FreshersLive's Current Affairs
Weekly Edition (25th Feb'19 - 3rd Mar'19)

Buhari re-elected as President of Nigeria

Oscars awards announced

War Memorial inaugurated

1st Week Current Affairs March 2019

Deepak Singh won gold at Makran Cup in Boxing
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BANKING & FINANCE

Merger of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with BoB (Bank of Baroda) to be effective from April 1

- According to a statement by Bank of Baroda, its merger with Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank shall come into force from 1st April 2019.
- This scheme has been named as Amalgamation of Vijaya Bank and Dena Bank with Bank of Baroda Scheme, 2019.
- According to the Scheme of Amalgamation-
  - Shareholders of Vijaya Bank will get 402 equity shares of Bank of Baroda for every 1,000 shares held.

SEBI declared 2 commodity broker unfit to function

- The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has declared Motilal Oswal Commodities Broker and India Infoline Commodities (IICL) unfit to function as commodity brokers on account of their alleged role in the Rs.5,600 crore settlement scam at the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) that came out in the open in July 2013.
- SEBI rejected the application for registration of the two entities and further directed that all existing clients should be allowed to move to other brokerages within 45 days. This is the first set of actions against large brokerages alleged to have colluded with the spot exchange for marketing of the so-called pair contracts wherein clients were assured fixed returns of between 13% and 16% per annum.

RBI extends KYC deadline for digital wallets by six months

- The RBI has extended its February 28 deadline for completion of KYC (Know Your Customer) norms for digital wallets [prepaid payment instrument (PPI) issuers] by six months.
- PPIs are instruments that facilitate purchase of goods and services, including financial services and remittance facilities, against the value stored on such instruments.

RBI removed 3 more Banks from Corrective Action List
The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has decided to remove Allahabad Bank, Corporation Bank and Dhanlaxmi Bank Ltd. from the list of banks placed under its Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) framework.

About RBIs Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework:
- RBI introduces Prompt Corrective Action when the Banks financial conditions worsen below certain limits (trigger points).
- Under PCA, weaker banks are restricted from lending until they improve their capital ratios, reduce bad debt and become profitable.
- The 11 banks under the PCA were: Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Bank of India, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank, Oriental Bank of Commerce, Dena Bank and Bank of Maharashtra.

Singaporean Bank DBS to operate as wholly-owned subsidiary in India from Mar 1
- The RBI approved merger of Singapore-based DBS Bank's Indian unit with its wholly owned local subsidiary, DBS Bank India Ltd.
- DBS presently operates 12 branches in India as a franchise.
- DBS was the first bank in India to launch digital-only operations as Digibank in 2016.
- The wholly-owned subsidiary model allows foreign lenders to be treated as a local bank, removing certain restrictions they face such as those on opening new branches.
- About DBS Bank:
  - DBS - Development Bank of Singapore
  - Headquarters: Singapore
  - DBS Bank is the largest bank in Southeast Asia by total assets (404.1 US$ billion).

ADIA to invest USD 500 million in Kotak fund
- Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has committed $500 million to a fund that will be managed by Kotak Investment Advisors Limited. It will target a range of Non-Performing Loan (NPL) opportunities in India.
- Kotak Special Situations Fund would target both pre-stress and distressed
opportunities with a key focus on providing financial support to pre-stress businesses to prevent them from entering insolvency. Institutional investors can play an important role in building a successful secondary market for nonperforming loans in India.

**PNB bank ranks highest in implementation of Reforms Agenda**

- Punjab National Bank (PNB) secured top spot among all public sector banks in the implementation of Reforms agenda.
- PNB topped the list with a score of 78.4 out of 100 in the EASE-index which is followed by BoB (77.8), SBI (74.6), and Oriental Bank of Commerce (69).
- The EASE (Enhanced Access and Service Excellence) report shown significant enhancement in PSB performance on the back of Governments 4 R's strategy-recognition, recovery, recapitalisation and reforms.

**RBI have signed a bilateral swap agreement with the Bank of Japan**

- **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have signed a bilateral swap agreement** with the Bank of Japan. The Swap agreement will provide India access to 75 billion US dollars against the 50 billion dollars under earlier BSA. The **bilateral swap agreement** will provide India to access the reserves if at any point of time when the need arises. The currency swap makes it easier to improve liquidity conditions. Currency swap agreements help when the economic crisis arises. The swap agreements also contribute towards stabilizing the country's **balance of payments (BOP)** position. The agreement aids in improving confidence in the Indian market.

**RBI has formed a task force on the offshore rupee market**

- The **Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has formed a task force on the offshore rupee market.** It will be headed by former Deputy Governor Usha Thorat and will recommend steps for ensuring the stability of the currency.
- The task force shall examine the issues relating to the offshore rupee markets in depth and **recommend appropriate policy measures** that also factor in the requirement of ensuring the stability of the external value of the rupee. The committee would submit its report by the **end of June 2019**.
- The task force will assess the causes behind the development of the offshore rupee
market, and study the effects on the exchange rate and market liquidity in the domestic market. It would also recommend measures to address concerns arising out of offshore rupee trading.

Union Bank of India reduced the MCLR by 10 basis points

- **Union Bank of India**, the State-run lender, said it had reduced the **Marginal Cost of funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR)** by 10 basis points across all tenors.
- The lender has reduced its one-year MCLR or the minimum lending rate, against which most of the consumer loans are benchmarked, to 8.60% from 8.70% earlier. The bank has set the new six-month MCLR at 8.50% and two-year at 8.70%.
BUSINESS & ECONOMY

Govt detects Rs 20,000 crore GST evasion in April-Feb FY19

- The government detected Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion of around Rs 20,000 crore between April 2018 and February 2019.
- Out of this, 10,000 crore has been recovered.
- Currently, GST has 4-tier slab of 5, 12, 18 and 28 per cent, while essential items are zero rated.

About GST in India:
- GST - Goods and Services Tax
- Came into effect on 1st July 2017
- GST is a consumption based tax levied on sale, manufacture and consumption on goods & services at a national level.
- Over 1,300 goods and 500 services fitted under four tax slabs of 5%, 12%, 18% and 28% under GST.

Growth Rate in the Core Sector witnessed decline

- The data from the Ministry of Commerce and Industries reported that the growth rate eight core sectors which include coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement, and electricity witnessed a decline. The core sector which had witnessed a 6.2% growth in January 2018 witnessed a growth rate of 1.8% in January.
- The decline in the output of crude oil, refinery products, and electricity pulled down the growth of eight core sectors to 1.8%. Production of crude oil, refinery products, and electricity contracted 4.3%, 2.6%, and 0.4%, respectively. Coal and cement output slowed to 1.7% and 11% in January as against 3.8% and 19.6% in January 2018, respectively. Natural gas, fertilizers and steel output grew 6.2%, 10.5%, and 8.2 % respectively. The core sector growth would impact the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) as these segments account for about 41 percent of the total industry output.
INTERNATIONAL

Afghanistan launched new export route to India through Iran

- Afghanistan formally launched shipping goods to India through the Chabahar port in Iran.
- The first shipment of 570 tonnes comprising of dried fruits, textiles, carpets, and other goods in 23 trucks was inaugurated by Afghan President Ashraf Ghani.
- With the opening of the Chabahar route, Afghani exports will double to $2 billion from the current $1 billion over the next one year.
- **About Chabahar Port:**
  - Chabahar Port development is the India-Iran joint venture project.
  - Inaugurated in 2017 and been built largely by India.
  - This port provides a critical transport link from New Delhi to Afghanistan, bypassing Pakistan, to trade with Central Asia.

India destroys Jaish-e-Mohammeds biggest camp in Pakistan

- Indian government confirmed that Indian Air Force (IAF) jets destroyed the biggest training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) in Pakistan's Balakot in the strike carried out by 12 Mirage 2000 fighter jets.
- IAF dropped around 1,000 kg bombs on JeM terror camps across the Line of Control (LoC) in Muzafarabad sector on February 26, 2019.
- The IAF carried out the successful operation 12 days after Pulwama attack, in which 40 soldiers were martyred.

Tik Tok to pay a penalty of USD 5.7 million to U.S. FTC

- TikTok, the fast-growing, Chinese-owned video sharing network, agreed to pay a penalty of $5.7 million to U.S. authorities to settle charges that it illegally collected personal information from children.
- The U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC) said the penalty by the social network was the largest ever in a childrens privacy investigation. The company required users to provide an email address, phone number, user name, first and last name, a short biography, and a profile picture.
- Officials said the company knew that many of its users were under 13 and should
have taken greater precautions. TikTok said in a statement it would create a separate app experience for younger users with additional privacy protections as part of its agreement with regulators.

**Russia, China blocked a US resolution on Venezuela in the UN**

- Russia and China vetoed a US resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on addressing the crisis in Venezuela.
- Russia's draft resolution -- which urged a settlement "through peaceful means" and insisted that all humanitarian aid be agreed by Maduro's government -- won only four votes: Russia, China, South Africa and Equatorial Guinea.
- Seven countries including the United States, European countries and Peru opposed the Russian measure and there were four abstentions.
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Kareena Kapoor Khan named brand ambassador of Swasth Immunised India

- **Kareena Kapoor** Khan named as the brand ambassador of Swasth Immunised India, a year-long campaign initiated by Network18 and Serum Institute of India which promotes immunisation of babies under two years of age.
- The campaign was launched at **Mumbai and Adar Poonawalla**, President, Vaccine Manufacturers Association of India and CEO, Serum Institute of India (SII).

Odisha govt launched boat ambulance service for remote areas

- The project, which costs around **5.40 crore**, reportedly includes six boat ambulances and 60 jetties with walkway.
- This new facility is hope for residents who live in far-flung areas, river-locked pockets of the state, making it easier for them to reach the hospitals.
- **About Odisha:**
  - Capital: Bhubaneswar
  - Governor: Ganeshi Lal
  - Chief minister: Naveen Patnaik
  - Principal Language: Oriya
  - Famous dances - Odissi (Orissi), Ghumura, Chhau

UP launched the Phase I of route rationalization under Connect Delhi

- The **Uttar Pradesh government** has launched the first phase of route rationalization under an initiative **Connect Delhi**. This initiative seeks to effectively link residents of the rural belt with State-run transport infrastructure.
- Connect Delhi will rationalize the **bus and feeder services in the city** with a vision that all residential areas and villages of Delhi are connected with a reliable public transport facility within 500 metres of walking distance at a frequency of 15 minutes.
- The initiative would improve connectivity of Najafgarh to Mori Gate Terminal (ISBT Kashmere Gate) via Uttam Nagar and Inderlok, Nehru Place Terminal via Palam, Ambedkar Nagar Terminal via Kapashera, and Saket and Azadpur Terminal.
Bihar becomes the 1st state to deploy dog squad to check liquor smuggling

- Bihar becomes the first state to deploy specially-trained dogs to check to smuggle liquor.
- Around 20 liquor-tracker dogs were trained for nine months in Hyderabad, Telangana.
- They were trained at Hyderabad-based Integrated Intelligence Training Academy.
- Patna will witness deployment of 4 such dogs.
- This action was taken after the seizure of more than three million litres of illegal alcohol since April 2016.

44th Global Summit of International Advertising Association held in Kochi

- The 44th IAA World Congress was organised in Kochi International Advertising Association (IAA), Kerala.
- The conference lasted for 3 days.
- The highlight of the event was a robot trying to answer the theme-based question - Brand Dharma, What's coming next?

Jio Saavn only Indian company to make it to 50 Most Innovative Companies list

- Jio Saavn India-based global audio and music that it scored the 1st rank among Indian companies and 28th rank globally in the 2019 list of 50 Most Innovative Companies.
- Jio Saavn is the only Indian company to have made into the list.
- The other domestic companies that ranked top on the India list of Most Innovative Companies are OYO rooms, biodegradable sanitary pad manufacturers Sathi and app based can service Ola.

Punjab ranks first in highest alcohol consumption among kids

- According to a survey conducted by AIIMS New Delhi, Punjab ranks first in the list of highest alcohol consumption among children in India.
• As many as 1.2 lakh children in the age group of 10-17 years from the state consume alcohol.
• West Bengal ranked second in the list and Maharashtra third.
• **About Punjab:**
  - Capital: Chandigarh
  - Governor: V.P. Singh Badnore
  - Chief minister: Amarinder Singh
  - Official language: Punjabi
  - Largest city: Ludhiana

**ONGC Rajahmundry wins environmental excellence award**

- **Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC)**s Rajahmundry unit won the Energy and Environment Foundation Global Clean Awards-2019 for sustained efforts in pursuit of Swachh Bharat Mission as envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, at a function in New Delhi.

**About ONGC**
- Headquarters New Delhi
- Chairman & Managing Director (CMD) Shashi Shankar

**India Hosts 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit**

- **International Olympic Committee (IOC)** suspended all Indian applications to host future events and urged international sports federations not to stage competitions in the country after two Pakistanis were denied visas to compete in New Delhi.
- It was after India denied visa requests of two shooters from Pakistan who were due to take part in the 25m Rapid Fire Pistol Competition during International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) World Cup event held in New Delhi following the attack by a Pakistan-based militant group in Pulwama, which killed at least 40 CRPF paramilitary police.
- The IOC Executive Board decided to suspend all discussions with the Indian National Olympic Committee (NOC) and Government regarding the potential applications for hosting future sports and Olympic-related events in India, until clear written guarantees are obtained from the Indian government to ensure the entry of
all participants in such events in full compliance with the rules of the Olympic Charter.

**PM Modi inaugurated National War Memorial**

- National War Memorial is spread over **40 acres** in the India Gate complex in Delhi.
- The memorial is built at a cost of nearly **176 crore** in a record time of one year.
- The names of **25,942 martyrs** have been inscribed across 16 walls at the memorial.
- First conceptualised in 1961, the memorial got approved by Cabinet in **2015**.
- The memorial has been built in the memory of the martyred jawans who lost their lives protecting India during Indo-China War in 1962, Indo-Pak Wars in 1947, 1965 and 1971, Indian Peace Keeping Force Operations in Sri Lanka and the Kargil Conflict in 1999.
- The memorial layout consists of four concentric circles - namely, the 'Amar Chakra' or Circle of Immortality, 'Veerta Chakra' or Circle of Bravery, 'Tyag Chakra' or Circle of Sacrifice and 'Rakshak Chakra' or Circle of Protection.

**PM Modi unveils world's largest Bhagavad Gita weighing 800 kg**

- The world's largest **Bhagavad Gita** at ISKCON temple in south Delhi's East of Kailash, has 670 pages, weighs **800 kg** and is 2.8 metre tall and 2 metre wide (when closed).
- The book is dubbed as the 'Astounding Bhagavad Gita'.
- Bhagavad Gita, often referred to as the **Gita**, is a sacred text, revered by the **Hindus**, and is part of the epic **Mahabharata**, containing the teachings of Lord Krishna to Arjuna on the battlefield.
- **ISKCON - International Society for Krishna Consciousness**

**Union Textile Minister inaugurated Titanwala Museum in Rajasthan**

- Union Textiles Minister **Smriti Irani** inaugurated the **Titanwala Museum** that showcases the hand block printing of the Chhipa community in Bagru.
- **Bagru printing** is one of the traditional techniques of printing with natural color followed by the chippas of Rajasthan.
- Suraj Narayan Titanwala took the initiative of setting up the museum.
Centre brought 42 non scheduled cancer drugs under price control

- Centre announced that it had brought 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control, capping trade margin at 30%, which would reduce their retail prices by up to 85%.
- The National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has invoked extraordinary powers in public interest, under Para 19 of the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, (DPCO) 2013 to bring 42 non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs under price control through trade margin rationalization. Department of Pharmaceuticals (DOP) directed manufacturers to fix their retail price based on the price at first point of sale of a product of the non-scheduled formulations containing any of the 42 drugs.
- The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM) under Schedule-I of the DPCO. So far, around 1,000 drugs have been brought under price control under the initiative. Non-scheduled drugs are allowed an increase of up to 10% in prices every year, which is monitored by the NPPA.

New railway zone, named Southern Coast Railway to be headquartered in Visakhapatnam

- Railway Minister Piyush Goyal announced a new railway zone for Andhra Pradesh.
- The new railway zone - Southern Coast Railway, which will be headquartered in Visakhapatnam, will be the 18th zone in the country.
- The new zone will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions that currently fall under the South Central Railway.

Punjab govt seeks Rs 412 crore for dam to stop water to Pakistan

- Punjab government has urged the central government to release Rs 412 crore for the construction of a dam at Makora Pattan on the confluence of Ravi and Ujh rivers in Gurdarpur district by considering it as a national project for stopping Indias river water flow into Pakistan.
- The construction of the dam at Makora Pattan would stop about 600 cusecs of river water flowing into Pakistan and Punjab could use this water for
irrigation purposes.

- With this project, Punjab government would also be able to provide clean drinking water to 100 villages and six townships.

**Government may offer up to Rs 2.5 lakh subsidy for 60,000 e-cars**

- To promote green fuel in India via a Rs 10,000-crore package, government has reportedly proposed a subsidy of up to 2.5 lakh on around 60,000 electric cars in India, whereas hybrid cars may get 20,000 over the next three years.
- For electric buses, the subsidy would be up to Rs 60 lakh.
- This subsidy will come into effect in April.

**NITI Aayog partnered with Adobe to enhance digital literacy**

- NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and software major Adobe have signed a Statement of Intent to collaborate on enhancing digital literacy and creativity skills.
- Under the agreement, Adobe would implement the Adobe Digital Disha Programme across 100 schools under Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) initiative. Teachers and Children across these 100 schools would benefit from the creative learning resources via free access to Adobe Spark premium.
- **Atal Tinkering Labs:**
  - Atal Tinkering Labs is the flagship initiative undertaken by NITI Aayog under the Atal Innovation Mission.
  - Atal Tinkering Labs are aimed at inculcating the values of innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship amongst India's youngsters.

**Union Cabinet approved the National Policy on Software Products**

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Policy on Software Products 2019 that aims to help the industry grow at CAGR of 40% to reach $70-80 billion by 2025 while creating employment opportunities for 3.5 million people.
- The policy aims to adopt a shift in strategy so that IT products also contribute equitably and significantly to the industry along with IT services. The governments initial outlay of Rs 1,500 crore is being planned for various schemes under in policy in the next seven years.
Further, the policy proposes to create a Rs.5,000 crore fund with industry participation to promote emerging technology such as the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence, Blockchain, Big Data, and robotics. Of this, government contribution will be Rs.1,000 crore.

Cabinet approves setting up of 22nd AIIMS at Manethi, Haryana

- The new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Manethi, District Rewari, Haryana will be established at a cost of Rs 1,299 crore.
- Like other AIIMS in the country, the AIIMS Rewari will also be set up under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).
- The new AIIMS will add 100 Undergraduate (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc (Nursing) seats.
ECI developed cVIGIL for Lok Sabha election

- Election Commission of India has developed cVIGIL, a mobile app, for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. cVIGIL stands for 'Vigilant Citizen.' It was launched in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala. Complaints regarding the model code of conduct and expenditure violations can be lodged during election time.
- To lodge a complaint, a voter should download the app from Google Play Store. Photos and two-minute video clippings regarding the violation can be uploaded via the app. Complainants also have the option to remain anonymous. Within 100 minutes of filing the complaint, the complainant will receive feedback on the action taken.

World's fastest 1TB microSD card revealed at MWC

- Two 1 terabyte microSD cards were revealed by companies Western Digital-owned SanDisk and Micron during Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona.
- The 1TB SanDisk Extreme UHS-I microSD card, which the company claims to be the world's fastest, reaches speeds of up to 160 Mbps.
- While Micron's card, claimed to be the world's first, reaches speeds of up to 100 Mbps.

ISRO to launch defence satellite 'Emisat' in March for DRDO

- In the special mission, Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will also launch 28 third-party satellites and will demonstrate its new technologies like three different orbits with a new variant of 'Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle' (PSLV) rocket in March, 2019.
- Electronic intelligence satellite 'Emisat' of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) weighs about 420 kg.
- After launching Emisat at an altitude of 763 km, the PSLV rocket will be brought down to put the remaining 28 satellites into orbit at an altitude of 504 km.

About ISRO:
- Space agency of the Government of India
- Headquarters: Bengaluru
Founder: Vikram Sarabhai  
Founded: 15 August 1969  
Director: Kailasavadivoo Sivan

**First Indian made Centaur rocket was successfully launched at Thumb, Kerala**

- The **first Indian-made Centaur rocket** was successfully launched from the **Thumba equatorial rocket station, Kerala** on 26th February 2019 to the great jubilation of a large number of scientists.
- **Dr. Vikram Sarabhai, Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission** and Indian National Committee for Space Research, described that the flight of the two-stage sounding rocket as very satisfactory. It was a hailed as a momentous event. India is now on the path to long-range development of superior rockets, which will take us to the goal of satellite launching in **five years**.

**Tamil Nadu is the first State in the country to introduce TAVI**

- **Tamil Nadu** is the first State in the country to introduce Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) in the government sector. The TAVI was launched at the **Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Estate**, in November 2018.
- Tamil Nadu State government entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with HeartTeam India to perform the procedure for patients at the TNGMSSH. The procedure costs **Rs.20 lakh to Rs.25 lakh** in the private sector, while it is done **free in the government sector**.
- Conventionally, open heart surgery is performed for replacing the **aortic valve** for treating aortic stenosis. But not all patients such as the elderly are fit to undergo open heart surgery. This is where TAVI helps as in this procedure the valve is replaced **through a keyhole procedure** from the groin.

**IRCTC launched its own digital payment gateway 'IRCTC iPay'**

- With a view to promote Governments Digital India initiative, the **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** has launched its much awaited own payment aggregator system called **"IRCTC iPay"**.
• The new system will provide payment options like Credit Card, Debit card, Unified Payment Interface (UPI) and International card.
BILLS & ACTS

Cabinet approved the National Mineral Policy 2019 on 28th February

- The Union Cabinet approved the National Mineral Policy 2019 on 28th February 2019. The policy is aimed at bringing about more effective regulation to the sector as well as a more sustainable approach while addressing the issues of those affected by mining.
- The policy will also provide a more effective, meaningful and implementable policy that brings in further transparency, better regulation, and enforcement, balanced social and economic growth as well as sustainable mining practices.
- It also aims to increase the share of Indian software products in global market by tenfold, pitches for nurturing of 10,000 technology start-ups in software product industry, including 1,000 such startups in tier-II and tier-III towns.
DEFENCE

Cobra Gold military exercise was held in Thailand

- The annual Cobra Gold military exercise was hosted by Thailand and the United States. It is the biggest activity of its type in the Asia-Pacific region with 29 nations taking part as participants or observers.
- Apart from the 2 countries, 7 countries who participated in the exercise were India, Singapore, Japan, China, Indonesia, Malaysia, and South Korea. In total 9 countries participated.
- The Indian Army participated in the military training exercise with a 14-member contingent. India participated in this exercise for the first time in the Observer Plus category in 2016 alongside China.

DAC approved purchase of defence equipment worth Rs 2,700 crore

- Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) granted approval for procurement of three cadet training ships for the Indian Navy, which would be utilised to provide basic sea training for officer cadets including women officer under trainees.
- DAC meeting was chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman.
- DAC is the highest decision-making body for defence purchases.

India has successfully test fired 2 indigenously developed QRSAM

- India has successfully test-fired two indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM) from a test range at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore district. The missile is an all-weather, all-terrain missile with electronic countermeasures against jamming by aircraft radars. QRSAM uses solid-fuel propellant.
- Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles
- The missile is an all-weather, all-terrain missile with electronic countermeasures against jamming by aircraft radars
- QRSAM uses solid-fuel propellant and has a range of 25-30 km
- QRSAM has been developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in association with Bharat Electronics Limited and Bharat Dynamics Limited as a replacement to Osa-AK and Kvadrat missile
This was the third test firing of QRSAM
The first test firing was done on June 4, 2017, and the second on July 14, 2018

Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 held between BSF and BGB

- Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) concluded a three-day Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 as a part of confidence-building measures between the two border guards. The exercise was held in Comilla district of Bangladesh.
- The objective of Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 was to plan and conduct anti-smuggling and anti-criminal activity related operations with an aim to achieve better joint operational efficiency and border management in the area. The exercise involved joint patrolling, anti-smuggling drills, simulated raids on suspected places in both the countries and checking of goods and identity at international check posts.
PERSONS

IAF pilot Abhinandan Varthaman returned to India 2 days after being captured by Pakistan

- Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was captured by Pakistani military on 27 February after his MiG-21 jet was shot down in PoK (Pakistan occupied Kashmir).
- After the pilots release, the Pakistan Foreign Office described him as a Prisoner of War.
- Tensions between India and Pakistan flared up when 40 CRPF personnel were killed and many injured on February 14 in one of the deadliest terror attacks in Pulwama district.
- Indian Air Force carried out a counter-terror operation in Balakot, deep inside Pakistan on February 26 and destroyed major camp of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM), which itself claimed responsibility for the Pulwama massacre.
- Varthaman was in one of the eight MIG-21s that took on the invader and shot down Pakistans F-16.
Oscars winners 2019, India-based film on menstruation wins Best Short Documentary Oscar

- India-based 'Period. End of Sentence.' has won the Oscar 2019 for Best Documentary Short Subject at the 91st Academy Awards.

- The Oscars 2019 went to:
  - Best Actress: Olivia Colman, The Favourite
  - Best Actor: Rami Malek, Bohemian Rhapsody
  - Best Supporting Actress: Regina King, If Beale Street Could Talk
  - Best Supporting Actor: Mahershala Ali, Green Book
  - Best Picture: Green Book
  - Best Director: Alfonso Cuaron (Roma)
  - Best Foreign Film: Roma (Mexico)
  - Best Animated Feature Film: Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse
  - Best Documentary Short: Period. End Of Sentence

Manpreet Singh won 2018 Asian Player Of The Year Award

- Indian skipper Manpreet Singh has been honoured with the 2018 Player of the Year award by the Asian Hockey Federation.
- Women's team striker Lalremsiami bagged the Rising Player of The Year prize.
- The Indian men's Hockey team was awarded the Best Performance of The Year for being the only Asian side to have reached the top eight at the World Cup in Bhubaneswar.

- About Asian Hockey Federation:
  - Governing body of Hockey in Asia
  - President: Tengku Abdullah Sultan Ahmad Shah
  - Founded: 1958
  - Headquarters: Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
  - Motto: Ever onwards
  - Member associations: 31

IRCTC Rail Connect mobile app win National e-Governance Award 2019
Railway's ticket booking mobile application - IRCTC Rail Connect mobile app and the Chhattisgarh government's 'Khanij online' and 14 other such IT projects have been chosen for National e-Governance Awards 2019. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) Rail Connect mobile app, launched in January 2017, has been chosen for the special jury award for excellence in government process re-engineering for digital transformation. Railways collected revenue of over Rs 5,800 crore in 2018-19 (till December) through the App.

National e-Governance Awards will be presented by Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Jitendra Singh.

Telanganas 4 ULBs bagged Swachh Survekshan 2019 awards

Telanganas four Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) bagged Swachh Survekshan-2019 awards. Siddipet, Sircilla, Boduppal, and Peerzadiguda are the four Urban Local Bodies. The awards would be presented by President Ram Nath Kovind and others at a ceremony to be held in Delhi on March 6.

Every year, cities and towns across India are awarded the title of 'Swachh Cities' on the basis of their cleanliness and sanitation drive as a part of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan that was launched in 2014.

The objective of the survey is to encourage large scale citizen participation, ensure sustainability of initiatives taken towards garbage free and open defecation free cities, provide credible outcomes which would be validated by third-party certification, institutionalize existing systems through online processes and create awareness amongst all sections of society about the importance of working together towards making towns and cities a better place to live in.

Mahesh Elkunchwar is to receive META Lifetime Achievement Award

Mahesh Elkunchwar, an eminent Indian playwright, has been chosen for Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) Lifetime Achievement Award 2019. The award would be conferred on March 12 during the Mahindra Theater Festival.

Mahesh Elkunchwar is regarded as one of the progressive playwrights of the country and is critically-acclaimed and widely-known for having experimented
with a wide range of drama and is considered a powerful force in both Indian and Marathi theatre scene. He has over 30 plays and essays to his credit including works like 'Sultan', 'Holi', 'Garbo', Yatanaghar', and 'Atmakatha'.

- **META Awards:**
  - The META awards were instituted by the **Mahindra Group** with the objective of becoming a significant platform for celebrating this art. META recognizes theatre's varied elements like playwriting, set, costume and light designing, direction and performance.

**CZPDC Bhopal And WZPDC Indore Honoured With Saubhagya Award**

- The **Central Zone Power Distribution Company (CZPDC), Bhopal** and **West Zone Power Distribution Company (WZPDC), Indore** was conferred with the **Saubhagya Award** under Pradhan Mantri Sahaj Bijli Har Ghar Yojana at the National Conference of Energy Ministers by the Union Minister of State for Energy, R.K. Singh.
- The award includes a cash prize of **Rs 100 crore each.**

**Tata Steel has been recognised as one of Worlds Most Ethical Companies**

- **Tata Steel** has been recognised as one of **World's Most Ethical Companies** by the **Ethisphere Institute for 2019**. Ethisphere Institute is a global leader in defining and advancing the standards of ethical business practices. For the eighth time, Tata Steel has got the recognition in the '**Metals, Minerals and Mining**' category. Tata Steel is one of the only two honorees in the 'Metals, Minerals and Mining' industry.
- **128 companies** are recognized for exemplifying and advancing corporate citizenship, transparency and the standards of integrity in the year 2019. The honorees are from **21 countries and 50 industries.**
- The companies are listed **World's Most Ethical Companies** based on 5 factors:
  - Leadership and Reputation
  - Ethics Compliance Programme
  - Culture of Ethics
  - Corporate Citizenship
  - Responsibility Governance
SUMMITS & CONFERENCE

Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un held second summit in Vietnam

- US President Donald Trump and North Korea's leader Kim Jong-un have begun their high-profile second summit in Vietnam's capital, Hanoi.
- The main focus of the summit is to discuss denuclearisation amid claims from Michael Cohen ahead of public hearing.
- US may announce a formal end to the Korean War during the summit.

The 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit held at New Delhi

- The 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit being held at New Delhi was inaugurated by the Union Health Minister J P Nadda in the presence of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Union Minister of Information Technology. The summit provides an opportunity to support governments and health system reformers in improving the health and well-being of their citizens through digital technologies.
- The Global Digital Health Partnership Summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Global Digital Health Partnership (GDHP).

Global Digital Health Partnership
- It is a collaboration of governments and territories, government agencies and the World Health Organization
- It aimed at supporting the effective implementation of digital health services
- The GDHP was established in February 2018
**SCHEMES**

**M.P. launched Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana**

- The Madhya Pradesh government launched its flagship scheme Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana. It was launched by the Chief Minister Kamal Nath.
- This scheme guarantees **100 days of employment every year** to urban youth from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS). The youth under the scheme would be imparted skill development training. Each youth enrolled under the scheme will get total Rs. 13,500 for the 100 days period.

**Maharashtra:**
- **Capital:** Bhopal
- **Governor:** Anandiben Patel
- **Chief Minister:** Kamal Nath
- **Official language:** Hindi

**Narendra Modi launched Rs 75,000 Crore PM KISAN scheme from Gorakhpur**

- Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was announced in Piyush Goyal's interim budget 2019-20 and is completely funded by the central government.
- Under the PM-KISAN scheme, **Rs 6,000** will be given to **12 crore farmers** with less than **2 hectares** of land, **per year** in **three instalments**.

**Karnataka launched a major water conservation scheme Jalamrutha**

- **Karnataka State government** launched a major water conservation scheme titled Jalamrutha, which focuses on drought-proofing measures, including **protection and rejuvenation of water bodies**. The scheme was initiated by the **Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Department** and was cleared by the State Cabinet. Chief Minister **H.D. Kumaraswamy** launched the scheme in Bengaluru.
- Jalamruthawill deploy scientific approaches to **water budgeting, water harvesting, and water conservation** through the use of geospatial data, satellite imagery, topographical and geological data.
- The scheme will be implemented by key line departments of the government,
Panchayat Raj Institutions (PRIs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector institutions. It will operate on a four-tier institutional structure with planning and execution committees being set up at village, taluk, district and State levels.

MHRD launched STARS scheme on 28th February

- The Union Human Resource Minister Prakash Javadekar launched the STARS scheme on National Science Day that is 28th February. STARS is abbreviated as Scheme for Translational and Advanced Research in Science.
- The Ministry has allocated Rs.250 crores for the implementation of the scheme. Under the scheme 500 science projects will be funded whose selection will be made based on competition. Indian Institute of Science (IISC) will be the coordinator of the scheme.

National Science Day:

- The National Science Day is celebrated on 28th February every year in the memory of Indian physicist and a Nobel laureate Sir CV. Raman
- It is celebrated to commemorate the discovery of Raman Effect for which he was awarded Nobel Prize in the year 1930
- The theme of the 2019 National Science Day is Science for people and people for science
SAUDI ARABIA APPOINTS FIRST FEMALE AMBASSADOR TO UNITED STATES

- Saudi Arabia has appointed Princess Reema bint Bandar, a former business executive and philanthropist, as its first female ambassador to the United States.
- She replaced Prince Khalid bin Salman, amid fallout over journalist Khashoggis murder.
- She has been a leading advocate of female empowerment in the kingdom.

TRUMP APPOINTED KELLY KNIGHT CRAFT AS US AMBASSADOR TO UNITED NATIONS

- Craft will replace former US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, who resigned her post in October 2018.
- Kelly Craft is currently serving as the US ambassador to Canada, since September 2017.
- She has also been a strong backer of the US-Mexico-Canada Agreement - pioneered by President Trump as a replacement for the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).
- Jonathan Cohen is currently serving as the acting UN ambassador.

MUHAMMADU BUHARI RE-ELECTED AS NIGERIAN PRESIDENT

- Buhari, of the ruling All Progressives Congress party, secured 56 percent, or 15.2 million votes, in the February 23 polls.
- His main opponent, former vice president Atiku Abubakar of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), received 41 percent or 11.3 million votes.
- Muhammadu Buhari, 76-year-old, has been re-elected for a second four-year term.
- He was first elected president in 2015, becoming the first opposition candidate to defeat an incumbent and win the presidency.

GOVIND PRASAD SHARMA IS APPOINTED AS THE CHAIRMAN OF NBT

- Educationist and Author Govind Prasad Sharma has been appointed as the Chairman of National Book Trust (NBT). Govind Prasad Sharma has served as
the Principal of Government P.G. College in Madhya Pradesh and in other Educational sectors previously.

- National Book Trust National Book Trust (NBT) is an apex body established by the Government of India in the Year 1957 under the Department Of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development.

- Objectives of NBT
  - To produce and encourage the production of good literature in English, Hindi And Other Indian Languages.
  - The major activities of NBT include publishing non- text...
GST on under construction flats cut from 12 percent to 5 percent

- Under construction properties priced over 45 lakh will attract 5% GST (Goods and Services Tax), instead of 12%.
- A residential property priced at 45 lakh or below will now be defined as "affordable" and taxed at 1%, from 8% earlier.
- The new rates will be effective from April 1, 2019.

MCCs budget includes Mysuru Yogalakshmi scheme

- The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) presented the budget with an outlay of Rs.775 crore for the year 2019-20. MCC introduced new schemes that included Rs.25,000 for each girl child born in government hospitals in the City, pink toilets for the benefit of women, besides placing dust bins in buses and autorickshaws.

- Chairperson of the Standing Committee on Taxation, Finance and Appeals, Shobha presented the MCC Budget 2019-20. She announced the Mysuru Yogalakshmi scheme for the benefit of girl children born to residents of the city in government hospitals. The scheme will come into force from April 1, 2019.

- Under the scheme, Rs.25,000 will be deposited in the form of a bond in a nationalized bank in the name of each girl child born in a government facility. Rs.2.5 crore has been set aside in the Budget for the scheme. The scheme aimed at helping the girls pursue higher education and become financially independent.
Mukesh Ambani becomes world's 8th richest with USD 54 bn wealth

- As per Hurun Global Rich List 2019, Reliance Industries' 61-year-old Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the world's eighth-richest person with a net worth of $54 billion.
- He is the only Asian among the top 10.
- Amazon's Jeff Bezos topped the list for the second consecutive year with a net worth of USD 147 billion.
- With a wealth of USD 96 billion, Microsoft founder Bill Gates ranks second, followed by Warren Buffett with net worth of USD 88 billion.
1) Which of the following Indian Short film won 2019 Oscar Award in the category Best Short Documentary?

A. End Game  
B. Black Sheep  
C. Lifeboat  
D. Period. End of Sentence.

**Answer D**

**Explanation** India-based short film on menstruation, titled 'Period. End of Sentence.' has won the Oscar 2019 for Best Documentary Short Subject.

2) Which of the following film won Oscar 2019 Best Foreign Film?

A. Shoplifters  
B. Roma  
C. Cold War  
D. Capernaum

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Alfonso Cuarns Roma won the Oscar for Best Foreign Language Film. Roma was the eighth film from Mexico nominated for Best Foreign Language Film, and the first to win.

3) GST on under construction houses cut from 12% to _______%.

A. 1  
B. 8  
C. 5  
D. 6

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The GST Council announced under construction properties priced over 45 lakh will invite 5% GST, instead of 12%. A residential property priced at 45 lakh or below will now be
defined as "affordable" and taxed at 1%, from 8% earlier.

4) Which of the following Indian Shooter claimed gold medal with a world record score of 245 in ISSF World Cup?

A. Ravinder Singh  
B. Saurabh Chaudhary  
C. Abhishek Verma  
D. Sanjeev Rajput  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The 16-year-old Indian Shooter Saurabh Chaudhary claimed gold medal in the men's 10m air pistol event with a world record score of 245.0 in the final at the season-opening International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) event. In addition, he sealed a berth for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

5) Who has been appointed as Saudi Arabias first female ambassador to United States?

A. Loujain Al-Hathloul  
B. Haifa Al-Mansour  
C. Somayya Jabarti  
D. Reema bint Bandar  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Saudi Arabia has appointed Princess Reema bint Bandar, a former business executive and philanthropist, as its first female ambassador to the United States.

6) Which of the following scheme did the Maharashtra government launch to guarantees 100 days of employment to urban youth?

A. Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana  
B. Mukhyamantri Yuva Rojgar Yojana  
C. Rajya Yuva Swabhiman Yojana  
D. Rajya Yuva Rojgar Yojana  

**Answer A**
The Madhya Pradesh government launched its flagship scheme Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana. It was launched by the Chief Minister Kamal Nath. This scheme guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youth from Economically Weaker Sections (EWS).

7) SpaceX launched Israels first moon lander Beresheet from -------

A. Florida
B. Australia
C. Iran
D. Indonesia

Answer A

SpaceX launched Israels first moon lander Beresheet from Florida.

8) Scientists have discovered ------- new galaxies using a Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope

A. 300,000
B. 400,000
C. 560,000
D. 650,000

Answer A

Scientists have discovered 300,000 new galaxies using a Low-Frequency Array (LOFAR) telescope.

9) Who made his T20 International debut for India against Australia on February 24, 2019?

A. Kamlesh Nagarkoti
B. Ruturaj Gaikwad
C. Mayank Markande
D. Sandeep Lamichhane

Answer C

Mayank Markande made his senior Team India debut in the first Twenty20
International against Australia in Visakhapatnam. The 21-year-old spinner Markande hence became the 79th player to represent India in the shortest format of the game.

10) Which of the following scheme did the Madhya Pradesh government launch to guarantees 100 days of employment to urban youth?

A. Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana  
B. Mukhyamantri Yuva Rojgar Yojana  
C. Rajya Yuva Swabhiman Yojana  
D. Rajya Yuva Rojgar Yojana

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The Madhya Pradesh government launched its flagship scheme Mukhyamantri Yuva Swabhiman Yojana. This scheme guarantees 100 days of employment every year to urban youth from economically weaker sections.

11) Where was the Cobra military exercise held?

A. US  
B. India  
C. Indonesia  
D. Thailand

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Cobra Gold military exercise was held in Thailand.

12) Who is the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh?

A. Anandiben Patel  
B. Yogi Adityanath  
C. Kamal Nath  
D. Naveen Patnaik

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Kamal Nath is the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh
13) Which of the following military exercise is hosted by US and Thailand?

A. Harimau Shakti  
B. Cobra Gold  
C. COPE 2019  
D. VIKRAM II  

Answer B  

Explanation: The annual Cobra Gold military exercise was hosted by Thailand and the United States.

14) Which of the Capital markets regulator barred Motilal Oswal Commodities Broker and India Infoline Commodities (IICL)?

A. SEBI  
B. NSE  
C. BSE  
D. Both B and C  

Answer A  

Explanation: The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has declared Motilal Oswal Commodities Broker and India Infoline Commodities (IICL) unfit to function as commodity brokers on account of their alleged role in the Rs.5,600 crore settlement scam at the National Spot Exchange Ltd (NSEL) that came out in the open in July 2013.

15) Which of the following app did the Election Commission of India develop for the Lok Sabha election 2019?

A. eECI  
B. cVIGIL  
C. elodgecomplain  
D. eciviliancomplaint  

Answer B  

Explanation: Election Commission of India has developed cVIGIL, a mobile app, for the upcoming Lok Sabha election. cVIGIL stands for 'Vigilant Citizen. It was launched in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
16) Which Indian state ranked first in highest alcohol consumption among kids?

A. Maharashtra  
B. West Bengal  
C. Punjab  
D. Bihar

**Answer C**

**Explanation** According to a survey conducted by AIIMS New Delhi, Punjab ranks first in the list of highest alcohol consumption among children in India.

17) **Hosts 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit?**

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** India hosts 4th Global digital Health Partnership summit.

18) How many martyrs names have been inscribed at the National War Memorial, which was inaugurated by PM Modi on February 25, 2019?

A. 23,942  
B. 25,942  
C. 27,942  
D. 29,942

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The names of 25,942 martyrs have been inscribed across 16 walls at the memorial. The memorial has been built in the memory of the martyred jawans who lost their lives protecting India during Indo-China War in 1962, Indo-Pak Wars in 1947, 1965 and 1971, Indian Peace Keeping Force Operations in Sri Lanka and the Kargil Conflict in 1999.
19) Afghanistan formally launched shipping goods to India, through which of the following port in Iran?

A. Noshahr Port  
B. Amirabad Port  
C. Chabahar Port  
D. Imam Khomeini Port

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Through the Chabahar port in Iran, Afghanistan formally launched exports to India.

20) Who has been honoured with the 2018 Player of the Year award by the Asian Hockey Federation?

A. Manpreet Singh  
B. Chinglensana Singh  
C. PR Sreejesh  
D. Krishan Pathak

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Indian skipper Manpreet Singh has been honoured with the 2018 Player of the Year award by the Asian Hockey Federation. Women's team striker Lalremsiami bagged the Rising Player of The Year prize.

21) Who has been appointed as the next US ambassador to United Nations?

A. Kyle McCarter  
B. Kelly Knight Craft  
C. Nikki Haley  
D. Jonathan Raphael Cohen

**Answer B**

**Explanation** US President Donald Trump nominated US Ambassador to Canada Kelly Craft as the country's next ambassador to the United Nations (UN).

22) PM Modi unveiled world's largest Bhagavad Gita weighing _____ kg.
A.725  
B.650  
C.800  
D.900

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The world's largest Bhagavad Gita at ISKCON temple in south Delhi's East of Kailash, has 670 pages, weighs 800 kg and is 2.8 metre tall and 2 metre wide (when closed).

23) Which company revealed the World's fastest 1TB microSD card at Mobile World Congress (MWC) 2019?

A. SanDisk  
B. Transcend  
C. Samsung  
D. Lexar

**Answer A**

**Explanation** During Mobile World Congress (MWC) in Barcelona, SanDisk has revealed its 1TB microSD card, which is the world's fastest, offering transfer speeds of up to 160MB/s and write speeds of up to 90MB/s. While Micron's card, claimed to be the world's first, reaches speeds of up to 100 Mbps.

24) IRCTC Rail Connect mobile app win National e-Governance Award 2019. How much revenue has been collected by Railways in 2018-19 (till December) through the App?

A. Rs 7,400 crore  
B. Rs 5,800 crore  
C. Rs 6,350 crore  
D. Rs 4,920 crore

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Indian Railways collected revenue of over Rs 5,800 crore in 2018-19 (till December) through the IRCTC Rail Connect mobile app.
25) Recently, RBI decided to remove 3 more Banks from PCA framework List. PCA Stands for _______

A. Process Corrective Action  
B. Problem Corrective Action  
C. Product Corrective Action  
D. Prompt Corrective Action

**Answer D**

**Explanation** PCA stands for Prompt Corrective Action. RBI introduces Prompt Corrective Action when the Banks financial conditions worsen below certain limits (trigger points).

26) Who recently joined Amazons Board of Directors?

A. Sara Blakely  
B. Mary T Barra  
C. Indra Nooyi  
D. Melinda Gates

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indra Nooyi recently joined Amazons Board of Directors.

27) IWAI and IOCL signed MoU On Fuel Needs for _______

A. National Waterways  
B. International inland waterways  
C. Rhine Waterway  
D. Inland Waterways

**Answer A**

**Explanation** IWAI and IOCL signed MoU On Fuel Needs for National Waterways.

28) Sir Alastair Cook Officially received Knighthood at Buckingham Palace. He made his Test debut against India in _______.

A. 2002
Answer C

Explanation Former England skipper Alastair Cook made his Test debut in 2006 against India and captained England for a record 59 Test matches. He retired from Test cricket in September 2018.

29) Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) recently approved purchase of defence equipment worth Rs ______ crore.

A.4,300
B.2,700
C.5,200
D.3,600

Answer B

Explanation The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved acquisition of defence equipment for about Rs 2,700 crore.

30) Who has been re-elected as President of Nigeria?

A.Hassan Rouhani
B.Bujar Nishani
C.Atiku Abubakar
D.Muhammadu Buhari

Answer D

Explanation Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari has been re-elected for a second four-year term. Buhari, of the ruling All Progressives Congress party, secured 56 percent, or 15.2 million votes, in the February 23 polls.

31) How much amount has been detected as GST evasion between April 2018 and February 2019?

A.Rs 20,000 crore
B. Rs 10,000 crore  
C. Rs 35,000 crore  
D. Rs 15,000 crore

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The government detected Goods and Services Tax (GST) evasion of around Rs 20,000 crore between April 2018 and February 2019. Out of this, 10,000 crore has been recovered.

32) Which Indian becomes world's eighth-richest person with a net worth of $54 billion?

A. SP Hinduja  
B. Mukesh Ambani  
C. Azim Premji  
D. Lakshmi Mittal

**Answer B**

**Explanation** As per Hurun Global Rich List 2019, Reliance Industries' 61-year-old Chairman Mukesh Ambani is the world's eighth-richest person with a net worth of $54 billion. He is the only Asian among the top 10.

33) Which of the following defence satellite would be launched by ISRO for DRDO in March 2019?

A. Kalam SAT  
B. Microsat R  
C. Emisat  
D. HySIS

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is set to launch an electronic intelligence satellite 'Emisat' for the DRDO in March.

34) Who is appointed as the Chairman of National Book Trust (NBT)?

A. Govind Prasad Sharma
B.Prakash Javadekar  
C.Rita Chowdhury  
D.Vishwanath Prasad Tiwari  

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Educationist and Author Govind Prasad Sharma has been appointed as the Chairman of National Book Trust (NBT).

**35) India successfully test-fired two indigenously developed QRSAM in the Odisha coast. What does QRSAM stand for?**

A. Quantum Radical Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)  
B. Quadrant Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)  
C. Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)  
D. Quasi Radical Surface-to-Air Missiles (QRSAM)

**Answer C**

**Explanation** India has successfully test-fired two indigenously developed Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air missiles (QRSAM) from a test range at Chandipur in Odisha's Balasore district.

**36) Under the Yogalakshmi scheme a new born girl child in the government hospital will be funded ________.**

A. Rs.10,000  
B. Rs.15,000  
C. Rs.20,000  
D. Rs.25,000

**Answer D**

**Explanation** The Mysuru City Corporation (MCC) introduced new schemes that included Rs.25,000 for each girl child born in government hospitals in the City.

**37) Which organization fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM)?**

A. National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA)  
B. Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (PPA)
C. Department of Pricing Authority (DPA)
D. Drug and Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (DPPA)

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The NPPA currently fixes prices of drugs placed in the National List of Essential Medicines (NLEM).

38) Who won the Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) Lifetime Achievement Award 2019?

A. Joy Maisnam
B. Mahesh Elkunchwar
C. Dr. Chavan Pramod
D. Chillara Samaram

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Mahesh Elkunchwar, an eminent Indian playwright, has been chosen for Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) Lifetime Achievement Award 2019. The award would be conferred on March 12 during the Mahindra Theater Festival.

39) Who institutes the META awards?

A. TATA Group
B. Ministry of Home Affairs
C. Mahindra Group
D. None of the above

**Answer C**

**Explanation** The Mahindra Excellence in Theatre Awards (META) awards is instituted by the Mahindra Group with the objective of becoming a significant platform for celebrating this art.

40) Which State government launched the major water conservation scheme Jalamrutha?

A. Karnataka
B. Uttar Pradesh
C. J&K
D. Telangana

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Karnataka State government launched a major water conservation scheme titled Jalamrutha, which focuses on drought-proofing measures, including protection and rejuvenation of water bodies.

41) Where will be the headquarter of India's New railway zone, named Southern Coast Railway created?
A. Kochi  
B. Hyderabad  
C. Visakhapatnam  
D. Chennai

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Railway Minister Piyush Goyal announced that a new railway zone, named South Coast Railway, will be created with headquarters in Andhra Pradesh's Visakhapatnam.

42) How much did Punjab govt seek from the Centre to build a dam at Makora Pattan, to stop India's river water flow into Pakistan?
A. Rs 412 crore  
B. Rs 356 crore  
C. Rs 527 crore  
D. Rs 284 crore

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Punjab government has urged the central government to release Rs 412 crore for the construction of a dam at Makora Pattan on the confluence of Ravi and Ujh rivers in Gurdaspur district by considering it as a national project for stopping India's river water flow into Pakistan.

43) How much did central government reportedly propose a subsidy on around 60,000 electric cars in India?
A. up to Rs 1.5 lakh  
B. up to Rs 3.5 lakh
C. up to Rs 3 lakh
D. up to Rs 2.5 lakh

**Answer D**

**Explanation** To promote green fuel in India via a Rs 10,000-crore package, government has reportedly proposed a subsidy of up to 2.5 lakh on around 60,000 electric cars in India, whereas hybrid cars may get 20,000 over the next three years.

44) Which of the following foreign Bank is set to convert its India operations into a wholly-owned subsidiary from March 1?

A. Doha Bank
B. DBS Bank Ltd.
C. Deutsche Bank
D. Standard Chartered Bank

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Singapore-based DBS is set to convert its India operations into a wholly-owned subsidiary from March 1.

45) Who became the first Indian player to score 8000 runs in T20?

A. MS Dhoni
B. Virat Kohli
C. Suresh Raina
D. Rohit Sharma

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Suresh Raina has become the first Indian batsman to cross 8000 runs in T20 cricket.

46) Which of the following is the first State in the Country to introduce Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI)?

A. Kerala
B. Gujarat
C. Uttar Pradesh
D.Tamil Nadu

**Answer D**

**Explanation** Tamil Nadu is the first State in the country to introduce Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation (TAVI) in the government sector. The TAVI was launched at the Tamil Nadu Government Multi Super Speciality Hospital (TNGMSSH), Omandurar Estate, in November 2018.

47) The 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit was held at _______.

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

**Answer A**

**Explanation** The 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit being held at New Delhi was inaugurated by the Union Health Minister J P Nadda in the presence of Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad Union Minister of Information Technology.

48) Which of the following policy was approved to help the industry grow at CAGR of 40% to reach $70-80 billion by 2025?

A.National Regulation on Software Products Policy 2019
B.National Policy on Software Products 2019
C.Policy on Software Products 2018
D.National Regulation on Software Products 2018

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet approved the National Policy on Software Products 2019 that aims to help the industry grow at CAGR of 40% to reach $70-80 billion by 2025 while creating employment opportunities for 3.5 million people.

49) Which of the following policy has been approved to address the sustainable approach while addressing the issues of those affected by mining?

A.National Mineral Policy 2018
B. National Mining Policy 2018
C. National Mineral Policy 2019
D. National Mining Policy 2019

Answer C

Explanation The Union Cabinet approved the National Mineral Policy 2019 on 28th February 2019. The policy is aimed at bringing about more effective regulation to the sector as well as a more sustainable approach while addressing the issues of those affected by mining.

50) How much did the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) plan to invest on the Kotak Investment Advisors Limited?

A. $25 million
B. $100 million
C. $250 million
D. $500 million

Answer D

Explanation Abu Dhabi Investment Authority (ADIA) has committed $500 million to a fund that will be managed by Kotak Investment Advisors Limited. It will target a range of Non-Performing Loan (NPL) opportunities in India.

51) Which of the following Video sharing media was fined a penalty of $5.7 million by the U.S. Federal Trade Commission (FTC)?

A. Instagram
B. Tik Tok
C. Dubsmash
D. Facebook

Answer B

Explanation TikTok, the fast-growing, Chinese-owned video sharing network, agreed to pay a penalty of $5.7 million to U.S. authorities to settle charges that it illegally collected personal information from children.

52) IRCTC launched its own digital payment gateway called ________.
A. IRCTC ePay  
B. IRCTC DigiPay  
C. IRCTC QuickPay  
D. IRCTC iPay  

**Answer D**

**Explanation** IRCTC iPay is the own payment aggregator system of IRCTC (Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation).

53) Union Cabinet recently approved setting up of 22nd AIIMS at _________.

A. Berhampur, Odisha  
B. Manethi, Haryana  
C. Jorhat, Assam  
D. Bettiah, Bihar  

**Answer B**

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet approved the setting up of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Haryana's Manethi. The new AIIMS will be set up at a cost of 1,299 crore and will add 100 Undergraduate (MBBS) seats and 60 B.Sc (Nursing) seats.

54) Who is the Indian pilot captured by Pakistan Army, after Pulwama attack?

A. Raghunath Nambiar  
B. Harjit Singh Arora  
C. Abhinandan Varthaman  
D. Rajesh Kumar  

**Answer C**

**Explanation** Indian Air Force (IAF) pilot Wing Commander Abhinandan Varthaman was captured by Pakistani military on 27 February after his MiG-21 jet was shot down in PoK (Pakistan occupied Kashmir).

55) Which of the following country vetoed a US resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on addressing the crisis in Venezuela?
A. Russia
B. Germany
C. France
D. Britain

Answer A

Explanation Russia and China vetoed a US resolution at the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) on addressing the crisis in Venezuela.

56) Who is appointed as the MD and CEO for Yes Bank?

A. Ajai Kumar
B. Ravneet Gill
C. Brahm Dutt
D. Pratima Sheorey

Answer B

Explanation Former India chief of Deutsche Bank Ravneet Gill took charge as the Managing Director (MD) and chief executive officer of private sector lender Yes Bank. He will have a three-year term.

57) Where did the second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un happen?

A. Italy
B. France
C. Vietnam
D. Sweden

Answer C

Explanation A second summit between U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un was held in Vietnam.

58) Which of the following Cabinet approved the reimbursement cost of fitting hydraulic lifts in 1,000 CNG buses?

A. Maharashtra
B.Telangana  
C.Karnataka  
D.Delhi  

**Answer D**  

**Explanation** The Delhi Cabinet approved the reimbursement cost of fitting hydraulic lifts in 1,000 standard-floor CNG buses that are going to be procured.

59) **Cabinet has approved the promulgation of an Ordinance for establishing ______.**  
A.Jharkhand International Arbitration Centre  
B.New Delhi International Arbitration Centre  
C.Mumbai International Arbitration Centre  
D.Kolkata International Arbitration Centre  

**Answer B**  

**Explanation** The Union Cabinet has approved the promulgation of an Ordinance for establishing the New Delhi International Arbitration Centre (NDIAC) in an effort to make India a hub of institutionalized arbitration.

60) **Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 was held between ______ and ______.**  
A.India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Tibetan Border Police (TBP)  
B.India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Pakistan Rangers (PR)  
C.India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB)  
D.India's Border Security Force (BSF) and Vietnam Border Defence Force (BDF)  

**Answer C**  

**Explanation** Border Security Force (BSF) and Border Guards Bangladesh (BGB) concluded a three-day Mainamati Maitree Exercise 2019 as a part of confidence-building measures between the two border guards.

61) **With which Bank RBI signed a bilateral swap agreement?**  
A.Royal Bank of Scotland  
B.Bank of Japan
C. Nepal Rastra Bank
D. World Bank

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have signed a bilateral swap agreement with the Bank of Japan.

**62) Which of the following Company has been recognised as one of World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute for 2019?**

A. Reliance
B. Tata Steel
C. Infosys
D. ITC Limited

**Answer B**

**Explanation** Tata Steel has been recognised as one of World's Most Ethical Companies by the Ethisphere Institute for 2019.

**63) After the Swap agreement between RBI and Bank of Japan, India will be able to access ______ against the 50 billion dollars under earlier BSA.**

A. $75 billion
B. $100 billion
C. $115 billion
D. $125 billion

**Answer A**

**Explanation** Reserve Bank of India (RBI) have signed a bilateral swap agreement with the Bank of Japan. The Swap agreement will provide India access to 75 billion US dollars against the 50 billion dollars under earlier BSA.
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