

FEBRUARY
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1. 'Apiary on Wheels' is an initiative of which statutory body of India?

[A] National Commission for Women

[B] National Commission for Minorities

[C] National Green Tribunal

[D] Khadi and Village Industries Commission ☒

✓ On Feb.13, 2020, the Ministry of MSME (Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises) launched "Apiary on Wheels". It is a unique concept framed by KVIC (Khadi and Village Industries Commission).

✓ The main aim of "Apiary on Wheels" is to make migration easy. The concept was launched as a part of National Honey Mission launched in 2017

2. 'Pyaar ka Paudha' (a plant of love), is a campaign of which state, for promoting planting of trees?

[A] Madhya Pradesh

[B] Arunachal Pradesh

[C] Sikkim

[D] Bihar ☒

✓ The Department of Environment and Forest of the Bihar state government has launched a campaign to promote planting of trees in the state.

✓ The campaign was launched ahead of the Valentine's Day, which asked the people to gift a plant of love to their closed ones and take care of plants and trees. This initiative is to make the state greener by creating environmental awareness.

3. Rajiv Bansal has been appointed as chairman and managing director of which Indian airline?

[A] IndiGo

[B] Air India ☒

[C] Spice Jet

[D] Vistara

✓ Veteran bureaucrat Rajiv Bansal was recently appointed as the Chairman and Managing director of Air India. He has been appointed as the head of the national carrier for a second time.

✓ Rajiv Bansal is a 1988 batch IAS officer of the Nagaland cadre and he is currently serving as the additional secretary in the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas. He will replace the current head of Air India, Ashwani Lohani.

4. INS Jamuna of Indian Navy is set to conduct hydrographic surveys in which neighbouring country of India?

[A] Sri Lanka ☒

[B] Bangladesh

[C] Myanmar

[D] Nepal

✓ Hydrographic Survey Ship, INS Jamuna of Indian Navy is set to conduct detailed hydrographic surveys in Sri Lanka for next two months. The ship has arrived in Colombo, Sri Lanka in this regard.

✓ Several shore-based survey activities are also set to be carried out over the deployment period of 2 months. The personnel of Sri Lanka Navy personnel will be provided training during the hydrographic survey.

✓ Harbour training programme for the Sri Lankan sailors is also to be organised.

5. Who was recently appointed as the new Finance Secretary of India?

[A] Rajiv Kumar

[B] Krishnamurthy

[C] Ajay Narayan Jha

[D] Debasish Panda ☒

✓ Debasish Panda, who is currently serving as the Special secretary in the Department of financial services, Union Finance Ministry has been appointed as the new Finance secretary of the country.

✓ As per the Personnel Ministry order, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of the 1987-batch IAS officer as the next Finance secretary, replacing the current Secretary Rajiv Kumar.

6. Which Indian player was recently named 'Player of the Year for 2019', by the International Hockey Federation (FIH)?

- [A] Manpreet Singh ☒ [B] Mandeep Singh
[C] Sreejesh [D] Harmanpreet Singh

✓ The captain of Indian men's team Manpreet Singh was recently named 'Player of the Year for 2019', by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).

✓ Manpreet became the first Indian to win the prestigious award since its introduction in 1999.

7. Rishi Sunak recently became the first Indian-origin Finance Minister of which country?

- [A] United States [B] United Kingdom ☒
[C] New Zealand [D] Japan

✓ Rishi Sunak (39), MP from Richmond in Yorkshire has been recently appointed as the Finance Minister of the United Kingdom.

✓ He replaces the former finance minister of Britain Sajid Javid, who resigned from his role recently.

8. Rajinder K Pachauri, who recently passed away, was the founder of which Indian research institute?

- [A] The Energy Resources Institute (TERI) ☒
[B] Centre for Science and Environment
[C] Agharkar Research Institute
[D] National Institute of Plant Genome Research

✓ Rajinder K Pachauri, who recently passed away, was the founder and chief executive of the New Delhi based research institute, The Energy Resources Institute.

✓ He was elected as Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2002, which was established by the World Meteorological Organisation and the United Nations Environment Programme.

✓ He had received the Nobel Peace Prize for the year 2007, on behalf of the IPCC, along with former US Vice President Al Gore.

9. As of 2020, which Indian Telecom operator is the second most valuable mobile operator in Asia?

- [A] Jio [B] Bharti Airtel ☒
[C] Vodafone Idea [D] BSNL

✓ According to data from Bloomberg, Bharti Airtel has become the second most valuable mobile operator among emerging markets in Asia. It is only behind China's operator China Mobile.

✓ Airtel has market capitalisation of around \$41 billion, at present. China Mobile is the top mobile operator in Asia with capitalisation of \$175 billion.

✓ Airtel also has the 11th largest m-cap in the global market, which is dominated by AT&T and Verizon Communications, followed by China Mobile.

10. Lethpora, where a memorial to the CRPF personnel killed in Pulwama attack was inaugurated, is situated in which State / UT?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Jammu & Kashmir ☒
[C] Punjab [D] Uttarakhand

✓ A memorial to the 40 CRPF personnel who were killed in Pulwama attack was recently inaugurated at Lethpora camp, Pulwama.

✓ The 40 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were killed by a suicide bomber at Pulwama, last year. The names of all the 40 CRPF personnel along with their pictures are inscribed in the newly inaugurated memorial.

1. The National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC) is to be set up in which Indian state?
- [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Arunachal Pradesh
- [C] Sikkim [D] Gujarat ☒
- ✓ India and Portugal recently signed a MoU to develop a world-class National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal in Gujarat.
- ✓ The MoU has been signed in the presence of PM Modi and Portugal President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, during his visit to India. The complex would showcase rich Indian artifacts and create awareness among the public about the rich heritage of the country.
- ✓ The two countries also signed more than 14 agreements in several fields including maritime transport & ports.
2. Which is the first and only private firm to build and deliver research ships in India?
- [A] Titagarh Wagons Ltd ☒
- [B] Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers
- [C] Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited
- [D] Goa Shipyard
- ✓ Indian private firm Titagarh Wagons Ltd has recently commissioned the second coastal research vessel 'Sagar Anveshika', for Chennai based National Institute of Ocean Technology.
- ✓ The firm had received the order for the ship in 2017. The first research ship named 'Sagar Tara' was delivered to the institute in the month of August 2019.
- ✓ By commissioning both the vessels, it has become the first and only private firm to build and deliver research ships in the country.
3. What is the theme of the 56th Munich Security Conference (MSC) 2020?
- [A] Westlessness ☒ [B] SDG
- [C] We Can Work Together [D] Security for All
- ✓ The 56th edition of the Munich Security Conference has recently commenced in Germany's southern city, Munich. The theme of this year's conference is selected to be "Westlessness."
- ✓ Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has represented India in the conference. More than 500 international leaders, including 35 heads of state and more than 100 Foreign and Defence ministers have gathered in the city, to discuss current security crises and challenges.
4. What is the name of the 3rd corporate passenger train of India?
- [A] Tejas Express
- [B] Kashi Mahakal Express ☒
- [C] Kashi Indore Express
- [D] Kashi Vishwanath Express
- ✓ The subsidiary of Indian Railways, IRCTC is set to launch its 3rd corporate passenger train Kashi Mahakal Express on the Varanasi Indore Route.
- ✓ It will connect three temples namely Omkareshwar temple near Indore, Mahakaleshwar temple of Ujjain and Kashi Vishwanath temple of Varanasi.
- ✓ After Tejas Express trains, which are being run on the Lucknow-Delhi and Ahmedabad-Mumbai routes, this is the third private train which will be operated to connect religious places of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
5. 'Kambala' is a traditional sport of which state?
- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Andhra Pradesh
- [C] Kerala [D] Karnataka ☒
- ✓ Kambala is a traditional sport of Karnataka, in which the people of coastal districts of the state conduct a buffalo-race.
- ✓ It was in news recently as one of the local contestants from Dakshina Kannada district named Srinivas Gowda covered 142.5 m Kambala in just 13.62 seconds.

- ✓ The Sports Authority of India recently announced that it will devise a suitable course for the runner. He is called for trials by the Sports Ministry.

6. Yash Bharti Award is the highest award of which Indian State / UT?

- [A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Odisha
[C] Uttar Pradesh ☒ [D] Punjab

- ✓ Yash Bharti Award is the highest award of the state Government of Uttar Pradesh which was instituted in the year 1994.
- ✓ The state has recently announced that Yash Bharti Award is to be replaced with State Cultural Award. State Cultural Award will be presented to the great personalities of the state, who contribute to the state in several fields including music, modern and traditional art Ramlila, folk dialects, lake-dance and sculpture. Cash prize is also to be included in the award.

7. Which state commenced operations of India's first Inter-City Electric Bus service?

- [A] Karnataka [B] Maharashtra ☒
[C] Odisha [D] Telangana

- ✓ India's first inter-city electric bus service was recently inaugurated in the state of Maharashtra between Mumbai and Pune by the Union Transport minister Nitin Gadkari.
- ✓ The luxury electric bus with 43 seater capacity has been manufactured by a private firm and being operated by another Maharashtra-based mobility firm. The bus would be operated twice daily between the two cities.

8. Asper the recent 'Military Balance' report, the defence modernisation of which country led to higher military spending by the US?

- [A] Russia [B] China ☒
[C] Japan [D] India

- ✓ London based research institute, the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) recently released its annual "Military Balance" report.

- ✓ It stated that Global spending on defence increased by 4% in 2019 and it is the largest growth in 10 years. The increase is led by huge increases from the US and China.

- ✓ It also revealed that the defence modernisation of China led to higher defence spending by the US. Both China and the US increased their spending by 6.6%, as per the report.

9. Udyani Mane, who was in news recently, is an Indian player of which sports?

- [A] Tennis [B] Wrestling
[C] Golf ☒ [D] Badminton

- ✓ Udayan Mane was recently seen in news, as the Pune-based Golfer recently won the TATA Steel PGTI Players Championship. He defeated his fellow player Veer Ahlawat of Gurugram.

- ✓ Udayan Mane has also clinched the last two PGTI events including the TATA Steel Tour Championship 2019 and Golconda Masters 2020. He became only the 2nd player to win three consecutive events of the TATA Steel PGTI.

10. Which country has recently developed a recovery – plasma to treat COVID-19 infected patients?

- [A] India [B] China ☒
[C] Thailand [D] Japan

- ✓ The biotechnology research company of China, 'China National Biotec Group' has developed convalescent plasma to treat the patients who are infected with the COVID-19 (novel corona virus).

- ✓ The company has collected plasma from some of the recovered patients in the Wuhan city of China and developed therapeutic products that include convalescent plasma and immune globulin.

- ✓ They are used to treat critically ill patients, who have shown significant improvement with the treatment.

1. 'Yodhavu' (Warrior), a mobile application for curbing drug menace, is an initiative of which state?

[A] Karnataka

[B] Kerala ☒

[C] Andhra Pradesh

[D] Telangana

- ✓ The Chief Minister of Kerala Pinarayi Vijayan recently launched the mobile application called 'Yodhavu' (Warrior), for curbing drug menace in the state.
- ✓ The Police Department of Kochi, Kerala has introduced the application, through which the public can inform police about drug abuse and distribution of drugs.
- ✓ The identity of the informer would be kept secret, according to the police. A cyberdom cyber crime police station was also inaugurated by the Chief Minister.

2. The late External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj was born in which city, where she was elected as MLA twice?

[A] Ambala Cantt, Haryana ☒

[B] Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

[C] Gandhi Nagar, Gujarat

[D] Ludhiana, Punjab

- ✓ The late Union External Affairs Minister of India and a veteran politician of BJP, Sushma Swaraj was born in Ambala Cantt, Haryana, where she was elected as MLA twice.
- ✓ Recently, the 18 Crore worth newly constructed bus stand of Ambala city was renamed after Sushma Swaraj. The senior leader passed away last year in the month of August, at the age of 67.
- ✓ She has been named as the recipient of Padma Vibhushan award this year, posthumously.

3. What is the current accounting year of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)?

[A] April–March

[B] July–June ☒

[C] January–December

[D] May–April

- ✓ The current accounting year of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) is July–June. Recently, the Central Board of Directors of the RBI recommended to align the accounting year of RBI with the financial year of the government (April–March), from 2020–21.

- ✓ The RBI board announced this proposal at its 582nd meeting and approved to forward the proposal to the government for receiving its consideration. Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman addressed the meeting.

4. What is the objective of the 'CREDAI Awaas' mobile application, recently launched by CREDAI?

[A] Redressal of Consumer Grievance

[B] Ease of purchase of Residential properties ☒

[C] Geo-tagging of Residential properties

[D] Approval for Residential properties

- ✓ Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Associations of India (CREDAI) is the apex body of Private Real Estate Developers Associations.

- ✓ It has launched a mobile application called 'CREDAI Awaas', which aims to facilitate ease of purchase of residential properties by homebuyers.

- ✓ Through this application, a credible platform is created for prospective home buyers so that they identify suitable Residential properties and contact their developers directly. The details of the CREDAI member developers are displayed in the application.

5. Joshna Chinappa and Saurav Ghosal are associated with which sports?

[A] Badminton

[B] Squash ☒

[C] Tennis

[D] Table Tennis

- ✓ The Squash Rackets Federation of India (SRFI) 77th Senior National squash championships was recently held at Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- ✓ Ace Indian squash player Joshna Chinappa clinched the women's title by beating Tanvi Khanna, while another

top rated player Saurav Ghosal bagged the men's title by defeating Abhishek Pradhan in straight sets. The champions were awarded a prize money of Rs. 1, 25,000 each.

6. Which city was host to the India–Bangladesh SAMPRITI–IX joint military exercise?

- [A] Umroi ☒ [B] Kolkata
[C] Vishakhapatnam [D] Kochi

- ✓ The 9th edition of the Joint exercise between the armies of India and Bangladesh, SAMPRITI recently concluded at Umroi, Meghalaya.
- ✓ The two–week exercise was held from February 3 to 16, 2020. The personnel of the two countries shared their experiences on counter–insurgency, counter–terrorism operations and disaster management techniques.
- ✓ The exercise helped to strengthen ties between India and Bangladesh, and mutual operability between the armies.

7. As of 2020, which is the only Bollywood movie to win 13 Filmfare Awards?

- [A] Uri: The Surgical Strike [B] Article 15
[C] Saand Ki Aankh [D] Gully Boy ☒

- ✓ The Bollywood movie based on the life of two rap singers, Gully Boy created history in the Filmfare awards by winning 13 of them. The film won in all 13 categories, which it was nominated in.
- ✓ In the event held in Guwahati, the film beat the previous record of 11 awards held by 'Black' by winning in categories that include Best Film, Best Director for Zoya Akhtar, Best Actor for Ranveer Singh and Best Actress for Alia Bhatt. It also bagged Supporting Role Male and Female, Best Music Album and Best Lyrics.

8. What is the theme of Telangana's biotechnology and life sciences forum 'Bio Asia 2020'?

- [A] Life Science for All
[B] Today for Tomorrow ☒

[C] Instrumental Life Sciences

[D] Better Bio–tech

- ✓ The 17th edition of Asia's largest biotechnology and life sciences forum, 'BioAsia 2020' recently commenced in the city of Hyderabad, Telangana. The 3 day event began with the theme of 'Today for Tomorrow'.
- ✓ More than 2000 delegates from as many as 37 countries. A massive exhibition with 175 exhibitors and experts is also set to be organised. Switzerland, which is the partner country of this year's conference, has sent its 40–member to participate in the event.

9. 'Appreciate and Commend' is a scheme of which state, which aims to honour outstanding Police officers?

- [A] Odisha [B] Rajasthan
[C] Punjab ☒ [D] Andhra Pradesh

- ✓ The Police Department of Punjab has recently launched an award scheme called 'Appreciate and Commend'. The DGP of Punjab launched the scheme, which aims to honour the Police officers who perform their duties diligently.
- ✓ Under the scheme, the District Police chiefs will submit nominations of outstanding cops at the end of every month. A committee of senior officers would screen them and the awardees would be announced every month.

10. Which city plays host to 'GulFood 2020', the world's largest annual food and beverage trade exhibition?

- [A] Riyadh [B] Abu Dhabi
[C] Dubai ☒ [D] Doha

- ✓ 'GulFood 2020', the world's largest annual food and beverage trade exhibition is being held in the Dubai World Trade Centre city of Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE), from February 16 to 20. In the 25th edition of the exhibition, more than 5000 exhibitors are to participate. The Indian pavilion at the exhibition was recently inaugurated by the Union Minister for Food Processing Industries–Harsimrat Kaur Badal.

1. ERO-NET is a portal of which autonomous organisation of India?

[A] All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

[B] Election Commission of India (ECI) ☒

[C] Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)

[D] Airports Economic Regulatory Authority (AERA)

- ✓ The Election Commission of India was awarded 'Silver' award for 'Excellence in Government Process re-engineering for Digital transformation' from the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, during the 23rd National Conference on e-Governance held at Mumbai.

- ✓ The award is presented to ECI for its portal ERO-NET. The portal uses a mechanism to effectively enter an applicant in E-roll. It is used for various functions like processing of forms, easy handling of the databases and maintenance of E-Rolls.

2. Who was recently named as the nominee for the proposed Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir?

[A] Sunil Arora

[B] Sushil Chandra ☒

[C] Om Prakash Rawat

[D] A K Jyoti

- ✓ Election Commissioner Sushil Chandra has been named as the nominee for the proposed Delimitation Commission for Jammu and Kashmir, by the Chief Election Commissioner Sunil Arora, after a request from the government.

- ✓ As per the J&K Reorganisation Act, 2019, the number of Legislative Assembly seats of Jammu and Kashmir UT shall be increased from 107 to 114, and delimitation of the constituencies shall be determined by the Election Commission of India.

3. The first Bird-ringing station of the country with support of a state government, is to be built in which State / UT?

[A] Arunachal Pradesh

[B] Bihar ☒

[C] Jharkhand

[D] Odisha

- ✓ The first Bird-ringing station of the country, set up with support of a state government, is to be built in the state of Bihar. This is the fourth such facility in the country.

- ✓ The station, whose main centre is to be built at Bhagalpur, is dedicated for observation, monitoring and research on migratory birds. Rings with chips to track source and origin of birds are placed on their legs.

- ✓ A Memorandum of Understanding was exchanged between representatives of the Bihar government and the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), during the COP-13 CMS summit.

4. Which Taxi hailing startup recently integrated with the Himmat application of Delhi Police?

[A] Ola

[B] Uber ☒

[C] Didi

[D] Lyft

- ✓ Taxi hailing app Uber recently announced that it has integrated with the Himmat application of Delhi Police.

- ✓ Under this partnership, Uber and Delhi Police distributed nearly 1,000 Himmat QR Verification Cards to driver partners.

- ✓ The passenger can report their journey directly to the Delhi Police, by scanning the QR card via the app. Sharing the ride information is optional to passengers.

5. Which global financial institution is set to grant \$450 million loan to India for Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)?

[A] ADB

[B] World Bank ☒

[C] AIIB

[D] New Development Bank

- ✓ The Indian government and the World Bank recently signed a USD 450 million loan agreement to support the national programme Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY).

- ✓ The National programme was launched with an objective of arresting the groundwater depletion and strengthening groundwater institutions.

- ✓ The World Bank-supported programme will be implemented in the states of Gujarat, Maharashtra,

Haryana, Karnataka, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh and cover 78 districts.

6. Who is the head of the High level expert group on farm exports, recently set up by the 15th Finance Commission?

[A] N K Singh

[B] U K Sinha

[C] Tapan Ray

[D] Sanjiv Puri ☒

✓ The 15th Finance Commission (FFC) recently set up a High level expert group on farm exports. The group is to be headed by the Chairman and Managing director of ITC, Sanjiv Puri.

✓ The committee comprises various members including Former agriculture secretary Radha Singh and chairman of APEDA Paban K. Borthakur. The committee will suggest performance based incentives to the state governments for 2021–22 to 2025–26, to accelerate agricultural reforms and exports in the sector.

7. Which organisation has recently initiated the process of capturing district-wise data on origin of export goods?

[A] Export and Import Bank of India

[B] Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs ☒

[C] NITI Aayog

[D] Export Promotion Council

✓ The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) has recently started to capture district-wise data on origin of export goods.

✓ This proposed export information will provide a comprehensive statistical input about the importance of each district, to policymakers. Hence the policies could be aligned with better knowledge of districts and thereby enhancing the local potential.

8. As per the recent report of World Population Review, what is the rank of India in the 'Largest Economy of the World' list?

[A] 7th

[B] 6th

[C] 5th ☒

[D] 4th

✓ World Population Review, a US-based think tank, recently stated in its report that India emerged as the world's 5th largest economy in 2019, with a GDP of \$ 2.94 trillion. India has overtaken the UK and France, to be placed in the 5th position.

✓ The report also stated that in Purchasing power parity (PPP) terms, India's GDP (PPP) is \$ 10.51 trillion, which is also ahead of Japan and Germany. It also revealed that India's real GDP growth will decrease for the third year from 7.5% to 5%.

9. Which city plays host to the '3rd Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety'?

[A] Stockholm ☒

[B] Oslo

[C] Helsinki

[D] Warsaw

✓ The 3rd High Level Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety has been recently hosted in Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden. India's Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways and MSMEs, Nitin Gadkari is to represent India.

✓ The theme of the conference is 'Achieving Global Goals 2030'. The Global Conference is co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO).

10. What is the name of the storm which hit the United Kingdom in February 2020?

[A] Habine

[B] Dennis ☒

[C] Kyar

[D] Ciara

✓ The United Kingdom recently witnessed a devastating storm named 'Dennis', after which the weather agency of the country issued a Danger to life warning. There were widespread heavy winds across the country.

✓ In the last 48 hours, as many as 594 warnings and alerts had been issued. The places which were affected include South Wales and parts of western England. The storm also hit some parts of France.

1. What is the name of the fourth warship delivered by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers to the Indian Navy?

[A] INS Kiltan

[B] INS Kamorta

[C] INS Kadmatt

[D] INS Kavaratti ☒

✓ Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Ltd (GRSE), a defence PSU based at Kolkata has recently delivered an anti-submarine warfare stealth corvette named 'INS Kavaratti' to the Indian Navy.

✓ This is the fourth and the last of the ASWC series built by the PSU GRSE, under Project 28 class. The other three warships earlier delivered were, INS Kamorta, INS Kadmatt and INS Kiltan. Kavaratti and Kiltan are the first 2 major warships of India to possess a super structure made of carbon fiber composite material.

2. The 'Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development' is a collaboration between India and which country?

[A] Switzerland

[B] Norway ☒

[C] Sweden

[D] France

✓ The India-Norway Task Force on Blue Economy for Sustainable Development was recently inaugurated by India's Earth Sciences Minister Harsh Vardhan and Norway's Minister for Climate and Environment.

✓ The two countries also started a new framework for cooperation in 'Integrated Ocean Management and Research'. The task force was introduced in Jan.2019, jointly by the Prime Ministers of India and Norway.

3. 'Berlinale' is the 70th edition of which famous festival, which is set to be inaugurated in Germany?

[A] Berlin Food Festival [B] Berlin Film Festival ☒

[C] Berlin Defence Show [D] Berlin Arts Fair

✓ The 70th edition of the famous Berlin film festival "Berlinale" is set to be held from 20th Feb to 1st March, this year. The Ministry of Information & Broadcasting of India, in collaboration with Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), is participating in the festival.

✓ Union External Affairs Minister of India, S. Jaishankar will inaugurate the Indian Pavilion. Three Indian feature films and a short documentary film have been selected for screening in the global event.

4. Which state government has recently launched a scheme named 'Nadu-Nedu', for modernising hospitals?

[A] Tamil Nadu

[B] Andhra Pradesh ☒

[C] Karnataka

[D] Telangana

✓ The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy recently launched a scheme named 'Nadu-Nedu', for modernising hospitals.

✓ Under the scheme, all the government hospitals of the state are to be modernised in three years, with the government assistance of Rs.15337 Crores. The hospitals are to be made on par with the highest standard of the country, Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS).

5. Which country is set to host the men's edition of the junior hockey World Cup 2021?

[A] India ☒

[B] Argentina

[C] France

[D] Brazil

✓ International Hockey Federation recently announced that India will host the men's edition of the junior hockey World Cup 2021. The women's junior World Cup event will be held in Potchefstroom in South Africa.

✓ This is the first time the African continent is organising the apex sports event. The Continental qualifier matches are scheduled throughout this year and the World cup would be held at the end of 2021.

6. Chief Minister Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (CMAPS) and the Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA) are the schemes of which state government?

[A] Odisha

[B] Madhya Pradesh

[C] Uttar Pradesh ☒

[D] Punjab

✓ The Uttar Pradesh government on Tuesday announced two new schemes during its budget presentation. Under the proposed 'Chief Minister Apprenticeship Promotion

Scheme (CMAPS)', youth of the state in MSME units are to given on-job training and employment.

- ✓ A stipend is also to be provided. Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan (YUVA) hubs are to be set up, to train two lakh youths under various training programmes of the UP Skill Development Mission. A provision of Rs.100 Cr and Rs.50 Cr are allocated for the schemes respectively.

7. Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), was renamed after which former Union Minister?

- [A] Arun Jaitley [B] Sushma Swaraj
[C] Manohar Parikkar ☒ [D] George Fernandes

- ✓ The New Delhi-based government think tank, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) was renamed as Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, to honour the late Defence Minister of India.
- ✓ The erstwhile IDSA is a think tank for research in international relations and Security issues. It also houses a training academy for civilian and military officers of the government.

8. As per the 'State of India's Birds Report 2020', which bird species showed a big increase in population?

- [A] Indian Peafowl ☒ [B] Great Indian Bustard
[C] Common Ostrich [D] Turkey

- ✓ The 'State of India's Birds Report 2020' was recently released during the 13th Conference of Parties to the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS COP 13).
- ✓ As per the report, 79% of Indian species of birds declined in population while the number of Indian pea fowls has significantly increased.
- ✓ The number of house sparrows remained almost stable across the country. The report classified 101 species in the 'high conservation' category.

9. What is the name of the exhibition, organised by the Ministry of Textiles, for promoting Geographical Indication (GI) crafts?

- [A] Shilp Mela [B] Kala Mela
[C] Shilp Kumbh [D] Kala Kumbh ☒

- ✓ The Ministry of Textiles is organising a Handicraft thematic Exhibition exhibition named 'Kala Kumbh', for promoting Geographical Indication (GI) crafts, through the Office of Development Commissioner (Handicrafts).
- ✓ Recently the Kala Kumbh exhibition was inaugurated at Bengaluru and Mumbai. It is also proposed to be held at other major Indian cities including Kolkata and Chennai next month.
- ✓ Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts (EPCH) will sponsor the thematic exhibitions. As on August 2019, 178 GI handicraft products have been registered from across the country.

10. Kishori Ballal, who recently passed away, was a veteran actor of which language?

- [A] Telugu [B] Kannada ☒
[C] Odia [D] Punjabi

- ✓ Veteran Kannada actor Kishori Ballal recently passed away at the age of 82. She was known for starring with Shah Rukh Khan in his movie, 'Swades' as 'Kaveri Amma'. She made her acting debut during 1960 in the movie 'Ivalantha Hendathi' and has acted in more than 75 movies of different Indian languages.

1. What is the corpus of the dedicated fund raised from the fines charged from the defaulting pesticides companies and contributions from the Central and state governments under the Pesticides Management Bill, 2020?

[A] Rs. 20,000 Crore [B] Rs. 40,000 Crore

[C] Rs. 50,000 Crore ☒ [D] Rs. 100,000 Crore

- ✓ Bill moots setting up a dedicated fund of Rs 50,000 crore, raised from the fines charged from the defaulting pesticides companies and contributions from the Central and State governments.

2. Which all three items are not under GST as of Feb 2020?

[A] Fuel, Construction and Alcohol ☒

[B] Fuel, Movie Tickets and Alcohol

[C] Fuel, Tobacco and Alcohol

[D] Fuel, Dairy Products and Tobacco

- ✓ As of now, fuel, construction, alcohol are out of GST. GST on movie tickets is based on slabs, with 18% GST for tickets that cost less than Rs. 100 and 28% GST on tickets costing more than Rs.100.
- ✓ The rate on under construction property booking is 12%. Some industries and products were exempted by the government and remain untaxed under GST, such as dairy products, products of milling industries, fresh vegetables and fruits, meat products and other groceries and necessities.

3. Under the GST regime, e-Way Bill is mandatory of the value of inter-state movement of goods is more than ___?

[A] Rs. 50,000 ☒ [B] Rs. 100,000

[C] Rs. 200,000 [D] Rs. 250,000

- ✓ An e-Way Bill is an electronic permit for shipping goods any another similar to a waybill.
- ✓ It was made compulsory for inter-state transport of goods from 1 June 2018. It is required to be generated for

every inter-state movement of goods beyond 10 kms & the threshold limit of ₹50,000.

4. What is the highest income tax rate slab in India after Budget 2020-21?

[A] 25% [B] 30% ☒ [C] 35% [D] 40%

- ✓ According to Budget 2020-21, those with an income between ₹5 lakh and ₹7.5 lakh, can now pay 10% instead of the present 20%, while those with an income between ₹7.5 lakh to ₹10 lakh, will see a reduced tax rate of 15% instead of 20%.
- ✓ Similarly, for income between ₹10 lakh to ₹12.5 lakh, the tax is currently 30% that is now being brought down to 20%. For those earning between ₹12.5-15 lakh will be charged 25%. For those earning above ₹15 lakh will continue to pay 30%.

5. A paramilitary Sufi group called Ahlu Sunna Waljama, which is recently in news, is fighting with radical Islamist group in Civil War of which country?

[A] Sudan [B] Somalia ☒

[C] Syria [D] South Sudan

- ✓ Ahlu Sunna Waljama'a is a Sufi paramilitary group of Somalia. It is formed by moderates who are opposed to radical Islamist Al-Shabaab group. The civil war in Somalia is basically the fight between these two groups.

6. The term "Operation Car Wash" that was making news recently, is related to which country?

[A] Argentina [B] Brazil ☒

[C] South Africa [D] Russia

- ✓ "Operation Car Wash" is the name of a criminal and corruption scandal investigation in Brazil.

7. Recently, Ashraf Ghani was re-elected in the Afghanistan Presidential elections. What is the name of political party of Ashraf Ghani?

[A] National Coalition of Afghanistan

[B] National Congress Party of Afghanistan

[C] Hezb-e Islami Gulbuddin

[D] None of the above ☒

- ✓ Ashraf Ghani is an independent politician. The recent elections were held in September, 2019 and their result was declared in February, 2020. As per results, Ghani was re-elected with 50.64% of the vote.

8. The term "Key Starting Material (KSM)", recently in news, is related to which industry?

[A] Textile Industry

[B] Pharmaceutical Industry ☒

[C] Cement Industry

[D] Paper Industry

- ✓ Key Starting Material (KSM) term is used for intermediates in pharmaceutical industry. These are building blocks of drug industry.
- ✓ India imports KSM for many medicines from China and due to Coronavirus fears, the drug industry of the country is facing recession concerns.

9. The Far East Development Fund, which recently submitted an expression of interest (EoI) for the beleaguered Jet Airways, is based in which country?

[A] France

[B] England

[C] Russia ☒

[D] Germany

- ✓ The Far East Development Fund was established by the Russian government for infrastructure financing.
- ✓ It facilitates investments in the Far East and Baikal regions, providing preferential & long-term financing for prioritized investment projects across industries such as infrastructure, upstream and downstream production of minerals, small and medium enterprises and agriculture. It has reportedly shown interest to bid for Jet Airways (India) Ltd.

10. Which Supranational union has recently proposed a "framework for trustworthy artificial intelligence"?

[A] Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

[B] European Union ☒

[C] Arab League

[D] Gulf Cooperation Council

- ✓ The EU is pursuing a digital strategy and develop a "framework for trustworthy artificial intelligence", focusing on three key objectives: (1) Technology that works for people; (2) A fair and competitive economy; and (3) An open, democratic and sustainable society.
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