze medal play-off after losing to Mayu Mukaida.
- Veteran New Zealand batsman **Ross Taylor** became the first player in the world to play **100 matches** in all three formats of cricket.
- Great Britain women's field hockey captain **Alex Danson-Bennett** announced her retirement from the sport due to head injury.
- **Russia** will be the first country to host the new format of **AIBA Team World Cup** in 2020.
- **India** will host the **Commonwealth Shooting and Archery Championships** in January 2022.
- The Union Territory of **Ladakh** is all set to host the first-ever **Khelo India Winter Games**.
- In Chess, India's 13-year old Grandmaster **D Gukesh** emerged champion in the 34th **Cannes Open in France**.
- **Jammu and Kashmir**, the hosts bagged gold medal in the 6th **National Ice Stock Sports Championship** organized at Ice Rink in Gulmarg.
- Khelo India University Games in Odisha, **Savitribai Phule** Pune University was on top with 14 medals including seven gold and two silver medals.
 - **Punjab University** gave a tough competition by winning 18 medals including six gold and seven silver medals while Jain University, Karnataka claimed the third position with total of 12 medals including six gold and five silver medals.

Report

- As per the Global Go To Think Tank Index Report (GGTTI) **India's Observer Research Foundation (ORF)** was ranked at 27th place among 176 global think tanks.
 - The report was topped by **Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP)** of US.
- **India** ranks **40th** among 53 countries in **International Intellectual Property Index**.
 - **US** ranked first followed by UK, Sweden, France, Germany and Ireland.
- India Justice Report-2019 prepared by Tata Trusts, among 18 large and mid-level states surveyed, **Maharashtra** topped the list, followed by **Kerala, Tamil Nadu**.
 - Among states with a population of less than 1 Crore Goa ranked first followed by Sikkim.
- The **highest** incidence of children & women being trafficked were observed from the cities of **Mumbai & Kolkata**, according to the National Crime Records Bureau study.
 - **West Bengal** was 2nd both in number of missing children & women.
- **India** ranked **77th** on a sustainability index that considers per capita carbon emissions & 131st on a flourishing ranking that measures the best chance at survival and well-being for children.
- The Forest Department of the **Odisha** State Government conducted a census at Chilika lake to count the number of **dolphins** at the Gahirmatha Marine Sanctuary in Odisha.
 - According to the report, the dolphin count came down to 233 in 2020 from 259 in 2019.
- **West Bengal** emerged as the worst in ratings prepared for the first time by Centre regarding Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) pay-outs.
 - **Haryana & Uttarakhand** emerged as the best states at 1st and second positions, respectively.
- In accordance with the "2019 World Air Quality Report-Region & City PM 2.5 Ranking" compiled by IQAir AirVisual.
 - **India** ranked **5th** as the most polluted country in the world and topped in an annual list of cities with the worst air quality in the world. **Ghaziabad** as the most polluted city.
 - **Bangladesh** emerged as the most polluted **country** for PM2.5 exposure.
 - It is followed by Pakistan, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and India at 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th place respectively.
- ICC World Test Championship, **India** continues to be placed at the **top** of the latest Test rankings with 360 points.
 - However, India skipper Virat Kohli lost the top spot in the ICC Test Player Rankings.
 - Kohli's slump meant Australia's Steve Smith was back on top of the list for the eighth time after first occupying the top position in June 2015.

General - National

- **Tourism ministry**, under the **Swadesh Darshan** scheme is developing **thematic circuits** in the country in planned manner.
- The Centre has decided to rename the **National Institute of Financial Management, Faridabad**, as '**Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management**' (AJNIFM).
- **New Delhi** hosts the **Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts** which was chaired by Union Minister Smriti Zubin Irani.
- National Museum in New Delhi is hosting a unique exhibition on India's ancient food history called "**Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience** till the 25th of this month that goes back to over 5000 years ago.
- A research report by Strategy Analytics has claimed that the number of **5G Smartphones** to make up **15%** of market in 2020.
- **Government** has formally announced the constitution of the **22nd Law Commission**.

General - International

- **Maldives** readmitted and becomes 54th member of **commonwealth**.

Books and Authors

- Pop singer **Lord J** launches his autobiography book "**Lord J: Lord Of Anonymity**".
- Vice President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu released a Book titled '**A Child of Destiny**' Autobiography penned by Professor **Koneru Ramakrishna Rao** at GITAM (Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management) University Vishakatapatnam, Andhra Pradesh.
- Union Minister Shri. Prakash Javadekar has released the 64th Edition of the book "**The Reference Annual- India/Bharat-2020**" in both English and Hindi and released the e-version of the book.
- Former Prime Minister of India Dr Manmohan Singh released the book '**Who is Bharat Mata**' by Prof **Purushottam Agrawal** and its Kannada translation '**Yaaru Bharat Maate?**' by Prof **K E Radhakrishna**.

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TO THE POINTS: FEBRUARY-2020

- **Pramod Kumar Singh** has been appointed as a whole time member of pension fund regulator.
- **6 to 6.5 %** is the rate of growth for FY21 as projected by the Economic Survey 2020.
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is headquartered in **New York, United States**.
- Agriculture will grow at a rate of **2.8%** as per the recent Economic survey.
- As per the Economic Survey, India needs to spend **1.4** trillion dollars in order to achieve the 5 trillion USD by 2024-25.
- The Economic survey highlights the fact that **2.62** crore new jobs have been created in rural and urban areas between 2011-12 and 2017-18.
- **Petroleum Products** is the top export item by India as per the Economic Survey 2020.
- **US** has been India's largest export destination in 2019-2020 (April - November).
- Gross GST monthly collections have crossed the mark of Rs. 1 lakh crore for a total of **five** times during 2019-20 (up to December 2019).
- Veteran **basketball** player P Matthew Satya Babu passed away after a brief illness.
- India has jumped to position of **63** in 2019 from 142 in 2014 in World Bank's Doing Business rankings.
- **Rajat Chaudhuri** is the author of the book "Calcutta Nights".
- The Economy Survey suggests emulation of **China** to grab the opportunity of job creation.
- The 'Assemble in India for the world' target aims to raise exports to **3.5 %** percent by 2025 and 6 % by 2030.
- **1.24 lakh** new firms that have been created in 2018.
- **Bengaluru** has been rated the worst in the traffic management.
- **Delhi** has recorded the highest number of entrepreneurial activities.
- As per the Economic survey, **47.33** lakh houses have been completed in the year 2018-19 under PM Awas Yojana (Gramin).

- The **10 Year** Rural Sanitation Strategy will run from a period from 2019-2029 and has been launched to Focus on Sustaining Sanitation Behaviour Change.
- Economic Survey observed that India has the Second largest Emerging Green Bond Market after **China**.
- Veteran **social activist** and feminist writer Vidya Bal passed away.
- India's forex reserves is estimated at \$ **461.2** billion in 2019-20 by the Economic Survey.
- The Economic Survey analyses India's trade agreements and its exports for manufactured products has increased by **13.4** % percent.
- The Economic survey states that the affordability of vegetarian thalis have improved by **29** percent from 2006-07 to 2019-20.
- Indian Railways is Automatic Identification and Data Collection (AIDC) of Rolling Stock (RFID Project) worth a total of **Rs. 112.96** crores.
- The First Banana Container Train for export to international markets has been sent from Andhra Pradesh to **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT)**.
- **Tamil Nadu** has unveiled Direct CTO scheme for green category industries to receive faster clearances from government.
- **ICICI Bank Ltd** has launched iBox, a 24X7 Self-Service Delivery Facility for Customers.
- **Yusuf Jameel** has won the PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for 2019-20.
- The 12th edition of the annual South Asia Conference was held in **New Delhi**. Theme - "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions.
- AN-32 aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) with indigenous bio-jet fuel has taken off successfully from **Leh** airfield for the first time.
- **Telangana** has topped in promoting sustainable growth goals and work on Sustainable Development Goals (SDG).
- Sampriti-IX exercise between India-Bangladesh will be held in **Meghalaya**.
- Indian women's football star **Ngangom Bala Devi** has become the first Indian woman to earn a professional football contract abroad after signing for Scottish giants Rangers FC.
- '**Rubigula**', Flame-Throated Bulbul, has been unveiled as the official mascot for the Goa 2020 National Games.
- Noted Urdu **poet** Ajmal Sultanpuri passed away.
- Public sector **Indian Bank** announced the launch of two tailor-made credit products for the benefit of the textile sector.
- The Indian Coast Guard celebrates its Foundation Day on **February 1**.
- **M Ajith Kumar** has been appointed as the new Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) Chairman.
- **Ramesh Pokhriyal 'Nishank'** has chaired the meeting of the Indian National Commission For Cooperation (INCCU) with UNESCO in New Delhi.
- **Ram Nath Kovind** has inaugurated the 34th Surajkund Mela in Faridabad.
- The Union Budget has proposed a **16 point** action plan to boost agriculture & farmers' welfare and doubling farmers' income by 2022.
- **Novak Djokovic** has won the 8th Men's single title in the Australian Open.
- The country's first special security team for RBI currency chests has been created in **Bihar**.

- **Somalia** has declared a national emergency following locust infestation sweeping the Horn of Africa.
- India has signed an MoU for establishing an Addu Tourism zone with **Maldives**.
- **Sheikh Hasina** has inaugurated the month long Ekushey Book fair at the Bangla Academy premises in Dhaka.
- India has sent relief supplies to cyclone-hit Madagascar using its naval ship **INS Airavat**.
- Dalip Kaur Tiwana who passed away was a **Novelist**.
- The gross GST collection for **January** have crossed Rs 1 lakh cr.
- E-commerce companies will collect **1** percent tax deducted at source (TDS) from sellers under new levy thus increasing the burden on sellers on such platforms.
- Government has allocated **100** crore to host the G-20 Presidency.
- **Bank of Baroda** has signed a pact with CARE Ratings to assess the credit quality of SMEs.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has launched the doorstep pension distribution scheme.
- The art festival Kala Ghoda has been kicked off in **Mumbai**.
- **Mohammed Tawfik Allawi** has been named as the new prime minister of Iraq.
- A Sankara Narayanan retired recently, he was the MD & CEO of **Canara Bank**.
- **Abidali Z Neemuchwala** has resigned from the designation of CEO and MD of Wipro.
- **Vinod Shukla** has bagged the first Mathrubhumi Book of the Year award.
- ISRO is preparing low-cost satellite launch vehicles which can be put into orbit weighing **500** kgs.
- **Virat Kohli** has topped the ICC test batsmen ranking.
- Veteran poet Rabi Singh passed away recently, he belonged to **Odisha**.
- **Waheeda Rehman** has been conferred with the Kishore Kumar Samman by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- Jaswant Singh Kanwal who passed away recently was a famous **Writer**.
- **Gopal Baglay** has been appointed as the Indian High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.
- Andry Rajoelina is the President of **Madagascar**.
- Theme of World Wetlands Day - **Wetlands and Biodiversity**.
- Theme state of the 34th Surajkund Mela is **Himachal Pradesh**.
- India will host the Presidency of G-20 in **2022**.
- **Pramod Agrawal** has taken over as Coal India chairman.
- World Wetlands Day is observed annually **February 2**.
- **Maldives** will rejoin the Commonwealth of nations.
- **YK Joshi** has taken over as General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Northern Command.
- World Cancer Day is observed annually on **February 4**.
- The Union government has set a target of **30** kilometers to build highways a day in the current fiscal.
- Climate activist **Greta Thunberg** has been nominated for the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.
- **Pakistan** has declared a national emergency to battle locusts destroying the crops.

- The Insurance in scheduled commercial banks on bank deposits has been hiked to **5 lakh** from Rs 1 lakh.
- The banks have recorded frauds involving **1.13 lakh crore** in H1 of FY20.
- **India** has banned exports of all kinds of personal protection equipment, clothing and masks from air borne particles.
- Fitch has predicted India's FY21 GDP growth at **5.6 percent**.
- The government of **Punjab** has banned the sale of online lottery schemes to check illegal sales.
- India's biggest rural technical festival Antahpragnya 2020 will be held in **Telangana**.
- **GMR Hyderabad International** airport has signed an agreement to commission and maintain the Civilian enclave at Bidar airport in North Karnataka.
- **Deepa Malik** has been elected as the President of the Paralympic Committee of India.
- **LV Prabhakar** has been appointed as the MD & CEO of Canara Bank.
- The 7th MSME Excellence Award For Most Promising Brand 2019 has been won by **Amulya Mica**.
- The government of **Madhya Pradesh** has bagged the first position for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).
- Greta Thunberg is from **Sweden**.
- **Mo O'Brien** has become the 1st deaf person to row across the Atlantic Ocean by finishing a 3000 mile journey.
- NASA has decommissioned **Spitzer Space Telescope** after 16 years of service.
- Researchers at **IIT Madras** have developed AI technology to convert brain signals of speech-impaired humans into English language.
- Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR -IVRI) lab has developed a cheaper vaccine to combat **Swine Flu**.
- **Matla Abhiyaan** exercise has been conducted by the Indian Navy with personnel of two naval boats.
- **Rajnath Singh** has inaugurated the Third Defence Attachés Conference in New Delhi.
- **MC Mary Kom** has been nominated for the inaugural BBC Sportswoman of the year award.
- **6** Indian boxers have bagged the gold at the Golden Girl Championship claiming 14 medals held in Boras, Sweden.
- **Sachin Tendulkar** has been shortlisted for Laureus Sporting Moment award.
- Theme of 2020 World Cancer Day - **I am & I will**.
- India has missed the fiscal deficit target, pushing the shortfall to **3.8** percent of GDP.
- Fitch ratings is headquartered in **New York**.
- **Telangana** government has opened a new virology lab to tackle the coronavirus.
- **723** Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras have been established till January 2020 that has been stated by the government.
- **38 crore** bank accounts have been opened under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana till January.
- The PSUs owe the telecom ministry around **2.65 lakh crore** with GAIL India owing around 65 percent of the total amount.
- Narayana Reddy, who passed away recently, was the former MP from **Telangana**.

- **Amazon** has partnered with the Eastern Railway to have pick-up kiosks at Sealdah railway station in Kolkata.
- **Tech Mahindra** has launched a Blockchain accelerator for the newly created district in Telangana.
- The government has decided to open **Mughal** garden for public and will be open from February 5 to March 8.
- **Maharashtra** government has recorded the highest number of missing women as per National Crime Records Bureau NCRB.
- **Maker Village** area will tie up with All India Council for Technical Education AICTE on promoting entrepreneurship and innovation.
- The BCCI has constituted a 3 member Cricket Advisory Committee for a term of one year.
- **Sourav Ganguly** has become India's goodwill ambassador for the Tokyo Olympics.
- **Albin Kurti** has been elected as the new Prime Minister of Kosovo.
- **Shaktikanta Das** has won the Asia Pacific central banker of the year.
- **Babenco: Tell Me When I Die** by **Barbara Paz** has bagged the Golden Conch Award for Best Documentary Film at Mumbai International Film Festival MIFF 2020.
- India will host the East Asia Summit EAS conference in **Chennai**.
- The Country's biggest horticultural fair will be held in **Bengaluru**.
- **DST** has launched the Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes SATHI Initiative for building shared, professionally managed strong S&T infrastructure.
- The international conference on the future of aviation and aerospace will be held in **Indian Institute of Management Bangalore**.
- The world has lost **232** billion dollars in 2019 owing to natural disasters.
- L&T MBDA Missile System has set up an integration facility in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd** has received an order to make advanced armed Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) with Israeli Company.
- **Mirabai Chanu** has won gold with the 203 kg lift and setting a national record.
- **Wasim Jaffer** has become the first player to score 12,000 runs in Ranji Trophy.
- Daniel Arap Moi, who passed away recently, was the President of **Kenya**.
- **Jorgovanka Tabakovi** has been adjudged as the Global Central Banker of the year.
- **UK** has decided to ban new petrol car sales from 2035.
- **HCL** will set up a global delivery center in Colombo.
- Cognizant has acquired **Code Zero** to improve a consultancy for Cloud-based CPQ & billing solutions.
- The government has set a target of **5** billion dollars for defence exports in next five years.
- Alice Mayhew, who passed away recently, was a famous **Editor**.
- The Cabinet has approved to confer the status of Institution of National Importance to **5** IITs.
- The government has given in principle approval to set up a new major port in **Maharashtra**.
- The government has decided to bring cooperative banks under the regulatory control of **RBI**.
- The cabinet has approved the Alliance air flights with **Sri Lanka**.

- The purpose of the new implemented 'Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries' (SFURTI) SFURTI scheme is **Developing of traditional industries.**
- **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the DefExpo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- **Bhutan** has decided to charge Rs 1200 entry fee for Indian tourists.
- WHO has called for a donation of **675** million to fight the novel coronavirus.
- **Navdeep Singh Suri** has assumed the responsibility of India's Co-Chair of Expo-2020 Dubai Committee.
- **Prince Charles** has unveiled the children's protection fund for India.
- The Gates Foundation has announced **100** million for coronavirus response which has claimed nearly 500 lives.
- The RBI in its latest monetary policy has kept the repo rate at **5.15** percent.
- The RBI has announced external benchmarking of loans for medium enterprises from **April 1.**
- **Paytm** has unveiled an All-in-One Android PoS device for merchant partners across the country.
- **Instamojo** has bought the digital commerce platform GetMeAShop for \$5 million.
- **Karnataka** has launched the Janasevaka scheme for home delivery of govt services.
- Brihadeeswarar temple is located in **Tamil Nadu.**
- **Mangalore University** has signed a pact with Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research (IGCAR), Kalpakkam IGCAR on radioecology research.
- India and **Norway** have signed an MoU in the field of research and higher education.
- **Central Food Technological Research Institute, (CSIR-CFTRI), Mysore, Karnataka** has signed an MoU for Liaison Office in Guwahati to promote Food Processing & Organic Agri Exports in North-East States.
- Former Karnataka Minister D. Manjunath has passed away. He belonged to **JD(S)** -political party.
- **Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** has signed an MoU with Israeli firm to make and sell drones.
- The International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on **February 6.**
- The government has set a target of installation of 100 GigaWatt solar power by the end of **2022.**
- Around **5.7** lakh inhabited villages including gram panchayats have been covered by mobile service.
- Jim Bridenstine is the administrator of **NASA.**
- Kirk Douglas, who passed away recently, was a famous **Actor.**
- **39** number of Mega Food Parks have been sanctioned under Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana (PMKSY).
- The Prime Minister of **Sri Lanka** will undertake a four day visit to India to undertake talks on areas like trade, defence and security.
- **Indian Oil Corp** has signed a first term contract for importing Russian crude oil.
- **SBI** has cut the marginal cost of fund-based rate MCLR by 5 basis points across tenors effective from February 10.
- **PhonePe** will create the world's biggest ATM network in India by the end of 2020.
- Ekana International Stadium is located in **Uttar Pradesh.**

- Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) will lend 3 billion to Andhra Pradesh for development projects.
- NABARD has estimated the credit potential of Rs 34,421 Crore for **Chhattisgarh**.
- **Madhya Pradesh** government has planned the usage of drones for mapping villages.
- Duleep trophy is related to **Cricket**.
- **K Chandrasekhar Rao** will inaugurate a 11-km stretch of elevated Hyderabad Metro Rail.
- LinkedIn chief executive **Jeff Weiner** has been stepped down from the position after 11 years of service.
- Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray has presented an award to **Dinkar Keshav Raikar** for his contribution to journalism.
- **NS Dharmashaktu** has been awarded the International Gandhi Award for Leprosy for the year 2019.
- **Manoj Das** is all set to receive the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award.
- **IIM-Bengaluru** has ranked the third in the global list of Top Business Schools of 2020 by MOOCLab.
- DefExpo 2020 has adopted the **Lucknow Declaration** at the India-Africa Defence Conclave at the event.
- NASA astronaut **Christina Koch** has returned to Earth after record-setting stay in space for 328 days.
- The government and **Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI)** have joined hands to launch the India-Central Asia business council.
- Raju Bharatan, who passed away recently, was a **Historian**.
- Government has launched **National Clean Air Programme (NCAP)** to tackle the air pollution throughout the country.
- **CN Ramachandran Nair** has been appointed by the Supreme Court to prepare inventory of ornaments at Sabarimala temple.
- **USA** is stated to be India's preferred trade partner in a journey to become a \$5 trillion economy by 2024.
- LIC new business premium has crossed the **1.5 lakh crore** mark for the first time to improve its market share.
- Income tax department has launched **E-calculator** to compare the tax under new versus old regime.
- RBI will conduct the first repo operation on February 17 for **25000**.
- The NPCI has given a nod to launch **WhatsApp** payments platform in India.
- **Rajasthan** will create a separate identity card for transgender community.
- **J&K** has announced a horticulture policy to tackle marketing challenges and increase production manifold.
- **Bhutan** is not a nominated member in the India-Central Asia business council.
- **K Chandrasekhara Rao** has inaugurated the ubilee Bus Station (JBS) - Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) corridor -II of Hyderabad Metro Rail.
- **Ayushi Poddar** has won the women's 50 metres Rifle 3 Positions at the National Trials for Rifle and Pistol in Thiruvananthapuram.

- The Energy department has sanctioned a letter of credit (LoC) worth **740 crore** to central generating stations and other generators.
- Emami has inked a pact with **Nuvoco Vistas Corporation Ltd.** to sell cement biz for Rs 5,500 Crore.
- UP government has signed 23 MoUs worth **50000 Cr** during DefExpo 2020.
- Karen Pierce has been appointed by **Britain** as the next ambassador to U.S.
- The EY World Entrepreneur of the Year award ceremony will be held in **Monte Carlo**.
- Tidjane Thiam has resigned as the CEO of **Credit Suisse**.
- **IIT Madras** has joined hands with AIIMS Mangalagiri for quality healthcare delivery & patient safety.
- Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) BDL has introduced a new missile named **Amogha III** at the DefExpo-2020, Lucknow.
- **Chandrakant Mali** has created 3 records in the men's 109kg title victory at the National Championships in Kolkata.
- The National securities depository limited is located in **Mumbai**.
- The first World Pulses Day was observed on **February 10**.
- P Parameswaran who passed away recently was a member of **Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS)**.
- On the occasion of National Deworming Day, Children and adolescents will receive a single dose of **Albendazole**.
- The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Campaign is a **18** day long campaign being organized to boost the idea of cultural connection between different regions.
- Mettur Thermal Power station is located in **Tamil Nadu**.
- **Iran** 's satellite has failed to be put into orbit soon after its launch.
- The 5th Dhaka Art Summit has featured a special exhibition to highlight the life of **Sheikh Mujibur Rahman**.
- RBI has mooted the proposal of setting up **Customer protection agency** for the purpose of protection of the digital payments sector.
- **Amazon** will set up two data centres in Telangana with USD 1.6 billion investment.
- CM Jagan Mohan Reddy has opened Andhra Pradesh's first Disha police station in **Rajamahendravaram**.
- The Kerala government has planned to setup **1000** Kudumbashree hotels to serve meals at Rs 25.
- **Haryana** has launched the Rs 1500 crore Mukhyamantri Parivartan Yojna.
- The Federation of Small Scale Industries (FSSI) FSSI will organize a Mega industrial exhibition in **Vadodara** from February 15 to showcase more than 300 stalls.
- The government of **UP** seeks to launch an internship scheme for school college students.
- **Jashpur** has been declared as the first tobacco-free town.
- The government of **Chhattisgarh** seeks to impose permanent ban on hookah bars.
- The Hornbill festival which aims to raise awareness for bird conservation is being held in **Tripura**.
- **Kaamya Karthikeyan** has become the youngest girl in the World to Climb South America's Highest Peak.

- African Union 2020 Summit has commenced in **Addis Ababa** to achieve the aspirations of Africa's agenda 2063.
- **Major Anoop Mishra** has been credited with the development of the world's first bullet proof helmet.
- **DRDO** has inked a deal with Russian company for missile propulsion systems.
- **Bangladesh** has won their maiden Under-19 World Cup Cricket title by defeating India.
- Haryana has thrashed **Sports Authority of India (SAI)** to win the 10th Hockey Senior Women National C'ship.
- **Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre Red** has won the 1st Khelo India Ice Hockey tournament.
- Padma Shri awardee Giriraj Kishore was associated with **Hindi novelist**.
- Sankar Sen who passed away at the age of 92 was a former power minister of **West Bengal**.
- Theme of the 23rd annual National Conference on e-Governance - **India 2020: Digital Transformation**.
- The Vansda National Park is located in **Gujarat**.
- **FSDC - Financial Stability & Development Council**.
- Zafar is the satellite recently launched by **Iran**.
- Mukhyamantri Vyapari Samuhik Niji Durghatna Beema Yojana has been launched by **Haryana**.
- Blockchain Sandbox has been launched for **Maharashtra** during the 23rd edition of the annual National Conference on e-Governance.
- The distributed ledger platform is based on **BlockChain**.
- The Disha Act envisages completion of investigation of heinous sexual assaults on women and children in **21** days.
- Robert Conrad who passed away recently was a famous **TV actor**.
- The 23rd Edition of the National Conference on e-Governance was inaugurated in **Mumbai**.
- The Central government has issued advisory to States/ UTs to implement a vehicle registration system under **Central Motor Vehicle Act 1988**.
- The President of **USA** visited to India on February 24-25.
- The First 'Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival' will be held in Mumbai from **February 15**.
- The US has proposed **1.5** billion dollars for the Indo-Pacific to ensure the region remains 'free and open'.
- The incremental loans would get the CRR exemption for **5 years**.
- The GST collection for the last 3-months amounted to over **1** lakh crore each month.
- Realme PaySa partnered with NPCI and **HDFC Bank** to conduct UPI hackathon.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has flagged Off the 1st Helicopter Service under the UDAN scheme in **Uttarakhand**.
- Tamil Nadu government has decided to declare **Cauvery Delta Region** as protected special agricultural zone.
- The governor of **J&K** will head the reconstituted Science Technology and Innovation Council.
- India's largest air quality monitoring network has come up in **Mumbai**.

- The members of **Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, and Nepal (BBIN)** deliberated upon proposed MoU for implementation of Motor Vehicles Agreement.
- The AP government has signed MoUs with **11** institutions to bring reforms in the agriculture sector.
- A Surya Prakash was the former chairman of **Prasar Bharati**.
- **Anjani Rathor** has been appointed as the Chief digital officer of HDFC Bank.
- **Pullela Gopichand** has received the International Olympics Committee's Coaches lifetime achievement awards.
- **Joaquin Phoenix** has won the award for best actor at the Oscar Awards 2020.
- **David Warner** has become the Australian cricket player of the year by beating Steve Smith.
- **South Indian Bank** has bagged 6 awards at the Banking Technology Awards 2020.
- The National Water Conference will be held in **Bhopal** to solve the water crisis.
- The Fourth International Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation will be held in **Chennai**.
- **Atlas 5** has been launched from Cape Canaveral, boosting the European space agency's grip towards a multi-year voyage around the sun.
- The gunshot locator device **Parth** developed by the Army College of Military engineering.
- The exercise **Ajeya Warrior** conducted between India-UK at Salisbury Plains.
- **USA** has approved the sale of Integrated Air Defense Weapon Systems to India.
- **Venkaiah Naidu** has unveiled the book titled 'A Child of Destiny: An Autobiography' by Prof. Ramakrishna Rao.
- **Renee Zellweger** has won the best actress award at the 92nd Academy Awards in California, United States.
- Iran introduced a ballistic missile **Raad-500** amidst heightened tensions with the US.
- The International Day of Women and Girls in Science is observed every year on **February 11**.
- Nandu Kulkarni, who passed away recently, was a famous **Journalist**.
- **Sanjay Vatsayan** has been taken over as the new Eastern fleet commander deployed across the Indo-Pacific region.
- **Haryana** has launched the 'Reading Mission' to promote reading habits among students.
- India celebrates the National Productivity Day every year on **February 12**.
- Loans amounting **4.78** lakh crore have been extended to women borrowers under PMMY till 31 Jan 2020.
- **Covid** disease caused by new coronavirus as per the WHO.
- Lalremsiami is a famous player of **Hockey**.
- Reserve Bank has proposed a new umbrella entity for managing **Retail Payments system**.
- Facebook has launched **We think Digital** program to provide digital literacy to women across seven states.
- **Karnataka Vikas Grameena Bank** has launched a programme to boost entrepreneurship at polytechnics.
- World Unani Day is observed every year on **February 11**.
- Under the TIDE scheme, the MeitY has granted Rs.44 lakh to 8 startups based in **Warangal**.

- **Bhupesh Baghel** has inaugurated the 28th district of Chhattisgarh comprising 222 villages.
- The government of **Uttar Pradesh** has launched toll free helpline numbers for students to solve queries ahead of board exams.
- **Infosys** is all set to acquire the US-based Simplus to step up its cloud business.
- **Arvind Kejriwal** will take oath as the Chief Minister of Delhi on February 16 at Ramlila Maidan.
- **Bimal Kumar Jha** has assumed charge as the New Deputy Chairman for VO Chidambaranar Port Trust.
- **Kerala** is all set to host a global meet on climate change and ocean health.
- **India** will host the COP13 UN Summit on conservation of migratory birds.
- India ranked **17th** at the risk of coronavirus import.
- Indian DRDO has developed **Pranash**, a new 200km strike range ballistic missile that would be armed with conventional warheads.
- The Army has received banned anti-aircraft ammunition worth **39 Crore** from the OFB in August 2015.
- **KK Khandelwal** has authored the book titled A Commentary and Digest on The Air, Act 1981 released by Manohar Lal Khattar.
- **Gulmarg** is all set to host five day National Winter Games from March 7.
- **Lalremsiami** has been named as the 2019 FIH Women's Rising Star of Year.
- The mascot for CMS COP13 is **Gibi** to be held in India.
- **Tamil Nadu** is the top loan borrower under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.
- **300 crore** is the minimum net worth that has to be maintained by the New Umbrella entity at all the time.
- Theme of CMS COP 13 - **Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home.**
- **Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi** has become the 28th district of Chhattisgarh after being carved out of Bilaspur.
- World Unani day commemorates the birth anniversary of **Hakim Ajmal Khan**.
- **Vidya Pillai** has won the women's title at the National Snooker Championship.
- The World Radio Day is observed annually on **February 13**.
- **Carl H June** has bagged the Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the Pesticide Management Bill 2020 recently. It will replace **Insecticide Act, 1968**.
- **Amit Shah** will inaugurate the Conference on Combating Drug Trafficking for BIMSTEC partner nations.
- Arbitration and Conciliation Act 1996 was amended to make the arbitration process user friendly. The Amendment act of **2015** was introduced and will result in the establishment of the Arbitration Council of India.
- National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) NHAI has decided to waive off FASTag cost of Rs. **100** between 15-29 Feb.
- **Dr Jitendra Singh** has launched the Centralized Public Grievance Redress And Monitoring System, CPGRAMS Reforms CPGRAMS Reforms at National Workshop on e-office in New Delhi.
- India assisted to build a New educational institution for the economically weaker section in **Nepal**.

- National Association of Software and Services Companies (Nasscom) has projected the Indian IT sector to grow 7.7 percent in FY20 to reach \$191 billion.
- The Government has approved 2500 Crore capital infusion for three state-owned general insurers – Oriental Insurance Company Ltd (OICL), National Insurance Company Ltd (NICL) and United India Insurance Company Ltd (UIICL).
- IRCTC is all set to launch Kashi Mahakal Express train on February 16. It will operate between **Varanasi and Indore**.
- **Star Health and Allied Insurance Company** has launched the outpatient care policy covering consultation, tests and medical bills.
- **Edappadi K. Palaniswamy** has inaugurated the Salem Cricket Foundation (SCF) SCF cricket ground near Salem.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has drawn rules to regulate groundwater usage and fixed fines for violations.
- Delhi's new museum is being set up by the ASI at **Qila Rai Pithora**, considered to be one of the first historical cities.
- **Piyush Goyal** will inaugurate the 1st phase of East – West Metro in Kolkata.
- **J&K** has launched a Financial Inclusion Outreach Campaign with a special focus on extending banking services to the unbanked area.
- Darwin Day is celebrated every year on **February 12**.
- The singing of the national anthem has been made mandatory in all colleges of **Maharashtra** from February 19.
- Competition Commission of India (CCI) has cleared a joint venture between Ford and **Mahindra & Mahindra**.
- **Adani Transmission** has sold its 25.1 percent stake in arm AEML to Qatar Investment Authority (QIA) for Rs 3,220 cr.
- **Atul Kumar Gupta** has been appointed as the new Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) ICAI President.
- The 2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise has been organized in **Odisha**.
- **Ananth Technologies** has become the first Indian private firm to build foreign-owned satellites.
- National Women's Day is observed annually on **February 13**.
- President Ram Nath Kovind has presented the President's Colour, the highest military honour, to **INS Shivaji**.
- The Organic Food Festival for women entrepreneurs will be held in **New Delhi**.
- Wendell Rodricks, who passed away recently, was a famous **Fashion Designer**.
- India along with **Sri Lanka** will carry out the joint hydrographic survey.
- The National Women's day is celebrated in remembrance of **Sarojini Naidu**.
- **Rishi Sunak** has been appointed as the new Finance minister of UK.
- The Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra in New Delhi has been renamed after **Sushma Swaraj**.
- **Captain Sushil Singh** has received the President's Colour on behalf of the Indian Naval Academy.
- PM Modi is all set to hold delegation level talks with the Prime Minister of **Portugal** in New Delhi.
- The government of **Manipur** has launched the 260 crore 'Anganphou Hunba' programme.
- **BCAS** has banned E-Cigarettes on all Airports and Aircrafts across India.

- Thai Princess **Maha Chakri Sirindhorn** has recently visited the Indian Military Academy to strengthen defence cooperation between the two countries.
- India and Thailand conducted a joint military exercise in **Meghalaya** as part of 'Maitree 2019'.
- **15th Finance Commission** has formed a 5-member panel on defence and internal security.
- **Allahabad Bank** has recently cut the MCLR by 0.05% across tenors with effective from February 14.
- RBI will mop up **2.25 Lakh Crore** via reverse repo auction under its revised liquidity management framework.
- **Wendell Rodricks** was also known as the Guru of Minimalism.
- Economist Intelligence Unit EIU has lowered the global growth forecast for 2020 to **2.2%** from 2.3%.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has inked an MoU with e-Gov Foundation to implement the municipal financial accounting platform.
- **Puducherry** has passed the Resolution against Citizenship Amendment Act.
- The Anganphou Hunba scheme has been launched recently by Manipur for **Providing Irrigation facilities**.
- **Robin Singh** has been appointed as UAE's Director of Cricket.
- **Ajay Patel** has been appointed as the new president of All-India Chess Federation (AICF).
- **Alok Sharma** will lead the UN climate talks to be hosted by Britain in November 2020.
- The 43rd Session of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) IFAD Governing Council was held in **Rome**.
- The Achieving of SDG goals is likely to be delayed from 2030 to **2040**.
- Theme of the Organic Food festival for women entrepreneurs - **Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential**.
- **OneWeb** has launched a total of 34 satellites into orbit recently.
- **DIGIT Financial Accounting System** will empower the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) to strengthen the financial autonomy and financial sustainability of ULBs.
- The government has set up teams to examine villages bordering **Nepal** for novel coronavirus infection.
- **Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh** will soon be covered by the Central Administrative Tribunal.
- **Jamia Hamdard University** is organizing the 7th International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology.
- **South Central** Indian Railways zone has become the 1st in India to have energy-neutral stations.
- India and **Norway** have signed an agreement to strengthen bilateral cooperation to contain marine pollution.
- The government will roll out the Simplified tax compliance regime by **April 1**.
- Moody's has lowered India's economic growth rate for 2020 by **120** basis points.
- The SEBI committee on municipal bonds development will be headed by **Sujit Prasad**.
- **IRDAI** will set up a common electronic platform to settle health insurance claims.
- 'Pyaar ka Paudha' campaign has been launched by **Bihar** to encourage the practice of planting trees.

- Nitin Gadkari has Inaugurated the First Inter-City Electric Bus Service in **Maharashtra**.
- **NIT, Trichy** has developed a mobile app for Self Help Group products.
- **Gandhinagar** railway station will soon have the first 5-star hotel above railway tracks.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** will form a panel for Stilwell Road Development to prioritize the restoration of roads.
- **Trivendra Singh Rawat** has inaugurated the web portal of Badrinath-Kedarnath Mandir Samiti.
- Manipur is celebrating the seed sowing festival **Lui-Ngai-Ni** under the theme 'Oneness through culture' at Ukhrul.
- Gujarat Tourism has signed a MoU with **ITDC** to develop light, sound shows at major tourist places.
- **Vinay Dube** has been appointed as the CEO of GoAir.
- **Narendra Modi** has inaugurated the 'Kashi Ek Roop Anek' exhibition in Varanasi.
- **Laxman Savadi** has been elected as the Deputy Chief Minister of Karnataka.
- **Gita Sen** has won the Dan David Prize for her work in population policies and reproductive health.
- **Dr Sohini Sastri** has won the Best Astrologer of the Year at Indian Achievers Award ceremony.
- **New Delhi** will host the All India Conference of Central Administrative Tribunal 2020.
- **Ritu Trivedi** has been conferred with the prestigious Tata Innovation Fellowship for the year 2019-2020.
- The fifth edition of the Difficult Dialogues 2020 will be held in **Goa**.
- The 3-day International Congress of the Society for Ethnopharmacology will be held in **New Delhi**.
- **Radhakishan Damani** has been named as the second richest man in India by Forbes.
- **US** has become the world's largest defence spender as per IISS data.
- A mock Anti-hijack drill was conducted in **Visakhapatnam** involving the action of agencies including MARCOS, CISF, AAI and state government agencies.
- India has finished with **3** medals in the World SnowShoe Championship at Myoko, Japan.
- **Vidit Gujrathi** leads the standings in the Masters category of Prague Chess Festival after sharing a point with Swedish GM Nils Grandelius.
- **Manchester City** has been banned from European competition for two seasons by UEFA.
- **Thirumathikart** app developed by NIT Trichy, Tamil Nadu to empower women and help them access market opportunities.
- Moody's has lowered India's GDP growth rate for 2020 to **5.4** percent from 5.8 percent.
- Sonam Sherpa who passed away recently was a famous **Guitarist**.
- **Haryana** will give cash prizes to promote sports in the state and encourage youth to excel in sports.
- **Leela Group** will run the 5-star facility coming up at the Gandhinagar railway station.
- **Rajiv Bansal** has become the new Chairman and Managing Director CMD of Air India.
- The Dan David Foundation is headquartered at **Tel Aviv University**.
- Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, IDSA has been renamed after **Manohar Parrikar** to honour his commitment and legacy.

- The External Affairs Ministry has issued a travel advisory for Indians travelling to **Iraq** due to the prevailing security situation.
- The External Affairs Ministry will inaugurate Indian Pavilion at **Berlin** International Film Festival on Feb 20 in Germany.
- Uddhav Thackeray has approved the renaming of the Latur Medical College as **Vilasrao Deskmukh** Institute of Medical Sciences.
- The Ambala city bus stand has been renamed after **Sushma Swaraj**.
- The government of **Punjab** has launched the 'Appreciate and Commend' scheme to honour police officers.
- **Kerala** has launched a mobile app to combat drug menace in the State.
- **Uttar Pradesh** state government has announced two new youth-centric schemes to make the youth self-dependent.
- **Gully boy** film has won the Best Film award at the 65th Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020.
- 2020 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 26) will be held in **Glasgow, United Kingdom**.
- The J&K Global Investors Summit-2020 will be held in **Jammu**.
- **Hyderabad** is all set to host the 17th Edition of BioAsia 2020.
- 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety will be held in **Sweden**.
- ISRO will launch **10** number of earth imaging satellites during 2020-2021.
- The translated book titled "Chanakya Niti: Verses on Life and Living" has been published by **Penguin**.
- The Asian Wrestling Championship will be held in **New Delhi**.
- National Anti Doping Agency (NADA) has banned **Amit Dahiya** javelin thrower for four years for evading sample collection.
- The government of **Uttar Pradesh** has launched the 'One district, One product' scheme recently.
- **United by Emotion** is the new motto that has been recently released by the Tokyo 2020 organizing committee.
- **Haryana** has announced a reward of Rs 6 crore for gold medal winners of Tokyo Olympics 2020.
- The World Pangolin Day is observed annually on **February 15**.
- The 2nd National Javelin Throw Open Championship 2019 was held at SAI Centre in **Sonapat**.
- **Article 15 and Sonchiriya** film has won the Critics award for Best film.
- The 17th edition of Bio Asia 2020 is being held in Hyderabad and **Switzerland** is the partner country in the forum.
- **Saurav Ghoshal** has won the 77th Senior National Squash Championship title in the Men's category.
- Arvind Kejriwal been sworn in as the Chief Minister of Delhi for **3 times**.
- ISRO is all set to launch the first ever Geo Imaging Satellite **GISAT-1** along with 10 earth observatory surveillance satellites.
- Moody's has cut down India's growth forecast from 6.6% to **5.4** percent.
- Theme of the 3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety - **Achieving global goals 2030**.

- **Radakishan Damani** is the founder of D-Mart & has been named as India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani.
- Kerala CM has launched **Yodhavu** mobile app to combat drug menace.
- **Alok Sharma** has been promoted by Boris Johnson to the post of Secretary of State for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.
- CMAPS scheme recently launched by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to make youth self-dependent. CMAPS - **CM Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme**.
- **BVR Subrahmanyam** has chaired the 2nd Apex Committee to review preparations for the upcoming J&K Global Investors Summit 2020.
- The 65th Amazon Filmfare Awards 2020 was recently held in **Guwahati**.
- The Soil Health Card Day is observed on **February 19** to address the importance of maintaining soil nutrients and promote sustainable farming.
- Indian pharma & biotech industry is expected to grow to **100 billion dollars** by 2025.
- **KVL Pavani Kumari** has claimed a silver medal in both the youth girls and junior women section in the 45 kilogram category at the 2020 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships.
- **South Africa** is keen to establish direct air connectivity between Mumbai & its financial capital to tap tourists as well as investors.
- Harry Gregg, who passed away at the age of 87, was a former goalkeeper playing for **Manchester United** football club.
- The first Arab country **UAE** to issue a license for a reactor of nuclear power plant.
- The Government seeks to facilitate the doubling of milk processing capacity by **2025**.
- **SEBI** has recently decided to permit the use of regulatory sandbox for testing new products.
- Mickey Wright, who passed away at the age of 85, was a famous **Golfer**.
- **Uttar Pradesh** has become the first state to enforce the Performance Regulation Act for the power department.
- **IOC** has signed a MoU with the Karnataka Government to invest Rs 500 crore.
- The National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT) has given approval to **JSW Steel** to acquire Bhushan Power & Steel recently.
- **Barry O'Farrell** has been appointed by Australia as the new high commissioner to India.
- Mickey Wright was a famous golfer. She belonged to **US**.
- The Election Commission of Afghanistan has announced that **Ashraf Ghani** has become the next President of the country.
- **Sachin Tendulkar** has won the Laureus Sporting Moment Award for ICC World Cup 2011 victory lap.
- Asian Wrestling Championship 2020 being organized by **India**.
- India has become world's **5th** largest economy after overtaking the UK, France in 2019.
- Hindi has achieved **3rd** rank amongst the most spoken languages in the world with 615 million speakers.
- CDS Gen Bipin Rawat has announced a plan to create **Peninsula** Command along with the Navy's Eastern and Western Command under it.

- **Sanjay Agarwal** has inaugurated the 4th National Conference on Review of Implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- CDS General Bipin Rawat has stated that India will set up to **5** theater commands by next year.
- M S Mani, who passed away recently, was related to **Journalism**.
- The FIFA U-17 Women's Football World Cup will be hosted across **5** cities in India in the month of November.
- **USD 2170** is India's GDP per capita in comparison to the \$62,794 of the United States.
- **Sunil Kumar** has won gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships in the 87 kg category.
- **All India Football Federation** has received the 'Grassroots Charter Bronze Level' membership of Asian Football Confederation.
- **5** silver medals have claimed by India at the 2020 Asian Youth and Junior Weightlifting Championships.
- Tapas Pal, who passed away recently, was a Bengali actor and a member of **Trinamool Congress**.
- **Bangladesh** has signed a Free Trade Agreement with Nepal to enhance trade between the two countries.
- The Union Government has set a target to achieve **50%** Gross Enrollment Ratio in higher education by 2030.
- **Microsoft** is all set to set up an engineering and innovation hub in Noida, the third such facility in India.
- **Laureus World Sports Awards** is dubbed as the 'Oscars of Sport'.
- India's milk production has been grown by **6.4** percent during the last five years and increased to over 187 million tonnes in 2018-19.
- **Ethnologue** has launched the database on the most spoken languages in the world based on the data of living languages.
- The Delhi Police has teamed up with **Uber** to launch the Himmat Plus app at IGI airport.
- The 2020 Asian Youth Junior Weightlifting Championship is being held in **Uzbekistan**.
- The World Day of Social Justice is observed annually on **February 20** to promote gender equality and rights of migrants.
- **Bimal Julka** has been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner by a three member panel of the Government.
- The Northeast Frontier railway construction organization has built India's tallest pier bridge in **Manipur**.
- The Union government has approved the second phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission Gramin. The Mission has been extended till **2024-2025**.
- The Government has launched **Tilhan** mission to make the country self-reliant in oilseed production.
- **Nepal** has recently celebrated its 70th National Democracy Day.
- The Seminar on Indian Defence Equipment that would provide defence manufacturers a chance to showcase various technologies will be held in **Dhaka**.
- The Special Economic Zones continue to take the lead in expanding the exports. Currently **241** number of SEZs are operational in the country.

- The Gujarat government has partnered with **State Bank of India** to facilitate loans to entrepreneurs in the MSME Sector.
- Lendingkart has partnered with NBFC company **Northern Arc Capital** to disburse loans over Rs 100 crore as working capital to MSMEs.
- **YS Jagan Mohan Reddy** has launched the Nadu-Nedu scheme in hospital to upgrade the quality of medical treatments to patients.
- The Researchers of the Indian Atomic Energy Commission have found lithium reserves near **Bengaluru**.
- **Uttarakhand** government will organize a wellness summit to promote investment opportunities and develop the state.
- **Sanjay Kothari** has been appointed as the next CVC by the Prime Minister-led panel.
- **Supratim Bandyopadhyay** has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA).
- **Mahant Nriya Gopal Das** has been elected as the President of Ram Mandir Trust to oversee the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.
- **Ratan Tata** has been conferred with an honorary doctorate by the University of Manchester for his contribution to innovation and philanthropy.
- **Kiran Mazumdar Shaw** has won the EY's 'Entrepreneur of the Year' award 2019 held in Monte Carlo.
- India will switch to **Euro VI** grade of petrol and diesel from April 1 with the aim to cut down on vehicular pollution.
- **Pakistan** has tested the Ra'ad II Nuclear-Capable Air-Launched Cruise Missile.
- The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) has been ranked at **16** position among the top 100 universities of emerging economies.
- India has achieved **35th** rank in the Worldwide Education for the Future Index 2019.
- **CSIR** has topped in the Nature Ranking Index 2020.
- GRSE has delivered the 4th Anti-Submarine Warfare Corvette **INS Kavaratti** to the Indian Navy and the ship is the 104th Warship delivered by GRSE.
- **United Kingdom** has announced a new points-based visa system with the aim to attract the best from various parts of the world.
- India has signed a defence deal with **Russia** to supply an air defence system and the production of rifles & helicopters.
- **India** is all set to host the AFC Women's Asian Cup in 2022.
- India has won **5** bronze medals in the Greco-Roman event of Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi.
- Kishori Ballal, who passed away recently, was a famous actor and acted in over 75 movies across different languages. She belonged to **Karnataka**.
- The government has decided to create **10,000** Farmers Producer Organization across the country.
- India will soon switch to Euro-VI emission compliant fuel to cut on harmful vehicular emissions. India's variant of Euro-VI, i.e BS-VI has a sulphur content of **10** ppm with standards as good as CNG.
- The Telangana government will spend **11737** crore for the implementation of Nadu-Nedu in hospitals scheme in the next three years.

- **India** has extended a line of credit to enhance the capacity of Mongla Port in Bangladesh.
- The Union Cabinet has approved the constitution of the 22nd Law Commission of India. The tenure of the twenty-first Law commission end on **August 2018**.
- **China** has more universities in the list of top 100 universities of Times Higher Education Rankings 2020.
- **NABARD** has sanctioned Rs 1,931 crore for the completion of Chintalapudi Lift Irrigation scheme in West Godavari and Krishna Districts.
- **The Economist Intelligence Unit** publishes the Worldwide Educating for the Future Index 2019.
- Theme of the World Day of Social Justice 2020 - **Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice**.
- The Government has decided to set up the Central Consumer Protection Authority by the first week of April. The authority will set up under **Consumer Protection Act 2019**.
- The Union Government has planned to stop the import of coal from **2023-2024**.
- The Central government has released **Rs. 19950 Crore** as GST compensation to states taking the total of over Rs.1.20 lakh crore towards GST compensation.
- 21st February marks the fourth anniversary of **Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission** by the government.
- Under the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM), the government plans to develop **300** rurban clusters in a time bound manner.
- **Venkaiah Naidu** will inaugurate the four-day Indian Students' Parliament to be held in New Delhi.
- The Central Pollution Board (CPCB) has identified **60** pollution river stretches based on Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) in northeastern states.
- According to the CPCB, 60% of the country's sewage is released into the streams and rivers untreated. India get **120** rank on the Water Quality Index.
- **Sri Lanka** has formally announced its decision to withdraw from the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) resolution co-sponsored in 2015.
- A two day meeting of defence and security experts of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was held in **Islamabad**.
- **Kotak Mahindra Bank** has recently got approval from the Reserve Bank of India regarding the dilution of promoter's shareholding in the bank.
- According to the World Bank, India needs to invest **USD 109 billion** to halve its road accident fatalities in the next decade.
- The eight edition of Ganga Kayak Festival was organized in **Uttarakhand**.
- The governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have decided to observe Jayalalithaa's birth anniversary as **State Women Children Protection Day**.
- **Tamil Nadu** government has announced a 50% subsidy for Ulemas to buy two-wheelers and has doubled their pension to Rs. 3000 from present Rs. 1500.
- The Uttar Pradesh government has allowed **Rs. 2000 Crore** for the development of Jewar airport in Gautam Budh Nagar.
- **Haryana** has decided to open Atal Kisan - Majdoor canteens to provide meals at a concessional rate.

- The two day first ever Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav Tourism festival is being organized in **Tripura**.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** attained statehood on February 20, 1987 and is celebrating its 34th Statehood Day.
- EESL has inked a pact with **BSNL** for installing 1,000 EV charging stations across the country.
- International Mother Language Day celebrated annually on February 21. Theme - **Languages without borders**.
- **Niti Aayog** has organized the Sustainable Development Goals Conclave 2020 in Guwahati, Assam.
- Central Excise Day is celebrated every year on **February 24** to commemorate the enactment of the Central Excise Day and Salt Act, 1944.
- The Central Government has released over **Rs.50000 Crore** to the farmers under the PM-KISAN.
- **Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises** has launched the national level awareness programme to spread awareness related to KVIC, NSIC & Mahatma Gandhi Institute of Rural Industrialization.
- The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to retain **Pakistan** in the Grey list.
- India has signed an MoU for up-gradation of infrastructure in plantation schools for estate workers with **Sri Lanka**.
- Bangladesh has observed Language Martyrs' Day known as **Amar Ekushey**, paying tribute to martyrs of the language movement.
- Egypt will host 'India by the Nile' fest in March, 2020 and will be organized by **Teamwork Arts**.
- According to the data provided by the Commerce Ministry, **US** has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner.
- Ashok Chatterjee, who passed away recently, was associated with **Football**.
- Free platform tickets for 30 squats are now available at **Anand Vihar** railway station.
- The National Council of Applied Economic Research has pegged India's GDP growth at **4.9** percent in 2019-20.
- **Microsoft** has collaborated with SBI Foundation to upskill youth with disabilities for BFSI jobs.
- SBI Card has tied up with **Landmark Group** to launch retail co-branded credit cards across three variants.
- **Axis Bank** is set to explore long-term partnership with Max Life Insurance allowing it to explore a long term partnership with the insurer.
- Uttar Pradesh's Prayagraj has decided to rename **4** number of railway stations with the aim to revive the identity of the ancient city.
- The World famous Goa carnival that displays Goan art and culture will begin in **Panaji**.
- **Chhattisgarh** has organized 'Krishi Maha-Kumbh' to cater to future farming practices.
- The Department of Telecom (DoT) has approved the merger of **Indus Towers** with Bharti Airtel.
- The Indian Railways has upgraded Online Chatbot 'ASKDISHA' to converse with Railway customers in **Hindi**.
- The Indian Railways has launched **HRMS** for employees to see data related to their service and communicates with the administration.
- The RBI has approved the appointment of **Sunil Gurbaxani** as the next MD and CEO of Dhanlaxmi Bank.

- **Rajalaxmi Deo** has been re-elected as the President of the Rowing Federation of India.
- **Amarjeet Sinha** has recently been appointed as an advisor to Prime minister Narendra Modi on a contractual basis for two years.
- **Manoj Kumar** has been felicitated by the London's World Book of Records for contribution to Indian cinema.
- BRICS CCI has announced Direct Tax Summit & Awards 2020 in association with **Achromic Point** to identify issues in the field of International Tax.
- **RailMadad** portal of the Indian Railways has been awarded the silver under category II of the National e-Governance awards.
- **Curt Bergfors Foundation** has created two USD 1 million prizes known as the 'New Food Planet Prize' to bring in solutions towards sustainable food systems.
- Prime Minister Modi and US President Trump addressed the audience at the Namaste Trump event held in **Motera**.
- Organic Food Festival being organized by the Ministry of Food Processing and Ministry of Women and Child development. Theme - **Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential**.
- The Conference of Indian Forest Service Officer meet is being held in **Bhopal**.
- The National Museum is hosting the 'Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience' exhibition to demonstrate food habits of **Harappan**.
- **Rajnath Singh** has laid the foundation stone of the new Army headquarters building in New Delhi.
- Indian men's pair **Achanta Sharath Kamal & Gnanasekaran Sathiyan** have won the silver medal at the ITTF World Tour Hungarian Open.
- The World Thinking Day is celebrated by around the world on **February 22**.
- **D Gukesh** has won the 34th Cannes Open Championship in France defeating Harutyun Barseghyan.
- PM Narendra Modi declared the first-ever Khelo India University Games open at **Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium** in Odisha.
- Dr Harsh Vardhan has inaugurated the New Institutional Campus of National Institute of Public Health Training & Research (NIPHTR) in **Navi Mumbai**.
- Krishna Bose, who passed away recently due to age related ailments, belonged to **TMC** political party.
- The government has planned to construct **1000** more urbanized clusters in rural areas to stimulate economic development.
- The Union Government has planned to make **Chattisgarh** as the Steel hub of the country.
- **G Kishan Reddy** has inaugurated the National Cyber Research Centre Innovation and Capacity Building Centre at Central Detective Training Institute (CDTI) campus in Ramanthapur.
- As per the latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Survey (MICS) 2019 conducted by UNICEF, **Bangladesh** has declined sharply in child malnutrition rates over the last six years.
- **Nabard** has sanctioned a sum of Rs 400 crores to boost infrastructure in the Union territory of Jammu & Kashmir.
- **Central Bank of India** has decided to sell its entire 64.40 per cent stake in its housing finance subsidiary – CBHFL.

- NPCI has launched the 'UPI Chalega' campaign to promote the easy, safe and instant mode of payment.
- The Bank of America expects the RBI to build \$ 550 billion of forex reserves and believes that the central bank will continue to accumulate dollars at every opportunity.
- **Andhra Pradesh** has launched the 'Jagananna Vasthi Devena' scheme to provide financial 'assistance to students.
- **Mumbai's** airport has launched the World's Largest Temp-Controlled Facility to Store Agro, Pharma Products.
- A Tribal Research Institute will be set up in **Jammu & Kashmir** to promote tribal practices, art & culture.
- **Abhay Kumar Singh** has been appointed as the new Chairman & Managing Director of NHPC.
- **Niti Kumar** has won the 'SERB Women Excellence Award' 2020 recently.
- **Adline Castelino** has been crowned as the winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020.
- **Hrithik Roshan** has bagged the 'Best Actor award' at Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival.
- The two-day International Judicial Conference 2020 will be held in **New Delhi**.
- The G20 finance ministers and Central bank governors' meeting will be held in **Saudi Arabia**.
- The government has launched **SPICe+** service replacing the existing SPICe form to improve the ease of doing business.

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MODEL QUESTIONS

1. What is the theme of the 'World Radio Day, 2020', observed on February 13?
 (1) Radio and Diversity (2) Radio and Multilingualism (3) Radio across World
 (4) Connecting through Air (5) None of these
2. The Union Cabinet of India recently approved amendments to bring which category of banks under the regulation of Reserve Bank of India?
 (1) Multi-state cooperative banks (2) Land Development Banks (3) Nidhi companies
 (4) Primary agricultural societies (5) None of these
3. What is the projected growth rate of India, during the next financial year 2020-21, as per the recent Monetary policy of RBI?
 (1) 5% (2) 5.5% (3) 6% (4) 6.5% (5) None of these
4. Which organization is set to release Digital Payments Index (DPI), which will assess the digitalization of payments in the country?
 (1) NITI Aayog
 (2) National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)
 (3) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
 (4) National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)
 (5) None of these
5. What is the maximum insurance provided for bank deposits, as per the latest Union budget 20-21?
 (1) Rs. 1 Lakh (2) Rs. 2 Lakh (3) Rs. 2.5 Lakh (4) Rs. 5 Lakh (5) None of these

6. What is the capital package recently approved for infusion in three state-owned general insurance companies?
 (1) Rs.1000 Cr (2) Rs.2500 Cr (3) Rs.3000 Cr (4) Rs.5000 Cr (5) None of these
7. As of 2020, what is the Foreign Direct investment (FDI) limit, allowed in insurance intermediaries?
 (1) 0% (2) 26% (3) 49% (4) 100% (5) None of these
8. Recently, the Supreme Court of India upheld the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act. When was the original act of 1989 amended?
 (1) 2016 (2) 2017 (3) 2018 (4) 2019 (5) None of these
9. ERO NET, which was in news recently, is a portal of which autonomous organization of India?
 (1) All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)
 (2) Election Commission of India (ECI)
 (3) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
 (4) Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)
 (5) None of these
10. Which state bagged the award for 'Best performance in Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana', recently presented by the Union Minister of Women & Child Development?
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Karnataka
 (4) Gujarat (5) None of these
11. The Hubballi to Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) project was recently inaugurated in which state?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Maharashtra (3) Madhya Pradesh
 (4) Telangana (5) None of these
12. Which state has recently launched an initiative to establish hotels to provide meals at subsidised price called 'Kudumbashree' hotels?
 (1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Telangana (3) Kerala
 (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
13. Which state recently launched "Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana", which provides an annual assistance of Rs 6000 to the needy families?
 (1) Odisha (2) Haryana (3) MP (4) Punjab (5) None of these
14. 'Pyaar ka Paudha' (a plant of love), is a campaign of which state, for promoting planting of trees?
 (1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Arunachal Pradesh (3) Sikkim
 (4) Bihar (5) None of these
15. The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is to be set up in which Indian state?
 (1) Maharashtra (2) Gujarat (3) Tamil Nadu (4) Kerala (5) None of these
16. 'Kambala', which was in news recently, is a traditional sport of which state?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Kerala
 (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
17. Which state commenced operations of India's first Inter-City Electric Bus service?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Maharashtra (3) Odisha (4) Telangana (5) None of these
18. 'Yodhavu' (Warrior), a mobile application for curbing drug menace, is an initiative of which state?
 (1) Karnataka (2) Kerala (3) Andhra Pradesh
 (4) Telangana (5) None of these

19. The first Bird-ringing station of the country with support of a state government, is to be built in which state/ UT?
 (1) Arunachal Pradesh (2) Bihar (3) Jharkhand
 (4) Odisha (5) None of these
20. Which state government has recently launched a scheme named 'Nadu-Nedu', for modernizing hospitals?
 (1) Telangana (2) Andhra Pradesh (3) Karnataka
 (4) Tamil Nadu (5) None of these
21. Project Tej, which was in news recently, was launched by which Indian state?
 (1) Andhra Pradesh (2) Odisha (3) Telangana
 (4) Uttar Pradesh (5) None of these
22. In which year, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were granted Indian statehood?
 (1) 1972 (2) 1977 (3) 1982 (4) 1987 (5) None of these
23. Which state Government has ordered destruction of breeding centres of Thai Mangur fish?
 (1) Odisha (2) West Bengal (3) Assam (4) Maharashtra (5) None of these
24. Atal Kisan - Majdoor canteens' scheme is associated with which state?
 (1) Uttar Pradesh (2) Haryana (3) Uttarakhand
 (4) Madhya Pradesh (5) None of these
25. In which city, India's Central Vista project, that was recently in news, is coming up?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Mumbai (3) Hyderabad (4) Bengaluru (5) None of these
26. How many major ports of India are named after individuals?
 (1) Two (2) Three (3) Four (4) Five (5) None of these
27. Where is the Headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) located?
 (1) New York (2) Geneva (3) Rome (4) Nairobi (5) None of these
28. The Shanidar Cave, a hotspot for Neanderthal remains, is located in which country?
 (1) Syria (2) Iraq (3) Tajikistan (4) Egypt (5) None of these
29. As of 2020, the largest cricket stadium of the world is located in which country?
 (1) Australia (2) India (3) South Africa (4) New Zealand (5) None of these
30. India recently observed 'Martyrs' Day' on 30th January, to pay homage to which Indian leader?
 (1) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (2) Netaji Subash Chandra Bose (3) Mahatma Gandhi
 (4) B.R. Ambedkar (5) None of these
31. What is the profession of Anoop Mishra, who has been in news recently?
 (1) Politician (2) Army Major (3) Sports person (4) Musician (5) None of these
32. Hakim Ajmal Khan, was an eminent physician in which field of Medicine?
 (1) Homoeopathy (2) Sowa Rigpa (3) Ayurveda
 (4) Unani (5) None of these
33. The late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was born in which city, where she was elected as MLA twice?
 (1) Ambala Cantt, Haryana (2) Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
 (3) Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat (4) Ludhiana, Punjab (5) None of these

34. 'SAMPRITI' is a joint military training exercise between India and which country?
 (1) Japan (2) Sri Lanka (3) China (4) Bangladesh (5) None of these
35. The fifth India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was recently organized in which city?
 (1) Moscow (2) New Delhi (3) Lucknow (4) St. Petersburg (5) None of these
36. 'Ajeya Warrior' is the joint military exercise conducted between India and which country?
 (1) Japan (2) UK (3) Israel (4) France (5) None of these
37. The 2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise, 2020 has been conducted in which city?
 (1) Thimphu (2) Bhubaneswar (3) Colombo (4) Kathmandu (5) None of these
38. INS Jamuna of Indian Navy is set to conduct hydrographic surveys in which neighbouring country of India?
 (1) Sri Lanka (2) Bangladesh (3) Myanmar (4) Nepal (5) None of these
39. As per the recent 'Military Balance' report, the defence modernization of which country led to higher military spending by the US?
 (1) Russia (2) China (3) Japan (4) India (5) None of these
40. What is the name of the fourth warship delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers-GRSE to the Indian Navy?
 (1) INS Kiltan (2) INS Kamorta (3) INS Kadmatt (4) INS Kavaratti (5) None of these
41. Which aircraft carrier launched freighter services to assist shrimp farmers?
 (1) Alliance Air (2) IndiGo (3) SpiceJet (4) Vistara (5) None of these
42. The recently set up Sanjiv Puri Expert Group is looking into which domain?
 (1) Unorganized Sector (2) Manufacturing Industries (3) Farm Exports
 (4) Service Sector (5) None of these
43. Who heads the IRDAI committee looking into issue of indemnity based health insurance products for life insurance companies?
 (1) D Rajkumar (2) Pravin Kumar Purwar (3) Pradosh Kumar Rath
 (4) MR Kumar (5) None of these
44. What is the name of the new scheme proposed in the budget, which is to be implemented by the Aviation Ministry, for transporting agricultural products?
 (1) Udan 5.0 scheme (2) Kisan Udan Scheme (3) Krishi Udan Scheme
 (4) PM Kisan Udan Scheme (5) None of these
45. Which state government recently launched a scheme called 'Janasevaka' to home-deliver various government services to citizens?
 (1) Telangana (2) Karnataka (3) Madhya Pradesh (4) Gujarat (5) None of these
46. The School Health and Wellness Ambassador initiative has been launched under which scheme?
 (1) Swachh Bharat Mission (2) Ayushman Bharat (3) Poshan Abhiyaan
 (4) Fit India Movement (5) None of these
47. Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana is the flagship scheme of which Union Ministry?
 (1) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
 (2) Ministry of Tribal Affairs
 (3) Ministry of Earth Sciences
 (4) Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries
 (5) None of these

48. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission is implemented by which Union Ministry?
 (1) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
 (2) Ministry of Rural Development
 (3) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
 (4) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions
 (5) None of these
49. The first India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave was recently held in which city?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Lucknow (3) Cape town (4) Nairobi (5) None of these
50. Which city is host to the 13th UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (COP 13), 2020?
 (1) Mumbai (2) Madrid (3) Tokyo (4) Gandhinagar (5) None of these
51. Which bird is named the mascot of UN Convention of Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (COP 13)?
 (1) Great Indian Bustard (2) White-bellied heron (3) Forest owlet
 (4) Lesser Florican (5) None of these
52. What is the theme of the 56th Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2020?
 (1) Westlessness (2) Sustainable Development Goals (3) Security for All
 (4) We Can Work Together (5) None of these
53. Which city was host to the 'Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts'?
 (1) Varanasi (2) Lucknow (3) New Delhi (4) Hyderabad (5) None of these
54. Which city was host to NITI Aayog's 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Conclave 2020'?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Guwahati (3) Kolkata (4) Shillong (5) None of these
55. Which city has recently hosted International Judicial Conference?
 (1) New Delhi (2) Bhopal (3) Mumbai (4) Chandigarh (5) None of these
56. Which city hosted the four-day 'International Conference on Banana' organized by ICAR?
 (1) Gandhi Nagar (2) Tiruchirappalli (3) Cochin
 (4) Thiruvananthapuram (5) None of these
57. Which country's delegation of educational institutions recently visited India and signed agreements in the fields of higher education and research?
 (1) Canada (2) Norway (3) Germany (4) Japan (5) None of these
58. The 'Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development' is a collaboration between India and which country?
 (1) Switzerland (2) Norway (3) Sweden (4) France (5) None of these
59. What does CCPA stand for, in the context of Consumer Protection Act 2019?
 (1) Common Consumer Protection Agency
 (2) Central Consumer Protection Authority
 (3) Company- Consumer Protection Authority
 (4) Centralised Consumer Protection Affairs
 (5) None of these

60. The Consumer Protection Act 2019, which is to come into force from April, 2020, makes provisions related to "class action suits". This suit can be invoked to__?
(1) Sue many producers of same product
(2) Recall an entire batch of faulty products
(3) Sue entire management team of the producers of faulty products
(4) Claim damages for an entire group of consumers of faulty products
(5) None of these
61. Britain's Prince Charles has launched a new Children's protection fund for which Asian country?
(1) Sri Lanka (2) India (3) Bangladesh (4) Nepal (5) None of these
62. Which global financial institution is set to grant \$450 million loan to India for Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)?
(1) Asian Development Bank
(2) World Bank
(3) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(4) New Development Bank
(5) None of these
63. As per the recent Economic Outlook Survey released by FICCI, what is the estimated median GDP growth forecast for 2019-20?
(1) 5.0% (2) 5.1% (3) 5.2% (4) 5.3% (5) None of these
64. What is the GDP growth rate of India, in 2018-19, as per the recent statement from the National Statistical Office (NSO), on January 31,2020?
(1) 6.8% (2) 6.4% (3) 6.2% (4) 6.1% (5) None of these
65. According to the recent Union Budget 2020-21, what is the disinvestment target of the Indian Government for 2020-21?
(1) Rs. 1.0 Lakh Crores (2) Rs. 1.1 Lakh Crores (3) Rs. 1.2 Lakh Crores
(4) Rs. 1.3 Lakh Crores (5) None of these
66. As per the recent Union budget, what is the estimated fiscal deficit target for 2020-21, expressed in per cent of GDP?
(1) 3.3% (2) 3.4% (3) 3.5% (4) 3.6% (5) None of these
67. The "Pandemic Bonds" are issued by which multilateral development bank?
(1) World Bank (2) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(3) European Investment Bank (4) Asian Development Bank (5) None of these
68. What is the upper land-holding limit to become eligible for financial support under PM-KISAN scheme?
(1) 1 Hectare (2) 2 Hectare (3) 3 Hectare (4) No limit (5) None of these
69. For the first time, which of the following supranational banks has listed Masala Bonds in the Global Securities Market?
(1) World Bank (2) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
(3) Asian Development Bank (4) African Development Bank (5) None of these
70. Which global tech firm has launched a short-video making application called 'Tangi', which focusses on creativity?
(1) Microsoft (2) Facebook (3) Google (4) Adobe (5) None of these

71. Which social-media platform recently announced that it will label the fake news and remove harmful data shared on its platform?
 (1) Whatsapp (2) Twitter (3) Instagram (4) Youtube (5) None of these
72. The term "Batterygate", recently in news, is related to which of the following tech giants?
 (1) Google (2) Samsung (3) Apple (4) Microsoft (5) None of these
73. Which is the first and only private firm to build and deliver research ships in India?
 (1) Titagarh Wagons Ltd
 (2) Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
 (3) Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
 (4) Goa Shipyard
 (5) None of these
74. What is the objective of the 'CREDAI Awaas' mobile application, recently launched by CREDAI?
 (1) Redressal of Consumer Grievance
 (2) Ease of purchase of Residential properties
 (3) Geo-tagging of Residential properties
 (4) Approval for Residential properties
 (5) None of these
75. Which Taxi-hailing start-up recently integrated with the Himmat application of Delhi Police?
 (1) Ola (2) Uber (3) Didi (4) Lyft (5) None of these
76. Which Indian PSU is set to acquire the government's entire stake in THDC India and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO)?
 (1) NTPC Limited
 (2) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
 (3) Power Grid Corporation of India Limited
 (4) NHPC Limited
 (5) None of these
77. Which country is supplier of majority of mined Cobalt, which is used in cathodes for lithium-ion batteries used in cell phones and Electric vehicles?
 (1) China (2) Kazhakiistan (3) Sudan (4) Congo (DRC) (5) None of these
78. Which country is world's biggest palm oil importer?
 (1) India (2) China (3) Russia (4) Saudi Arabia (5) None of these
79. What does 'GSP' stand for, in the context of India- US trade?
 (1) Globalised System of Preferences
 (2) Generalized System of Preferences
 (3) Globalised System of Partners
 (4) Generalized System of Partners
 (5) None of these
80. Which all three items are not under GST as of February 2020?
 (1) Fuel, Construction, Alcohol (2) Fuel, Movie Tickets, Alcohol
 (3) Fuel, Tobacco, Alcohol (4) Fuel, Dairy Products, Tobacco (5) None of these
81. Under the GST regime, E-Way bill is mandatory of the value of inter-state movement of goods is more than __?
 (1) Rs.50,000 (2) Rs.100,000 (3) Rs.200,000 (4) Rs.250,000 (5) None of these
82. What is the highest income tax rate slab in India after Budget 2020-21?
 (1) 25% (2) 30% (3) 35% (4) 40% (5) None of these

83. As of February, 2020, which country is India's top trade partner?
 (1) China (2) US (3) Russia (4) France (5) None of these
84. Which Indian crop faces danger due to a fungus called *Alternaria brassicae* as per recent news?
 (1) Rice (2) Wheat (3) Mustard (4) Sugarcane (5) None of these
85. What is the name of the new satellite, scheduled to be launched by the ISRO on March 5, 2020?
 (1) GISAT-1 (2) GISAT-3 (3) GISAT-7 (4) GISAT-11 (5) None of these
86. Recently, Esperanza Base on the Antarctic Peninsula reached a temperature of 18.3 °C , thus becoming the hottest on record for continental Antarctica. Esperanza Base is a research station of which country on Antarctica?
 (1) France (2) Portugal (3) Argentina (4) England (5) None of these
87. Which Indian state has recently declared the disease caused by the novel coronavirus as a "state calamity"?
 (1) Tamil Nadu (2) Kerala (3) Karnataka (4) Telangana (5) None of these
88. In the wake of the coronavirus fears, recently the Baltic Dry Index sank to all time low plunging into negative territory. What is tracked by Baltic Dry Index?
 (1) Crude Oil Prices (2) Freight Rates (3) Tourist Arrivals
 (4) International Flights (5) None of these
89. As per the notification of the Ministry of health and family welfare, which component will be treated as 'drugs' from April 1, 2020?
 (1) Medical devices (2) AYUSH drugs (3) Alcohol
 (4) Raw materials for drugs (5) None of these
90. What is the official name of the virus outbreak from China, as per the World Health Organization?
 (1) COVID-19 (2) CORO-19 (3) n-COR -19 (4) NOVEL-19 (5) None of these
91. Which country has recently developed a recovery-plasma to treat COVID-19 infected patients?
 (1) India (2) China (3) Thailand (4) Japan (5) None of these
92. Arun-III, is the hydropower project of which country, to be built with assistance from India?
 (1) Sri Lanka (2) Bangladesh (3) Nepal (4) Bhutan (5) None of these
93. *Vellbergia bartholomaei* , which was seen in news recently, belongs to which species?
 (1) Frog (2) Lizard (3) Spider (4) Snake (5) None of these
94. The 250th flight operation under the RCS - UDAN scheme was recently commenced between Bhubaneswar and which Indian city?
 (1) Lucknow (2) Varanasi (3) Patna (4) Prayagraj (5) None of these
95. Union Cabinet of India approved Alliance Air to start flight operations between India and which country, by waiving 20-aircraft rule?
 (1) Sri Lanka (2) Mauritius (3) Thailand (4) Singapore (5) None of these
96. Which Metro rail service in India has become the second largest operational metro rail network in the country?
 (1) Delhi Metro (2) Kochi Metro (3) Hyderabad Metro
 (4) Chennai Metro (5) None of these

97. What is the name of the third corporate passenger train of India?
(1) Tejas Express (2) Kashi Mahakal Express (3) Kashi Indore Express
(4) Kashi Vishwanath Express (5) None of these
98. Which Hollywood actor is playing Dr. Kalam in his upcoming biopic?
(1) Nuveen Andrews (2) Michael C. Hall (3) Muhammad Ali
(4) Terry O'Quinn (5) None of these
99. American Factory, which won the Oscar for the best feature-length documentary, was produced by which famous American personality?
(1) Donald Trump (2) Barrack Obama (3) Hillary Clinton
(4) Tiger Woods (5) None of these
100. 'Berlinale' is the 70th edition of which famous festival, which is set to be inaugurated in Germany?
(1) Berlin Food Festival (2) Berlin Film Festival (3) Berlin Defence Show
(4) Berlin Arts Fair (5) None of these
101. The India International Leather Fair (IILF), 2020 is being held in which city?
(1) Bhopal (2) Cuttack (3) Chennai (4) Kochi (5) None of these
102. What is the current (2020) number of telecom companies in India?
(1) 10 (2) 8 (3) 6 (4) 4 (5) None of these
103. '5G Hackathon' was recently launched by which Union Ministry/ organization?
(1) NITI Aayog
(2) Ministry of Science and Technology
(3) Ministry of Communication
(4) Ministry of Human Resource and Development
(5) None of these
104. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, recently?
(1) Pranab Kumar Das (2) Ajay Bhushan Pandey (3) M. Ajit Kumar
(4) Atanu Chakraborty (5) None of these
105. Which Indian-American has been appointed as the new Chairman of the tech company- International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)?
(1) Arvind Krishna (2) Abidali Neemuchwala (3) Sundar Pichai
(4) Shantanu Narayen (5) None of these
106. Rajiv Bansal has been appointed as chairman and managing director of which Indian airline?
(1) IndiGo (2) Air India (3) Spice Jet (4) Vistara (5) None of these
107. Who was recently appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India?
(1) Rajiv Kumar (2) Ajay Narayan Jha (3) Debasish Panda
(4) Krishnamurthy Subramaniam (5) None of these
108. Who was recently named as the nominee for the proposed Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir?
(1) Sunil Arora (2) Sushil Chandra (3) Om Prakash Rawat
(4) A K Jyoti (5) None of these

109. Abidali Neemuchwala, who resigned recently, was the Chief Executive Officer of which popular Indian IT firm?
(1) Infosys (2) TCS (3) Wipro (4) HCL (5) None of these
110. Leo Varadkar, who recently tendered his resignation, was the Prime Minister of which country?
(1) France (2) Ireland (3) Greece (4) The Netherlands (5) None of these
111. Bob Iger, who recently tendered his resignation, was the Chief Executive Officer of which global firm for 15 years?
(1) Walt Disney Company (2) Netflix (3) Warner Bros
(4) Pixar (5) None of these
112. Pranab Kumar Gogoi, who recently passed away, was a famous personality in which field?
(1) Sports (2) Literature (3) Arts (4) Politics (5) None of these
113. Hosni Mubarak, who recently passed away, was the former President of which country?
(1) Greece (2) Egypt (3) France (4) Libya (5) None of these
114. Which Indian journalist has been chosen as the recipient of 2019-20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award?
(1) Ravish Kumar (2) Yusuf Jameel (3) N Ram
(4) Prannoy Roy (5) None of these
115. Which banker of India has been named as the Central Banker of the Year (Asia-Pacific 2020), by the Banker magazine?
(1) Raghuram Rajan (2) Shaktikanta Das (3) Urjit Patel
(4) Viral Acharya (5) None of these
116. Which Indian actor was recently presented with the 'Kishore Kumar Samman' Award for 2018, by the Madhya Pradesh government?
(1) Waheeda Rehman (2) Asha Parekh (3) Vyjayanthimala
(4) Hema Malini (5) None of these
117. Which famous writer was recently selected for the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award (Indian and Global Languages)?
(1) Manoj Das (2) Pratibha Ray (3) Surendra Mohanty
(4) Ramakanta Rath (5) None of these
118. Yash Bharti Award is the highest award of which Indian state/UT?
(1) Madhya Pradesh (2) Odisha (3) Uttar Pradesh
(4) Punjab (5) None of these
119. Which Indian sportsperson won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award for the third consecutive year?
(1) Mary Kom (2) P V Sindhu (3) Saina Nehwal (4) Sania Mirza (5) None of these
120. Which portal of Indian Railways has won the Silver in National e-Governance Award for excellence in providing citizen-centric delivery?
(1) Where is my Train (2) Rail Suvidha (3) Rail Madad
(4) Rail Saarthi (5) None of these
121. Who clinched the men's singles title in the recently held Australian Open tournament, 2020?
(1) Roger Federer (2) Rafael Nadal (3) Novak Djokovic
(4) Dominic Thiem (5) None of these

122. Udyani Mane, who was in news recently, is an Indian player of which sports?
(1) Tennis (2) Wrestling (3) Golf (4) Badminton (5) None of these
123. Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal are associated with which sports?
(1) Badminton (2) Squash (3) Tennis (4) Table-Tennis (5) None of these
124. Which country is set to host the men's edition of the junior hockey World Cup 2021?
(1) India (2) Argentina (3) France (4) Brazil (5) None of these
125. Who was named as the Ernst and Young (EY) Entrepreneur of the Year 2019?
(1) Adi Godrej (2) Uday Kotak (3) Sridhar Vembu
(4) Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw (5) None of these
126. What was overall rank of India in the Asian Wrestling Championships, 2020 held in New Delhi?
(1) Second (2) Third (3) Fourth (4) Fifth (5) None of these
127. According to the recent Economic Survey 2019-20, which state has the cheapest Vegetarian Thali (food plate)?
(1) Kerala (2) Jharkhand (3) Bihar (4) Tripura (5) None of these
128. As per the recent Economic Survey 2019-20, what is the rank of India globally in number of new firms created?
(1) 3 (2) 4 (3) 5 (4) 6 (5) None of these
129. What is the rank of India in the recently released International intellectual property index 2020?
(1) 36 (2) 40 (3) 42 (4) 44 (5) None of these
130. What is the rank of India in the 'Global Flourishing index' released by WHO Commission and UNICEF?
(1) 91 (2) 111 (3) 121 (4) 131 (5) None of these
131. As per the annual 'Nature Ranking Index-2020', which Indian institution is ranked in the first place in the country?
(1) Indian Institute of Science (IISc)
(2) Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
(3) Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR-Mumbai)
(4) Homi Bhabha National Institute (HBNI)
(5) None of these
132. "Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)" is an initiative of which Ministry?
(1) Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
(2) Ministry of Science and Technology
(3) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
(4) Ministry of Human Resource Development
(5) None of these
133. The term "SPICe", sometimes seen in news, is related to which of the following fields?
(1) Science & Technology
(2) Environment Protection
(3) Business & Economy
(4) Defence and Arms Production
(5) None of these

134. 'Apiary on Wheels' is an initiative of which statutory body of India?
 (1) National Commission for Women
 (2) National Commission for Minorities
 (3) National Green Tribunal
 (4) Khadi and Village Industries Commission
 (5) None of these
135. What is the corpus of the dedicated fund raised from the fines charged from the defaulting pesticides companies and contributions from the Central and state governments under the Pesticides Management Bill, 2020?
 (1) Rs. 20,000 Crore (2) Rs. 40,000 Crore (3) Rs. 50,000 Crore
 (4) Rs. 100,000 Crore (5) None of these
136. Which country organized a training course on 'Vessel Search Technique' for Indian Coast Guard and Customs personnel at Chennai?
 (1) Japan (2) Australia (3) Oman (4) Qatar (5) None of these
137. Which country recently launched the 'International Religious Freedom Alliance' for protecting religious freedom across the world?
 (1) Russia (2) US (3) Japan (4) India (5) None of these
138. The cybersecurity project codenamed Dejfa, that was recently making news, belongs to which country?
 (1) Pakistan (2) Iran (3) Malaysia (4) China (5) None of these
139. A paramilitary Sufi group called Ahlu Sunna Waljama, which is recently in news, is fighting with radical islamist group in Civil War of which country?
 (1) Sudan (2) Somalia (3) Syria (4) South Sudan (5) None of these
140. Which of the following African countries has been recently listed in the FATF's grey list?
 (1) Gabon (2) Algeria (3) Kenya (4) Mauritius (5) None of these

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Ans: 1-1 2-1, 3-3, 4-3, 5-4, 6-2, 7-4, 8-3, 9-2, 10-1,11-1, 12-3, 13-2, 14-4, 15-2, 16-1, 17-2, 18-2, 19-2, 20-2, 21-3, 22-4, 23-4, 24-2, 25-1, 26-3, 27-3, 28-2, 29-2, 30-3, 31-2, 32-4, 33-1, 34-4, 35-3, 36-2, 37-2, 38-1, 39-2, 40-4, 41-3, 42-3, 43-4, 44-3, 45-2, 46-2, 47-2, 48-2, 49-2, 50-4, 51-1, 52-1, 53-3, 54-2, 55-1, 56-2, 57-2, 58-2, 59-2, 60-2, 61-2, 62-2, 63-1, 64-4, 65-3, 66-3, 67-1, 68-4, 69-2, 70-3, 71-2, 72-3, 73-1, 74-2, 75-2, 76-1, 77-4, 78-1, 79-2, 80-1, 81-1, 82-2, 83-2, 84-3, 85-1, 86-3, 87-2, 88-2, 89-1, 90-1, 91-2,92-3, 93-2, 94-2, 95-1, 96-3, 97-2, 98-3, 99-2, 100-2, 101-3, 102-4, 103-3, 104-3, 105-1, 106-2, 107-3, 108-2, 109-3, 110-2,111-1, 112-4, 113-2, 114-2, 115-2, 116-1, 117-1, 118-3, 119-2, 120-3, 121-3, 122-3, 123-2, 124-1, 125-4, 126-2, 127-2, 128-1, 129-2, 130-4, 131-2, 132-2, 133-3, 134-4, 135-3, 136-2, 137-2, 138-2, 139-2, 140-4.

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