FreshersLive's Current Affairs
Weekly Edition (11th Feb'19 - 17th Feb'19)

India's fastest Vande Bharat Express flagged off

SFDR successfully tested

Pulwama terrorist attack

3rd Week Current Affairs
February 2019

Jamie Chadwick won MRF Challenge
### Table of Contents

1. BUSINESS & ECONOMY .......................................................... 3
2. INTERNATIONAL ............................................................... 7
3. INDIAN AFFAIRS ............................................................... 10
4. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ............................................... 19
5. DEFENCE .......................................................................... 21
6. AWARDS AND HONOURS ................................................. 23
7. SPORTS ............................................................................ 24
8. OBITUARY ........................................................................ 25
9. IMPORTANT DAYS ............................................................ 26
10. AGREEMENTS, MOU ......................................................... 27
11. VISITS BY PM / PRESIDENT .............................................. 29
12. QUIZ CORNER ................................................................... 30
13. USEFUL LINKS ................................................................. 56
Tangedcos loss rose to Rs.7,582.56 crore in last year

- India Ratings and Research reported that the Tamil Nadu Generation and Distribution Corporation Limited (Tangedco) has a widened loss in the financial year 2018 to Rs.7,582.56 crore from Rs.6,141.54 crore in the financial year 2017. Lower sale of power, drop in collection efficiency and higher cost of power led to the higher losses.
- The financials sourced from Tangedco by India Ratings showed that the discoms revenue from the sale of power declined 0.63% to Rs.43686.77 crore in FY18 from the previous year. Sale of power accounts for 78% of Tangedcos total income.
- Tangedcos operating earnings before interest, tax, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) were negative Rs.607 crore in FY18, compared a positive level of Rs.2,325 crore in FY17.

Voltas to set up a new manufacturing facility in Andhra Pradesh

- Voltas Limited, a market leader in residential air-conditioners in India, plans to set up a new manufacturing facility at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. The cost of the facility is Rs.500 crore. This facility would initially manufacture and assemble air-conditioners and related cooling products with a total capacity of more than one million units and is expected to start rolling out products from the second half of 2020.
- The new facility would be one of the first cooling appliances units in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The choice of Andhra Pradesh as the destination for the new manufacturing unit was due to the States ease of doing business and growing focus on Make in India.

Vodafone Idea plans to invest about Rs.20,000 crore in networks

- Vodafone Idea announced that the company is planning to invest about Rs.20,000 crore in networks over the next 15 months. It has given capital expenditure (capex) of Rs.270 billion for financial years 2019 and 2020, combined together. Out of that, about Rs.70 billion has been spent in the first nine months.
- In the next 15 months, it expects a capex deployment of Rs.200 billion.
guidance of **Rs.27,000 crore** did not include capacity that would be created by reusing equipment from the synergy of operations between Vodafone and Idea.

**Government has notified eight medical equipments as Drugs**

- The government has notified **eight medical equipments** as Drugs under **Section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940** with effect from April 1, 2020. The decision was made after consultation with the **Drugs Technical Advisory Board**.
- The notification brings all the implantable and diagnostic devices will come under the **regulatory framework**.
- The equipments are:
  - All implantable devices, CT scan, PET equipment, MRI equipment, Defibrillators, Dialysis machines, Bone marrow separators, X-ray machine.
- **About Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB):**
  - DTAB is the highest statutory decision-making body on technical matters related to drugs in India
  - It was constituted under the provisions of the **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**
  - DTAB is part of the **Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO)** under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

**JSW Steel gets LoI for BPSL**

- **JSW Steel** has received the **Letter of Intent (LoI)** from the resolution professional of **Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL)**, taking the country's largest steelmaker a step closer towards the acquisition of the insolvent company.
- The development comes more than a week after the **National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT)** on February 4, turned down Tata Steels request to consider its bid as the most legitimate one for BPSL. It confirms the resolution plan will be submitted to the National Company Law Tribunal after the company's approval. JSW Steel topped Tata Steels offer of **Rs.17,000 crore with Rs.19,650 crore bid**.

**Siddhartha Lal won the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018**

- **Siddhartha Lal, MD & CEO of Eicher Motors** won the EY Entrepreneur of the year 2018 after transforming Eicher Motors and helping the company resurrect the
Royal Enfield motorcycle brand in India and making it a global brand icon.

- Azim Premji, chairman of Wipro won the Lifetime Achievement Award for putting the Indian Information Technology industry in the global market and his notable contribution to society as a philanthropist.
- Other EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 winners in other categories
  - Start-up - Byju Raveendran (BYJUS)
  - Business Transformation - Kishore Biyani (Future Group)
  - Manufacturing - Nirmal K Minda (Minda Industries)
  - Services - Ritesh Agarwal (OYO Hotels and Homes)
  - Financial Services - Sanjay Agarwal (AU Small Finance Bank)
  - Consumer Products & Retail - Rajesh Mehra (Jaguar Group)
  - Life Sciences & Healthcare - Binish Chudgar (Intas Pharmaceuticals)
  - Entrepreneurial CEO - Bhaskar Bhat (Titan Company)
  - Energy, Real Estate & Infrastructure - Atul Ruia (The Phoenix Mills)

**India to hold talks with U.S. to discuss trades and e-com rules**

- **India is to hold talks with U.S. to discuss trades and e-com rules.** Due to the unavailability of the US Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, U.S. Ambassador Kenneth I. Juster will lead a delegation of officials to hold talks with Union Commerce Minister Suresh Prabhu.
- The objective is **to resolve several sore trade points**, including the concerns of American CEOs regarding doing business in India and bilateral trade imbalance.
- With the recent developments in India, the **Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)** is also likely to come up in the light where the U.S. has again threatened to withdraw the export exemptions for India.

**USA:**
- **Capital:** Washington, D.C.
- **National Language:** English
- **President:** Donald Trump
- **Vice President:** Mike Pence
- **Currency:** United States dollar ($) (USD)

**India's annual Wholesale inflation drops to 2.76% in January**
According to government data, India's annual wholesale price inflation eased to a 10-month low of 2.76% in January, helped by a smaller increase in prices of manufactured goods and fuel products.

It was 3.8% in December last year.

India's retail inflation also declined to an 18-month low of 2.05% in January.
ADJA added Hindi as 3rd official language of the city's courts

- The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department has added Hindi as the third official language of the city's courts. Arabic and English are the first and second languages. The move is aimed at helping foreigners to learn about litigation procedures, their rights, and duties without a language barrier. It also aims to facilitate registration procedures via unified forms.
- Abu Dhabi is the capital and the second most populous city of the United Arab Emirates.

Nepal hosted 2nd Joint Secretary Level Meeting to assess India-Nepal Trade Treaty

- The two days 2nd Joint Secretary Level meeting to assess the India-Nepal Trade Treaty was organized in Pokhara, Nepal on 7th Feb 2019 to deliberate upon various bilateral issues and non-tariff barriers in bilateral trade.
- India deputation was led by Bhupinder Singh Bhalla (Joint Secretary of South Asia), Department of Commerce whereas Nepal Deputation was led by Ravi Shankar Sainju (Joint Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies).
- This meet was based on a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral trade treaty to enhance both ways commerce and investments between India and Nepal.

About Nepal
- Capital: Kathmandu
- Currency: Nepalese Rupee
- Prime Minister: Khadga Prasad Oli

Thailand hosted Multinational Cobra Gold Military Exercise

- The United States and Thailand are hosting the multi-nation Cobra military exercise 2019. The exercise is taking place in the northern Thai province of Phitsanulok. 10000 personnel, 29 nations are taking part as participants or observers. About Cobra Gold Exercise.
- It is one of the Asia-Pacific region's largest multinational military exercises that is held in Thailand every year. It was first held in 1982 and its headquarters is
in Bangkok, Thailand. This is a Thai-American initiative with an aim to improve coordination between the armed forces.

**LAWASIA Human Rights Conference was held in New Delhi**

- **LAWASIA Human Rights Conference** was held in New Delhi. LAWASIA, in association with the Bar Association of India, hosted the conference. Its motive is to explore a broad range of human rights issues of relevance in the Asia Pacific region.
- The theme of the conference was **State Power, Business and Human Rights: Contemporary Challenges**. It provides the opportunity for lawyers and associated professional members to exchange insights and expertise on topics of significance.
- LAWASIA is a regional association of lawyers, judges, jurists, and legal organizations, which advocates for the interests and concerns of the Asia Pacific legal profession.

**European Union adds Saudi Arabia to dirty-money blacklist**

- The European Commission has added seven countries including Saudi Arabia, Panama, and Nigeria to a blacklist of nations that fail to tackle money laundering and the financing of terrorism.
- The list now includes 23 jurisdictions, up from 16.
- Newcomers to the list are Libya, Botswana, Ghana, Samoa, the Bahamas and the four United States territories of American Samoa, US Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and Guam.
- The other listed states are Afghanistan, North Korea, Ethiopia, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia and Yemen.
- Bosnia Herzegovina, Guyana, Laos, Uganda and Vanuatu were removed.

**US announces 25 Countries to give USD 100 million aid to crisis-hit Venezuela**

- US National Security Adviser John Bolton announced that, a total of 25 countries have pledged $100 million in humanitarian assistance to crisis-hit Venezuela.
- Venezuela is facing the biggest economic crisis in its modern history, with hyperinflation predicted to hit 10 million percent this year according to the International Monetary Fund (IMF).
• **About Venezuela:**
  - Capital: Caracas Trending
  - Currencies: Venezuelan bolvar, Sovereign Bolivar
  - Official language: Spanish
  - President: Nicolás Maduro

**Pulwama terror attack: India withdraws Most Favoured Nation status to Pakistan**

- A day after the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's **Pulwama** district on February 14, India has withdrawn the **Most Favoured Nation** (MFN) status accorded to **Pakistan**.
- The MFN status to Pakistan was given by India in **1996**.
- The MFN status was accorded under WTO's General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).
- Removal of this status means India can now enhance customs duties to any level on goods coming from Pakistan.

**About Pakistan:**
- Prime minister: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi
- Capital: Islamabad
- Currency: Pakistani rupee
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Ladakh declared Jammu & Kashmir’s third administrative division

- The Jammu & Kashmir Government on Friday declared Ladakh as the third administrative division of the state. An order issued by Governor Satya Pal Malik’s administration said, The Government has approved the creation of a separated administrative/revenue division of Ladakh.
- The division will comprise Leh and Kargil districts, with Leh as the division’s headquarters
- About Ladakh
  - Ladakh is one of the most sparsely populated regions in Jammu & Kashmir and the highest plateau in the state, most of it being over 9,800 ft above sea level. The region is geographically isolated and remains landlocked for nearly 6 months in a year.
- About Jammu & Kashmir
  - Capital Srinagar
  - Governor Satya Pal Malik

Mukesh Ambani tops Hurun India Philanthropy list 2018

- Reliance Industries chairman Mukesh Ambani and also richest person in Asia topped the Hurun India Philanthropy list with a donation amount of 437 crores.
- Mukesh Ambani is followed by the chairman of the Piramal Group, Ajay Piramal who donated 200 crores.
- Top 10 list of Hurun India Philanthropy list:
Narendra Modi inaugurated the Hollong Modular Gas Processing Plant

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi formally inaugurated the Hollong Modular Gas Processing Plant (HMGPP) of Hindustan Oil Exploration Co. Ltd. (HOEC) at Dirok Field in Assam.
- The HMGPP will initially have a capacity to process 35 million standard cubic feet per day of gas equivalent to 15% of Assam gas production and 800 barrels of condensate. Dirok Field is being developed in phases by HOEC along with its JV partners - Oil India Ltd. and Indian Oil Corporation.

Nepal hosted 2nd Joint Secretary Level Meeting to assess India-Nepal Trade Treaty

- The two days 2nd Joint Secretary Level meeting to assess the India-Nepal Trade Treaty was organized in Pokhara, Nepal on 7th Feb 2019 to deliberate upon various bilateral issues and non-tariff barriers in bilateral trade.
- India deputation was led by Bhupinder Singh Bhalla (Joint Secretary of South Asia), Department of Commerce whereas Nepal Deputation was led by Ravi Shankar Sainju (Joint Secretary of Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies).
- This meet was based on a comprehensive review of the existing bilateral trade treaty to enhance both ways commerce and investments between India and Nepal.
TAC approved Rs.55,548 crore for the Polavaram project

- The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the Central Water Commission (CWC) approved the Polavaram Project revised cost estimates (RCE) of Rs.55,548 crore in New Delhi. The TAC under the chairmanship of U.P. Singh approved the second detailed project report (DPR-2) at the 2017-18 price level.
- The cost of the project was estimated to be Rs.16,010.45 crore at the 2010-11 level and the State government had submitted a revised estimate of Rs.57,940.86 crore at 2013-14 level. The TAC, however, approved the 2017-18 level. The estimate will now have to be approved by the Union Finance Ministry and sent to the Union Cabinet for final approval. The delay in approval of the RCE has cost Andhra Pradesh dearly with the State spending Rs.3,866.79 crore in advance.

NTPC Signs Pact With SBI For Rs 5000 crore Term Loan

- State-owned power giant NTPC announced that it has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with State Bank of India.
- The loan facility is extended at an interest rate linked to 3-Month MCLR of the Bank.

Sanjay Subrahmanyam won Israels Million Dollar Dan David Prize

- Indian Historian Sanjay Subrahmanyam won Israels prestigious Dan David Prize in the category Past time dimension for his work in macro-history.
- He shared the USD 1 million award in the Past time dimension category with Prof Kenneth Pomeranz of the University of Chicago.About Sanjay SubrahmanyamMr Subrahmanyam is a recipient of the Infosys Prize for humanities and holds the Irving and Jean Stone Endowed Chair in Social Sciences at the University of California. He is the son on strategic analyst K Subrahmanyam and brother of former foreign secretary S Jaishankar.About the Dan David PrizeIt is an international prize which annually awards three prizes of US$ 1 million each
for achievements having an outstanding scientific, technological, cultural or social impact on our world. About Israel Capital Jerusalem Currency New Shekel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

LPG coverage in T.N. to touch 100 percent

- With more connections being provided to beneficiaries under the Ujjwala scheme, Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) coverage in the Tamil Nadu State is now 97.9%. That translates to 2.02 crore consumers. Substantial increases have happened in the last three years or so, bringing up the April 2016 figure of 80.08% with 1.61 crore consumers.
- Tamil Nadu is one of the States that has quite a high penetration of LPG in households with the three Government-run oil majors adding an average of 6 lakh regular connections each year. Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, the companies have added around 9 lakh connections each year, explained oil industry sources.

Jharkhand banned Popular Front of India

- The Jharkhand government banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) in the State to curb its anti-national activities and for links with terror outfits like the IS. The PFI has been banned with immediate effect under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908.
- The PFI has been involved in spreading social division, anti-India and pro-Pakistan slogans, links with Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) and Jama'at Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

- **Popular Front of India (PFI):**
  - **Motto:** Naya Karavan:Naya Hindustan
  - **Formation:** 22 November 2006
  - **Headquarters:** New Delhi, India
  - **Chairman** of the Front: Janab E Abubacker
  - PFI is an extremist and militant Islamic fundamentalist organization in India

`Exercise Rahat Concluded In Jaipur`

- Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise `Exercise Rahat
concluded in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

- It was demonstrated in Jaipur, Kota, and Alwar in Rajasthan.
- With a view to co-operating efforts for humanitarian assistance and Disaster Relief operations, NDMA coordinated the exercise.
- **Indian Army** was represented by Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command. Representatives from Armed Forces, National Disaster Management Response Mechanism (NDMRM), SDMA Rajasthan and DLMAs participated in the exercise.

**Centre to strengthen runways of the Vijayawada and the Rajahmundry airports**

- **Minister of Civil Aviation Suresh Prabhu** inaugurated the extended and strengthened runways of the **Vijayawada and the Rajahmundry airports** and **laid foundation stone** for the expansion of the Visakhapatnam airport via video link from the office of the Airports Authority of India (AAI) in New Delhi.
- AAI chairman Guruprasad Mohapatra said the runway of 2,486 metres in the Vijayawada airport had been strengthened and extended to 3,360 metres at a cost of Rs.145 crore to handle Code E aircraft like the **Boeing 747 and 777**. Similarly, the 1,750-metre runway in the Rajahmundry airport had been extended to 3,165 meters at Rs.182 crore.
- The 19,800 square feet area passenger terminal of the Visakhapatnam airport would be expanded into a 29,050 square feet to handle four million passenger movements per annum and 1,050 passengers in the peak hours against the present capacity of 700.

**Rajasthan Assembly approved 5% quota for Gujjars**

- The **Rajasthan Assembly** unanimously passed a Bill giving 5% reservation in government jobs and education to Gujjars and four other nomadic communities.
- Gujjars are a pastoral agricultural ethnic group with populations in **India, Pakistan**, and a small number in northeastern **Afghanistan**. The languages of gujjars is **Gujari**.

**Rajasthan:**

- Governor: Kalyan Singh
- Chief Minister: Ashok Gehlot
Centre to set up a national law university in Uttarakhand

- The Centre has decided to set up a national law university in Uttarakhand. The Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat has announced that the national law university will be opened in Uttarakhand. This is a big step toward making Uttarakhand a quality education hub.
- India has 21 national law universities, admissions to which are held through a Common Law Admission Test (CLAT).

Ghumot is to be notified as a heritage instrument of Goa

- Ghumot is to be notified as a heritage instrument of Goa. The announcement was made by the Art and Culture Minister of Goa, Govind Gaude. Ghumot is an indigenous earthen drum fashioned as a designed clay pot, with the skin of the monitor lizard stretched taut across the pot's mouth, forming a drumhead.
- The monitor lizard was classified as an endangered wildlife species and was listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972. Ghumot was banned by the Forest Department of Goa. Taking forward the efforts to conserve the heritage musical instrument the government of Goa is taking steps to declare Ghumot as the heritage musical instrument of Goa.

PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the PETROTECH 2019 conference

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the PETROTECH-2019 conference. PETROTECH-2019 conference is a three-day mega event held from 10 to 12 February. The conference was held at India Expo Centre, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. PETROTECH conference is a biennial International Oil & Gas Conference. The conference provides a platform for national and international experts in the oil & gas industry to exchange views and share knowledge, expertise, and experiences.

The 13th edition of International Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition,
PETROTECH-2019 is being organized by Oil & Natural Gas Corporation Limited, under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural gas.

**India's fastest Vande Bharat Express flagged off by PM Narendra Modi**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15 flagged-off India's first semi-high speed Train 18 which was recently rechristened as Vande-Bharat Express.
- It is launched from the New Delhi railway station.
- The train will travel from Delhi to Varanasi in nine hours and forty-five minutes.
- The train can run up to a maximum speed of 160 kmph.
- Train 18 is Indias first engine-less train.

**Indias 1st Aqua Mega Food Park commissioned in Andhra Pradesh**

- Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal commissioned Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park at Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.
- It will be the first Mega Aqua Food Park operationalised exclusively for fish and marine products processing in the state of Andhra Pradesh.
- The mega park has been set up in 57.81 acres at a cost of Rs 122.60 crore.
- Besides this aqua food park, the Ministry had sanctioned another mega food park in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh. It was inaugurated on July 9, 2012.
- Currently, the third Mega Food Park sanctioned by the Ministry is under implementation at Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh.

**About Andhra Pradesh**:

- Governor: E. S. L. Narasimhan
- Chief minister: N. Chandrababu Naidu
- Districts: 13
- Capitals: Hyderabad (Interim), Amaravati
- The northwestern portion of Andhra Pradesh was detached to form the state of Telangana in 2014.

**Bihar Government announced Universal Old Age Pension Scheme**

- Bihar Chief Minister, Nitish Kumar announced a Universal Old Age Pension
scheme, named Mukhya Mantri Vriddha Pension Yojana (MMVPY), irrespective for all caste, community, religion, except for those who are retired from government organizations.

- The scheme facilitates the amount of Rs. 400 monthly pension for all in the state above the age of 60 who are not getting a pension from the government.
- The Chief Minister announced a pension of 6,000 rupees for journalists above 60 years of age.
- Those who have been in regular service in the field of media and not getting any other pension will be eligible for Bhair Patrakar Samman Yojana (BPSY).

Early Ed Asia 2019, Asia's largest early childhood conference, held in Jaipur

- It was the first time such a conference was held in India with over 6000 eminent early childhood educators, policy-makers, researchers and other stakeholders from India and foreign countries.
- The latest trends in teaching and research were discussed to provide a stronger foundation to the children.
- The motto of the event was Our Children. Our Future.

About Rajasthan

- Capital Jaipur
- Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot
- Governor Kalyan Singh

Govt panel proposes national minimum wage of Rs 375 per day

- A government panel has recommended a national minimum wage of 375 per day or 9,750 per month plus an additional housing allowance of 1,430 per month for workers in cities.
- The minimum wage would be irrespective of sectors, skills, occupations and rural-urban locations.
- Currently, minimum wages are decided by respective state governments.

India's first district cooling system to be built in Amaravati

- UAE-based cooling solutions utility National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed) has entered into a 30-year concession with Andhra Pradesh Capital
Region Development Authority (APCRDA) to build, own, operate and transfer India's first district cooling system in Amaravati.

- The agreement is for a contracted cooling capacity of **20,000 refrigeration tons** (RTs).
Facebook acquires GrokStyle virtual search start-up to boost AI capabilities

- **Facebook** acquired US-based virtual search start-up, GrokStyle, at an undisclosed amount.
- GrokStyle was founded in 2015 and is based in San Francisco, USA.
- The basic idea is to allow users to match a piece of furniture or a light fixture in an image to visually find similar ones in stock at stores.

**About Facebook**
- Chairman & CEO Mark Zuckerberg
- Headquarters California, USA

Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR), indigenously developed missile system successfully flight tested in Odisha

- The second indigenously developed **Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR)**, propulsion-based missile system was successfully flight tested from ITR, Chandipur, Odisha, by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- Unlike conventional rockets that carry propellant and oxidizer, Ramjet uses the air as an oxidizer just like a jet engine, and hence, the weight of the fuel required is eliminated.
- SFDR propulsion is designed in such a way that it allows for an up and down throttling which further lets the missile to amplify its speed until it reached the terminal phase of flight. The first flight of SFDR, developed under a joint Indo-Russian R&D project, was tested in 2018. The Indian SFDR will be used as variants of missiles such as the advanced version of ASTRA.

Himalayan Cloud Observatory set up in Tehri

- A **Himalayan Cloud** Observatory is set up in **Tehri district** with a motive to forecast and monitor cloudburst incidents in the Himalayan region and help to minimise the damage.
- The Observatory is established in the SRT campus, in Tehri and is in the testing period.
• This is the second observatory in the country.

**e-AUSHADHI portal launched for licensing of AYUSH medicine**

• Minister of State for AYUSH, **Shripad Yesso Naik** launched the e-AUSHADHI portal, for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters.
• AUSHADHI is an acronym for Ayurveda, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy Automated Drug Help Initiative.

**NASAs Opportunity rover declared dead by NASA**

• **During 14 years** of intrepid exploration across Mars, NASAs **Opportunity rover** advanced human knowledge by confirming that water once flowed on the **red planet** but it has **analyzed its last soil sample**.
• In June 2018, NASA lost contact with the rover during a dust storm. It was declared officially dead on **13th February 2019**. It ended one of the most fruitful missions in the history of space exploration. Unable to recharge its batteries, **Opportunity** left hundreds of messages sent from the earth unanswered over the months. NASA said it made its last attempt at contact on **12th February 2019**.
DEFENCE

AMAN 19, the multinational maritime exercise held at Karachi

- The 5-day multinational maritime exercise AMAN-19 was held at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi. In this multinational maritime exercise, 46 nations participated from all over the world.
- The aim to conduct this exercise is to facilitate a forum of understanding of each other's maritime concepts and operation cultures and to produce ways and means to confront common threat at sea.

Pakistan:
- Capital: Islamabad
- PM: Imran Khan
- President: Arif Alvi

India has signed the U.S. for 72,400 SIG716 assault rifles

- Ministry of Defence has signed the U.S. for 72,400 SIG716 assault rifles for front-line soldiers deployed in operational areas. Of the 72,400 rifles, 66,400 are meant for the Army, 2,000 for the Navy and 4,000 for the Air Force.
- The broad parameters for the weapon are an effective range of 500 m and a weight of less than 3 kg. The new rifles will replace the Indian National Small Arms System (INSAS) rifles.

Exercise Topchi was held at Nashik, Maharashtra

- The Exercise Topchi was held at Deolali Camp near Nashik, Maharashtra. In this exercise, the Indian Army showcased its artillery firepower by using ultralight Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar. Aviation and surveillance capabilities were also showcased.
- There were a showcase of display of rockets, missiles, surveillance, and target acquisition radars, remotely piloted aircraft and hi-tech equipment in addition to gunfire. The precision displayed while delivering the explosives in the target area stunned all those present.

Three Rafale jets fly to India for Aero India 2019 show
• French aerospace major Dassault Aviation flew to India three Rafale fighters to participate in the 12th edition of Aero India 2019 air show from February 20-24.
• The biennial international expo is being held at the Yelahanka base of the Indian Air Force (IAF) near the Bengaluru international airport.
• India is buying 36 of the twin-engine, delta wing multi-role Rafale to replace the ageing Russian-made MiG-21 fleet of the Indian Air Force over the next four years.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

Deepa Mehta To Be Feted With Lifetime Achievement Award

- Acclaimed Indo-Canadian filmmaker Deepa Mehta will be given the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television.
- The Canadian Screen Awards are awards given annually by the Academy of Canadian Cinema and Television recognising excellence in Canadian film, English-language television, and digital media productions.

Bradley Cooper wins PETAs Oscat award for A Star is Born

- Bradley Cooper awarded the Oscat by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA).
- The animal rights organisation awarded Cooper for his enlightened decision to cast his own canine companion in A Star Is Born rather than using one supplied by a notorious animal exhibitor.
SPORTS

World Government Summit is being held in Dubai, UAE

• The seventh annual World Government Summit is being held in Dubai, UAE. The World Government Summit is a forum dedicated to shaping the future of governments. The Summit is being attended by 4,000 decision-makers from 140 countries including heads of state, ministers and business leaders.

• The World Government Summit is a global platform dedicated to shaping the future of governments worldwide. The Summit sets the agenda each year for the next generation of governments, focusing on how they can harness innovation and technology to solve universal challenges facing humanity. It provides a unique platform to showcase and exchange best practices and smart solutions to the challenges that nations face.

Jamie Chadwick became the 1st female driver to win the MRF challenge title

• Jamie Chadwick, female driver from England won the MRF challenge title. She made history by becoming the first female driver to win the title after scoring a triple win in the final round in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

• MRF challenge:
  • It is an open-wheel motorsport formula based in India organized by Madras Motor Sports Club. It was inaugurated in 2013.
OBITUARY

Former Afghan interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi passed away

- Former Afghan mujahideen commander Sibghatullah Mojaddedi, who fought the Soviets and rose to become the countrys interim President after the collapse of the Afghan communist regime in 1992, has died at the age of 93. He passed away due to a long illness. His death comes three days before the 30th anniversary of the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan.

- Mr. Mojaddedi served just two months as interim President under a power-sharing deal struck by mujahideen leaders. These factions later turned on each other. But he continued to play a prominent role in Afghan politics, particularly after the fall of the Taliban in 2001. In 2003, he served as chairman of the Loya Jirga, or Grand Assembly, that approved the Constitution for a post-Taliban era.
IMPORTANT DAYS

India celebrated National Deworming day on 10th February

- India celebrated the National Deworming day on 10th February. The National Deworming Day (NDD) is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.
- The objective of National Deworming Day is to deworm all preschool and school-age children between the ages of 1-19 years through the platform of schools and Anganwadi Centers in order to improve their overall health, nutritional status, access to education and quality of life.
- According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 241 million children between the ages of 1 and 14 years are at risk of parasitic intestinal worms in India, also known as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH).
- STH infections can lead to anemia, malnutrition, impaired mental and physical & cognitive development, and reduced school participation.

World Pulses Day celebrated on 10th February

- February 10, 2019, was the first-ever World Pulses Day, a United Nations global event to celebrate pulses worldwide and continue the important gains made with the 2016 International Year of Pulses.
- The aim is to celebrate, raise awareness and promote the consumption of pulses at events around the globe.

World Radio Day celebrated on 13th February

- 13th February is celebrated as World Radio Day by UNESCO all over the world. The theme of WRD 2019 is Dialogue, Tolerance, and Peace.
- It is to mark the time where people around the world celebrate the radio and how it shapes their lives. The date of 13 February, the day United Nations Radio was established in 1946, was proposed by UNESCO. It was approved in the 67th session of UN General Assembly.
AGREEMENTS, MOU

India and Norway signed a letter of Intent for Marine Pollution Initiative

- **India** and **Norway** signed a letter of Intent for establishing the **India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative**. The letter of intent was signed by the **Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change**, Government of India together with the **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. The Joint initiative aims to combat marine pollution, which is one of the fastest growing environmental concerns.
- **Norway:**
  - Capital: **Oslo**
  - Official languages: **Norwegian**
  - Monarch: **Harald V**
  - Prime Minister: **Erna Solberg**
  - Currency: **Norwegian krone (NOK)**

NTPC Signs Pact With SBI For Rs 5000 crore Term Loan

- State-owned power giant **NTPC** announced that it has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with State Bank of India.
- The loan facility is extended at an interest rate linked to 3-Month MCLR of the Bank.

Sanjay Subrahmanyam won Israels Million Dollar Dan David Prize

- Indian Historian **Sanjay Subrahmanyam** won Israels prestigious Dan David Prize in the category Past time dimension for his work in macro-history.
- He shared the USD 1 million award in the Past time dimension category with Prof Kenneth Pomeranz of the University of Chicago. **About Sanjay Subrahmanyam**
  - Mr Subrahmanyam is a recipient of the Infosys Prize for humanities and holds the Irving and Jean Stone Endowed Chair in Social Sciences at the University of California. He is the son on strategic analyst K Subrahmanyam and brother of former foreign secretary S Jaishankar. **About the Dan David Prize**
  - It is an international prize which annually awards three prizes of US$ 1 million each for achievements having an outstanding scientific, technological, cultural or social
impact on our world. About Israel Capital Jerusalem Currency New Shekel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

India signed defence cooperation with Germany and Sweden

- India concluded defence cooperation and security protection agreements with Germany and Sweden during the ongoing visit of Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- The agreement for security protection agreement between the two countries was signed by Indias Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Peter Hultqvist, Swedish Minister for Defence.
- The agreement will enable both countries to share classified information with each other. India and Sweden have had a memorandum of understanding on cooperation in the area of defence since 2009.
VISITS BY PM / PRESIDENT

PM Modi on two day visit to South Korea from Feb 21

- PM Modi will hold delegation-level talks with the South Korean President Moon Jae-in and also be conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize.
- He will unveil a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the Seoul campus of a South Korean university.
- Meanwhile, Argentinian President Mauricio Macri will begin his visit to India on February 17 when he will visit Agra.

About South Korea:
- Capital: Seoul
- Currency: South Korean won
- President: Moon Jae-in
QUIZ CORNER

1) Which social network acquires GrokStyle virtual search start-up to boost AI capabilities?

A. Twitter
B. Facebook
C. Instagram
D. Whatsapp Messenger

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Facebook acquires GrokStyle virtual search start-up to boost AI capabilities.

2) Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR), indigenously developed missile system successfully flight tested in -----

A. Odisha
B. West Bengal
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Tamil Nadu

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet (SFDR), indigenously developed missile system successfully flight tested in Odisha.

3) Who is appointed as Ambassador of India to the Republic of Marshall Islands?

A. Sanjay Kumar Verma
B. Vikram Kumar
C. Dinesh Kumar
D. Suresh Kanh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Sanjay Kumar Verma is appointed as Ambassador of India to the Republic of
Marshall Islands.

4) **Himalayan Cloud Observatory set up in -------**

A. Tehri
B. Aurangabad
C. Chittoor
D. Kadapa

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Himalayan Cloud Observatory set up in Tehri.

5) **Health Ministry apprised ------ medical equipment as drugs**

A. 8
B. 2
C. 5
D. 4

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Health Ministry apprised 8 medical equipment as drugs

6) **-------- tops Hurun India Philanthropy list 2018**

A. Mukesh Ambani
B. Suresh Kumar
C. Ambitabh Bachaan
D. Anil Kapoor

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Mukesh Ambani tops Hurun India Philanthropy list 2018

7) **Who launched Law, Justice and Judicial Power Justice book ?**

A. P N Bhagwatis
B. Suresh Kumar
8) World Pulses Day is celebrated on ________.

A. 10th February 2019  
B. 15th March, 2019  
C. 26th April, 2019  
D. 17th May, 2019

Answer A

Explanation World Pulses Day is celebrated on 10th February 2019.

9) Which of the following has made Hindi as third language in courts?

A. Indonesia  
B. Sri Lanka  
C. Abu Dhabi  
D. Afghanistan

Answer C

Explanation The Abu Dhabi Judicial Department has added Hindi as the third official language of the citys courts.

10) When is the National Deworming day celebrated?

A. 9th February  
B. 10th February  
C. 11th February  
D. 12th February

Answer B

Explanation India celebrates the National Deworming day on 10th February. The National
Deworming Day is an initiative of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India.

11) The parasitic intestinal worms in India, also known as ________.
A. Intestinal Parasite Helminths
B. Soil Transmitted Helminths
C. Fluid Borne Helminths
D. None of the above

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The parasitic intestinal worms in India, also known as Soil-Transmitted Helminths (STH).

12) Where was the multinational maritime exercise AMAN-19 held?
A. Gwadar
B. Karachi
C. Shenzhen
D. Shanghai

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 5-day multinational maritime exercise AMAN-19 was formally commenced at Pakistan Navy Dockyard, Karachi.

13) Voltas Limited has announced to set up its new plant in ________.
A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Uttar Pradesh
C. Karnataka
D. Telangana

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Voltas Limited, a market leader in residential air-conditioners in India, plans to set up a new manufacturing facility at Tirupati in Andhra Pradesh. The cost of the facility is Rs.500 crore.
14) ---- declared as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science?

A. 11th February  
B. 15th March  
C. 16th June  
D. 18th July

**Answer A**

**Explanation** 11th February declared as the International Day of Women and Girls in Science.

15) Who inaugurated Cremica Food Park the first Mega Food Park of Himachal Pradesh?

A. Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal  
B. Shri Arun Jaitley  
C. Shri Suresh Prabhu  
D. Shri Naresh Iyer

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Cremica Food Park the first Mega Food Park of Himachal Pradesh.

16) With which Country did India sign a letter of intent for Marine Pollution Initiative recently?

A. Bhutan  
B. Sweden  
C. Norway  
D. France

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India and Norway signed a letter of Intent for establishing the India-Norway Marine Pollution Initiative.

17) Which state government to rename Dikki Bandi stadium after P A Sangma?
A.Assam
B.Meghalaya
C.Nagaland
D.Tripura

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Meghalaya government to rename Dikki Bandi stadium after P A Sangma.

18) Surging Silk, Mega Event Held in -----

A.Chennai
B.New Delhi
C.Ahmedabad
D.Bengaluru

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Surging Silk, Mega Event Held in New Delhi.

19) What is the Currency of Norway?

A.Norwegian krone (NOK)
B.Norwegian Dollar (NOD)
C.Norwegian Pound (NOP)
D.Norwegian Euro (NE)

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Currency of Norway is Norwegian krone (NOK).

20) Under which act did the Health Ministry notify the eight medical equipments as Drugs?

A.Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
B.Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985
C.Indian Medical Council Act, 1956
D.Indian Medical Council act 2016
The government has notified eight medical equipments as Drugs under Section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 with effect from April 1, 2020. The decision was made after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board.

21) Jamie Chadwick becomes the first female driver to win MRF Challenge title in -------
   A. Chennai
   B. Hyderabad
   C. New Delhi
   D. Mumbai

   Answer A

   Explanation Jamie Chadwick becomes the first female driver to win MRF Challenge title in Chennai

22) Who Inaugurated 13th PETROTECH 2019 In Greater Noida?
   A. Shri Arun Jaitley
   B. Shri Suresh Prabhu
   C. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
   D. Shri Dilip Misra

   Answer C

   Explanation Shri Dharmendra Pradhan Inaugurated 13th PETROTECH 2019 In Greater Noida.

23) Under which Ministry does the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) function?
   A. Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers
   B. Ministry of Minority Affairs
   C. Ministry of Home Affairs
   D. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

   Answer D
**Explanation** Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB) is part of the Central Drugs Standard Control Organization (CDSCO) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

**24) Under which act did the Health Ministry notify the eight medical equipment as Drugs?**

A. Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940  
B. Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985  
C. Indian Medical Council Act, 1956  
D. Indian Medical Council Act 2016

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The government has notified eight medical equipments as Drugs under Section 3 of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 with effect from April 1, 2020. The decision was made after consultation with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board. It was constituted under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.

**25) Who becomes the 1st woman to win MRF Challenge Championship Title?**

A. Conor Daly  
B. Jamie Chadwick  
C. Toby Sowery  
D. Felipe Drugovich

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Jamie Chadwick from Bath, England made history by becoming the first female driver to win the MRF challenge title after scoring a triple win in the final round in Chennai.

**26) Who signed Pact With SBI For Rs 5000 crore Term Loan?**

A. Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)  
B. Ashok Leyland  
C. National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC)  
D. Reliance Communications

**Answer C**

**Explanation** National Thermal Power Corporation signed Pact With SBI For Rs 5000 crore Term Loan.
27) Who won Israels prestigious Dan David Prize in the category Past time dimension for his work in macro history?

A. Vivek Chopra  
B. Suresh Kumar  
C. Narayana Swamy  
D. Sanjay Subrahmanya

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Sanjay Subrahmanya won Israels prestigious Dan David Prize in the category Past time dimension for his work in macro history.

28) CREDAIs Event YouthCon-19 Held In ---------?

A. New Delhi  
B. Chennai  
C. Hyderabad  
D. Pune

**Answer A**

**Explanation** CREDAIs Event YouthCon-19 Held In New Delhi.

29) `Exercise Rahat Concluded In -------?`

A. Pune  
B. Jaipur  
C. Ahmedabad  
D. Chennai

**Answer B**

**Explanation** `Exercise Rahat Concluded In Jaipur.

30) BJP President Amit Shah to visit Kumbh in ---------
A.Prayagraj
B.New Delhi
C.Hyderabad
D.Pune

Answer A

Explanation BJP President Amit Shah to visit Kumbh in Prayagraj.

31) With which Country did India sign for 72,400 SIG716 assault rifles?

A.Korea
B.USA
C.Russia
D.China

Answer B

Explanation Ministry of Defence has signed the U.S. for 72,400 SIG716 assault rifles for front-line soldiers deployed in operational areas.

32) Which of the following terrorist organization did the Jharkhand State government ban?

A.Popular Front of India (PFI)
B.Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE)
C.Akhil Bharat Nepali Ekta Samaj (ABNES)
D.Communist Party of India (Maoist)

Answer A

Explanation The Jharkhand government banned the Popular Front of India (PFI) in the State to curb its anti-national activities and for links with terror outfits like the IS. The PFI has been banned with immediate effect under the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 1908.

33) Who hosted the Multinational Cobra Gold Military Exercise?

A.Thailand
B.Vietnam
C. Myanmar
D. Afghanistan

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Thailand hosted the Multinational Cobra Gold Military Exercise.

**34) Where was the LAWASIA Human Rights Conference held?**

A. Mumbai  
B. Kolkata  
C. Patna  
D. New Delhi

**Answer D**

**Explanation** LAWASIA Human Rights Conference was held in New Delhi. LAWASIA, in association with the Bar Association of India hosted the conference.

**35) When is the World Radio Day celebrated?**

A. 11th February  
B. 12th February  
C. 13th February  
D. 14th February

**Answer C**

**Explanation** 13th February is celebrated as World Radio Day.

**36) Which firm received the Letter of Intent (LoI) from the resolution professional of Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL)**

A. Essar Steel  
B. TATA Steel  
C. JSW Steel  
D. SAIL

**Answer C**
JSW Steel received the Letter of Intent (LoI) from the resolution professional of Bhushan Power & Steel Limited (BPSL)

37) Who won the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018?

A. Vikram Sinha  
B. Siddhartha Lal  
C. Suresh Rajan  
D. Dinesh Karthick

Answer B

Explanation Siddhartha Lal won the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018

38) Where was the third Indo-German Environment Forum held?

A. New Delhi  
B. Chennai  
C. Hyderabad  
D. Pune

Answer A

Explanation Third Indo-German Environment Forum held In New Delhi.

39) What will happen to a Bill introduced and passed in Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha with the dissolution of Lok Sabha? (i) Lapse (ii) Do not lapse

A. Only I  
B. Only II  
C. Both  
D. None of the above

Answer A

Explanation If a Bill is introduced and passed in Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha with the dissolution of Lok Sabha, the Bill will lapse.
40) Which of the following does the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019 violate?

A. Assam Accord 1947
B. Assam Accord 1961
C. Assam Accord 1985
D. Assam Accord 1992

Answer C

Explanation The Citizenship (Amendment) Bill was seen as violating the terms of the 1985 Assam Accord that had set March 24, 1971 as the cut-off for granting citizenship.

41) Which of the following State passed 5% quota to Gujjars and four other nomadic communities?

A. Gujarat
B. Rajasthan
C. West Bengal
D. Telangana

Answer B

Explanation The Rajasthan Assembly unanimously passed a Bill giving 5% reservation in government jobs and education to Gujjars and four other nomadic communities.

42) Who is the Commerce Secretary of the United States?

A. Penny Pritzker
B. John Bryson
C. Wilbur Ross
D. Mike Pompeo

Answer C

Explanation Wilbur Ross is the Commerce Secretary of the United States.

43) Centre has approved to set up a national law university in ________.

A. Himachal Pradesh
B. Maharashtra
C. West Bengal
D. Uttarakhand

Answer D

Explanation The Centre has decided to set up a national law university in Uttarakhand.

44) Who is the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand?

A. Harish Rawat
B. Trivendra Singh Rawat
C. Akhilesh Yadav
D. Yogi Adityanath

Answer B

Explanation Trivendra Singh Rawat is the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand.

45) Which Bill has been introduced to arrest the cases of Indian women being trapped in fraudulent marriages with NRI?

A. Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019
B. Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019
C. Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2018
D. Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2018

Answer A

Explanation The government has introduced the Registration of Marriage of Non-Resident Indian Bill, 2019 in the Parliament.

46) What will happen to a Bill introduced and passed in Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha with the dissolution of Lok Sabha? (i)Lapse (ii)Do not lapse

A. Only I
B. Only II
C. Both
D. None of the above

**Answer A**

**Explanation** If a Bill is introduced and passed in Lok Sabha and pending in Rajya Sabha with the dissolution of Lok Sabha, the Bill will be lapsed. So the answer is option a lapse.

47) **Which bank cleared of Divergence charges imposed by RBI?**

A. Canara Bank  
B. Yes Bank  
C. State Bank of India  
D. Dena Bank

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Yes Bank cleared of Divergence charges imposed by RBI.

48) **A New Snake Species discovered in -------**

A. Arunachal Pradesh  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Kerala  
D. Andhra Pradesh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** A New Snake Species discovered in Arunachal Pradesh.

49) **Who becomes the India U-23 Football team coach?**

A. Derrick Pereira  
B. Stephen Constantine  
C. Sandesh Ghigan  
D. Sunil Chhetri

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Derrick Pereira becomes the India U-23 Football team coach.
50) Under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, Centre will start paying farmers the first instalment of Rs _______ on February 24.

A. 8,000  
B. 4,000  
C. 2,000  
D. 6,000  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, the first instalment of 2,000 each would be transferred to about one crore beneficiaries, on February 24.

51) Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, farmers cultivating up to two hectares (5 acres) will get a direct cash support of Rs _______ annually.

A. 12,000  
B. 6,000  
C. 10,000  
D. 8,000  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi scheme, farmers cultivating up to two hectares (5 acres) will get a direct cash support of Rs 6,000 annually, payable in three equal instalments of Rs 2,000 each.

52) India's annual wholesale price inflation eased to a 10-month low of _______ % in January 2019.

A. 3.54  
B. 3.80  
C. 2.05  
D. 2.76  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** According to government data, India's annual wholesale price inflation eased to a 10-month low of 2.76% in January, helped by a smaller increase in prices of manufactured goods.
and fuel products.

53) The European Commission has recently added seven countries including _________ to dirty-money blacklist.

A. Saudi Arabia  
B. India  
C. Singapore  
D. Switzerland

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The European Commission has added seven countries including Saudi Arabia, Panama, and Nigeria to a blacklist of nations that fail to tackle money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

54) Vaishnavi Bhale, Ashmita Chaliha enter semi finals of women's singles in NBC

A. P V Sindhu  
B. Sunila Apte  
C. Ashmita Chaliha  
D. Lalita Dahiya

**Answer A**

**Explanation** P V Sindhu Vaishnavi Bhale, Ashmita Chaliha enter semi finals of women’s singles in NBC

55) Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15 flagged-off India's first semi-high speed Train 18 which was rechristened as _____________.

A. Khush Yaatra Express  
B. Vande-Bharat Express  
C. Swachh-Bharat Express  
D. Jai Yaatra Express

**Answer B**

**Explanation**
Vande-Bharat Express is the India's first semi-high speed train, which is flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 15 from the New Delhi railway station.

56) How many Rafale fighters were landed for the 12th edition of Aero India 2019 air show?

A. 4  
B. 7  
C. 5  
D. 3

Answer D

Explanation French aerospace major Dassault Aviation flew to India three Rafale fighters to participate in the 12th edition of Aero India 2019 air show from February 20-24.

57) Which instrument is to be declared as Goas heritage musical instrument?

A. Ghumot  
B. Pakhawaj  
C. Harmonium  
D. Shehnai

Answer A

Explanation Ghumot is to be notified as a heritage instrument of Goa. The announcement was made by the Art and Culture Minister of Goa, Govind Gaude. Ghumot is an indigenous earthen drum fashioned as a designed clay pot, with the skin of the monitor lizard stretched taut across the pot's mouth, forming a drumhead.

58) Which of the following is the 13th edition of International Oil & Gas Conference and Exhibition?

A. NATOIL 2019  
B. PETROTECH 2019  
C. PARMANU 2019  
D. None of the above

Answer B
Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the PETROTECH -2019 conference. PETROTECH -2019 conference is a three-day mega event held from 10 to 12 February.

59) Which of the following is Indian Army's artillery firepower showcase?

A. Exercise Manoeuvre  
B. Exercise COPE  
C. Exercise Topchi  
D. Exercise Rahat

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Exercise Topchi was held at Deolali Camp near Nashik, Maharashtra. In this exercise, the Indian Army showcased its artillery firepower by using ultralight Howitzers and indigenous Swathi weapon-locating radar. Aviation and surveillance capabilities were also showcased.

60) Who is appointed as the Election Commissioner of India?

A. Om Prakash Rawat  
B. Sushil Chandra  
C. TN Seshan  
D. T.S. Krishnamurthy

**Answer B**

**Explanation** President Ram Nath Kovind appointed Sushil Chandra as an Election Commissioner of India.

61) India's 1st Aqua Mega Food Park recently commissioned in ________.

A. Khagaria, Bihar  
B. Nalbari, Assam  
C. West Godavari, Andhra Pradesh  
D. Surat, Gujarat

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Union Minister of Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal commissioned Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park at Tundurru Village in Bhimavaram Mandal, West Godavari.
District, Andhra Pradesh.

62) Who has been appointed as 'Air India' chief for second time?
A. Ronojoy Dutta  
B. Vinod Kumar Yadav  
C. Ashwani Lohani  
D. Sudhir Bhargava  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Former Railway Board chairman, Ashwani Lohani has been appointed chairman and managing director (CMD) of Air India for second time.

63) A total of 25 countries have recently pledged $______ million in humanitarian assistance to crisis-hit Venezuela.
A. 100  
B. 150  
C. 200  
D. 250  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** US National Security Adviser John Bolton announced that, a total of 25 countries have pledged $100 million in humanitarian assistance to crisis-hit Venezuela.

64) A day after Pulwama terror attack, India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status accorded to ______________.
A. Saudi Arabia  
B. Iran  
C. Afghanistan  
D. Pakistan  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** A day after the terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir's Pulwama district on February 14, India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status accorded to Pakistan. The MFN status to Pakistan was given by India in 1996.
65) Indian Air Force inducts Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal as first woman flight engineer. She hails from ________.

A. Chandigarh  
B. Bihar  
C. Gujarat  
D. West Bengal

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Jaiswal hails from Chandigarh, studied engineering at Panjab University. In 2018, the Flight Engineer branch, which was exclusive for male air warriors, was opened for women officers.

66) ________ held the 5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019?

A. Bhubaneshwar  
B. Chennai  
C. Bangalore  
D. Trivandrum

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Bhubaneshwar held the 5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019.

67) Early Ed Asia 2019, Asia’s largest early childhood conference, held in ________.

A. Jaipur  
B. Chennai  
C. Hyderabad  
D. Pune

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Early Ed Asia 2019, Asia’s largest early childhood conference, held in Jaipur.

68) Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to ________ from February 21, 2019.
A. China  
B. South Korea  
C. Argentina  
D. Singapore

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a two-day visit to South Korea from February 21, 2019 during which he will hold talks with President Moon Jae-in on a host of issues to strengthen strategic ties, and also be conferred with the Seoul Peace Prize.

69) A government panel has recommended a national minimum wage of _____ per month.
A. 8,650  
B. 7,550  
C. 10,450  
D. 9,750

**Answer D**

**Explanation** A government panel has recommended a national minimum wage of 375 per day or 9,750 per month plus an additional housing allowance of 1,430 per month for workers in cities.

70) Lifeline Rivers of ---- should inhale to support breathing life around it
A. Punjab  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Kerala  
D. Himachal Pradesh

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Lifeline Rivers of Punjab should inhale to support breathing life around it.

71) ------ gold miners risked their lives in search of gold
A. Zimbabwe  
B. South Africa
C. Pakistan  
D. North America

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Zimbabwe gold miners risked their lives in search of gold.

**72) India's First Agromet Forecast Centre Inaugurated In ---------?**

A. Karnataka  
B. Tamil Nadu  
C. Kerala  
D. West Bengal

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India's First Agromet Forecast Centre Inaugurated In Karnataka

**73) World Sustainable Development Summit 2019 Held At -------**

A. New Delhi  
B. Hyderabad  
C. Chennai  
D. Pune

**Answer A**

**Explanation** World Sustainable Development Summit 2019 Held At New Delhi.

**74) World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019 Report Released By**

A. International Labour Organization  
B. National Brain Research Centre  
C. Indian Council of Historical Research  
D. Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR)

**Answer A**

**Explanation** World Employment and Social Outlook Trends 2019 Report Released By International Labour Organization.
75) Domestic ------- extravaganza will witness enthralling matches

A. Hockey  
B. Cricket  
C. Badminton  
D. Table Tennis

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Domestic Hockey extravaganza will witness enthralling matches.

76) Which country recently agreed to join Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay to present joint 2030 FIFA World Cup bid?

A. Portugal  
B. Chile  
C. Morocco  
D. Spain

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Chile president Sebastian Pinera has announced that Chile, along with Argentina, Paraguay and Uruguay, will bid to host the 2030 FIFA World Cup.

77) Recently RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs _____ Crore on Oriental Bank of Commerce, for violation of various banking norms.

A. 1.5  
B. 2  
C. 1  
D. 2.5

**Answer A**

**Explanation** A penalty of Rs 1.5 crore has been imposed by RBI on Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) and Rs 1 crore each on Punjab National Bank (PNB) and Bank of India, for violation of various banking norms.
78) NASA has announced a new mission SPHEREx, targeted to be launched in ________, to explore the origins and evolution of the universe.

A. 2021  
B. 2020  
C. 2023  
D. 2022  

Answer C  

Explanation NASA is aiming for a 2023 launch and has already earmarked $242 million for the project. Once SPHEREx is already in orbit, it will observe and collect data on over 300 million galaxies, some as far as 10 billion light-years away from Earth, and 100 million stars in our own Milky Way every six months.

79) Macedonia officially changed its name to __________.

A. South Macedonia  
B. Federal Macedonia  
C. Socialist Macedonia  
D. North Macedonia

Answer D  

Explanation The country changed its name to North Macedonia from Macedonia after an agreement with Greece to settle a long-standing dispute.

80) Who will be awarded the 2016 Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony on February 18, 2019?

A. Ram Sutar Vanji  
B. Maestro Zubin Mehta  
C. Chhayanaut  
D. Rajkumar Singhajit Singh

Answer A  

Explanation Indian President Ram Nath Kovind would be presenting the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony to Rajkumar Singhajit Singh (for the year 2014), Bangladesh cultural organisation Chhayanaut (for 2015) and Ram Sutar Vanji (for 2016).
81) India's first district cooling system to be built in ________.

A. Varanasi  
B. Mumbai  
C. Amaravati  
D. Hyderabad  

Answer C

Explanation UAE-based cooling solutions utility National Central Cooling Company PJSC (Tabreed) has entered into a 30-year concession with Andhra Pradesh Capital Region Development Authority (APCRDA) to build, own, operate and transfer India's first district cooling system in Amaravati.
USEFUL LINKS

Free SBI PO Mock Test

Free SSC CHSL Mock Test

Free IBPS RRB Office Assistant Mock Test

Free IBPS Clerk Mock Test

GOOD LUCK FOR YOUR EXAMS!!!
Fresherslive provides current affairs for competitive exams like UPSC, PSC, IAS, RRB, IBPS PO Clerk, SBI, RBI, SSC, PSU, and so on.