



**India's No.1 Study Channel**

# **Monthly Current Affairs Capsule & Quiz February 2019**

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## 1. Sultan Abdullah sworn in as new Malaysian King



Sultan Abdullah Ibni Sultan Ahmad Shah was sworn as the 16th King of Malaysia.

- He was elected after Sultan Muhammad V abdicated the throne earlier this month.

### Points to Remember

- Malaysia practices the system of a constitutional monarchy.
- According to its Constitution, the King, who represents the country at official events, is elected every five years from among the nine Sultans on a rotational basis.

## 2. UAE, Saudi central banks launch common digital currency called 'Aber'

The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called "Aber".

- It will be used in financial settlements between the two countries through Blockchains and Distributed Ledgers technologies.
- Through this digital currency, both the United Arab Emirates Central Bank (UAECB) and the Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) are studying the impact on the improvement and reduction of remittance costs and the assessments of risks.

## 1. US says to withdraw from INF missile treaty with Russia

The United States is suspending its compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) with Russia.

- The treaty, signed during the Cold War in 1987, bans ground-launched missiles with a range of 500-5,500 km.
- It was key to ending the arms race between the two superpowers and helped protect the U.S.'s NATO allies in Europe from Soviet missile attacks.
- The administration will provide formal notice to Russia that the US is withdrawing from the INF in six months

## 1. World Cancer Day

World Cancer Day is observed on 4th February annually.

- The Day aims to save millions of preventable deaths each year through education, raising awareness and by pressing governments and individuals across the world to take action against the deadly disease.
- Union for International Cancer Control, which organizes World Cancer Day, is launching a new 3-year campaign with the theme: "I Am and I Will."

### Points to remember

- Over 9.6 million People die each year from cancer which is more than HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.
- India has around 2.25 million cases with over 1 lakh new cases being registered every year.

## 2. Pope Francis lands in Abu Dhabi, becomes 1st pontiff to visit Arabian Peninsula

Pope Francis landed in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on a historic visit, becoming the first pontiff to visit the Arabian Peninsula.

- He was received at the airport by the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed.

- The Pope is visiting the UAE on the invitation of the Crown Prince to take part in an interfaith Conference.

### Points to remember

- An estimated 700 participants from different faith are expected to participate in the Human Fraternity Conference, which includes representatives of the Muslim, Christian, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist and Sikh faiths.
- Poojya Brahmvihariji of BAPS, who is spearheading the construction of the Hindu Temple in Abu Dhabi is also one of the keynote speakers at the Conference.

### 3. Russia to abandon nuclear arms treaty in retaliation to US withdrawal from treaty

Russian President Vladimir Putin has said, Moscow will abandon a centerpiece nuclear arms treaty but will only deploy intermediate-range nuclear missiles if Washington does so.

- US President Donald Trump had accused Moscow of violating the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty by deploying banned missiles.

### Points to remember

- The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) was a 1987 arms control agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union.
- Signed in Washington, D.C. by President Ronald Reagan and General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev on 8 December 1987, the treaty was approved by the United States Senate on 27 May 1988 and ratified by Reagan and Gorbachev on 1 June 1988.

### 1. India-US Case at WTO

The United States' unilateral measure of imposition of additional customs duty of 25% on steel products and 10% on aluminium products are violative of the WTO provisions.

- As these measures affect India's trade, India has challenged the US before the WTO Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) seeking to bring these measures consistent with WTO provisions.
- Since the bilateral consultations under the Dispute Settlement Mechanism held on 20th July 2018 did not result in resolution of the dispute, a Dispute Settlement Panel was established on 4 December 2018 to adjudicate the dispute.

### Points to remember

- The World Trade Organization is an intergovernmental organization that is concerned with the regulation of international trade between nations.
- Founded: 1 January 1995
- Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

### 1. India and Germany join hands on water and waste management

India and Germany have joined hands for cooperation on Water and Waste Management.

- Both sides have decided to work on developing reference documents for the textile sector, Water Governance, Marine Litter, water quality management, training and capacity building of local bodies.
- The step has been taken during the meeting of 3rd Indo-German Working Group for cooperation on water and waste management in New Delhi.

### 2. Macedonia signs accord to join NATO



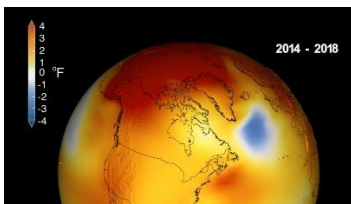
Macedonia signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance.

- At a formal signing of the NATO accession protocol, Macedonia's Foreign Minister Nikola Dimitrov hailed the moment as showing that the country will never walk alone once in the alliance.

### Points to Remember

- NATO (the North Atlantic Treaty Organization) is an international alliance that consists of 30 member states from North America and Europe.
- It was established at the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty on 4 April 1949.

### 1. 2018 fourth warmest year on record



An independent analysis by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have found that earth's global surface temperatures in 2018 were the fourth warmest since 1880.

- Globally, 2018's temperatures rank behind those of 2016, 2017 and 2015.
- The past five years are collectively the warmest years in the modern record.
- It founds that 2018 global temperatures were 0.79 degrees Celsius above the 20th-century average.

### 2. The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting held in New Delhi

The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting held in New Delhi.

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Foreign Affairs Minister of Bangladesh Dr. A. K. Abdul Momen co-chaired the meeting.
- The last Joint Consultative Committee Meeting between the two countries was held in October 2017.

- It is the first high-level visit from Bangladesh since Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's victory in the parliamentary elections in December last year.

### 1. Egypt's President el-Sissi Elected as the new chairman of African Union

Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi took over as chair of the African Union (AU).

- The post rotates annually between the five regions of the continent.
- He is expected to focus on the fight against armed groups on the continent and rebuilding efforts of countries recovering from conflict.
- Sisi takes the helm from Rwandan President Paul Kagame, who focused on creating an Africa wide free-trade zone during his tenure.

### Points to Remember

- The African Union (AU) is an union consisting of 55 countries of Africa with exception of various territories of European possessions located in Africa.
- It was founded on 26 May 2001 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and launched on 9 July 2002 in South Africa.

### 1. Women with four children to get life tax exemption in Hungary

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban has said that women in the country with four children or more will be exempted for life from paying income tax.

- The move aims at boosting the country's population.
- The PM said that this is a way of defending Hungary's future without depending on immigration.
- For women who raise at least four children, a subsidy of 8,825 US dollars will be given for the purchase of a seven-seat vehicle.
- The Prime Minister also announced a seven-point plan to increase the fertility rate in the country.



## 2. Hindi included as third official court language in Abu Dhabi



Abu Dhabi has decided to include Hindi as the third official language used in its courts, alongside Arabic and English.

- The move was aimed at providing foreigners better access to justice, without a language barrier.
- An estimated 3.3 million Indian expats live in UAE, and a large number of them are blue collared workers.
- The Indian community in the UAE constitutes 30% of the total population.

## 1. India withdraws Most Favoured Nation status granted to Pakistan

India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation status granted to Pakistan following the Pulwama terror attack in Jammu and Kashmir.

- A decision in this regard was taken during the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, CCS in New Delhi.
- Union Minister Arun Jaitley said that Ministry of External Affairs will initiate all possible diplomatic steps which are to be taken to ensure the complete isolation Pakistan from the international community.

## 1. Indian Oil signs first annual deal to buy up to 3 million tonnes US oil

Indian Oil Corp, the country's top refiner, has signed its first annual deal to buy up to 3 million tonnes or 60,000 barrels per day of US oil.

- State-run IOC had previously purchased US oil from spot markets and signed a mini-term deal in August to buy 6 million barrels of U.S. oil between November to January.

- IOCL chairman Sanjiv Singh said the annual contract will begin from April.
- He declined to give the name of the seller and pricing details citing confidentiality.

## Points to Remember

- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Chairperson: Sanjiv Singh

## 1. 'International Annual Desert Festival' begins in Jaisalmer

The 40th International Annual Desert Festival kicked-off in Jaisalmer with thousands of tourists participating in the colourful event.

- The three-day festival, which exhibits rich cultural heritage of the desert state, commenced with a colourful procession from Gadsisar lake fort.
- It will have interesting events like Mr Desert and Ms Moomal competitions, moustache competitions, turban tying, tug of war, musical and cultural performances, among others.
- The Border Security Force presented a camel tattoo show on the opening day of the festival.

## 1. International Mother Language Day : 21 February



International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on 21st February.

- The main purpose of celebrating this day is to promote the awareness of language and cultural diversity all across the world.
- It was first announced by UNESCO on November 17, 1999. Since then it is being celebrated every year.

- The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of Bangladesh.
- In Bangladesh the 21 February is the anniversary of the day when Bangladeshis fought for recognition for the Bangla language.

## 2. Saudi Arabia joins International Solar Alliance



Saudi Arabia signed an agreement to become the 73rd member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA).

- The organisation now has a total of 122 member countries.
- The signing of the agreement took place after a bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who arrived on a state visit to India.

### Points to Remember

- International Solar Alliance (ISA) is an initiative of India.
- It is headquartered at Gurugram, Haryana.

## 1. Month-long 'Festival of India' begins in Kathmandu

In Nepal, a month-long 'Festival of India' began in Kathmandu to familiarise the new generation of the country about the similarities between the two countries.

- It is being held in Kathmandu and other major cities of Nepal from February 19th to March 21st.
- Minister for Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation Rabindra Adhikari and Indian

Ambassador to Nepal Manjeev Singh Puri jointly inaugurated the event.

- Speaking on the occasion, Indian Ambassador said Buddhism has been established as a major religion in both the countries as Lord Buddha was born in Nepal and attained enlightenment in India.
- The festival, organised by the Indian Embassy and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre.

## 2. India decides to stop its share of river waters which flow into Pakistan

The Government has decided to stop the share of river waters which flow into Pakistan.

- Minister for Water Resources Nitin Gadkari said that the Government of India will divert water from Eastern rivers and supply it to the people in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab.
- The construction of dam has started at Shahpur-Kandi on the Ravi river and the Ujh project will store India's share of water for use in Jammu and Kashmir.

### Points to Remember

- According to the Indus Waters Treaty, subject to certain conditions, India has the right to use water flowing in eastern rivers, namely, the Beas, the Ravi and the Sutlej
- Pakistan controls the right to use water in western rivers, namely, the Indus, the Jhelum and the Chenab.

## 1. FATF keeps Pakistan on grey list for failing to curb terror funding

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to keep Pakistan on its grey list at the end of its week-long plenary meeting in Paris.

- India had made a strong push to ensure that Pakistan is not taken off the list, in the aftermath of Pulwama terror attack.
- According to FATF, Pakistan has until October this year to either comply with the

demands made by FATF members or it could be blacklisted.

### Points to Remember

- Headquarters: Paris, France
- Founded: 1989
- President: Marshall Billingslea

## 2. China has unveiled its 'first female AI news anchor'



China's state-owned TV channel Xinhua unveiled the world's first female Artificial Intelligence(AI) news anchor.

- The AI anchor has been developed by state-run news agency Xinhua in collaboration with tech firm Sogou Inc.
- The AI robot anchor, Xin Xiaoment, can mimic human facial expressions and mannerisms while reading reports.
- The AI anchor will make her professional debut during the upcoming two sessions Political meetings of China's nations legislature in March.

## 1. Sudan's Omar al-Bashir declares state of emergency



Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir has declared a year-long state of emergency, dissolving his cabinet and local governments throughout the country.

- Mr Bashir asked parliament to postpone constitutional amendments that would allow him to run for another term.

- He also announced that five members of the outgoing cabinet, including the foreign, defence and justice ministers, would keep their jobs.
- Since December 2018, various areas in Sudan have been witnessing popular protests over the deteriorating economic conditions and price hikes of basic commodities.

### Points to Remember

- Capital : Khartoum
- Currency: Sudanese pound

## 1. Cuba votes on new constitution

Voters in Cuba took part in a referendum on a new constitution that expands recognition of private property.

- The referendum contained only two options: yes or no to the new constitution.
- More than eight million were registered to voters.
- The new constitution, replacing the 1976 version, recognises a limited role for the free market and private investment, but only under the control of the Communist Party.

## 2. Afghanistan begins exports to India through Chabahar

Afghanistan began exports to India through an Iranian port.

- Officials said that 23 trucks carrying 57 tonnes of dried fruits, textiles, carpets and mineral products were dispatched from western Afghan city of Zaranj to Iran's Chabahar port.
- The consignment will be shipped to the Indian city of Mumbai.
- The Iranian port provides easy access to the sea to Afghanistan and India has helped developed this route to allow both countries to engage in trade bypassing Pakistan.

## 1. Iranian foreign minister Javad Zarif resigns

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif announced his resignation.

- However his resignation can only take effect once President Hassan Rouhani accepts it.
- Zarif played a prominent role in negotiating the landmark 2015 nuclear agreement between Iran and major international powers.
- Zarif has served as Iran's foreign minister since August 2013 but he has faced severe criticism since the US withdrew from the nuclear deal in May 2018.

## 2. First Indian-origin woman to get Blue Plaque in UK



Britain's World War II spy Noor Inayat Khan was confirmed as the first Indian-origin woman to be honoured with a Blue Plaque at her former London home.

- The Blue Plaque scheme run by English Heritage honours notable people who lived or worked in particular buildings across London.
- Khan's plaque is set to go up at 4 Taverton Street in Bloomsbury, where she lived as a secret agent during the war.
- Khan was the daughter of Indian Sufi saint Hazrat Inayat Khan.
- She was an agent for Britain's Special Operations Executive (SOE) during World War II and was captured and killed by the Nazis in 1944 at just 30 years of age.

## 1. Muhammadu Buhari Re-Elected as Nigerian President

Nigeria's President Muhammadu Buhari has secured a second four-year term in office.

- Buhari defeated his main challenger Atiku Abubakar by a margin of nearly four million votes.
- But, Abubakar's People's Democratic Party rejected the results.
- Buhari led a military regime for 20 months in the 1980s and was first elected president in 2015.

### Points to Remember

- Nigeria Capital: Abuja
- Currency: Nigerian naira



## 3. Air India resumes its services from New Delhi to Najaf

Air India is resuming its services from New Delhi to the holy city of Najaf in Iraq after 25 years.

- The services will commence from the 14 March, and it is initially being planned for twice a week.
- Najaf is a city, 160 kilometres from Baghdad.
- It is an important pilgrimage place considered sacred by Shia Muslims.

### Points to Remember

- Capital : Baghdad
- Currency : Iraqi dinar

## 4. DAC approves indigenous construction of 6 submarines worth Rs 40000 cr

The Defence Acquisitions Council, DAC chaired by Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman approved indigenous construction of six submarines worth 40 thousand crore rupees.

- It is the second project under the Ministry's ambitious strategic partnership model aiming to boost the government's Make in India' program.



- The first project to get the government's nod for implementation under the new model was the acquisition of 111 utility helicopters for the Navy at a cost of over 21 thousand crore rupees in August 2018.
- Defence Acquisitions Council has also approved the acquisition of about five thousand MILAN Anti Tank Guided Missiles for the Army.

### 5. Govt approves construction of over 4.78 lakh more affordable houses

The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of another 4,78,670 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

- The approval was given in the 42nd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee.
- The cumulative number of houses sanctioned under PMAY(U) now is 72,65,763.

### Points to Remember

- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is an initiative by Government of India in which affordable housing to the poor.
- It has two components
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) (PMAY-U) for the urban poor.
- Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) (PMAY-G and also PMAY-R) for the rural poor.

### 2. Individuals with Rs 5 lakh income exempted from income tax

The Finance Minister, Piyush Goyal announced relief for the common man in the middle income group.

- He proposed that individuals having an income of upto five lakh rupees will have not have to pay any tax.
- There will be no change in the existing rates or slabs of Income Tax for the financial year 2019-20.

- Even persons having a gross income upto 6.5 lakh rupees may not be required to pay any income tax if they make investments in Provident Funds and specified savings and insurance.
- Gratuity limit has also been increased to 30 lakh rupees.

### 3. Government proposes to launch mega pension yojana 'Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan

The Government proposes to launch a mega pension yojana namely 'Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan' for the unorganised sector workers with monthly income upto Rs. 15,000.

- This pension yojana shall provide them an assured monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 from the age of 60 years.
- It will be provided on a monthly contribution of a small affordable amount during their working age.
- An unorganised sector worker joining pension yojana at the age of 29 years will have to contribute only Rs. 100 per month till the age of 60 years.
- A worker joining the pension yojana at 18 years, will have to contribute as little as Rs. 55 per month only.
- The Government will deposit equal matching share in the pension account of the worker every month.

### 4. Fiscal deficit pegged at 3.4% of GDP for 2019-20



The Interim Budget 2019-20 has pegged the fiscal deficit for the year 2019-20 at 3.4% of GDP.

- The fiscal deficit for the current fiscal has been revised upward to 3.4 per cent from the Budgeted target of 3.3 per cent in previous year.

- Fiscal deficit for FY21 has been pegged at 3 per cent.
- The government has also set up a disinvestment target of Rs. 90,000 Crore for 2019-20.

## 5. Highlights Of Interim Budget 2019-20 I



12 crore small and marginal farmers to be provided with assured yearly income of Rs. 6000 per annum under PM-KISAN.

- Rashtriya Kamdhenu Ayog to be setup for sustainable genetic up-gradation of the Cow resources.
- Income upto Rs. 5 lakh exempted from Income Tax.
- Arunachal Pradesh has come on the air map recently and Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram have come on India's rail map for the first time.

## 6. Highlights Of Interim Budget 2019-20 II

Government allocates Rs.64,587 Crore for Railways in 2019-20.

- Capital support of Rs.64,587 crore proposed in 2019-20 (BE) from the budget.
- 22nd AIIMS to be setup in Rewari, Haryana.
- Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme to ensure fixed monthly pension to 10 crore unorganized sector workers

### 1. Special Postage Stamp on Kumbh Mela Released

Union Minister of State for Railways and Communication Mr Manoj Sinha released a special postage stamp of the Indian Postal Department on Kumbh Mela.

- Its cost is five rupees.

### Points to Remember

- Prayagraj Ardh Kumbh Mela 2019 is the Ardh Kumbh Mela being held at Triveni Sangam in Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh from 15 January to 4 March 2019.

### 2. 20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav inaugurated in New Delhi

The Minister of State for Culture, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, inaugurated the 21-day-long nationwide theatre spectacle 'Bharat Rang Mahotsav' in New Delhi.

- It is the international theatre festival of India, is organized by National School of Drama (NSD), one of the prominent training institutions in the world.
- The 20th BRM comes with 111 national and international acts in its basket that includes folk and other traditional theatre forms, invitee plays, and productions by the students of the National School of Drama

### Points to Remember

- The National School of Drama (NSD) is an autonomous institution under the Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India.

### 3. Kala Ghoda Arts Festival inaugurated

The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival - KGAF, India's begins in Mumbai.

- It is the India's largest multi-cultural street festival.
- KGAF 2019 will celebrate two glorious decades of art and culture through cinema, theatre, dance, literature and sculpture.
- The festival will end on 10th February.
- The theme 2019 is retrospection.

### 4. Indus River dolphin declared as state aquatic animal of Punjab



Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh declared the endangered Indus River dolphin, found only in the Beas River in the country, as the state aquatic animal.

- As per the WWF figures, the number of dolphins presently is 1816, mostly found in the lower parts of the Indus River in Pakistan between Chashma and Kotri barrages in the Indus River.
- Points to Remember
- Punjab has Black Buck as its state animal, and Baaj, also known as northern goshawk (accipiter gentilis), as the official state bird.

#### 5. PM dedicates 294-km-long electrified railway lines in West Bengal

The Prime Minister launched the 294-km-long Andal - Sainthia-Pakur- Malda and Khana-Sainthia electrified railway line.

- The electrification of the two railway lines will immensely benefit the rural people of the state.
- These electrified railway lines will facilitate faster movement of goods and passengers of the region.

#### Points to Remember

- Capital: Kolkata
- Chief minister: Mamata Banerjee
- Governor: Keshari Nath Tripathi
- Lok Sabha: 42 seats
- Rajya Sabha: 16 seats
- Legislative Assembly : 295

#### 4. CJI Ranjan Gogoi inaugurates Andhra Pradesh High Court

The Andhra Pradesh High Court new building at Amaravathy, was inaugurated by the Chief Justice of India, Ranjan Gogoi.

- The two-storied building is located at Nelapadu in Amaravati region has 16 court halls and the building costing Rs 150 Crore houses a 2.70 lakh square feet office space.
- Thus, Andhra Pradesh is getting its own court four and half years after the state bifurcation.

#### Points to remember

- The Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014, popularly known as the Telangana Act is an Act of Indian Parliament that bifurcated the state of Andhra Pradesh into Telangana and the residuary Andhra Pradesh state.
- The bill was attested by the President of India, Pranab Mukherjee on 1 March 2014 and published in the official Gazette on 2 June 2014.

#### 5. ISRO to launch its 40th communication satellite GSAT-31 on Feb 6



The Indian Space Research Organisation, ISRO, is all set to launch its 40th communication satellite GSAT-31 on February 6 from the spaceport in French Guiana.

- The satellite with a mission life of 15 years will provide continuity to operational services on some of the in-orbit satellites and augment the Ku-band transponder capacity in Geostationary Orbit.

#### Points to remember

- GSAT-31 is scheduled for launch onboard the Ariane-5 (VA247) from Kourou in French Guiana. The satellite provides Indian mainland and island coverage.
- ISRO also said the GSAT-31 will be used for supporting VSAT networks, television

uplinks, digital satellite news gathering, DTH television services, cellular back haul connectivity and many such applications.

### **6. 50% India's working-age population out of labour force, says report**

Half of India's working-age population (15 years and above), for the first time, is not contributing to any economic activity, according to the National Sample Survey Office's (NSSO's) latest jobs survey.

- The labour force participation rate (LFPR) stood at 49.8 per cent in 2017-18, falling sharply from 55.9 per cent in 2011-12.
- LFPR is the section of working population in the age group of 16-64 in the economy currently employed or seeking employment. People who are still undergoing studies, housewives and persons above the age of 64 are not factored in the labor force.

#### **Points to remember**

The National Sample Survey Office (NSSO) headed by a Director General is responsible for conduct of large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on All India basis.

The NSSO has four Divisions:

- Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD): This Division is located at Kolkata.
- Field Operations Division (FOD): The Division, is located at Delhi/Faridabad.
- Data Processing Division (DPD): The Division is located at Kolkata
- Co-ordination & Publication Division (CPD): This Division is located at New Delhi.

### **2. First State Level Awareness Programme on Agri Export Policy held in Pune**

Government of India has recently released an Agriculture Export Policy which aims at reinvigorating the entire value chain from export

oriented farm production and processing to transportation, infrastructure and market access.

- The Agriculture Export Policy is framed with a focus on agriculture export oriented production, export promotion, better farm realization and synchronization with policies and programmes of Government of India.

#### **Point to remember**

- In India, agriculture and horticulture production is around 600 million tonnes per year and 30% of fresh horticulture produces goes waste.
- For creating awareness among the farmers, exporters and other concerned stakeholders, a first State level awareness programme on Agriculture Export Policy was organized in Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM), Pune.

### **3. Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) meet on Disaster Risk Management**



The Ministry of Home Affairs in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is organising a meeting of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Cluster Group on Disaster Risk Management (DRM) on 5-6 February 2019 in New Delhi.

- The two-day meeting will feature interactive sessions and will focus on development of a draft Work Plan for DRM in IORA.
- It will also deliberate on the need for establishing a DRM Core Group to take forward the agreed objectives under the Work Plan.

#### **Points to remember**



- Indian Ocean Rim Association is an inter-governmental organization and has many disaster-prone countries among its 22 members and nine dialogue partners.
- DRM is one of its priority areas and its Action Plan (2017-2021) has specific goals to improve resilience in IORA countries.

#### 4. Upgradation of Secondary Schools to Senior Secondary level under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan

Department of School Education and Literacy has launched an Integrated Scheme for School Education-Samagra Shiksha, subsuming three erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA), Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Teacher Education (TE), with effect from 2018-19.

- The new integrated scheme envisages school education as a continuum from pre-school to senior secondary level and aims to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education at all levels.
- During the year 2018-19, under Samagra Shiksha, 44 schools have been upgraded from secondary to senior secondary level school.

#### 5. Draft National River Ganga Bill, 2018

Draft of "The National River Ganga (Rejuvenation, Protection and Management) Bill 2018" provides for the constitution of Ganga Protection Corps as an armed forces of the union.

- The Ganga Protection Corps is proposed to be empowered to arrest or caused to be arrested for offence under the Act, and to take the person to the nearest police station. The Court would take cognizance of the offence on the basis of the complaint filed by the officers who are authorized under the proposed Act.
- The draft Act contemplates certain provisions conferring powers to the "National Council for Rejuvenation, Protection and Management of River Ganga" [National Ganga Council].

#### Points to remember

- National Ganga River Basin Authority is a financing, planning, implementing, monitoring and coordinating authority for the Ganges River, functioning under the water resource ministry of India.
- It was founded in 2009.

#### 6. Fugitive tycoon Vijay Mallya's extradition to India approved by UK minister



UK Home Secretary Sajid Javid has ordered the extradition of Vijay Mallya on charges of conspiracy to defraud and money laundering offences.

- The 63-year-old businessman had been found to have a case to answer before the Indian courts by Westminster Magistrates' Court in London on December 10, 2018.

#### Points to remember

- Vijay Mallya is accused in India of conspiracy to defraud, making false representations and money laundering offences.
- India welcomed the UK government ordering the extradition of embattled liquor baron Vijay Mallya.

#### 1. ISRO launches GSAT-31 from French Guiana

India's communication satellite GSAT-31 has been launched successfully from French Guiana.

- The Ariane-5 rocket lifted off with it from Kourou Launch Base and placed it in the intended Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit.
- ISRO chairman Dr Sivan said that GSAT-31 will provide transponder capacity for DTH television and connectivity to services like VSATs for ATMs, stock-exchanges, Digital Satellite News Gathering DSNG and e-governance applications.

- The satellite will also be used for bulk data transfer for a host of emerging telecommunication applications.

## 2. President Kovind confers Sangeet Natak Akademi awards

President Ram Nath Kovind gave away the prestigious Sangeet Natak Akademi Awards 2017 at Rashtrapati Bhawan.

- Forty-two artists from the fields including Music, Dance, Theatre, Traditional, Folk, and Tribal music were awarded.

### Points to Remember

- Established in 1952, the Award not only symbolizes the highest standards of excellence and achievements but also recognizes sustained individual work and contribution.
- The award carries a cash prize of one lakh rupees, a Tamrapatra and Angavastram.

## 3. MP govt makes it mandatory for industries to hire 70% locals



Madhya Pradesh has made it mandatory for industries seeking various incentives to provide 70 per cent employment to locals in the state.

- The new industrial policy has been made effective.
- The state's new industrial policy was introduced in December 2018.

### Points to Remember

- Capital: Bhopal
- State Animal: Swamp deer
- State Bird: Asian Paradise-flycatcher

## 4. UP govt forms SIT on Sikh riots of Kanpur in 1984



Uttar Pradesh government has constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) to probe the circumstances that led to riots in Kanpur in 1984.

- The riots were followed the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.
- The four-member SIT will be headed by retired UP Director General of Police, Atul.
- At least 125 people were killed in 1984 riots in Kanpur after the assassination of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

## 5. Arunachal's Nyishi tribe celebrates Boori Boot Yollo festival

The Nyishi tribe of Arunachal Pradesh is celebrating its Boori Boot Yollo festival.

- Boori Boot Yollo is observed in the month of February every year to welcome spring and a successful harvest.
- Arunachal Pradesh Governor Dr. BD Mishra and Chief Minister Pema Khandu in greeted the people of the state on the occasion.

### Points to Remember

Capital: Itanagar

State Animal: Gayal

State Bird: Hornbill

## 6. Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Qutub Minar Among Top 10 Revenue-Generating Monuments

Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma recently revealed the top revenue-generating monuments in the country between 2015 and 2018.

- The top revenue-generating monuments during 2015-18 include Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Qutub Minar, Red Fort and Humayun's Tomb.
- Others in the top 10 list for the period of 2015-2018 include Agra Fort, Red Fort, Qutub Minar, Sun Temple in Konark, Mamallapuram, Ellora caves, group of monuments in Khajuraho, and the Ajanta caves in Aurangabad.
- Tourism contributes nearly 9.4% of the country's GDP and supports 8% of its total employment.

### 3. Indian Coast Guard signs MoU with AAI



Indian Coast Guard and the Airport Authority of India signed a Memorandum of Understanding for coordination in the aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations.

- Memorandum of Understanding with Airport Authority of India(AAI) is aimed at strengthening mutual interactions, interoperability and validating procedures during conduct of search and rescue operations.
- The operations will be conducted jointly by the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) Kolkata, Airport Authority of India (AAI) and Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Port Blair.

### 4. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) App launched

Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY) App has been launched on Google play store.

- This app is now available on Google Play store. Now the person doesn't have to visit the centres to check their eligibility, balance, file complaints or any other services.

- Individual just need to download the PM-JAY app and can simply to access the scheme details or check the eligibility

### Points to Remember

- Ayushman Bharat Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) is a centrally sponsored scheme launched in the year 2018.
- This scheme aims at making interventions in primary, secondary and tertiary care systems, covering both preventive and promotive health.

### 5. Smriti Irani launches India Size project in Mumbai

Union Minister of Textiles Smriti Irani launched the India Size project in Mumbai.

- A first-of-its-kind project in the history of the country, India Size aims to standard Indian Size for the ready-to-wear clothing industry, on the lines of the standardized sizes available in countries such as the USA and the UK.
- The Minister also launched a Study of Apparel Consumption in India. The report of this study would be ready for release by July 2019.

### 6. RBI announces bi-monthly monetary policy



The Monetary Policy Committee headed by Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das, announced a reduction in policy repo rate.

- The repo rate will reduced from 6.5 per cent to 6.25 per cent with immediate effect.

- Consequently, the reverse repo rate stands adjusted to 6.0 per cent, and the marginal standing facility rate and the Bank Rate to 6.5 per cent.
- The bank also projected an economic growth rate of 7.4 per cent for the next fiscal, up from 7.2 per cent estimated for the current fiscal by Central Statistics Office.

### 7. RBI raises collateral-free farm loan limit to Rs 1.6 lakh

RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das announced that the limit of collateral free agricultural loans has been increased from one lakh to 1.6 lakh.

- Addressing the post monetary policy announcement in Mumbai, Mr. Das said the decision has been taken in view of the overall inflation and rise in the agricultural input costs since 2010 when the limit was last revised.
- This move will enhance coverage of small and marginal farmers in the formal credit system.

### 8. MHA bans J&K outfit Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen over terror

The Union Home Ministry banned the Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

- The ministry said the central government believes that TuM is involved in terrorism as it has committed and participated in various acts of terrorism in India.
- Also its members are getting financial as well as logistic support from their handlers based abroad.

### Points to Remember

- The TuM came into existence in 1990 with the objective of “liberation of Kashmir” and has been actively pursuing it by way of acts of terror.

### 3. Chennai Police Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan launched mobile App 'DigiCop' of the city police.



Chennai Police Commissioner A.K. Viswanathan launched mobile App 'DigiCop' of the city police.

- He said the App makes citizens feel that the police is always with them.
- Using the App, people can track the status of stolen two-wheelers and cell phones.
- Using DigiCop App, people can also verify IMEI, report lost two-wheelers and phones, know the nearest police station, police news and traffic alerts.
- The details of 18,000 stolen mobile phones are stored in the App.

### 1. J&K govt grants Divisional Status to Ladakh region the pioneer



Fulfilling long-pending demand of people belonging to Ladakh region Jammu & Kashmir Government approved creation of a separate Administrative/Revenue Division for Ladakh.

- This division will comprise Leh and Kargil districts with its headquarters at Leh.
- The Government has also approved creation of the posts of Divisional Commissioner (Ladakh), Leh and Inspector General of Police (Ladakh), Leh.
- Currently, the Ladakh region forms a part of the Kashmir Division of Jammu & Kashmir.



## 2. 3-day Krishi Kumbh to begin at Motihari

The three-day Krishi Kumbh is being organised in Motihari, Bihar.

- Over fifteen thousand farmers across different states and about two hundred agricultural scientists are participating in the Kumbh.
- This is the largest Krishi Kumbh of Eastern India.
- The Governor Lalji Tandon and Union Agriculture Minister Radha Mohan Singh will jointly inaugurate this Krishi Kumbh.
- The objective of Krishi Kumbh is to promote modern techniques and diversification in agriculture that could help in doubling farmers income.

## 3. ECI launches Voter Verification and Information Programme

The Election Commission has launched a Voter Verification and Information Programme (VVIP).

- The program has been launched for citizens for verifications of their names, new registrations, changes in the voter details and corrections in the Voter Id Cards for the upcoming General Elections 2019.
- The Commission has also set up Contact centres in all the districts and the Voter Helpline number is 1950.

### Points to Remember

- Chief Election Commissioner: Sunil Arora

## 4. India to host 13th Conference of Parties(COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)

The 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) is going to be hosted by India during 15th to 22nd February, 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

- Representatives from 129 Parties and eminent conservationists and international NGOs working in the field of wildlife conservation are expected to attend the COP.

### Points to Remember

- Conservation of Migratory Species of wild animals (CMS) is an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Programme.
- The Conference of Parties (COP) is the decision-making organ of this convention.
- India has been a Party to the CMS since 1983.

## 5. Centre launches dedicated Asiatic Lion Conservation Project



The Centre government has launched a dedicated Asiatic Lion Conservation Project with a budgetary contribution of around 98 crore rupees to strengthen the conservation initiatives.

- Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change approved the project for financial years 2018-2019, 2019- 2020 and 2020-2021.
- The project envisages scientific management in coordination with multi-sectoral agencies for disease control and veterinary care for overall conservation of Lion.

### Points to Remember

- The Asiatic Lion, endemic to Gir landscape of Gujarat, is one of the 21 critically endangered species identified by the Ministry for taking up recovery programmes.

## 1. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates 13th PETROTECH 2019

The 13th International Oil and Gas Conference - PETROTECH - 2019 inaugurated at India Expo Mart, Greater Noida .

- Over 95 Energy Ministers from partner countries are expected to participate in the three day Conference.
- The theme of the conference is Collaborating For Sustainable and Secure Energy Access for all.
- The event will serve as a platform to discuss solutions to the challenges faced in delivering affordable, efficient, clean and assured energy supplies to all.

## 2. Festival of Basant Panchmi being celebrated in the country

The festival of Basant Panchmi is being celebrated with religious fervour and gaiety.

- It is celebrated as Saraswati Puja on Panchmi of Shukla Paksha in Magh Maas.
- The people wear yellow coloured -dress to mark the occasion.
- The devotees also worship Goddess Saraswati offering white and yellow flowers.

## 3. Foundation stone of Mega Food Park laid in Mathura

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal laid foundation stone of a Mega Food Park in Mathura.

- The Park will provide direct and indirect employment to five thousand persons and benefit about 25,000 farmers.
- It will prove to be a big boost to the growth of the food processing sector in Uttar Pradesh.

## 4. PM Modi lays foundation for Sela Tunnel



Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone for the strategically important Sela Tunnel Project in Arunachal Pradesh.

- The project, costing Rs 687 crore, is being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)
- It would be completed in the next three years.
- Once the 12.04-km tunnel is complete it will give a fillip to the overall development of the area as it will provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang and other areas.

## 5. Surging Silk, Mega Event Held in New Delhi

Ministry of Textiles, in association with Central Silk Board, is organised an event, Surging Silk in New Delhi.

- During the event, best achievers of silk industry across various segments of sericulture were honoured.
- Also, Buniyaad Tasar Silk Reeling Machines were distributed to women reelers from tribal areas at a function.

Points to Remember

- India is the second largest producer of silk after China and the largest consumer of silk.

## 2. 1st Chinook heavy lift helicopters arrived in India

The first of the 15 Chinook heavy lift helicopters ordered by the Indian Air Force (IAF) arrived in India.

- The CH-47F (I) was received at the Mundra Port in Gujarat and will be transported to its home base at Chandigarh.

- The helicopters can carry around 10 tonnes of load.

### Points to Remember

- India had signed a 3 billion dollar deal with the US in September 2015 for the purchase of 15 Chinook heavy lift and 22 AH-64E Apache attack helicopters.

### 3. Foundation stone for Sree Narayana Guru spiritual pilgrimage circuit laid



Union Tourism Minister KJ Alphonso has laid the foundation stone for the Sree Narayana Guru spiritual pilgrimage circuit in Varkala, Kerala.

- This project covers all the places in Thiruvananthapuram district where the Guru spent most of his life.
- This project which was sanctioned last month will help improve the infrastructure and facilities at these centres.

### Points to Remember

- Narayana Guru was a social reformer of India, born into a family of the Ezhava caste in Kerala.
- He led a reform movement in Kerala, rejected casteism, and promoted new values of spiritual freedom and social equality.

### 4. Observatory set up in Tehri to monitor cloud activities

A Himalayan Cloud Observatory has been set up in Tehri district, Uttarakhand.

- The Observatory has been established in the SRT campus Badshahithaul and is currently in the testing period.
- The observatory will receive forecast and monitor cloudburst incidents in the Himalayan region and help minimise the damage.
- Cloudburst incidents are very frequent in the hilly areas of Uttarakhand, resulting in a huge loss of life.

### 3. Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army conducting 'Exercise Rahat' in Jaipur

Jaipur based Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army is conducting a two-day Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise "Exercise Rahat".

- The exercise began in Jaipur and it involves all stakeholders at the national and state level.
- This is the eighth such exercise conducted by the Indian Defence Forces.
- The exercise is being conducted in pursuance of the directions of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during Combined Commanders Conference - 2015, to achieve 'Disaster Resilient India'.

### 4. Challachitram National Film Festival to begin from March 1

Challachitram National Film Festival will be held at Guwahati in March 2019, with a special award for entries from the northeastern region.

- The theme of this three-day film festival is 'Our Heritage, Our Pride'.
- Chalachitram is a Guwahati-based organisation working for showcasing the heritage and culture of the northeast to national and international audience through films.
- The first prize winner in the competitive section would get Rs one lakh, the special prize for participants from the region would be Rs 50,000.

## 5. Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurates the 1st Mega Food Park of Himachal Pradesh

Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Cremica Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd.

- The Park is located at Village Singhain Una District of Himachal Pradesh.
- This is the first Mega Food Park operationalized in the State of Himachal Pradesh.
- The Park will give an impetus to the growth of the Food Processing Sector in Himachal Pradesh.
- Cremica Mega Food Park will benefit the people of Una District and the people of nearby districts of Kangra, Hamirpur & Bilaspur.

## 6. Centre named Great Indian Bustard as the mascot for COP-13

The Centre announced the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) as the mascot for the 13th UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)(COP 13), scheduled to be held in Gujarat next year.

- The bird has been fondly named by the ministry as 'Gibi'.

### Points to remember

- The CMS COP-13 is a global platform for the conservation and sustainable use of migratory animal.
- The COP-13 will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat from February 15-22, 2020.

## 1. World Radio Day: 13 February

13 February of every year is celebrated as World Radio Day.

- 2019 Theme: Dialogue, Tolerance and Peace.
- It is a day that remembers the unique power of radio which touches lives and brings people together from every corner of the globe.

- The day was proclaimed on 3rd November 2011 by UNESCO's 36th General Conference.

### Points to Remember

- Radio was invented by Guglielmo Marconi.

## 2. I&B Ministry organised 1st annual conference of Media Units

Information and Broadcasting, I&B Ministry organised the first annual conference of Media Units in New Delhi.

- The conference is chaired by I&B Minister Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore.
- The Conference aims to give a unique platform to the officers of the Indian Information Service working in different Media Units to converge at an All-India level.
- Also, the ministry aims to strengthen synergy between the Media Units in order to ensure last mile delivery.

## 3. PM Modi launches several development projects for Haryana



Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated and laid foundation stones of several development projects in Haryana.

- He inaugurated 2,035-crore rupees National Cancer Institute, in Jhajjar district.
- The Prime Minister inaugurated the ESIC Medical College and Hospital, Faridabad.
- He laid the foundation stone of National Institute of Ayurveda, Panchkula.
- The foundation stone of Sri Krishna Ayush University, Kurukshetra was also laid by the Prime Minister, along with foundation stone of 'Battles of Panipat Museum'.



- He also laid the foundation stone of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya University of Health Sciences, Karnal.

#### 4. Dera Baba Nanak land check post designated as immigration centre

The Centre designated Dera Baba Nanak land check post in Gurdaspur district of Punjab as an authorised immigration checkpoint to exit and entry for visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara in Pakistan.

- All classes of passengers with valid travel documents can exit or enter through the post.
- The government also appointed the Chief Immigration Officer as the Civil Authority for the purpose.

#### Points to Remember

- On November 26 2018, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu laid the foundation stone of the Dera Baba Nanak-Kartarpur Sahib Corridor at Mann village in Gurdaspur district.

#### 5. National Conference on Unani Medicine Concludes in New Delhi

The two-day National Conference on Unani Medicine organized by the Central Council for Research in Unani Medicine (CCRUM) concluded in New Delhi.

- The conference was inaugurated by Dr. Najma Heptulla, Hon'ble Governor of Manipur.
- The conference witnessed exchange of MoU for scientific collaboration in Unani Medicine between the CCRUM and Jamia Hamdard, New Delhi.
- On this occasion, AYUSH Awards for Unani Medicine were conferred.
- The awards comprised a citation, a shawl and a cash award ranging from Rs 50,000 to 200,000 each.

#### 6. NTPC signs pact with SBI for Rs 5K crore term loan

State-owned power NTPC has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with State Bank of India.

- This loan has a tenure of 15 years and will be utilised to part finance the capital expenditure of NTPC.

#### Points to Remember

- NTPC Chairman & MD: Gurdeep Singh
- SBI Chairman: Rajnish Kumar

#### 7. Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal commissions 1st Aqua Mega Food Park in Andhra Pradesh



Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal commissioned Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park at Tundurru Village in West Godavari District, Andhra Pradesh.

- The park is promoted by M/s Godavari Mega Aqua Food Park Pvt. Ltd.
- This is the 1st Mega Aqua Food Park operationalised and exclusively established for fish and marine products processing in the State of Andhra Pradesh.
- Another Mega Food Park sanctioned by the Ministry in Chittoor District of Andhra Pradesh has already been inaugurated on 9th of July 2012.
- The 3rd Mega Food Park sanctioned by the Ministry in Andhra Pradesh is under implementation at Krishna District.

#### 1. Bihar government announced 'Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna'

Bihar government has announced a universal old age pension scheme 'Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna', MVPY for all people above 60 years of age.

- The scheme will come into force from the 1st of April this year.
- All will be eligible for 400 rupees monthly pension irrespective of caste, religion or community, except those senior citizens who have retired from government service,
- Currently old age pension scheme is applicable to only the BPL category.
- The Chief Minister also announced a pension of 6,000 rupees for journalists above 60 years of age.

## 2. AYUSH Minister launches e-AUSHADHI portal



Minister of State for AYUSH, Shri Shripad Yesso Naik launched the e-AUSHADHI portal.

- The portal is for online licensing of Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani and Homoeopathy drugs and related matters.
- The e-AUSHADHI portal is intended for increased transparency, improved information management facility, improved data usability and increased accountability.
- The timelines will be fixed for processing of application through this portal with SMS and e-mail status updates at each step of the process.

## 3. Third Indo-German Environment Forum held in New Delhi

Third Indo-German Environment Forum held in New Delhi with the theme "Cleaner Air, Greener Economy:"

- Around 250 representatives of ministries, business and science as well as non-governmental organizations participated in the forum.
- The Forum provided a platform for the bilateral exchange of high-level policy-

makers and other key players on international environmental and climate policy and cooperation between the two countries.

## 4. Centre Approves Patna Metro Rail Project

In a boost to public transport in the Patna, the centre approved the Patna Metro Rail project comprising of two corridors.

- The two corridors will be Danapur to Mithapur and Patna Railway Station to New ISBT.
- The project will be executed in five years with an estimated cost of Rs. 13,365.77 crore.
- The Danapur Cantt-Mithapur corridor will pass through the Raza Bazar, the Secretariat, the High Court and the Law University Railway Station.
- The Patna Railway Station-ISBT corridor will connect the Gandhi Maidan, PMCH, Patna University, Rajendra Nagar, Mahatma Gandhi Setu, Transport Nagar and ISBT.

## 5. Government signs Rs 700-crore deal to buy 72,000 modern rifles for Indian Army

The Indian government has signed a contract to equip the Indian Army with new assault rifles.

- In the deal India will buy around 72,400 rifles.
- The rifles will be supplied by US arms maker Sig Sauer.
- The Sig Sauer SIG716 7.62x51 mm assault rifles will replace Indian-made 5.56x45mm Insas rifles.
- A majority of these rifles are for the Indian Army (66,000), the remaining will be divided between Indian Navy (2,000) and the Indian Air Force (4,000).

## 6. 5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019 begins in Bhubaneswar



The 5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019 begins in Bhubaneswar.

- The two-day event is a joint initiative of the Government of India, Government of Odisha and the World Bank.
- This Conference is part of the series of Dam Safety Conferences organised in Chennai (2015), Bengaluru (2016), Roorkee (2017), and Thiruvananthapuram (2018).
- Over 725 delegates comprising dam owners, policy makers, and dam professionals, scientists, academia etc. are participating in this conference.

## 2. The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan scheme implemented from 15 February

The Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan scheme implemented from 15 February.

- Under the scheme, workers of the unorganised sector will receive a minimum assured pension of 3,000 rupees per month after attaining the age of 60 years.
- The workers whose monthly income is 15 thousand rupees per month or less and belong to the entry age group of 18 to 40 years are eligible for the scheme.

### Points to Remember

- This scheme was announced in the interim Budget 2019.

## 1. PM Narendra Modi flags off India's fastest train Vande Bharat Express

India's first semi-high speed train, the Vande Bharat Express, was flagged off by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from the New Delhi Railway Station.

- The train will travel from Delhi to Varanasi in nine hours and forty-five minutes. This includes stoppage time of 40 minutes each at Kanpur and Allahabad.
- The train had been produced indigenously at the Integral Coach Factory, Chennai.
- The bookings for the train have begun and it will run commercially from February 17 from Delhi to Varanasi.

## 2. PM Modi lays foundation for Rs 20,000 crore defence corridor in UP

Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation of the flagship Bundelkhand Defence Industrial Corridor in Jhansi district of Uttar Pradesh.

- The project is expected to cost around Rs 20,000 crore.
- The defence corridor from Jhansi to Agra will strengthen the defence production in the country and stop migration.
- The mega project would have span 6 nodes at Aligarh, Agra, Jhansi, Kanpur, Lucknow and Chitrakoot.

### Points to Remember

- India had taken the decision to establish two defence corridors in the country, one at Tamil Nadu and the other in Uttar Pradesh.

## 3. National Conference on "Sustainable and Environment-friendly Industrial Production"



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) organised a conference on Sustainable and Environment-friendly Industrial Production (SEIP) Project in New Delhi.

- Ministry organized this conference for dissemination of results, successful models and experiences so as to enable replication

and plan further actions with state agencies on Pan-India basis.

- The project worked directly with companies and advised them on environment friendly production and wastewater management in 5 industrial areas in three states (Delhi, Uttarakhand and Gujarat).
- Amongst 70 participants included representatives from 18 State Pollution Control Boards and 8 State Industrial Departments.

#### 4. Sushma Swaraj on four-day visit to Bulgaria, Morocco & Spain



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj is on a four-day visit to Bulgaria, Morocco and Spain.

- She start her tour with a visit to Bulgaria where she will meet with the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of the country.
- In Morocco, the External Affairs Minister will interact with her counterpart Nasser Bourit.
- In Spain, Mrs Swaraj will hold a bilateral meeting with her counterpart Josep Borrell Fontelles to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual concern.

#### Points to Remember

- Capital and currency of the above mentioned nations are as follow:
- **Bulgaria:** Sofia, Bulgarian lev
- **Morocco:** Rabat, Moroccan dirham
- **Spain:** Madrid, Euro

#### 5. Union Minister Arun Jaitley assumes charge as Finance Minister

Union Minister Arun Jaitley has assumed the charge of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

- The charge of the Ministries was given to Union Minister Piyush Goyal on a temporary basis on the 23rd of January.
- Jaitley, who left for New York last month, returned home last week after undergoing medical treatment.

#### 6. IRS officer PC Mody takes charge as new CBDT chairman

IRS officer Pramod Chandra Mody took over as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT).

- Mody is a 1982-batch Indian Revenue Service officer.
- He has been appointed in place of Sushil Chandra, who was named as Election Commissioner.
- Mody has worked in various capacities in the I-T Department and has been working as the Member in the CBDT.
- The CBDT is headed by a chairman and can have a maximum of six members.

#### 1. Indian Air Force carries out exercise in Pokhran



Indian Air Force demonstrated its full combat and fire capabilities during 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-2019' in the Pokhran firing range.

- The exercise involves around 140 fighter jets and attack helicopters.
- In the exercise, the IAF showcased firepower capability of indigenously-developed platforms like Light Combat Aircraft, Tejas, Advanced Light Helicopter and efficacy of Akash surface-to-air missile and Astra air-to-air missile.
- Cricketer Sachin Tendulkar, who is an honorary Group Captain of the IAF, was also present on the occasion.



## 2. Telangana gets two new districts

The State government announced the creation of two more districts, Narayanpet and Mulugu.

- Now the the number of districts in the State is 33.
- Narayanpet has been carved out of Mahabubnagar district and Mulugu from Jayashankar Bhupalpally.

### Points to Remember

- Capital: Hyderabad
- Governor: E.S.L. Narasimhan
- Chief minister: K. Chandrashekar Rao

## 3. Himachal Assembly passes Bill to make Sanskrit the 2nd official language

Himachal Pradesh Assembly passed Official Language (Amendment) Bill 2019 to make Sanskrit as the second official language of the state.

- The first official language of Himachal is Hindi.
- The Assembly also passed the Himachal Pradesh University of Health Sciences (Amendment) Bill, 2019 to rename as 'Atal Medical and Research University, Himachal Pradesh'.

### Points to Remember

- Capitals: Shimla, Dharamshala (Second Capital in Winter)
- Governor: Acharya Dev Vrat
- Chief Minister: Jai Ram Thakur

## 4. Inland Waterways Authority of India launches LADIS portal



Inland Waterways Authority of India

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a new portal LADIS - Least Available Depth Information System.

- The portal being hosted on IWAI's website [www.iwai.nic.in](http://www.iwai.nic.in) has been developed in-house.
- Initially LAD information will be available for NW-1, NW-2, Indo-Bagladesh Protocol route and NW-3, along with the date of survey.
- The facility will be expanded to other NWs also.

## 2. Andhra Pradesh farmers with less than 5 acres land will get benefit under 'Annadata Sukhibhava scheme'



Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu announced Rs 9000 each to the farmers under Annadata Sukhibhava scheme 2019.

- Under Annadata Sukhibhava scheme 2019, an amount of Rs 9,000 will be given to the farmers having land less than 5 acres.
- This will be in addition to the Rs 6,000 announced by the Central government.
- Effectively, each farmer will get Rs 15,000 per annum.
- Farmers having land more than 5 acres, will be given Rs 10,000. This will be solely by the state government, as the Centre is not giving any aid to farmers having land more than 5 acres

## 3. IBBI organises two day Workshop on "Committee of Creditors: An Institution of Public Faith"

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) organised a two-day workshop on "Committee of Creditors: An Institution of Public Faith" in Mumbai.

- The workshop was jointly organised with the State Bank of India (SBI) and the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs (IICA).
- The Workshop was unique and the First of its kind for the benefit of Financial Creditors who comprise Committee of Creditors (CoC) under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
- 28 Senior Officers (General Managers and Executive Directors) of the major Scheduled Commercial Banks participated in the Workshop.

#### 4. Drones, Balloons Banned In Bengaluru Ahead Of Aero India 2019



Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) or drones, aircraft systems and balloons have been banned in Bengaluru for security reasons during the five-day Aero India 2019 show.

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be participating in show and will be showcase around 250 systems.
- Also, Aircraft manufacturer Boeing will showcase its range of platforms with "advanced capabilities" at the event.
- Boeing would showcase the F/A-18 Super Hornet aircraft, KC-46A Pegasus tanker, AH-64E Apache helicopter, CH-47F Chinook helicopter, and the P-8 aircraft.

#### Points to Remember

- The 12th edition of Aero India 2019, an international aerospace and defence exhibition will be held from 20-24 February at Yelahanka in Bengaluru.
- It is organised once in every two years by the Department of Defence Production, the Ministry of Defence.

#### 1. Rajnath Singh launched pan-India number 112 for women safety

Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) in 16 states and Union territories for women safety.

- Persons in distress can dial a pan-India number: 112.
- Under this system, all the states have to set up a dedicated Emergency Response Centre (ERC).
- A citizen may Press the power button on a smartphone thrice quickly to activate a panic call to ERC.
- In case of a feature phone, long press on number 5 or 9 on the phone keypad will activate the panic call.

#### 2. 10-day long Taj Mahotsav began

The 10-day long Taj Mahotsav started on the theme of "Parampara".

- The Mahotsav is inaugurated on February 18 at Shilpgram, near the Eastern gate of "Taj Mahal" by UP governor Ram Naik and the closing ceremony will be held on February 27.
- Handicraft fair, food stalls and cultural programmes will be organised during the Mahotsav.
- About 325 legendary artisans will participate from different of the country and show their exquisite work of art.

#### 3. Bhopal to host 'Indian History Congress'

The Congress government in Madhya Pradesh has decided to host the 79th Indian History Congress (IHC) in Bhopal.

- The 79th session was earlier supposed to be held at Savitribai Phule Pune University (SPPU) from December 28.
- The three day convention will begin in the city on February 26.
- The IHC is the largest professional and academic body of Indian historians with over 10,000 members.

- It was established in the year 1935.

#### 4. PM Modi flags off 1st ever diesel to electric conversion locomotive



Indian Railways has created history by converting a diesel locomotive into electric locomotive for the first time in the world.

- This all new converted energy-efficient electric locomotive has been flagged off by PM Narendra Modi in Varanasi.
- It has been converted to electric locomotive by the Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Varanasi.
- Diesel Locomotive Works has converted two WDG3A Diesel Locos into a Twin Electric WAGC3 loco of 10,000 HP.
- It is a complete 'Make in India' initiative, the conversion is an Indian R&D innovation for the entire world.

#### 5. Textiles Minister lays Foundation Stone of Hastshilp Complex

Union Minister of Textiles, Smriti Zubin Irani, laid the foundation stone of a Hastshilp Complex in New Delhi.

- The Bhawan will be named Deen Dayal Antarashtriya Hastshilp Bhawan.
- The awardee artisans will be allocated space for marketing their products, on rotation basis, and preference will be given to Divyang artisans.
- Hastshilp Bhawan will have dormitory facilities for handicrafts artisans who will come from all across the country.
- There will be a separate research wing and research will be carried out on endangered crafts and new and emerging handicrafts products and markets.

#### 6. Infosys launches InfyTQ app for engineering students

The country's second-largest IT services firm Infosys launched the 'InfyTQ' app.

- It is a digital platform to offer learning and engagement experiences to engineering students in the country.
- InfyTQ is a free platform open to all engineering students in their third and fourth years across India.
- The platform encourages holistic development by imparting technical as well as professional skills, helping them become industry-ready.

#### 2. World Day of Social Justice: 20 February



Every year 20 February has been declared by the UN as "World Day of Social Justice".

- The purpose of the day is to focus on the plight of social injustice throughout the world and to press for improvements and solutions.
- 2019 theme: If You Want Peace & Development, Work for Social Justice.
- The ILO estimates that currently about 2 billion people live in conflict-affected situations, of whom more than 400 million are aged 15 to 29.

#### 3. India's first fulldome 3D Digital theatre inaugurated



India's first 'fulldome 3D Digital Theatre' at the Science City Kolkata was inaugurated by Union Culture Minister Mahesh Sharma.

- The 'fulldome 3D Digital Theatre' at the Science city is the first of its kind in India having a 23 metre titled dome to offer a fully immersive experience.
- It is the first in the Indian subcontinent where one can feel like touching the water waves or the leaves of a tree during screening.
- The Science City is operated by the National Council of Science Museums under the Ministry of Culture.

#### 4. Patnaik launches Kalia scholarship for farmers' children

Odisha Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik unveiled a scholarship programme for the children of the beneficiaries of the Krushak Assistance for Livelihood and Income Augmentation (Kalia) scheme.

- Eligible children of Kalia scheme beneficiaries can avail assistance to study in more than 13 professional/ technical subjects like MBBS, BDS etc.
- The state government will bear all expenditure including course fees, hostel fees and mess fees under Kalia scholarship.
- Kalia scholarship will ensure that not a single eligible child of Kalia beneficiaries aspiring for technical and professional education, be deprived of his/her dream.

#### 5. 'Aero India 2019' show takes off

The 12th edition of Asia's premier Air show 'Aero India-2019' begins at Yelahanka air force station in Bengaluru.

- The five-day long biennial event, which will showcase India's air defence prowess, will also act as a platform for aviation companies.
- After the tragic death of a pilot from IAF's aerobatic team Surya Kiran during a rehearsal it will not participate in the show.

- The Sukhoi SU-30, Rafale, F-16 Fighting Falcon, F/A-18 Super Hornet and the mighty B-52 Stratofortress bomber will be part of the air show.

#### 6. AntBot, the first walking robot that navigates without GPS



Scientists claim to have developed the first walking robot that can explore its environment and find its way home without GPS or mapping.

- It is equipped with an optical compass used to determine its heading by means of polarised light.
- With the help of an optical movement sensor directed to the Sun, it measure the distance covered.
- Researchers from the French National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) took inspiration from desert ants to design the AntBot.
- Ants use polarised light and ultraviolet radiation to locate themselves in space.

#### 3. Operation Digital Board launched to provide better digital education



Government has launched Operation Digital Board on the lines of Operation Blackboard to provide better digital education in schools.

- Under the initiative seven lakh classrooms of 9th, 10th and 11th standards and two lakh classrooms of colleges and Universities will be equipped with digital boards in the next three years.



- Human Resource Development Minister Prakash Javadekar said that it will convert the monologue classrooms into interactive ones.
- It will also improve the quality of education and offer new opportunities and new ways of teaching and learning.

#### 4. OFB gets clearance for producing 114 long-range artillery gun 'Dhanush'



The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) has received a bulk production clearance from the Indian Army and the Defence Ministry for production of 114 'Dhanush' artillery guns.

- 'Dhanush' is the first long-range artillery gun to be produced in India.
- It is a major success story of the 'Make in India' initiative.
- It is the product of efforts by the OFB and the Army with various contributions.

#### 5. 4TH India-Asean Expo Summit inaugurated in New Delhi

Union Minister of Commerce & Industry and Civil Aviation, Suresh Prabhu inaugurated the 4th India-ASEAN Expo and Summit in New Delhi.

- The 3 day long event is scheduled to take place from 21-23 February, 2019.
- This is a flagship event of Department of Commerce, being organised with FICCI to carry forward the momentum and to further strengthen India-ASEAN relations under the Act-East Policy.

##### Points to Remember

- The Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) comprises of Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, Philippines, Myanmar,

Malaysia, Laos, Indonesia, Cambodia and Brunei.

#### 6. Union Minister inaugurated the 1st Mega Food Park of Tripura

Union Minister of State for Food Processing Industries Sadhvi Niranjan Jyoti inaugurated Sikaria Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd at Village Tulakona in Agartala.

- This is the first Mega Food Park in the state of Tripura.
- The Mega Food Park has been set up in 50 acre of land at the cost of Rs. 87.45 crore.

##### Points to Remember

- To give a major boost to the food processing sector, Ministry of Food Processing Industries is implementing Mega Food Park Scheme in the country.
- Mega Food Parks create modern infrastructure facilities for food processing.

#### 7. Government relaxes Angel Tax Norms for Start-ups



The Union government has liberalised angel tax rules, exempting registered start-ups of a specified size from the tax.

- Investments of up to Rs. 25 crore in an eligible company will be exempt from the angel tax.
- In addition, investments made by a listed company with a networth of at least Rs. 100 crore or a turnover of at least Rs. 250 crore will also be exempt.
- Also an entity shall be considered a startup upto 10 years from its date of incorporation / registration instead of the existing period of 7 years.

### 3. PM Modi on a two-day visit to Seoul



Prime Minister Narendra Modi went to Seoul on a two-day visit to South Korea.

- Mr Modi will hold bilateral talks with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and receive the Seoul Peace Prize.
- He will receive the prize in recognition of his dedication to international cooperation, global growth and human development.
- He addressed the India-Korea Business Symposium and also launched India-Korea Startup Hub in Seoul.

### 4. EPFO hikes interest rate on provident fund



Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO has decided to provide 8.65 per cent interest on Provident Fund deposits for 2018-19 against 8.55 per cent in the last year.

- Labour Minister Santosh Gangwar said in that all members of the Central Board of Trustees of EPFO have agreed to give a higher interest for subscribers for the current fiscal.
- The proposal will now go to the Finance Ministry for approval.

### 5. Home Ministry orders pan-India survey to assess impact of police services

Ministry of Home Affairs has commissioned the Bureau of Police Research and Development to

conduct a pan-India survey called, All India Citizens Survey of Police Services.

- The survey will be conducted through the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.
- The aim is to understand public perceptions about Police, gauge the level of non-reporting of crimes or incidents to Police, timeliness and quality of police response and action.
- The survey commencing next month will cover a representative sample of 1.2 lakh households spread over 173 districts across the country.

### 6. UP CM launches Scheme for Adolescent girls

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched Scheme for Adolescent girls.

- The scheme focuses on girls aged between 11 to 14 years who have left studies and will take steps for proper nutrition and special care for them.
- The state government also decided to observe Adolescent girls day on 8th of every month at Anganwadi centres across the state.
- State Government will also launch Nutrition Campaign for the adolescent girls on 8th March.

### 3. New Tyrannosaur species helps explains the rise of T-rex

Scientists have discovered a new species of tiny tyrannosaur which helps explain how the dinosaurs evolved from small, speedy hunters, into the bone-crushing apex predators that we know.

- The species called *Moros intrepidus* is a small tyrannosaur who lived about 96 million years ago.
- *Moros* is tiny by comparison to an standing only three or four feet tall at the hip, about the size of a modern mule deer.
- The bones of *Moros* revealed the origin of T rex's lineage on the North American continent.

#### 4. Justice Uma Nath Singh takes oath as first Lokayukta of Nagaland

Justice Uma Nath Singh took the oath of office as the first Lok Ayukta of Nagaland.

- Nagaland Governor PB Acharya administered the oath to him at a function held at Raj Bhavan.
- Justice Uma Nath Singh was a former Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court.
- He will hold the office for a term of five years or till he attains the age of 70 years whichever is earlier.

#### 5. India's first RoboCop: KP Bot



Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan inaugurated the humanoid police robot at the police headquarters in the state.

- The robot is named as 'KP Bot' and has been introduced as Sub Inspector.
- Now, the Kerala Police Headquarters has become the first in the country to use a robot for police work.
- Director general of police (DGP) Loknath Behra said that the aim of this Bot is to introduce technology into policing

#### 6. PM Modi approves KUSUM scheme

The government approved the launch of the Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan (KUSUM) with a central aid of Rs 34,000 crore.

- The scheme will provide financial and water security to farmers through harnessing solar energy capacities of 25.75 gigawatts (GW) by 2022.

- The scheme will have a substantial environmental impact in terms of savings of CO2 emissions.
- The proposed scheme consists of three components :
- 10,000 megawatts (MW) of decentralised ground mounted grid-connected renewable power plants (Component-A)
- Installation of 17.50 lakh standalone solar powered agriculture pumps (Component-B).
- Solarisation of 10 lakh grid-connected solar powered agriculture pumps (Component-C).

#### 7. NITI Aayog hosts Conference on The Future of Indian Banking

NITI Aayog co-hosted a conference on "The Future of Indian Banking" on February 22, 2019 in New Delhi.

- The conference was organised with Foundation for Economic Growth and Welfare (EGROW Foundation).
- Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice Chairman, NITI Aayog, inaugurated the event.
- The conference aimed to increase and elevate the discourse on the banking sector in India, and help develop insights to inform the continued evolution of the Indian banking sector for optimally supporting the growing credit needs of the Indian economy.

#### 8. HAL hands over three Advanced Light Helicopters to Indian Army

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) handed over first three Advanced Light Helicopters as part of the contract to the Indian Army in the on-going Aero India 2019.

- HAL had entered into a contract with the Indian Army for 40 ALH (22 ALH Mk III and 18 Mk IV Rudra) in August 2017.
- Of the 22 helicopters, 19 helicopters have already been produced and will be progressively delivered.

#### Points to Remember

- The Advanced Light Helicopter (Dhruv) is a multi-role, new generation helicopter in the 5.5-ton weight class, indigenously designed and developed by HAL.

## 2. India invited as 'Guest of Honour' to OIC meet

India has been invited to attend the inaugural meeting of the foreign ministers' conclave of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

- It is for the first time, India has been invited to an Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) meeting as guest of honour.
- The 46th Session of the OIC's Council of Foreign Ministers will be held in Abu Dhabi from March 1 to 2.
- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj will attend it as the 'guest of honour'.
- OIC is a powerful grouping of Muslim majority nations.

### Points to Remember

- Headquarters: Jeddah, Saudi Arabia
- Members: 57

## 3. PM Modi launched PM-KISAN scheme by transferring 1st installment of Rs 2,000 to farmers



Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, PM-KISAN scheme at Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh.

- Mr Modi marked the launch of the PM-KISAN scheme, through press of button, to electronically transfer the first installment of 2 thousand rupees to selected farmers.
- The amount will be transferred directly to the bank account of beneficiaries through Direct Benefit Transfer.

- The amount will be given in three installments of 2 thousand rupees each

### Points to Remember

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana was announced in the interim Budget 2019-20.
- Under the Scheme, Rs 6,000 will be given per year to small and marginal farmer families having combined land holding of up to 2 hectares.

## 4. World's largest bee spotted the first time since 1981

A team of researchers spotted the world's giant bee which is as big as a human thumb, in Indonesia for the first time since 1981.

- Wallace's giant bee, known by the scientific name *Megachile pluto*, is the world's largest bee species.
- It was first discovered in 1859 by the prominent scientist Alfred Russel Wallace and was presumed extinct.

## 3. PM Modi inaugurated the National War Memorial in New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicated the National War Memorial near India Gate in New Delhi.

- It is a tribute to India's soldiers who were martyred post-independence.
- It also commemorates the soldiers who participated and laid down their lives in Peace Keeping Missions and Counter Insurgency Operations.
- Names of 25,942 battle casualties have been inscribed across 16 walls that consist of granite pieces bearing the name, rank and regiment of the fallen heroes.

## 4. GST Council cuts tax on under construction residential houses to 5%





The GST Council slashed tax rates on under-construction housing properties to 5% from the existing 12%.

- The Council also cut GST rates on affordable housing to 1% from the current 8%.
- The new tax rates will come into effect from April 1, 2019.
- The council also altered the definition of affordable housing and said any house built on an area of 60 square metres or less in the metro cities of India will now be categorised as affordable housing.

### 5. National action plan for viral hepatitis launched

Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched the national action plan for viral hepatitis in Mumbai.

- There are estimated 4 crore patients of Hepatitis B and 0.6-1.2 crore patients of Hepatitis C in India, as per the health ministry data.
- The action plan takes forward the National Viral Hepatitis Control Program launched by the Union Health Minister in July 2018.
- The aim of this program is to eliminate hepatitis by 2030.

### 3. Govt launches Rail Drishti Dashboard

Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched Rail Drishti Dashboard in New Delhi.

- The Dashboard has been launched to keep people informed about the work going on in the Railways across the country.
- The customer or railway passenger will get an exposure through this dashboard to the multifaceted transformation underway in Indian Railways across the country.

- This dashboard can be accessed using a desktop/laptop or a mobile device such as a phone or tablet and the url of the dashboard is “[raildrishti.cris.org.in](http://raildrishti.cris.org.in)”.

### 4. 4th Global Digital Health Partnership summit inaugurated

Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare J P Nadda along with Union IT Minister Ravi Shankar Prasad inaugurated the 4th Global Digital Health Partnership Summit in New Delhi.

- The Global Digital Health Partnership is an international collaboration of governments and multinational organisations dedicated to improving the health through the best use of evidence-based digital technologies.
- The summit will provide an opportunity to support governments and health system reformers to improve the health and well-being.
- Health minister also said that nearly 13 lakh poor people have availed the benefits of Ayushman Bharat scheme in India.

### 5. Indra Nooyi joins Amazon Board of Directors

PepsiCo's India-born former CEO Indra Nooyi has joined Amazon's board of directors.

- Nooyi, who stepped down as CEO of Pepsico in October last year, is the second woman to be added on the Amazon's board of Directors.
- Early this month, Starbucks executive Rosalind Brewer joined the Amazon Board.
- Nooyi would be a member of the audit committee.
- She served as the Pepsico CEO from October 2006 to October 2018.

### 2. India successfully test fires QRSAM missiles off Odisha coast

Defence Research and Development Organisation, DRDO, successfully test fired indigenously developed Quick Reach Surface-to-Air missiles, QRSAMs.

- The missiles were tested from ITR Chandipur off the Odisha Coast.
- The two missiles were tested for different altitude and conditions.
- QRSAM uses solid-fuel propellant and has a range of 25-30 km.

### 3. Govt approves construction of 560695 more houses

Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry have approved the construction of 560695 more affordable houses for the benefit of urban poor under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

- The approval was given in the 43rd meeting of the Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee in New Delhi.
- The cumulative number of houses sanctioned under the scheme is now over 79 lakh.
- The number of houses sanctioned for Uttar Pradesh is over one lakh 79 thousand, for Andhra Pradesh one lakh 10 thousand, Maharashtra - over one lakh while Karnataka has been sanctioned over 48 thousand houses.

### 4. Skill Development Minister inaugurates 'Skill Saathi Youth Conclave' in Odisha



Union Skill Development Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has inaugurated the "Skill Saathi Youth Conclave in Bhubaneswar, Odisha.

- The conclave mobilised over 2 lakh candidates who were counselled across 427 locations covering all blocks and urban local bodies, across 30 districts in the state.
- The programme aims to engage more and more people with skill development and inspire youth to make the most of various skill development opportunities in the country.

### 5. Civil Aviation Ministry organising 'Aviation Conclave 2019' in New Delhi



The Ministry of Civil Aviation, in association with Airports Authority of India, AAICLAS and Confederation of Indian Industry, is organizing the Aviation Conclave 2019 in New Delhi.

- The theme of this event is "Flying for All".
- This Conclave is about the future of Indian aviation.
- It is bringing together industry leaders, government and regulators for setting the tone and propelling India's Vision-2040.
- Over 200 delegates will take part in the discussions.

### 6. India-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise Sampriti – 2019

As part of the ongoing India Bangladesh defence cooperation, a joint military exercise Sampriti-2019 will be conducted at Tangail, Bangladesh from 02 March to 15 March 2019.

- Exercise Sampriti-2019 is important bilateral defence cooperation between India and Bangladesh.
- This will be the eighth edition of the exercise which is hosted alternately by both countries.
- The exercise is aimed to strengthen and broaden the aspects of interoperability and cooperation between the Indian and Bangladesh Armies.

### 1. Andhra Pradesh to get a new Railway zone'



Southern Coast Railway will be a new zone of the Indian Railways.

- This new 18th railway zone of the country and will be headquartered at Visakhapatnam in Andhra Pradesh.
- The new zone will comprise the existing Guntakal, Guntur and Vijayawada divisions that currently fall under the South Central Railway.

#### Points to Remember

- The Indian Railways' operations are currently divided into 17 zones, which are further sub-divided into divisions, each having a divisional headquarter.
- There are a total of 73 divisions at present.

### 2. Assam launches PRANAM Commission

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal had launched the PRANAM Commission for the protection of parents of state government employees.

- PRANAM stands for Parents Responsibility and Norms for Accountability and Monitoring.
- It is the first of its kind Bill in the country.
- It is an effort to protect elderly parents of government employees in their times of need.
- The bill makes it mandatory for state government employees to look after their parents and unmarried differently abled siblings who do not have their own sources of income.

### 3. NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission partners with Adobe

NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Adobe signed a Statement of Intent (SOI) to enhance creativity in ATL Schools.

- According to SOI, Adobe will help in developing creative skills and spreading digital literacy across all Atal Tinkering Labs in India.
- Adobe shall be adopting 100 schools under Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) initiative.
- As a part of AIM, ATLs are being established in more than 5,000 schools in India where students of class 6th to class 12th acquire problem solving and innovation skills, developing innovative solutions.

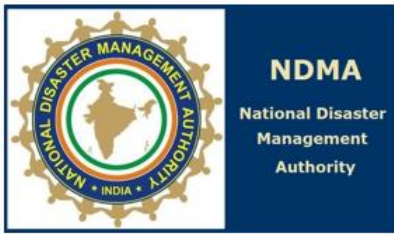
### 4. Union HRD Minister launches the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS)



The Minister for Human Resources Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar has launched the Scheme for Higher Education Youth in Apprenticeship and Skills (SHREYAS) in New Delhi.

- The scheme will provide industry apprenticeship opportunities to the general graduates exiting in April 2019 through the National Apprenticeship Promotional Scheme (NAPS).
- The program aims to enhance the employability of Indian youth by providing on the job work exposure' and earning of stipend.
- SHREYAS portal will enable educational institutions and industry to log in and provide their respective demand and supply of apprenticeship.

### 5. Heat Wave 2019: Workshop on Preparedness begins in Nagpur



A two-day national workshop on Preparedness, Mitigation and Management of Heat Wave begins in Nagpur.

- It is being organised by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra.
- The workshop aims to sensitising States to the need of preparing and implementing specific Heat Action Plans in line with NDMA's national guidelines on Heat Wave.
- The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has indicated the probability of above-normal summer temperatures this year.
- As the temperatures will tend to rise, leading to stronger and longer heat waves.

## 6. National Science Day: 28 February



National Science Day is celebrated on February 28 every year to remember Nobel laureate Sir C V Raman's contribution to the field of science.

- The objective of observation of National Science Day is to spread the message of importance of science and its applications among the people.
- The theme for this year's Science Day is 'Science for the People and the People for Science'.

### Points to Remember

- For his discovery, Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1930.

## 7. India ranks 47th in 'Inclusive' Internet list

India ranked 47th in the overall "Inclusive Internet Index 2019" (3i).

- The index has been prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook.
- Sweden topped the index which was followed by Singapore and the US.
- The index was expanded to include 100 countries which will represent 94% of the world's population and 96% of global GDP.



## 8. Govt announces Rs 6000 per year cash support to small and marginal farmers

Under the scheme called Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Rs 6,000 will be transferred into bank accounts of farmers holding up to 2 hectares of land in three equal instalments.

- This scheme was announced during the Budget speech in Lok Sabha.
- Finance Minister Piyush Goyal said it will benefit 12 crore farmers.
- It will be implemented from the same fiscal.

## 7. RBI Lifts PCA Framework on Three Public Sector Banks

The Reserve Bank of India lifted lending curbs on three out of 11 weak public sector banks (PSBs).

- Bank of India (BoI), Bank of Maharashtra (BoM) and Oriental Bank of Commerce (OBC) are now out of the Prompt Corrective Action (PCA) Framework
- The government had announced a capital infusion of Rs 10,000 crore for Bank of India, Rs 5,500 crore for Oriental Bank of Commerce and Rs 4,500 crore for Bank of



Maharashtra, which helped the banks coming out of the framework.

- Eight public sector banks -- Allahabad Bank, United Bank of India, Corporation Bank, IDBI Bank, UCO Bank, Central Bank of India, Indian Overseas Bank and Dena Bank -- still remain under PCA framework.

## 6. RBI Slaps Rs 3.5 Crore Fine on Corporation Bank, Allahabad Bank

The Reserve Bank has imposed a cumulative penalty of Rs 3.5 crore on state-owned lenders Corporation Bank and Allahabad Bank for violation of various norms.

- Allahabad Bank said the RBI has imposed a penalty of Rs 1.5 crore for not monitoring end use of funds, among other violations.
- Corporation Bank said that RBI has imposed an aggregate penalty of Rs 20 million on our bank due to some lapses in monitoring of end use of funds and exchange of information with other banks .

### Points to Remember

- Earlier this week, RBI had imposed penalties on Axis Bank, UCO Bank and Syndicate Bank for violation of various norms.
- The gross penalties on these three lenders amounted to Rs 5.20 crore.

## 8. RBI penalises banks for violating various norms

Reserve Bank has imposed monetary penalty of two million rupees each on HDFC Bank, IDBI Bank and Kotak Mahindra Bank.

- The fine has been imposed for non-compliance of various Know Your Customer/ Anti-Money Laundering norms.
- RBI also informed that it has imposed monetary penalty of 1.5 Crore rupees each on Allahabad Bank, Bank of Maharashtra and Indian Overseas Bank for non-compliance of norms related to monitoring end use of funds, exchange of information, classification and

reporting of frauds and on restructuring of accounts.

- A penalty of 1 crore rupees was imposed on Andhra Bank for the same reason.

## 7. RBI to give Rs 28,000 cr to Centre as dividend

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will pay Rs 28,000 crore as interim dividend to the government.

- This money will help the Centre meet its revised budget estimates that include an allocation for the first-ever income transfer to farmers.
- With this interim transfer, the government will get a total Rs 68,000 crore from the central bank in the current fiscal.
- The RBI had transferred Rs 40,000 crore to the government in August 2018.
- This will be the highest receipt from RBI in a single financial year for the government, exceeding the Rs 65,896 crore it received in FY16 and Rs 40,659 crore in FY18.

## 6. Britannia to replace Hindustan Petroleum in Nifty 50



Britannia Industries will replace Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in the Nifty 50 index from March 29.

Shares of HPCL dropped 1.54 per cent to Rs 227.40 on NSE.

- Britannia Industries on the other hand gained 1.43 per cent to settle at Rs 3,056 on the bourse.

### Points to Remember

- The NIFTY 50 index is National Stock Exchange of India's benchmark broad.

- Full form of NIFTY is National Stock Exchange Fifty.
- It represents the weighted average of 50 Indian company stocks.

## 7. Inland Waterways Authority of India and Indian Oil Sign MoU



Inland Waterways Authority of India and Indian Oil Sign MoU on Fuel Needs for National Waterways

- The MoU includes jointly developing infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, Natural Gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of National Waterways.
- IWAI and IOCL have agreed to conduct techno-economic feasibility studies for preparation of detailed land requirement, storage facilities and other supporting infrastructure with details of the cost.

### Points to Remember

- As per the National Waterways Act 2016, 106 new National waterways have been declared in addition to existing 5 National Waterways.



## 6. LT Gen Rajeev Chopra takes over as DG NCC

Lt Gen Rajeev Chopra assumed the appointment of Director General of NCC (DGNCC).

- Commissioned in the Madras Regiment in December 1980, Lt Gen Chopra is an

alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun.

- He has been awarded Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for his distinguished service in January 2018.

## 7. Guptaeshwar Pandey appointed as new Bihar DGP



Guptaeshwar Pandey has been appointed as new Director General of Police (DGP) of Bihar.

- He succeeds K S Dwivedi, who retired on 31 January 2019.
- Guptaeshwar Pandey is a 1987 batch IPS officer.
- Prior to this appointment he was DG of Bihar Police Academy and Bihar Military Police.

## 8. Yes Bank appoints Ajai Kumar as interim MD and CEO

Yes Bank has appointed Ajai Kumar as the interim Managing Director (MD) and Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

- Bank has appointed him as Rana Kapoor demits office on January 31.
- Kumar has been the non-executive and non-independent director of the bank since January 2016.
- He will hold the position of interim MD and CEO until Ravneet Gill assumes office as the MD and CEO on March 1, 2019.

## 6. Rishi Kumar Shukla appointed as new CBI director

1983 batch IPS officer of Madhya Pradesh Cadre Rishi Kumar Shukla will be the new Director of Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI.

- He will serve in the post for a period of two years.
- He is appointed weeks after the controversial removal of Alok Kumar Verma from the post.
- Rishi Kumar Shukla has served as the DGP of Madhya Pradesh.

#### 7. IPS officer Rishi Kumar Shukla takes charge as Director of CBI



Rishi Kumar Shukla took charge as the Director of Central Bureau of Investigation, CBI.

- He took charge from M. Nageshwara Rao, who was working as Interim Chief of the Investigation Agency.
- Mr Shukla will serve in the post for a period of two years. The High Level Committee chaired by Prime Minister had approved the appointment of Mr Shukla to the post.

#### Points to remember

- The Central Bureau of Investigation is the premier investigating agency of India. Operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the CBI is headed by the Director.
- It was founded in 1963.

#### 7. P V Bharathi is the new CEO of Corporation Bank



P V Bharathi, executive director of Canara Bank, has now taken charge as managing director and

Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Corporation Bank.

- She is the first woman to serve the bank in this capacity.
- She has been executive director of Canara Bank since September 15, 2016 and served as the firm's general manager in the risk management wing.
- She has been a non-executive director of Can Fin Homes Limited since September 22, 2014 and also served as a director board member of Canbank Venture Capital Limited.

#### 4. Air India chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola has been appointed as Civil Aviation Secretary

The government has appointed Air India chief managing director and Chairperson Pradeep Singh Kharola the secretary of the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

- Kharola will take over from Rajiv Nayan Choubey, who retired on January 31.
- Kharola, an Indian Administrative Services officer of Karnataka cadre from the 1985 batch, was named chairperson of Air India in November 2017.

#### 5. Dinkar Gupta takes over charge of DGP Punjab

Dinkar Gupta has taken over the charge of Director General of the Punjab Police.

- He took over the charge as DGP from Suresh Arora at a simple ceremony at the Punjab Police headquarters at Chandigarh.
- Previously, Gupta was posted as Director General of Police, Intelligence, Punjab.

#### 5. Shane Warne named as brand ambassador of Rajasthan Royals

Australian spinner, Shane Warne has been named the brand ambassador of Rajasthan Royals for the upcoming edition of IPL.

- He led Rajasthan Royals to its first and only IPL title in 2008.
- Also, Rajasthan Royals has decided to change its jersey colour from blue to pink this year.

#### Points to remember

- Rajasthan Royals Captain: Ajinkya Rahane
- Owner: Manoj Badale, Ranjit Barthakur

### 3. US Senate confirms William Barr as Attorney General



William Barr was sworn for second time as the Attorney General of US.

- He will take the helm of the Justice Department as special counsel Robert Mueller investigates Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election.
- Mr. Barr also served as the Attorney General from 1991 to 1993 during President George H.W. Bush's administration.

#### Points to Remember

- The United States Senate is the upper chamber of the United States Congress.

### 4. CBDT Chairman appointed new Election Commissioner



Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes, Sushil Chandra, has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner.

- Mr Chandra is a 1980 batch Indian Revenue Service officer.

#### Points to Remember

- The Election Commission now has Sunil Arora as the Chief Election Commissioner and Ashok Lavasa and Sushil Chandra as fellow commissioners.

### 5. Ashwani Lohani appointed as Air India CMD

Former Railway Board chairman Ashwani Lohani has been appointed chairman and managing director (CMD) of Air India.

- He is a 1980-batch IRSME (Indian Railway Service Mechanical Engineering) officer hailing from Madhya Pradesh.
- Lohani succeeds the 1985-batch Karnataka cadre IAS Pradeep Singh Kharola, who earlier this month was appointed as the civil aviation secretary.
- Lohani was appointed as the Railway Board chairman in August 2017 and retired in December 2018.

### 6. B P Sharma re-employed as Pawan Hans CMD

B P Sharma has been re-employed as the chief of the state-run helicopter manufacturer Pawan Hans.

- The Appointments Committee of has approved re-employment of Sharma for a period of five months.
- Sharma took over as the CMD of Pawan Hans in March 2015.

#### Points to Remember

- About Pawan Hans
- Founded : 1985
- Fleet size : 50(approximately)
- Slogan: We Fly For You
- Headquarters: Noida

### 7. UN appoints Chandramouli Ramanathan as ASG in Management Strategy department



The UN has appointed an Indian official in one of the top most positions in its Department of Management Strategy, Policy and Compliance.

- Chandramouli Ramanathan has been appointed as Controller, Assistant Secretary-General for Programme Planning, Budget and Finance in the management strategy, policy and compliance department.
- He succeeds Bettina Tucci Bartsiotas of Uruguay.
- Ramanathan brings to the position nearly 40 years of executive international experience in diverse organisational settings in finance and budget, management and information technology.

#### 8. Indian Air Force gets its first woman flight engineer



Flight Lieutenant Hina Jaiswal has created history by becoming the first Indian Woman Flight Engineer.

- She achieved the feat after completing the prestigious Flight Engineers' course 112 Helicopter Unit, Air Force Station, Yelahanka.
- Commissioned in January 2015 in the engineering branch of the IAF, she has served as Chief of firing team and battery commander in a frontline Surface to Air Missile squadron.
- Jaiswal, hails from Chandigarh and has completed her Bachelor of Engineering degree from Punjab University.

#### 5. Indian-origin global negotiator appointed director of renowned academic institution in South Africa

An Indian-origin global negotiator has been appointed as the director of a renowned academic institution in South Africa.

- Professor Faizel Ismail will take charge as the director of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance..
- Ismail is known for his role in negotiating major agreements for South Africa., including with the Southern African Customs Union as well as the Trade and Development Agreement with the European Union.
- He is a professor at the UCT's School of Economics.
- He has served as an ambassador to the World Trade Organisation and a senior advisor to the Minister of Trade and Industry.

#### 7. Supreme Court appoints former judge DK Jain as first Ombudsman in BCCI



The Supreme Court has appointed its former judge, Justice D K Jain as the first ombudsman for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

- Justice Jain was the first choice among six former apex court judges whose names were before the court
- The BCCI's new constitution was approved by the apex court on 9 August with certain modifications
- In January 2015, the apex court had appointed a committee headed by retired Justice R.M. Lodha to suggest reforms for the BCCI as well as to determine punishment for those guilty in the IPL spot-fixing case.

#### 6. Brij Bhushan Sharan elected as WFI President



Brijbhushan Sharan Singh has been elected unopposed as President of Wrestling Federation of India.

- This marked the third time that Singh had assumed the post of WFI's president.
- He is also a Member of Parliament from the Kaiserganj constituency of Uttar Pradesh.
- He was the chef-de-mission of the Indian contingent for the Asian Games 2018 held in Jakarta and Palembang.



#### 6. British Academy Film Awards announced



Film "The Favourite" won seven honours in British Academy Film Awards, BAFTA 2019, in London.

- The Favourite won best actress for Olivia Colman and best supporting actress for Rachel Weisz, Outstanding British Film, Original Screenplay, Costume Design, Production Design, Makeup and Hair.
- Also, Netflix production 'Roma' also had a successful night picking up four prizes - best film, best director, best cinematography and best film not in the English language.
- Rami Malek won best actor for playing Freddie Mercury in the film Bohemian Rhapsody.

#### 7. The 61st annual Grammy award highlights

The 61st annual Grammy Awards were announced at Staples Center in New York.

- Former First Lady Michelle Obama made a surprise appearance at the start of the 2019 Grammys.
- The award show was hosted by Alicia Keys.

- At a ceremony dominated by female performers and presenters, Kacey Musgraves won album of the year.
- Cardi B became the first woman to win best rap album as a solo artist.
- Childish Gambino's "This Is America" won four awards and Gaga's "Shallow," from the movie "A Star Is Born," won two awards.

#### 8. 61st Annual Grammy Awards: List of Winners

Some winners from the 61st Annual Grammy Awards are as follows

- Album of the year: "Golden Hour" by Kacey Musgraves
- Record of the year: "This is America" by Childish Gambino
- Best new artist: Dua Lipa
- Best R&B album: "H.E.R." by H.E.R.
- Best rap song: "God's Plan" by Drake
- Best country album: "Golden Hour" by Kacey Musgraves
- Song of the year: "This is America" by Childish Gambino
- Best pop duo/group performance: "Shallow" by Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper

#### 7. Bradley Cooper wins best director from PETA for 'A Star Is Born'

Actor-director Bradley Cooper has won the 'Oscat award from animal rights organisation People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) for directing his dog in A Star Is Born.

- PETA's Film and Television Division awarded Cooper the Oscat award.

#### 8. Siddhartha Lal won the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018



Siddhartha Lal, Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer, Eicher Motors, was named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018 at the 20th edition of the EOY Awards in India.

- Lal will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte Carlo from 6 – 8 June 2019.
- Azim Premji, Chairman of Wipro was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award.
- Kishore Biyani, popularly known as the king of retail was conferred the Business Transformation award.
- Byju Raveendran of Think & Learn (BYJU'S) was conferred the Start-up category award.

### 5. President of India presented Tagore Award

The President of India presented the Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony at Pravasi Bhartiya Kendra, New Delhi.

- The awards were presented to Shri Rajkumar Singhajit Singh; Chhayanaaut (a cultural organization of Bangladesh); and Shri Ram Sutar Vanji for the years 2014, 2015 & 2016 respectively.
- This annual award is given to individuals, associations, institutions or organizations for their outstanding contribution towards promoting values of Cultural Harmony.

### Points to Remember

- Tagore Award for Cultural Harmony was instituted by the Government of India from 2012 recognising the contributions made by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore to humanity.
- It is awarded annually and carries an amount of Rs. One Crore, a citation in a Scroll, a Plaque as well as an exquisite traditional handicraft/handloom item.

### 7. I&B minister presents National Photography Awards

Information and Broadcasting Minister Rajyavardhan Rathore gave away the 7th National Photography Awards.

- These awards were presented to 13 persons in different categories at a function in New Delhi.
- The theme for the Professional category was Women led Development, while the theme for Amateur category was Fairs and Festivals of India.
- Renowned landscape photographer Ashok Dilwali was conferred with lifetime achievement award.
- Photojournalist S.L. Shanth Kumar was awarded in the professional category.
- Photographer Gurdeep Dhiman was awarded in Amateur category.

### 5. Manpreet Singh honoured with AHF's Player of the Year



The Asian Hockey Federation has honoured Indian skipper Manpreet Singh with the 2018 Player of the Year award.

- Women team's striker Lalremsiami has bagged the Rising Player of The Year prize.
- Manpreet led the Indian team to an unbeaten streak at the Asian Champions Trophy in Muscat where the team was declared joint winners with Pakistan.
- He also contributed to the team's silver medal win at the FIH Champions Trophy in Breda.

### 7. Oscars 2019: Full list of winners

The 91st Academy Awards has been announced at the Dolby Theatre in Hollywood.

The full list of winners are:

- **Best Picture:** "Green Book"
- **Best Director:** Alfonso Cuaron for "Roma"
- **Best Actress:** Olivia Colman for "The Favourite"
- **Best Actor:** Rami Malek for "Bohemian Rhapsody"
- **Best Supporting Actress:** Regina King for "If Beale Street Could Talk"
- **Best Supporting Actor:** Mahershala Ali for "Green Book"
- **Best Foreign Language Film:** "Roma" (Mexico)
- **Best Animated Feature Film:** "Spider-Man: Into The Spider-Verse"
- **Best Original Screenplay:** "Green Book"
- **Best Adapted Screenplay:** "BlacKkKlansman"
- **Best Original Score:** "Black Panther"
- **Best Original Song:** "Shallow" from "A Star Is Born"
- **Best Documentary Feature:** "Free Solo"
- **Best Documentary Short Film:** "Period"

## 8. India shines at Oscars, 'Period. End of Sentence' wins Documentary Short Subject

A film on menstruation, set in rural India, titled "Period. End of Sentence," has won the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards.

- Award-winning filmmaker Rayka Zehtabchi has directed the short film
- The film has been co-produced by Indian producer Guneet Monga's Sikhya Entertainment.
- The documentary feature is set in Hapur village outside Delhi, where women lead a quiet revolution as they fight against the deeply rooted stigma of menstruation.

## 7. President presented Gandhi Peace Prize

President Ram Nath Kovind presented the Gandhi Peace Prize for the years 2015, 2016, 2017 & 2018 at Rashtrapati Bhawan, New Delhi.

The recipients of the award are as follows:

- Vivekananda Kendra for the year 2015.

- Akshaya Patra foundation and Sulabh International for 2016.
- Ekal Abhiyan Trust for 2017.
- Yohei Sasakawa for 2018

## Points to Remember

- Gandhi Peace Prize for Social, Economic and Political transformation through Non-violence was instituted in 1995.
- The Award comprises an amount of Rs. One Crore and a Citation.

## 8. PM Modi conferred the National Youth Parliament Awards



Prime Minister Narendra Modi conferred the National Youth Parliament Festival awards to the winners at the Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi.

- This year's theme is "Be the Voice of New India"
- Youth in the age bracket of 18-25 years were invited to participate in the district, state and national level Youth Parliaments.
- The top 3 awardees are as follows, First prize winner Shweta Umre of Maharashtra, 2nd prize winner Anjankshi MS of Karnataka and 3rd prize winner Mamta Kumari of Bihar.
- The best three speakers at the National Youth Parliament were awarded with Rs 2 lakhs, Rs 1.50 lakhs and Rs 1 lakh respectively.





## 9. Indian Captain Mithali Raj becomes 1st female cricketer to play 200 ODIs



Indian captain Mithali Raj became the first female cricketer to play 200 ODI.

- The 36-year-old is also the highest run-getter in ODIs with 6622 runs at an average of 51.33.
- Mithali made her ODI debut way back in 1999 and has featured in 200 games out of the 263 ODIs India have played.

## 8. Smriti Mandhana becomes number 1 in latest ICC women's ODI rankings

Indian opener Smriti Mandhana has climbed three spots in the batters' list to become number one in the latest ICC women's ODI rankings.

- Earlier, she was named ICC Women's Player of the Year 2018.
- Smriti Mandhana has been in supreme form in the 50-over format.

### Points to remember

- In June 2018, the Board of Control for Cricket in India named her as the Best Women's International Cricketer.

## 7. Legendary cricketer Kapil Dev to flag off 'Tridhaatu Navi Mumbai Half Marathon' on 17th Feb

Legendary cricketer and former India skipper Kapil Dev will flag off the 'Tridhaatu Navi Mumbai Half Marathon' on February 17th from Vashi, in Navi Mumbai.

- Well-known marathon coach and ultra-marathon athlete Norrie Williamson is the race director for the event.
- The race will be held in two categories - the half marathon run over a distance of 21.097 kms, where participants above 18 years of age can take part, while another category is the 'Future Generali 10K run, where participants above 16 years of age can participate.

### Points to remember

- Kapil Dev Nikhanj, better known as Kapil Dev, is a former Indian cricketer. He was named by Wisden as the Indian Cricketer of the Century in 2002, Dev captained the Indian cricket team that won the 1983 Cricket World Cup.
- He was India's national cricket coach between October 1999 and August 2000.

## 8. Team India rise to 2nd in ICC ODI rankings

Team India claims the number 2 spot in the ICC ODI rankings after series wins in Australia and New Zealand.

- Captain Virat Kohli and pacer Jasprit Bumrah take the top spots in the batting and bowling rankings.
- India have accumulated 122 points on the back of series wins over Australia and New Zealand and are placed behind England in the fresh list.

### Points to remember

- The ICC ODI Championship is an international One Day International cricket competition run by the International Cricket Council.
- The competition is notional in that it is simply a ranking scheme overlaid on the regular ODI match schedule.

## 6. Latest FIFA rankings released

The Indian football team slipped out of the top 100 in the latest FIFA rankings.

- The change in rank is due to their back to back group league defeats during the AFC Asian Cup in the UAE.
- In the FIFA rankings released, skipper Sunil Chhetri and team slumped six places to be ranked 103 with 1219 points.

## 7. Vidharbha lift Ranji Trophy for second time in a row



Vidharbha lifted their second successive Ranji Trophy title with a comfortable 78-run win over Saurashtra.

- Left arm spinner, Sarwate was adjudged man of the match.
- Vidharbha is only the sixth team in the tournament's long history to have defended the title.

### Points to Remember

- The Ranji Trophy is a domestic first-class cricket championship played in India between teams representing regional and state cricket associations.
- The team that has gained maximum number of Ranji titles is Mumbai (41 titles).

## 8. Mirabai Chanu notched up gold at EGAT Cup in Thailand

World champion Indian weightlifter Saikhom Mirabai Chanu won a gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand.

- Chanu won the 48 kg category gold with an effort of 192 kg in the silver level Olympic qualifying event.
- Points earned from this tournament will come in handy when the final rankings for Tokyo 2020

## 7. Jeremy Lalrinnunga clinches silver in men's 67-kg category

Youth Olympics gold medallist Jeremy Lalrinnunga clinched silver in men's 67-kilogram category.

- It is the India's second medal in the EGAT's Cup International Weightlifting Championships in Chiang Mai, Thailand.
- The promising Mizoram weightlifter was behind the gold winner, Deni of Indonesia.

### Points to Remember

- Previously, world champion Saikhom Mirabai Chanu had won a gold in the women's 48-kilogram category with a total lift of 192 kilograms.

## 6. India's young paddlers clinch four medals



In Table Tennis, India's young paddlers clinching four medals include a gold, at the Bahrain Junior and Cadet Open tournament in Manama.

- Besides the gold, India won two silver and a bronze.
- In the final, the India-A team of Suhana Saini and Anargya Manjunath proved too strong for India-B and clinched the Gold.
- In the Junior girls' competition, the Indian team of Manushree Patil and Swastika Ghosh beat three teams before losing to eventual champions Russia to settle for a Silver

## 9. France's Corentin Moutet wins Chennai Open ATP challenger



France's Corentin Moutet beat Andrew Harris of Australia to win the title in Chennai Open ATP Challenger tennis tournament.

- It was the second Challenger title for Moutet, who received USD 7,200 and 80 ATP points.
- The runner up Andrew received USD 4,240 and 48 ATP points.
- India's campaign was ended when top seed Prajnesh Gunneswaran and Sasikumar Mukund bowed out after losing their respective Singles semi-final matches.

## 7. Senior National Badminton championship begin in Guwahati



The 83rd edition of Senior National Badminton Championship begin in the Assamese city of Guwahati.

- Defending champion Saina Nehwal and last edition's runner-up PV Sindhu will be the biggest attractions in Women's Singles.
- This is the first time the Nationals is returning to the North-East since Guwahati last hosted it in 2010.

## 8. Prajnesh Gunneswaran breaks into men's singles top 100

Prajnesh Gunneswaran has made it to the top-100 of Men's Singles Tennis rankings.

He ranked 97 with a jump of six places.

- Prajnesh is the third Indian player to break into the top-100 barrier after Somdev Devvarman and Yuki Bhambri.
- He reached the semifinals of the ATP Chennai Challenger last week to ensure his entry into the coveted bracket.

## 7. Clouded leopard to be mascot of National Games 2022



Meghalaya State animal clouded leopard is chosen to be the mascot for the National Games 2022.

- The decision was taken at the first National Games 2022 executive committee meeting, chaired by Meghalaya Sports and Youth Affairs Minister Banteidor Lyngdon.
- Clouded leopard is a wild cats living throughout the forests of Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills.
- The games coincide with the 50th year of the creation of the State.

## 6. Vidarbha beat Rest of India to retain Irani Cup

Ranji champions Vidarbha beat Rest of India in Nagpur to retain the Irani Cup.

- Vidarbha has now become the third team after Mumbai and Karnataka to clinch two Irani Cup titles in a row.
- Vidarbha captain Faiz Fazal announced that the entire prize money will be donated to the families of the CRPF personnel martyred in Pulwama terror attack.

## 7. Saina Nehwal won her women's title at the Yonex-Sunrise Senior Nationals

Saina Nehwal won her fourth title at the Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior Nationals.

- She defeated P.V.Sindhu.
- Sourabh Verma completed a hat-trick of titles, claiming the men's singles crown after defeating young Lakshya Sen.
- The pair of Pranaav Jerry Chopra and Chirag Shetty outclassed top seed duo Arjun M.R and Shlok Ramachandran to clinch the Men's Doubles title.

#### 6. Chris Gayle announces retirement from One-day Internationals



West Indian batsman Chris Gayle has announced that he will retire from One-day Internationals after the forthcoming World Cup.

- The 39-year old left-hander has scored 9,727 ODI runs, second only to the legendary Brian Lara among West Indians in 284 matches.
- He needs 677 more runs to surpass Lara, he will be hoping to achieve at his fifth World Cup.

#### Points to Remember

- The World Cup will be held in England and Wales from 30th May till 14th July.

#### 7. Elise Mertens wins Qatar Open title beating Simona Halep

Belgium's Elise Mertens claimed the biggest win of her career after beating world number three Simona Halep to clinch the Qatar Open.

- She won the match by 3-6, 6-4, 6-3, despite being outclassed in the first set.
- She overcame after an eight-minute medical timeout for back pain in the second set, and

losing 18 consecutive points at one stage in the match.

- This is world number 21 Mertens' first-ever WTA Premier-level crown, and the fifth title of her career overall.

#### 8. ICC Test rankings: Kohli remains on top; Pujara holds on to his 3rd spot

India Captain Virat Kohli remained on top while teammate Cheteshwar Pujara managed to hold on to his third position in the latest ICC Test Cricket rankings.

- Kohli is leading the chart with 992 rating points ahead of New Zealand skipper Kane Williamson with 897 points and Pujara with 881.
- Besides Kohli and Pujara, no other Indian feature in the top 10 list.
- In the bowlers' list, Australia fast bowler Pat Cummins has overtaken Kagiso Rabada to grab the top spot.
- India's Ravindra Jadeja is placed at the fifth spot with 794 points.

#### 8. Jitendra Singh wins National Race Walking Championship



Jitendra Singh Rathore claimed the top honours in the men's 50km race walk competition at the 6th National Open Race Walking Championships that concluded in Chennai

- The Rajasthan athlete clocked a time of 4:23.23. and beat out Gujarat's Joshi Sagar who registered 4:24.21 to take the silver medal
- The National Open Race Walking Championships were meant to serve as an opportunity to qualify for the Athletics World Championships to be held in Doha in September this year



- Suraj Panwar of Uttarakhand won the boys 10km race.
- The gold medal in the girls 10km race was clinched by Roji Patel of Uttarakhand.

### 8. Nikhat, Meena win gold medals at Strandja Memorial Boxing



Nikhat Zareen and Meena Kumari Devi became the first Indian women boxers to win gold medals at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria.

- Zareen claimed a 5-0 win in the 51kg category finals against Filipino Irish Magno.
- Devi defeated Filipino Aira Villegas 3-2, in the 54kg summit clash.
- However, Manju Rani (48kg) settled for a silver after a defeat from Philippine's Josie Gabuco in a split 2-3 verdict.

### 8. ISSF Shooting World Cup gets underway in New Delhi

The ISSF (International Shooting Sports Federation) World Cup 2019 gets underway in New Delhi today.

- Various events in the World cup will start from February 23rd and end on 27th at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range.
- The tournament will have 16 Tokyo 2020 Olympics quota places up for grabs.
- India are fielding a 23-member squad with 11 shooters in the non-competition Minimum Qualification Score (MQS) category.
- Overall, Around 503 shooters from 58 countries will be competing for top honours with eight of the 10 events offering Olympic quota places.

### 6. Apurvi Chandela wins gold in women's 10m air rifle

Apurvi Chandela has won the gold medal in the women's 10-metre air rifle event at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

- This is India's first medal of the ISSF World Cup 2019.
- She set a new world record by registering a score of 252.9 points in the final.
- The tournament will now offer 14 quotas for the 2020 Olympic Games instead of the original 16.

### 9. Saurabh Chaudhary clinches gold in 10m air rifle at Shooting World Cup



Saurabh Chaudhary has clinched the country's second gold medal at the ongoing ISSF World Cup at the Dr. Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.

- Saurabh, who had already won gold medals at Youth Olympics and Asian Games gold, attained the top spot in the 10m air pistol event of the World Cup.
- Saurabh shot a total of 245 (World Record) to claim the top spot.
- He has also booked a spot in the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

### 8. Abhijeet Gupta lifts Cannes International Open trophy



In Chess, Indian Grandmaster Abhijeet Gupta lifted the Cannes International Open trophy.

- He took an easy draw with Pier Luigi Basso of Italy in the ninth and final round.
- Abhijeet won the tournament with 7.5 points.
- This is his first solo International tournament victory.
- Earlier this year, Abhijeet had also tied for the first place at the Delhi International open in January.

### 8. Sanath Jayasuriya banned from cricket for two years

Former Sri Lanka Cricket captain Sanath Jayasuriya has been banned from cricket for two years.

- Jayasuriya admitted to breaching two counts of the ICC Anti-Corruption Code.
- The charges include refusal to cooperate with an Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) investigation, obstructing or delaying the investigation, including concealing, tampering with or destroying any documentation or other relevant information.
- Sri Lankan cricket has been under investigation by ICC for last few years.
- Jayasuriya served as chair of the selection committee during 2016-17 during which team performance dipped and has remained uneven since then.

### 9. Manu, Saurabh clinch 10m Air Pistol Mixed Team gold

In shooting, the duo of Saurabh Chaudhary and Manu Bhaker claimed a gold medal for India in 10-metre air pistol mixed team event at the ISSF World Cup.

- They shot a total of 483.5 points to finish on top position at the Dr Karni Singh Shooting Range in New Delhi.
- India jointly topped the standings with Hungary in the ISSF World Cup claiming three gold medals.

**Points to Remember**

- The tournament offered 14 quota places for the 2020 Tokyo Games.
- India managed to secure only one Olympic quota.



### 8. BJD MP Ladu Kishore Swain passes away



Biju Janata Dal (BJD) MP from Aska Lok Sabha constituency in Odisha, Ladu Kishore Swain passed away.

- Swain was member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly from 2004 to 2009. He was elected to the 16th Lok Sabha in May 2014
- He also served as member of several committees— Standing Committee on Rural Development, Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes and Consultative Committee of Ministry of Labour and Employment.

### 8. Oscar-nominated British actor Albert Finney dies at 82

Oscar-nominated British actor Albert Finney has died aged 82.

- He passed away peacefully after a short illness with those closest to him by his side.
- He was a five-time Oscar nominee who began his career at the Royal Shakespeare Company before making his mark in film.
- His big film break came as "angry young man" Arthur Seaton in Saturday Night and Sunday Morning.

- He went on to star in Tom Jones, as Hercule Poirot in Murder on the Orient Express, Erin Brockovich and Skyfall.

### 8. Eminent writer, ex-Goa deputy speaker Vishnu Wagh pass away

Veteran writer and former deputy speaker of Goa Legislative Assembly Vishnu Wagh died in South Africa.

- Wagh was a member of the Goa Legislative Assembly from St Andre constituency between 2012 and 2017.
- He was the chairman of the state-run Goa Kala Academy.
- Wagh has written over 20 plays in Marathi, three sangeet natak, 18 Konkani plays and 16 one-act plays. He has directed over 50 plays in Konkani and Marathi.

### 9. Climate scientist Wallace Smith Broecker passes away in New York



Climate scientist Wallace Smith Broecker, who popularised the term "global warming" has passed away in New York.

- Broecker brought "global warming" into common use with a 1975 paper that correctly predicted rising carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere would lead to pronounced warming.
- Broecker was also first to recognize what he called the Ocean Conveyor Belt, a global system of ocean currents circulating water and nutrients.
- He was known in science circles as the "Grandfather of Climate Science".

### 8. Hindi writer and critic Namvar Singh pass away



Namvar Singh, one of contemporary Hindi literature's greatest writers and critics, has died after prolonged illness.

- His notable writings include "Chhayavaad", "Itihas Aur Alochan", "Kahaani Nayi Kahaani", "Kavita Ke Naye Pratimaan", "Dusri Parampara Ki Khoj".
- He also worked as a professor in his alma mater BHU as well as Jodhpur university and Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).
- Singh served as the editor of two Hindi magazines, Janyug and Alochan.

## February Monthly Quiz

Q. Recently Air India resumes its services from New Delhi to which of the following city of Iraq?

- Baghdad
- Mosul
- Najaf**
- Basrah
- Ramadi

Q. Who among the following has been sworn in as new Malaysian King?

- Sultan Muhammad V
- Sultan Abdullah**
- Barham Salih
- Masoud Barzani
- Jalal Talabani

Q. The central banks of the UAE and Saudi Arabia have launched a common digital currency called \_\_\_\_\_.

Rubel

Litecoin

**Aber**

Ripple

Ethereum

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the Director General of NCC?

Sudhir Pratap Singh

Arvind Ranjan

Surjeet Singh Deswal

**Rajeev Chopra**

Jyoti Krishan Dutt

Q. The Defence Acquisitions Council approved indigenous construction of \_\_\_\_\_ submarines worth 40 thousand crore rupees.

4

5

**6**

7

8

Q. The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has approved the construction of about \_\_\_\_\_ more affordable houses under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban).

**4.78**

3.22

5.67

8.63

2.33

Q. Who among the following became the first female cricketer to play 200 ODI?

Poonam Yadav

**Mithali Raj**

Harmanpreet Kaur

Smriti Mandhana

Jhulan Goswami

Q. Govt has announced \_\_\_\_\_ per year cash support to small and marginal farmers Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi?

4,000

5,000

**6,000**

7,000

8,000

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as new Director General of Police of Bihar?

**Gupteshwar Pandey**

Sanjeev Gupta

Rishi Kumar Shukla

Anil Kumar Raturi

Suresh Arora

Q. When did Indian cricketer Mithali Raj made her ODI debut?

1998

**1999**



2003	25 Lakh
2005	<b>30 Lakh</b>
2009	35 Lakh
	40 Lakh
Q. The United States is suspending its compliance with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) with which of the following country?	Q Under 'Pradhan Mantri Shram-Yogi Maandhan' the government shall provide an assured monthly pension of Rs._____
China	Rs. 2000
India	Rs. 1000
<b>Russia</b>	Rs. 5000
England	<b>Rs. 3000</b>
Germany	Rs. 4000
Q. The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty was signed in the year _____.	Q. Under union Budget 2019-20 government has pegged the fiscal deficit for the year 2019-20 at _____.
1956	3.3%
<b>1987</b>	<b>3.4%</b>
1999	4.3%
1947	3.6%
1977	3.9%
Q. Individuals having an income of upto _____ won't pay any tax.	Q. According to Union budget, Government allocates _____Crore for Railways in 2019-20.
2.5 Lakh	Rs.94,547 Crore
3.5 Lakh	<b>Rs.64,587 Crore</b>
<b>5 Lakh</b>	Rs.44,317 Crore
5.5 Lakh	Rs.83,177 Crore
6 Lakh	Rs.14,541 Crore
Q. In Union Budget 2019, the Gratuity limit has been increased to_____.	
20 Lakh	

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the as the interim Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Yes Bank?

Rana Kapoor

**Ajai Kumar**

Anshu Jain

Indra Nooyi

Chanda Kochhar

Q. According to Union Budget 22nd AIIMS will be setup in which of the following state?

Uttar Pradesh

Uttarakhand

**Haryana**

Punjab

Gujarat

Q. The Reserve Bank of India lifted lending curbs on 3 PSBs. Which of the following bank is one of those 3 banks?

**Bank of India**

Allahabad Bank

United Bank of India

Corporation Bank

IDBI Bank

Q Who among the following is the Governor of West Bengal?

**Keshari Nath Tripathi**

Lalji Tandon

Satya Pal Malik

Ganga Prasad

Kalyan Singh

Q. Who among the following is appointed as the new director of CBI?

Radha Vinod Raju

Y.C.Modi

Sharad Kumar

**Rishi Kumar Shukla**

Chandra Sinha

Q. Manoj Sinha released a special postage stamp on the occasion of \_\_\_\_\_.

Republic Day

Kumbh Mela

Gandhi Jayanti

State Art Festival

Guru Nanak Birth Anniversary

Q. The 2019 Ardh Kumbh Mela being held at which of the following cities ?

Nasik

**Prayagraj**

Haridwar

Ujjain

Kanpur

Q. The 20th Bharat Rang Mahotsav has been inaugurated in \_\_\_\_\_.

**New Delhi**

Prayagraj

Mumbai

Indore

Kolkata

Q. The Kala Ghoda Arts Festival begins in which of the following cities?

New Delhi

Prayagraj

**Mumbai**

Indore

Kolkata

Q. Which of the following has been declared as state aquatic animal of Punjab?

Turtle

**Indus River dolphin**

Indus Golden Fish

Indus Crab

Fresh water Prawns

Which of the following is the state animal of Punjab?

One-horned rhinoceros

**Black Buck**

Sangai

Wild horse

Indian Elephant

Q. What is the theme of 2019 Kala Ghoda Arts Festival?

**Retrospection**

Women Empowerment

Climate change

Save Girl Child

Young Generation

Q. What is the number of Legislative Assembly seats in West Bengal?

330

248

138

**295**

199

Recently who has been appointed as the chief of Central Bureau of Investigation?

**Rishi Kumar Shukla**

K. Vijay Kumar

Walter Devaram

C. Sylendra Babu

None of these

2. Who has got top position in the ICC ODI rankings for batswomen?

**Smriti Mandhana**

Ellyse Perry

Aussie Meg Lanning

Mithali Raj

Harman Preet Kaur

3. On which date World Cancer day is celebrated?

01 February

02 February

03 February

**04 February**

05 February

4. Central Bureau of Investigation comes under which ministry?

Ministry of Home Affairs

Ministry of Human Resource Development

Ministry of External Affairs

**Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**

Ministry of Commerce and Industry

5. Which of the following inaugurated the Andhra Pradesh High Court new building at Amaravathy, recently?

President

Prime Minister

**Chief Justice of India**

Vice President

Home Minister

6. Which of the following is the largest peninsula in the world?

Deccan (Indian) Peninsula

**Arabian Peninsula**

Iberian Peninsula

Korean Peninsula

Scandinavia

7. ISRO to launch its 40th communication satellite GSAT-31 on Feb 6 from which station?

Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre, Kerala

Satish Dhawan Space Centre (Sriharikota), Andhra Pradesh

Abdul Kalam Island

**French Guiana**

None of these

8. Survey Design and Research Division (SDRD) of NSSO is located in which city?

New Delhi

**Kolkata**

Bangalore

Hyderabad

Greater Noida

9. Which of the following American President signed The Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF Treaty) with Russia?

**Ronald Reagan**

Bill Clinton

George H. W. Bush

Richard Nixon

Barack Obama

10. Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), which is in news recently, is related to which of the following animals?

**Pig**

Cow

Buffalo

Goat

Lion

First State Level Awareness Programme on Agri Export Policy was recently held in which city?



New Delhi

**Pune**

Bangalore

Jaipur

Bhopal

2. Where is the headquarters of World Trade Organization?

London

Paris

**Geneva**

New York

Washington D C

3. Which of the following city is the venue of Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) meet on Disaster Risk Management?

Raipur

Kochi

**New Delhi**

Hyderabad

Chennai

4. Which of the following erstwhile Centrally Sponsored Schemes were subsumed in Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan?

Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)

Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA)

Teacher Education (TE)

Only 1 and 2

**1, 2 and 3**

5. In which year National Ganga River Basin Authority was founded?

2005

2006

2008

**2009**

2012

6. Which of the following team is on first spot in ICC ODI rankings?

Australia

**England**

India

South Africa

West Indies

7. The World Heritage Centre (WHC) would be set up at which of the following states?

Agra

**Kolkata**

Ajmer

Mumbai

New Delhi

8. Which state government has launched the 2nd phase of Pasupu-Kumkuma scheme?

Odisha

Telangana

**Andhra Pradesh**

Karnataka

Goa

9. Which of the following states has recently declared Indus river dolphin as the state's aquatic animal?

Haryana

**Punjab**

Himachal Pradesh

Jammu and Kashmir

Uttar Pradesh

10. Alaa Mashzoub, who was recently shot dead, was the renowned novelist of which country?

Iran

**Iraq**

Pakistan

Bangladesh

UAE

Q. Recently with which of the following country India have joined hands for cooperation on Water and Waste Management?

Russia

**Germany**

France

South Africa

China

Q. Recently which of the following country signed an accord to join NATO to become the 30th member of the US-led alliance?

Cuba

Brazil

Mexico

**Macedonia**

France

Q. NATO was established in which of the following year?

1972

**1949**

1932

1903

1974

Q. Recently with which of the following Indian Coast Guard signed an MoU for coordination in the aeronautical and maritime search and rescue operations?

Bharat Heavy Electricals

**Airports Authority of India**

Indian Oil Corporation

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited

Bhabha Atomic Research Centre

Q. Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana was launched in the year \_\_\_\_\_.

2015

2016

2017

**2018**

2019

Q. Smriti Irani launched the India Size project in which of the following cities?

**Mumbai**

New Delhi

Indore

Surat

Chennai

Q. According to the new bi-monthly monetary policy RBI has reduced the repo rate to \_\_\_\_\_ percent.

6.00

**6.25**

6.5

6.75

7.00

Q. RBI has increased the the limit of collateral free agricultural loans to\_\_\_\_\_.

1 Lakh

1.5 Lakh

**1.6 Lakh**

1.9 Lakh

2 Lakh

Q. Recently the Union Home Ministry has banned which of the following organisation in J&K under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

Harkat-ul-Jihad al-Islami

**Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen**

Lashkar-e-Taiba

Jaish-e-Mohammed

Hizbul Mujahideen

Q. The Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen (TuM) with the objective of “liberation of Kashmir” came into existence in which of the following year?

1970

1980

**1990**

2000

2010

Q. The 5th India-Bangladesh Joint Consultative Committee Meeting held at which of the following cities?

Mumbai

Patna

**New Delhi**

Chennai

Kolkata

Q. According yo latest FIFA ranking, India ranked \_\_\_\_\_.

98

**103**

113

108

110

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as as Civil Aviation Secretary?

**Pradeep Singh Kharola**

Rono Dutta

Vinay Dube

Jehangir Wadia

Ajay Singh

Q. Which of the following team has gained maximum number of Ranji titles?

Delhi

**Mumbai**

Vidarbha

Saurashtra

Punjab

Q. Recently which of the following team has won the Ranji trophy?

Delhi

Mumbai

**Vidarbha**

Saurashtra

Punjab

Q. Who among the following has won a gold medal at the EGAT Cup in Thailand?

**Mirabai Chanu**

Manika Batra

Vinesh Phogat

Heena Sidhu

Sushil Kumar

Q. Who among the following has taken over the charge of Director General of the Punjab Police?

O.P. Singh

**Dinkar Gupta**

Sul Khan Singh

Gupteshwar Pandey

Rishi Kumar Shukla

Q. Which of the following city police commissioner launched mobile App 'DigiCop' of the city police?

Chandigarh

**Chennai**

New Delhi

Mumbai

Kolkata

Q. Recently launched 'DigiCop' app will help people to\_\_\_\_\_.

**Verify IMEI numbers**

Provide Driving License

Provide home to rural people

Allocation of police stations

Application for new passport

Q. NASA declared which of the following year as the fourth warmest year since 1980?

2016

2017

**2018**

2019

2015

Q. Jammu & Kashmir approved creation of a separate Administrative/ Revenue Division of which of the following?

**Ladakh region**

Poonch region

Rajouri region

Kathua region

Udhampur region



Q. The three-day Krishi Kumbh is being organised at which of the following places?

Patna

**Motihari**

Prayag Raj

Ujjain

Kolkata

Q. The Voter Helpline number is\_\_\_\_\_.

1990

1881

**1950**

1110

2222

Q. Who among the following is the current Chief Election Commissioner of India?

**Sunil Arora**

Achal Kumar Jyoti

Om Prakash Rawat

Shaktikanta Das

Dilip Chenoy

Q. Which of the following country will host the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS)?

China

Nepal

**India**

Bangladesh

Sri Lanka

Q. India has been a part of conservation of migratory species of wild animals (CMS) since \_\_\_\_\_.

1990

**1983**

2016

2000

1945

Q. Recently, the central government has launched a dedicated Conservation Project for which of the following animals?

Bengal Tiger

Indian rhinoceros

**Asiatic Lion**

Blackbuck

Wild Water Buffalo

Q. Along with Corporation Bank, RBI imposed 3.5 crore fine on which of the following bank?

**Punjab National Bank**

State Bank of India

Bank Of Baroda

Canara Bank

IDBI Bank

Q. Recently who among the following clinched silver in men's 67-kilogram category in EGAT's Cup International Weightlifting Championships?

Saurabh Chaudhary

**Jeremy Lalrinnunga**

Vinesh Phogat

Amit Panghal

Manu Bhaker

Q. Recently Albert Finney passed away. He was a famous\_\_\_\_\_.

Cricketer

Film Director

**Actor**

Politician

Sports Person

Q. Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan inaugurates 13th PETROTECH 2019 at which of the following locations?

Mumbai

**Greater Noida**

Dehradun

Kanpur

Surat

Q. The festival Basant Panchmi is also celebrated as\_\_\_\_\_.

Ram Navmi

**Saraswati Puja**

Durga Puja

Ganesh Puja

Shivratri

Q. The festival Basant Panchmi is celebrated in the month of\_\_\_\_\_.

**Magh Maas**

Phalguna Maas

Asadha Maas

Jyais̥ṭha Maas

Kartika Maas

Q. Recently, Union Minister for Food Processing Industries Harsimrat Kaur Badal laid foundation stone of a Mega Food Park in \_\_\_\_\_.

Agra

Indore

**Mathura**

Noida

Bhopal

Q. PM Modi lays foundation for Sela Tunnel in which of the following Indian state?

Nagaland

**Arunachal Pradesh**

Manipur

Tripura

Assam

Q. The total length of Sela Tunnel is approximately \_\_\_\_\_.

15.06km

**12.04km**

6.80km

9.00km

14.02km

Q. Surging Silk, Mega Event Held at which of the following location?

Mumbai

**New Delhi**

Dehradun

Kanpur

Surat

Q. Which among the following is the largest producer of silk?

India

**China**

Nepal

Bhutan

Bangladesh

Q. Which among the following is the largest consumer of silk?

**India**

China

Nepal

Bhutan

Bangladesh

Q. In Table Tennis India's paddlers clinched how many gold medals at the Bahrain Junior and Cadet Open tournament in Manama?

**1**

2

3

4

5

Q. Who among the following has been elected as the new chairman of African Union?

Muhammadu Buhari

Omar al-Bashir

**Abdel Fattah el-Sisi**

Cyril Ramaphosa

Andry Rajoelina

Q. Which of the following is the 1st heavy lift helicopters to arrive in Indian Air Force?

Apache

**Chinook**

Rafale

Airbus A400M

Concorde

Q. India had signed a 3 billion dollar deal with which of the following countries for the purchase of 15 Chinook and 22 Apache?

Russia

China

**USA**

France

Germany

Q. Foundation stone for Sree Narayana Guru spiritual pilgrimage circuit has been laid in which of the following states?

Madhya Pradesh

Assam

Tamil Nadu

**Kerala**

Punjab

Q. Recently a Himalayan Cloud Observatory has been set up at which of the following location?

Haridwar

**Tehri**

Nainital

Bhimtal

Chamoli

Q. Which of the following won best actress award at British Academy Film Awards, BAFTA 2019?

**Olivia Colman**

Nicole Kidman

Rose Byrne

Julia Roberts

Rita Ora

Q. Which of the following film won seven honours in British Academy Film Awards, BAFTA 2019, in London?

Coco

Roma

**The Favourite**

Gravity

Kilometer 31

Q. Which of the following has won the Record of the year title at 61st annual Grammy award?

Welcome To The Party

God's Plan

**This Is America**

Girls Like You

Feels Like Summer

Q. How many awards were won by Lady Gaga's "Shallow," from the movie "A Star Is Born," at 61st annual Grammy award?

1

**2**

3

4

5

Q. Who among the following has been named as brand ambassador of Rajasthan Royals?

Anil Kumble

Brett Lee

**Shane Warne**

Rahul Dravid

Sachin Tendulkar

Q Which of the following language has been included as third official court language in Abu Dhabi?

French

Russian

**Hindi**

Chinese

Japanese



Q. Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army is conducting 'Exercise Rahat' in which of the following city?

Pune

**Jaipur**

Bhopal

Patna

Amritsar

Q. Challachitram National Film Festival will be held from March 1 at which of the following city?

Indore

New Delhi

Dehradun

**Guwahati**

Chennai

Q. Union Minister for Food Processing Industries, Harsimrat Kaur Badal inaugurated Cremica Mega Food Park Pvt Ltd. in which of the following districts of Himachal Pradesh?

**Una**

Kinnaur

Shimla

Chamba

Bilaspur

Q. Which of the following has been named as the mascot for the 13th UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)(COP 13)?

Himalayan quail

**Great Indian Bustard**

Red-headed vulture

Great hornbill

White-eared bulbul

Q. The 13th Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS)(COP 13) will take place at which of the following locations?

Patna

Nainital

**Gandhinagar**

Visakhapatnam

Kochi

Q. Which of the following country has announced tax exempted to women with four or more children?

Germany

**Hungary**

France

Russia

China

Q. The 83rd edition of Senior National Badminton Championship begin in which of the following city?

Itanagar

**Guwahati**

Kolkata

Dispur

Chennai

Q. Recently which of the following Indian player has made it to the top-100 of Men's Singles Tennis rankings?

**Prajnesh Gunneswaran**

Leander Paes

Mahesh Bhupathi

Ramanathan Krishnan

Vijay Amritraj

Q. What is the prize money given to the winner of Challachitram National Film Festival?

Rs. 10,000

Rs. 50,000

**Rs. 1,00,000**

Rs. 21,000

Rs. 1,10,000

Q. Which of the following day is celebrated as World Radio Day?

10 February

11 February

12 February

**13 February**

14 February

Q. Who among the following invented Radio?

Heinrich Hertz

**Guglielmo Marconi.**

Nikola Tesla

Alexander Graham Bell

Thomas Edison

Q. Information and Broadcasting Ministry organised 1st annual conference of Media Units at which of the following cities?

Kolkata

**New Delhi**

Chennai

Mumbai

Guwahati

Q. Recently, PM Narendra Modi inaugurated National Cancer Institute at which of the following place in Haryana?

Faridabad

Panchkula

Panipat

**Jhajjar**

Kurukshetra

Q. Recently, PM Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of National Institute of Ayurveda at which of the following place in Haryana?

Faridabad

**Panchkula**

Panipat

Jhajjar

Kurukshetra

Q. The Centre designated Dera Baba Nanak land check post as an authorised immigration checkpoint to exit and entry for visiting Kartarpur Sahib Gurdwara. It is situated in which of the following district of Punjab?

Amritsar

Jalandhar

**Gurdaspur**

Ludhiana

Hoshiarpur

Q. Recently Reserve Bank has imposed monetary penalty of two million rupees each on HDFC Bank, IDBI Bank and \_\_\_\_\_.

ICICI Bank

Yes Bank

**Kotak Mahindra Bank**

Axis Bank

Bajaj Finserv Ltd.

Q. National Conference on Unani Medicine concludes in which of the following cities?

Kolkata

**New Delhi**

Chennai

Mumbai

Guwahati

Q. NTPC has signed a term loan agreement for Rs 5,000 crore with which of the following bank?

**State Bank of India**

Punjab National Bank

Andhra Bank

Allahabad Bank

Rs. 500

Indian Overseas Bank

Rs. 600

Q. Union Minister Smt Harsimrat Kaur Badal commissions 1st Aqua Mega Food Park in which of the following district of Andhra Pradesh?

Q. What is the name given to recently launched portal of AYUSH Ministry?

Krishna district

e-ASHA

**West Godavari District**

**e-AUSHADHI**

East Godavari District

e-MEDI

Chittoor district

e-AYUSHMAN

Kurnool district

e-AYURVEDA

Q. Recently which of the following state has announced 'Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna'?

Q. Third Indo-German Environment Forum held in which of the following city?

Gujarat

Chennai

MAdhya Pradesh

**New Delhi**

Uttarakhand

Mumbai

**Bihar**

Amritsar

Uttar Pradesh

Dehradun

Q. What is the amount given per month to the beneficiary of recently announced 'Mukhyamantri Vridhajan Pension Yojna'?

Q. In order to boost public transport, Center has approved Metrorail for which of the following city of Bihar?

Rs. 200

**Patna**

Rs. 300

Gaya

**Rs. 400**

Bhagalpur



Nalanda

Muzaffarpur

Q. Recently, Government has signed Rs 700-crore deal to buy 72,000 modern rifles for Indian Army with which of the following country?

Russia

China

France

**USA**

Israel

Q. The 5th International Dam Safety Conference 2019 begins at which of the following location?

Ranchi

**Bhubaneswar**

Guwahati

Indore

Gaya

Q. The first Dam Safety Conferences was organised in 2015 at which of the following location?

Indore

Bengaluru

**Chennai**

Thiruvananthapuram

Roorkee

Q. Clouded leopard is chosen to be the mascot for the National Games 2022. It is the state animal of which of the following Indian state?

Assam

Tripura

**Meghalaya**

Nagaland

Manipur

Q. Recently, Vishnu Wagh passed away, He was the deputy speaker of which of the following Indian state?

**Goa**

Kerala

Tamil Nadu

Jharkhand

Bihar

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the Attorney General of U.S.?

Kamala Harris

**William Barr**

Janet Reno

James Baker

Alan Simpson

Q. India has withdrawn the Most Favoured Nation status granted to which of the following country?

Nepal

Russia

**Pakistan**

China

Bangladesh

Q. Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan scheme has been implemented from \_\_\_\_\_?

10 February

1 February

**15 February**

1 January

26 January

Q. Who among the following has won the 'Oscar' award from People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)?

**Bradley Cooper**

Christian Bale

Chris Pratt

Christopher Nolan

David Fincher

Q. Who among the following was named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2018?

Azim Premji

Byju Raveendran

Vijay Shekhar Sharma

**Siddhartha Lal**

Bhavish Aggarwal

Q. Who among the following has won the Start-up category award at EOY Awards in India?

Vijay Shekhar Sharma

**Byju Raveendran**

Ritesh Agarwal

Bhavish Aggarwal

Sachin Bansal

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the new Election Commissioner?

Navin Chawla

B.B. Tandon

**Sushil Chandra**

M.S. Gill

Sunil Arora

Q. Who among the following is the current Chief Election Commissioner of India?

**Sunil Arora**

Nasim Zaidi

Achal Kumar Jyoti

Om Prakash Rawat

R.K Trivedi

Q. Who among the following has been appointed chairman and managing director (CMD) of Air India?

Naresh Goyal

Kumar Birla

Dikesh Malhotra

**Ashwani Lohani**

Mark Hurd

Q. The Headquarters of Pawan Hans is situated in which of the following city?

Mumbai

Pune

**Noida**

Agra

Kanpur

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the Controller, Assistant Secretary-General in United Nations?

Chandra Shekhar Jha

**Chandramouli Ramanathan**

Prakash Shah

Syed Akbaruddin

Vikas Swarup

Q. PM Narendra Modi flags off India's fastest train Vande Bharat Express train between New Delhi and\_\_\_\_\_.

**Varanasi**

Mumbai

Gandhinagar

Guwahati

Patna

Q. PM Modi lays foundation for defence corridor in UP between Jhansi and \_\_\_\_\_.

Lucknow

Varanasi

**Agra**

Kanpur

Meerut

Q. India had taken the decision to establish two defence corridors in the country. One in Uttar Pradesh and other in \_\_\_\_\_.

Andhra Pradesh

Maharashtra

## **Tamil Nadu**

Karnataka

Bihar

Q. National Conference on “Sustainable and Environment-friendly Industrial Production” has been organised in which of the following city?

Mumbai

Ahmedabad

Nasik

## **New Delhi**

Ranchi

Q. What is the capital of Bulgaria?

## **Sofia**

Rabat

Madrid

Vienna

Athens

Q. What is the currency of Spain?

Bhat

Rubel

## **Euro**

Dinar

Kyat

Q. Who among the following has assumed the charge of Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Corporate Affairs?

Rajnath Singh

## **Arun Jaitley**

Piyush Goyal

Manohar Parrikar

Smriti Irani

Q. Who among the following took over as the new chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT)?

## **Pramod Chandra Mody**

Sushil Chandra

B. B. Tandon

V. S. Sampath

Om Prakash Rawat

Q. Who among the following has created history by becoming the first Indian Woman Flight Engineer?

Avni Chaturvedi

Punita Arora

Bhawana Kanth

## **Hina Jaiswal**

Divya Ajith Kumar

Q. Who among the following will take charge as the director of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Nelson Mandela School of Public Governance?

Vinod Khosla

Salman Rushdie

## **Faizel Ismail**

Pan Nalin

Mira Nair



Q. Indian Air Force conducted 'Exercise Vayu Shakti-2019' at \_\_\_\_\_?

Chandipur

**Pokhran**

Pune

Indore

Amritsar

Q. After the introduction of two new districts, the number of districts in Telangana is \_\_\_\_\_.

51

22

**33**

24

45

Q. Who is the current Chief Minister of Telangana?

Pema Khandu

Nitish Kumar

Manohar Parrikar

**K. Chandrashekar Rao**

Vijaybhairu Rupani

Q. Recently, which of the following team won Irani Cup in cricket?

Haryana

**Vidarbha**

Punjab

Railways

Delhi

Q. Indian cricketer Sachin Tendulkar has an honorary rank of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Indian Air Force?

Squadron Leader.

Wing Commander.

**Group Captain**

Air Vice Marshal.

Flight Lieutenant.

Q. Which of the following state has passed Official Language (Amendment) Bill 2019 to make Sanskrit as the second official language?

Uttarakhand

Haryana

**Himachal Pradesh**

Uttar Pradesh

Telangana

Q. Who is the present governor of Himachal Pradesh?

**Acharya Dev Vrat**

Jagdish Mukhi

Lalji Tandon

Om Prakash Kohli

Satya Pal Malik

Q. Inland Waterways Authority of India launches LADIS portal. It stands for \_\_\_\_\_.

Loud Available Desert Information Solution

Land Available Depth Indian System

**Least Available Depth Information System**

Land Available Down Indian Solution

Least Available Dear Indian System

Q. Who among the following claimed the men's singles crown at Yonex-Sunrise 83rd Senior Nationals?

Ajay Jayaram

**Sourabh Verma**

Prannoy Kumar

Sameer Verma

Lakshya Sen

Q. Indian Oil Corporation has signed its first annual deal to buy up to 60,000 barrels per day with which of the following country?

Russia

**USA**

Iraq

Oman

Kuwait

Q. The headquarters of Indian Oil Corporation is located in which of the following city?

Chennai

Mumbai

**New Delhi**

Gandhinagar

Pune

Q. According to recently announced 'Annadata Sukhibhava Scheme', the farmers having land less than 5 acres will get Rs. \_\_\_\_\_ per year?

Rs. 5,000

Rs. 7,000

**Rs. 9,000**

Rs. 10,000

Rs. 13,000

Q. Tagore Award carries an prize amount of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_.

Rs.1 Lakh

Rs.10 Lakh

Rs.10 Crore

**Rs.1 Crore**

Rs.50 Lakh

Q. IBBI organises two day Workshop on  
“Committee of Creditors: An Institution of Public  
Faith” in which of the following city?

Chennai

**Mumbai**

New Delhi

Gandhinagar

Pune

Q. 12th edition of Aero India 2019, an international  
aerospace and defence exhibition will be held from  
20-24 February at which of the following city?

Pune

**Bengaluru**

Chennai

Bhopal

Gandhinagar

Q. Chris Gayle announces retirement from One-day  
Internationals. He plays international cricket for  
which of the following teams?

South Africa

**West Indies**

Australia

Bangladesh

England

Q. The ICC Cricket World Cup 2019 will take place  
at which of the following location?

**England and Wales**

Australia and New Zealand

UAE

India and Bangladesh

West Indies

Q. Recently, Who among the following won Qatar  
Open title?

Elina Svitolina

**Elise Mertens**

Ashleigh Barty

Aryna Sabalenka

Julia Görges

Q. According to ICC Test rankings, who among the following gained the top post in bowlers category?

Kagiso Rabada

Jasprit Bumrah

Chris Morris

**Pat Cummins**

Mitchell Starc

Q. Home Minister Rajnath Singh launched Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) with a Pan India helpline number \_\_\_\_\_.

111

110

**112**

555

191

Q. What is the theme of 2019 Taj Mahotsav?

Bahratiya

**Parampara**

Paryavaran

Beti Bachao

Growing India

Q. Which of the following city will host the 79th Indian History Congress (IHC)?

Indore

**Bhopal**

Aurangabad

Patna

Nagpur

Q. PM Modi flags off 1st ever diesel to electric conversion locomotive from which of the following city?

**Varanasi**

Mumbai

New Delhi

Chennai

Guwahati

Q. Textiles Minister lays Foundation Stone of Hastshilp Complex in which of the following city?

Pune

**New Delhi**

Mumbai

Ranchi

Chandigarh

Q. What is the name of recently launched app by Infosys for engineering students?

InfyEng

EngIQ

**InfyTQ**

ExamInfy

ReadyInfy

Q. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will pay Rs\_\_\_\_\_ crore as interim dividend to the government.

Rs 10,000 crore

Rs 12,000 crore

Rs 78,000 crore

**Rs 28,000 crore**

Rs 8,000 crore

Q. Who among the following won the men's 50km race walk competition at the 6th National Open Race Walking Championships?

Manish Singh

Deepak Kumar

Vijay

**Jitendra Singh Rathore**

Rahul Singh Rawat

Q. The 6th National Open Race Walking Championship was organised on which of the following city?

**Chennai**

Mumbai

Pune

Bangalore

Surat

Q. Climate scientist Wallace Smith Broecker passes away. He is known for popularising the term \_\_\_\_\_.

Climate change

**Global warming**

Ocean current

Acid rain

Global terrorism

Q. World Day of Social Justice is celebrated every year on which of the following dates?

19 February

**20 February**

21 February

22 February

23 February



Q. What was the theme for the Professional category at the recently announced National Photography Awards?

**Women led Development**

Fairs and Festivals of India

Childrens of the Nation

New India

Climate change

Q. Who among the following was conferred with lifetime achievement award at the National Photography Awards?

Raghu Rai

Dayanita Singh

**Ashok Dilwali**

Altaf Qadri

Baljit Singh Deo

Q. India's first 'fulldome 3D Digital Theatre' has been inaugurated at which of the following city?

Chennai

Pune

**Kolkata**

New Delhi

Mumbai

Q. The 40th International Annual Desert Festival begins in which of the following city of Rajasthan?

**Jaisalmer**

Udaipur

Jaipur

Bikaner

Kota

Q. Which of the following state government has launched Kalia scholarship for farmers' children?

Karnataka

Madhya Pradesh

Tamil Nadu

**Odisha**

Jharkhand

Q. The 12th edition of Asia's premier Air show 'Aero India-2019' begins at which of the following Air Force Station?

Hakimpet AFS

Sulur AFS

**Yelahanka AFS**

Dundigal AFS

Hindon AFS

Q. What is the name given to the first walking robot that navigates without GPS?

FlyBot

**AntBot**

FightBot

RunBot

TigerBot

Q. Who among the following became the first Indian women boxers to win gold medals at the Strandja Memorial Tournament in Sofia, Bulgaria?

**Meena Kumari Devi**

Simranjit Kaur

Sonia Chahal

Pinki Jangra

Manju Rani

Q. Which of the following team will not participate in the 'Aero India-2019' after the tragic death of its pilot?

Sarang

Gajraj

Saras

**Surya Kiran**

Garud

Q. The International Mother Language Day is celebrated every year on \_\_\_\_\_.

20 February

19 February

23 February

**21 February**

20 February

Q. The idea to celebrate International Mother Language Day was the initiative of which of the following country?

China

**Bangladesh**

Russia

France

India

Q. On the lines of Operation Blackboard Operation \_\_\_\_\_ has been introduced to provide better digital education in schools.

Digital Phadai

**Digital Board**

Digital Pen

Aadhunik Class

Sab Phade Sab Bhade

Q. The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) gets clearance for producing 114 long-range artillery gun named as \_\_\_\_\_.

Ashtra

**Dhanush**

Gajraj

Garud

Ghatak

Q. Recently which of the following country has signed an agreement to become the 73rd member of the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?

Russia

China

**Saudi Arabia**

Indonesia

Sri Lanka

Q. International Solar Alliance is an initiative of which of the following country?

Germany

**India**

Myanmar

Vietnam

Canada

Q. The 4th India-Asean Expo Summit has been inaugurated in which of the following city?

Mumbai

**New Delhi**

Manila

Jakarta

Hanoi

Q. The 1st Mega Food Park of Tripura has been inaugurated in which of the following city?

**Agartala**

Dhalai

Khowai

Unakoti

Gomati

Q. Under new reforms, an entity shall be considered as a startup upto \_\_\_\_\_ from its date of incorporation/registration.

15 years

**10 years**

3 years

8 years

5 years

Q. Recently, Namvar Singh pass away. He was a famous \_\_\_\_\_.

Politician

Cricketer

**Writer**

Army officer

Film director

Q. A month long 'Festival of India' begins in which of the following country?

China

**Nepal**

Bhutan

Sri Lanka

Myanmar

Q. Recently who among the following has been presented with the Seoul Peace Prize?

Sheikh Hasina

Imran Khan

**Narendra Modi**

Mahinda Rajapaksa

Aung San Suu Kyi

Q. Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, EPFO has decided to increase the interest on Provident Fund deposits to \_\_\_\_\_.

8.75%

**8.65%**

8.25%

8.95%

8.85%

Q. According to the Indus Waters Treaty, India has the right to use water flowing in \_\_\_\_\_ river.

**Beas**

Indus

Jhelum

Chenab

Brahmaputra

Q. Narendra Modi launched India-Korea Startup Hub in which of the following city?

New Delhi

Jeju

Pune

**Seoul**

Busan

Q. Recently, which of the following state has launched scheme for Adolescent girls?

Madhya Pradesh

**Uttar Pradesh**

Bihar

Jharkhand

Rajasthan

Q. The Uttar Pradesh government has also decided to observe Adolescent girls day on \_\_\_\_\_ date of every month at Anganwadi centres.

**8th**

10th

1st

17th

25th

Q. Who among the following has been appointed as the first ombudsman for the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI)?

**D K Jain**

PS Narasimha

Abhay Manohar

N.V Ramana

Arun Mishra

Q. The International Shooting Sports Federation World Cup 2019 has been started in which of the following city?

Kolkata

Pune

Nasik

**New Delhi**

Aurangabad

Q. Which of the following ministry orders a pan-India survey to assess impact of police services?

Ministry of External Affairs

Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Human Resource Development

**Ministry of Home Affairs**

Ministry of Finance

Q. Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has decided to keep Pakistan on \_\_\_\_\_ list for failing to curb terror funding?

White

**Grey**

Black

Red

Blue



Q. The headquarters to Financial Action Task Force is located in which of the following country?

Russia

USA

**France**

Japan

Australia

Q. Which of the following country has unveiled its 'first female AI news anchor' named as Xin Xiaoment?

Japan

**China**

Russia

USA

Vietnam

Q. Scientists have discovered a new species of tiny tyrannosaur which helps explain how the dinosaurs evolved. The species is named as \_\_\_\_\_.

Mammoth

Ironhead

Vegeta

**Moros**

Trunks

Q. Who among the following takes oath as first Lokayukta of Nagaland?

**Uma Nath Singh**

Lalji Tandon

Mridula Sinha

OP Kohli

BD Mishra

Q. Who among the following administered the oath of First Lokayukta Nagaland?

President of India

Chief Justice of India

**Governor of Nagaland**

Chief Minister of Nagaland

Chief Justice of Meghalaya High Court

Q. What is the name of India's first RoboCop introduced in the Kerala Police Headquarters?

IJ Bot

**KP Bot**

DC Bot

JJ Bot

NK Bot

Q. Recently PM Modi approves KUSUM scheme.

The word KUSUM stands for \_\_\_\_\_.

Kisan Ujjawala Samadhan evam Utthaan  
Mahabhiyan

Kisan Ujjawala Sammriddhi evam Uday Mahabhiyan

**Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan  
Mahabhiyan**

Kisan Umang Sammriddhi evam Utthaan  
Mahabhiyan

Kisan Uttam Suraksha evam Uttam Mahabhiyan

Q. The NITI Aayog hosted an conference on ‘The  
Future of Indian Banking’ in which of the following  
city?

Chennai

**New Delhi**

Pune

Kolkata

Mumbai

Q. The Advanced Light Helicopter (Dhruv) of the  
Indian Army has been designed and developed by  
which of the following organisation?

Dassault Aviation

Indian Space Research Organisation

Airbus

**Hindustan Aeronautics Limited**

Bharat Heavy Electricals

Q. Recently, Sudanese President has declared a  
year-long state of emergency. Who among the  
following is the President of Sudan?

Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa

**Omar al-Bashir**

Mahmoud Abbas

Mohammed Bin Salman

Bashar al-Assad

Q. Which among the following is the capital of  
Sudan?

Manama

Muscat

**Khartoum**

Baghdad

Sanaa

Q. The 46th Session of the Organisation of Islamic  
Cooperation Council of Foreign Ministers will be  
held from March 1 to 2 in which of the following  
country?

Oman

Afghanistan

Iraq

**Abu Dhabi**

Turkey

Q. The headquarters of Organisation of Islamic Cooperation is located in which of the following country?

**Saudi Arabia**

Abu Dhabi

Iran

Kuwait

United Arab Emirates

Q. Who among the following won a gold in women's 10m air rifle at International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup 2019?

Manu Bhaker

Shweta Chaudhary

Heena Sidhu

**Apurvi Chandela**

Sonia Rai

Q. Which of the following Indian city is organising International Shooting Sport Federation World Cup 2019?

Chennai

**New Delhi**

Mumbai

Banglore

Jaipur

Q. Who among the following has won the Asian Hockey Federation's 2018 Player of the Year award?

**Manpreet Singh**

Krishan Pathak

Varun Kumar

Sumit

Harjeet Singh

Q. Who among the following has won the Asian Hockey Federation's 2018 Rising Player of The Year award?

Navjot Kaur

Deepika Thakur

Udita

**Lalremsiami**

Navneet Kaur

Q. PM Modi launched PM-KISAN scheme by transferring 1st installment of Rs 2,000 to farmers at which of the following city?

Agra

Indore

## Gorakhpur

Patna

Jabalpur

Q. According to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, A total sum of \_\_\_\_\_ will be given per year to farmer families having a land holding of up to 2 hectares.

Rs 3,000

Rs 10,000

**Rs 6,000**

Rs 9,000

Rs 11,000

Q. Voters from which of the following country took part in a referendum on a new constitution that expands recognition of private property?

Sudan

**Cuba**

Vietnam

Israel

Nigeria

Q. Recently which of the following country begins exports to India through Chabahar?

Pakistan

## Afghanistan

Kuwait

Kazakhstan

Israel

Q. PM Modi inaugurated the National War Memorial in which of the following city?

Mumbai

Kolkata

**New Delhi**

Gandhinagar

Dehradun

Q. The GST council cuts tax on under construction residential houses from from the existing 12 % to \_\_\_\_\_%.

2%

7%

1%

**5%**

9%

Q. Recently, Union Minister of State for Health Ashwini Kumar Choubey launched the national action plan for which of the following diseases?

**Viral Hepatitis**

Malaria

Rabies

Dengue Fever

Diabetes

Q. Which of the following film won 91st Academy Awards in the Best Picture category?

**Green Book**

Roma

The Favourite

A Star Is Born

Black Panther

Q. Who among the following won the Best Actress award at the 91st Academy Awards?

Zara Phillips

**Olivia Colman**

Rita Ora

Joan Collins

Olivia Wilde

Q. Which of the following film has won the Oscar in the Documentary Short Subject category at the 91st Academy Awards?

India's Daughter

A Suitable Girl

**Period. End of Sentence**

Fire in the Blood

Smile Pinki

Q. Who among the following has been elected as the President of Wrestling Federation of India?

Sushil Kumar

**Brijbhushan Sharan Singh**

Udey Chand

Jinder Mahal

Sandeep Tomar

Q. Who among the following has clinched the gold medal in 10m air rifle at the ongoing ISSF World Cup?

**Saurabh Chaudhary**

Sanjeev Rajput

Jitu Rai

Vijay Kumar

Abhinav Bindra

Q. Recently, Railway Minister Piyush Goyal launched a dashboard to keep people informed about the work going on in the Railways across the country. The dashboard is named as \_\_\_\_\_.

**Rail Drishti Dashboard**



Rail Saarthi Dashboard

Rail Chakshu Dashboard

Rail Netr Dashboard

Rail Humsafar Dashboard

Q. Who among the following lifts Cannes International Open trophy in chess?

Surya Shekhar Ganguly

Parimarjan Negi

Viswanathan Anand

**Abhijeet Gupta**

Tania Sachdev

Q. Who among the following India-born has joined Amazon Board of Directors?

Ratan Tata

**Indra Nooyi**

Satya Nadella

Azim Premji

Akash Ambani

Q. Which of the following company will replace Hindustan Petroleum Corporation in the Nifty 50 index?

Asian Paints

**Britannia Industries**

Dabur

Haldiram

Amul

Q. The 4th Global Digital Health Partnership summit has been inaugurated in which of the following city?

Pune

Bangalore

**New Delhi**

Raipur

Aurangabad

Q. Who among the following became the first Indian-origin woman to get Blue Plaque in UK?

Madhuri Gupta

Shabana Khatoon

Ameena Begum

**Noor Inayat Khan**

Nancy Wake

Q. Recently Mohammad Javad Zarif announced his resignation. He served as the foreign minister of which of the following country?

Turkey

**Iran**

Zimbabwe

Indonesia

Malaysia

Q. Gandhi Peace Prize comprises a prize money of Rs. \_\_\_\_\_.

10 Crore

**1 Crore**

10 Lakh

1 Lakh

50 Thousand

Q. Who among the following received Gandhi Peace Prize for the year 2017?

Vivekananda Kendra

Sulabh International

**Ekal Abhiyan Trust**

Akshaya Patra foundation

Yohei Sasakawa

Q. The NIFTY index represents the weighted average of \_\_\_\_\_ Indian company stocks.

20

30

**50**

80

100

Q. Who among the following has been re-elected as the Nigerian President?

**Muhammadu Buhari**

Cyril Ramaphosa

Danny Faure

Omar al-Bashir

Macky Sall

Q. What is the capital of Nigeria?

Kigali

Rabat

**Abuja**

Cairo

Kampala

Q. Defence Research and Development Organisation has successfully test fired indigenously developed Quick Reach Surface-to-Air missiles from which of the following locations?

**Odisha**

Gujarat

West Bengal

Andhra Pradesh

Tamil Nadu

Q. The cumulative number of houses sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) has reached to \_\_\_\_\_?

50 Lakh

86 Lakh

**79 Lakh**

45 Lakh

121 Lakh

Q. Skill Development Minister inaugurates Skill Saathi Youth Conclave in which of the following city?

Indore

Ranchi

Jaipur

**Bhubaneswar**

Patna

Q. Recently, Sanath Jayasuriya has been banned from cricket for two years. He plays International Cricket from which of the following teams?

Bangladesh

Pakistan

**Sri Lanka**

England

West Indies

Q. Civil Aviation Ministry is organising 'Aviation Conclave 2019' in which of the following city?

Kolkata

Pune

**New Delhi**

Pune

Chennai

Q. The Joint Military Exercise Sampriti 2019 will be conducted between India and which of the following country?

China

**Bangladesh**

Indonesia

Vietnam

Laos

Q. Inland Waterways Authority of India signed an MoU to meet its gas and fuel requirement with which of the following organisation?

Bharat Petroleum

## Indian Oil Corporation

GAIL India

Hindustan Petroleum

Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

Q. As per the National Waterways Act 2016  
\_\_\_\_\_ number of new National waterways have  
been declared in addition to existing 5 National  
Waterways.

110

**106**

78

121

45

Q. The new Southern Coast Railway will be  
headquartered in which of the following district of  
Andhra Pradesh?

Guntur

Krishna

West Godavari

**Visakhapatnam**

Anantapur

Q. Which of the following state has recently  
launched 'Parents Responsibility and Norms for

Accountability and Monitoring', PRANAM  
Commission?

Jharkhand

**Assam**

Manipur

Uttar Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh

Q. Which of the following company has signed a  
Statement of Intent (SOI) to enhance creativity in  
ATL Schools with NITI Aayog?

HCL Technologies

Tata Consultancy Services

**Adobe**

Tech Mahindra

Mindtree

Q. What is the prize money given to the top  
awardee of the National Youth Parliament Award?

**Rs. 2 Lakh**

Rs. 5 Lakh

Rs. 2.5 Lakh

Rs. 1.5 Lakh

Rs. 1 Lakh

Q. Who among the following won the First prize at the National Youth Parliament Award?

**Shweta Umre**

Anjankshi MS

Mamta Kumari

Sheela Devi

Rakhi Thakur

Q. Sir C.V. Raman was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in which of the following year?

1922

1927

1929

**1930**

1935

Q. A preparation workshop on Heat Waves, Heat Wave 2019 has been inaugurated in which of the following city?

Indore

Gwalior

**Nagpur**

Aurangabad

Ujjain

Q. What is India's rank in the overall 'Inclusive Internet Index 2019' prepared by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) for Facebook?

51

**47**

21

78

63

Q. National Science Day is observed every year on \_\_\_\_\_.

26 February

27 February

**28 February**

1 March

2 March

Q. What is the total number of gold medals that India won in the ISSF World Cup?

1

2

**3**

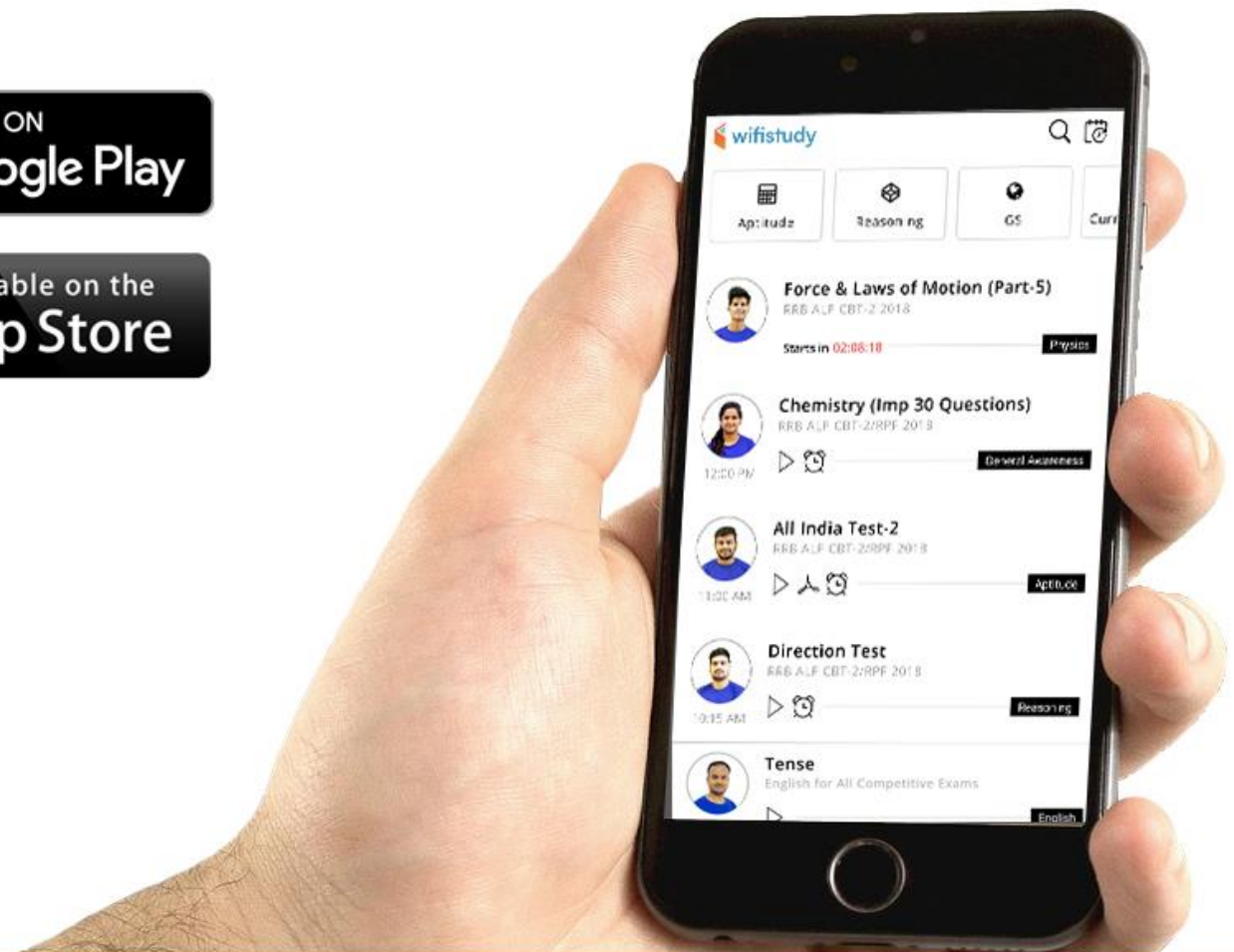
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