

**FEBRUARY**  
**2020**

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# SECOND WEEK

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

**08 FEBRUARY - 14 FEBRUARY**



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1. The first India–Africa Defence Ministers’ Conclave was recently held in which city?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Lucknow ☒  
[C] Cape Town [D] Nairobi

- ✓ The first ever India–Africa Defence Ministers’ Conclave was recently held in the city of Lucknow, during the 11th edition of the biennial defence exhibition DefExpo 2020.
- ✓ The Defence Ministers and Heads of Delegation from African countries and the Defence Minister of India jointly held the 1<sup>st</sup> India Africa Defence Ministers’ Conclave. It adopted the Lucknow Declaration. Prior to this, during the third India–Africa Forum Summit (26–30 October 2015), the Delhi Declaration was adopted.

2. Which famous writer was recently selected for the Mystic Kalinga Literary Award (Indian and Global Languages)?

- [A] Manoj Das ☒ [B] Pratibha Ray  
[C] Ramakanta Rath [D] Surendra Mohanty

- ✓ Famous Odia and English writer Manoj Das, 85 years old, will receive Mystic Kalinga Literary award–Indian and Global languages, during the 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the 2day Mystic Kalinga Festival (MSF) which commences in Bhubaneswar on February 8 & 9, 2020.
- ✓ He also got Padma Bhushan award recently. Manoj Das will deliver the festival’s keynote address on “Divine Madness: Knowledge, Ecstasy and Transformation”.

3. What is the projected growth rate of India, during the next financial year 2020–21, as per the recent monetary policy of RBI?

- [A] 5% [B] 5.5% [C] 6% ☒ [D] 6.5%

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently projected the economic growth of the country to grow by 6% during the next financial year.
- ✓ This is the lower end of the growth projection as announced by the government in the economic survey, which estimated a rate of 6–6.5%. RBI also stated that the Indian economy continues to be weak.

- ✓ The first half of the year would grow in the range of 5.5–6.0% and the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter at 6.2%, as per the RBI. But this projection is higher than the GDP growth projection of 5%, made in the monetary policy statement of Dec.2019.

4. The 5<sup>th</sup> India–Russia Military Industrial Conference was recently organised in which city?

- [A] Moscow [B] New Delhi  
[C] Lucknow ☒ [D] St. Petersburg

- ✓ The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of the India–Russia Military Industrial Conference was recently organised in the northern Indian city, Lucknow.
- ✓ The Conference was organised on the sidelines of the biennial Defence exhibition DefExpo 2020. As many as 14 MoUs related to production of different defence equipment, radar systems, ASW Rocket launchers and 3D modeling were signed between the companies from India and Russia.
- ✓ Among several Indian companies, the prominent ones which signed the agreements were BHEL, Bharat Dynamics Limited and Vista control.

5. Which organisation is set to release Digital Payments Index (DPI), which will assess the digitalisation of payments in the country?

- [A] NITI Aayog  
[B] National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)  
[C] Reserve Bank of India (RBI) ☒  
[D] National Association of Software and Services Companies (NASSCOM)

- ✓ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) recently released its statement on developmental and regulatory policies, along with the February 2020 Monetary policy statement.
- ✓ In the statement, the central bank announced about the launch of Digital Payments Index (DPI), which will assess the digitalisation of payments in the country.

- ✓ The DPI will accurately measure the penetration of digital payment modes among the general public of the country. The index is proposed to be launched from July 2020.

6. Which city plays host to the 22<sup>nd</sup> India International Seafood Show, after a gap of 12 years?

- [A] Vishakhapatnam [B] Goa  
[C] Kochi ☒ [D] Chennai

- ✓ The city of Kochi, Kerala hosts the 22<sup>nd</sup> India International Seafood Show, after a gap of 12 years. The three-day seafood show has been inaugurated by the Governor of Kerala, Arif Mohammed Khan on Feb.7.
- ✓ The event will provide a platform for collaboration of the exporters and importers of the country's marine products and seafood industry.
- ✓ The theme of the programme is 'Blue Revolution: Beyond production to value addition'. Marine Product Export Development Authority (MPEDA) organises the event in association with Seafood Exporters' Association of India.

7. Which State / UT has recently renamed its Public Health Engineering, Irrigation and Flood Control Department as the 'Jal Shakti Department'?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Puducherry  
[C] Jammu and Kashmir ☒ [D] Chandigarh

- ✓ The Administrative Council under the chairmanship of Lt Governor G C Murmu recently approved the renaming of the state's Public Health Engineering, Irrigation and Flood Control Department as the 'Jal Shakti Department'.
- ✓ The council also approved the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission and the strategy to achieve 100 % coverage of piped water supply across the UT, by December 2021.
- ✓ It was also proposed to set up a Mission Directorate of Jal Jeevan Mission for implementation of the scheme. Seven districts of the UT would be covered for 100 % piped water supply by June 2020, in the initial phase.

8. The indigenous air to ground missile 'Khagantak', which was unveiled during the ongoing DefExpo 2020, is built by which firm/organisation?

- [A] Defence Research and Development Organisation  
[B] Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd  
[C] JSR Dynamics ☒  
[D] Bharat Electronics Limited

- ✓ A private Indian firm has recently unveiled the indigenous air to ground missile 'Khagantak', during the ongoing DefExpo 2020. The firm has manufactured the air to ground missile with a strike range of 180 km.
- ✓ The Managing Director of JSR Dynamics Air Marshal SB Deo announced the missile and said that when released from a height of 12 km, the missile is an air-launch weapon. It has artificial intelligence (AI) to recognise the targets.
- ✓ Such indigenous missiles are expected to be a boost to the 'Make in India' initiative and reduce our dependence on foreign defence manufacturers.

9. What is the theme for this year's International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation, observed on February 6?

- [A] End Female Genital Mutilation  
[B] Unleashing Youth Power ☒  
[C] A Piece of Me  
[D] Intensify global efforts

- ✓ International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation is observed annually on February 6, across the world.
- ✓ Genital Mutilation, or altering the female genitalia for non-medical reasons is prevalent in 30 countries in Africa the Middle East and other parts of the world.
- ✓ In 2012, the UN General Assembly designated February 6<sup>th</sup> as the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation and the UN works for the complete eradication of the practice by 2030.

- ✓ United Nations Population Fund, jointly with UNICEF, holds a global programme to eliminate the practice.

**10.** Who has been named as the head of the trust for construction of the Ram Temple, which was recently constituted by the Centre?

[A] K. K. Venugopal                      [B] K Parasaran ☒

[C] G E Vahanvati                      [D] Maninder Acharya

- ✓ As per the Supreme Court ruling on November 9, 2019, a trust had to be set up for the construction of the Ram Temple within three months of the court order.
  - ✓ Hence the Indian Government constituted the trust, which is named as 'the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra'. Former Attorney General of India, Advocate K Parasaran has been named as the head of the trust, which will function at his residence in Delhi.
  - ✓ An independent 15 member team has been named as the members of the trust, which will always have a trustee from the Dalit community, as per the Union Home Ministry.
- \_\_\_\_\_

1. The cybersecurity project codenamed Dejfa, that was recently making news, belongs to which country?
- [A] Pakistan [B] Iran ☒  
[C] Malaysia [D] China
- ✓ Digital Fortress (Dejfa in Persian) is the name of a cybersecurity project of Iran. This has been frequently in news in recent times as Iran faces frequent DDoS attacks and cyber attacks. On 8<sup>th</sup> February also, the agency was able to avert a massive DDoS attack.
2. How many major ports of India are named after individuals?
- [A] Two [B] Three  
[C] Four ☒ [D] Five
- ✓ India has 12 major ports viz. Deendayal Port Trust, Paradip Port Trust, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Mumbai Port Trust, Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Chennai Port Trust, Kolkata Port Trust, New Mangaluru Port Trust, V O Chidambaranar Port Trust, Kamarajar Port Limited, Kochi Port Trust, Mormugao Port Trust.
- ✓ Of these, Deendayal (earlier Kandla Port), JNPT (earlier Nava Sheva), V O Chidambaranar (earlier Tuticorin Port) and Kamarajar (earlier Ennore Port) are named after individuals.
3. The term "SPICE" sometimes seen in news, is related to which of the following fields?
- [A] Science & Technology  
[B] Environment Protection  
[C] Business & Economy ☒  
[D] Defence and Arms Production
- ✓ Ministry of Corporate Affairs is replacing the existing SPICE (Simplified Proforma for Incorporating Company Electronically) form with a new web form called SPICE+.
- ✓ The existing form, which is used for reservation of name, company incorporation, DIN allotment, and application for PAN/TAN, in its new avatar, would offer 10 services by three central government ministries and departments.
4. The term "Batterygate", recently in news, is related to which of the following tech giants?
- [A] Google [B] Samsung  
[C] Apple ☒ [D] Microsoft
- ✓ Batterygate refers to implementation of performance controls on older models of Apple's iPhone line in order to preserve system stability on degraded batteries.
5. Recently, Esperanza Base on the Antarctic Peninsula reached a temperature of 18.3°C, thus becoming the hottest on record for continental Antarctica. Esperanza Base is a research station of which country?
- [A] France [B] Portugal  
[C] Argentina ☒ [D] England
- ✓ Esperanza Base (Hope Base) is a permanent, all-year-round Argentine research station in Hope Bay, Trinity Peninsula in Antarctica.
6. Seer Goverdhanpur in Uttar Pradesh is the birth place of which Bhakti saint?
- [A] Kabir [B] Dadu  
[C] Ravidas ☒ [D] Ramanand
- ✓ Sant Ravidas was a 14<sup>th</sup> century saint and founder of the Bhakti movement in North India. He was born at Seer Goverdhanpur near Banaras.
7. In the wake of the coronavirus fears, recently the Baltic Dry Index sank to all time low plunging into negative territory. What is tracked by Baltic Dry Index?
- [A] Crude Oil Prices [B] Freight Rates ☒  
[C] Tourist Arrivals [D] International Flights
- ✓ Baltic Dry index tracking freight rates for world's largest cargo ships recently plunged into negative territory due to coronavirus.

8. On February 8, 2020, Thaipoosam festival was celebrated by the Tamil community around the world. This festival marks birth day of which deity?

- [A] Sivaperuman      [B] Murugapperuman ☒  
[C] Parasakthi      [D] Kotravai

- ✓ Thaipoosam is a festival celebrated by the Tamil community on the full moon in the Tamil month of Thai, usually coinciding with Poosam Star, known as in Tamil. It is believed to be Murugan's birthday by many.

9. Which Indian crop faces danger due to a fungus called Alternaria brassicae as per recent news?

- [A] Rice      [B] Wheat  
[C] Mustard ☒      [D] Sugarcane

- ✓ Alternaria brassicae is a fungus that causes blight in the Mustard and Rapeseed crops. Yield in a field infected by fungus Alternaria brassicae can come down by as much as by 47%, if remedial measures are not taken.

10. Which Hollywood actor is playing Dr. Kalam in his upcoming biopic?

- [A] Nuveen Andrews      [B] Michael C. Hall  
[C] Muhammad Ali ☒      [D] Terry O'Quinn

- ✓ Hollywood actor Muhammad Ali is playing Dr. Kalama's role in the movie.

- ✓ The movie is a co-production of Suvarna Pappu, Managing Director of a Hollywood Production House, Hollywood Director, Jagadeesh Daneti and Hollywood Producer & Director Johnny Martin.

1. Which state has recently launched an initiative to establish hotels to provide meals at subsidised price called 'Kudumbashree' hotels?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Telangana

[C] Kerala ☒

[D] Andhra Pradesh

✓ The state government of Kerala has recently unveiled a scheme to establish hotels to provide meals at subsidised rates called 'Kudumbashree' hotels.

✓ The announcement was made during the presentation of state's budget. The hotels are to be set up in each of the 1034 local bodies and Kerala meals is to be available at a subsidised price of ₹25. 'Kudumbashree' is an initiative of the state govt. for poverty eradication and women empowerment.

2. Which Metro rail service in India has become the second largest operational metro rail network in the country?

[A] Delhi Metro

[B] Kochi Metro

[C] Hyderabad Metro ☒

[D] Chennai Metro

✓ The Chief Minister of Telangana recently flagged off the stretch of Hyderabad Metro between Hyderabad and its sister city Secunderabad. With this, Hyderabad Metro has become the second largest operational metro rail network in the country, only after the Delhi Metro Rail.

✓ Hyderabad Metro is also the biggest metro project in the world in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode, with a total project cost of ₹20,000 crore, constructed by L&T.

3. What is the profession of Anoop Mishra, who has been in news recently?

[A] Politician

[B] Army Major ☒

[C] Sports Person

[D] Musician

✓ Anoop Mishra, an Indian Army Major from the College of Military Engineering was known for having developed a bulletproof jacket which protects against sniper bullets.

✓ He was seen in news recently as he has now developed a helmet, which is also the world's first, that can stop an AK 47 bullet.

✓ Indian Army's College of Military Engineering in collaboration with a private firm has developed India's first & world's cheapest gunshot locator called 'Parth', which can locate the bullet from a distance of 400 mts.

4. Which state recently launched "Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana", which provides an annual assistance of ₹6000 to the needy families?

[A] Odisha

[B] Haryana ☒

[C] Madhya Pradesh

[D] Punjab

✓ The Chief Minister of Haryana Manohar Lal has recently launched Mukhyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana. Under this scheme, an annual financial assistance of ₹6000 is to be provided to the families in the State, whose annual income is up to ₹1.80 lakh and who own land below 5 acres.

✓ This ensures that the premiums for various welfare schemes of the Central Government, pension scheme and crop insurance are paid automatically from the bank accounts of the needy families.

5. Arun-III, is the hydropower project of which country, to be built with assistance from India?

[A] Sri Lanka

[B] Bangladesh

[C] Nepal ☒

[D] Bhutan

✓ India and Nepal recently signed the financial closure of Arun-III, which is the largest hydropower project of Nepal. The 900 Mega Watt hydropower project is under construction in Nepal, with an estimated cost of \$1.04 million.

✓ The project, which is to be built with the financial assistance from India, is to be completed in 5 years. It is being built by Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-III Power Development Company (SAPDC), a joint venture of the Government of India and the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

6. The Pollution Control Board of which state recently received the national award for e-Governance 2019–20?

- [A] Odisha [B] Kerala  
[C] Telangana [D] Andhra Pradesh ☒

✓ The Andhra Pradesh Pollution Control Board (APPCB) bagged the national award for e-Governance 2019–20 for its Real-Time Pollution-Monitoring System (RTPMS) project, during the 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on e-Governance held in Mumbai.

✓ Under the RPTMS project, an alert is sent to the concerned officials if an industrial unit exceeds the desired pollution levels.

7. Which country has reportedly auctioned licenses to hunt elephants, to tackle human–animal conflict?

- [A] Zimbabwe [B] Namibia  
[C] Botswana ☒ [D] Mozambique

✓ The South African country Botswana has the largest elephant population in the world. Recently, the country was seen in news as it auctioned licenses to hunt elephants, to tackle human–animal conflict.

✓ In the capital city of the country Gaborone, the licenses to hunt 70 elephants were said to be auctioned. The government had lifted the ban on hunting, which was prevalent for five years.

8. The book 'A Child of Destiny', which was recently released by the Indian Vice President, is an autobiography of which Indian educationist?

- [A] K Ramakrishna Rao ☒ [B] Girishwar Misra  
[C] Amit Abraham [D] Devendra Singh

✓ Renowned Indian philosopher and educationist Prof. K. Ramakrishna Rao has authored his autobiography, which is titled as 'A Child of Destiny: an autobiography'.

✓ It was released by the Indian Vice President M Venkaiah, in Visakhapatnam. The Professor, Vice Chancellor of GITAM University, was also the recipient of the prestigious Padma Shri award.

✓ He had also been awarded the National Fellowship of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research.

9. Which city's police recently launched an initiative called 'Operation Nakail' to verify the identity of auto drivers?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Ghaziabad ☒  
[C] Hyderabad [D] Lucknow

✓ The City Police has recently launched 'Operation Nakail' in Ghaziabad, to verify the identity of auto drivers of the city. Under the initiative, a unique 4 digit number will be allotted to every autos of the city.

✓ The owner of the vehicle has to paint the number, his name and mobile number on the auto, which would be easy to identify them. After many crimes were reported to be held in autos, this initiative was launched.

10. Municipal Performance Index (MPI), is an index recently launched by which organisation / Ministry?

- [A] NITI Aayog  
[B] Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs ☒  
[C] Ministry of Home Affairs  
[D] National Development Council

✓ The Union Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has recently launched two Assessment Frameworks, namely Ease of Living Index (EoLI) and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019.

✓ The two indices are expected to assess the quality of life of citizens in 100 Smart Cities and 14 other cities, with more than 1 million population.

✓ The MPI assesses the performance of municipalities based on five parameters of Service, Finance, Planning, Technology and Governance.



1. Which city is host to the 13<sup>th</sup> UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (COP 13), 2020?
- [A] Mumbai [B] Madrid
- [C] Gandhinagar ☒ [D] Tokyo
- ✓ The 13<sup>th</sup> UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (COP 13) is scheduled to be hosted by India in 2020, at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.
- ✓ The COP – 13 (Conference of Parties) is to be held from Feb. 15–22. It was recently announced that the Indian PM Narendra Modi will inaugurate the summit. The theme of this year's summit is, "Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home".
2. Which Union Ministry has recently launched the web portal for 'Star rating of Coal mines'?
- [A] Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- [B] Ministry of Coal ☒
- [C] Ministry of Mines
- [D] Ministry of Earth Sciences
- ✓ Ministry of Coal has recently launched a web portal for star rating of coal mines. Under the portal, all operational coal mines across the country will be enabled for self-rating.
- ✓ The mines will be subsequently validated by Coal Controller's Organization, the subordinate office of Ministry of Coal. The mechanism on the portal would award star rating to the mines with certain evaluation parameters under 7 modules.
3. The storm 'Ciara' recently hit several countries of which continent?
- [A] Asia [B] Europe ☒
- [C] Australia [D] North America
- ✓ European countries witnessed a devastating storm named 'Ciara', which caused huge damage and killed as many as six people.
- ✓ The storm moved on near Germany, after hitting Britain and Ireland. It was called as 'Ciara' by the Irish weather service and dubbed as 'Sabine' in Germany. Flood warnings are given and flight operations are suspended in the countries.
4. Recently, the Supreme Court of India upheld the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act. When was the original act of 1989 amended?
- [A] 2016 [B] 2017 [C] 2018 ☒ [D] 2019
- ✓ The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989 was legislated to protect the scheduled communities from harassments and atrocities.
- ✓ In March 2018, the Supreme Court gave a judgement diluting the original act and it even granted anticipatory bail for those booked in the atrocity case.
- ✓ After huge protest, the government amended the original act and passed the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Act, 2018. This amendment has been upheld by the apex court.
5. American Factory, which won the Oscar for the best feature length documentary, was produced by which famous American personality?
- [A] Donald Trump [B] Barrack Obama ☒
- [C] Hillary Clinton [D] Tiger Woods
- ✓ Recently, the Oscar award for best feature length documentary was presented to 'American Factory'.
- ✓ It was the first documentary released by Barack and Michelle Obama's Production Company named 'Higher Ground'.
- ✓ The documentary film was released in the Netflix, and it is about an Ohio auto glass factory that is run by a Chinese investor. Many global issues such as the rights of workers, globalization & automation are focussed in the film.

6. Which bird is named the mascot of UN Convention of Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (COP 13)?

- [A] Great Indian Bustard ☒ [B] White-bellied heron  
[C] Forest owlet [D] Lesser Florican

- ✓ The Great Indian Bustard is named the mascot of the UN Convention of Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (COP 13). India has recently proposed to include three species – the Asian elephant, the Great Indian Bustard and the Bengal Florican in the list of 'migratory species threatened with extinction', under the CMS-COP 13.
- ✓ The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change has recently unveiled a draft Visionary Perspective Plan (2020–2030), for conserving the bird species and their eco-systems.

7. 'Ajeya Warrior' is the joint military exercise conducted between India and which country?

- [A] Japan [B] United Kingdom ☒  
[C] Israel [D] France

- ✓ The 5<sup>th</sup> edition of joint military exercise 'Ajeya Warrior' between India and the United Kingdom will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom. The exercise is scheduled from February 13 to 26, 2020.
- ✓ 120 soldiers each from Indian and United Kingdom Army would participate in the exercise. The joint military exercise has been conducted alternatively in United Kingdom and India. The training will be held with emphasis on counter – terror operations.

8. Which Union Ministry releases the Public Enterprises Survey, on the performances of Central Public Sector Enterprises?

- [A] Finance  
[B] Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises  
[C] Corporate Affairs  
[D] Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises ☒

- ✓ The Department of Public Enterprises under the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises, releases the annual Public Sector Enterprises Survey, on the performance of Central Public Sector Enterprises.

- ✓ Recently, the Public Enterprises Survey – 2018–19 was tabled in both the Houses of Parliament, which stated that BSNL, Air India and MTNL are the top loss-making PSUs for the third consecutive year. The top 3 profit making PSUs include Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC), Indian Oil Corporation and NTPC.

9. Which state government recently launched the 'Reading Mission' initiative for students?

- [A] Odisha [B] Kerala  
[C] Haryana ☒ [D] West Bengal

- ✓ The state government of Haryana has launched an initiative called 'Reading Mission – Haryana'. The initiative was launched to encourage reading habit among the young students of the state.

- ✓ The scheme is on the lines of the 'Reading Mission 2022', launched by the central government. Under the state's initiative, monthly book review sessions and mass book reading are to be organised by students in educational institutions.

10. When is the World Pulses Day observed, across the world?

- [A] February 8 [B] February 9  
[C] February 10 ☒ [D] February 11

- ✓ In 2019, the UN General Assembly announced February 10 as the World Pulses Day. This was followed by the celebration of the year 2016 as the International Year of Pulses, across the world, led by the Food & Agriculture Organization.

- ✓ The day is celebrated to raise awareness about the nutritional values of pulses and ways to tackle malnutrition through pulses.

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise, 2020 has been conducted in which city?
- [A] Thimphu [B] Bhubaneswar ☒
- [C] Colombo [D] Kathmandu
- ✓ The 2<sup>nd</sup> BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise, 2020 was recently inaugurated at Bhubaneswar, the capital city of Odisha by its Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik. The Exercise is hosted by the National Disaster Response Force as the nodal agency.
- ✓ The theme of the exercise is "Response to a cultural heritage site that suffers severe damage in an earthquake" and "Response to a Cultural Heritage site that is affected by flooding or storm surge".
2. Hakim Ajmal Khan, was an eminent physician in which field of Medicine?
- [A] Homoeopathy [B] Sowa Rigpa
- [C] Ayurveda [D] Unani ☒
- ✓ The birth anniversary of great Unani physician and social reformer Hakim Ajmal Khan is celebrated as the World Unani Day every year on 11<sup>th</sup> February.
- ✓ He was a founder of scientific research in Unani System of Medicine and one of the founders of the Jamia Millia Islamia in New Delhi. Originated in Greece, the field of medicine was introduced in India by the Arabs and Persians. The day is celebrated to create awareness about health care through the Unani system.
3. As per the notification of the Ministry of health and family welfare, which component will be treated as 'drugs' from April 1, 2020?
- [A] Medical devices ☒ [B] AYUSH drugs
- [C] Alcohol [D] Raw materials for drugs
- ✓ The Ministry of health and family welfare recently said in a notification that all medical devices sold in the country would be treated as drugs and would be regulated under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act of 1940, from April 1, 2020.
- ✓ As of now, only 23 medical devices are being categorised as drugs. Only a few of these including cardiac stents and intrauterine devices have been brought under price control. The decision was taken after discussing with the Drugs Technical Advisory Board (DTAB).
4. What is the official name of the virus outbreak from China, as per the World Health Organisation?
- [A] COVID-19 ☒ [B] CORO-19
- [C] n-COR -19 [D] NOVEL-19
- ✓ The World Health Organisation (WHO) recently announced that the deadly virus outbreak from China will be officially called as "COVID-19".
- ✓ The official name was announced to avoid references of particular geographic locations, species of animals or group of people. It has earlier named the virus as "2019-nCoV acute respiratory disease", temporarily.
- ✓ In the official name, 'CO' stands for "corona", 'VI' for "virus" and 'D' for "disease", while '19' denotes the year.
5. What does 'GSP' stand for, in the context of India- US trade?
- [A] Globalised System of Preferences
- [B] Generalized System of Preferences ☒
- [C] Globalised System of Partners
- [D] Generalized System of Partners
- ✓ The United States Trade Representative's (USTR's) office has recently classified India as a developed economy and it is ineligible for GSP benefits from the US.
- ✓ The Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) scheme offers a lower tariff to the exporters of a select group of developing countries. India is the largest beneficiary nation under the GSP, which enjoyed a tariff-free access to the US, till last June.

6. Who has been appointed as the chairman of the newly formed space PSU, New Space India Ltd (NSIL)?

[A] Satheesh Reddy

[B] K Sivan

[C] G Narayanan ☒

[D] Kasturi Rangan

- ✓ Renowned space scientist G Narayanan has been named the Chairman of New Space India Ltd (NSIL), Indian Space Research Organisation's (ISRO's) newly formed commercial entity.

- ✓ Prior to this assignment, G Narayanan was serving as the deputy director at the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), an ISRO unit in Thiruvananthapuram.

- ✓ New Space India Ltd was set up as a Public Sector Undertaking under ISRO, last year to commercially explore the space market. NSIL is set to manufacture launch vehicles with main focus on Small satellite launch vehicle (SSLV).

7. 'PehleSafety' is an Internet safety campaign of which major technological company?

[A] Facebook

[B] Microsoft

[C] Google ☒

[D] Apple

- ✓ Google India recently announced a new public outreach campaign on Internet safety named PehleSafety.

- ✓ The tech-firm launched a campaign to inform its users about online security and safety measures while accessing the internet. It has also launched powerful tools like the security check-up and password check-up, to enhance the security of user data.

8. Gulmarg, where the National winter games event is set to be held, is located in which state / UT?

[A] Uttarakhand

[B] Arunachal Pradesh

[C] Sikkim

[D] Jammu & Kashmir ☒

- ✓ Gulmarg is a popular skiing destination and a hill-station town located in the Indian union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. It is situated in the Pir Panjal Range in the western Himalayas.

- ✓ The town is set to host the five-day national winter games event under Khelo India, from March 7. As many as 30 events are scheduled to be organised in this event.

9. Which state government recently launched toll-free helpline numbers for students to resolve their queries by experts?

[A] Odisha

[B] Uttar Pradesh ☒

[C] West Bengal

[D] Haryana

- ✓ The state government of Uttar Pradesh has recently launched toll-free helpline numbers for students. This initiative is aimed at solving queries of students ahead of the Board Examinations.

- ✓ A senior officer of Uttar Pradesh Madhyamik Shiksha Parishad is designated as Nodal Officer of the initiative. Several academicians and experts of different subjects will be made available on call, to resolve the doubts of students.

10. 'We Think Digital' is a digital literacy program of which global technological company?

[A] Google

[B] Facebook ☒

[C] Apple

[D] Amazon

- ✓ 'We Think Digital' is a global digital literacy program of the technology major Facebook. The program was launched in 2019 with an aim to overcome gender imbalance on the internet space.

- ✓ Recently, Facebook launched 'We Think Digital' program in Uttar Pradesh, in association with National Commission for Women and Cyber Peace Foundation. The program aims to provide digital literacy to nearly 1,00,000 women across seven Indian states.

1. Where is the Headquarters of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) located?

[A] New York

[B] Geneva

[C] Rome ☒

[D] Nairobi

✓ The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) is a global financial institution headquartered in Rome, Italy. It is a specialised agency of the United Nations, to address poverty and hunger.

✓ The 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Council of Governors of the IFAD recently held in Rome with the theme "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030". Malian President Ibrahim Boubacar Keita presided over the opening ceremony.

2. The School Health and Wellness Ambassador initiative has been launched under which scheme?

[A] Swachh Bharat Mission

[B] Ayushman Bharat ☒

[C] Poshan Abhiyaan

[D] Fit India Movement

✓ Union Minister of Health and HRD jointly launched the School Health & Wellness Ambassador initiative under Ayushman Bharat scheme.

✓ Under the initiative, two teachers in every school will be designated 'Health and wellness ambassador' to create awareness about health issues.

✓ The programme will be implemented in 200 districts, initially and will be linked with other government schemes including Fit India movement, Eat Right campaign, Poshan Abhiyaan.

3. What is the theme of the 'World Radio Day, 2020', observed on February 13?

[A] Radio and Diversity ☒

[B] Radio across World

[C] Radio and Multilingualism

[D] Connecting through Air

✓ The proclamation of UNESCO member states was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2013 to celebrate February 13 as the World Radio Day. The theme of this year's celebration is "Radio and Diversity".

✓ The day celebrated to raise awareness about the importance of radio and access to information. This year, the day is celebrated across the world, led by UNESCO. It has started a campaign called 'We are Radio; We are Diversity'.

4. Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana is the flagship scheme of which Union Ministry?

[A] Environment, Forest and Climate Change

[B] Tribal Affairs ☒

[C] Earth Sciences

[D] Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries

✓ The Ministry of Tribal Affairs launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Van Dhan Yojana' in 2019, through TRIFED. It aims at creating livelihood for tribal people by using the forest produce.

✓ Van Dhan Kendras are set up to add branding and packaging their products. Recently, Union Minister for Tribal Affairs Shri Arjun Munda inaugurated the "Workshop on Van Dhan and Entrepreneurship Development" organized by TRIFED (Tribal Cooperative Marketing Development Federation of India).

5. What is the capital package recently approved for infusion in three state-owned general insurance companies?

[A] Rs. 1000 Cr

[B] Rs. 2500 Cr ☒

[C] Rs. 3000 Cr

[D] Rs. 5000 Cr

✓ The Union Cabinet approved a proposal for capital infusion and immediate release of Rs 2,500 crore to three state-owned general insurance companies.

✓ The three public sector companies are: United India Insurance, National Insurance Company and Oriental Insurance Company.

- ✓ The capital infusion is announced at the backdrop of their critical financial position and breach of regulatory solvency requirements.

6. The Direct Tax 'Vivad Se Vishwas' scheme is to cover pending litigation of which tribunal, as per the recent approval by the Union Cabinet?

[A] Debt Recovery Tribunal ☒

[B] National Company Law Tribunal

[C] Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal

[D] Armed Forces Tribunal

- ✓ The Union Cabinet approved the amendment of the Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020, so that it also covers the litigations pending in debt recovery tribunals (DRTs) across the country.

- ✓ The scheme can be availed in search and seizure procedures, where the recovery is up to ₹5 crore. Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020 is aimed at providing resolution of disputed direct taxes. More than ₹9 lakh crore of direct taxes is pending in litigation in India.

7. Which product is recently banned in all airports and aircrafts, by the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security?

[A] Alcohol

[B] e-Cigarettes ☒

[C] Drugs

[D] Face masks

- ✓ The regulator of Aviation security in India, the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) recently notified that it has banned e-cigarettes and similar products in all airports and aircrafts in India.
- ✓ It has also prohibited distribution, sale and storage of such products in any airport premises or any aircraft that departs or arrives in India. Last year, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare banned production, sale and import of e-cigarettes, as they include electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS).

8. Who was recently appointed as the new President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI)?

[A] Atul Kumar Gupta ☒

[B] N D Gupta

[C] Nihar Niranjan Jambusaria [D] Prafulla Chhajed

- ✓ Veteran Chartered Accountant Atul Kumar Gupta has been recently appointed as the new President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants (ICAI) for the year 2020–21.

- ✓ He was previously serving as the Vice President of the body during 2019–20. Atul Kumar Gupta has assumed charge after the President Prafulla Chhajed's place fell vacant. Nihar Niranjan Jambusaria has been elected as the Vice President of the ICAI for 2020–21.

9. Wendell Rodricks, who passed away recently, was associated with which field?

[A] Cinema

[B] Fashion Designing ☒

[C] Politics

[D] Business

- ✓ Renowned Fashion designer Wendell Rodricks recently passed away in Goa. A popular personality in Designing, he was also called as 'Guru of Minimalism'.

- ✓ He was known for introducing the ideas of 'Resort wear' and 'Eco-friendly garments' in the country. He was also a promoter of Khadi movement and a recipient of India's 4<sup>th</sup> highest civilian award, the Padma Shri. The iconic designer was also a social activist.

10. Amit Panghal, who was seen in news recently, is a famous personality associated with which sports?

[A] Archery

[B] Boxing ☒

[C] Wrestling

[D] Tennis

- ✓ Indian ace boxer Amit Panghal was seen in news, as he has been ranked 1<sup>st</sup> by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Boxing Task Force ahead of next month's Olympic Qualifiers.

- ✓ With this, Amit became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian boxer to be ranked 1<sup>st</sup>, in more than a decade. Before Amit, Vijender Singh was ranked first in 2009. The IOC Task force will conduct the Olympic qualifiers and the main event in Tokyo, as the International Boxing Association is currently suspended.