# Table of Contents

1. BANKING & FINANCE  
2. BUSINESS & ECONOMY  
3. INTERNATIONAL  
4. INDIAN AFFAIRS  
5. SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY  
6. ENVIRONMENT  
7. BILLS & ACTS  
8. DEFENCE  
9. PERSONS  
10. AWARDS AND HONOURS  
11. SPORTS  
12. SUMMITS & CONFERENCE  
13. SCHEMES  
14. APPOINTMENTS / RESIGN  
15. IMPORTANT DAYS  
16. AGREEMENTS MOU  
17. INDEX / LIST  
18. QUIZ CORNER  
19. USEFUL LINKS
Cabinet approved amendments to bring cooperative banks under RBI regulation

The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to amend the Banking Regulation Act. The move comes after the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank crisis.

Amendment to Banking Regulation Act:
The amendment will bring the cooperative banks under the regulatory mechanism of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

It will ensure greater accountability and transparency in the functioning of cooperative banks.

The cooperative banks need to fulfill regulatory requirements set for scheduled commercial banks.

The amendment will give RBI the power to take control of weak co-operative banks.

As per the proposed amendment, the cooperative bank should take RBI approval for the appointment of the CEO and do audits as per RBI guidelines.

Background:
In September 2019, RBI has imposed a ban on the operation of PMC bank. The PMC bank was not allowed to issue loans or open fixed deposit accounts after a multi-crore scam. The withdrawal limit was set to Rs.50,000.

I-T department introduced e-calculator to compare due income tax under new, old regime

The Income-Tax (IT) Department has unveiled an e-calculator on 6 February 2020. The e-calculator will help the individuals to estimate their tax liability if they opt for the new tax slabs, without claiming deductions and exemptions, for Income tax return (ITR) filing which was announced in the recent Budget.

e-calculator:
The e-calculator is provided with a comparative table to compare taxes in the old and the new tax regime

It can be used by the resident individuals for the financial year 2020-21

The e-calculator is available on the official e-filing website of the department.
https://www.incometaxindiaefiling.gov.in.

The web portal is used for filing electronic ITRs by individuals and various other categories of taxpayers.

The taxpayers can punch in their estimated annual income from all sources, total eligible deductions, and exemptions. They can also compare and see what will be their total taxable income if they continue in the old regime or opt for the new one. The calculator has been designed in a way that will take into account eligible exemptions and deductions.

**Background:**

As per the new personal income tax regime, a 5% tax is levied on an annual income between Rs.2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The tax rate rises to 10%, 15%, 20% and 25% for every Rs.2.5 lakh addition. A 30% tax is charged for income over Rs.15 lakh. The new regime was announced by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget speech on 1 February 2020.

**Note:**

In India, the taxpayers are in three age categories: a normal citizen who are below 60 years, a senior citizen who is between 60 and 79 years, a super senior citizen who is above 79 years.

**Repo rate remains unchanged as per the 6th bi-monthly monetary policy statement**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 6th bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20 on 6 February. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) which was led by Governor Shaktikanta Das from 4-6 February.

**Highlights:**

The Central Bank has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.15%.

The reverse repo rate was decided to remain unchanged at 4.90%.

RBI is to maintain an accommodative policy stance to ensure that inflation remains within the target.

GDP growth forecast for the financial year 2020-21 (FY21) has been projected at 6%.

RBI will conduct new one-year and three-year repos worth Rs.1 lakh crore. It aims to ensure better monetary policy transmission by enabling banks to reduce lending rates.
It stated that inflation is now expected to go down.
RBI will not cut interest rates before June.
To boost best practices on security, customer protection, and pricing, RBI is to introduce a framework for establishing a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for the digital payment system by April 2020.
The committee has decided to extend the Cheque Truncation System (CTS) to all over India.

**RBI Policy Rates:**
- **Policy Repo Rate:** 5.15%
- **Reverse Repo Rate:** 4.90%
- **Marginal Standing Facility Rate:** 5.40%
- **Bank Rate:** 5.40%

**Reserve Ratios:**
- **Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR):** 4%
- **Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR):** 18.25%

**SBI announces rate cut in FDs**

State Bank of India (SBI) has announced a cut in retail fixed deposits (FD) rates. The rate cut will be effective from 10 February. The move by SBI is due to the surplus liquidity in the system.

**SBI rate cut:**

SBI realigned its interest rate on Retail Term Deposits which is less than Rs.2 crores and Bulk Term Deposits of Rs.2 crores and above.
SBI reduced the Term Deposit rates by 10-50 basis points (bps) in the Retail segment and 25-50 bps in the Bulk segment.
It reduced the FD rates across all tenors except for those with a maturity period of 7 days to 45 days.
SBI announced a rate cut of FDs that are maturing in 46 days to 179 days by 50 bps.
For FDs maturing in 180 days to 210 days and 211 days to less than 1 year, an interest rate of 5.50% will be given.
It also offered senior citizens an additional 50 bps interest rate across all tenures.
RBI to create digital payments index

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to create a digital payments index (DPI) by July 2020. This index will indicate the level of digitalization prevailing in the country.

Digital Payments Index (DPI):
DPI will help the regulator and government to understand the adoption of digital payments in the country.

The DPI by RBI will be based on multiple parameters.
It will reflect the penetration and deepening of various digital payment modes.
It is expected that DPI's benchmark will reflect the progress of digitization in the country.

The government and central bank have been working on enabling the adoption of cashless payment modes that include, digital mobile wallets, debit and credit cards, internet banking and the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) system.

DPI data will have a classification of urban, semi-urban and rural geographies to analyze the kind of digital payments that are gaining acceptance.
BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Air India buyers, BPCL not to get free to shed excess staff: DIPAM secretary

Purchasers of losses making aircraft Air India and oil firm Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) won't get a free hand to shed an abundance workforce as the legislature will work in confident assurance to representatives in the offer deal understanding. In a meeting with the secretary of the Department of Investment, Public Asset Management (DIPAM) mentioned the legislature would follow a two-organize offering process for selling its whole holding in Air India and BPCL. The first fundamental enthusiasm from potential bidders is welcomed, trailed by they being given access to information room on the organizations for due tirelessness. In the subsequent stage, value offers are welcomed. While on account of Air India, the declaration of intrigue (EoI) has been welcomed by March 17. An offer looking for the equivalent for BPCL is probably going to be skimmed in the following, not many days. Inquired as to whether the bidders will get a free hand to right-estimate the organizations after the obtaining, He didn't give subtleties of the conditionalities. A SPA will mark with the acquirer who offers the most elevated offer for purchasing out government stake.

Air India

The administration is selling its whole 100 percent stake in Air India yet needs viable control to remain with Indian nationals. The carrier, which began as a Tata Airlines in 1932 and was later gained by the administration, has not made benefits since 2007. It has a total obligation of Rs 60,074 crore, of which bidder needs to takeover Rs 23,286.5 crore. On account of BPCL, the administration is selling its whole 53.29 percent stake in the organization that will give purchasers prepared access to 14 percent of India's oil refining limit and around one-fifth of the fuel piece of the overall industry on the planet's quickest developing vitality showcase. Officials' associations of blue-chip open part endeavors (PSUs) have restricted the administration's choice to privatize India's second-greatest oil firm BPCL, saying family silver worth Rs 9 lakh crore is being sold for a small amount of the sum.

Privatization

BPCL has a market capitalization of about Rs 1 lakh crore, and the administration stake at current costs is worth about Rs 54,000 crore. The effective bidder will likewise need to make a bright idea to different investors for procuring another 26
percent at a similar cost. Privatization of Air India and BPCL is fundamental for meeting the record Rs 2.1 lakh crore target Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has set from disinvestment continues in the Budget for 2020-21. This is the second venture available to be purchased from Air India after the bombed endeavor in 2018. Misfortunes, in any case, have some rewarding resources that incorporate prized spaces at London's stifled Heathrow air terminal, an armada of over 100 planes, and a massive number of prepared pilots and team. BPCL works four treatment facilities in Mumbai, Kochi (Kerala), Bina (Madhya Pradesh), and Numaligarh (Assam) with a joined limit of 38.3 million tons for each annum, which is 15 percent of India's complete refining limit of 249.4 million tons. While the Numaligarh treatment facility will be cut out of BPCL and offered to a PSU, the new purchaser of the organization will get 35.3 million tons of refining limit. It additionally claims 15,177 petroleum siphons and 6,011 LPG wholesaler offices in the nation. Also, it has 51 LPG (melted oil gas) packaging plants. The organization disseminates 21 percent of oil-based goods expended in the country by volume as of March this year and has more than a fifth of the 250 aeronautics fuel stations in the nation.

**DefExpo 2020 attracts more than 1,000 companies for defence by Rajnath Singh**

Proceeding with the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 5th February 2020. In 2016, at that point, resistance serves Manohar Parrikar moved DefExpo from New Delhi to Goa during enormous restriction from natural activists. After two years, Nirmala Sitharaman moved DefExpo 2018 to Chennai. **DefExpo 2020** Like Parrikar and Sitharaman, Singh guaranteed on 4th February that the present form of DefExpo had broken every single record. Tending to the media in Lucknow, alongside his co-have, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the resistance serve expressed that more than 1,000 safeguard firms including 856 Indian and 172 remote organizations would take part in Defexpo. "In the DefExpo 2018, held in Chennai, 702 organizations had taken an interest.
Along these lines, this has become by a wide margin the greatest ever DefExpo to held in India," expressed the resistance service in an official discharge on 4th February 2020. The service likewise asserted that exhibitors had booked 42,800 square meters of display space this year, 60 percent higher than the 26,774 square meters booked in Chennai. Guard priests and military head of 40 nations will go to the occasion this year, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said. 200 memoranda of undertaking (MoUs) are required to be inked, producing new business coordinated efforts.

Just because, the nearness of the nearby boss priest recognizably overshadowed that of the barrier serve. Adityanath's appearance embellished all the publications on equivalent terms with that of Singh. The safeguard pastor's pre-occasion question and answer session were not gone to by a solitary formally dressed military official. Instead, with Adityanath sharing the stage, UP cops and civil servants were all over.

They guaranteed a world record in that 56 percent of the state's populace of 220 million was of working age. The country has 53 colleges, 345 schools, and 168 polytechnics, they expressed. Adityanath talked up the UP Defense Industrial Corridor, which would give a foundation spine to the guard business, which would come up around nine hubs: Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, and Meerut.

UP has set a land securing objective of 25,000 sections of land for guard industry. The first period of this was at that point well in progress, with near 3,000 sections of land previously recognized. Singh said the DefExpo would give a chance to the military to get acquainted with changing worldwide innovation.

After a casual beginning to DefExpo 2020 on 5th February 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to initiate the show toward the evening officially and expected to run till Sunday, with the most recent two days being available to open.
Mohammed Allawi named as Iraq Prime Minister

Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi appointed as the Iraq President Barham Salih. His predecessor Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November anti-government demonstrations. Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi Mr. Allawi has a month to form a new government, which he will lead until early elections. President Saleh gave parliament an ultimatum to decide on a new prime minister before he took the decision himself after protesters rejected previous candidates. He promised to hold those responsible for the killing of protesters accountable and to combat corruption. He studied and worked in Lebanon and the UK before entering Iraqi politics following the 2003 invasion. He served as minister of communications twice.

Pakistan declares national emergency to battle locusts

Pakistan government declares a national emergency to eliminate the attacking swarms of desert locusts which are destroying crops on a large scale in Punjab after wiping it out in Sindh. The meeting attended by federal ministers and senior officials of the four provinces also approved a National Action Plan (NAP) that requires a sum of 7.3 billion Pakistani rupees to overcome the crisis. Imran Khan directed the authorities concerned to take all necessary steps on an emergency basis to contain the locust outbreak in the country and to prevent crop losses. The locust attack first spotted in the country in March 2019 and swarms later spread over 900,000 hectares in Sindh South Punjab, and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa damaging standing crops and trees worth millions of rupees.

PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurates month long Ekushey Book Fair

Ekushey Book Fair is the most significant and most extended book fair of Bangladesh. It is organized every year in February commemorating the martyrs of the language movement during which eight people laid down their lives on February 21, 1952, for establishing Bangla as the official language of the then East Pakistan. The union government wants to popularise the art, culture, and literature of Bangladesh across the globe.

The Prime Minister presented the Bangla Academy literary award 2019 to ten
eminent poets and writers on this occasion. She also unveiled the cover of the book Amar Dekha Naya Chi.

**HAL to make advanced armed UAV with Israeli Company**

Uncrewed *Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs)* will manufacture in India, with leading aeronautical entity Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) set to formalize a partnership with an Israeli firm that specializes in autonomous weaponry. Heron TP belongs to the Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) class with an endurance of over 36 hours, will be manufactured to cater both to Indian requirements for a combat UAV, and possibly exports to third nations in the future as well. HAL set to sign a partnership pact with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) at the upcoming DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow this week, with estimates that in the Indian market alone, there is a requirement of at least 100 drones of this type. Heron TP is an advanced version of the Heron UAVs that are currently in service with the three forces in a reconnaissance role. The weaponry on board is still not precise as the choice of payload is usually left to the user, which in this case would be the three armed forces. Given the flexibility displayed by Israel in joint collaborations in the past, Indian air-to-ground weapons could be integrated with the Heron TPs. Israel Aerospace Industries, which says that it has conducted business deals in India that totaled close to $5 billion in the past five years, will be showcasing its capabilities at the DefExpo in Lucknow. IAI has sold multiple air defense systems to India, as well as the range of Heron UAVs.

**New Reserves of Natural Gas found in UAE**

On February 2, 2020, the United Arab Emirates found shallow flammable gas reserves of around 80 trillion cubic feet. The reserve located between the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. In November 2019, UAE declared the disclosure of 7 billion barrels of oil. This raised the unrefined stores of the nation to 105 billion barrels making it the 6th biggest on the planet. It had likewise declared the disclosure of 58 trillion cubic feet of gas. This puts the all-out stores of gaseous petrol of UAE to 273 trillion cubic feet regular gas and 160 trillion cubic feet unconventional gas.

*United Arab Emirates*
The UAE is shaped by seven Emirates to be specific to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Sharjah, Ras Al-Khaimah, Fujairah, and Umm Al-Quwain. Around 30% of the GDP of the nation legitimately founded on oil and gas.

India-UAE
The India-UAE respective exchange at present stands at 59.9 billion USD. India is the third biggest speculator in UAE. There are more than 2 million Indian populace living and working in the UAE. The all-out settlements from the UAE to India in the year 2009 was 10 to 12 billion USD. This is 33% of the all-out settlements received by India and most noteworthy among all the GCC nations.

Nepal to count LGBT people in next census
For the first time, Nepal has announced that it will count a "third gender" category in its next population census. The country decided to count lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people as a minority group that can be allocated to government jobs and education. The people should identify themselves and their family members as either male, female or others (sexual/gender community).
The moves come after the demand by the LGBT community of Nepal where the census taken every 10 years to count sexual minorities. It is expected that the census will help end the stigma and challenges that are faced by LGBT people in accessing support and welfare schemes.

Background:
Nepal's law has provided special quotas for minorities in workplaces, schools and colleges, and access to discounted healthcare. But the absence of census data omits the LGBT people from such programs.
Nepal's census has been scheduled for June 2021 but it is likely to conduct a trial in the March month in selected districts.

Prince Charles unveils children's protection fund for India
Britain's Prince Charles unveils a new children's protection fund for India as part of British Asian Trust, the charity founded by him in 2007 to fight poverty in South Asia. Katy Perry as the ambassador of the new fund, which will be focussed on reducing the exploitation of children by 50 percent. Natasha Poonawalla made a
multimillion-pound pledge in support of the fund, which she will chair, and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation (CIIF) set to match fund everything raised to GBP 25 million.

The main areas of focus for the British Asian Trust's Children's Protection Fund will cover child sexual abuse, child labor, and trafficking, and it would aim to develop school safety nets through child-friendly village models.

Around 5.8 million children working in forced labor in India with tens of thousands thought to be working in hazardous workshops in Jaipur alone, producing goods including bangles, embroidery, and other products, with many, forced to work for up to 15 hours a day. The union government and civil society, to remove child labor from supply chains and encourage child labor free products in markets as part of the Child Labour Free Jaipur Initiative.

As a result of a partnership with the Freedom Fund and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, the first conviction resulting in a life sentence for a child trafficker in Jaipur achieved in 2019.

The British Asian Trust, chaired by Indian-origin businessman Manoj Badale, was founded 13 years ago by Prince Charles and a group of British Asian business leaders with a vision to transform lives across South Asia.

**India and China Trade Deficit**

**India's trade in China** decreased from USD 89.71 billion in 2017-18 to USD 87.07 billion in 2018-19. India's imports from China declined from USD 76.38 billion in 2017-18 to USD 70.32 billion in 2018-19, and our exports grew from USD 13.33 billion in 2017-18 to USD 16.75 billion in 2018-19. India's trade deficit with China reduced from USD 63.05 billion to USD 53.57 billion. The Government of India consistently making efforts achieving a more balanced trade with China in all our official engagements with the Chinese Government, requesting them to lower trade barriers for Indian exports to China.

The various protocols signed to facilitate the export of Indian rice, rapeseed meal, tobacco and fishmeal/fish oil, and chili meal from India to China. National Medical Products Administration China jointly conducted a workshop, and Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation India to train Indian Pharma exporters on the updated regulatory practices of China, on 21st June 2019, at Shanghai, China. The Government of India taken various measures to extend support to exporters by
facilitating Buyers Seller meets between potential Chinese importers and Indian exporters to increase exports. Indian exporters are encouraged to participate in major trade fairs in China to showcase Indian products.

**Britain appoints Philip Barton as the High Commissioner to India**

Career diplomat Philip Barton has been appointed as the High Commissioner to India by the British government. He will succeed Dominic Asquith. The appointment will be effective from Spring 2020.

**Philip Barton:**

Philip Barton is a career diplomat. He studied economics and politics at Warwick University. He holds a Masters degree in economics from the London School of Economics.

He joined the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in 1986. He served as the British High Commissioner to Pakistan from 2014 to 2016. Recently, he has served as the Acting Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee. He was the Director-General, Consular and Security at FCO from April 2017 to January 2020.

**Astronaut Christina Koch returned to Earth after spending 328 days on space**

NASA astronaut Christina Koch returned to Earth on 6 February after spending 328 days on the International Space Station (ISS). She completed the longest ever single spaceflight by a woman. On 28 December 2019, she beat the previous record for a single spaceflight by a woman of 289 days which was set by NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson in 2016-17.

**Koch's Mission:**

Koch is a 41-year-old Michigan-born engineer. She began her journey to space on 14 March 2019. She joined along with the European astronaut Luca Parmitano and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Skvortsov. She stayed on an 11-month mission. Koch has performed various experiments including studying the effects of microgravity on combustion, Mizuna mustard greens, bioprinting, and kidney diseases. Also, Koch herself was a research subject to determine the long-term effects of spaceflight on the human body. Koch's medical data will be used by NASA scientists as it is planning for a long-duration manned mission to Mars.
Note:
Soviet cosmonaut Valentina Tereshkova is the first woman to conduct a solo mission. Her spaceflight happened in 1963.

Researchers found Pangolin as the host of CoronaVirus in China

Chinese researchers who conducted the investigation on the animal origin of the deadly coronavirus outbreak in China found that the endangered pangolin may be the reason for the outbreak. Scientists at the South China Agricultural University found the genome sequences of viruses in pangolins to be 99% identical to those on coronavirus patients. The scientists conducted tests on more than 1,000 samples from wild animals.

Pangolin:
Pangolins look more like reptiles. But these animals are mammals with a unique feature. Pangolins have large, protective keratin scales that cover their skin. Pangolins are the only known mammals with this feature. They use these scales for protection. If an enemy comes near it, the pangolin immediately curls into a tight ball shape. Only the scales will be visible to the enemy. It feeds on ants and termites. It is hunted and traded for their scales, meat, and other body parts. It is used as traditional medicines

Karen Pierce appointed as UKs ambassador to the US

Dame Karen Pierce has been appointed Britain's ambassador to the United States. She became the first woman to hold the position, the most prominent in the diplomatic service. She is currently serving as the UK's permanent representative to the United Nations. She will replace Kim Darroch who had resigned in 2019 over his controversial comments on US President Donald Trump in leaked diplomatic cables.

Dame Karen Pierce:
Pierce was posted to Tokyo, the Balkans, and Geneva after she joined the Foreign Office. In 2015-16, she served as the UK's ambassador to Afghanistan. She held the position as political director at the Foreign Office before heading to the UN.

India, Sri Lanka to strengthen cooperation to combat terrorism
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi held talks with his Sri Lankan counterpart Mahinda Rajapaksa on 8 January during his state visit to India. The leaders discussed covering a range of key bilateral issues, including trade, defence and security, and the island nation's Tamil population.

India-Sri Lanka ties:

The two countries agree to **deepen cooperation to combat terrorism.** They discussed the joint projects in Sri Lanka apart from deepening trade, investment, and people-to-people ties.

PM Modi reaffirmed that the new **lines of credit (LoC)** announced in 2019 will strengthen development cooperation between the two countries.
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Union Government plans to electrify all railway tracks in next three years

The union government set a target of union next three years to electrify the tracks of Indian Railways completely. Union Ministry of Finance announced this after Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented her second budget on 1 February. Indian Railways aim to achieve the full electrification of its tracks in the next three years. Indian railways about 18 billion units of electricity and 3,069.30 tonne kilolitres of diesel for its traction need. Rail Traffic Consumption The 100 percent electrification and the rail traffic projected to grow Indian Railways will be consuming around 28-30 billion units of electricity for its traction requirement. Indian Railways will become the world's first net-zero carbon emitter by 2030. Carbon dioxide emission from the Indian Railways was around 6.84 million tons in 2014. The global concerns over climate change, Indian Railways is also working to reduce the carbon emission. Indian railways took several steps to expedite electrification of railway lines in the country and they include, the award of Engineering Procurement and Construction (EPC) contracts better project monitoring mechanism, delegating more power to field units for the award of contracts/sanction of estimates and close monitoring at the highest level.

Madhya Pradesh bags first position for implementation of PMMVY

Madhya Pradesh bags the first position for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani will present this award to Madhya Pradesh at a function in New Delhi. Madhya Pradesh Minister for Women and Child Development Imarti Devi and Principal Secretary Anupam Rajan will receive the award. Indore district bagged the first place for better performance of the scheme. Main Objective The main objective of the Matru Vandana Yojana is to provide incentives of five thousand rupees for the loss of wages of working women and to ensure their proper rest and nutrition during pregnancy. The payment of the incentive amount is deposited directly into the bank account. More than 14 lakh 55 thousand beneficiaries registered under the Pradhan Mantri Matra Vandana Yojana. The first installment has been paid to about 13 lakh 40 thousand women while the
second installment to around 12 lakh and third installment paid to 8 lakh 80 thousand beneficiaries.

**Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana**

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a maternity benefit program run by the government of India. It was introduced in 2016. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years.

**Launch year:** 2010

---

**India becomes a global data centre**

Union budget proposed to enable private firms to build data center parks could help India become a **major global data center**, but only with a supportive policy and infrastructure framework. Currently, there is no large-scale foreign investment in data centers in the country. There is a policy or framework right now on how these global data centers hubs can be created in India. The union government has a clear cut policy around it, India could essentially become a data center hub for global enterprises. The global data center market is expected to grow by $284.44 billion during 2019-23, according to market researcher Technavio. The budget proposal follows the requirement for data localization for most companies under the Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill 2019, expected to be made into law soon. The data localization is the only driving principle for the data center policy, as such parks can generate business worth billions of dollars each year. **Oracle Corp** opened its first data center facility in Mumbai in 2019 and planned to add another in Hyderabad this year. The Adani group intends to invest 70,000 crores in setting up solar-powered data parks in Andhra Pradesh. Yotta Infrastructure is committed to launching three data center parks across Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu in the next five years. The global data centers and cloud infrastructure (India) NTT, recently said that his company is exploring the scope for edge nodes in India. Data centers are capital intensive businesses, so it still makes sense to operate from major cities where overhead costs are distributed across a larger facility. At the same time, smaller markets may not attract enough customer base. NTT Ltd recently announced $7 billion worth of investments across four key data center markets globally, one of which is India.

---

**India's biggest rural technical festival Antahpragnya 2020**
Collector of Nirmal inaugurated National Level India's Biggest Rural Technical Festival titled Antahpragnya 2020 in the state of Telangana at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies-Basar (RGUKT-Basar). Rural areas cannot afford to miss the development bus. Most of the developments in the two lakh years have taken place in the last century. The fest showcases 300 prototypes, working models, exhibits and technologies such as automatic switch for water, homemade electricity, smoke absorber, automatic street lighting system, smart dustbins, zero budget farming, automatic irrigation and others. RGUKT is the first institute in India to implement Block-chain Technology, informed VC Dr. Ashok. Dr. Ashok announced amidst cheers that RGUKT-Basar would soon enter an MoU with Transcend Adventure to include Adventure Curriculum in the University including expeditions such as Mount Everest. Some of the events include Virtual Reality, Hologram, Robo Race, Development of Ideal Village Project; Robo Soccer, Sci-Fest (a National Science Fair), Campus Farming Competition, Virtual Reality Gaming, Workshops on Robotics and IOT, Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, Web Development, etc. and others. This is a competition between the branches, PUCI and PUC2 in implementing innovative ideas and improving the yield of the crop. The land is divided into 9 equal parts each for the branches.

Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates Hubbali-Dharwad BRT project

Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates the Hubbali-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in Karnataka. The exponential increase in the number of vehicles plying on roads every ear has resulted in worsening air quality indices and is adversely affecting people's health.

**Hubbali-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project**

A proposed BRTS project is built to serve the twin cities of Hubli and Dharwad, located in the North-Western part of Karnataka state in India. Hubli is known as the Commercial center and business hub of the region, and Dharwad is an Administrative seat of the District and Educational hub of the area.

**Hubli-Dharwad BRTS Company Limited**

BRTSCO is a BRT Corridor with a length of 22.25 km, originates from Hubli CBT, and ends at Dharwad CBT. It is planned to extend the corridor to Agricultural
University, Dharwad. The project is guided and support by the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT), Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD), Government of Karnataka (GoK), and World Bank. The construction is funded by the World Bank and the Government of Karnataka. The estimated cost of the project is estimated as INR 6.9 billion (US$ 115 million). The project is funded under the Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP).

**IRCTC planned to launch third Tejas Express**

India will get its third private train. Indian Railways is all set to start to Indore-Varanasi Tejas Express Chairman V.K. Yadav. The all-new Indore-Varanasi Tejas Express will run three days a week. The Tejas like trains would be coming in the future. High-speed trains between Mumbai-Ahmedabad would be actively pursued. **Indore-Varanasi Tejas Express** Indore-Varanasi Tejas Express will be the first Tejas Express, which will run overnight. IRCTC launched its first Tejas Express, which runs on the Lucknow-Delhi route. IRCTC Lucknow-Delhi Tejas Express runs six days a week and covers the distance between Lucknow and Delhi in five and a half hours. The second Tejas Express by the railway subsidiary started last month on the Mumbai-Ahmedabad route. Touted as the fastest train on this route, the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Tejas Express completes the journey in just six hours. IRCTC follows a dynamic fare scheme for both the passengers. Other than the increased speed and swanky amenities, IRCTC also introduced two unique projects with Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express. Delhi-Lucknow Tejas Express delays for over an hour, passengers will get a compensation of 100. The Passengers will also get the benefit of this scheme in Mumbai-Ahmedabad Tejas Express. For the first time, IRCTC is also offering free insurance of 25 lakh to all the passengers traveling by Tejas Express. Indian Railways decided to allow private entities to operate passenger trains on its routes. Niti Aayog had recently moved a draft document for discussion on private participation in Railways. Indian Railways proposed a plan to include individual players in 100 routes across the country.

**CADD Centre launches courses in electric vehicles technology**

CADD Centre, Asia's largest network of engineering design-training institutes launched courses in **Electric Vehicle (EV) technology**. The courses cover the
spectrum of this emerging field, covering design, manufacturing, repair, maintenance, and setting up of the charging infrastructure. CADD Centre introduced 12 courses. The courses include Diploma in EV Battery Technology and Design, Diploma in Automotive Embedded Program, Diploma in EV Powertrain Design and Simulation, Diploma in EV Manufacturing, Diploma in EV Charging Infrastructure and Design, Diploma in EV Powertrain Design and Simulation, Diploma in EV Maintenance and Service, and Diploma in EV Designing and Aesthetics. EV courses are in response to this need. We train engineering and non-engineering students in futuristic EV technologies and equip them to add value to the research, design, analysis, and manufacturing of EV and hybrid vehicles. The duration of CADD Centre’s diploma courses ranges from 60 hours to 120 hours. The courses are designed based on the assessment of the current and future needs of the job market.

New Tax Regime for the Individuals earning a salary of over Rs. 13 lakh a year

People having a yearly compensation pay of over Rs.13 lakh and benefiting tax savings of up to Rs.2 lakh will save money on their expense outgo on the off chance that they select the New Tax Regime proposed in the Budget. New Tax Saving Regime

For those gaining a pay of Rs.12 lakh and less and profiting findings of up to Rs.2 lakh, the old expense framework will be valuable as the assessment outgo will be less contrasted with the proposed new structure. According to information, the same number as 5.3 crore citizens out of 5.78 crore asserted deductions of under Rs.2 lakh (standard deduction, provident fund, home loan interest, contribution to a national pension scheme, life insurance, medical insurance, etc.) while recording personal expense forms. New Expense Chunks on Budget

This implies that around 90 percent of citizens guarantee savings of under Rs.2 lakh. Offering a discretionary lower pace of personal assessment to people, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget 2020-21 proposed new expense chunks of 15 percent and 25 percent notwithstanding the current 10 percent, 20 percent, and 30 percent. Under the proposed duty section, yearly salary up to Rs.2.5 lakh absolved from charge. Those people winning compensation between Rs.2.5 lakh and Rs.5 lakh will pay a 5 percent charge. Pay somewhere in the range of Rs.5, and 7.5 lakh will be burdened at 10 percent while procuring of
Rs.7.5 and 10 lakh to draw in 15 percent charge. Those gaining a pay somewhere in the range of Rs.10 and Rs.12.5 lakh will pay a charge at the pace of 20 percent, while salary somewhere in the range of Rs.12.5 and Rs.15 lakh will be obligated to pay 25 percent charge. Pay above Rs.15 lakh will be exhausted at 30 percent. The new pieces would be for people not profiting certain predefined reasonings or exclusions. While people with a yearly pay of Rs.13 lakh or more will pay Rs.1.43 lakh charge under the proposed New Tax Regime, in the old system, they would have paid an expense of Rs.1.48 lakh, along these lines sparing Rs.5,200. **Returns on Investment** On pay of Rs. 14 lakh a year, investment funds would be Rs.10,400; and for those with pay of Rs.15 lakh or more, reserve funds would be Rs.15,600, given the deductions guaranteed are up to Rs.2 lakh. If there should arise an occurrence of non-pay workers, who don't get a standard conclusion of Rs.50,000, the New Tax Regime is helpful for those procuring Rs.9.5 lakh every year and benefiting deductions up to Rs.1.5 lakh. They would spare Rs.5,200 in their yearly personal expense friendly.

**Around 723 Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras established till Jan 2020**

Around 723 **Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Kendras (PMKK)** established in the country. Skill development and entrepreneurship Minister Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey ministry are implementing the demand-driven scheme, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) 2016-20 for short duration skill development training. The establishment of permanent skill development centers as it is a demand-driven scheme. The DGFT under skill development ministry is also implementing long-duration vocational courses through industrial training institutes. Jan Shikshan Sansthan (JSS) scheme for skill development implemented through its institutional framework in the country to improve the occupational skills and technical knowledge of the neo literate. The PMKVY scheme envisaged to increase the availability of skilled people in various job roles. **Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme** Jan Shikshan Sansthan scheme provides vocational skills to non-literate, neo-literates as well as school drop-outs by identifying skills that have a market in the region of their establishment. Scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan has transferred from the Ministry of Human Resource Development to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship in July-2018.
**Crude Oil Slumps to 13-month Low as Indian Equities Seen Volatile**

China's national bank has overflowed its economy with money while cutting some key loaning rates. Yet, experts presume more should be done to counterbalance the financial aftermath from the infection flare-up. Loss of life in China contacted 425 as of Monday, with 20,438 revealed cases. Indian Stock Exchanges are required to be unpredictable on 4th February. At the same time, a delicate quiet grasped Asian offers in new arrangements today as speculators stood by tensely to check whether Beijing could stem the defeat in Chinese resources.

**Crude Oil hit 13-month lows**

Crude Oil hit 13-month lows as the quick spreading novel coronavirus throttled request on the planet's most significant shipper of fuel. Brent rough prospects collided with 54.11 Dollars a barrel, bringing losses for the year so far to 18%, while US unrefined sank to 49.99 Dollars. China's national bank has overflowed its economy with money while cutting some key loaning rates. However, examiners presume more should be done to counterbalance the financial aftermath from the infection.

The loss of life in China contacted 425 as of 3rd February, with detailed cases ascending to 20,438. A swath of items from copper to press metal joined unrefined petroleum to travel south in fears that the delay Chinese industry and travel would forcefully check interest for fuel and assets.

At an early stage 4th February, the MSCI's broadest file of Asia-Pacific offers outside Japan had crawled up 0.1%, drove by gains in South Korea and Australia. Japan's Nikkei pared opening loses to be off 0.2%. Money Street had relaxed because of a shockingly strong perusing of US fabricating, and the Dow Jones finished Monday with an ascent of 0.5%, while the S&P 500 increased 0.7% and the Nasdaq 1.4%. US industrial facility movement bounced back in January after contracting for five straight months during a flood in new requests. The cheery report pushed Treasury yields up from profound lows and gave the US dollar an unassuming lift.

Back home, after the Union Budget ran any desires for financial improvement, it might be the national bank's go-to disillusion on money-related boost. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) may keep the repo rate unaltered at 5.15% at its gathering on 6th February as swelling stays high, a Mint overview found. Repo rate is the rate at which banks get from the RBI.
has rejected contribution relating to stable gross income that the Supreme Court has
guided telecom organizations to pay to the division of media communications in its
income computations for the current and the following financial year as the issue is
subjudice, monetary undertakings by secretary Atanu Chakraborty.
The dollar solidified to 108.68 yen, from a medium-term low of 108.30, while the
euro blurred a part to 1.1059 Dollars. However, it stayed well inside late cozy
extents.Against a bushel of monetary forms, the dollar rebounded back to 97.837
from a trough of 97.406. Sterling was nursing resentment at 1.2990 Dollars, having
shed 1.6% medium-term when the UK government spread out an extreme opening
position for future exchange chats with the European Union after its takeoff from
the square a week ago. The fall eradicated all the additions settled on after the Bank
of England's choice a week ago to keep loan costs on hold. Spot gold was off at
1,577.48 Dollars per ounce, from a top of 1,591.46 Dollars, as the dollar solidified
and place of refuge request melted away a bit.

Ujh (National) Multipurpose Project Chaired by Minister of North East
Development, Jammu Kashmir

Minister of North Eastern Development Dr. Jitendra Singh led the Ujh
gathering was gone to by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, Ministry of Power and
different officials from state legislature of Punjab
The Meeting held to quick track total usage of India's privileges under the Indus
Water Treaty. The project planned to built across River Ujh, a tributary of River
Ravi. The project will help India using the waters of Eastern Rivers to the fullest
tolerating of the Indus Water Treaty. It will help store 781 million cubic meters of
water of River Ujh. Indus Water Treaty The Indus-Water Treaty signed among
India and Pakistan in 1960. The World Bank facilitated the marking of the
settlement. As indicated by the understanding, the waters of eastern waterways
Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej has given to India, and the power over waters streaming in
the western streams Indus, Chenab, and Jhelum given to Pakistan.

Amitabh Bhatt the New CEO (Bangalore Complex) at HAL

Amitabh Bhatt has taken over as Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru-
headquartered safeguard PSU, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Bangalore Complex. Prior, he was serving as Executive Director of Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) venture in HAL. Bhatt is a Post Graduate in Management and earlier served in SKF India Limited for a long time before joining Hindustan Aeronautics Limited. With his 32 years of expert involvement with HAL, he led showcasing, arranging, and ventures. **Director of Indo Russian Helicopters Limited** He drove the group as Chief of Projects (LUH), assumed a crucial job in setting up a coordinated new helicopter production line, a Rs 3,000 crore greenfield venture, a HAL proclamation said on Monday. He is a Director on the Board of HAL's joint endeavor, 'Indo Russian Helicopters Limited,' shaped to fabricate Kamov KA-226T Helicopters for Defense Services. During his spell at Helicopter Division, helicopters were conveyed to ONGC, Geological Survey of India and Government of Jharkhand and sent out to Nepal, Surinam, Mauritius and Ecuador, it was expressed.

**First Coil was rolled out from the new SAIL-Rourkela Steel Plant Hot Strip Mill**

The factory would necessarily oblige the household prerequisites of excellent quality steel, presently, which generally imported.

**First Coil Hot Strip**

The new Hot Strip from SAIL Plant, Rourkela the first Integrated Steel Plant of India, Mill with 3 Million Ton for each annum (MTPA) limit is the best in class plant with not many equals in India and will deliver world-class Hot Rolled(HR) curls. By chance, inside two days of the beginning of the hot path of the plant, it has revealed its first curl effectively.

**Mill Infrastructure**

The Mill setup at the expense of about Rs. 3000 Crore and will advance the item bushel and will improve the Company's piece of the overall industry. With a significant level of computerization, this plant would deliver curls of Carbon Structural Steel, High Strength Low Alloy (HSLA) steel, High Carbon Steel, LPG Cylinder Steel, Low Alloy Steel, API (up to X100) Pipe Steel, and Auto-grade steel.

**First Coil Hot Strip - Details**

The thickness of the curls would be range from 1.2 mm to 25.4 mm, while the
width would be between 725 mm to 2150 mm. The most extreme loop weight will be to the tune of 35 tons. The Mill likewise has a 0.4 MTPA sheet shearing line for the generation of HR sheets. Outfitted with the most recent and sophisticated innovation, the Mill will meet the stringent necessities of the clients regarding quality, finish, measurements, and different parameters.

**DefExpo 2020 attracts more than 1,000 companies for defence by Rajnath Singh**

Proceeding with the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 5th February 2020. In 2016, at that point, resistance serves Manohar Parrikar moved DefExpo from New Delhi to Goa during enormous restriction from natural activists. After two years, Nirmala Sitharaman moved DefExpo 2018 to Chennai.

**DefExpo 2020**

Like Parrikar and Sitharaman, Singh guaranteed on 4th February that the present form of DefExpo had broken every single record. Tending to the media in Lucknow, alongside his co-have, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the resistance serve expressed that more than 1,000 safeguard firms including 856 Indian and 172 remote organizations would take part in Defexpo. "In the DefExpo 2018, held in Chennai, 702 organizations had taken an interest. Along these lines, this has become by a wide margin the greatest ever DefExpo to held in India," expressed the resistance service in an official discharge on 4th February 2020. The service likewise asserted that exhibitors had booked 42,800 square meters of display space this year, 60 percent higher than the 26,774 square meters booked in Chennai. Guard priests and military head of 40 nations will go to the occasion this year, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said. 200 memoranda of undertaking (MoUs) are required to be inked, producing new business coordinated efforts.

Just because, the nearness of the nearby boss priest recognizably overshadowed that of the barrier serve. Adityanath's appearance embellished all the publications on equivalent terms with that of Singh. The safeguard pastor's pre-occasion question and answer session were not gone to by a solitary formally dressed military official. Instead, with Adityanath sharing the stage, UP cops and civil servants were all
They guaranteed a world record in that 56 percent of the state's populace of 220 million was of working age. The country has 53 colleges, 345 schools, and 168 polytechnics, they expressed. Adityanath talked up the UP Defense Industrial Corridor, which would give a foundation spine to the guard business, which would come up around nine hubs: Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, and Meerut.

UP has set a land securing objective of 25,000 sections of land for guard industry. The first period of this was at that point well in progress, with near 3,000 sections of land previously recognized. Singh said the DefExpo would give a chance to the military to get acquainted with changing worldwide innovation.

After a casual beginning to DefExpo 2020 on 5th February 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to initiate the show toward the evening officially and expected to run till Sunday, with the most recent two days being available to open.

**Annual Udyanotsav Inaugurated by Prez Kovind at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

President Ram Nath Kovind opened the yearly Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Mughal Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will remain open for the overall population from 6th February 2020.

**Udyanotsav**

The nurseries will stay open till the eighth of one month from now, and individuals can make their visit between 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM. The nurseries will be shut for guests on Mondays, by virtue of support. The principle fascination of the current year's Udyanotsav, close to Tulips and Exotic blossoms, are bulbous flowerings. Around 10 thousand Tulips specially cultivated in Mughal Gardens, and they are in distinctive shades of red, white, orange, and yellow. Bloom Carpets, in brilliant plans, will likewise be in plain view in the Central Lawns uncovering the aptitude and specialty of the planters of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

**Online Booking**

Notwithstanding the quick stroll in the passage like earlier years, guests can design their visit to the Gardens well ahead of time through a web-based booking office. Internet Booking should be possible by visiting the Rashtrapati Bhavan site. Both direct strolls in the passage and web-based booking are subject to liberated from cost. Section and exit for all on the web and stroll in guests will be from Gate No.
Cabinet Supports Amendments to Allow RBI to Control Cooperative Banks

The arrangements would enable the financial controller to override and assume responsibility for weak co-operative banks.

RBI New Recommendations
Under the new recommendations, the co-operative banks will require to look for the RBI gesture before the arrangement of the CEO. The banks will likewise do reviews according to RBI rules. The Union Cabinet has endorsed corrections to the Banking Regulation Act to engage the Reserve Bank of India to manage co-usable banks as the administration was hoping to fix investigation around co-employable banks after the breakdown of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank. The arrangements would enable the financial controller to override and assume responsibility for powerless co-operative banks. Under the new recommendations, the co-operative banks will require to look for the RBI gesture before the arrangement of the CEO. The banks will likewise complete reviews according to RBI rules.

Cabinet approves the setting up of Vadhavan Port in Maharashtra
The Union Cabinet led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its in-principle approval to set up a Major Port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs.65,544.54 crore.

Vadhavan port:
The Vadhavan port will be developed on the landlord model. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. JNTP is the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50% to implement the project. The SPV will develop the infrastructure for the port including reclamation, construction of the breakwater. It will also establish the connectivity to the hinterland.

All the business activities would be undertaken under a Public-private partnership (PPP) mode by private developers.

The Vadhavan port has a natural draft of about 20m close to the shore. With this, the port will handle bigger vessels.
The port will enable the call of container vessels of 16,000-25,000 Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit (TEUs) capacity. It will reduce logistics costs.

**India International Seafood Show to be held in Kochi**

**Ministry of Commerce and Industry** is conducting the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi from 7-9 February 2020.

**Organizing Team:**
The three-day event is organized by the **Marine Products Export Development Authority** (MPEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with the **Seafood Exporters Association of India** (SEAI).

**Theme:**
The theme for the 2020 seafood show is "**Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition**".

**IISS 2020:**
The event will provide a platform for **Indian exporters and overseas importers** of Indian marine products to interact.

It will provide an opportunity to display and sell for manufacturers and suppliers of processing machinery, packaging systems, processing ingredient dealers and cold chain systems.

The show will give an opportunity to the service providers like the logistics and certifying and testing segments to showcase their products.

IISS 2020 also aims to highlight the **technological advances** and sustainable practices followed in the seafood processing sector in India.

Indian seafood processors will discuss ways to increase the percentage of exports of value-added products in the current decade from the current level of 6% in the total exports.

**Participants:**
Around 200 exhibitors, 350 stalls and more than 5000 delegates, including foreign delegates will participate in the event at Kochi. The delegates will include seafood processors, buyers, and stakeholders, from other related sectors, representing firms in India and abroad. Buyers from countries that focus on mutual tie-ups in the seafood processing sector will also be participating in IISS 2020.
UP govt allots 5-acre land for the construction of a mosque

The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet approved the proposal for allotment of 5-acre land to UP Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque in compliance with the Supreme Court order. The move comes after the announcement of the introduction of trust to manage the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Land in Dhannipur:
The 5-acre land of Dhannipur is located in Sohawal tehsil in Ayodhya district. It is 18 km away from the district headquarter Faizabad, 200 metres away from the highway. It has easy access. Ayodhya is located at a distance of around 25 km.

Background:
On 9 November 2019, the Supreme Court ordered the UP state government to allocate 5-acre land to UP Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque in the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Masjid case. SC gave 3 months time for the allocation purpose.

Conrad K Sangma inaugurated Meghalaya Police Academy at Umran

Chief Minister of Meghalaya Conrad K Sangma inaugurated the Meghalaya Police Academy at Umran in the Ri-Bhoi district. The first phase of the academy was built with a total fund of Rs.50 crore which was provided by the 13th Finance Commission from 2013. The second phase of the academy is to begin with an additional fund of Rs.92 crore from the 15th Finance Commission.

Meghalaya Police Academy:
The Meghalaya Police Academy is located at Umran, Niangbyrnai. It is close to the North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA) in the Ri-Bhoi district. Initially, the academy will take in 40 trainees. The setting up of the academy began in 2011.

The new police academy will function as a research centre to identify crime patterns in the State. It will assist other departments in data mining and analysis.

The academy will help in looking at crimes like drug trafficking and those perpetrated against women and children from a different perspective and come up with preventive policing solutions.

North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA):
NEPA was established in 1978. It is mandated to provide training to recruits in the
police forces from all the North-Eastern states. The academy is engaged in shaping police officers for equitable, effective and sensitive policing. The present director of the academy is Kala Ramachandran.

**CM inaugurated the first Commercial flight operations at Bidar Airport**

**Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) flagged off the first direct flight from Bidar airport to Bengaluru in Karnataka on 7 February 2020.** The flight operation was inaugurated by Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri B.S. Yediyurappa, and Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Bidar MP Shri Bhagwanth Khuba.

**Bidar airport flight operations:**

Bidar airport has been remodeled under the **Regional Connectivity Scheme-Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN)** of the Government.

The airport has been developed at an estimated cost of **Rs.11 crores.** The funding was borne by the State Government with the help of the Central Government.

It is the **8th airport** in the Karnataka region.

TruJet will operate direct daily flights on the Bengaluru-Bidar route.

With the Bengaluru-Bidar route, MoCA has successfully operationalized **252 routes and 45 airports** under the UDAN flagship scheme.

**Bidar:**

Bidar in Karnataka is known for **Bidriware,** an ancient metal handicraft that showcases the fusion of Persian, Arabic, and local craftsmanship. The region has a very long association with Sikhism due to the presence of **Gurudwara Nanak Jhira Sahib.** The city offers tourist places such as Bidar fort, and Mahals like Rangeen Mahal, Gagan Mahal, Takht Mahal, Tarkash Mahal. Also, it is known for Solah Khambha Mosque which is popularly known as Zanana Masjid.

**Ministry of Corporate Affairs to launch Spice plus form**

The **Ministry of Corporate Affairs** is set to launch the new company incorporation form "**Spice+".** This is a part of a comprehensive package to make life easier for someone starting a business. It will be launched on **15 February 2020.**

**Spice+ form:**

The form has at least five new formalities including **Employees' Provident Fund**
Organisation (EPFO), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and professional tax registration, the opening of bank account and GST registration.

The new form will reduce the time taken and the cost of registering a company that was estimated at around 4 hours in December-January.

It has been estimated that on average, the name reservation takes around 3 hours.

The Spice+ form has been tested and the Ministry has been already processing 90% of the forms that are received in a day.

There are two parts in Spice+ form:

1) The first one deals with **name registration**

2) The second part for a bouquet of **services, including incorporation, issue of Primary Account Number (PAN) and Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number (TAN)**, along with the issue of director's identification number.

People opting for EPFO and ESIC registration will be directed to the websites of the two agencies.

**Ministry of Corporate Affairs:**

Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) regulates corporate affairs in the country India through the *Companies Act, 1956, 2013* and other allied Acts, Bills, and Rules. It provides services, guidance, and other corporate affairs related information. Its primary aim is to protect investors and offer many important services to stakeholders.

**Minister of MCA:** Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman

**Minister of State of MCA:** Shri Anurag Singh Thakur

**Uttar Pradesh should emerge as Defence Manufacturing Hub**

Over **200 partnerships** involving Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), **Transfer of Technology (ToTs)** Product launches concluded on the third day of DefExpo 2020. The agreement aimed at forging and renewing partnerships for innovative collaboration and transformation of the Defence manufacturing in the country inked by representatives of various DPSUs. The signing of MoUs to achieve Prime Minister's $5 billion defence exports target in the next five years. The liberalized licensing regime brought out by the government would surely attract significant investments by both Indian and global companies. Shri Rajnath Singh thanked all the stakeholders who signed MoUs and expressed hope that Uttar Pradesh would emerge as a Defence Manufacturing hub. Around 23 of them were
by Uttar Pradesh Government. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath. This MoU envisages Rs 50,000 crores investment in the defense corridor set up in the state and generate 3 lakh job opportunities. DRDO signed a Technological partnership agreement with the state government, imparting skill training, hand-holding, and guiding all aspects related to technology. A collaboration cell was already set up in the state to facilitate the process. The Technology transfer was made available at no cost to companies to further the defence ecosystem in the country. The patents held by DRDO were given free to Indian companies to develop further technologies that would benefit Indian companies. During the ceremony, a significant announcement in the form of issuing the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) certificate of Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) issued to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). LUH is designed and developed as a replacement for Cheetah & Chetak helicopters, which are currently being operated by Indian Armed forces. LUH is a new generation helicopter in the 3-Ton class incorporating the state-of-the-art technology features which will meet the emerging needs in this class of helicopters in the coming decades.

OFB launched Sharang the 155mm artillery gun with a 36 km range and handed over a model to Chief of Army Staff Gen M M Naravane. OFB started JVPC Alpha gun with 100 mt range, Light Machine Gun of 800 mt range, and UBGL Under barrel Grenade launcher. BDL launched Amogha-3, the anti-Tank Guided Missile. BDL launched Varunastra the anti-submarine torpedo, manufactured under the technological guidance of DRDO.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Naik, Shri Satish Mahana, Minister for Industrial Development, UP government, and Shri Awanish Kumar Awasthi, CEO UPEIDA were also present during the ceremony.

USD Five billion defence export target to be achieved by 2024

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that the country will achieve the target of five billion dollar worth of defense exports by 2024. The MoUs signed by us will strengthen the defense industrial base and will prove beneficial for the country. Around 200 agreements have been concluded in this Defexpo and described it as historic. The Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPIEDA), 23 MoUs were signed, and Rs 50,000 crore investment. This Defexpo, initially a target of signing 100 MoUs and business agreements was fixed, but till now, over 200 MoUs have been approved, which is
the beginning of a new chapter in this sector. Defence manufacturing firms from across the world are participating in the five-day mega event inaugurated.

**MPEDA proposed Rs.2500 crore project to upgrade fishing harbours**

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) along with the Central government is to take up the upgradation and modernization of 25 fishing harbours in the country. The estimated outlay of the project is Rs.2500 crore.

**Aim:**

The aim of the project is to increase the value addition of marine products which was around 5% in India compared with 50% in South East Asian countries.

**Fishing harbours upgradation project:**

Initially, the project has been planned to start with two harbours namely Thoppumpady in Kochi, Kerala and Nizampatnam in Andhra Pradesh.

After getting approval for the Detailed Project Planning (DPR), MPEDA plans to form a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) for the implementation of the project.

The estimated cost for the upgradation of one harbour is Rs.100 crore.

It aims to set up processing facilities at the harbour itself to add value to the product.

**PM attends celebrations of the signing of Bodo Peace Accord at Kokrajhar**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi attended the celebrations on the signing of the Bodo Peace Accord at Kokrajhar in Assam on 7 February. This is PM Modi’s first visit to the North-Eastern state after the signing of Bodo accord on 27 January 2020.

PM said that the Government had adopted a new approach to deal with various issues plaguing the North East.

**Bodo Peace Accord:**

The government of India signed an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) on 27 January 2020. It was presided over by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

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).
The accord aims to provide some political rights as a special economic package to the Bodo tribals living in Assam.

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 tribal people speak the Bodo language. The people are active in the Bodoland Territorial Council and in districts of Baksa, Chirang, Kokrajhar, and Udalguri of Assam.

DoT approved the merger of Tata group with Bharti Airtel

The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) approved the merger of the consumer mobile operations of the Tata group with Bharti Airtel. The final approval comes over two years after the companies had announced their plan to merge businesses.

Merger of Tata group with Bharti Airtel:
In October 2017, the Tata group had announced that it is to sell its consumer mobile business to Bharti Airtel.
Under the deal, Airtel absorbed Tata's mobile phone operations across the country in 19 circles out of which 17 under Tata Teleservices and two under Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd.
Airtel's spectrum footprint and 4G coverage were expanded after the acquisition. The deal also empowered Airtel to use part of the existing fibre network of the Tata companies.

India-Central Asia Business council was launched

The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) launched the India-Central Asia Business Council in partnership with five of the epic industry bodies of Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The council was formally declared to collaborate and provide an industry view to the governments of the six countries.

India-Central Asia Business council:
The council will share its recommendations to promote business in the region and
with each other.
It will examine the viability of establishing air corridors between and Central Asia to boost trade in perishable goods, agricultural and food products.
The Council has prioritized sectors on civil aviation, energy, pharmaceuticals, automotive, agro-processing, education, and urban infrastructure and transport, IT and tourism.

TRIFED conducted a fashion show in Suraj Kund Mela

Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) conducted a fashion show entitled "Naturally North-East: The Naga Narrative" held at Suraj Kund Mela on 7 February. It was curated by Mrs. Ritu Beri noted fashion designer and Chief designer of Tribes India.

Organizing Team:
The first of its kind fashion show was organized by TRIFED in association with Tribes India and Suraj Kund authorities.

Highlights:
The fashion show showcased the Naga weave with a modern touch and various other products from Northeast states.
The event highlighted the culture of Nagaland through fusion attire mixed with their local beaded jewellery.
It showcased a variety of specially designed apparels highlighting the tribal weaves and motives, accessories, jewellery, etc. of the North Eastern States.
Tribes India showcased a vast variety of North Eastern States textile, accessories, jewellery and Van Dhan natural products such as gooseberry candy, dried wild apple, bamboo shoot, Naga king chilli, spices, ginger powder, etc. in the Suraj Kund Mela.

TRIFED:
TRIFED functions under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. It aims to serve the interest of tribes through socio-economic betterment. There is a wide range of handicrafts in the tribes of India. These include handwoven cotton, wool, and silk fabrics, woodcrafts, metal craft, terracotta, beadwork, masques, and other objects paintings and so on. TRIFED has introduces retail chain called "Tribes India" to buy the products from tribal and sell the same in the market.
Rajasthan govt to create separate identity card for the transgender community in the state

Rajasthan state government has announced that it is to connect the transgender community with the mainstream society. It is to provide separate identity cards for transgenders in the state. The announcement was made by the Social Justice and Empowerment Minister Master Bhanwarlal Meghwal.

**Aim:**
The move aims to support the transgender community to get the benefit of government jobs and all government schemes.

**Reason:**
The Human Rights groups have been asking for transgenders to be included in mainstream society for the longest time. The only transgender in the state got a government job in police under a woman's quota. There is more than one lakh transgender in the state. But based on the census, there are only 16,517 transgenders in the state.

Jammu govt to announce new horticulture policy

The Jammu and Kashmir government is to announce a horticulture policy with an aim to tackle upcoming marketing challenges and increase the production manifold. The announcement was made by Secretary, J&K Agriculture Production and Horticulture Department, Manzoor Ahmad Lone.

**New Policy for Horticulture:**
The new policy will focus on increasing production and tackle climate change, given the unique temperature of the place.

The new Horticulture Policy is expected to increase horticulture revenue in Jammu and Kashmir from current Rs.8,000 crore to Rs.50,000 crore per annum. Horticulture sectors contribute immensely to strengthen the financial condition of J&K and in employment generation. Over 33 lakh population livelihood depend on Horticulture in the Union Territory of J&K. Around seven lakh families are directly or indirectly involved and depend on the Horticulture sector in J&K.
India is developing new Swine Fever Control Vaccines

The ICAR (Indian Council of Agricultural Research's) Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) has built up a cell culture Classical Swine Fever immunization.

Essentialness
The immunization will assist with sparing a few bunnies. This is because the present vaccine called the Lapinised CSF (Classical Swine Fever) being utilized is delivered by relinquishing an enormous number of hares. The new immunization concocted gives invulnerability for a long time when contrasted with the past antibodies that gave insusceptibility to 3 to a half year.

Need
The savage fever in pigs adds to 10% of the nation's absolute meat creation. The CSF is probably the deadliest malady of pigs that is causing a loss of Rs 400 crores to India every year. It is likewise one reason for the swine populace to decrease in 2019 when contrasted with the prior registration 2012.

Present Scenario
The complete prerequisite of the antibody in India is 22 million dosages for each year. Nonetheless, scarcely 1.2 million portions are being delivered as of now. This is because only 50 dosages can be created from a rabbit spleen.
Scientists Discover Warm Water in Antarctica below Doomsday Glacier

Environmental change is quick, affecting the living creatures on land and sea the same. Because of the extraordinary increment in an unnatural weather change levels, the icy masses are softening at a higher rate than at any other time. No big surprise, the ocean levels are rising, and progressively seaside regions are getting inclined to the overwhelming impacts of this incredible wonder.

Thwaites Glacier

As indicated by the news reports, the researchers have just found warm water underneath the Thwaites Glacier, which earned the epithet Doomsday Glacier for being Antarctica's quickest softening ice sheets. Estimating 74000 sq mi, this ice sheet evaluated to be the size of Florida in the United States of America. This disclosure has raised an alert about the icy mass breakdown, which can prompt almost 3 ft to ascend in the ocean level. Where the ice sheet is in contact with the ocean has been recorded as 2-degree Celsius over the frosty temperature. The essentialness of Thwaites lies in the way that it eases back the ice behind it from effectively going into the sea.

Ice Break Down

It isn't clear, be that as it may, to discover the pace of decay of the icy mass. As indicated by contemplates, it may entirely fall in 100 years or a couple of decades. The warm water present in the establishing line alludes to the plausibility of a quick breakdown. Purportedly, a submerged robot called Icefin advanced underneath the outside of the dissolving icy mass and found the uncommonly warm temperature. It was a beautiful yellow remotely worked robot submarine that dropped through a 2300 ft profound gap, which was bored through the ice sheet.

The revelation is a piece of the International Thwaites Glacier Collaboration, a US-UK-based research firm that dives into the Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica, analyzing how quickly it may dissolve. Analyst David Holland is now frightened to observe warm waters in a cool area like Antarctica that signs at the expanding a dangerous atmospheric deviation and environmental change all through the planet.

SASE reported that Himalayas get 20 percent above normal snowfall in 30 years
Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) report on mid-winter assessment stated that the snowfall received from November 2019 to January 2020 has been the highest in the past 30 years.

**Report Highlights:**
- Snowfall in the western Himalayas during the first half of the ongoing winter season has been about **20% above the long period average.**
- It also forecasted that snowfall in the Himalayas during February to April would be good.
- The winter season over the Himalayas officially lasts from November to April.
- It stated that **Strong El Nino** in the **Eastern Pacific Ocean** during the year 2019 has favoured a significant increase in snowfall during the current winter season over western and central Himalayas.

**Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE):**
SASE is the Defence Research & Development Organization's (DRDO) laboratory. It is located in Manali. The main objective of SASE is to conduct research in the field of snow and avalanches. It provides avalanche control measures and forecasting support to Armed forces.

---

**Scientists registered the hottest temperature ever in Antarctica**

Scientists from Argentina meteorological agency said that Antarctica recorded the **hottest temperature** ever on 6 February at a remote station on the continent's northern tip. The temperature was recorded at nearly **65 degrees Fahrenheit** (18.3 Celsius) at Argentina's Esperanza research station. The temperatures surpassed the previous record of **63.5 degrees Fahrenheit** (17.5 Celsius) set on 24 March 2015 at the same location. The current temperature records from Esperanza date back to 1961.

**Reason for Climate change in Antarctica:**
The rapid heating up of the Antarctic region is due to **heat-trapping gas pollution** from humans. The observed warming rate has serious global consequences, especially for the millions of people living on the world's coasts who are vulnerable to sea-level rise. According to the **World Meteorological Organization (WMO),** the temperatures rising in the Antarctic peninsula is nearly **5.4 degrees Fahrenheit** (3 degrees Celsius) in just the last 50 years.

Many other studies have shown that Antarctica's massive glaciers are melting
rapidly due to global warming. Also, warm ocean waters are melting the gigantic Thwaites Glacier in West Antarctica. It should be noted only these glaciers have the potential to raise global sea levels more than 10 feet.
CBDT issues clarification on the new provision in Finance Bill 2020

Central Board of Direct Taxes confirms the Finance Bill, 2020 proposed that an Indian citizen deemed to be a resident in India. The new provision in Finance Bill, 2020, intended to include in the tax were Indian citizens who are bonafide workers in other countries. Central Board of Direct Taxes CBDT issued a clarification on the new provision where some Indian citizens shift their stay in low or no tax jurisdiction countries to avoid payment of tax in India. The interpretation by some section of the media that Indians who are bonafide workers in other countries, including in the Middle East. An Indian citizen who becomes deemed resident of India under this proposed provision, income earned outside India shall not be taxed in India unless it is derived from an Indian business or profession.

Cabinet approved 2020 IIIT Laws Amendment Bill

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill will approve the formalization of IIITs at Agartala, Bhagalpur, Bhopal, Raichur, and Surat. The institutions will now be covered under the IIIT (PPP) Act, 2017.

Provisions of the Bill:

The Bill aims to promote higher education and research in the field of Information Technology.

The Bill declares the remaining 5 IIITs-PPP (IIITs at Agartala, Bhagalpur, Bhopal, Raichur, and Surat) as Institutions of National Importance along with the other 15 IIITs established under the scheme in PPP mode.

The Bill empowers the institutes to award degrees.

It will entitle the Institutes to use the nomenclature of Bachelor of Technology (B.Tech) or Master of Technology (M.Tech) or Ph.D. degree as issued by an Institution/University of National Importance.
DefExpo 2020 attracts more than 1,000 companies for defence by Rajnath Singh

Proceeding with the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 5th February 2020. In 2016, at that point, resistance serves Manohar Parrikar moved DefExpo from New Delhi to Goa during enormous restriction from natural activists. After two years, Nirmala Sitharaman moved DefExpo 2018 to Chennai.

**DefExpo 2020**

Like Parrikar and Sitharaman, Singh guaranteed on 4th February that the present form of DefExpo had broken every single record. Tending to the media in Lucknow, alongside his co-have, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the resistance serve expressed that more than 1,000 safeguard firms including 856 Indian and 172 remote organizations would take part in Defexpo.

"In the DefExpo 2018, held in Chennai, 702 organizations had taken an interest. Along these lines, this has become by a wide margin the greatest ever DefExpo to held in India," expressed the resistance service in an official discharge on 4th February 2020. The service likewise asserted that exhibitors had booked 42,800 square meters of display space this year, 60 percent higher than the 26,774 square meters booked in Chennai. Guard priests and military head of 40 nations will go to the occasion this year, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said. 200 memoranda of undertaking (MoUs) are required to be inked, producing new business coordinated efforts.

Just because, the nearness of the nearby boss priest recognizably overshadowed that of the barrier serve. Adityanath's appearance embellished all the publications on equivalent terms with that of Singh. The safeguard pastor's pre-occasion question and answer session were not gone to by a solitary formally dressed military official. Instead, with Adityanath sharing the stage, UP cops and civil servants were all over.

They guaranteed a world record in that 56 percent of the state's populace of 220 million was of working age. The country has 53 colleges, 345 schools, and 168 polytechnics, they expressed. Adityanath talked up the UP Defense Industrial
Corridor, which would give a foundation spine to the guard business, which would come up around nine hubs: Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, and Meerut.

UP has set a land securing objective of 25,000 sections of land for guard industry. The first period of this was at that point well in progress, with near 3,000 sections of land previously recognized. Singh said the DefExpo would give a chance to the military to get acquainted with changing worldwide innovation.

After a casual beginning to DefExpo 2020 on 5th February 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to initiate the show toward the evening officially and expected to run till Sunday, with the most recent two days being available to open.

**DefExpo 2020 attracts more than 1,000 companies for defence by Rajnath Singh**

Proceeding with the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 5th February 2020. In 2016, at that point, resistance serves Manohar Parrikar moved DefExpo from New Delhi to Goa during enormous restriction from natural activists. After two years, Nirmala Sitharaman moved DefExpo 2018 to Chennai.

**DefExpo 2020**

Like Parrikar and Sitharaman, Singh guaranteed on 4th February that the present form of DefExpo had broken every single record. Tending to the media in Lucknow, alongside his co-have, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the resistance serve expressed that more than 1,000 safeguard firms including 856 Indian and 172 remote organizations would take part in Defexpo.

"In the DefExpo 2018, held in Chennai, 702 organizations had taken an interest. Along these lines, this has become by a wide margin the greatest ever DefExpo to held in India," expressed the resistance service in an official discharge on 4th February 2020. The service likewise asserted that exhibitors had booked 42,800 square meters of display space this year, 60 percent higher than the 26,774 square meters booked in Chennai. Guard priests and military head of 40 nations will go to the occasion this year, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said. 200 memoranda of undertaking (MoUs) are required to be inked, producing new business coordinated efforts.
Just because, the nearness of the nearby boss priest recognizably overshadowed that of the barrier serve. Adityanath's appearance embellished all the publications on equivalent terms with that of Singh. The safeguard pastor's pre-occasion question and answer session were not gone to by a solitary formally dressed military official. Instead, with Adityanath sharing the stage, UP cops and civil servants were all over.

They guaranteed a world record in that 56 percent of the state's populace of 220 million was of working age. The country has 53 colleges, 345 schools, and 168 polytechnics, they expressed. Adityanath talked up the UP Defense Industrial Corridor, which would give a foundation spine to the guard business, which would come up around nine hubs: Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, and Meerut.

UP has set a land securing objective of 25,000 sections of land for guard industry. The first period of this was at that point well in progress, with near 3,000 sections of land previously recognized. Singh said the DefExpo would give a chance to the military to get acquainted with changing worldwide innovation.

After a casual beginning to DefExpo 2020 on 5th February 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to initiate the show toward the evening officially and expected to run till Sunday, with the most recent two days being available to open.

**PM inaugurated the 11th edition of DefExpo in Lucknow on 5 Feb**

**Prime Minister Narendra Modi** inaugurated the **11th edition of DefExpo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** on 5 February 2020. The 2020 Def Expo is organized over a 200-acre area. Also, it is expected that 65 MoUs will be signed with the Indian and foreign defence companies at the Lucknow expo. The event will be held from 5-9 February 2020. **Organizing Team:**

The DefExpo 2020 is being organized by the Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence with full support from the Government of Uttar Pradesh. **Theme:**

The theme of the expo is "India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub". The biennial military exhibition aims to showcase the potential of the country as a global defence manufacturing hub. The sub-theme of the DefExpo is "Digital Transformation of Defence". It reflects the worries and challenges of tomorrow. The exhibition reflects the Government's focus on 'Make in India'.
Participants:
Around 1,000 companies from nearly 70 countries are taking part in the biggest-ever DefExpo. The number of foreign companies participating in the expo has also increased to 165 from 160 previously. Also, Defence ministers and service chiefs of 35 countries are expected to participating in the event.

Note: The previous expo was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu in 2018. It was held over an 80-acre area. In this edition of the DefExpo 702 companies had participated.

India, Madagascar reiterates maritime security cooperation

India and Madagascar have agreed to reiterate maritime security cooperation in bilateral talks held between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Lt Gen Rokotonirina Richard, Defence Minister of Madagascar on the second day of DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 6 February 2020.

Highlights:
The ties aim to enhance Maritime security cooperation in the region.
The leaders agreed to ensure a secure maritime environment to flourish trade and commerce.
DefExpo 2020 provides a platform for India and Madagascar to further strengthen the defence ties and in exploring various areas of mutual engagement.

Note: President of India Ram Nath Kovind held a state visit to Madagascar in March 2018.

India, UK to partner on developing jet engine technology

India and the United Kingdom are expected to sign a government-to-government agreement on jet engine technology development. The announcement was made by the UK Minister for Defence Procurement James Heappey on 6 February.

India-UK on Jet engine:
Both India and the UK are exploring various options for collaboration on joint defence projects.
The UK has initiated to set up joint technology development for sixth-generation fighters which can go into India's fifth-generation Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft.
The Minister verified Indian Navy's plans for a third aircraft carrier. Previously, the UK has already offered the design of its Queen Elizabeth class carrier to the Indian Navy for the third aircraft carrier.

**Background:**
In 2017, India and the UK had agreed to extend cooperation to develop advanced defence products such as gas turbine engine and air defence missile systems. Also, a collaborative project was set up between engine maker Rolls Royce and India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) on jet engine technology.

**DRDO signed Technology Development Contract with Rosoboronexport Russia**

DRDO's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) signed a Technology Development Contract with Rosoboronexport Russia. It was signed during the DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow. The contract aims for the development of a spectrum of high energy materials required for missiles, rockets, and guns.

**Technology Development Contract:**
The contract has been signed for the development of Advanced Pyrotechnic Ignition Systems.

The contract will enable advancement in the field of energetic materials and pyrotechnic technology which will lead to the development of advanced ignition systems.

The technology is expected to meet the futuristic requirements of high-performance propulsion systems.

This technology development will facilitate the design and development of state of art solid rocket motors for upcoming products as the propulsion systems are the power behind the rockets and missiles.

These products will be based on compact and energy-efficient propulsion systems.

**India to develop 200-km range tactical ballistic missile**

India on a new tactical ballistic missile capable of striking targets at a range of 200km, two top government officials. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) The surface-to-surface missile developed by the Defence
Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) named Prakash, the first official cited at a military systems exhibition organized by the Department of Defence Production that seeks to project India as a hub for global defence manufacturing. The new weapon traces its origin to the Prahaar missile developed by the DRDO. The Prahaar has a range of 150km. The configuration of Pranash frozen and development trials will begin by 2021-end. The non-nuclear Pranash missile will be propelled by a single-stage solid-propellant engine. DRDO's short-range Prithvi series of missiles with ranges of 150 to 350 km are nuclear-capable and powered by a liquid propellant engine that has its limitations. India's Agni series of nuclear-capable ballistic missiles can hit targets at different ranges between 700km and 5,500km. The missile is outside the purview of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) places export restrictions on missiles with ranges of more than 300km.

India as one of the top five countries in the aerospace and defence sectors in the coming years. India exported military hardware worth Rs 17,000 crore during the last two years compared to Rs 2,000 crore in 2014.

**Major Anoop Mishra developed a helmet that can stop an AK-47 bullet**

**Major Anoop Mishra**, the Indian Army Major, developed a **helmet that can stop an AK-47 bullet round** from a distance of 10 meters. It is claimed to be first in the world. The Major has earlier developed a bulletproof jacket for protection against sniper bullets.

**Ballistic Helmet:**

The ballistic helmet was developed under **project Abhedya** by Major Anoop Mishra.

He got into the development of bulletproof jackets after he had received gunshots on his vintage bulletproof jacket.

Also, the **Indian Army's College of Military Engineering** in partnership with the private firm has developed India's first and world's cheapest gunshot locator. It can locate the exact location of the bullet from a distance of 400 meters which will help to locate and neutralize terrorists faster.

**College of Military Engineering (CME):**

The College of Military Engineering (CME) is located in Pune. It is a premier tactical and Technical training institution that is the alma mater of the Corps of Engineers. CME is responsible for the training of personnel of the Corps of
Engineers besides imparting instructions in Combat Engineering, Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN) Protection, Works Services and GIS matters to the personnel of All Arms and Services.

**HAL received approval to produce light utility helicopter**

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) received initial clearance from DRDO’s department of defence research and development for its light utility helicopter (LUH). The clearance will pave way for its production. LUH will replace the aging fleet of Cheetah and Chetak helicopters.

**Light Utility Helicopter (LUH):**

- LUH is a single-engine, 3-ton utility helicopter.
- It is indigenously designed and developed to meet the operational requirements of the Indian Air Force (IAF) and the Indian Army.
- Three prototypes have been built and cumulatively completed over 550 flights under various terrains and climatic conditions.
- The performance of the basic configuration of LUH in all terrains and under all weather conditions has been tested and gave satisfactory output.
- HAL is expected to proceed to the next phase of integrating and flight testing of mission role equipment on LUH.

**DefExpo 2020 concluded on 8 February**

The 11th edition of the biennial event "Defence Expo 2020" concluded on 8 February in Lucknow. It was organized by the Ministry of Defence. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh presided over the valedictory session of the event.

**Highlights:**

- Defence Expo 2020 witnessed the participation of three aerospace giants including, Airbus SE and US-based Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co.
- The growth of indigenous enterprise was the most encouraging facet of DefExpo2020.
- Over 200 partnerships involving the signing of Transfer of Technology and Product and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) took place at a ceremony titled Bandhan.
- The agreements were aimed at forging and renewing partnerships for innovative
collaboration and transformation of defence manufacturing in the country. During the event, the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) certificate for Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) was issued to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL). The event has emerged as one of the largest gatherings of defence exhibitors in the aerospace sector.
DefExpo 2020 attracts more than 1,000 companies for defence by Rajnath Singh

Proceeding with the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 5th February 2020. In 2016, at that point, resistance serves Manohar Parrikar moved DefExpo from New Delhi to Goa during enormous restriction from natural activists. After two years, Nirmala Sitharaman moved DefExpo 2018 to Chennai.

DefExpo 2020

Like Parrikar and Sitharaman, Singh guaranteed on 4th February that the present form of DefExpo had broken every single record. Tending to the media in Lucknow, alongside his co-have, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the resistance serve expressed that more than 1,000 safeguard firms including 856 Indian and 172 remote organizations would take part in Defexpo.

"In the DefExpo 2018, held in Chennai, 702 organizations had taken an interest. Along these lines, this has become by a wide margin the greatest ever DefExpo to held in India," expressed the resistance service in an official discharge on 4th February 2020. The service likewise asserted that exhibitors had booked 42,800 square meters of display space this year, 60 percent higher than the 26,774 square meters booked in Chennai. Guard priests and military head of 40 nations will go to the occasion this year, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said. 200 memoranda of undertaking (MoUs) are required to be inked, producing new business coordinated efforts.

Just because, the nearness of the nearby boss priest recognizably overshadowed that of the barrier serve. Adityanath's appearance embellished all the publications on equivalent terms with that of Singh. The safeguard pastor's pre-occasion question and answer session were not gone to by a solitary formally dressed military official. Instead, with Adityanath sharing the stage, UP cops and civil servants were all over.

They guaranteed a world record in that 56 percent of the state's populace of 220 million was of working age. The country has 53 colleges, 345 schools, and 168 polytechnics, they expressed. Adityanath talked up the UP Defense Industrial
Corridor, which would give a foundation spine to the guard business, which would come up around nine hubs: Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, and Meerut.

UP has set a land securing objective of 25,000 sections of land for guard industry. The first period of this was at that point well in progress, with nearly 3,000 sections of land previously recognized. Singh said the DefExpo would give a chance to the military to get acquainted with changing worldwide innovation.

After a casual beginning to DefExpo 2020 on 5th February 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to initiate the show toward the evening officially and expected to run till Sunday, with the most recent two days being available to open.
AWARDS AND HONOURS

AMU Faculty becomes First Indian to receive a Fellowship from IADR

Dr. Saima Yunus Khan, Chairperson, Department of Pediatrics and Preventive Dentistry, Dr. Z A Dental College (ZADC), Aligarh Muslim University (AMU) achieved a model accomplishment as she turned into the main Indian to consult with the esteemed IADR Fellowship in the field of dental research, an announcement from the university. The International Association of Dental Research (IADR) John Clarkson Fellowship granted to get preparing and involvement with general dental wellbeing at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of the University of Manitoba, Canada, for a time of five months.

Dr. Saima Yunus Khan

Dr. Saima will get a measure of 15,000 US Dollars, and the Fellowship will be declared authoritatively during the opening functions of the IADR/AADR/CADR General Session and Exhibition in Washington DC, USA on March 18, 2020. The Fellowship granted to just one post-doctoral agent like clockwork. Dr. Saima had decided to work at the University of Manitoba from a decision of different focuses of greatness in the USA and Canada. She will present the report of her work to the IADR Division and the IADR Global Headquarters in the USA.

IADR John Clarkson Fellowship

Prior, Dr. Saima was deliberated with the International College of Dentists Fellowship (South East Asia locale), Pierre Fauchard Academy Fellowship, and Outstanding Scientist Award, and she is a publication individual from E Cronicon Dental Science Journal, Acta Scientifica and Journal of Dentistry, Oral issue, and Therapy. The IADR is a US-based charitable association with more than 10,000 individual individuals around the world, devoted to driving dental, oral and craniofacial research to propel wellbeing and prosperity worldwide through disclosure and dispersal. The reason for the IADR John Clarkson Fellowship is to permit specialists to acquire preparing and involvement with general dental wellbeing at a focal point of greatness.

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das awarded as National Banker of the Year

2020 Asia Pacific

The governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Shaktikanta Das awarded as
'National Banker of the Year 2020 Asia-Pacific' by The Banker magazine.

The Banker

The Banker a London-based global monetary issue production possessed by The Financial Times. It is known for its yearly rankings of the world's top banks. The 2020 list" celebrates the authorities that have best figured out how to invigorate development and settle their economy."The publication named Das as the 2020 Central Banker in the Asia-Pacific locale, and expressed that the RBI boss had acquired measures to fix runs around shadow banking and brought Indian banking up to norms through a "limited way to deal with deal with the administration."

Central Bank Rates

In an announcement on January 3, according to a report, the magazine called attention to that Indian banks have confronted arrangement of issues in non-performing advances and cheats, other than rehashed monetary droop wherein the Central Bank cut rates multiple times in 2019. It was available to cut them once more, if necessary.Das moved to help the nation's urban co-employable banks introduce a responsive IT framework that will permit them to offer financial administrations at a lower cost and with shields to secure the client The economic structure itself has not abandoned investigation, it said.

It included that Das had been mentioned about the absence of administration in banking and called for more tightly governs for open division banks (PSBs) which contain 60.

Salmara Mankachar district received National Award for implementing Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana

The district of South Salmara Mankachar of Assam won National Award for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana under the category of State/Union Territory having a population of more than one crore. The award was conferred by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani in a prize distribution meeting held at New Delhi.

Awarded for:

The award recognized the performance of Assam in implementing the scheme. In April 2019, only 24% of the targeted beneficiaries of the district were covered. The department improved its performance to cover 95% of the targeted beneficiaries.

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana:
The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana scheme was effectively implemented from **1 January 2017**.

The scheme aims to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.

Under the Scheme, the **Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM)** will be given **Rs.5,000** in three installments.

The cash benefits will be transacted to the pregnant women in their bank account directly.

The scheme will satisfy various conditionality namely ante-natal check-up, early registration of pregnancy, and registration of the birth of the child and completion of the first cycle of vaccination for the first living child of the family.

**President awarded the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy**

The **President of India Ram Nath Kovind** presented the **International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy** to **Dr. N.S. Dharmashaktu** under the Individual category and **The Leprosy Mission Trust** under the institutional category on 6 February 2020.

**Government's measure on leprosy:**

Government has accomplished levels of leprosy elimination defined as less than one case per ten thousand population. Also, the stigma and prejudice against leprosy have been reduced considerably through the efforts taken by scientists, researchers, organizations and community workers. It should be considered that the new cases continue to occur and high-burden pockets of the disease do exist.

The government is now taking measures to intensify the efforts towards early detection of leprosy cases, provide equitable access to appropriate treatment and provide integrated leprosy services in the geographically focused areas.

It is also creating awareness and educate people on this disease and its different dimensions

Centre also plans to empower those who have been discriminated against on account of leprosy through advocacy and information dissemination.

**Leprosy in India:**

**World Health Organization (WHO)** reported that around **200,000 leprosy cases** are detected globally and India accounts for more than 50% of these cases every year. In 2005, Leprosy was declared eradicated in India. Followed by Brazil
and Indonesia, India has the highest number of new leprosy cases in the world

**Manoj Das received the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award**

Odia and English writer **Manoj Das** received the **Mystic Kalinga Literary Award** (Indian and Global Languages) at the Mystic Kalinga Festival (MKF). He received the award at the literary-cultural festival in Bhubneswar on 8 February. The award carried a cash prize of Rs.1 lakh along with a khadi shawl and certificate for the laureate.

**Manoj Das:**
Manoj Das is currently teaching English literature and Philosophy at the **Sri Aurobindo International University** in Puducherry. He was recently conferred Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award for his contribution in the field of literature and education.

**Mystic Kalinga Festival:**
Mystic Kalinga Festival is being held from 8-9 February in Bhubneswar, Odisha. The festival included the amalgamation of **poetry readings, lectures, music concerts, panel discussions, and dance performances.**

The two-day festival aimed to give deep insight into literature, both in India and the world, also promises to give a peek into the many nuances of the strange and fascinating condition called "bhakti".

Poets, translators, and scholars discussed some of the greatest mystic poets of the subcontinent like Appar, Sambandar, Tulsidas, Ravidas, Adi Shankara, and several others.

**Mystic Mic,** a platform for standup performers, designed to celebrate the innocence and beauty of rural India and its Mystic connection with nature, life, music, dance, and songs is one of the major attractions of the festival this time.
**SPORTS**

**Novak Djokovic won his record 8th Men's singles title**

Serbia’s Novak Djokovic won his record **8th Men's singles title** in the Australian Open at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne. He beat first-time Australian Open finalist Dominic Thiem of Austria. The men's doubles title clinched by Joe Salisbury of UK and American Rajeev Ram, who beat Australia's Luke Saville and Max Purcell. Novak Djokovic becomes the third man to win **8 titles**. Novak Djokovic beat Austrian Dominic Thiem in five sets to defend his Australian Open men's singles title in Melbourne, Australia. Novak became the first tennis player in the open Era of men single team to win a Grand Slam at three different decades. Novak Djokovic behind Rafael Nadal (19) and 3 behind Roger Federer (20) on the elite list.

**Fancied India meet Pakistan in First Semifinal in U-19 World Cup**

India will meet Pakistan in the first semi-final round in the U-19 World Cup. India, who are the Continuous Winner of the U-19 World Cup, delivered on Pakistan a 203-run pounding in the last version in 2018. Four-time champions India will back themselves to arrive at their third progressive last at the Under-19 World Cup when they face most despised opponents Pakistan. The two groups go into the semi-final round unbeaten. While India beat Australia in the quarterfinals, Pakistan defeated Afghanistan. **India Pakistan Challenge** Pakistan chief Rohail Nazir made light of the publicity encompassing the game. However, an India-Pakistan challenge is always a high-pressure one that tests the character of players on either side. Doing great in the game makes them medium-term stars, and the players realize that. Like at the most elevated level, the Indian youngsters had the high potential over Pakistan generally, having beaten them in the Asia Cup last September when they won the competition victors. India, who are the safeguarding heroes of the U-19 World Cup, had exacted on Pakistan a 203-run pounding in the last version in 2018. In any case, history means pretty much nothing, and the Priyam Garg-drove India should play their best cricket to take Pakistan out of the challenge. **Backbone of Indian Batting** Opener Yashasvi Jaiswal has been the foundation of India batting, scoring three half-hundreds of years in four games, including against
Australia. The remainder of the batsmen have not done a lot to think of home about, and if the lower-request had not saved India in the quarterfinal, the result of the game could have been unique. Not to overlook the game dominating spell from pacer Kartik Tyagi. Atharva Ankolekar and in-structure leggie Ravi Bishnoi shared a 61-run represent the seventh wicket to give their group a battling possibility. At last, India won rather easily. Confronting Pakistan quick bowlers Abbas Afridi, Mohammad Amir Khan, and Tahir Hussain will be a test for the Indian batsmen. Opener Huraira made an excellent presentation in the last game, scoring 64 to lead his group to an exhaustive win over Afghanistan after the bowlers pleasantly set up the game where the Match begins at 13.30 IST.

**Winner of the Aussie Open Novak Djokovic returns to No. 1**

Novak Djokovic came back to No. 1 in the ATP rankings 3rd February in the wake of winning his eighth Australian Open title, while Sofia Kenin's first Grand Slam trophy helped her to a vocation high No. 7 and made her the leading American on the WTA list. Djokovic's 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4 triumph over Dominic Thiem in the last at Melbourne Park on Sunday permitted the 32-year-old from Serbia to rise one spot and move back in front of Rafael Nadal. Nadal had surpassed Djokovic in November and, at age 33, turned into the most seasoned year-end No. 1. Be that as it may, Nadal lost positioning focuses by getting dispensed within the Australian Open quarterfinals by Thiem, one year after being the sprinter up to Djokovic.

It is Djokovic's 276th week driving the ATP, the third-most throughout the entire existence of the automated rankings, which started during the 1970s. Roger Federer holds the record of 310, trailed by Pete Sampras with 286. On the off chance that Djokovic can remain at No. 1 until the first seven day stretch of October, he will outperform Federer. "That is one of the two greatest objectives, without a doubt," said Djokovic, who crushed Federer in the elimination rounds at Melbourne Park. "That is to say, and there is no mystery in that."

The other? Making up for lost time to Federer and Nadal for most significant titles. Federer drives the path with 20, with Nadal at 19 and Djokovic now at
17.
In the rankings, Nadal is No. 2, Federer stayed at No. 3, and Thiem went up one spot to No. 4, with U.S. Open second place Daniil Medvedev sliding to No. 5.
The highest bounce in the best 100 was by Tennys Sandgren, an American who went from 100th to 44th gratitude to finding a workable pace. He pushed Federer to the verge in that round, holding seven-match focuses, however, couldn't change over one.
The 21-year-old Kenin, who lives in Florida, turned into the most youthful lady to win the Australian Open since Maria Sharapova in 2008 by returning to beat double cross significant victor Garbie Muguruza 4-6, 6-2, 6-2 in Saturday's conclusive.
Kenin rose eight spots and is the youngest American to make her presentation in the leading 10 since Serena Williams in 1999.
With Williams remaining at No. 9 after her third-round misfortune in Australia, Kenin moved past a player she thinks about a symbol.
The United States has Latvia at Everett, Washington, in the group rivalry one weekend from now.
Debris Barty clutched No. 1 in the WTA rankings after losing in elimination rounds against Kenin. Simona Halep, who had been expelled by Muguruza at that stage, went from No. 3 to No. 2, exchanging places with Karolina Pliskova.
Muguruza, who was unseeded at a Grand Slam competition without precedent for a long time, came back to the leading 20, going from No. 32 to No. 16.
The 2019 heroin Melbourne, Naomi Osaka, went from No. 4 to No. 10 in the wake of losing in the third round to 15-year-old American Coco Gauff. Making it to Week 2 in her competition debut supported Gauff from No. 67 to No. 51.

Rakhi Halder won gold at Senior Womens National Weightlifting Championships

Rakhi Halder of Bengal claimed gold in the 64kg category of the 35th edition of the Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships at Khudiram
Anushilan Kendra in Kolkata. She lifted 93 kg in snatch and 117 kg in clean and jerk on 5 January 2020. She lifted 10 kg ahead of Harjinder Kaur of Chandigarh, her rival.

**Rakhi Halder:**
Halder is ranked 19th in the Olympic qualifiers list. She has personal best of 218 kg (95 kg in snatch and 123 kg in clean and jerk) at the Qatar International Cup in 2019 and won the bronze medal. At the Commonwealth Championship in June 2019, she bagged gold with a total lift of 214 kg.
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

DefExpo 2020 attracts more than 1,000 companies for defence by Rajnath Singh

Proceeding with the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 5th February 2020. In 2016, at that point, resistance serves Manohar Parrikar moved DefExpo from New Delhi to Goa during enormous restriction from natural activists. After two years, Nirmala Sitharaman moved DefExpo 2018 to Chennai.

DefExpo 2020

Like Parrikar and Sitharaman, Singh guaranteed on 4th February that the present form of DefExpo had broken every single record. Tending to the media in Lucknow, alongside his co-have, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the resistance serve expressed that more than 1,000 safeguard firms including 856 Indian and 172 remote organizations would take part in Defexpo.

"In the DefExpo 2018, held in Chennai, 702 organizations had taken an interest. Along these lines, this has become by a wide margin the greatest ever DefExpo to held in India," expressed the resistance service in an official discharge on 4th February 2020. The service likewise asserted that exhibitors had booked 42,800 square meters of display space this year, 60 percent higher than the 26,774 square meters booked in Chennai. Guard priests and military head of 40 nations will go to the occasion this year, the Ministry of Defense (MoD) said. 200 memoranda of undertaking (MoUs) are required to be inked, producing new business coordinated efforts.

Just because, the nearness of the nearby boss priest recognizably overshadowed that of the barrier serve. Adityanath's appearance embellished all the publications on equivalent terms with that of Singh. The safeguard pastor's pre-occasion question and answer session were not gone to by a solitary formally dressed military official. Instead, with Adityanath sharing the stage, UP cops and civil servants were all over.

They guaranteed a world record in that 56 percent of the state's populace of 220 million was of working age. The country has 53 colleges, 345 schools, and 168 polytechnics, they expressed. Adityanath talked up the UP Defense Industrial
Corridor, which would give a foundation spine to the guard business, which would come up around nine hubs: Chitrakoot, Jhansi, Kanpur, Agra, Aligarh, Ghaziabad, and Meerut.

UP has set a land securing objective of 25,000 sections of land for guard industry. The first period of this was at that point well in progress, with near 3,000 sections of land previously recognized. Singh said the DefExpo would give a chance to the military to get acquainted with changing worldwide innovation.

After a casual beginning to DefExpo 2020 on 5th February 2020, Prime Minister Narendra Modi scheduled to initiate the show toward the evening officially and expected to run till Sunday, with the most recent two days being available to open.

**NIDM organized Conference on Disability-Inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction**

A one-day National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience was held on 5 February in New Delhi. The conference was a run-up to the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in May 2020.

**Organized by:**
The conference was organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE).

**Highlights:**
The conference brought together the stakeholders from Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and disability inclusion to deliberate on actions and strategies for mainstreaming disability-inclusion in the DRR process.

It highlighted the need for the development of a holistic approach for disability-inclusion in DRR.

NDRF emphasized on the need for training of the first responders of disaster management to achieve disability-inclusion.

The conference prioritized the need for capacity building programs for mainstreaming disability inclusion at all levels.

The conference had three technical sessions titled Disability inclusion in DRR: Need for a Holistic Approach, Mainstreaming Action in Local level Action, Participation of PwD's in Disaster Risk Reduction Process.

**Participants:**
Delegations including Smt. Shakuntala Gamlin, Secretary, Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE), and Shri G.V.V Sarma, the Member Secretary, NDMA, Shri Kamal Kishore, the Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Shri S.N. Pradhan, Director General, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Senior officials and representatives from various departments of various states and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGO) participated the conference.

India, African countries agreed to combat terrorism

India and several African countries have agreed to deepen cooperation to combat the growing threat of terrorism at first India- Africa Defence Ministers' conclave which was held during the Defexpo 2020.

India- Africa Defence Ministers' conclave Highlights:

The Ministers adopted a joint deceleration to preserve maritime security by sharing information, intelligence, and surveillance

India agreed to provide a range of military hardware to African countries.

The dialogue emphasized the need for stronger international partnerships to counter-terrorism and violent extremism.

The Ministers agreed to strengthen the UN Counter-Terrorism mechanisms and ensured strict compliance with the UN Security Council (UNSC) sanctions regime on terrorism.

It urged the international community to envisage the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism in the UNGA.

The Lucknow Declaration urged all countries to root out terrorism in all forms and manifestations, terrorist infrastructure, and eliminate financing channels and halting the cross-border movement of terrorists.

Participants:

India- Africa Defence Ministers' conclave was attended by 12 Defence Ministers. Over 38 countries were represented at the conclave.

DGQA conducted a seminar DGQAs Role in MoD Schemes for Incentivizing Defence Manufacturing
Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) conducted a seminar to spread awareness about the various Schemes of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to facilitate the domestic defence industry on 7 February 2020. The seminar was conducted during the 11th edition of the biennial mega defence exhibition DefExpo 2020 at Lucknow.

DGQA's seminar:

The theme for the seminar was "DGQA's Role in MoD Schemes for Incentivizing Defence Manufacturing".

It showcased the proactive role played by defence Ministry under the PM's vision of 'Make in India'.

A Knowledge Book highlighting and showcasing following DGQA Schemes was launched by the Department of Defence Production.

Other launches:

Mission Raksha Gyan Shakti Scheme was launched. It aimed at inculcating IP culture in the Indian defence manufacturing ecosystem.

Self-Certification & Green Channel was launched with an aim to qualify the Indian firms is expected to cut down on inspection timelines and costs in foreseeable future. These schemes are meant to target mature products where the domestic defence industry has gained reasonable expertise in the technology deployed.

Defence Export Promotion Scheme (DEPC) was launched during the seminar with an aim to provide an opportunity for indigenous manufacturers to market their products globally and to enhance annual defence exports to 35000 crores by the year 2025.

Third-Party Inspection Scheme was launched. Under this Scheme Third Party Inspection (TPI) agencies will undertake Quality Assurance functions for defence stores manufactured by the private industry within India.

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) was launched with an aim to facilitate in setting up about 6 to 8 state of the art test facilities by providing a Grant in Aid of Rs.400 crore.

Participants:
The seminar was attended by delegations including Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Naik, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Defence Secretary, the Captains of Industry, senior government officials and delegates from industry associations and academia.
SCHEMES

Centre to introduce new scheme to empower NGOs to provide care to the senior citizens

The government is to introduce a new programme which will allow the NGOs to take care of senior citizens, who are living alone, in their homes. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot on 5 February 2020. The new law is different from the Maintenance and Welfare of Senior Citizens (MWPSC) Act, 2007 and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) which has the provision for taking care of all senior citizens.

A New Scheme for Senior Citizens:
As per the 2011 census, there are about 10.38 crore senior citizens in the country. The new law will ensure the senior citizens who are living alone will be taken care of in a better way.

Daycare centres will be set up for these purposes under the law.
These centres will have a canteen, libraries, and other facilities.

Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY):
Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was launched in March 2017. Under the scheme, Rs.7,000 will be provided to each person. So far, 1,24,142 senior citizens have been covered under the scheme. The government aims to reach out to 5.20 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme.

Karnataka government launched the Janasevaka scheme

The Karnataka State government has launched the Janasevaka scheme in a few municipal corporation wards on 4 February. The scheme was earlier implemented in Dasaralahalli area on a pilot basis. It will be extended to Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli and Rajajinagar areas.

Janasevaka scheme:
Janasevaka scheme was launched by Karnataka Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa.
The scheme will ensure home delivery of various services like ration cards, health cards, and senior citizen identity.
The scheme will pertain to **53 services** and involve 11 departments. The programme aims to avail the benefits of government schemes at the doorstep. The scheme aims to make the lives of the citizens of Karnataka easy by launching this scheme. It will ensure the on-time delivery of government services to citizens by practising innovative and efficient management systems through capacity. The scheme will benefit the **senior citizens** in the state. Under the scheme, one volunteer will be allocated for each ward. These volunteers have been outsourced. A toll-free helpline was set up for the scheme. It will work from **8 am to 8 pm**. Under the scheme, **Rs.115** will be charged to provide the **home delivery services**. The Karnataka government has decided to seek information under the **RTI Act** easy by making it online. People can now apply from home by paying the fee online. This will make the process hassle-free.

**Govt approved proposals under Atal Bhujal Yojana**

Government has approved proposals for **Atal Bhujal Yojana** for **sustainable management of groundwater resources** with community participation in water-stressed blocks of **Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh**. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti & Social Justice and Empowerment, Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

**Atal Bhujal Yojana:**

Atal Bhujal Yojana is a **groundwater management scheme** of the Central government. It was launched by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** on 25 December 2019. Government allocated **Rs.6000 crore** for the Scheme. The scheme will be implemented from 2020-21 to 2024-25. The financial assistance is provided by the World Bank with a sharing pattern of 50:50 between the Indian Government and the World Bank. There are **two components** under the scheme namely:

1) **Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building component** with an outlay of Rs.1400 crore

2) **Incentive component** with an outlay of Rs.4600 crore
Mohammed Allawi named as Iraq Prime Minister

Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi appointed as the Iraq President Barham Salih. His predecessor Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November anti-government demonstrations. 

Mr. Allawi has a month to form a new government, which he will lead until early elections. President Saleh gave parliament an ultimatum to decide on a new prime minister before he took the decision himself after protesters rejected previous candidates. He promised to hold those responsible for the killing of protesters accountable and to combat corruption.

He studied and worked in Lebanon and the UK before entering Iraqi politics following the 2003 invasion. He served as minister of communications twice.
IMPORTANT DAYS

World Wetlands Day observed on February 2nd

World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year internationally on 2 February. It denotes the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971.

History

World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997. Several agencies, non-government organizations celebrated World Wetlands Day to raise public awareness of wetland values and benefits and promote the conservation and wise use of wetlands. These activities include seminars, nature walks, festivals, the announcement of new Ramsar sites, newspaper articles, radio interviews, and wetland rehabilitation.

Theme

World Wetlands Day 2020 International Theme is Wetlands and Biodiversity. This theme reflected in the February 2020 edition of Wetlands Australia. Biodiversity is a foundational value of wetlands and an inherent part of the significance of these ecosystems. It is through wetland biodiversity that critical ecological processes carried out. The contribution that wetland biodiversity has on broader environments, society, and economies has also been historically undervalued.

World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is being observed every year on February 4 by the Union for International Cancer Control. The day is being set apart from 2008. The day is observed by the United Nations also. The subject of the current year's World Cancer Day is Theme: I am I will. This subject is being followed for the long stretches of 2019-2021. As indicated by WHO, consistently, 8.8 million individuals die due to cancer in low-and center salary nations. World Cancer Day observed to lessen illness and demise brought about by cancer and to spread awareness about the same.

Union for International Cancer Control

It is a Non-Governmental Organization framed in 1933, the central station of the association situated in Geneva, Switzerland. The association moves in the direction of lessening worldwide cancer growth and to coordinate disease control measures into the world health agenda. The association conducts World Cancer Congress, World Cancer Leaders' Summit, GAPRI (Global Access to Pain Relief Initiative), ChiCa
(Childhood Cancer), GETI (Global Education and Training Initiative), GICR (Global Initiative for Cancer Registries).

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed on 6 February

International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on 6 February. The day is observed to end the practice of FGM. It creates awareness about FGM which is a violation of the human rights of girls and women. On this day, a campaign titled 'A Piece of Me' is organized by the UNFPA to celebrate three survivors of female genital mutilation (FGM) to raise awareness to end FGM.

**Theme:**
The theme for the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM for the year 2020 is "Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation". The theme focuses on mobilizing youth around the eliminations of harmful practices including FGM.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM):**
FGM is the practice of partial or total removal of external female genitalia or other injuries to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It is mostly carried out on girls between infancy and 15 years age 15. It causes problems including severe bleeding, urinating problems, cysts, infections, and other complications in childbirth and increased risk of newborn deaths. The practice is performed mainly in North-Eastern, Eastern and Western parts of Africa.

**History:**
In 2007, a Joint Programme on Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting was initiated by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). In 2012, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution and designated 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. UNGA aimed to amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of this practice.
NTPC signs 750 Million Dollar Worth of the Largest Single Foreign Currency Loan Ever

State-owned electricity producer NTPC Ltd today announced it had signed a 750 million dollar syndicated loan in Japanese Yen. The proceeds will channelize to fund programs to reduce emissions from power plants and hydro projects. The loan was issued under the automatic route of the External Commercial Borrowing Regulations of Reserve Bank of India and had an 11-year door-to-door maturity under two tranches. The company mentioned that the Indian State Bank, Tokyo fully underwrite the facility; Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Singapore; and Bank of India, Tokyo as of January 20, 2020, and will be launched shortly by the banks for general syndication.

Loan Procedure
The loan proceeds will soon be used to finance Capex to build the Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) network, hydro projects, and other projects using ultra-supercritical low carbon technology. FGD systems significantly reduce Sulfur Dioxide emissions in thermal power plant flue gasses and are a step towards sustainable operations and a cleaner environment.

APEDA-CFTRI Sign MoU for Guwahati Liaison Office

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by CSIR-CFTRI with APEDA to set up a Liaison Office in Guwahati, Assam, to give specialized help to the nourishment businesses in the North East district. It will profit the ranchers, makers, and business people. APEDA has embraced numerous limited time exercises as of late to bring the North East conditions of India on to the fare map. In 2019 five global purchaser merchant meets were sorted out by APEDA in Assam, Manipur, Tripura, Arunachal Pradesh, and Sikkim to grandstand the capability of agribusiness/cultivation. They handled nourishment items, including natural products, to open the fare window from the North Eastern States.

Capacity building is another such territory where APEDA is distinctly centering on hand-holding the new exporters from the North East district. As of late, APEDA composed a presentation visit to Maharashtra, considered as one of the significant fare centers, to familiarize the exporters and state authorities from Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, and Nagaland on send out arranged cultivating, packhouse and current
nourishment handling units.
APEDA has likewise sorted out explicit effort projects and preparing on trade process for the partners from the North East area. North East district has enormous potential in changing over vast zones into natural affirmation for which preparing on the prerequisites of the National Program on Organic Production (NPOP) have been bestowed toward the North East states to make mindfulness on the massive capability of natural farming and fares.
Focal Food Technological Research Institute, CSIR-CFTRI, Mysuru, (a constituent lab of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, New Delhi) is a spearheading Institute working in the territory of Food Science and Technology, and Human Resource Development began during 1950. Throughout the years, it has brought out numerous creative items and procedures into the market on top of the best in class R&D practices of the Institute and the changing way of life of the purchasers. A portion of these endeavors incorporate improvement of newborn child nourishments items, moment prepared blends, parboiling of paddy, development of spirulina, wellbeing, and health nourishment items. Cultural mediations have been the sign of CSIR-CFTRI, and an enormous number of ranchers engaged in moderate and practical strategies for esteem expansion to agri-items adding to the country's economy. It has been on the cutting edge for creating a quality human asset for the improvement of the nourishment industry.
North Eastern Region has gigantic open doors for nourishment preparing and other agri-business that can add to the financial upliftment of the locale and create offices for new businesses. It is normal that the contact office of CSIR-CFTRI will reinforce the nourishment preparing division in the North East and will have duplicating impact on the fare of customary and handled nourishment items from the locale.

**IOC Signs an Annual Agreement on Rosneft's to Buy Crude**

State-owned Indian Oil Corp, India's top purifier, has marked an arrangement with Russian oil major Rosneft that gives it an alternative to purchasing as much as 2 million tons, or 40,000 barrels for each day (BPD) of unrefined in 2020, the Indian oil serve said on 5th February 2020.
India has been expanding the wellsprings of its raw petroleum imports to fence geopolitical dangers that can gag supplies from a specific area or nation. The
purifier will practice its alternative to purchasing Urals rough under this first yearly arrangement with Rosneft at whatever point the value is sufficiently low to make up for cargo costs.

**IOC Agreement**

Under the agreement, IOC has the alternative to take as much as 40,000 BPD of oil this year, said the source, who declined to be named as he isn't approved to address the media.

Indian state purifiers usually purchase Russian oil through the spot advertise as opposed to under the agreement. The country's unrefined imports from Russia have commonly been low since the cargo costs will, in general, be higher than for provisions from the Middle East. India, the world's third-greatest oil purchaser, and merchant, transport in over 80% of its rough needs, as a rule depending on the Middle East for the more significant part of its inventory. Be that as it may, its imports from that area slid to a four-year low a year ago.

The Middle, a lot of India's unrefined imports, shrank to 60% a year ago - down from 65% in 2018 and most minimal since 2015 - as record yield from the United States and nations like Russia offered open doors for merchants to take advantage of different supplies.

**India, Russia signed 14 MoUs at the Fifth round of IRMIC**

The fifth round of India-Russia Military Industrial Conference (IRMIC) was conducted on the sidelines of Defexpo-2020 at Lucknow on 6 February 2020. The conference was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar, and Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russian Federation Mr. Oleg Ryazantsev. 14 MoUs were exchanged between the Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and the Indian companies during the conference.

**Conference Highlights:**

The Ministers discussed the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on the Joint manufacturing of spares in India which was signed at Vladivostok, Russia on 4 September 2019.

The IGA provides a framework for the partnership of Russian OEMs with the Indian industry for the manufacturing of spare parts of Russian origin equipment in use by the Indian Defence Forces.

India's efforts to expedite the collaboration between the Indian and Russian
Companies were highlighted.
Russia reaffirmed its active participation in the collaborations under the ambit of the IGA. It also said that it will take all necessary steps to facilitate the manufacturing of parts in India.
The also discussed the way forward to achieve the objectives of IGA under the Make in India initiative.

Participants:
A large number of delegates from the defence sector companies of India and Russia participated in the conference.

HAL signed MoU with Elbit Systems for Digital HUD for fighter planes

**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)** signed an MOU with Israel-based defense electronics company **Elbit Systems** on 6 February 2020 during the DefExpo 2020. The MoU aims to promote and market the **Digital Head-Up Displays (HUD) units.**

**MoU Highlights:**
The MOU will extend cooperation for **new HUD technologies** in the country.
It will also promote Digital HUD to the **Indian Defence Services** and other potential customers.
The digital HUD will incorporate new features like **Large Eye Motion Box** and Digital Image Source to increase the pilot's situational awareness, **Wide Instantaneous** and Total Field of View with Minimal Binocular Disparity.
The HUD system, under the MoU, will be compatible with Night Vision Imaging Systems having improved maintenance features.

**Digital Head-Up Displays (HUD):**
HUD is a transparent display that provides a seamless view of critical information to the pilot. This information will be projected directly in the pilot's line of sight on a screen just inside the windshield. It will allow them to keep their visual attention focused outside the aircraft.
India ranked 40th in the International IP Index

India ranked 40th on a global International Intellectual Property (IP) Index. It was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce. GIPC conducted the survey for 53 countries.

Report Highlights:
India scored 38.46% (19.23 out of 50) in 2020. It 2019, it scored 36.04% (16.22 out of 45).
As per the report, India has shown improvement in terms of scores when it comes to the protection of IP and copyright issues. India showed a 2.42% jump in the absolute score.
Also, India's relative score increased by 6.71%.
GIPC said India has continued to score well in the Systemic Efficiency indicator by scoring ahead of 28 other economies in these indicators.
The report identified several challenges for India including compulsory licensing, patentability requirements, patent enforcement, patent opposition, regulatory data protection, transparency in reporting seizures by customs, Singapore Treaty of Law of Trademarks and Patent Law Treaty.

Global Innovation Policy Center:
GIPC is the premier institution of the United States Chamber of Commerce. It handles all issues relating to innovation and creativity through advocating for strong IP standards. It aims to promote & defend the system of IP rights in the US, multilateral forums, and other key countries.

Note: India secured 36th rank among 50 countries in 2019.

Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index 2019 Launched

Ease of living index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019 have launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. The indices designed to assess the quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities. Municipal Performance Index 2019, the Ministry sought to evaluate the performance of municipalities based on five enablers, namely Service, Finance, Planning, Technology, and Governance, which have been further divided into 20
sectors, which will be evaluated across 100 indicators. This will help Municipalities in better planning and management, filling the gaps in city administration, and improving the liveability of cities for its citizens. **Ease of Living Index**

Ease of Living Index aimed at providing a holistic view of Indian cities - beginning from the services provided by local bodies, the effectiveness of the administration, the outcomes generated through these services in terms of the liveability within cities, and, finally, the citizen perception of these outcomes. Ease of Living Index is namely a) generate information to guide evidence-based policy making b) catalyze action to achieve broader developmental outcomes including the SDG c) assess and compare the outcomes achieved from various urban policies and schemes and d) obtain the perception of citizens about their view of the services provided by the city administration. EoLI 2019 will facilitate the assessment of ease of living of citizens across three pillars: Quality of Life, Economic Ability, and Sustainability, which are further divided into 14 categories across 50 indicators. All participating cities have appointed nodal officers whose responsibility is to collect and collate the relevant data points from various departments both within and outside of the ULB and upload the same along with supporting documents in the exclusive web portal designed for this purpose. This portal formally launched by Shri Durga Shanker Mishra, Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, on the 19th of December 2019. There is a central helpdesk which is used by nodal officers to seek process-specific and indicator specific clarifications and assistance as and when required. Ease of Living Index Assessment, a Citizen Perception Survey is being conducted on behalf of the Ministry (which carries 30% of the marks of the Ease of Living Index). This is a very important component of the assessment exercise as it will help indirectly capturing the perception of citizens with respect to the quality of life in their cities. This survey, which is being administered both online and offline, has commenced from 1st February 2020 and will continue till 29th February 2020. The offline version involving face-to-face interviews will commence on the 1st of February and will run parallel to the on-line versions. The same is being promoted through bulk SMS push as well as extensive coverage in social media.
**QUIZ CORNER**

1) **Who is appointed as Iraq Prime Minister?**
   A. Nureddin Mahmud  
   B. Mohammed Allawi  
   C. Jamil al-Midfai  
   D. Arshad al-Umari  

   **Answer B**

   **Explanation** Mohammed Tawfiq Allawi appointed as the Iraq President Barham Salih. His predecessor Adel Abdul Mahdi resigned in November anti-government demonstrations.

2) **Which country declared national emergency to battle locusts?**
   A. Saudi Arabia  
   B. Pakistan  
   C. Indonesia  
   D. Iran  

   **Answer B**

   **Explanation** Pakistan declares national emergency to battle locusts.

3) **Which state bagged first position for implementation of PMMVy?**
   A. Tamil Nadu  
   B. Madhya Pradesh  
   C. Andhra Pradesh  
   D. Kerala  

   **Answer B**

   **Explanation** Madhya Pradesh state bagged first position for implementation of PMMVy.

4) **When was Central Board of Revenue Act came into force?**
A. 1963
B. 1964
C. 1965
D. 1966

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Central Board of Revenue Act came into force on the year 1963.

5) Which country became a global data centre?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Union budget proposed to enable private firms to build data center parks could help India become a major global data center, but only with a supportive policy and infrastructure framework.

6) Who inaugurated Ekushey Book Fair?

A. Moudud Ahmed
B. Sheikh Hasina
C. Khaleda Zia
D. Fazlul Haque

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Sheikh Hasina inaugurated Ekushey Book Fair. Ekushey Book Fair is the most significant and most extended book fair of Bangladesh. It is organized every year in February commemorating the martyrs of the language movement during which eight people laid down their lives on February 21, 1952, for establishing Bangla as the official language of the then East Pakistan.

7) When Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies was founded?

A. March 2009
B. March 2008  
C. March 2010  
D. June 2006

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies is a state university with good infrastructure covered in 273 acres located in Basar, Telangana State, India. It is founded on March 2008.

8) Who inaugurated the Hubbali-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in Karnataka?

A. Shri Venkaiah Naidu  
B. Shri Ramesh Kumar  
C. Shri Dinesh Gupta  
D. Shri Prakash Javedakar

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates the Hubbali-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in Karnataka.

9) U 19 World Cup 2020 Held at________?

A. South Africa  
B. South America  
C. North Korea  
D. South India

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 2020 ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup is an international limited-overs cricket tournament held at South Africa from 17 January to 9 February 2020.

10) India will get its ___________ private train

A. Second  
B. Third  
C. First
India will get its third private train. Indian Railways is all set to start Indore-Varanasi Tejas Express Chairman V.K. Yadav. The all-new Indore-Varanasi Tejas Express will run three days a week. The Tejas like trains would be coming in the future.

11) When World Wetlands Day was observed?

A. March 5th  
B. February 2nd  
C. June 6th  
D. July 9th  

Answer B

Explanation World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year internationally on 2 February. It denotes the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971.

12) How many courses are introduced by CADD Centre recently?

A. 14  
B. 12  
C. 15  
D. 16  

Answer B

Explanation CADD Centre, Asia's largest network of engineering design-training institutes launched courses in Electric Vehicle (EV) technology. The courses cover the spectrum of this emerging field, covering design, manufacturing, repair, maintenance, and setting up of the charging infrastructure. CADD Centre introduced 12 courses.

13) New Tax Regime Reduces Tax Payable for Individuals Earning_______?

A. 12 to 16 Lakhs  
B. 12 to 15 Lakhs  
C. 13 to 16 Lakhs
D. 13 to 15 Lakhs

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Budget 2020 has proposed a new tax regime by slashing income tax rates and rejigging the income tax slabs to reduce total tax payable by the individuals earning Income between Rs 12 lakh and Rs 15 lakh will be taxed at 25% down from current 30%.

14) When Jan Shikshan Sansthan Scheme was launched?

A. 1968  
B. 1969  
C. 1967  
D. 1970

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The scheme of Jan Shikshan Sansthan had its genesis formerly known as Shramik Vidyapeeth established in 1967.

15) When UDAN Scheme was launched?

A. 2018  
B. 2017  
C. 2016  
D. 2019

**Answer B**

**Explanation** UDAN scheme is a regional connectivity scheme of the government which was launched in 2017.

16) Where was the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited located?

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

**Answer B**
**Explanation** Hindustan Aeronautics Limited is an Indian state-owned aerospace and defence company headquartered in Bangalore, India.

17) National Level India's Biggest Rural Technical Festival showcased ________ prototypes
A. 250  
B. 300  
C. 310  
D. 320

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Collector of Nirmal inaugurated National Level India's Biggest Rural Technical Festival titled Antahpragnya 2020 in the state of Telangana at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies-Basar (RGUKT-Basar).

18) Novak Djokovic won his record _________ Men's singles title
A. 7th  
B. 9th  
C. 8th  
D. 6th

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Novak Djokovic won his record 8th Men's singles title.

19) When Central Board of Direct Taxes was formed?
A. 1945  
B. 1944  
C. 1946  
D. 1947

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is the senior-most IRS civil servant in the Government of India.
20) What is the estimated cost of the Hubballi-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project?

A. 7.1 billion  
B. 7.2 billion  
C. 6.9 billion  
D. 7.5 billion

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The estimated cost of the project is estimated as INR 6.9 billion (US$ 115 million). The project is funded under the Sustainable Urban Transport Project (SUTP).

21) Which year did Novak Djokovic won Davis Cup?

A. 2009  
B. 2010  
C. 2016  
D. 2018

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Novak Djokovic won Davis Cup on the year 2010.

22) Oracle Corp opened its first data center facility in __________ in 2019

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Oracle Corp opened its first data center facility in Mumbai in 2019 and planned to add another in Hyderabad this year. The Adani group intends to invest 70,000 crores in setting up solar-powered data parks in Andhra Pradesh.

23) When World Wetlands Day was first celebrated?

A. 2 March 1971
World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year internationally on 2 February. It denotes the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in Ramsar, Iran, on 2 February 1971.

24) When was Tejas Express first launched?
A. 24 May 2018
B. 24 May 2017
C. 24 May 2019
D. 24 June 2019

Answer B

Tejas Express is India's first semi-high speed fully air-conditioned train Introduced by Indian Railway.

25) When was British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards was presented?
A. 1949
B. 1948
C. 1947
D. 1946

Answer A

British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards was presented on the year 1949.

26) Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates the Hubballi-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in __________.
A. Andhra Pradesh
B. Karnataka
C. Tamil Nadu
D. Kerala

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu inaugurates the Hubballi-Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project in Karnataka.

**27) How many teams will participate ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup?**

A. 17  
B. 16  
C. 18  
D. 19

**Answer B**

**Explanation** ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup is an international cricket tournament organised by the International Cricket Council. Around 16 teams will participate ICC Under-19 Cricket World Cup.

**28) World Cancer Day Was Started from the Year**

A. 2001  
B. 2004  
C. 2008  
D. 2009

**Answer C**

**Explanation** World Cancer Day is an international day marked on February 4 to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. World Cancer Day is led by the Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) to support the goals of the World Cancer Declaration, written in 2008.

**29) Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee Remain Repo Rate at**

A. 5.16%  
B. 5.15%  
C. 4.15%
After the Union Budget ran any desires for financial improvement, it might be the national bank's go-to disillusion on money-related boost. The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) may keep the repo rate unaltered at 5.15% at its gathering on 6th February as swelling stays high, a Mint overview found. Repo rate is the rate at which banks get from the RBI.

### 30) Dr. Jitendra Singh is the Minister of ____________

A. North Eastern Development  
B. Jal Shakti  
C. Power  
D. Home Affairs

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of North Eastern Development led the Ujh Multipurpose (National) Project, Jammu, and Kashmir.

### 31) The New Multipurpose Project is to built across the ______ River

A. Sutlej  
B. Beas  
C. Ujh  
D. Chenab

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Ujh Multipurpose (National) Project planned to built across River Ujh, a tributary of River Ravi. The project will help India using the waters of Eastern Rivers to the fullest tolerating of the Indus Water Treaty. It will help store 781 million cubic meters of water of River Ujh.

### 32) Amitabh Bhatt is the _______ of Indo Russian Helicopter Limited

A. Director  
B. CEO
C. President
D. COO

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Amitabh Bhatt is a Director on the Board of HAL's joint venture, 'Indo Russian Helicopters Limited,' shaped to fabricate Kamov KA-226T Helicopters for Defense Services.

33) Prior to Sandeep Mathrani, _________________ was the CEO of WeWork

A. Artie Minson
B. Sebastian Gunningham
C. Both A and B
D. None

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Mathrani replaced Artie Minson and Sebastian Gunningham, who have been acting as interim CEOs since Neumann's forced departure from WeWork.

34) IADR Fellowship was Given to Dr. Saima Yunus Khan to train and experience in __________

A. General Dental Health
B. Pediatrics
C. Gynecology
D. Oncology

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The International Association of Dental Research (IADR) John Clarkson Fellowship granted to Dr. Saima to get preparing and involvement with general dental wellbeing at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of the University of Manitoba, Canada, for a time of five months.

35) Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) Network build to reduce ______ from Thermal Power Plants

A. Sulphur Monoxide
B. Ammonium Peroxide
C. Sulphor Dioxide
D. Ammonium Nitrate

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Flue Gas Desulphurization (FGD) network, hydro projects, and other projects using ultra-supercritical low carbon technology to be build. FGD systems significantly reduce Sulfur Dioxide emissions in thermal power plant flue gasses and are a step towards sustainable operations and a cleaner environment.

36) Privatization of Air India and BPCL is fundamental for meeting the record ________

A. Rs 2.1 lakh crore  
B. Rs 1 lakh crore  
C. Rs 54,000 crore  
D. Rs 3.1 lakh crore

**Answer A**

**Explanation** BPCL has a market capitalization of about Rs 1 lakh crore, and the administration stake at current costs is worth about Rs 54,000 crore. The effective bidder will likewise need to make a bright idea to different investors for procuring another 26 percent at a similar cost. Privatization of Air India and BPCL is fundamental for meeting the record Rs 2.1 lakh crore target Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has set from disinvestment continues in the Budget for 2020-21.

37) MoU signed by CSIR-CFTRI with APEDA to set up a Liaison Office in ___________ State

A. Andhra Pradesh  
B. Assam  
C. Bihar  
D. Uttar Pradesh

**Answer B**

**Explanation** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by CSIR-CFTRI with APEDA to set up a Liaison Office in Guwahati, Assam, to give specialized help to the nourishment businesses in the North East district. It will profit the ranchers, makers, and business people.
38) ________ of Natural Gas Reserve found in UAE

A. 70 trillion cubic feet  
B. 81 trillion cubic feet  
C. 80 trillion cubic feet  
D. 90 trillion cubic feet

**Answer C**

**Explanation** United Arab Emirates found Natural Gas Reserves of around 80 trillion cubic feet. The reserve located between the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. In November 2019, UAE declared the disclosure of 7 billion barrels of oil.

39) Current Vaccine Used for Swine Flu is ________

A. Vaccinia  
B. Lapinised CSF  
C. Flublok  
D. Fluarix

**Answer B**

**Explanation** the present vaccine called the Lapinised CSF (Classical Swine Fever) being utilized is delivered by relinquishing an enormous number of rabbits.

40) Theme Announced for the World Cancer Day year 2019-21 is

A. We can. I can  
B. I Am and I Will  
C. Debunk the Myths  
D. Not Beyond Us

**Answer B**

**Explanation** World Cancer Day observed every year on February 4 by the Union for International Cancer Control. The day is being set apart from 2008. The day is observed by the United Nations also. I am I will is the subject of the current year's World Cancer Day.

41) IADR John Clarkson Fellowship granted to Dr. Saima Yunus Khan For
A. 6 Months  
B. 4 Months  
C. 5 Months  
D. 3 Months

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The International Association of Dental Research (IADR) John Clarkson Fellowship granted to get preparing and involvement with general dental wellbeing at the Children's Hospital Research Institute of the University of Manitoba, Canada, for a time of five months.

42) NTPC Signed a Largest Single Foreign Currency Loan of ______

A. 750 Million Dollars  
B. 700 Million Dollars  
C. 750 Billion Dollars  
D. 600 Million Dollars

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Delhi State-owned electricity producer NTPC Ltd today announced it had signed a 750 million dollar syndicated loan in Japanese Yen. The proceeds will channelize to fund programs to reduce emissions from power plants and hydro projects.

43) Post Aussie Open Sofia Kenin Ranked _____ position in WTA

A. 6  
B. 7  
C. 8  
D. 9

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Novak Djokovic came back to No. 1 in the ATP rankings 3rd February in the wake of winning his eighth Australian Open title, while Sofia Kenin's first Grand Slam trophy helped her to a vocation high No. 7 and made her the leading American on the WTA list

44) MOI to Install Liaison Office in North Eastern Region to Nourish Agri
Business signed by
A.APEDA-CFTRI
B.FCI
C.ITC
D.ESIC

Answer A

Explanation A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed by CSIR-CFTRI with APEDA to set up a Liaison Office in Guwahati, Assam today, to give specialized help to the nourishment businesses in the North East district

45) _________ percent of UAE GDP depends Upon Oil and Gas

A.25
B.30
C.35
D.40

Answer B

Explanation The UAE is shaped by seven Emirates to be specific to Dubai, Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Sharjah, Ras Al-Khaimah, Fujairah, and Umm Al-Quwain. Around 30% of the GDP of the nation legitimately founded on oil and gas.

46) Amitabh Bhatt appointed as __________

A.Administrative Officer
B.Chief Executive Officer
C.Chief Financial Officer
D.Chief Operating Officer

Answer B

Explanation Amitabh Bhatt appointed as Chief Executive Officer of Bengaluru-headquartered safeguard PSU, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited's Bangalore Complex

47) RBI Banker Shaktikantha Das Awarded as National Banker of the Year 2020 by _______ Magazine
The governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Shaktikanta Das awarded as 'National Banker of the Year 2020 Asia-Pacific' by The Banker magazine.

48) SAIL Rourkela Steel Plant produces ___________ of Hot Strip of Steel
A. 4 MTPA
B. 3 MTPA
C. 1 MTPA
D. 2 MTPA

Answer B

Explanation The new Hot Strip from Sail Plant, Mill with 3 Million Ton for each annum (MTPA) limit is a best in class plant with not many equals in India and will deliver world-class Hot Rolled(HR) curls.

49) Dooms Day Glacier otherwise Known as ___________
A. Thwaites Glacier
B. Pine Island Glacier
C. Antarctic Ice Sheet
D. Toten Glacier

Answer A

Explanation The researchers have just warm water underneath the Thwaites Glacier, which earned the epithet Doomsday Glacier for being Antarctica's quickest softening ice sheets.

50) Karnataka State Offers Home Delivery for _________ Services
A. 54
B. 53
C.51
D.52

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Karnataka government on 4th February propelled the Janasevaka scheme in a couple of metropolitan organization wards to guarantee home conveyance of different administrations like proportion cards, senior resident personality, and wellbeing cards. The plan, which was propelled by Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa, will relate to 53 administrations, including 11 divisions.

**51) DefExpo 2020 commenced by ____________**

A. Narendra Modi  
B. Nirmala Sitharaman  
C. Rajnath Singh  
D. Yogi Adityanath

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Proceeding with the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 5th February 2020. In 2016, at that point, resistance serves Manohar Parrikar moved DefExpo from New Delhi to Goa during enormous restriction from natural activists. After two years, Nirmala Sitharaman moved DefExpo 2018 to Chennai.

**52) New Schemes to Promote Jammu and Kashmir State were Approved Under**

A. Swadesh Darshan  
B. Prashad  
C. Both A and B  
D. None

**Answer C**

**Explanation** 7 schemes worth Rs 594 Crores under Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Schemes approved for J and K and Ladakh Ministry of Tourism
53) **G7 Summit to be Held on**

A. 10th June 2020  
B. 12th June 2020  
C. 11th July 2020  
D. 10th July 2020  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** G-7, have consented to work with the WHO, EU, and China looking for a brought together strategy to handle the quick spreading Novel Coronavirus. German Health Minister Jens Spahn stated they concurred that segregated methodologies were more reluctant to prevail against the worldwide dangers presented by the infection. Wellbeing Ministers of Germany, Britain, and France are relied upon to on 4th February 2020 where the official G7 Meet to be Held on 10th June 2020 through 12th June 2020.

54) **Udayanotsav is a Festival Conducted Each Year at ______**

A. Raj Bhawan  
B. Sathyamoorthy Bhawan  
C. Rashtrapati Bhawan  
D. Shastri Bhawan  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** President Ram Nath Kovind today opened the yearly Udayanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Mughal Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will remain open for the overall population from 6th February 2020.

55) **Immigrants From India Move to Low or No Tax Nations to __________**

A. Avoid Tax pay in India  
B. Avoid Tolls  
C. Pay Less Tax in India  
D. Pay more Tax in India  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian residents move their stay in low or no tax nations to avoid tax pay in India.
56) India's First Integrated Steel Plant Established at __________

A.Bhilai  
B.Durgapur  
C.Bokaro  
D.Rourkela

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The new Hot Strip from SAIL Plant, Rourkela the first Integrated Steel Plant of India, Mill with 3 Million Ton for each annum (MTPA) limit is the best in class plant with not many equals in India and will deliver world-class Hot Rolled(HR) curls.

57) DefExpo 2020 is the ______ Edition of India

A.10th  
B.11th  
C.12th  
D.13th

**Answer B**

**Explanation** With the act of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) defense minister moving the biennial DefExpo resistance hardware presentation to their home state, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh will commence DefExpo 2020 the 11th Edition in Lucknow on 5th February 2020.

58) IOC Signed Annual Deal to Buy Crude from

A.Rosneft  
B.Bashneft  
C.Transneft  
D.Bharat Petroleum

**Answer A**

**Explanation** State-claimed Indian Oil Corp, India's top purifier, has marked an arrangement with Russian oil major Rosneft that gives it an alternative to purchasing as much as 2 million tons, or 40,000 barrels for each day (BPD) of unrefined in 2020, the Indian oil serve.

59) Crude is Measured by
A. Barrels Per Day

B. Gallon Per Minute

C. Barrels Per Stream Day

D. Barrels Per Hour

Answer A

Explanation State-claimed Indian Oil Corp, India's top purifier, has marked an arrangement with Russian oil major Rosneft that gives it an alternative to purchasing as much as 2 million tons, or 40,000 barrels for each day (BPD) of unrefined in 2020.

60) To Support and to enable Financial Control on ___________ Banks RBI passed the New Amendments

A. Cooperative Banks

B. State Banks

C. National Banks

D. Financial bank

Answer A

Explanation RBI amendments passed by the cabinet would enable the financial controller to override and assume responsibility for weak co-operative banks.

61) When is the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation observed?

A. 4 February

B. 6 February

C. 8 February

D. 12 February

Answer B

Explanation International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on 6 February. The day is observed to end the practice of FGM. It creates awareness about FGM which is a violation of the human rights of girls and women.

62) SASE reported that the Himalayas get ________ above-normal snowfall in
30 years.
A. 10%  
B. 12%  
C. 15%  
D. 20%  

Answer D

Explanation Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) report on mid-winter assessment stated that the snowfall received from November 2019 to January 2020 has been the highest in the past 30 years. Snowfall in the western Himalayas during the first half of the ongoing winter season has been about 20% above the long period average.

63) With which Country did India agree to reiterate maritime security cooperation during DefExpo 2020?
A. Madagascar  
B. Mozambique  
C. Tanzania  
D. Botswana  

Answer A

Explanation India and Madagascar have agreed to reiterate maritime security cooperation in bilateral talks held between Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Lt Gen Rokotonirina Richard, Defence Minister of Madagascar on the second day of DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow on 6 February 2020.

64) India ranked _________ on a global International Intellectual Property (IP) Index 2020.
A. 28th  
B. 36th  
C. 40th  
D. 45th  

Answer C

Explanation India ranked 40th on a global International Intellectual Property (IP) Index. It was
released by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce. GIPC conducted the survey for 53 countries.

65) What is the theme of the 2020 International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation?

A. It's time to end FGM and give girls choices for their bodies and their future
B. Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation
C. #endFGM
D. Respect for culture stops when it causes harm, and FGM causes harm

Answer B

Explanation International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is observed on 6 February. The theme for the International Day of Zero Tolerance for FGM for the year 2020 is Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation. The theme focuses on mobilizing youth around the eliminations of harmful practices including FGM.

66) When did President of India Ram Nath Kovind hold a state visit to Madagascar?

A. 2016
B. 2017
C. 2018
D. 2019

Answer C

Explanation President of India Ram Nath Kovind held a state visit to Madagascar in March 2018.

67) Who released the 2020 International Intellectual Property (IP) Index?

A. International Economy Ranking
B. Global Innovation Policy Center
C. International IP Ranking Institution
D. World IP Ranking Center
Answer B

Explanation The International Intellectual Property (IP) Index was released by the Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) of the US Chambers of Commerce. GIPC conducted a survey for 53 countries.

68) When did the UN General Assembly (UNGA) designate the observation of the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation?

A. 2007  
B. 2009  
C. 2012  
D. 2015  

Answer C

Explanation In 2012, the UN General Assembly (UNGA) passed a resolution and designated 6 February as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation. UNGA aimed to amplify and direct the efforts on the elimination of this practice.

69) Which district of Assam won National Award for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana under the category of State/Union Territory having a population of more than one crore?

A. Dhubri  
B. Kamrup  
C. South Salmara-Mankachar  
D. Tinsukia  

Answer C

Explanation The district of South Salmara Mankachar of Assam won National Award for implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana under the category of State/Union Territory having a population of more than one crore. The award was conferred by the Union Minister for Women and Child Development Smriti Irani in a prize distribution meeting held at New Delhi.

70) The Global Innovation Policy Center is the principal institution of ________ Chamber of Commerce.
A. the United States  
B. the United Kingdom  
C. Spain  
D. France  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Global Innovation Policy Center is the principal institution of the United States Chamber of Commerce handling all issues relating to innovation and creativity through advocating for strong intellectual property standards.

71) The government is to set up Vadhavan port in ________.

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its in-principle approval to set up a Major Port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs.65,544.54 crore.

72) When was the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana scheme effectively implemented?

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana scheme was effectively implemented from 1 January 2017. The scheme aims to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss.

73) India secured ________ rank among 50 countries in 2019 in the
International Intellectual Property (IP) Index.

A. 23rd
B. 36th
C. 42nd
D. 15th

Answer B

Explanation India secured 36th rank among 50 countries in 2019 in the International Intellectual Property (IP) Index.

74) What is the estimated cost to set up the Major Port at Vadhavan?

A. Rs.20,232.81 crore
B. Rs.35,876.65 crore
C. Rs.54,215.25 crore
D. Rs.65,544.54 crore

Answer D

Explanation The Union Cabinet led by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi gave its in-principle approval to set up a Major Port at Vadhavan near Dahanu in Maharashtra. The total estimated cost of the project is Rs.65,544.54 crore.

75) Under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, ________ will be provided to Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM).

A. Rs.3,000
B. Rs.5,000
C. Rs.6,000
D. Rs.7,000

Answer B

Explanation The Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana scheme was effectively implemented from 1 January 2017. The scheme aims to meet enhanced nutritional needs and partially compensate for wage loss. Under the Scheme, Pregnant Women and Lactating Mothers (PW&LM) will receive a cash benefit of Rs.5,000 in three installments.
76) ________ is the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50% to implement the Vadhavan port project.

A. Kandla Port Trust  
B. Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust  
C. Mormugao Port Trust  
D. V.O. Chidambaranar Port Trust

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Vadhavan port will be developed on the landlord model. A Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) will be formed with Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. JNTP is the lead partner with equity participation equal to or more than 50% to implement the project.

77) Which State launched the Janasevaka scheme?

A. Karnataka  
B. Maharashtra  
C. Andhra Pradesh  
D. Assam

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Karnataka State government has launched the Janasevaka scheme in a few municipal corporation wards on 4 February. The scheme was earlier implemented in Dasarahalli area on a pilot basis. It will be extended to Mahadevapura, Bommanahalli and Rajajinagar areas.

78) Under the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020 ________ IIITs-PPP will be given Institutions of National Importance.

A. 3  
B. 5  
C. 8  
D. 12

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved the Indian Institutes of Information Technology Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020. The Bill declares the remaining 5 IIITs-
PPP (IIITs at Agartala, Bhagalpur, Bhopal, Raichur, and Surat) as Institutions of National Importance along with the other 15 IIITs established under the scheme in PPP mode.

79) When was the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) launched?

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was launched in March 2017. Under the scheme, Rs. 7,000 will be provided to each person. So far, 1,24,142 senior citizens have been covered under the scheme. The government aims to reach out to 5.20 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme.

80) Where was the National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience held?

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** A one-day National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience was held on 5 February in New Delhi. The conference was a run-up to the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in May 2020.

81) Under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY), _________ will be provided to the eligible senior citizens.

A. Rs. 3,000
B. Rs. 4,000
C. Rs. 6,000
D. Rs. 7,000
Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana was launched in March 2017. Under the scheme, Rs.7,000 will be provided to each person. So far, 1,24,142 senior citizens have been covered under the scheme. The government aims to reach out to 5.20 lakh beneficiaries under the scheme.

82) Who organized the National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience?

A. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
B. Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD)
C. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)
D. A&B

Answer D

Explanation A one-day National Conference on Disability-inclusive Disaster Risk Reduction: Pathways for Inclusion and Action for Resilience was held on 5 February in New Delhi. The conference was organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in collaboration with the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (DEPwD), Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MoSJE).

83) The government is to introduce a new programme which will allow the ________ to take care of senior citizens, who are living alone, in their homes.

A. their Children
B. NGOs
C. Ministry of Family Welfare
D. Refugee Centres

Answer B

Explanation The government is to introduce a new programme which will allow the NGOs to take care of senior citizens, who are living alone, in their homes. The announcement was made by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Thaawar Chand Gehlot on 5 February 2020.
B. Vice President Venkaiah Naidu
C. Prime Minister Narendra Modi
D. Defence Minister Rajnath Singh

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th edition of DefExpo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 5 February 2020. The 2020 Def Expo is organized over a 200-acre area.

**85) When did the Supreme Court order the UP state government to allocate 5-acre land to UP Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque in the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Masjid case?**

A. 2016
B. 2017
C. 2018
D. 2019

**Answer D**

**Explanation** On 9 November 2019, the Supreme Court ordered the UP state government to allocate 5-acre land to UP Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque in the Ram Janmbhoomi-Babri Masjid case. SC gave 3 months time for the allocation purpose.

**86) What is the theme of the DefExpo 2020?**

A. India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub
B. Indian Youth for Development, Skill and Harmony
C. Channelizing Defence for Nation Building
D. Defence Power for Digital India

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th edition of DefExpo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 5 February 2020. The theme of the expo is "India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub". The biennial military exhibition aims to showcase the potential of the country as a global defence manufacturing hub.

**87) Which State cabinet has approved the proposal for allotment of 5-acre**
land to Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque?

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

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Uttar Pradesh state cabinet approved the proposal for allotment of 5-acre land to UP Sunni Central Waqf Board for the construction of a mosque in compliance with the Supreme Court order. The move comes after the announcement of the introduction of trust to manage the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

88) The ______ edition of DefExpo 2020 is being held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.

A. 8th  
B. 11th  
C. 13th  
D. 15th  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 11th edition of DefExpo in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on 5 February 2020.

89) The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to amend the Banking Regulation Act. The amendment will bring the cooperative banks under the regulatory mechanism of ______.

A. SEBI  
B. RBI  
C. SBI  
D. NBFC  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet approved the proposal to amend the Banking Regulation Act. The move comes after the Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank crisis. The
amendment will bring the cooperative banks under the regulatory mechanism of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

90) Where will the India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 be held?

A. Visakhapatnam
B. Mumbai
C. Kochi
D. Chennai

Answer C

Explanation Ministry of Commerce and Industry is conducting the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi from 7-9 February 2020.

91) Who is the Chief Minister of Meghalaya?

A. Conrad K Sangma
B. Donkupar Roy
C. D. D. Lapang
D. Sarbananda Sonowal

Answer A

Explanation Conrad Kongkal Sangma is the 12th and current Chief Minister of the State of Meghalaya. He assumed the presidency of the National People's Party in 2016 after the death of his father and former Chief Minister Purno Sangma.

92) Ministry of Commerce and Industry is conducting the ________ edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) from 7-9 February 2020.

A. 11th
B. 15th
C. 22nd
D. 26th

Answer C

Explanation Ministry of Commerce and Industry is conducting the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi from 7-9 February 2020.
93) When was the North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA) established?

A. 1963  
B. 1978  
C. 1985  
D. 1967

Answer B

Explanation NEPA was established in 1978. It is mandated to provide training to recruits in the police forces from all the North Eastern State. The academy is engaged in shaping police officers for equitable, effective and sensitive policing. The present director of the academy is Kala Ramachandran.

94) Who is the Chief Minister of Karnataka?

A. B S Yediyurappa  
B. H D Kumaraswamy  
C. Siddaramaiah  
D. Y S Jaganmohan Reddy

Answer A

Explanation Bookanakere Siddalingappa Yediyurappa is the Chief Minister of Karnataka.

95) Who is organizing the India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020?

A. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)  
B. Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA)  
C. Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI)  
D. B&C

Answer D

Explanation Ministry of Commerce and Industry is conducting the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi from 7-9 February 2020. The three-day event is organized by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in association with the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).
96) What was the setting up of the academy began?

A.2007  
B.2009  
C.2011  
D.2015

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Meghalaya Police Academy is located at Umran, Niangbyrnai. It is close to the North Eastern Police Academy (NEPA) in the Ri-Bhoi district. Initially, the academy will take in 40 trainees. The setting up of the academy began in 2011.

97) What is the theme of the India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020?

A.Entry to Asia  
C.Fisheries and Seafood Production for Sustainable Development  
D.Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Ministry of Commerce and Industry is conducting the 22nd edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 in Kochi from 7-9 February 2020. The theme for the 2020 seafood show is "Blue Revolution- Beyond Production to Value Addition".

98) Snow and Avalanche Studies Establishment (SASE) is a laboratory of ________.

A.IMD  
B.DRDO  
C.IIT-M  
D.CSIR

**Answer B**

**Explanation** SASE is a laboratory of the Defence Research & Development Organization (DRDO). It is located in Manali. The main objective of SASE is to conduct research in the field of snow and avalanches. It provides avalanche control measures and forecasting support to
99) Who won gold at Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships under the 64kg category?

A. Harjinder Kaur  
B. Rakhi Halder  
C. Mirabai Chanu  
D. Jeremy Lalrinnunga  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Rakhi Halder of Bengal claimed gold in the 64kg category of the 35th edition of the Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships at Khudiram Anushilan Kendra in Kolkata.

100) Who received the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy under the Trust category?

A. Central Leprosy Teaching and Research Trust  
B. Leprosy Mission Trust  
C. HLL Leprosy Trust  
D. Damien Foundation India Trust  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to the Leprosy Mission Trust under the institutional category on 6 February 2020.

101) Where was the 35th edition of the Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships held?

A. Jaipur  
B. Lucknow  
C. Kolkata  
D. Guwahati  

**Answer C**
The 35th edition of the Senior Women's National Weightlifting Championships was held at Khudiram Anushilan Kendra in Kolkata.

102) Who received the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy under the Individual category?

A. Dr. Renuka Ramakrishnan
B. Dr. Priyamvada Chugh
C. Dr. Ram Malkani
D. Dr. N.S. Dharmashaktu

Answer D

The President of India Ram Nath Kovind presented the International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy to Dr. N.S. Dharmashaktu under the Individual category.

103) Where was the fifth round of the India-Russia Military Industrial Conference (IRMIC) held?

A. New Delhi
B. Lucknow
C. Jaipur
D. Mumbai

Answer B

The fifth round of India-Russia Military Industrial Conference (IRMIC) was conducted on the sidelines of Defexpo-2020 at Lucknow on 6 February 2020. The conference was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary. 14 MoUs were exchanged between the Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and the Indian companies during the conference.

104) Where is the High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) located?

A. Pune
B. Bengaluru
C. New Delhi
D. Ahmedabad
High Energy Materials Research Laboratory is a laboratory of the Defence Research and Development Organisation. Located in Pune, its main function is the research and development of technologies and products in the area of High Energy Materials and Explosive materials.

105) When was the Atal Bhujal Yojana launched?
A. 2018  
B. 2016  
C. 2017  
D. 2019

Explanation Atal Bhujal Yojana is a groundwater management scheme of the Central government. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 December 2019.

106) How many MoUs were exchanged between the Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and the Indian companies during the fifth round of India-Russia Military Industrial Conference (IRMIC)?
A. 5  
B. 8  
C. 14  
D. 22

Explanation The fifth round of India-Russia Military Industrial Conference (IRMIC) was conducted on the sidelines of Defexpo-2020 at Lucknow on 6 February 2020. The conference was co-chaired by Indian Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar, and Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade of Russian Federation Mr. Oleg Ryazantsev. 14 MoUs were exchanged between the Russian Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) and the Indian companies during the conference.

107) How much did the GoI allocate for the Atal Bhujal Yojana?
A. Rs. 4800 crore
B. Rs.6000 crore  
C. Rs.8300 crore  
D. Rs.9000 crore

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Atal Bhujal Yojana is a groundwater management scheme of the Central government. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 December 2019. Government allocated Rs.6000 crore for the Scheme.

108) **When was the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on the Joint manufacturing of spares in India that was signed at Vladivostok, Russia?**

A. 2016  
B. 2017  
C. 2018  
D. 2019

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on the Joint manufacturing of spares in India which was signed at Vladivostok, Russia on 4 September 2019. The IGA provides a framework for the partnership of Russian OEMs with the Indian industry for the manufacturing of spare parts of Russian origin equipment in use by the Indian Defence Forces.

109) **The financial assistance for the Atal Bhujal Yojana is provided by the __________ with a sharing pattern of 50:50 with the Indian Government.**

A. RBI  
B. ADB  
C. World Bank  
D. Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Atal Bhujal Yojana is a groundwater management scheme of the Central government. It was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 25 December 2019. Government allocated Rs.6000 crore for the Scheme. The financial assistance is provided by the World Bank with a sharing pattern of 50:50 between the Indian Government and the World Bank.
110) ________ signed an MOU with Israel-based defense electronics company Elbit Systems to promote and market the Digital Head-Up Displays (HUD) units.
A. DRDO
B. HAL
C. BEL
D. Ministry of Defence

Answer B

Explanation Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) signed an MOU with Israel-based defense electronics company Elbit Systems on 6 February 2020 during the DefExpo 2020. The MoU aims to promote and market the Digital Head-Up Displays (HUD) units.

111) Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building component of Atal Bhujal Yojana with an outlay of ________.
A. Rs.1400 crore
B. Rs.2500 crore
C. Rs.3200 crore
D. Rs.4000 crore

Answer A

Explanation There are two components under the Atal Bhujal Yojana namely Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building component with an outlay of Rs.1400 crore and the Incentive component with an outlay of Rs.4600 crore

112) As per the new personal income tax regime, ________ tax is levied on an annual income between Rs.2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh.
A. 4%
B. 5%
C. 7%
D. 8%

Answer B

Explanation As per the new personal income tax regime, a 5% tax is levied on an annual income
between Rs.2.5 lakh to Rs 5 lakh. The tax rate rises to 10%, 15%, 20% and 25% for every Rs.2.5 lakh addition. A 30% tax is charged for income over Rs.15 lakh. The new regime was announced by the Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in the Budget speech on 1 February 2020.

113) Incentive component of Atal Bhujal Yojana with an outlay of ________.

A. Rs.1500 crore
B. Rs.2500 crore
C. Rs.3200 crore
D. Rs.4600 crore

Answer D

Explanation There are two components under the Atal Bhujal Yojana namely Institutional Strengthening & Capacity Building component with an outlay of Rs.1400 crore and the Incentive component with an outlay of Rs.4600 crore

114) Taxpayers in India are divided into ________ as per the age.

A. 2
B. 3
C. 4
D. 5

Answer B

Explanation In India, the taxpayers are in three age categories: a normal citizen who are below 60 years, a senior citizen who are between 60 and 79 years, a super senior citizen who are above 79 years

115) Which of the following country to count a "third gender" category, LGBT people, in its next population census for the first time?

A. India
B. Pakistan
C. Nepal
D. Bangladesh

Answer C
Explanation For the first time, Nepal has announced that it will count a "third gender" category in its next population census. The country decided to count lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people as a minority group that can be allocated to government jobs and education. The people should identify themselves and their family members as either male, female or others (sexual/gender community).

116) India and several African countries have agreed to deepen cooperation to combat the growing threat of terrorism at _______ India- Africa Defence Ministers' conclave in Lucknow.

A. 1st  
B. 2nd  
C. 5th  
D. 10th

Answer A

Explanation India and several African countries have agreed to deepen cooperation to combat the growing threat of terrorism at first India- Africa Defence Ministers' conclave which was held during the Defexpo 2020.

117) Nepal's census has been scheduled for ________.

A. March 2021  
B. June 2021  
C. January 2022  
D. June 2022

Answer B

Explanation Nepal's census has been scheduled for June 2021 but it is likely to conduct a trial in the March month in selected districts.

118) With which country did India sign an agreement to partner on developing jet engine technology?

A. US  
B. UK  
C. Russia
India and the UK are expected to sign a government-to-government agreement on jet engine technology development. The announcement was made by the UK Minister for Defence Procurement James Heappey on 6 February.

119) Where is Bidar airport located?
A. Karnataka
B. Telangana
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. Maharashtra

Answer A
Explanation Bidar Airport, also known as Bidar Air Force Station, is a military airbase airport in Bidar, Karnataka, India. The Government of Karnataka has requested to open the Bidar Defence airports to civilian use. The approval has been given to Truejet to operate daily flights from Bidar to Bengaluru.

120) When did India and the UK agree to extend cooperation to develop advanced defence products such as gas turbine engine and air defence missile systems?
A. 2014
B. 2015
C. 2017
D. 2019

Answer C
Explanation In 2017, India and the UK had agreed to extend cooperation to develop advanced defence products such as gas turbine engine and air defence missile systems.

121) Which Ministry is to launch Spice+ form to increase the ease of doing business?
A. Ministry of Finance
B. Ministry of Home Affairs  
C. Securities and Exchange Board of India  
D. Ministry of Corporate Affairs  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is set to launch the new company incorporation form "Spice+". This is a part of a comprehensive package to make life easier for someone starting a business. It will be launched on 15 February 2020.

**122) The UK has earlier offered the design of its ________ class carrier to the Indian Navy for the third aircraft carrier.**

A. first  
B. fourth  
C. Queen Elizabeth  
D. Queen Victoria  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Previously, the UK has already offered the design of its Queen Elizabeth class carrier to the Indian Navy for the third aircraft carrier.

**123) Which Minister is responsible for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs?**

A. Narendra Singh Tomar  
B. Shripad Naik  
C. Nirmala Sitharaman  
D. Piyush Goyal  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Nirmala Sitharaman is the Minister responsible for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

**124) ________ signed a Technology Development Contract with Rosoboronexport Russia for the development of spectrum of high energy materials required for missiles, rockets, and guns.**

A. HAL
B. HEMRL
C. NCCS
D. BEL

Answer B

Explanation DRDO's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) signed a Technology Development Contract with Rosoboronexport Russia. It was signed during the DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow. The contract aims for the development of spectrum of high energy materials required for missiles, rockets, and guns.

125) Who unveiled children's protection fund for India?

A. George VI
B. Prince Charles
C. Edward VII
D. Albert

Answer B

Explanation Britain's Prince Charles unveils a new children's protection fund for India as part of British Asian Trust, the charity founded by him in 2007 to fight poverty in South Asia.

126) The indices designed to assess the quality of life of citizens in _______ smart cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities

A. 130
B. 125
C. 100
D. 135

Answer C

Explanation Ease of living index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019 have launched by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. The indices designed to assess the quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities and 14 other Million Plus Cities.

127) USD Five billion defence export target to be achieved by __________

A. 2023
Defence Minister Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that the country will achieve the target of five billion dollar worth of defense exports by 2024.

128) Which country to develop 200-km range tactical ballistic missile?

A. Pakistan  
B. Indonesia  
C. India  
D. Iraq

Answer C

Explanation The surface-to-surface missile developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) named Prakash, the first official cited at a military systems exhibition organized by the Department of Defence Production that seeks to project India as a hub for global defence manufacturing.

129) When Bodo agreement was signed on ______________

A. February 20  
B. January 27  
C. March 20  
D. April 16th

Answer B

Explanation The Bodo agreement signed on January 27 by the Central government with four factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB).

130) How many billions defence export target to be achieved by 2024?

A. four  
B. five  
C. seven
USD Five billion defence export target to be achieved by 2024.

131) How many partnerships are involved in the Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) on the third day of DefExpo 2020?

A. 210  
B. 200  
C. 220  
D. 230

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Over 200 partnerships involving Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs), Transfer of Technology (ToTs) Product launches concluded on the third day of DefExpo 2020.

132) Where was Elbit Systems located?

A. Ashdod  
B. Haifa  
C. Dimona  
D. Hadera

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Elbit Systems Ltd is an Israel-based international defense electronics company engaged in a wide range of programs.

133) India- Africa Defence Ministers' conclave was attended by _______Defence Ministers

A. 14  
B. 15  
C. 13  
D. 12
India- Africa Defence Ministers' conclave was attended by 12 Defence Ministers. Over 38 countries were represented at the conclave.

134) Which country founded Missile Technology Control Regime?
A. Pakistan
B. Japan
C. Iran
D. India

Answer B

Explanation Missile Technology Control Regime is a multilateral export control regime.

135) The announcement was made by the UK Minister for Defence Procurement James Heappey on February.
A. 8th February
B. 7th February
C. 6th February
D. 10th February

Answer C

Explanation India and the United Kingdom are expected to sign a government-to-government agreement on jet engine technology development. The announcement was made by the UK Minister for Defence Procurement James Heappey on 6 February.

136) is to create a digital payments index (DPI) by July 2020.
A. SEBI
B. NSE
C. RBI
D. NABARD

Answer C

Explanation The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is to create a digital payments index (DPI) by July
2020. This index will indicate the level of digitalization prevailing in the country.

137) Who organized the DefExpo 2020?

A.ISRO  
B.Ministry of Defence  
C.CRPF  
D.Ministry of Home Affairs

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 11th edition of the biennial event "Defence Expo 2020" was held in Lucknow. It was organized by the Ministry of Defence.

138) Which of the following animal is found to be the origin of the deadly coronavirus outbreak in China?

A.Bat  
B.Pangolin  
C.Monotreme  
D.Sloth

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Chinese researchers who conducted the investigation on the animal origin of the deadly coronavirus outbreak in China found that the endangered pangolin may be the reason for the outbreak. Scientists at the South China Agricultural University found the genome sequences of viruses in pangolins to be 99% identical to those on coronavirus patients. The scientists conducted tests on more than 1,000 samples from wild animals.

139) Which State/UT is to announce a horticulture policy with an aim to tackle upcoming marketing challenges and increase the production manifold?

A.J&K  
B.Himachal Pradesh  
C.Ladakh  
D.Utter Pradesh

**Answer A**
The Jammu and Kashmir UT government is to announce a horticulture policy with an aim to tackle upcoming marketing challenges and increase the production manifold. The announcement was made by Secretary, J&K Agriculture Production and Horticulture Department, Manzoor Ahmad Lone.

**140) Which govt is to create a separate identity cards for the transgender community in the state?**

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

**Answer C**

Rajasthan state government has announced that it is to connect the transgender community with the mainstream society. It is to provide separate identity cards for transgenders in the state.

**141) Who is the Defence Minister in India?**

A. Rajnath Singh  
B. Amit Shah  
C. Nitin Gadkari  
D. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

**Answer A**

Rajnath Singh is an Indian politician serving as the Defence Minister of India. He is the former President of the Bharatiya Janata Party. He has previously served as the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and as a Cabinet Minister in the Vajpayee Government. He was the Home Minister in the First Modi Ministry.

**142) Who is appointed as Britain's ambassador to the United States?**

A. Charles Roxburgh  
B. Matthew Rycroft  
C. Alex Chisholm  
D. Dame Karen Pierce
Answer D

**Explanation** Dame Karen Pierce has been appointed Britain's ambassador to the United States. She became the first woman to hold the position, the most prominent in the diplomatic service. She is currently serving as the UK's permanent representative to the United Nations.

**143) When was the Defence Exhibition Organisation of GoI established?**

A. 1964  
B. 1969  
C. 1975  
D. 1981

Answer D

**Explanation** Defence Exhibition Organisation is an autonomous organization of the Indian Government established in 1981. The organization was established to promote the export potential of the Indian defence industry.

**144) Which of following Britain's ambassador to the United States resigned his position in 2019 over his controversial comments on US President Donald Trump in leaked diplomatic cables?**

A. Simon McDonald  
B. Isabel Oakeshott  
C. Mark Sedwill  
D. Kim Darroch

Answer D

**Explanation** Kim Darroch resigned his position as Britain's ambassador to the United States in 2019 over his controversial comments on US President Donald Trump in leaked diplomatic cables.

**145) Where was the DefExpo2020 held?**

A. Uttar Pradesh  
B. Uttarakhand  
C. Madhya Pradesh
DefExpo2020 was held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh from February 5th to 8th.

146) Who is the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka?
A. Mahinda Rajapaksa
B. Gotabaya Rajapaksa
C. Maithripala Sirisena
D. Ranil Wickremesinghe

Answer A

Explanation Percy Mahendra Rajapaksa commonly known as Mahinda Rajapaksa is a Sri Lankan politician currently serving as the Prime Minister of Sri Lanka since 21 November 2019 after being appointed by his brother, President Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

147) Where was the DefExpo2018 held?
A. Tamil Nadu
B. Kerala
C. Karnataka
D. Odisha

Answer A

Explanation India's mega defence exhibition, the defexpo 2018, was held in Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

148) During the DefExpo2020, the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) certificate for ________ was issued to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).
A. Light Combat Helicopter (LCH)
B. Heavy Combat Helicopter (HCH)
C. Light Utility Helicopter (LUH)
D. Heavy Utility Helicopter (HUH)

Answer C
**Explanation** During the 11th edition of the biennial event "Defence Expo 2020", the Initial Operational Clearance (IOC) certificate for Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) was issued to Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL).

149) Who is the Social Justice and Empowerment Minister of Rajasthan?

A. Vishvendra Singh  
B. Harish Chaudhary  
C. Manvendra Singh  
D. Bhanwarlal Meghwal

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Master Bhanwarlal Meghwal is a Cabinet Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Government of Rajasthan and former education minister in the Government of Rajasthan. He is a Member of Rajasthan Legislative Assembly constituency Sujangarh Churu, Rajasthan.

150) Over ______ partnerships involving the signing of Transfer of Technology and Product and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) were held at the DefExpo 2020.

A. 100  
B. 142  
C. 200  
D. 240

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The 11th edition of the biennial event "Defence Expo 2020" concluded on 8 February in Lucknow. Over 200 partnerships involving the signing of Transfer of Technology and Product and Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) took place at a ceremony titled Bandhan.

151) How many countries together formed the India-Central Asia Business council?

A. 3  
B. 4
Answer D

Explanation The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) launched the India-Central Asia Business Council in partnership with five of the epic industry bodies of Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The council was formally declared to collaborate and provide an industry view to the governments of the six countries.

152) RBI released the _______ bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20.

A.2nd  
B.4th  
C.5th  
D.6th

Answer D

Explanation Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 6th bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20.

153) When was the Bodo Peace Accord signed?

A.2017  
B.2015  
C.2018  
D.2020

Answer D

Explanation The government of India signed an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) on 27 January 2020.

154) Who conducted the Suraj Kund Mela?

A.TRIFED  
B.APEDA
C.MPEDA
D.FICCI

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India Limited (TRIFED) conducted a fashion show entitled "Naturally North-East: The Naga Narrative" held at Suraj Kund Mela on 7 February. It was curated by Mrs. Ritu Beri noted fashion designer and Chief designer of Tribes India.

155) Who led the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) which was held from 4-6 February 2020?

A.N S Vishwanathan  
B.B P Kanungo  
C.Shaktikanta Das  
D.M K Jain

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) which was led by Governor Shaktikanta Das from 4-6 February. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 6th bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20 on 6 February.

156) who received the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award?

A.Pitambar Das  
B.Manoj Das  
C.Kartik Das  
D.Pathani Pattnaik

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Odia and English writer Manoj Das received the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award (Indian and Global Languages) by the Mystic Kalinga Festival (MKF). He received the award at the literary-cultural festival in Bhubaneswar on 8 February.

157) Where is Kokrajhar located?

A.Manipur
B. Arunachal Pradesh
C. Assam
D. Tripura

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Kokrajhar is a town in the Bodoland Territorial Region an autonomous territory in Assam, one of the North-Eastern States of India. Kokrajhar town is located along the bank of Gourang River.

**158) Where was the Mystic Kalinga Festival held?**

A. Madhya Pradesh
B. Odisha
C. Karnataka
D. Gujarat

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Mystic Kalinga Festival will be held from 8-9 February in Bhubneswar, Odisha. The festival included the amalgamation of poetry readings, lectures, music concerts, panel discussions, and dance performances.

**159) What is the current repo rate?**

A. 5.15%
B. 5.25%
C. 5.35%
D. 5.55%

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Central has kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.15%.

**160) The government of India signed an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group ________.**

A. United Liberation Front of Assam
B. Karbi Longri N.C. Hills Liberation Front
C. Kamtapur Liberation Organisation
D. Democratic Front of Bodoland

Answer D

Explanation The government of India signed an accord with the banned Assam-based insurgent group Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) on 27 January 2020. It was presided over by the Union Home Minister Amit Shah and Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal.

161) What is the Reverse Repo Rate set by RBI after the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)?

A. 4.65%
B. 4.72%
C. 4.84%
D. 4.90%

Answer D

Explanation The reverse repo rate was decided to remain unchanged at 4.90% by the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC).

162) Where is the Bodo tribals present?

A. Odisha
B. Assam
C. Andhra Pradesh
D. J&K

Answer B

Explanation The Bodo tribes are an ethnolinguistic group present in Assam. The people of the tribe are a part of the Bodo-Kachari family. The tribal people speak the Bodo language. The people are active in the Bodoland Territorial Council and in districts of Baksa, Chirang, Kokrajhar, and Udalguri of Assam.

163) What is the current Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of RBI?

A. 4%
B. 4.2%
C. 4.5%
D.4.85%

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) of RBI is 4%.

164) NASA astronaut ________ returned to Earth on 6 February after spending 328 days on the International Space Station (ISS).

A. Peggy Whitson  
B. Christina Koch  
C. Anne McClain  
D. Jessica Meir

**Answer B**

**Explanation** NASA astronaut Christina Koch returned to Earth on 6 February after spending 328 days on the International Space Station (ISS). She completed the longest ever single spaceflight by a woman.

165) Who is appointed as the High Commissioner to India by the British government?

A. Dominic Asquith  
B. Philip Barton  
C. John Major  
D. David Cameron

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Career diplomat Philip Barton has been appointed as the High Commissioner to India by the British government. He will succeed Dominic Asquith. The appointment will be effective from Spring 2020.

166) Which female NASA astronaut set the record for a single spaceflight by a woman of 289 days in 2016-17?

A. Jessica Meir  
B. Christina Koch  
C. Peggy Whitson
D.Anne McClain

**Answer C**

**Explanation** In June 2017, Peggy Whitson broke the record for the longest single space flight by a woman which had previously been held by Samantha Cristoforetti at 199 days, 16 hours.

### 167) Who is the President of Sri Lanka?

A.Mahinda Rajapaksa  
B.Sajith Premadasa  
C.Gotabaya Rajapaksa  
D.Maithripala Sirisena

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The current president of Sri Lanka is Gotabaya Rajapaksha, elected on November 16, 2019.

### 168) Who was the first woman to travel in space on a solo mission?

A.Valentina Tereshkova  
B.Sally Ride  
C.Svetlana Yevgenyevna Savitskaya  
D.Yelena Kondakova

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The first woman to travel in space was Soviet cosmonaut, Valentina Tereshkova. On 16 June 1963, Tereshkova was launched on a solo mission aboard the spacecraft Vostok 6. She spent more than 70 hours orbiting the Earth, two years after Yuri Gagarin's first human-crewed flight in space.

### 169) The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) along with the Central government is to take up the upgradation and modernization of _______ fishing harbours in the country.

A.25  
B.38  
C.43
The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) along with the Central government is to take up the upgradation and modernization of 25 fishing harbours in the country.

170) _______ conducted a seminar to spread awareness about the various Schemes of the Ministry of Defence to facilitate the domestic defence industry in DefExpo 2020.

A. Airports Authority of India  
B. Directorate General Quality Assurance  
C. Defence Research and Development Organisation  
D. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Answer B

Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) conducted a seminar to spread awareness about the various Schemes of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) to facilitate the domestic defence industry on 7 February 2020. The seminar was conducted during the 11th edition of the biennial mega defence exhibition DefExpo 2020 at Lucknow.

171) What is the estimated cost of the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) to upgrade fishing harbours in India?

A. Rs.2500 crore  
B. Rs.3000 crore  
C. Rs.2000 crore  
D. Rs.3500 crore

Answer A

The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) along with the Central government is to take up the upgradation and modernization of 25 fishing harbours in the country. The estimated outlay of the project is Rs.2500 crore.

172) Where is the College of Military Engineering (CME) located?
A. Pune  
B. Dehra Dun  
C. New Delhi  
D. Jaipur  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The College of Military Engineering (CME) is located in Pune. It is a premier tactical and Technical training institution is the alma mater of the Corps of Engineers. CME is responsible for the training of personnel of the Corps of Engineers besides imparting instructions in Combat Engineering, Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense (CBRN) Protection, Works Services and GIS matters to the personnel of All Arms and Services.

**173) Where is the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) headquarters located?**

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

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is a Government of India company headquartered at Kochi. The role envisaged for the MPEDA under the statute is comprehensive - covering fisheries of all kinds, increasing exports, specifying standards, processing, marketing, extension, and training in various aspects of the industry.

**174) Who developed a helmet that can stop an AK-47 bullet round from a distance of 10 meters?**

A. P.K. Srivastava  
B. Kanwal Kumar  
C. Arvind Dutta  
D. Anoop Mishra  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Major Anoop Mishra, the Indian Army Major, developed a helmet that can stop an AK-47 bullet round from a distance of 10 meters. It is claimed to be first in the world. The Major
has earlier developed a bulletproof jacket for protection against sniper bullets.

175) When was the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) established?

A.1968  
B.1972  
C.1975  
D.1981

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) is a Government of India company headquartered at Kochi. It was constituted on 24 August 1972, under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act 1972 (No.13 of 1972).

176) The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) approved the merger of the consumer mobile operations of the Tata group with ________.

A.Bharti Airtel  
B.Vodafone Idea  
C.BSNL  
D.Reliance

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) approved the merger of the consumer mobile operations of the Tata group with Bharti Airtel. The final approval comes over two years after the companies had announced their plan to merge businesses.

177) Which of the following countries formed the India-Central Asia Business council?

A.India, Mongolia, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan  
B.India, Afghanistan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan  
C.India, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan  
D.India, Syria, Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan

**Answer C**
The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) launched the India-Central Asia Business Council in partnership with five of the epic industry bodies of Central Asian countries namely Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan. The council was formally declared to collaborate and provide an industry view to the governments of the six countries.

178) RBI announced that it is to introduce a framework for establishing a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for the digital payment system by ________.

A.March 2020  
B.April 2020  
C.June 2020  
D.December 2020

**Answer B**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) released the 6th bi-monthly monetary policy statement for 2019-20 on 6 February. The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) which was led by Governor Shaktikanta Das from 4-6 February. To boost best practices on security, customer protection, and pricing, RBI's MPC announced that it is to introduce a framework for establishing a Self-Regulatory Organisation (SRO) for the digital payment system by April 2020.

179) Directorate General Quality Assurance functions under ________.

A.Ministry of Home Affairs  
B.Ministry of Corporate Affairs  
C.Ministry of Defence  
D.Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**Answer C**

Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) functions under the Ministry of Defence.

180) When did Tata group had announced that it is to sell its consumer mobile business to Bharti Airtel?

A.2016  
B.2017  
C.2018
D.2019

Answer B

Explanation In October 2017, the Tata group had announced that it is to sell its consumer mobile business to Bharti Airtel. Under the deal, Airtel absorbed Tata's mobile phone operations across the country in 19 circles (17 under Tata Teleservices and two under Tata Teleservices (Maharashtra) Ltd).
USEFUL LINKS

RRB ALP Technician 2020 Mock Test

SBI Clerk Prelims 2020 Mock Test

ALL THE BEST TO YOU!
Fresherslive provides current affairs for competitive exams like UPSC, PSC, IAS, RRB, IBPS PO Clerk, SBI, RBI, SSC, PSU, and so on.