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GOA 2020

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BANKING & FINANCE

Today Current Affairs: Central Banks approve reduced fees for UPI RuPay Payment

Central Banks in India approve that they will not charge a part of the fees on Unified Payments Interface UPI and RuPay card transactions as long as the merchant discount rate MDR remains zero following the government announcement. The move was discussed and approved in the NPCI steering committee meeting.

NPCI to remove multiple charges like interchange fees, payments service provider (PSP) fee, and switching fees. A bank, which used to get MDR from merchants for facilitating the payments, would pay interchange fees to the issuer bank and then pay a switching fee to the network NPCI along with a price to PSPs like PhonePe or Google-Pay. Most banks have stopped ATM expansion and might also allocate less money towards POS (point-of-sale) expansion. The MDR becoming zero, it was inevitable that the interchange fee also becomes zero, industry experts.

Unified Payments Interface

It is an instant real-time payment system developed by the National Payments Corporation of India facilitating inter-bank transactions.

Formed: 11 April 2016

Today Current Affairs: RBI appoints Executive Director Janak Raj as member of MPC

Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appoints its Executive Director, Janak Raj, as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). The Monetary Policy Committee takes decisions based on a majority vote. Raj replaces M D Patra recently promoted as Deputy Governor of the RBI. The decision to appoint Janak Raj taken at the 581st meeting of the central board held in Mumbai. The RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das heads the MPC. The committee is responsible for fixing the benchmark interest rate in India. The meetings of the Monetary Policy Committee held at least four times a year. Founded: October 2016
Union Budget Highlights 2020-2021 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman

Union Budget 2020 presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman to revive economic growth and boost people's income. The Budget is based on Three themes
- Aspirational India
- Economic development
- Caring society

Union Budget 2020 was presented by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, a bid to revive economic growth and boost people's income. The Budget is based on three themes - aspirational India, economic development for all, and caring society. The Finance Minister began her speech by saying that the Budget 2020-21 is for boosting income and improving the purchasing power of people. The fiscal deficit is estimated at 3.8 percent (revised estimate for 2019-20) of the gross domestic product in the current financial year, and the government aims to lower it to 3.5 percent (budget estimate for 2020-21) in the fiscal year ending March 2021. She proposed Rs 69,000 crore to the healthcare sector and Rs 12,300 crore to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's flagship cleanliness program Swachh Bharat Mission. Finance Minister earmarked another Rs 3.6 lakh crore towards the supply of piped water to households. Highlights Of Union Budget 2020:

- The income tax for those earning between Rs 5 lakh and Rs 7.5 lakh will be cut to 10 percent from 20 percent.
- The income tax for those earning between Rs 7.5 and Rs 10 lakh will be cut to 15 percent from 20 percent.
- The income tax for those earning between Rs 10 and Rs 12.5 lakh will be cut to 20 percent from 30 percent.
- The income tax for those earning between Rs 12.5 lakh and Rs 15 lakh will be cut to 25 percent from 30 percent.
- 30 percent tax rate will still be applicable for those earning above Rs 15 lakh.

There will be no tax for those earning Rs 5 lakh and Rs 690 billion will be spent on healthcare spending Village Storage Scheme

Women, SHGs to regain their position as Dhaanya Lakshmi. NABARD to map and geo-tag agri-warehouses, cold storages, reefer van facilities, etc. Warehousing in line with Warehouse Development and Regulatory Authority (WDRA) norms:

State governments who undertake the implementation of model laws (issued by the Central government) to be encouraged.
Livestock:

Doubling of milk processing capacity to 108 million MT from 53.5 million MT by 2025.
Artificial insemination to be increased to 70% from the present 30%.
MNREGS to be dovetailed to develop fodder farms.
Foot and Mouth Disease, Brucellosis in cattle and Peste Des Petits Ruminaat sheep and goat to be eliminated by 2025.

Around 0.5 crore households mobilized with 58 lakh SHGs for poverty alleviation.

**Education and Skills**

New Education Policy to be announced soon.
National Police University and National Forensic Science University proposed for policing science, forensic science, and cyber-forensics.
Degree level full-fledged online education program by Top-100 institutions in the National Institutional Ranking Framework.
Up to 1-year internship to fresh engineers to be provided by Urban Local Bodies.
The budget proposes to attach a medical college to an existing district hospital in PPP mode.
Special bridge courses to be designed by the Ministries of Health, and Skill Development.

**Transport**

100 more airports are planned by 2024
Over 6,000 km of highways in 12 lots will be monetized by 2024

**16-Point Action Plan for Farmers**
The government is committed to doubling farmers' income by 2022 to allocate Rs 2.83 lakh crore for agriculture and rural sectors such as irrigation.
Schemes that encourage manufacturing of mobile phones, electronic equipment, and semiconductor packaging be introduced
Private sector to build Data Centre Parks throughout the country will be encouraged
80 billion rupees over five years to be provided for quantum technologies and applications
Milk processing capacity to be doubled by 2025.
BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Today Current Affairs: Tech Mahindra set up Google Cloud Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad

IT services major Tech Mahindra to set up a dedicated Google Cloud Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Hyderabad. **Aim** To drive the digital transformation of enterprises globally. It will provide enterprises with access to the technology and services and deliver solutions to help them move critical workloads to Google Cloud, develop their Artificial Intelligence (AI) and data analytics solutions, and improve workplace productivity. **TechMahindra - Google Cloud Centre of Excellence** The Centre will offer clients a full spectrum of cloud services that include consulting, assessment, migration, optimization, and support services for enterprises looking to optimize their workloads on Google Cloud. Tech Mahindra mainly focuses on leveraging next-generation technologies to enable its customers to drive growth and enhance the customer experience. **Centre of Excellence** A center of excellence (COE) is a team along with a shared facility, or an entity that provides leadership, best practices, research, support, and training for a focus area. Due to its broad usage and vague legal precedent, a center of excellence in one context may have completely different characteristics from another.

Today Current Affairs: Reliance Industries launching new project to use plastics in road construction

Reliance Industries organization will try to work with India's highway authority and individual states to possibly supply a plastics-implanted blend. India, which utilizes around 14 million tons of plastic every year, comes up short on a sorted out framework for the administration of plastic waste. **Reliance Newbie** Reliance Industries, India’s most significant petchem player, is propelling a venture to utilize plastics in street development while developing worries over contamination in the nation of 1.3 billion whose vital urban communities are frequently tormented with brown haze and litter. India, which utilizes around 14 million tons of plastic yearly, does not have sorted out management for the administration of plastic waste, prompting across the board littering. Prime Minister Narendra Modi is encouraging India to end the utilization of single-use plastics by 2022. The organization will try to work with India's thruway authority and individual states to possibly supply a
plastics-imbued blend to make a portion of the vast number of kilometers of streets Modi needs to work to overhaul India's squeaking framework. **Plastic Management** Light plastics, the sort utilized as convey packs or nibble wrappers, are commonly not suitable to reuse, thus end up in landfills, traffic intersections, or seas. Dependence needs to shred these plastics and blend them in with bitumen, a recipe the combination says is less expensive and longer-enduring. India was home to 15 of the 20 most dirtied urban communities on the planet in 2018, as per an investigation by two gatherings observing air contamination. New Delhi is the world's most contaminated capital, with brown haze causing school abrogations, flight preoccupations, and untold medical issues for its more than 20 million individuals.

**Today Current Affairs: BSE signs licensing agreement with ICE Futures Europe**

The **Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE)** signs a licensing agreement with Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) Futures Europe, an operator of global exchanges and clearinghouses. India is one of the largest consumers and importers of crude oil in the world, and Brent crude is highly co-related with the Indian crude oil market. **About the Agreement** This agreement will serve the needs and interests of the Indian energy commodities space and market participants to access Rupee-dominated Brent benchmark prices. It will also help Indian commodity markets by providing convenient and cost-effective onshore hedging products and enable the price discovery of Brent crude prices in the Indian time zone. **Bombay Stock Exchange** It is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. **Founded:** 9 July 1875
INTERNATIONAL

Today Current Affairs: Government sets up 24x7 helpline number for queries on Coronavirus

Government has launched a 24x7 helpline number to provide support regarding queries on novel coronavirus. Under the directions of Health Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) call centre, 91-11-23978046, has been made operational.

Coronavirus:
Coronavirus causes an infection in the nose, sinuses, or upper throat. Most viruses in this family are not dangerous. But some types of the virus are serious and may lead to death. Coronavirus was first identified in the 1960s. This virus can infect both humans and animals. The virus spreads from the infected people through coughing, sneezing, touching an infected person's hands or face, or by touching things that infected people have touched.

In 2003, over 774 people died from a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak. In 2012, about 858 people have died from Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). MERS and SARS are types of coronaviruses. In 2020, a new type of coronavirus, 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), was identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) in China.

Current Affairs: Agni Sapkota elected speaker of House of Representatives of Nepal

Agni Sapkota was elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the lower house of Parliament in Nepal. Being the senior-most candidate of the house, Sapkota was elected unopposed.

Agni Sapkota's win:
His name was proposed by Subhash Chandra Nembang of the Nepal Communist Party. The election to choose the speaker was held in a meeting of the House of Representatives in Kathmandu on 26 January. The meeting was chaired by the Rashtriya Janata Party Nepal leader Mahantha Thakur.

Mr. Sapkota will take the oath of office and secrecy on 27 January 2020 from President Bidya Devi Bhandari. The post of Speaker was vacant since October 2019 after Mr. Krishna Bahadur Mahara resigned following allegations of
attempted rape.

**Nepal:**
- **President:** Bidhya Devi Bhandari
- **Vice President:** Nanda Kishor Pun
- **Prime Minister:** Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli
- **Capital:** Kathmandu
- **Official language:** Nepali
- **Currency:** Nepalese rupee (NPR)

**Today Current Affairs: Nepal offers to be a mediator between India and Pakistan to resolve the issues**

Nepal offered to play the role of a *mediator between India and Pakistan* to resolve any problem. The country said that it is important for the two countries to have a dialogue to resolve their issues. Nepal also stated that if necessary, it plays the role of a mediator too. Nepal's initiation to resolve issues between India and Pakistan comes as India has been distancing itself from the SAARC in the last three years.

**Nepal's concern-SAARC summit:**
The move by Nepal comes due to the uncertainty prevailing over the *South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit.* The last SAARC Summit in 2014 was held in Kathmandu, Nepal. It was attended by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The 2016 SAARC summit was scheduled to be held in Islamabad. But after the terrorist attack on an Indian Army camp in Uri in J&K on 18 September 2016, India did not participate in the summit. The 2016 summit was called off as Bangladesh, Bhutan and Afghanistan also declined to participate in the Islamabad meet.

**Background:**
Tensions rose between India and Pakistan since India *abrogated Article 370 of the Constitution* to revoke the special status of Jammu and Kashmir in August 2019. India's decision evoked strong reactions from Pakistan.

**Today Current Affairs: Britain unveils 50 pence coin minted to mark Brexit**

Britain unveiled a new *50 pence coin* minted to mark the country's departure from the
European Union who bears the inscription Peace, prosperity, and friendship with all nations and the Brexit date of 31 January 2020. The three million of the coins be distributed from banks, post offices, and shops. The finance ministry planned to mint a coin inscribed on 29 March 2019, the original date of Brexit, before Britain asked to extend its EU membership. Javid later ordered production to commemorate a new deadline of Oct. 31. The launch about one million coins to be melted down.

European Union
It is a political and economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe.

Headquarters: Brussels, Belgium

Today Current Affairs: Qatar names Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani new Prime Minister

Qatar appointed a new Prime Minister replacing Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani. The Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani named as the new Prime Minister. Prime Minister has submitted his resignation. The state-run Qatar News Agency reported that no reason for the change had specified.

Today Current Affairs: UK launches 4-mn pound Innovation Challenge Fund in India

UK government launched a 4 million pounds fund in India to support collaborative research into emerging technologies. Innovation Challenge Fund will encourage industry and academia to collaborate and develop tech solutions for social, economic, and environmental challenges in India. The initiative is focused on two major tech clusters: artificial intelligence/data in Karnataka and future mobility in Maharashtra. The successful bidders will likely have international partners, including from the UK. The challenge fund is looking for proposals in areas of safety and convenience, technology leap (energy storage tech, temperature-controlled transport, drone mobility), connectivity, and recycling and upgrading apart from smart mobility.

India bans exports of all kinds of personal protection equipment

India bans the exports of all kinds of personal protection equipment, including clothing and masks used to protect people from airborne particles. The
significance as there could be a spurt in demand for such products due to the outbreak of novel Coronavirus claimed more than 200 lives in China while the number of confirmed cases reached near 10 thousand. Directorate General of Foreign Trade, DGFT export all varieties of personal protection equipment including clothing and masks used to protect the wearer from airborne particles or any other respiratory masks or any other own protective clothing including coveralls and N95 masks prohibited with immediate effect.

**USA declares public health emergency over spread of coronavirus**

USA declared a public health emergency over the spread of the coronavirus. Foreign nationals who have visited China in the past two weeks. US citizens returning from Hubei province, where the outbreak started, will be quarantined for 14 days. World Health Organization (WHO) declared a global health emergency over the new virus.

**Novel coronavirus**

The novel coronavirus known as the Wuhan coronavirus, It is a contagious virus that causes respiratory infection identified as the cause of the ongoing 201920 Wuhan coronavirus outbreak. Genomic sequencing has shown that the coronavirus is a positive-sense, single-stranded RNA coronavirus
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Today Current Affairs: Ganga Yatra under Namami Gange mission began on 27 January from Bijnor

Ganga Yatra under Namami Gange mission begins on 27 January from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. The yatra was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and Union Minister Sanjeev Baliyan from Bijnor. Also, Governor Anandiben Patel, Union Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey and Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar Sushil Modi launched it from Ballia in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Aim:
The yatra aims to promote bio-diversity and to make the villages situated on the banks of the holy river more developed and prosperous.

Namami Gange mission:
The Namami Gange programme is an integrated mission for Ganga rejuvenation. The Flagship programme was approved by the Union Government in June 2014. The Centre allotted a budget outlay of Rs.20,000 Crore.

The objective of the Namami Gange Mission is to provide comprehensive and sustainable solutions for major pollution hot spots along the stretch of 97 towns and 4,465 villages on the Ganga stem.

In the Namami Gange programme, a total of 289 projects have so far been sanctioned at a cost of Rs 28,377 crore out of which 87 projects have been completed.

The main objective and achievements of the programme are: Creating Sewerage Treatment Capacity, River Surface Cleaning, Creating River-Front Development, Bio-Diversity Conservation, Afforestation, Public Awareness, Industrial Effluent Monitoring, Ganga Gram

Participants:
8 Union ministers and many ministers of the State, incharge of the are participating in the 5-day Ganga Yatra.

Note: Bijnor is a place where Ganga enters Uttar Pradesh. Ballia is a place where the Ganga river leaves the state to enter Bihar.

Today Current Affairs: NCML released first estimates for 2019-20 rabi crop
production

National Collateral Management Services Limited (NCML) released its first estimates for 2019-20 rabi crop production.

Estimate Highlights:
The leading agriculture post-harvest management company said that the year 2020 will see a record food grain production led by the wheat crop along with corn and jowar.

Oilseeds and pulses may end up lower than in 2019.
Along with Wheat, production of Rabi Paddy has been estimated to increase by 5% compared to 2019.
Excess rainfall received in October 2019 has generated favourable conditions for sowing by providing an adequate level of soil moisture.

Note:
**Rabi season** contributes to nearly 50% of the food grain production starts from November and lasts till April of the following year.

Today Current Affairs: Andhra Pradesh Cabinet passes resolution for abolishing Legislative Council

The **Andhra Pradesh Cabinet** passed a resolution for abolishing the state Legislative Council. The decision will be adopted in the Legislative Assembly and sent to the Centre for necessary follow-up action.
The YSR Congress is in the minority in the 58-member Legislative Council. The opposition Telugu Desam Party has the upper hand with 28 members, and the ruling party could get a majority in the House only in 2021.
The move by the Andhra Pradesh cabinet came after the Jaganmohan Reddy government last week failed to pass in the Upper House of the state legislature two crucial Bills related to its plan of having three capitals for the state.

Today Current Affairs: India first underwater metro project to start soon in Kolkata

**Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation** will start soon its East-West project which runs partly under the city's iconic Hooghly river, by **March 2022** after a delay of several years doubled costs. The final installment of 200 million rupees - **$2.8 million** over
the next two years from the Indian Railway Board. A loan amount of 41.6 billion rupees from the Japan International Cooperation Agency helps fund 48.5% of the project. **Kolkata Metro Station** India's oldest metro started in 1984 with a North-South service, by 2014 due to many issues the total project cost rising to about 86 billion rupees for some **17 kilometers from 49 billion rupees** for 14 km. These two metro services will be around 40% of total transport demand. The new line is to carry about 900,000 people daily, roughly 20% of the city's population and will be less than a minute to cross a 520-meter underwater tunnel. Depending on the time of day, it takes some 20 minutes to use the ferry and anywhere upward of an hour to cross the Howrah bridge. The interest rate is between 1.2% to 1.6%. The East-West Metro project is 74% owned by India's Railway Ministry and 26% by the nation's Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

**Today Current Affairs: Indian Railways to run 100 percent on electricity by 2024**

Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal planned to switch **Indian Railways** entirely to electricity by **2024** as diesel locomotives are steadily being shunted out of service. The Indian railway to run on 100 percent electricity. It will be the first railway network in the world to be run on **100 percent electricity**. This railway forum was organized during Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro. The event addressed by Bolsonaro and several other Indian ministers. The central government minister went onto say that India is planning to make the entire Indian railways a net-zero emission network by 2030. India would love to work together with Brazil on infrastructure development. India has a market that is looking forward to growing into a $5 trillion economy, full of a young workforce, vibrant and free society with the rule of law, strong judiciary and media, stable government policies, and a business-friendly environment.

**Today Current Affairs: PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate 3rd Global Potato Conclave 2020 at Gandhinagar**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the **3rd Global Potato Conclave-2020** at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The four-day will provide an
opportunity to bring all stakeholders at one common platform. Gujarat is one of the leading producers of Potato in the country. Netherlands is the partner country. The four-day mega event will have three major components, which include the Potato Conference, the Agri Expo, and Potato Field Day. It is a unique event to expose different stakeholders of the country to the frontiers of knowledge and innovations in potato research. The 100 foreign delegates of 14 different countries expected to participate in this conference. This conference is organized by the Indian Potato Association (IPA) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research ICAR, Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla, and International Potato Center, Lima, Peru.

Today Current Affairs: West Bengal becomes fourth state to pass resolution on CAA in house

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urged the Party of India (Marxist) or CPI (M) and Congress to put aside with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre. West Bengal became the fourth state to pass an assembly resolution against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA). The National Population Register (NPR) and the proposed pan-India National Register of Citizens (NRC) and the CAA are related. The amended citizenship law anti-people amid slogans like Didi-Modi are two sides of the same coin by members of the Opposition Congress and the CPI (M). The Congress and the CPI criticism over her meeting with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 11 and added her government had the guts to skip a meeting related to the NPR in Delhi. The Kerala and Congress-ruled Punjab passed similar resolutions on December 31 and January 17. The CAA was given last month to fast-track the citizenship process for non-Muslims who have entered India from Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Bangladesh before 2015, and triggered protests across the country. The resolution demanded that the NRC and NPR process be withdrawn immediately. National Register for Indian Citizens is a comprehensive biometric database of all usual residents. The exercise is linked to the National Register for Indian Citizens aimed at identifying undocumented immigrants. Kerala and West Bengal announced they will not participate in the NPR exercise, which will begin in April. They voted for the resolution even as their leaders criticized the TMC for not allowing them to introduce it earlier this month.
Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2019 passed by the Parliament of India within 2 days on 11 December. The act seeks to relax the requirement of residence in India for citizenship by naturalization from 11 years to 5 years for migrants covered under the Act. The Citizenship Amendment Act protests known as the CAA and NRC protests.

Today Current Affairs: Sunil Mehta takes charge as IBA Chief Executive

Indian Bank Association (IBA) appoints Punjab National Bank's former MD and CEO Sunil Mehta as its chief executive. Mehta recently retired as the Managing Director and CEO of Punjab National Bank. He has succeeded VG Kannan, who demitted once as chief executive of IBA on December 31, 2019. Indian Banks Association Indian Banks Association formed on 26 September 1946 as a representative body of management of banking in India operating in India. Headquarters: Mumbai

Founded: 26 September 1946

Today Current Affairs: GRSE set to deliver ASW corvette INS Kavaratti to Indian Navy

Garden Reach Shipbuilders ant (GRSE) set to deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti. Kavaratti is the last of the four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes bu for the Indian Navy under Project P28. The trials of the ship completed and we plan to deliver it by this month. Kavaratti will be the 104th ship to be constructed and provided by the GRSE. The carbon composite superstructure provides the advantage of the lower weight of the warship to increase stability, maneuverability, and faster acceleration. The new technology means that the warship which has 90 percent indigenous components, will also require lower maintenance. The ship equipped to fight in nuclear, chemical, and biological warfare conditions and its weapons and sensors suite is predominantly indigenous. Project P28 - Kamorta delivered to the Navy in July 2014, Kadmatt delivered in November 2015 and Kiltan delivered in October 2017. The four corvettes under the project named after islands in the Lakshadweep. The GRSE currently a strong order book position of around Rs 27,400 crore under which there are a total of 19 warships at various stages of construction under six
projects that are underway. The five projects are of the Indian Navy, and one is of the Indian Coast Guard. The Defence PSU delivered five warships to the Indian Navy in the last ten months between March.

Today Current Affairs: Union Government targets to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022

The Union Government planned to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022 to build a healthy planet with a less carbon-intensive economy. Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha Evam Utthan Mahabhiyan (PM-KUSUM) scheme government, empowers the farmers to be the producer of energy. The PM-KUSUM scheme covers grid-connected renewable energy power plants, stand-alone solar-powered agricultural pumps, and solarization of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps. **Components of the Scheme** The main components of the scheme are installation of 10 thousand Mega Watt of Decentralized Ground Mounted Grid Connected Renewable Power Plants by farmers of 500 Kilo Watt to 2 Mega Watt capacity, installation of 17.50 lakh stand-alone Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps and solarization of 10 Lakh Grid-connected Solar Powered Agriculture Pumps. The Scheme has a substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO2 emissions, and all three components of the Scheme combined are likely to result in saving of about 27 million tonnes of CO2 emission per annum.

Today Current Affairs: Supreme Court allows centre to introduce African cheetah to suitable habitat in India

Supreme Court allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to suitable habitat in India. The court decision followed a petition filed by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) seeking permission for the introduction of the African cheetah from Namibia as rare Indian cheetah is almost extinct in the country. **Supreme court** The Supreme court set up a three-member committee comprising former Director Wildlife of India Ranjit Singh, Director General of Wildlife of India Dhananjay Mohan and Deputy Inspector General, Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Forests to guide the NTCA. Chief Justice S A Bobde and Justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant, the apex court will monitor the project and
the committee will submit its report before it every four months.

**National Tiger Conservation Authority**

National Tiger Conservation Authority established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force. It is constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganized management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.

**Today Current Affairs: Jal Jeevan Mission tableau awarded as the best tableau in Republic Day Parade 2020**

Ministry of Jal Shakti- the union government's new initiative Jal Jeevan Mission. **Aim:**

The Functional Household Tap Connection (FHTC) to every rural household by 2024, has been adjudged the best tableau, jointly with the NDRF tableau.

Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh awarded the best tableau award to the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) tableau in a gracious and befitting ceremony. The launch of Jal Jeevan Mission planned to provide potable water in adequate quantity and prescribed quality regularly to every rural household by 2024. Currently, only 33 million out of around 178 million rural households in the country have the facility of piped water connection. The winner tableau's front design was in the shape of a substantial metallic tap and a pot made of metallic containers, representing millions of rural households. The middle section showcased how a rural household in New India' benefits under JJM. There were artists donned in droplets costumes in blue and cultural attire of different states/UTs walking along, symbolizing the making of JJM, a Jan Andolan. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi water conservation and accessibility of quality water for all urging rural communities to work together so that water becomes a shared commitment and has to grow everyone's business. The city must have a sense of ownership of the assets being created under this Mission.

**Today Current Affairs: Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the National Cadet Corps Rally in Delhi**

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi attends the National Cadet Corps Rally in Delhi. Prime Minister inspected the Guard of Honour and reviewed the March Past by the various NCC contingents and also from Cadets from other friendly and
neighboring countries. NCC cadets also presented before the Prime Minister their capabilities in fields such as adventure sports, music and performance arts. Prime Minister distributed awards for the meritorious NCC cadets. The development efforts of the North East PM highlighted that along with the development of the North East region started negotiations with all stakeholders have been started with a very open mind and an open heart.

Today Current Affairs: Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reaffirms India's firm resolve to tackle cross-border terrorism

India is fully capable of giving a firm response to cross-border terrorism and strikes against terrorist attacks in 2016 and 2019 have demonstrated the nation's firm resolve to defeat terrorism.

South Asian Conference
The inaugural session of 12th South Asian Conference at Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis. India was engaged in conversations with its neighbors to develop joint approaches for regional peace and security. The full potential of SAARC has not been realized due to the behavior and policies of a single country and cited how the SAARC motor vehicles agreement stalled at the last Kathmandu session in 2015. The Easter Bomb attacks in April 2019 were the latest instance of how dangerous such a policy has been for the region and beyond. The mutually beneficial and broad-based approach, comprising both the components of development and security, was inclusive and sensitive to the priorities of the neighboring countries. The union government committed about 13.14 billion US dollars in credit-lines and about 4 billion US dollars in assistance in the neighborhood over the last decade. The regional prosperity should not be held hostage to the interests of select states who are obstructing all efforts aimed at regional cooperation. The civil society could influence governments through their proactive efforts adding that the local civil society of South Asia must encourage efforts.

Today Current Affairs: Amit Shah chairs 22nd meeting of Central Zonal Council in Chhattisgarh

The 22nd meeting of the Central Zonal Council is progressing at Raipur, the state capital of Chhattisgarh. The Central Zonal Council comprises of four states. The
issues related to security, law, and order, infrastructure-related matters like roads, transport, water, industries, and power along with various issues between the center and member states and inter-state disputes are discussed. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will also address BJP leaders and intellectuals in a program to be held at state BJP headquarter in Raipur. **Central Zonal Council** Central Zonal Council is a zonal council that comprises the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand. The states grouped into six zones having an Advisory Council to foster cooperation among these States. The five zonal Councils were set up vide Part-III of the States Reorganisation Act, 1956.

**Today Current Affairs: Union Government puts in place measures to protect commercial decision-making by banks**

Public sector banks to set up a committee of senior officers for monitoring the progress of pending disciplinary and internal vigilance cases. Every bank must set up a committee of senior officers to review pending disciplinary and civil vigilance cases and frame timelines to reduce delays in deciding such matters. The union government modified its 2015 framework on large-value frauds doing away with the personal responsibility of Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of public sector banks for compliance with various prescribed timelines. **Department of Financial Services (DES)** The Indian Powers delegated by the Department of Financial Services (DES) to the boards of public sector lenders to put in place a suitable mechanism for ensuring compliance of the various timelines laid down in Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) circulars. The instructions of DFS of 2015 regarding the compulsory examination of fraud for all non-performing asset (NPA) accounts exceeding Rs 50 crore have been aligned with the CVC circular of January 15 where all such cases of suspected fraud to be initially referred to the Advisory Board.

**Today Current Affairs: Vakrangee appoints Ex- RBI and Ex-SEBI ED Ramesh Joshi as Non-Executive Chairman with Kotak Committee Recommendations**

Vakrangee Limited appointed as Mr. Ramesh Joshi (EX-RBI & EX- SEBI ED), a veteran with over 40 years of experience as the Non-Executive Chairman of the
company. Mr. Dinesh Nandwana appointed as executive chairman as the Managing Director and Group CEO in place of Mr. Anil I Q1anna. Reserve Bank of India as Nominee Director on behalf of RBI on the Boards of Various Banks and retired as an Executive Director of SEBI. He is also the Panel of Arbitrators for NSE, BSE, and MCX. He will serve as a mentor and continue as a Guiding force for the Managing Director on issues presented to the board, especially in the areas of Corporate Governance practices. He is guiding the company for more than two decades, and his vast experience is backed by astute and dynamic leadership qualities. The Company immensely contributed to the growth and diversification of the Company from being an E-governance player to a Unique Retail distribution platform with the Pan India network of Franchisee led Retail outlets. The Company set a track record for consistent and sustainable growth. The Company has a planned target is to reach at least 25,000 Kendras by FY 2019-20 and further enhance it to reach 3,00,000 Nextgen outlets by FY 2024-25.

SEBI Regulation SEBI formed a committee on corporate governance in June 2017 under the Chairmanship of Mr. Uday Kotak with a view to improving the standards of corporate governance of listed entities in India. Based on its Recommendations, in May 2018 SEBI amended Regulation 17 of the Listing Regulations of 2015, by inserting a new clause, 1B. Regulation 17 (1B) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015, required the top 500 listed companies to divide the positions of chairman and MD or CEO of the Company. These top 500 listed entities shall further ensure that the chairperson of the board of such listed entity shall be a non-executive director and not be related to the managing director or the chief executive officer as per the definition of the term relative defined under the Companies Act, 2013.

Today Current Affairs: Essar Oil UK announces Mark Wilson as new Chief Executive Officer

Essar Oil (UK) Ltd operates the Stanlow refinery announced the appointment of Mark Wilson as its new Chief Executive Officer. A Wilson was previously with BP plc of the UK, where he held several senior leadership positions. Mark successfully led significant international businesses, and I am delighted that he is joining us as our new Chief Executive Officer. Stanlow produces 16 percent of UK road transport fuels, including 3 billion liters of petrol, 4.4 billion liters of diesel,
and 2.1 billion liters of jet fuel per year. The refinery processes 10 million tonnes of crude and feedstocks annually. Essar

Essar invested USD 1 billion in the Essar Oil UK business, including the USD 258 million spent in 2017-18 to deliver a significant margin booster project, together with the site's largest-ever turnaround. The successful delivery of this project increased annual throughput capacity from 68 million to 75 million barrels, as well as improving yields and driving revenues. Essar Oil UK broadened its downstream integration, with an entry into the retail fuel market. It already has 73 petrol pumps across England and Wales and has plans to grow the retail network within the UK market to 400 sites over the next five years. The company is also a significant player in the wholesale supply of Jet A-1 to several major UK airports.

**Today Current Affairs: Jitendra Singh launches Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal**

Union Minister of State for PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal that will enhance network application of gram panchayats. The Portal will function with the help of satellite technology developed by ISRO. Indian space technology Indian space technology is designed to benefit every Indian household. The workshop on space-based information support for decentralized planning will connect gram panchayats and help the flow of information. The space technology is an essential tool to realize Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream of new India. Jitendra Singh released a technical document on space-based information support for decentralized planning. ISRO applications contribute to national development through space program, keeping the socio-economic well being of citizens in focus.

**Today Current Affairs: Ten more wetlands in India declared as Ramsar sites**

India added ten more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar. The 10 new ones are Nandur Madhameshwar, a first for Maharashtra; Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in Punjab; and Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarai Nawar in Uttar Pradesh. The other Ramsar sites are in Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu
and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Tripura. A total of 37 sites in the homeland recognized under the international treaty. Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines. The Convention signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar is one of the oldest inter-governmental accords for preserving the ecological character of wetlands. The main aim is to develop a global network of wetlands for the conservation of biological diversity and for sustaining human life.

Today Current Affairs: Samvidhaan is Oxford Hindi Word Of The Year 2019

Oxford University Press (OUP) named Samvidhaan as the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019 received widespread attention in the year witness to the spirit of the Indian Constitution being embraced across segments of the society. The Samvidhan Oxford Hindi word of the year and reflects the ethos, mood, or preoccupations of the past year. Samvidhaan means a body of fundamental principles or established precedents according to which a state or other organization is acknowledged to be governed. The word Samvidhaan first received widespread attention in August 2019, with the abrogation of two key constitutional provisions - Article 370 and Article 35(A) of the Indian Constitution, on August 5, which effectively removed the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir. The Hindi Word of the Year for 2019 is a fitting choice reflecting the mood of the masses as also the focus of the decision-makers. The Oxford dictionaries team invited entries for the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year through its Facebook page and received several hundred diverse and thoughtful entries. The Oxford Dictionaries team chose the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year in India with the help of an advisory panel of language experts.

Today Current Affairs: Bengaluru has the worst traffic in the world

Bengaluru is the world's most traffic-congested city. According to a report by TomTom, the Netherlands-based global provider of navigation, traffic, and map products, Bengaluru takes the top spot this year with drivers in the southern Indian city expecting to spend an average of 71% extra travel time stuck in traffic. The live tracking system indicated there are currently 291 traffic jams in the city, running up to 145.7 km. In 2019, a commuter spent an additional 243 hours in traffic while driving during peak hours. Manila in the Philippines came a close second, with a
similar average time spent by commuters in traffic. Cities in India Mumbai, Pune, and New Delhi were the other Indian cities that also featured in the top 10, taking fourth, fifth, and eighth places, respectively. Bengaluru recorded the least traffic on 6 April, and the highest was on 20 August when it recorded 103% congestion. The traffic congestion increased globally in the last decade. The 239 cities that TomTom included in the new traffic index report showed increased congestion levels between 2018 and 2019, with only 63 towns witnessing a measurable decline.

Today Current Affairs: NCRB launches two online national level services related to search of missing persons

National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) launches Police Citizen centric services on the CCTNS platform. The Director, Intelligence Bureau, Shri Arvind Kumar, presided over the launch function. These online services will help citizens in searching their Missing Persons and Generating Vehicle NOC. The services can be accessed through digitalpolicecitizenservices.gov.in' portal or a link in the existing Digital Police Portal. Benefits of the App This will hugely benefit relatives of missing persons and save them from running around the pillar to post, as all such details, including photos, are available in Crime and Criminal Tracking Network System and will now be accessible to citizens through this portal at their convenience. In this user-friendly search, a citizen may enter search criteria in the portal, and the system will search it from the available national database across the country and will display the result immediately with photographs and other details. The Generate Vehicle NOC allows citizens to ascertain the status of a vehicle before its second-hand purchase. NCRB and Cyber Peace NCRB and Cyber Peace together have designed CCTNS Hackathon and Cyber Challenge 2020 intending to enhance skills and knowledge of law enforcement personnel at ground level. This NCRB and National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children’s (NCMEC), USA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to receive information on such material originating from India.

NCMEC NCMEC is a non-profit organization established by the United States Congress. It has a centralized reporting system by which internet service providers across the world or intermediaries like Facebook, youtube, etc. can report about persons who circulate images of child pornography. Digital technologies and the
internet have not only spurred cybercrimes but also made them much more sophisticated.

**Today Current Affairs: Central Railway first AC suburban train to be flagged off from Mumbai**

**Indian Railways Central Railway** zone set to introduce its first AC local train. The train will be flagged off from platform number 18 of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus, Mumbai. The introduction of AC local train by the Western Railway zone will be the first time the Central Railway will run an AC local train on its domestic services. The people of Mumbai and its nearby areas can now travel on this train, which comes with a host of modern features. The AC local train will run on Thane Vashi-Panvel Trans-Harbour line with daily 16 services. The inaugural run will be flagged off by Suresh Angadi, Minister of State for Railways. The inaugural special will run from Panvel at around 03.30 pm on open path and timings towards Thane. The return journey from Thane station to Panvel will also run on public paths and schedules. The regular services of AC local will start on 31 January. **Salient Features of AC local train**

- Air conditioning system for passenger & driver. 2 X 15 ton capacity roof-mounted package units (RMPU) for air conditioning in each coach.
- **Head code display:** LED-based Head Code display in english and hindi with handicap and ladies coach position is provided in front of both driving trailer coaches.
- LED-Based Coach identification system for Alarm chain pulling & Door malfunctioning.
- Ergonomically designed stainless steel passenger seats.
- Wide and extensive double-glass sealed windows to offer a panoramic view outside. Led-Based lighting for better illumination and energy conservation.
- Spacious and robust stainless coaches with straight sidewalls.
- Aluminum extruded modular luggage racks with transparent polycarbonate glass at the bottom.

**Safety features of AC local train for passengers**

- **Electrically operated Automatic Door closure system:** Traction is interlocked with door closure. In case of any of the doors in the rake is not getting closed, TCMS blocks traction.
- **Passenger Alarm System:** In the case of ACP, emergency bell work in both driving cabs. Each coach is provided with an indicator light on both sides of the coach. These lights are integrated with the Alarm chain pulling system. Whenever chain pulling takes place in coaches, these lights will glow, giving an exact indication to the platform staff for attending an emergency.
Emergency Talk Back (ETU) is a part of PAPIS, provided for communication between passenger, Guard, and Motorman in an emergency.

**Today Current Affairs: India pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his 72nd death anniversary**

India observes the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, as Martyrs'Day or Shaheed Divas every year on January 30. They paid homage to the freedom fighters who laid their lives for the country's independence. Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948, by Nathuram Godse.

**Martyrs' Day**
Martyrs' Day is observed on March 23 to remember the sacrifice of Bhagat Singh, Shivaram Rajguru and Sukhdev Thapar and mourn for their death. He was born as Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi on October 2, 1869, in Gujarat's Porbandar, the Mahatma came back to India after receiving his higher education in England, to lead the freedom struggle against the British rule.

**Today Current Affairs: Madhya Pradesh Government to roll out 365 day work scheme with 5,000 stipend**

The Kamal Nath government version of Yuva Swabhiman Yojana, a scheme for the unemployed hiking monthly stipend to Rs 5,000 and increasing the number of working days to 365. Yuva Swabhiman Yojana The MP government launched on January 31, 2019, guaranteeing 100 days of work and pay to unemployed youth who have registered themselves with the Madhya Pradesh government. The stipend has been hiked by Rs 1,000 to Rs 5,000 per month. On the lines of MNREGS, the government is ready to extend the guarantee of 100 workdays to 365 days of temporary employment a year The government's decision came after a review of a year of the scheme feedback was accepted, and the government decided to relaunch it.

**Special Features of the Scheme**
The government will make a special allocation for it in the state budget to make it more useful and practical relaunch aims to generate 25,000 new jobs at the expense of Rs 200 crore. The urban development department has prepared a plan to select registered unemployed youths for temporary employment as per their qualification.
and provide them with ten days of training. The scheme is part of Nath's attempt to generate employment and boost the economy. The number of registered educated unemployed in MP in October 2018 was 20.77 lakh and in October 2019. Seven hundred forty jobs created with the setting up of 25 new industries in MP, which topped the list in unemployment for 15 years.

Today Current Affairs: Nepal creates Guinness World Record for highest altitude fashion show event

Nepal has set an all-new Guinness World Record for the highest altitude fashion show event. Mount Everest Fashion Runway organized by RB Diamonds and KASA Style in support of the Nepal Tourism Board held at 5340 meters (17515 ft) elevation at Kala Patthar near the Everest base camp on January 26. The event part of the Visit Nepal Year 2020 campaign of the Nepal Tourism Board. Various Models from various parts of the world including Finland, Italy, Sri Lanka, and Singapore, participated in the show. The main aim behind the fashion gala was to raise awareness about climate change as well as to promote sustainable fashion. The designs, patterns, and materials used during the Fashion show were all-natural, organic, and all Nepali product line from KASA. The clothing line was made of Nepali Pashmina, Felt, and Yak Wool, ideal for winter wear.

The show attended by Kedar Bahadur Adhikari secretary of the Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Civil Aviation. Thapa and Aashmi Rana were the witnesses along with pilot Lt. Col Pratap Bohara as a technical witness for the official adjudicator of Guinness World Records.

Today Current Affairs: Assam Rifles builds war memorial in Nagaland for 357 martyrs

Assam Rifles constructed a combined war memorial in Nagaland for the 357 Army and Assam Rifles personnel killed. At the same time, fighting insurgency in the northeastern state. The monument was built at Mokokchung, which is also the cultural and intellectual center of Nagaland. Nagaland saw decades of rebellion, leading to loss of lives for the security forces and Naga insurgents. The Army and Assam Rifles have lost Their sacrifice has not been in vain for Nagaland today is limping back to normalcy and is an essential cog in India Act East Policy. The
Assam Rifles authorities in Nagaland was necessary to have a memorial that was befitting the supreme sacrifice made by our men in uniform and one which also acts as a beacon of motivation for future generations in the state and country. The war memorial designed in a concentric circular form, with outer rectangular flower beds as boundary wall. The central arena, the heart of the memorial, comprises two circular podiums with a 19-feet high main memorial mast having three converging posts signifying the Army, Air Force, and Assam Rifles. The names of the 357 martyrs carved, each on a single granite stone. Mokokchung was chosen as the site for the war memorial due to its centrality, richness in culture and because a large number of soldiers were martyred in the district in the line of their duty.

Today Current Affairs: DRDO on setting up technology centre at Gujarat University

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is exploring the possibility of setting up a center for advanced defence technology at the Gujarat University's upcoming Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Centre for Extension and Research and Innovation (CERI). Gujarat Education Minister Bhupendrasinh Chudasama was the guest of honor expressed disappointment that in the world's top 200 universities, there is none from India. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Defence Research and Development Organisation is an agency of the Government of India, charged with the military's research and development, headquartered in New Delhi, India. Founded: 1958

Today Current Affairs: ECI Imposes Ban On Campaigning Hours For Sh Anurag Thakur

Election Commission of India considered the response received from the two Bhartiya Janata Party leaders, namely Sh. Anurag Thakur and Sh. Parvesh Sahib Singh in the context of the Show Cause Notices issued to both these leaders on 28th January 2020 and 29th January 2020 respectively.

Election Commission of India

The Commission under Article 324 of the Constitution of India and all other powers enabling it on the behalf bars Sh. Anurag Thakur and Sh. Parvesh Sahib Singh from holding any public meetings, public processions, public rallies,
roadshows and interviews, public utterances in media connection with ongoing General Elections to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi 2020 for 72 hours. Election Commission of India orders already passed on 29th January 2020 to remove Sh. Anurag Thakur and Sh. Parvesh Sahib Singh, from the list of Star Campaigners' for the current General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, shall continue to be in force.

**Formed:** 25 January 1950

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**President Ram Nath Kovind to inaugurate Surajkund crafts fair**

President Ram Nath Kovind will inaugurate the *34th Surajkund International Crafts Mela-2020* in Faridabad Haryana Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Jai Ram Thakur, Haryana Tourism Minister, Kanwar Pal and Ambassador of the Embassy of Uzbekistan Farhod Arziev present on the occasion along with Union Minister of State for Social Justice and Empowerment Krishan Pal Gurjar, Haryana Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma, Chairman of Haryana Tourism Corporation Randhir Golan, and MLA Seema Trikha. **Himachal Pradesh**

Himachal Pradesh is the theme state of this year's Surajkund Mela, showcasing its rich and unique cultural heritage through various crafts of the country. Hundreds of artists from Himachal Pradesh would perform multiple folk arts and dances. Special buses arranged to facilitate visitors. Last year, more than 30 countries from Europe, Africa, and Asia participated in the fair. The MoU signed between the Surajkund Mela Authority and the British Council this year, and the Surajkund Mela will host artists and artisans from England for the first time. Around 30 countries will be part of this fair, including Uzbekistan, Nepal, Afghanistan, New Zealand, Kyrgyzstan, Tunisia, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Senegal, Zambia, Comoros, Turkey, Egypt, Syria, South Africa, Austria, Netherlands, Sri Lanka, Argentina, Niger, Tajikistan, Bangladesh, Lebanon, Ghana, Seychelles, Ethiopia, Morocco, Palestine, Bhutan, Uganda, Armenia, Maldives, Sudan, Kenya and The Democratic Republic of Congo. **Surajkund International Crafts Mela**

Surajkund International Crafts Mela was organized for the first time in 1987 to showcase the richness and diversity of handicrafts, handlooms, and cultural heritage of India. The fair is organized jointly by the Surajkund Mela Authority, Haryana Tourism, in collaboration with the Union Ministries of Tourism, Textiles, Culture, and External Affairs and Government of Haryana. Around thousands of
 artisans across India to showcase their art and products to the audience coming across the world. online tickets for the fair are made available for the convenience of visitors.

Integrate Assemble in India into Make in India

India should draw a lesson from China's success in exports and launch a project to Assemble in India for the world would create 80 million well-paid jobs in the next ten years. India should step in to seize opportunities in export manufacturing and create well-paid jobs. China to create 70 million jobs for workers with primary education. In India, increased exports explain the conversion of about 800,000 jobs from informal to formal between 1999 and 2011, representing 0.8% of the labor force.

The US-China trade war is causing major adjustments in GVCs, and firms are scouring alternative locations for operations. India must focus on a group of industries, referred to as network products', where production processes are globally fragmented and controlled by leading multinational enterprises within their producer-driven global production networks.

Job Market

India's job market is facing a huge demand-supply mismatch with employment generation falling way behind jobs on offer. At least 12 million new fresh faces enter the labor market every year in India. India created 4.36 million formal jobs per year between 2011-12 and 2017-18, the Economic Survey said, asserting that the percentage of salaried workers' proportion in the labor market has gone up from 18% earlier to 23%. all salaried workers not necessarily form part of the formal employment space. Formal employment in the economy increased from 8% in 2011-12 to 9.98% in 2017-18, the survey clarified.

First Banana Container Train sent to JNPT for Exports

Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) along with State Government of Andhra Pradesh one of the largest member exporter of banana, dispatched the first shipment of 890 MTs of high-quality bananas loaded in 43 refrigerated containers, from Tadipatri, Anantpur in Andhra Pradesh to Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPT) in Mumbai for export to
international markets. **Agri Export Policy** The government of India under the Agri Export Policy notified the banana cluster in Anantpur and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh. The exporting company to change the package of practices by providing expertise and technology to help banana growers in Andhra Pradesh for enhancing the quality of banana production. Andhra Pradesh farms to the export port in Mumbai affects the viability of export shipments due to high transport cost and quality losses during the long transit. Around three thousand farmers with an annual production of over 1 lakh MT are being handheld for exports directly. The efforts of APEDA with the support of the State Government and exporters are likely to provide a good opportunity for India to increase its share in world trade of banana.

**Telangana govt to soon begin testing of Novel CoronaVirus in Hyderabad**

Telangana State Government will begin testing of Novel CoronaVirus in Hyderabad with the help of testing kits. The authorities at Gandhi Medical Hospital begun test trails of the packages following the approval given by the Central Health Ministry for testing the Virus in Hyderabad. The medical authorities sent a total of 15 samples of suspect cases to the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, and the reports of nine have come negative while the remaining are awaited. Most of the suspected cases recently traveled through the affected routes or those who are studying in China, especially in the affected areas and their family members. State Nodal Officer is a sufficient number of kits to test any number of samples. He also informed that quarantine units with total 100-bed capacity had been set up at three hospitals in Hyderabad as part of preparedness, and 20 more bed capacity is created. The state government has set up around the clock call center with the number 040-24651119 for calling and clearing doubts about to-2019.

**President of India to inaugurate New Global Headquarters of Ram Chanda Mission**

President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind will visit Telangana on February 1 and 2, 2020 to inaugurate the new global headquarters Kanha Shanti Vanam of Shri Ram Chandra Mission in Rangareddy District on February 2, 2020.

**Kanha Shanti Vanam**
Kanha Shanti Vanam is the global headquarters of the Heartfulness Institute. It is a spiritual retreat center or Ashram spread across in a sprawling 1,400-acre campus. It is located in Kanha village, near Chegur village of Ranga Reddy district, about 50 km from Hyderabad, India. The retreat center is still under construction set to inaugurate in Feb 2020.

**Union Govt plans to raise funds through LIC IPO**

Finance Minister [Nirmala Sitharaman](http://www.nirmalasitharaman.in) that union government plans to sell a partial stake in LIC through IPO or an initial public offer. The union budget she proposed that the government will sell its stake in IDBI Bank to private investors and also amend the Banking Regulation Act to strengthen co-op banks. The finance minister that the deposit insurance coverage against bank failure will be increased to 5 lakh from 1 lakh.

She proposed to expand exchange-traded funds by floating a Debt ETF, consisting primarily of government securities.

**Indian Railways Demands Setting Up Pension Fund To Deal With Rs 50,000 Crore Burden**

Indian Railways Demands Setting Up Pension Fund To Deal With Rs 50,000 crore outgo as pension to more than 15.5 lakh former railway employees, the railways asked the Finance Ministry to set up the pension fund. About 25 percent of the railway's earnings go into paying the pensions to the former railway employees. Amount shoots over Rs 50,000 crore. Thus we have requested the Finance Ministry for the pension fund.

The chairman accepted that the railways this year are feeling the heat of the operating ratio, and it would not be able to control it by 97 percent. Last year, the operating rate for the railways was 97 percent, while this year it has gone up to 98.44 percent. The operating ratio is a measure of expenditure against revenue, and it shows how efficiently the national transporter.

An operating ratio of 98.44 percent means the railways spent Rs 98.44 to earn Rs 100. The government auditor also highlighted that since 2016-17, the revenue surplus of the national transporter has been falling, which is indicative of the failing financial health of Indian Railways. Group B officers of the railways have in
writing supported the cadre merger of the railways. The Chairman will be the cadre controlling officer responsible for Human Resources (HR) with assistance from a Director General (HR). Three apex-level posts will be surrendered from Railway Board, and all its remaining positions will be open to all officers regardless of the service to which they belonged.

The Board will also have some independent non-executive members, who will be highly distinguished professionals with in-depth knowledge and 30 years of experience, including at the top levels in the industry, finance, economics, and management fields.

**Lt Gen YK Joshi to assume charge as new Northern Command chief**

Lieutenant General **Yogesh Kumar Joshi** assumes charge of GOC-in-C, Northern Command in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur. K Joshi was commissioned into 13 JAK RIF on 12 June 1982 and later commanded the same unit. The general officer is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, and a postgraduate from the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He commanded 13 JAK RIF in Operation Vijay and Parakram. **Operation Vijay**

Operation Vijay under his command, the unit awarded a total of 37 gallantry awards, including two Param Vir Chakras, eight Vir Chakras, and fourteen Sena Medals. The group was assigned the Chief of Army Staff unit citation and the 'Bravest of the Brave' award. The general officer himself was awarded the Vir Chakra during his command of 13 JAK RIF in the operations. The Lt Gen has commanded an Infantry Brigade in Tangtse, Infantry Division in Karu, and Corps in Leh. YK Joshi served as Director-General, Infantry, and was instrumental in catalyzing the modernization drive of the Infantry. He was the Chief of Staff, Northern Command, before taking over as Army Commander of the Northern Command. The general officer has served as the instructor at Infantry School, Mhow, and varied staff exposure, including staff appointment at Military Operations Directorate and as Defence Attache to Beijing (China). He has also served as Military Observer in United Nations, Angola.
Today Current Affairs: China to launch its Mars probe in 2020 July

China has announced that it is to launch its Mars probe in July 2020. The spacecraft will be launched onboard the Long March-5 Y4 carrier rocket.

Long March-5 Y4 rocket:
The China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation (CASC), China’s space agency, will send a probe to orbit and land and deploy a rover on Mars. It also states that the Long March-5 Y4 rocket has completed its 100-second test, which was the last engine test before the final assembly. It was tested for its high thrust hydrogen-oxygen engine. Also, the Long March-5 rocket of China is to have several missions in including the Mars probe launch and the lunar sample return.

In November 2020, China started the process of a probe hovering avoiding obstacles and descending to land on Mars. After many tests, CASC is now ready for a safe landing on Mars. CASC also simulated the gravity of Mars to test the design of the lander.

Mars:
Mars, also known as the Red Planet, is the 4th planet from the Sun. The red colour of the planet is due to the high concentration of iron oxide compounds in the rocks of the surface of the planet. The planet is covered with craters, channels, mountains, polar ice caps, and lowlands. The two moons of the planet are Phobos and Deimos. These rocky objects look like asteroids.

China Aerospace Science and Technology Corporation:
Founded on: 1 July 1999
Headquarters: Beijing, China
Chairman: LEI Fanpei
CASC is the main agency for the Chinese space program. CASC indigenously designs, develops and manufactures launch vehicles, spacecraft, strategic and tactical missile systems, and ground equipment.

Today Current Affairs: NASA Chooses Axiom Space to Build First Habitable Commercial Module for ISS
NASA chose Axiom Space to set up at least one habitable commercial module that will be attached to the International Space Station (ISS). The module will be the first retail destination for future commercial spaceflight missions. The blade is expected to house experiments and technology developments for the space scientists. NASA is aiming to enable the development of independent retail destinations in space that can meet its needs in the low-Earth orbit (LEO). The element will attach to the space station Node 2 forward port to demonstrate its ability to provide products and services and begin the transition to a sustainable low-Earth orbit economy in which NASA is one of many customers. NASA has said that developing a commercial destination in LEO is one of the five parts of its plans to open the ISS to new commercial and marketing opportunities. Its program also includes efforts to make ISS and its crew resources available for commercial use, enable private astronaut missions to the ISS, and stimulate long term demand for these services. Axiom work to develop a commercial destination in space is a critical step for NASA to meet its long-term needs for astronaut training, scientific research, and technology demonstrations in low-Earth orbit. NASA will continue to need LEO microgravity research to make its upcoming Moon and Mars missions possible. Soon, NASA and Axiom will begin negotiations on the terms and price of the contract with a five-year base performance period and a two-year option. Axiom Space is led by Michael Suffredini, its President and CEO, who has served as NASA's program manager from 2005 to 2015. Axiom's team expertise in commercial utilization of microgravity, on-orbit operations, astronaut training, space financing, engineering, space system architecture/design/development, and space medicine.

Today Current Affairs: NASA spacecraft breaks its own record with another swing by the sun

NASA's Parker Solar Probe took one step closer to the sun when it executed its fourth flyby of our star. This is the first such maneuver called a perihelion that the spacecraft has completed since swinging past Venus in December, a move that shrank the probe's orbit. The Parker Solar Probe's trajectory carried the warhead within about 11.6 million miles (18.6 million kilometers) of the sun, more than 3 million miles (5 million km) closer than previous flybys. The Parker Solar Probe's launch no spacecraft come within 26.5 million miles (43 million kilometers) of the
sun, a record set by the Helios 2 mission in 1976. Parker Solar Probe have competition for its records anytime soon. The European Space Agency and NASA’s joint mission to the sun, dubbed Solar Orbiter is currently scheduled to launch on Feb. 7. The Solar Orbiter will study the poles of the sun which are out of view of the NASA probe. Solar Orbiter carries more instruments than Parker Solar Probe does Solar Orbiter launch next month some of that probe's instruments will be turned on by the time Parker Solar Probe makes its next perihelion. Parker Solar Probe is making a series of 24 close flybys on the sun through 2025 in order to help scientists understand how the sun work: The first three flybys, conducted in 2018 and 2019 introduced solar scientists to newfound phenomena.

**ISRO launches a low-cost satellite launch vehicles**

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) declares that it is preparing low-cost satellite launch vehicles costing around 30-35 crores rupees, each which can put into orbit satellites weighing 500 kgs. The first launch is expected to take place in the next four months from the country. The ISRO has a significant commercial boost as it will be able to cater to micro, mini, and medium segments of the market. ISRO earmarked 1,600 million Dollars for launch vehicles, of which 870 million Dollars will be for PSLV and the remaining for GSLV. Indian Space Research Organisation is a space agency of the government of India, and vision is to harness space technology for national development. Founder: Vikram Sarabhai Founded: 15 August 1969 Headquarters: Bengaluru

**IAF AN-32 Lands at LEH with Indigenous Bio-Jet Fuel**

IAF achieved a milestone, when an AN-32 aircraft of the Indian Air Force, powered with a 10% blend of Indian bio-jet fuel, took-off from Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh. It is the first time that the bio-jet indigenous fuel-powered both engines of the aircraft. The aircraft was flight tested, and its performance was validated at Chandigarh Air Base before undertaking the operational flight to Leh. IAF This successful test flight demonstrates IAF's capabilities to absorb newer technology while sponsoring indigenization. The technology to produce this fuel was developed by CSIR-IIP in 2013 but could not be tested and certified for commercial use due to a lack of concurrent aviation test facilities in the country. In
2018, the IAF sponsored this project and channelized its human and material resources for the complete range of fuel testing. Bio-jet fuel is produced from non-edible Tree Borne Oils,' grown and procured from the tribal areas of Chhattisgarh state. IAF’s efforts would assist in reducing carbon footprint and India’s dependence on crude imports.
ENVIRONMENT

Current Affairs: APGCL to set up a waste-to-energy plant in Assam

The Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd (APGCL) has announced that it is to set up a waste-to-energy plant in Assam. The facility will be established near the proposed integrated solid waste management facility (ISWMF) of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) on the campus of the old Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant.

**Background:**
The move by APGCL comes after the memorandum of agreement (MoA) signed by GMC with the APGCL on taking over the old Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant campus for the purpose of setting up of a unit of the ISWMF of the Guwahati Capital Region.

According to the MoA, the GMC will store the waste in a scientific manner to prevent contamination. After the segregation of the waste, it shall be made available to the APGCL. It will be used by APGCL for its proposed waste-to-energy plant.

As per the MoA, a project facilitation committee (PFC) will be constituted. The committee will comprise of the representatives of the GMC, APGCL and the Government of Assam.
DEFENCE

Current Affairs: India test-fired K-4 nuclear-capable from an underwater platform for the second time

India successfully test-fired the **K-4 nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile** from Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh. This is the second time the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** has conducted the test, just after its test on 19 January 2020. It is a major milestone to add to the strategic arsenal and delivery systems.

**Missile Test:**
K-4 ballistic missile will be equipped on indigenous INS Arihant class nuclear-powered submarines of the Indian Navy.

The missile has a range of around **3,500 km.**

The test included the capability to launch nuclear weapons from air, surface and underwater platforms.

K-4 missile is one of the two underwater missiles that were being developed by DRDO. The other underwater missile is the over 700 km strike range BO-5 missile.

**K-4 ballistic missile:**
K-4 ballistic missile is an **Intermediate-range submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM)**. It is developed by DRDO and manufactured by Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL). The maximum range of the missile is **3,500 km.** The developmental test for the missile began in January 2010. On 31 March 2016, the missile was successfully tested from INS Arihant. On 19 January 2020, the missile was successfully tested from an underwater platform.

Today Current Affairs: Indian Navy launches Operation Vanilla to provide disaster relief at Madagascar

Indian Navy launches **Operation Vanilla** to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at Madagascar. **Operation Vanilla** launched to provide assistance to the affected population of Madagascar post devastation caused by Cyclone Diane. The port call, the ship in coordination with Embassy of India and Government of Madagascar is planned to undertake relief operations to assist the flood-affected populace. The Indian Navy Ship geared to set up medical camp and provide food, water, and other necessary relief material. The situation is being
monitored, and the Indian Navy is prepared to render all the required assistance to the local population in Madagascar.

PM greeted Indian Coast Guard on its Foundation Day

Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Indian Coast Guard on their Foundation Day. The Indian Coast Guard has made a mark due to its remarkable efforts to keep the coast safe.

**Indian Coast Guard**

Indian Coast Guard is an armed force that protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law, with jurisdiction over the territorial waters of India.

**Headquarters:** New Delhi

**Founded:** 18 August 1978
AWARDS AND HONOURS

Current Affairs: Chinthala Venkat Reddy from Telangana won Padma Shri in Agriculture field

Farmer Chinthala Venkat Reddy won the Padma Shri award from Telangana. The awards were announced by the government on 71st Republic Day. He was awarded for attaining an international patent for his technique in soil swapping and soil fertility. He is the first independent farmers in India to win the international patent for the technique.

Chinthala Venkat Reddy:
Chinthala Venkat Reddy entered into farming during the period 1979-80. He is from Alwal in Secunderabad. He has established a research farm in Alwal. Mr.Reddy is the first organic farmer to grow seedless grapes. He used the old method of rejuvenating the topsoil to obtain double crop production, instead of using fertilizers. He has a grape farm at Kundanpally in Keesara. He grows black grapes, rice, wheat, and vegetables.

Padma Shri award:
Padma Shri award is the fourth highest civilian award in India. The award was instituted in 1954. The award recognizes the significant contribution of individuals in various fields including literature, science, arts, education, industry, sports, medicine, social service, and public affairs.

Note:
Padma Shri is the 4th highest award after the Bharat Ratna, the Padma Vibhushan and the Padma Bhushan

Today Current Affairs: Padma Awards 2020-Full list

President Ram Nath Kovind conferred the Padma Shri awards on the occasion of 71st Republic day on 26 January 2020.
The three categories of one of the highest civilian Awards of the country are:
1) Padma Vibhushan for exceptional and distinguished service
2) Padma Bhushan for distinguished service of high order
3) Padma Shri for distinguished service in any field
In 2020, the President has approved the conferment of 141 Padma Awards. In the duo case, the award is counted as one. The detail list of Awardees are listed below:

**Padma Vibhushan:**

A total of 7 Padma Vibhushan awards were presented.

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<td>Public Affairs</td>
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<td>Arun Jaitley</td>
<td>Public Affairs</td>
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Current Affairs: Grammy winners 2020 list

The 62nd annual Grammy Awards were presented in Los Angeles on 26 January 2020. The ceremony was billed as music's biggest night. The winners were awarded in more than 80 categories. The top award winners are listed below:

**Record of the Year: Bad Guy, Billie Eilish**

Album of the year: When We All Fall Asleep Where Do We Go, Billie Eilish
Song of the year: Bad Guy, Billie Eilish O'Connell & Finneas O'Connell
Best new artist: Billie Eilish
Best Country Duo/Group Performance: "Speechless," Dan + Shay
Best Country Song: "Bring My Flowers Now," Brandi Carlile, Phil Hanseroth, Tim Hanseroth & Tanya Tucker, songwriters (Tanya Tucker)
Best country album: While I'm Livin', Tanya Tucker
Best rap album: "Igor," Tyler, The Creator
Best Rap Performance: "Racks in the Middle," Nipsey Hussle Featuring Roddy Ricch & Hit-Boy
Best Rap Song: A Lot, Jermaine Cole, Dacoury Natche, 21 Savage & Anthony White, songwriters (21 Savage Featuring J. Cole)
Best R&B Performance: Come Home, Anderson.Paak & Andr 300
Best Traditional R&B Performance: Jerome, Lizzo
Best R&B Song: Say So by Pj Morton, Songwriter
Best Urban Contemporary Album: Cuz I Love You, Lizzo
Best R&B Album: Ventura, Anderson.Paak
Best Pop Duo/Group Performance: Old Town Road, Lil Nas X Featuring Billy Ray Cyrus
Best Pop Vocal Album: "When We All Fall Asleep, Where Do We Go?," Billie Eilish
Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album: "Look Now," Elvis Costello & The Imposters
Best Comedy Album: Sticks & Stones, Dave Chappelle
Best Latin Pop Album: #ELDISCO, Alejandro Sanz
Best Latin Rock, Urban or Alternative Album: El Mal Querer, Rosala
Best Rock Performance: This Land, Gary Clark Jr.
Best Metal Performance: 7empest, Tool
Best Rock Song: This Land, Gary Clark Jr., songwriter
Best Rock Album: Social Cues, Cage The Elephant
Best Alternative Music Album: Father of the Bride, Vampire Weekend

Today Current Affairs: Assam tableau won first prize at 71st Republic Day parade

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave away Best Tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade 2020. The event took place in New Delhi. Assam’s Tableau Assam's tableau, which portrayed the unique craftsmanship and culture of the state chosen as the best tableau, followed by Odisha and Uttar Pradesh tied for the second position. The Assam tableau showcased various dance forms of the country, especially the Bhortal dance of Assam. Odisha Tableau Odisha's tableau depicted Lord Lingaraja's Rukuna Rath Yatra, whereas the tableau of Uttar Pradesh showcased the state's cultural and religious heritage. The tableaux of National Disaster Relief Force and Jal Shakti Mission were chosen as the best among the Ministries and Departments. The Central Public Works Department got the Special Prize for their tableau, which based on the theme-Kashmir se Kanyakumari. The bamboo and cane are integral parts of the Assamese lifestyle; the Assam tableau had prominently displayed the craftsmanship. A variety of products like mats,
baskets, sieves, and jaapi were on display on the tableau at the Republic Day parade. The bamboo and cane craftsmanship, the Assam tableau, displayed the unique tradition of handloom in the State.

**Today Current Affairs: Indian environmental economist Pavan Sukhdev won 2020 Tyler Prize**

Renowned Indian environmental economist and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador Pavan Sukhdev won the 2020 Tyler Prize. He won the Nobel Prize for the environment for his groundbreaking green economy work. He acknowledged for his work on bringing the economic consequences of environmental degradation and loss to the attention of corporate and political decision-makers. The duo will receive the award at a private ceremony on May 1 in the presence of the Tyler Prize Executive Committee and distinguished members of the international environmental community. They will each receive a gold medallion and share a USD 200,000 cash prize. They will deliver a public presentation of their work at the New York Academy of Sciences.

Sukhdev was the Special Adviser and Head of UNEP Green Economy Initiative, a major project launched by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to demonstrate that greening of economies on growth but rather a new engine for growing wealth increasing decent employment and reducing persistent poverty. Sukhdev appointed as Study Leader (2008-2010) of the landmark initiative on the Economics of Ecosystems & Biodiversity (TEEB). The TEEB report became a foundation for the Green Economy movement - an achievement for which Sukhdev awarded the 2020 Tyler Prize. The Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement is one of the oldest international environmental awards, recognizing individuals who have contributed outstandingly to the scientific knowledge and public leadership to preserve and enhance the global environment. The generated groundbreaking insights into the economic value of our natural environment prompting decision-makers to implement new measures to protect our planet's ecosystems and biodiversity. Steiner is currently the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme. The work on the TEEB to be genuinely transformative it has generated a new narrative on the economic and social importance of nature's services, and a new community of practice. Sukhdev currently serves the World Wildlife Fund as President and
Chairman of the Board as well as Board Member for TEEB Advisory Board, Stockholm Resilience Centre, and the Cambridge Conservation Initiative.
SPORTS

Today Current Affairs: Bala Devi becomes First Indian Woman Footballer to play professionally in the World

Bala Devi from Manipur Police becomes the first Indian woman to become a professional footballer in the world. The 29-year-old is currently the leading goal scorer for the Indian national women's team netting 52 in 58 outings since 2010, which makes her the top international goal scorer in the South Asian region. She finished the top scorer in the last edition of the Indian Women's League, scoring 25 in 7 games. She was the top scorer in the women's nationals last year with 21 goals. Bala has a prolific scoring record with over 100 goals in 120 games in domestic football. She has the top scorer in the Indian Women's League for the past two seasons and has also been named as All India Football Federation (AIFF) Women's Player of the Year twice, in 2015 and 2016.

Goa 2020 National Games unveils Rubigula as mascot

Rubigula, Flame-Throated Bulbul unveiled as the official mascot for the Goa 2020 National Games. The Flame-Throated Bulbul is the state bird of Goa. The mascot Rubigula will generate the interest of people towards the National Games. The mascot incorporates the best elements and characteristics of Goa and the Goan people.

The state has world-class infrastructure for the games. World-class infrastructure has been created for these Games, which will benefit sportspersons in the State. The Games will help imbibe a sports culture in the State. We are expecting a grand celebration from October 20 to November 4, which will bring athletes from across India. Goa will be hosting the 36th edition of the National Games from 20th October to 4th November 2020.

The event will see participation by 36 states, and union territories, 12,000 + athletes, officials and will host 37 sports disciplines across 24 venues in Goa. 36th National Games will begin in Goa from October 20 to November 4. More than 12,000 athletes, as well as officials, will participate in the tournaments.

Ayonika Paul won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event
Olympian Ayonika Paul won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event Vijayveer Sidhu won the men's 25m Pistol T2 event in the National Shooting trials at Thiruvananthapuram.

She came to a quality eight-woman field, which had the likes of Tokyo 2020 quota holders Apurvi Chandela and Anjum Moudgil among competitors. Registered a score of 252.0. Her effort just 0.9 behind Apurvi's world record of 252.9. Apurvi came third with a rating of 229.8 Zeena won the junior women's trials in the same event had the best qualifying score on the day with a 630.0 to show after 60 shots. Chandigarh's Vijayveer won the junior men's 25m Pistol with an aggregate score of 585. The three inner 10s, more than second-placed Rajkanwar Singh Sandhu of Punjab.
**ARTS & CULTURE**

**Eimear Noone becomes the first-ever female conductor during Oscars guest-segment**

Irish composer **Eimear Noone** becomes the first-ever female conductor during an **Oscars guest-segment**. Galway-born Eimear Noone will be the first female ever to take charge of the orchestra at the Academy Awards. Billie Eilish announced as a performer for the 2020 Academy Awards ceremony. The announcement made by the **Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences**.

**Eimear Noone - Works**

She scripted many works and she bagged the top four prizes at the Grammy Awards best new artiste, a record of the year, an album of the year, and song of the year. At the age of 18 she became the youngest solo performer ever to win the album of the year trophy for debut 'When We All Fall Asleep Where Do We Go,' breaking Taylor Swift's record, who won the award at the age of 20 for 'Fearless.'
OBITUARY

Current Affairs: Retd. Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant passed away in a helicopter crash

Famous Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant (Retd.), 41, died in a helicopter crash near Calabasas, California on 26 January 2020. Nine people died as the helicopter crashed in rough terrain. Kobe's daughter Gianna, 13, was also on board and died in the crash. The National Transportation Safety Board said it could take several days to recover bodies from the crash site as it is difficult to access and that firefighters need to hike to the area.

Other victims:
The other victims of the helicopter crash included a longtime baseball coach at Orange Coast College, a junior college in Costa Mesa, California, John Altobelli, Altobelli’s wife, Keri, and daughter Alyssa.
SCHEMES

Current Affairs: Maharashtra government launched Shiv Bhojan scheme

Maharashtra government launched the "Shiv Bhojan" scheme on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day on 26 January 2020. It has been launched on a pilot basis.

**Aim:**
Shiv Bhojan scheme aims to provide a meal to the poor for just Rs.10.

**Shiv Bhojan scheme:**
Under the Shiv Bhojan scheme, the thalis or lunch plates will be available to people at designated centres and canteens during a stipulated time in all the districts. District Guardian Minister Aslam Shaikh inaugurated the Shiv Bhojan Thali canteen at the civic-run Nair Hospital in Mumbai. Another centre was inaugurated by Tourism Minister and Mumbai suburban district Guardian Minister Aaditya Thackeray at the Collector's office in Bandra. Under the scheme, at least one canteen has been started at district the headquarters the state on a pilot basis.
APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN

Today Current Affairs: Centre appointed L V Prabhakar as MD and CEO of Canara Bank

Government appointed **L V Prabhakar** as managing director (MD) and **Chief Executive Officer (CEO)** of **Canara Bank**. The appointment will be effective from 1 February 2020. He will hold the position till he attains the age of superannuation on 31 December 2022 or until further orders.

**L V Prabhakar:**
L V Prabhakar is currently serving as the **executive director (ED) at Punjab National Bank (PNB)**. He joined PNB in 2018. He has served in Allahabad Bank in various capacities. He assumed charge of Executive Director PNB when Nirav Modi fraud was unearthed. He spearheaded the recovery efforts of the bank and brought the Bank back on an upward trajectory. He has also served on the Board of **PNB Housing Finance Ltd. & PNB MetLife India Insurance Company** as a non-executive director.

**Canara Bank:**
- **Established on:** 1906 (as Canara Bank Hindu Permanent Fund)
- **Established by:** Ammembal Subba Rao Pai
- **Headquarters:** Karnataka, India
- **Chairman:** T. N. Manoharan
- **MD & CEO:** Lingam Venkat Prabhakar

Today Current Affairs: Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as India's Ambassador to USA

Senior diplomat **Taranjit Singh Sandhu** appointed as India's Ambassador to the USA the Ministry of External Affairs. Taranjit Singh Sandhu, a 1988-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, is currently posted as High Commissioner of India in Sri Lanka. He replaces Harsh Vardhan Shringla as India's envoy in Washington. Shringla named as India's next foreign secretary.

Today Current Affairs: Alok Kansal appointed as new general manager of Western Railway
Alok Kansal appointed as the General Manager of the Western Railway (WR). Kansal is a 1983-batch officer of the Indian Railway Service of Engineers (IRSE). Kansal was working as the principal executive director, civil engineering (Planning) at Railway Board. Central Railway (CR) General Manager Sanjeev Mittal was holding the additional charge as WR GM. The post held by Anil Kumar Gupta, who retired in November 2019.

Today Current Affairs: Harsh Vardhan Shringla appointed as new Foreign Secretary

Harsh Vardhan Shringla took charge as a new foreign secretary succeeding in Vijay Gokhale. Mr. Shringla is a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service.

Indian Foreign Service

Indian Foreign Service is the administrative diplomatic civil service under Group A and Group B of the Central Civil Services of the executive branch of the Government of India.

Formed: October 9, 1946

Foreign Secretary: Vijay Keshav Gokhale

Union Government appoints M Ajit Kumar as chairman of CBIC ahead of Budget

Central Government appoints M Ajit Kumar as chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs. The appointment comes just two days before the Union Budget presentation. Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs is the national nodal agency responsible for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, Service Tax and Narcotics in India.

Founded: 1 January 1964

ECI appointed Shri B Murali Kumar as Special Expenditure Observer

Election Commission of India appointed Sh B Murli Kumar (ex IRS-1983) as Special Expenditure Observer as also appointed Sh Mrinal Kanti Das (IPS 1977 Retd) as Special Police Observer for General Election to the Legislative Assembly of NCT of Delhi, 2020. Sh Murali, in consultation with the Chief Electoral Officer, Delhi, will be supervising and monitoring the work done by the electoral
machinery. Similarly, Sh Das, as the Special Police Observer, is assigned to oversee the deployment and other security-related issues. Sh M K Das retired as Director-General of Manipur Police, was also deputed earlier as Special Police Observer for Tripura and Mizoram during the 2019 Lok Sabha Elections and even the recently held Jharkhand Assembly elections.

**Election Commission of India**

Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes in India.

**Formed:** 25 January 1950
IMPORTANT DAYS

Current Affairs: International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust is observed on 27 January

International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust is observed on 27 January 2020. The observation this year marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the ending of the Second World War, and the ending of the Holocaust.

Theme:
The theme for the year 2020 is "75 years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice". The theme aims to ensure respect for the dignity and human rights of all people everywhere.

Events:
On this day, UNESCO organizes a series of events to mark the 75th anniversary of the liberation of the Nazi German concentration and extermination camp Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Events will include an academic conference, commemoration ceremony and exhibitions in Paris, France.

Also, the United Nations organized an exhibition 'Seeing Auschwitz'. It is organized by Musealia, Spain, in collaboration with the Auschwitz-Birkenau State Museum, Poland.

It also holds a discussion titled 'Safe Haven: Jewish Refugees in the Philippines'.

History:
In November 2005, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially proclaimed 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust.

On 27 January 1945, the Soviet troops liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

Today Current Affairs: Lala Lajpat Rai Birth Anniversary December 28

Lala Lajpat Rai - 28 January 1865 to 17 November 1928. The nationalism and zealous patriotism earned him the title Punjab Kesari and Lion of Punjab part of the famous radical trio Lal Bal Pal who advocated the Swadeshi movement in India
involving the boycott of all imported goods and the use of Indian made goods. Rai initiated the foundation of Punjab National Bank. In 1897, he founded the Hindu Orphan Relief Movement to keep the Christian missions from securing custody of these children. The 155th birth anniversary of Lala Lajpat Rai upon the struggles faced by him and all that he accomplished in his life. Lala Lajpat Rai was born on 28 January 1865 in Dhudike, Punjab, to a Jain family. His parents were Munshi Radha Krishan Agrawal and Gulab Devi Agarwal. His father was a government school teacher at an Urdu and Persian school. Rai joined the Government College at Lahore to major in law, where he was influenced by the Hindu reformist movement of Swami Dayanand Saraswati, and became a member of existing Arya Samaj Lahore founded 1877 and founder-editor of Lahore-based Arya Gazette. Rai founded the Hisar district branch of the Indian National Congress with Babu Churamani, three Tayal brothers (Chandu Lal Tayal, Hari Lal Tayal, and Balmokand Tayal), Arya Samaj Pandit Murari Lal, Seth Chhaju Ram Jat, and Dev Raj Sandhir. The Bipin Chandra Pal and Aurobindo Ghosh from Bengal, and Bal Gangadhar Tilak from Maharashtra to call for Purna Swaraj. In 1917, Rai moved to the United States during the First World War and founded the Indian Home Rule League of America in New York. He was imprisoned from 1921 to 1923 and elected to the legislative assembly on his release. In 1928, the Simon Commission was set up in India to report the political situation. Rai introduced the legislative assembly resolution for the boycott of the British Simon Commission and led a non-violent march in protest against it. The protesters chanted Simon to go back and carried black flags.

Today Current Affairs: World Neglected Diseases day observed on January 30

January 30 is to be marked as World Neglected Diseases day. This is the first time World NTD Day is marked. Aim of the Day The day creates awareness in addressing tropical diseases. Cause of the disease Pathogens cause the Neglected Tropical Diseases. They are common in low-income country America. According to the WHO organization, 20 health conditions are considered as Neglected Diseases. The Bacterial and Fungal NTDs which include Leprosy, druli Ulcer, Trache hromoblastomycoses. Dracunculiasis, Taeniasis, Schistosomiasis, Onchocerciasis, Echinococcosis cal Helminth. WHO organization gives a list of Neglected Diseases every year.
AGREEMENTS MOU

Today Current Affairs: Centre to sign an accord with Bodo militant group NDFB

The government of India signs an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) on 27 January 2020. The agreement will be signed by the Joint Secretary in the MHA, Satyendra Garg, and Assam Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna with the leaders of the four factions of the NDFB. It will be presided over by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

Accord highlights:

The accord will provide a great deal of political and economic leverage without their key demand of separate Bodoland either in the form of a state or a Union Territory (UT).

It will provide for some political rights to the Bodo tribals living in Assam. It will be a special economic package for the community.

Bodo tribals:
The Bodo tribals are an ethnolinguistic group present in Assam. The people of the tribe are a part of the Bodo-Kachari family. The people speak the Bodo language. The Bodo tribal people are active in the Bodoland Territorial Council and in districts of Kokrajhar, Baksa, Udalguri, and Chirang of Assam.
Current Affairs: China ranked second as the world's second-largest weapons manufacturer

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Swedish research institute, reported that China ranked second as the world's second-largest weapons manufacturer, behind the US.

Report Highlights:
China ranked ahead of Russia, from whom the country used to buy many weapons.

The report showed that the Chinese arms groups have generated sufficient sales to be ranked among the world's top 20 weapons sellers. The four groups have combined sales worth $54.1 billion in 2017.

The report represented the most comprehensive picture of Chinese companies' weapons production to date.

The report highlighted that the new figures are an underestimate, given the lack of transparency in China.
QUIZ CORNER

1) Which farmer from Telangana won the Padma Shri in the Agriculture field?

A. Chinthala Venkat Reddy
B. Daya Prakash Sinha
C. Vijayasarathi Sribhashyam
D. Dr. Sandra Desa Souza

Answer A

Explanation Farmer Chinthala Venkat Reddy won the Padma Shri awardees from Telangana. The awards were announced by the government on 71st Republic Day. He was awarded for attaining an international patent for his technique in soil swapping and soil fertility. He is the first independent farmers in India to win the international patent for the technique.

2) In which state does the 5-day Ganga Yatra begin?

A. Uttarakhand
B. Uttar Pradesh
C. Bihar
D. Jharkhand

Answer B

Explanation Ganga Yatra under Namami Gange mission begins on 27 January from Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh. The yatra was launched by the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, Uttarakhand CM Trivendra Singh Rawat and Union Minister Sanjeev Bajpayee from Bijnor.

3) When was the Padma awards instituted?

A. 1954
B. 1958
C. 1963
D. 1967

Answer A
Explanation Padma awards were instituted in 1954. The award recognizes the significant contribution of individuals in various fields including literature, science, arts, education, industry, sports, medicine, social service, and public affairs.

4) When was the Namami Gange mission approved by the Union Government?

A.2014  
B.2015  
C.2016  
D.2017

Answer A

Explanation The Namami Gange programme is an integrated mission for Ganga rejuvenation. The Flagship programme was approved by the Union Government in June 2014.

5) Which country as announced that it is to launch its Mars probe in 2020 July?

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

Answer D

Explanation China has announced that it is to launch its Mars probe in July 2020. The spacecraft will be launched onboard the Long March-5 Y4 carrier rocket.

6) Where was the Grammy Awards ceremony held?

A.Utah  
B.California  
C.New York  
D.Los Angeles

Answer D

Explanation The 62nd annual Grammy Awards were presented in Los Angeles on 26 January
2020. The ceremony was billed as music's biggest night. The winners were awarded in more than 80 categories.

7) Which of the following is known as the Red Planet?

A. Mercury  
B. Jupiter  
C. Mars  
D. Venus

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Mars, also known as the Red Planet, is the 4th planet from the Sun. The red colour of the planet is due to the high concentration of iron oxide compounds in the rocks of the surface of the planet.

8) Who won the Record of the Year category at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards?

A. Willie Nelson  
B. Phil Hanseroth  
C. Billie Eilish  
D. Brandi Carlile

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 62nd annual Grammy Awards were presented in Los Angeles on 26 January 2020. The ceremony was billed as music's biggest night. Billie Eilish won the Record of the Year category at the 62nd annual Grammy Awards.

9) How many moons does the Mars planet have?

A. 2  
B. 4  
C. 61  
D. 78

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The two moons of Mars are Phobos and Deimos. These rocky objects look like
10) Which of the following is an Assam-based insurgent group?
A. Kanglei Yawol Kanna Lup
B. United National Liberation Front
C. People's Liberation Army
D. Democratic Front of Bodoland

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The government of India signs an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) on 27 January 2020. The agreement will be signed by the Joint Secretary in the MHA, Satyendra Garg, and Assam Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna with the leaders of the four factions of the NDFB.

11) The red colour of the planet is due to the high concentration of ________ compounds in the rocks of the surface of the planet.
A. hydrogen oxide
B. carbon mono oxide
C. iron oxide
D. sulphur oxide

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Mars, also known as the Red Planet, is the 4th planet from the Sun. The red colour of the planet is due to the high concentration of iron oxide compounds in the rocks of the surface of the planet. The planet is covered with craters, channels, mountains, polar ice caps, and lowlands. The two moons of the planet are Phobos and Deimos. These rocky objects look like asteroids.

12) The government of India signs an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group ________.
A. All Assam Adivasi Suraksha Samiti
B. Bengali Tiger Force
C. United Liberation Front of Asom
D. National Democratic Front of Bodoland
Answer D

Explanation The government of India signs an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) on 27 January 2020. The agreement will be signed by the Joint Secretary in the MHA, Satyendra Garg, and Assam Chief Secretary Kumar Sanjay Krishna with the leaders of the four factions of the NDFB. It will be presided over by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

13) Which of the following developed the K-4 nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile?

A. BDL  
B. DRDO  
C. HAL  
D. BEML  

Answer B

Explanation India successfully test-fired the K-4 nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile from Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh. This is the second time the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has conducted the test, just after its test on 19 January 2020. It is a major milestone to add to the strategic arsenal and delivery systems.

14) ________ is to set up a waste-to-energy plant in Assam.

A. Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd  
B. INTEGRA Oil India Limited  
C. Green Valley Industries Limited  
D. AEGCL  

Answer A

Explanation The Assam Power Generation Corporation Ltd (APGCL) has announced that it is to set up a waste-to-energy plant in Assam. The facility will be established near the proposed integrated solid waste management facility (ISWMF) of the Guwahati Municipal Corporation (GMC) on the campus of the old Chandrapur Thermal Power Plant.

15) What is the theme of the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust 2020?
A. 75 years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Remembrance: Demand and Defend Your Human Rights
B. 75 years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice
C. Holocaust Remembrance and Education: Our Shared Responsibility
D. 75 years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Remembrance: Educating for a Better Future

Answer B

Explanation International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust is observed on 27 January 2020. The theme for the year 2020 is "75 years after Auschwitz - Holocaust Education and Remembrance for Global Justice". The theme aims to ensure respect for the dignity and human rights of all people everywhere.

16) Who is appointed as the managing director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank?

A. L V Prabhakar
B. T. N. Manoharan
C. A. S. Rajeev
D. Atanu Kumar Das

Answer A

Explanation Government appointed Lingam Venkat Prabhakar as managing director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Canara Bank. The appointment will be effective from 1 February 2020. He will hold the position till he attains the age of superannuation on 31 December 2022 or until further orders.

17) When is the International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust observed?

A. 25 January
B. 27 January
C. 2 February
D. 5 February

Answer B

Explanation International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust is observed on 27 January 2020. The observation this year marks the 75th anniversary of the
liberation of Auschwitz, the ending of the Second World War, and the ending of the Holocaust.

18) When was the Canara Bank Hindu Permanent Fund established?

A.1906  
B.1924  
C.1941  
D.1963

Answer A

Explanation Canara Bank Hindu Permanent Fund was established in 1906.

19) The 2020 International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust marks the ________ anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

A.75th  
B.80th  
C.95th  
D.100th

Answer A

Explanation International Day of Commemoration in memory of the victims of the Holocaust is observed on 27 January 2020. The observation this year marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the ending of the Second World War, and the ending of the Holocaust.

20) Who is the Chairman of Canara Bank?

A.T. N. Manoharan  
B.Lingam Venkat Prabhakar  
C.Ammembal Subba Rao Pai  
D.Sanjiv Chadha

Answer A

Explanation T. N. Manoharan is Chairman of Canara Bank, One of the largest public sector banks in India, an Indian Chartered Accountant and a former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India.
21) When did the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially proclaimed 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust?

A. 1995  
B. 2000  
C. 2005  
D. 1985

**Answer C**

**Explanation** In November 2005, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) officially proclaimed 27 January as the International Day of Commemoration in Memory of the Victims of the Holocaust. On 27 January 1945, the Soviet troops liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

22) Who was elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the lower house of Parliament in Nepal?

A. Agni Sapkota  
B. Subhash Chandra Nembang  
C. Mahantha Thakur  
D. Bidhya Devi Bhandari

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Agni Sapkota was elected as the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the lower house of Parliament in Nepal. Being the senior-most candidate of the house, Sapkota was elected unopposed.

23) Who liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau?

A. US troops  
B. Soviet troops  
C. British troops  
D. Syrian troops

**Answer B**
Explanation On 27 January 1945, the Soviet troops liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

24) Which is the Capital of Nepal?

A. Pokhara  
B. Bhaktapur 
C. Kathmandu 
D. Dhaka

Answer C

Explanation Kathmandu, Nepal's capital, is set in a valley surrounded by the Himalayan mountains. At the heart of the city's maze-like alleys is Durbar Square, which becomes frenetic during Indra Jatra, a religious festival featuring masked dances.

25) When was the prisoners of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau liberated?

A. 1940  
B. 1945  
C. 1935  
D. 1952

Answer B

Explanation On 27 January 1945, the Soviet troops liberated more than 7,000 remaining prisoners of the liberation of the Nazi Concentration and Extermination Camp of Auschwitz-Birkenau.

26) Who is the President of Nepal?

A. Khadga Prasad Sharma Oli  
B. Nanda Kishor Pun  
C. Bidhya Devi Bhandari  
D. Sher Bahadur Deuba

Answer C
Explanation S Bidhya Devi Bhandari is the current President of Nepal. She is the first woman to hold the office. She was the vice-chairperson of the Communist Party of Nepal and chair of the All Nepal Women Association before winning the presidential election on 28 October 2015.

27) Which of the following is not a Coronavirus type?
A. 2019-nCoV
B. SARS
C. MERS
D. None of the above

Answer D

Explanation All the options, 2019-nCoV, SARS, MERS are a type of Coronavirus. In 2003, over 774 people died from a Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) outbreak. In 2012, about 858 people have died from Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS). MERS and SARS are types of coronaviruses. In 2020, a new type of coronavirus, 2019 novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV), was identified by the World Health Organization (WHO) in China.

28) The Bodo tribals are an ethnolinguistic group present in _________.
A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Tamil Nadu
C. Assam
D. Shillong

Answer C

Explanation The Bodo tribals are an ethnolinguistic group present in Assam. The people of the tribe are a part of the Bodo-Kachari family. The people speak the Bodo language.

29) What is the range of the K-4 nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile which was test-fired by DRDO?
A. 1,200 km
B. 4,200 km
C. 2,000 km
D. 3,500 km
Answer D

Explanation India successfully test-fired the K-4 nuclear-capable submarine-launched ballistic missile from Visakhapatnam coast, Andhra Pradesh. The missile has a range of around 3,500 km.

30) Which State launched the Shiv Bhojan scheme?

A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Maharashtra  
C. Madhya Pradesh  
D. Gujarat

Answer B

Explanation Maharashtra government launched the "Shiv Bhojan" scheme on the occasion of the 71st Republic Day on 26 January 2020. It has been launched on a pilot basis.

31) Which country topped the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) report as the largest weapons manufacturer?

A. US  
B. Russia  
C. China  
D. Germany

Answer A

Explanation US topped the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reports as the largest weapons manufacturer.

32) Shiv Bhojan provides a meal to the poor for just ________.

A. Rs.3  
B. Rs.5  
C. Rs.7  
D. Rs.10

Answer D

Explanation Maharashtra government launched the "Shiv Bhojan" scheme on the occasion of the
71st Republic Day on 26 January 2020. Shiv Bhojan scheme aims to provide a meal to the poor for just Rs.10.

33) Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) reported that China ranked second as the world's ________ largest weapons manufacturer.

A.2nd  
B.3rd  
C.5th  
D.7th

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), a Swedish research institute, reported that China ranked second as the world's second-largest weapons manufacturer, behind the US.

34) Which state cabinet passed resolution for abolishing Legislative Council?

A.Bihar  
B.Andhra Pradesh  
C.Kerala  
D.Himachal Pradesh

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Andhra Pradesh Cabinet passed a resolution for abolishing the state Legislative Council. The decision will be adopted in the Legislative Assembly and sent to the Centre for necessary follow-up action.

35) Which city in India planned to start first underwater metro project?

A.Kolkata  
B.Chennai  
C.Hyderabad  
D.Patna

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Kolkata Metro Rail Corporation will start soon its East-West project which runs
partly under the city's iconic Hooghly river, by March 2022 after a delay of several years doubled costs. The final installment of 200 million rupees - $2.8 million over the next two years from the Indian Railway Board. A loan amount of 41.6 billion rupees from the Japan International Cooperation Agency helps fund 48.5% of the project.

36) Assam tableau won first prize at __________Republic Day parade
A. 71st
B. 72nd
C. 75th
D. 78th

Answer B
Explanation Assam tableau won first prize at 71st Republic Day parade.

37) Indian Railways to run 100 percent on electricity by ____________
A. 2022
B. 2024
C. 2023
D. 2025

Answer B
Explanation Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal planned to switch Indian Railways entirely to electricity by 2024 as diesel locomotives are steadily being shunted out of service.

38) Who inaugurated 3rd Global Potato Conclave 2020 at Gandhinagar?
A. Shri Ramesh Kumar
B. Shri Narendra Modi
C. Shri Piyush Goyal
D. Shri Prakash Javedakar

Answer B
Explanation Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 3rd Global Potato Conclave-2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The four-day will provide an opportunity to bring all stakeholders at one common platform. Gujarat is one of the leading producers of Potato in the
39) Which state became fourth state to pass resolution on CAA in house?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** West Bengal becomes fourth state to pass resolution on CAA in house.

40) Who was appointed as IBA Chief Executive?

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Sunil Mehta  
C. Vikram Sharma  
D. Dinesh Gupta

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Bank Association (IBA) appoints Punjab National Bank’s former MD and CEO Sunil Mehta as its chief executive.

41) Kavaratti will be the _________ ship to be constructed and provided by the GRSE

A. 106th  
B. 104th  
C. 108th  
D. 110th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Garden Reach Shipbuilders ant (GRSE) set to deliver anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette INS Kavaratti. Kavaratti is the last of the four Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) stealth corvettes bu for the Indian Navy under Project P28. The trials of the ship completed and we plan to deliver it by this month. Kavaratti will be the 104th ship to be constructed and provided by the GRSE.
42) Who won first prize at 71st Republic Day parade?

A. Odisha tableau
B. Assam tableau
C. Kerala tableau
D. Andhra Pradesh tableau

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Defence Minister Rajnath Singh gave away Best Tableaux awards for Republic Day Parade 2020. The event took place in New Delhi.

43) Union Government targets to install ________ Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022?

A. 182
B. 175
C. 180
D. 182

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Government planned to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022 to build a healthy planet with a less carbon-intensive economy.

44) When Lala Lajpat Rai Birth Anniversary was celebrated?

A. December 26
B. December 28
C. December 25
D. December 24

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Lala Lajpat Rai - 28 January 1865 to 17 November 1928. The nationalism and zealous patriotism earned him the title Punjab Kesari and Lion of Punjab part of the famous radical trio Lal Bal Pal who advocated the Swadeshi movement in India involving the boycott of all imported goods and the use of Indian made goods.
45) When National Tiger Conservation Authority was established?

A. 2006  
B. 2005  
C. 2008  
D. 2010

**Answer B**

**Explanation** National Tiger Conservation Authority established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force. It is constituted by the Prime Minister of India for reorganized management of Project Tiger and the many Tiger Reserves in India.

46) Which scheme was awarded as the best tableau in Republic Day Parade?

A. Jal Jeevan Mission  
B. Atal Pension Yojana  
C. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana  
D. Stand Up India Scheme

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Jal Jeevan Mission tableau awarded as the best tableau in Republic Day Parade 2020.

47) Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the National Cadet Corps Rally in

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the National Cadet Corps Rally in Delhi.

48) Who reaffirmed India's firm resolve to tackle cross-border terrorism?

A. Shri Rajnath Singh
B.Shri Suresh Prabhu
C.Shri Naresh Kumar
D.Shri Ramesh Kumar

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India is fully capable of giving a firm response to cross-border terrorism and strikes against terrorist attacks in 2016 and 2019 have demonstrated the nation's firm resolve to defeat terrorism.

49) Amit Shah chairs ________meeting of Central Zonal Council in Chhattisgarh

A.21st  
B.22nd  
C.24th  
D.25th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 22nd meeting of the Central Zonal Council is progressing at Raipur, the state capital of Chhattisgarh. The Central Zonal Council comprises of four states.

50) Who is appointed as India's Ambassador to USA?

A.Vinay Kumar  
B.Taranjit Singh Sandhu  
C.Dinesh Bhatia  
D.Renu Pall

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Senior diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as India's Ambassador to the USA the Ministry of External Affairs.

51) Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as India's Ambassador to ____________

A.Pakistan  
B.USA
C. Saudi Arabia
D. Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Senior diplomat Taranjit Singh Sandhu appointed as India's Ambassador to the USA the Ministry of External Affairs.

**52) Amit Shah chairs 22nd meeting of Central Zonal Council in**

A. Raipur
B. Chhattisgarh
C. Bihar
D. Chennai

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 22nd meeting of the Central Zonal Council is progressing at Raipur, the state capital of Chhattisgarh. The Central Zonal Council comprises of four states. T

**53) When National Cadet Corps was founded?**

A. 1950
B. 1948
C. 1952
D. 1953

**Answer B**

**Explanation** National Cadet Corps is the youth wing of Armed Forces with its Headquarters at New Delhi, Delhi, India.

**54) Union Government targets to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by**

A. 2023
B. 2022
C. 2024
D. 2025
Answer B

Explanation Union Government targets to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022.

55) Which month did Central Government to release report card of smart cities?

A. July  
B. June  
C. August  
D. September  

Answer B

Explanation The central government will release a report card of 100 selected smart cities based on the categories such as ease of living, public performance index, and climate in June as the Smart Cities Mission completes its five years.

56) When Indian Banks Association was founded?

A. 1948  
B. 1946  
C. 1947  
D. 1949  

Answer B

Explanation Indian Banks Association as a representative management of banking in India operating in India - an association of Indian banks and financial institutions based in Mumbai.

57) West Bengal becomes ____________ state to pass resolution on CAA in house

A. sixth  
B. fourth  
C. seventh  
D. second  

Answer B
Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee urged the Party of India (Marxist) or CPI (M) and Congress to put aside with Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre. West Bengal became the fourth state to pass an assembly resolution against the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA).

58) Which union minister planned to switch Indian Railways entirely to electricity by 2024 as diesel locomotives?

A. Shri Vikram Sharma
B. Shri Piyush Goyal
C. Shri Ramesh Kumar
D. Shri Rajesh Sharma

Answer B

Union Minister Shri Piyush Goyal planned to switch Indian Railways entirely to electricity by 2024 as diesel locomotives are steadily being shunted out of service.

59) PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate ____________ Global Potato Conclave 2020 at Gandhinagar

A. 4th
B. 3rd
C. 5th
D. 6th

Answer B

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the 3rd Global Potato Conclave-2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat. The four-day will provide an opportunity to bring all stakeholders at one common platform. Gujarat is one of the leading producers of Potato in the country.

60) When Central Zonal Council was founded?

A. 1956
B. 1958
C. 1957
D. 1959
Central Zonal Council is a zonal council that comprises the states of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Uttarakhand.

61) Union Government targets to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by __________
   A.2023  
   B.2022  
   C.2024  
   D.2025  

Answer B

Explanation The Union Government planned to install 175 Giga Watt renewable energy by 2022 to build a healthy planet with a less carbon-intensive economy.

62) Kavaratti will be the __________ ship to be constructed and provided by the GRSE
   A.105th  
   B.104th  
   C.106th  
   D.107th  

Answer B

Explanation Kavaratti will be the 104th ship to be constructed and provided by the GRSE. The carbon composite superstructure provides the advantage of the lower weight of the warship to increase stability, maneuverability, and faster acceleration.

63) When Jal Shakti Mission was formed?
   A.2019  
   B.2018  
   C.2020  
   D.2017
Ministry of Jal Shakti is a ministry under Government of India which was formed in May 2019 under the second Modi ministry. This was formed by merging of two ministries; Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

64) When National Tiger Conservation Authority was founded?
A. 2007
B. 2006
C. 2005
D. 2009

Answer C

National Tiger Conservation Authority was established in December 2005 following a recommendation of the Tiger Task Force.

65) When Indian Railways was founded?
A. 1854
B. 1853
C. 1856
D. 1858

Answer B

Indian Railways is India's national railway system operated by the Ministry of Railways. It was founded on 16 April 1853.

66) Which company set up Google Cloud Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad?
A. Reliance Industries Limited
B. Tech Mahindra
C. Larsen and Tourbo
D. Steel Authority of India

Answer B
IT services major Tech Mahindra to set up a dedicated Google Cloud Centre of Excellence (CoE) in Hyderabad.

67) Who was appointed as Ex- RBI and Ex-SEBI ED Ramesh Joshi as Non-Executive Chairman?

A. Mr Suresh Kumar  
B. Mr. Ramesh Joshi  
C. Mr. Dinesh Karthick  
D. Mr. Vikram Sharma

Answer B

Vakrangee Limited appointed as Mr. Ramesh Joshi (EX-RBI & EX-SEBI ED), a veteran with over 40 years of experience as the Non-Executive Chairman of the company.

68) Who won 2020 Tyler Prize?

A. Pavan Sukhdev  
B. Suresh Kumar  
C. Vikram Sharma  
D. Rajesh Sharma

Answer A

Renowned Indian environmental economist and UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Goodwill Ambassador Pavan Sukhdev won the 2020 Tyler Prize.

69) When National Aeronautics and Space Administration was founded?

A. 1958  
B. 1960  
C. 1963  
D. 1965

Answer A

NASA Chooses Axiom Space to Build First Habitable Commercial Module for ISS.
70) Which government 4 million pound Innovation Challenge Fund in India?

A. Pakistan  
B. United Kingdom  
C. Indonesia  
D. Russia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** UK government launched a 4 million pounds fund in India to support collaborative research into emerging technologies.

71) The waste to energy plant uses a patented technology called

__________

A. DECOMPOSE  
B. POLYCRACK  
C. Waste Management  
D. Real Work Management

**Answer B**

**Explanation** He new plant installed at the cost of 1.79 crores while the maintenance cost will be 10.4 lakhs per year, and the estimated income from the byproducts will be 17.5 lakhs per year. The waste to energy plant uses a patented technology called POLYCRACK, which is first-of-its-kind in Indian Railways and fourth in India.

72) Indian Railways commissioned the country’s first governmental waste to energy plant at ________.

A. Patna  
B. Bhubaneswar  
C. Mumbai  
D. Chennai

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Railways commissioned the country’s first governmental waste to energy plant at Bhubaneswar. The national transporter has put in place the governmental Waste to Energy plant in Mancheswar Carriage Repair Workshop, which falls under East Coast Railway.
73) Indian Navy launched ________________ to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at Madagascar.

A. Operation Python  
B. Operation Vanilla  
C. Operation Cactus  
D. Operation Parakram  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Navy launches Operation Vanilla to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief at Madagascar.

74) Who launched Virtual Police Station?

A. Suresh Sharma  
B. Naveen Patnaik  
C. Vivek Gupta  
D. Naresh Iyer  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik launched a Virtual police station along with two other transformational projects of the Odisha Police.

75) Who developed Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal?

A. Central Institute of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants  
B. Tata Institute of Fundamental Research  
C. Indian Space Research Organisation  
D. Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Union Minister of State for PMO Dr. Jitendra Singh launched the Bhuvan Panchayat V3 web Portal that will enhance network application of gram panchayats. The Portal will function with the help of satellite technology developed by ISRO.

76) Who is appointed as Essar Oil UK CEO?
A. Mark Zuckerberg
B. Williams John
C. Mark Wilson
D. Mark Antony

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Essar Oil UK announced Mark Wilson as new Chief Executive Officer.

**77) When Indian Navy was founded?**

A. 1613  
B. 1612  
C. 1614  
D. 1615

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Navy is the naval branch of the Indian Armed Forces. It is Founded on 5 September 1612

**78) How many wetlands in India declared as Ramsar sites?**

A. 8  
B. 10  
C. 7  
D. 6

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India added ten more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar.

**79) A total of ______ sites in the homeland recognized under the international treaty**

A. 39 sites  
B. 37 sites  
C. 41 sites
D.43 sites

**Answer B**

**Explanation** A total of 37 sites in the homeland recognized under the international treaty. Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines.

**80) Oxford University Press (OUP) named Samvidhaan as the Oxford Hindi Word of ________**

A. 2020
B. 2019
C. 2021
D. 2018

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Oxford University Press (OUP) named Samvidhaan as the Oxford Hindi Word of 2019.

**81) Who got qualified for Tokyo Olympics from India?**

A. Neeraj Chopra
B. Davinder Singh Kang
C. Kashinath Naik
D. Vipin Kasana

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Star Indian javelin thrower Neeraj Chopra qualified for the Tokyo Olympics with a throw of 87.86 meters at the Athletics Central North East meeting in South Africa.

**82) According to a report by TomTom report which city ranked in the worst traffic in the world?**

A. Mumbai
B. New Delhi
C. Chennai
D. Bangalore
Bengaluru is the world's most traffic-congested city. According to a report by TomTom, the Netherlands-based global provider of navigation, traffic, and map products, Bengaluru takes the top spot this year with drivers in the southern Indian city expecting to spend an average of 71% extra travel time stuck in traffic.

83) When was 2020 Summer Olympics opening ceremony held?

A. 25 May 2020  
B. 24 June 2020  
C. 24 July 2020  
D. 20 April 2020

Answer C

Explanation Description The opening ceremony of the 2020 Summer Olympics is scheduled to take place in the evening of Friday 24 July 2020 at the Olympic Stadium, Tokyo.

84) When Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative founded?

A. 1989  
B. 1987  
C. 1988  
D. 1991

Answer B

Explanation Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative is a non-governmental organisation which works towards the practical realisation of human rights in the countries of the Commonwealth. It is founded on 1987.

85) How many million pound did UK government Innovation Challenge Fund in India?

A. 6 millions  
B. 4 millions  
C. 5 millions  
D. 9 millions
**Answer B**

**Explanation** UK launches 4-mn pound Innovation Challenge Fund in India.

**86) When National Aeronautics and Space Administration was founded?**

A. 1958  
B. 1956  
C. 1957  
D. 1959

**Answer A**

**Explanation** National Aeronautics and Space Administration is an independent agency of the United States. It is founded on 29 July 1958.

**87) When Operation Vanilla was launched?**

A. 27 January, 2020  
B. 28 January, 2020  
C. 25 January, 2020  
D. 16 January, 2020

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Operation Vanilla is launched by the Indian Navy on 28 January. The main aim is to help cyclone-hit Madagascar.

**88) What was the Cash Prize of Tyler Prize 2020?**

A. $200,000  
B. $205,000  
C. $105,000  
D. $100,000

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Tyler Prize for Environmental Achievement is an annual award for environmental science, environmental health, and energy. They receive a $200,000 cash prize and a medallion.
89) When Unified Payments Interface was introduced?

A. 11 April 2016  
B. 12 May 2017  
C. 14 May 2016  
D. 15 July 2017  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Unified Payments Interface is an instant real-time payment system. It is developed by National Payments Corporation of India. It is founded on 11 April 2016.

90) Tech Mahindra set up Google Cloud Centre of Excellence in

A. Chennai  
B. Hyderabad  
C. Mumbai  
D. Patna  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Tech Mahindra set up Google Cloud Centre of Excellence in Hyderabad.

91) Southern Indian city expecting to spend an average of ____________ extra travel time stuck in traffic.

A. 72%  
B. 71%  
C. 73%  
D. 74%  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Bengaluru takes the top spot this year with drivers in the southern Indian city expecting to spend an average of 71% extra travel time stuck in traffic.

92) When Essar Group was founded?
A. 1972
B. 1970
C. 1969
D. 1971

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Essar Group founded by Shashi Ruia and Ravi Ruia in 1969.

93) **When Securities and Exchange Board of India was founded?**

A. 1993
B. 1992
C. 1994
D. 1995

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Securities and Exchange Board of India is the regulator for the securities market in India owned by the Government of India. It is founded on 30 January 1992.

94) **When Western Railway Zone was started?**

A. 6 November 1952
B. 5 November 1951
C. 7 December 1953
D. 8 December 1955

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Western Railway is one of the 18 zones of Indian Railways, and is among the busiest railway networks in India. The dates of operation is 5 November 1951.

95) **Where was Essar Oil headquarters located?**

A. Mumbai
B. Chennai
C. Hyderabad
D. Patna
Answer A


96) When Reserve Bank of India was founded?

A.1 April 1935  
B.1 April 1936  
C.1 May 1936  
D.1 July 1937  

Answer A

Explanation Reserve Bank of India is India's central bank which controls the issue and supply of the Indian rupee. It was founded on 1 April 1935.

97) When National Crime Records Bureau was formed?

A.11 March 1986  
B.12 May 1987  
C.12 June 1989  
D.12 March 1985  

Answer A

Explanation National Crime Records Bureau is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data. It is founded on 11 March 1986.

98) Which stock exchange signed licensing agreement with ICE Futures Europe?

A. Bangalore Stock Exchange  
B. National Stock Exchange  
C. Calcutta Stock Exchange  
D. Bombay Stock Exchange  

Answer D

Explanation The Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) signs a licensing agreement with Intercontinental Exchange (ICE) Futures Europe, an operator of global exchanges and
clearinghouses.

99) Who was appointed as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

A. Dinesh gupta  
B. Suresh Kumar  
C. Janak Raj  
D. Vikram Kumar

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appoints its Executive Director, Janak Raj, as a member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

100) Central Railway first AC suburban train to be flagged off from

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Railways Central Railway zone set to introduce its first AC local train. The train will be flagged off from platform number 18 of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus.

101) Who laid foundation stone of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre at Kevadia in Gujarat?

A. Suresh Sharma  
B. S Jaishankar  
C. Vikram Kumar  
D. Dinesh Gupta

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Dr. S Jaishankar External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar laid the foundation stone of
the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre for Empowerment and Livelihoods near the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat.

102) Which state government to roll out 365 day work scheme with 5,000 stipend?

A. Madhya Pradesh  
B. Maharashtra  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. Kerala  

Answer A

Explanation: The Kamal Nath government version of Yuva Swabhiman Yojana, a scheme for the unemployed hiking monthly stipend to Rs 5,000 and increasing the number of working days to 365.

103) India pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi on his _______ death anniversary

A. 75th  
B. 72nd  
C. 73rd  
D. 76th  

Answer B

Explanation: India observes the death anniversary of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, as Martyrs' Day or Shaheed Divas every year on January 30.

104) Who is appointed as new Foreign Secretary?

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Harsh Vardhan Shringla  
C. Dinesh Raj  
D. Vikram Singh  

Answer B

Explanation: Harsh Vardhan Shringla took charge as a new foreign secretary succeeding in Vijay
Gokhale. Mr. Shringla is a 1984-batch officer of the Indian Foreign Service.

105) When National Highways Authority of India was founded?

A. 1990  
B. 1989  
C. 1988  
D. 1989

**Answer C**

**Explanation** It is an autonomous agency of the Government of India and is responsible for management of a network of over 50,000 km of National Highways.

106) Which country creates Guinness World Record for highest altitude fashion show event?

A. Russia  
B. Nepal  
C. Pakistan  
D. Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Nepal has set an all-new Guinness World Record for the highest altitude fashion show event.

107) Assam Rifles builds war memorial in Nagaland for __________ martyrs

A. 358 martyrs  
B. 357 martyrs  
C. 359 martyrs  
D. 360 martyrs

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Assam Rifles constructed a combined war memorial in Nagaland for the 357 Army and Assam Rifles personnel killed.
108) When National Highways Authority of India was founded?

A. 1989  
B. 1988  
C. 1990  
D. 1992

**Answer B**

**Explanation** National Highways Authority of India is an autonomous agency of the Government of India. It is set up in 1988 and is responsible for management of a network of over 50,000 km of National Highways out of 1,15,000 km in India.

109) When Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) was founded?

A. 1959  
B. 1960  
C. 1958  
D. 1961

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Defence Research and Development Organisation is an agency of the Government of India charged with the military's research and development headquartered in New Delhi, India.

110) Who became the first Indian Woman Footballer to play professionally in the World?

A. Dalima Chhibber  
B. Bala Devi  
C. Maymol Rocky  
D. Jabamani Tudu

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Bala Devi from Manipur Police became the first Indian woman to become a professional footballer in the world.
111) When World Neglected Diseases day observed on?

A. January 29  
B. January 28  
C. January 30  
D. January 26  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** January 30 is to be marked as World Neglected Diseases day. This is the first time World NTD Day is marked.

112) Indian Coast Guard commissions high speed interceptor boat in

__________

A. Chennai  
B. Mangaluru  
C. Ranchi  
D. Mumbai  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Coast Guard commissioning a high-speed interceptor boat in Mangaluru on January 29.

113) When Election Commission of India was formed?

A. 1951  
B. 1950  
C. 1952  
D. 1953  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes in India. It is formed on 25 January 1950.

114) When National Crime Records Bureau was founded?

A. 1988
B.1987  
C.1986  
D.1989

**Answer C**

**Explanation** National Crime Records Bureau, abbreviated to NCRB, is an Indian government agency responsible for collecting and analysing crime data. It is founded on 1986.

115) Where was Defence Research and Development Organisation headquarters located?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Defence Research and Development Organisation is an agency of the Government of India headquartered in New Delhi, India.

116) When Guinness World Records was Originally published?

A. 1955  
B. 1956  
C. 1958  
D. 1959  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Guinness World Records known from the year 1955 until 2000. The Publisher Group was Jim Pattison Group.

117) Where was National Highways Authority of India headquarters located?

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** National Highways Authority of India is an autonomous agency of the Government of India, set up in 1988.

118) Parker Solar Probe is making a series of _____ close flybys on the sun through 2025

A. 22  
B. 20  
C. 24  
D. 23  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Parker Solar Probe is making a series of 24 close flybys on the sun through 2025.

119) When Bombay Stock Exchange was formed?

A. 1876  
B. 1875  
C. 1877  
D. 1878  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Bombay Stock Exchange is an Indian stock exchange located at Dalal Street, Mumbai. It is Established in 1875.

120) Who launched Special Edition of Khadi Watches?

A. Shri Vikram Sharma  
B. Shri Nitin Gadkari  
C. Shri Prakash Javedakar  
D. Shri Ramesh Kumar  

**Answer B**
Martyrs Day, a tribute on the 72nd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Union Minister for MSME, Shri Nitin Gadkari, launches the limited edition of Khadi wristwatches. The event took place in New Delhi.

121) Which type of virus declares as a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC)?

A. Ebola Virus  
B. Nipah virus  
C. SARS Virus  
D. Coronavirus  

**Answer D**


122) Who became first ever hockey player to win World Games Athlete of the Year award?

A. Namita Toppo  
B. Sunita Lakra  
C. Rani Rampal  
D. Reena Khokhar  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Rani Rampal becomes first ever hockey player to win World Games Athlete of the Year award.

123) When North American Free Trade Agreement was established?

A. 1994  
B. 1993  
C. 1992  
D. 1991  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** It is an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States, creating a
trilateral trade bloc in North America. It is established on January 1, 1994.

124) What is the estimated cost of the project sanctioned by Railway Board?

A. Rs. 115.96 Crores  
B. Rs. 112.96 Crores  
C. Rs. 116.96 Crores  
D. Rs. 118.96 Crores

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The two works for the RFID project sanctioned by Railway Board for a total of Rs. 112.96 Crores.

125) Which company announced $1-million grant to promote news literacy among Indians?

A. Apple  
B. Samsung  
C. Google  
D. Intel

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Google announces $1-million grant to promote news literacy among Indians.

126) Who launched DoPT online certificate course on Relevance of Gandhi in the Contemporary World?

A. Dr Jitendra Singh  
B. Dr Suresh Kumar  
C. Dr Rajesh Kumar  
D. Dr Rajesh Sharma

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Union Minister of State Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER), MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh launches the DoPTs online certificate course on Relevance of Gandhi in the Contemporary World.
127) Which search engine launches SOS Alerts for coronavirus?

A. Bing  
B. DuckDuckGo  
C. Yandex  
D. Google

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Google search engine directing the users searching coronavirus to systematically arranged results about safety tips, situation updates, and resources from the World Health Organisation.

128) The union government has set out a road map for reducing India's crude oil imports by ______percent by 2022.

A. 15  
B. 10  
C. 25  
D. 22

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The union government has set out a road map for reducing India's crude oil imports by 10 percent by 2022.

129) Who would serve as interim DGP of Uttar Pradesh?

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Hitesh Chandra Awasthi  
C. Rajesh Sharma  
D. Eshwar Raj

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Hitesh Chandra Awasthi will serve as the interim Director General of Police (DGP) of Uttar Pradesh.
130) How many million tonnes did India planned to increase the carbon emissions?

A. 580  
B. 600  
C. 570  
D. 560  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India to increase carbon emissions by 600 million tonnes. The 20th edition of the World Sustainable Development Summit 2020, a TERI flagship event, states that the CO2 emissions from India's steel sector could increase up to 837 million tonnes (MT) by 2050.

131) Who was the chairperson of State Bank of India?

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Rajnish Kumar  
C. Dilip Kumar  
D. Eshwar Raj  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** State Bank of India is public sector banking and financial services statutory body. The chairperson of SBI was Rajnish Kumar.

132) When Gibraltar Chess Festival was held?

A. 2009  
B. 2005  
C. 2004  
D. 2003  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Gibtelecom Gibraltar Chess Festival took place in 2003.

133) Who received the French honour for theatre artiste?

A. Rajesh Sharma
B. Sanjana Kapoor
C. Rakesh Sharma
D. Dinesh Gupta

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Sanjana Kapoor will receive the prestigious French honor of Chevalier dans Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) for her outstanding contribution to the field of theatre.


A. Shri Nitish Kumar
B. Shri Vikram Sharma
C. Smt Nirmala Sitharaman
D. Shri Rajnath Singh

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Economic Survey of the Fiscal Year 2020 tabled in both the Houses of Parliament. The survey highlights in the country.

**135) Who was the founder of Bank of Baroda?**

A. P. S. Jayakumar
B. Sayajirao Gaekwad III
C. A. S. Rajeev
D. H R Khan

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Bank of Baroda is an Indian Multinational public sector Banking and Financial Services company. The founder of Bank of Baroda is Sayajirao Gaekwad III.

**136) India's steel demand will be more than quadruple from around 111 million tonnes to _____ million tonnes**

A. 492
B. 489
C.491
D.495

**Answer B**

**Explanation** India’s steel demand will be more than quadruple from around 111 million tonnes to 489 million tonnes.

137) **Who is Governor of Uttar Pradesh?**

A. Suresh Kumar  
B. Anandiben Patel  
C. Vikram Kant  
D. Dinesh Gupta

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Uttar Pradesh is a state in northern India and the governor of Uttar Pradesh is Anandiben Patel

138) **When World Health Organization was first founded?**

A. 8 May 1952  
B. 8 May 1950  
C. 8 May 1949  
D. 7 April 1948

**Answer D**

**Explanation** World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is concerned with international public health. It was founded on 7 April 1948

139) **USMCA crafted over years of negotiation between the _______ countries replaces the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement**

A. five  
B. three  
C. four  
D. six
Answer B

Explanation The USMCA crafted over years of negotiation between the three countries replaces the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement.

140) When North American Free Trade Agreement was established?

A. January 10, 1995
B. January 1, 1994
C. January 10, 1996
D. January 20, 1996

Answer B

Explanation North American Free Trade Agreement is an agreement signed by Canada, Mexico, and the United States.

141) Khadi collection in collaboration with KVIC to commemorate the ________birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

A. 156th
B. 150th
C. 155th
D. 157th

Answer B

Explanation Khadi collection in collaboration with KVIC to commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

142) Where was the World Health Organization located?

A. 7 April 1950
B. 7 April 1948
C. 7 June 1949
D. 7 July 1949

Answer B

Explanation World Health Organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations that is
concerned with international public health. It was established on 7 April 1948

143) Who is appointed as chairman of CBIC ahead of Budget?

A. Vikram Sharma  
B. Suresh Kumar  
C. M Ajit Kumar  
D. Dinesh Gupta

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Union Government appoints M Ajit Kumar as chairman of CBIC ahead of Budget

144) Which space centre launches a low-cost satellite launch vehicles?

A. Satish Dhawan Space Centre  
B. Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)  
C. Western RRSC-Regional Remote Sensing Centre  
D. ISTRAC-ISRO Telemetry&Tracking and Command Network

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) declares that it is preparing low-cost satellite launch vehicles costing around 30-35 crores rupees, each which can put into orbit satellites weighing 500 kgs.

145) World's First Transcatheter Mitral Valve approved in ____________ region

A. Africa  
B. Asia  
C. Europe  
D. South America

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Abbott Tendyne Transcatheter Mitral Valve Implantation (TMVI) system received the European CE mark. It is the first transcatheter mitral valve replacement (TMVR) technology in the world.
146) When Indian Air Force was founded?

A. 1932  
B. 1933  
C. 1934  
D. 1935

Answer A  

Explanation Indian Air Force is the air arm of the Indian Armed Forces. It is founded on 1932.

147) Goa 2020 National Games unveils ____________ as mascot

A. Violent Mind  
B. Flotzilla  
C. Heartbeast  
D. Rubigula

Answer D

Explanation Rubigula, Flame-Throated Bulbul unveiled as the official mascot for the Goa 2020 National Games. The Flame-Throated Bulbul is the state bird of Goa. The mascot Rubigula will generate the interest of people towards the National Games.

148) When Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana was launched?

A. 2016  
B. 2015  
C. 2017  
D. 2018

Answer B

Explanation Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awaas Yojana, Indira Awaas Yojana, is a social welfare flagship program, created by the Indian Government. The scheme was launched in the year 2015.

149) Who inaugurated Surajkund crafts fair?

A. Shri Rajesh kumar
B. Shri Suresh Kumar  
C. Shri Ram Nath Kovind  
D. Shri Prakash Javedakar

**Answer C**

**Explanation** President Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Surajkund crafts fair

150) Defense Ministers of nearly ________ countries confirmed their participation for the DefExpo20

A. 40  
B. 42  
C. 44  
D. 46

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Defense Ministers of nearly 40 countries confirmed their participation for the DefExpo20, including Czech Republic, Mexico, South Korea, United Arab Emirates.

151) When Make in India was launched?

A. 2013  
B. 2014  
C. 2015  
D. 2016

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Make in India a type of Swadeshi movement covering 25 sectors of the Indian economy and launched in the year 2014.

152) Who is appointed as new Northern Command chief?

A. YK Joshi  
B. Sukumar  
C. Vikram Sharma  
D. Dinesh gupta
**Answer A**

**Explanation** Lt Gen YK Joshi to assume charge as new Northern Command chief.

153) **Which state government planned to set up testing of Novel CoronaVirus?**

A. Bihar  
B. Telangana  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. TamilNadu

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Telangana govt to soon begin testing of Novel CoronaVirus in Hyderabad.

154) **When Indian Coast Guard was founded?**

A. 19 May 1978  
B. 18 August 1978  
C. 19 June 1978  
D. 19 July 1978

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Coast Guard armed force that protects India's maritime interests and enforces maritime law and it is founded on 18 August 1978.

155) **How many crores did Indian Railways demand for setting up Pension Fund?**

A. 52,000  
B. 50,000  
C. 55,000  
D. 56,000

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Railways Demands Setting Up Pension Fund To Deal With Rs 50,000 Crore Burden.
156) Who won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event?

A. Ayonika Paul  
B. Anjali Bhagwat  
C. Shagun Chowdhary  
D. Anjum Moudgil

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Ayonika Paul won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event.

157) When Life Insurance Corporation was formed?

A. 1 September 1956  
B. 1 October 1956  
C. 1 May 1956  
D. 1 June 1956

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Life Insurance Corporation of India is an Indian state-owned insurance group owned by the Government of India incorporated on 1 September 1956.

158) Who inaugurated New Global Headquarters of Ram Chanda Mission?

A. Shri Nitish Gupta  
B. Shri Ram Nath Kovind  
C. Shri Vikram Sharma  
D. Shri Dinesh Raj

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Shri Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated New Global Headquarters of Ram Chanda Mission

159) Which country declared public health emergency over spread of coronavirus?

A. Pakistan
B. USA
C. Iran
D. Indonesia

**Answer B**

**Explanation** USA declares public health emergency over spread of coronavirus.

160) Where was the headquarters of Indian Railways located?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Railways is India's national railway system operated by the Ministry of Railways. It is headquartered at New Delhi.

161) Operation Vijay the unit awarded a total of _______ gallantry awards,

A. 35
B. 38
C. 36
D. 37

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Operation Vijay under his command, the unit awarded a total of 37 gallantry awards, including two Param Vir Chakras, eight Vir Chakras, and fourteen Sena Medals. The group was assigned the Chief of Army Staff unit citation and the 'Bravest of the Brave' award.

162) When Defence Exhibition Organisation was formed?

A. 1982
B. 1981
C. 1983
D. 1984
Defence Exhibition Organisation is an autonomous organisation of the Indian Government established in 1981.

163) Yogesh Kumar Joshi commanded ________ JAK RIF in Operation Vijay and Parakram.

A. 12  
B. 13  
C. 15  
D. 14  

Answer B

Lieutenant General Yogesh Kumar Joshi assumes charge of GOC-in-C, Northern Command in Jammu and Kashmir's Udhampur. K Joshi was commissioned into 13 JAK RIF on 12 June 1982 and later commanded the same unit.

164) When Shri Ram Chandra Mission was founded?

A. 1946  
B. 1945  
C. 1948  
D. 1949  

Answer B

Shri Ram Chandra Mission is a non-profit organization and a spiritual movement. It was registered in 1945.

165) Vijayveer Sidhu won the men's ________ Pistol T2 event in the National Shooting

A. 22m  
B. 25m  
C. 24m  
D. 26m
Olympian Ayonika Paul won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event. Vijayveer Sidhu won the men's 25m Pistol T2 event in the National Shooting trials at Thiruvananthapuram.

166) Chandigarh's Vijayveer won the junior men's 25m Pistol with an aggregate score of _________.

A. 582
B. 585
C. 583
D. 584

Answer B

Chandigarh's Vijayveer won the junior men's 25m Pistol with an aggregate score of 585.

167) When Yogesh Kumar Joshi was born?

A. 6 January 1962
B. 5 January 1962
C. 6 January 1963
D. 6 January 1964

Answer B

Yogesh Kumar Joshi is a serving General Officer in the Indian Army. Yogesh Kumar Joshi was born 5 January 1962.

168) Where was the Shri Ram Chandra Mission headquarters located?

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

Answer B

Shri Ram Chandra Mission is a non-profit organization and a spiritual movement. It...
was registered in 1945.

169) Telangana govt to soon begin testing of Novel CoronaVirus in

A. Hyderabad
B. Secunderabad
C. Warangal
D. Karimnagar

Answer A

Explanation Telangana govt to soon begin testing of Novel CoronaVirus in Hyderabad

170) Make in India a type of Swadeshi movement covering _____ sectors of the Indian economy,

A. 26
B. 25
C. 27
D. 28

Answer B

Explanation Make in India, a type of Swadeshi movement covering 25 sectors of the Indian economy launched by the Government of India on 25 September 2014

171) What is the largest city of Africa?

A. Durban
B. Lagos
C. Nairobi
D. Pretoria

Answer B

Explanation The largest city of Africa is Lagos

172) Union Govt aims to achieve objective of Housing for All by
173) How many events are there in the 2020 National Games of India?

A.28
B.30
C.29
D.32

Answer B

Explanation The 36th National Games of India will be held between 20 October and 4 November 2020 in Goa, India.

174) When was Election Commission of India formed?

A.25 January 1951
B.25 January 1950
C.26 January 1952
D.26 January 1953

Answer B

Explanation Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority responsible for administering election processes in India. It was formed on 25 January 1950.

175) When Indian Space Research Organisation was founded?

A.15 August 1969
B.15 August 1970
C.15 May 1970
D.15 June 1970

Answer A

Explanation Indian Space Research Organisation was founded on the year 15 August 1969
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