



CURRENT AFFAIRS

FEBRUARY
2020



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1. Which Indian think tank has been ranked among the top 30 think tanks globally, as per a recent report?

[A] Observer Research Foundation (ORF)

[B] NITI Aayog

[C] Centre for Civil Society (CCS)

[D] The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

- ✓ As per the 2019 'Global Go to Think Tank Index Report', Indian think tank Observer Research Foundation (ORF) has been placed among the top 30 think tanks globally, at rank 27. The report is released by the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania.
- ✓ The list was topped by Carnegie Endowment for International Peace of the United States. Last year, ORF was placed at 118th position. The Raisina Dialogue, jointly organised by ORF is also ranked 7th best conference globally.

2. Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs, recently?

[A] Pranab Kumar Das [B] Ajay Bhushan Pandey

[C] M Ajit Kumar [D] Atanu Chakraborty

- ✓ As per the recent order issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet has approved the appointment of M Ajit Kumar as the next Chairman of Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).
- ✓ The announcement has been made just 2 days ahead of the Union Budget, which is to be presented on 1st Feb 2020. M Ajit Kumar is a 1984 batch Indian Revenue Service Officer, who is presently a member of CBIC. Pranab Kumar Das was the previous Chairman of CBIC.

3. Ajmal Sultanpuri, who passed away recently, was a renowned poet in which language?

[A] Hindi

[B] Urdu

[C] Marathi

[D] Gujarati

✓ Ajmal Sultanpuri was a 97 year old renowned Urdu poet, who passed away recently in his native place Sultanpur, Uttar Pradesh.

✓ The poet was a recipient of the Lifetime Achievement Award by Uttar Pradesh Urdu Academy in March 2016 for his significant contribution to Urdu poetry. Some of his noted poems include "Kahan Hai Mera Hindustan" and "Agar Main Tera Shahjahan".

4. The Department of Telecom, India has recently taken over process to issue and manage the allocation of IMEI. What does IMEI stand for?

[A] Indian Mobile Equipment Identity

[B] International Mobile Equipment Identity

[C] Indian Multimedia Equipment Identifier

[D] International Multimedia Equipment Identifier

✓ The IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number is a 15 digit unique serial number of mobile devices. It is allocated by a global industry body GSMA and its authorised organisations.

✓ In India, Mobile Standards Alliance of India (MSAI) is the official reporting body of GSMA. Recently, the Department of Telecom (DoT) has taken over the process of issuing and allocating the IMEI numbers for mobile phones in India from the private body MSAI.

✓ The new 'Indian Counterfeited Device Restriction (ICDR) system', which has been developed by the R&D unit of DoT is being tested on pilot basis on the web portal of Central Equipment Identity Register (CEIR).

5. Khadi wrist watches have been recently launched by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, in association with which company?

[A] Fossil

[B] Titan

[C] Timex

[D] Casio

✓ The Union minister Nitin Gadkari recently launched the unique Khadi wrist watches, which have been manufactured as part of a joint initiative by the Khadi

and Village Industries Commission and leading Indian consumer goods firm, Titan.

- ✓ The watches have been launched on the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, also features the iconic charka. The Minister also suggested to showcase the watches in international airports to attract buyers.
- ✓ As per the announcement from KVIC, 1 sq.m of Khadi fabric is used for manufacturing 10 watches and 1,000 such watches are proposed to be sold.

6. Who has been appointed as the next ambassador of India to Nepal?

- [A] Taranjit Singh Sandhu [B] Vijay Gokhale
 [C] Vinay Mohan Kwatra [D] Ajit Kumar

- ✓ Veteran diplomat Vinay Mohan Kwatra has been recently appointed as India's next ambassador to Nepal, as per the recent announcement made by the Ministry of External Affairs.
- ✓ Vinay Kwatra is a 1988 batch Indian Foreign Service (IFS) officer, who is currently serving as the Ambassador of India to Paris. He has now replaced Manjeev Singh Puri who has attained superannuation from service.
- ✓ Vinay Kwatra has held instrumental positions in several organisations including Permanent Mission of India in Geneva, SAARC Secretariat in Nepal, Embassy of India in Washington among others.

7. 'SAMPRITI' is a joint military training exercise between India and which country?

- [A] Japan [B] Sri Lanka
 [C] China [D] Bangladesh

- ✓ 'SAMPRITI' is a joint military training exercise between India and Bangladesh. The ninth edition of the exercise (SAMPRITI-IX) is set to be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya from February 3 to 16, 2020.
- ✓ The exercise, which is a part of the Indo – Bangladesh defence cooperation, is annually hosted by both

countries alternately. Last year, the exercise was conducted in Tangail, Bangladesh.

- ✓ During the exercise, the troops of both the countries will work together to tackle Counter Terrorist Operation in a simulated environment, as per the United Nations Charter.

8. India recently observed 'Martyrs' Day' on 30th January, to pay homage to which Indian leader?

- [A] Kamarajar [B] Jawaharlal Nehru
 [C] B R Ambedkar [D] Mahatma Gandhi

- ✓ 'Martyrs' Day' is observed across the country every year on January 30. The day is observed to pay homage to the death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the sacrifices of other Indians who laid down their lives for the country.
- ✓ This year India observes the 72nd death anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. All national leaders including President, Vice President, PM and the heads of defence services paid homage to Mahatma Gandhi and other martyrs of India.
- ✓ March 23 is also observed as Martyrs' day to pay tribute to the three freedom fighters -Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.

9. Which Indian journalist has been chosen as the recipient of 2019–20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award?

- [A] Ravish Kumar [B] Yusuf Jameel
 [C] N Ram [D] Prannoy Roy

- ✓ Veteran Indian journalist Yusuf Jameel, was chosen for and awarded the '2019–2020 PEN–Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism'. The award was presented to him, for his revolutionary journalism in Jammu and Kashmir, during the insurgency period.
- ✓ PEN International is a global association of writers, which was founded in 1921. PEN South India and PEN Delhi have instituted the annual award to cherish and honour the assassinated journalist and activist Gauri Lankesh.

- ✓ The award is offered to an individual or organisation, whose work demonstrates courageous and democratic journalism, on birth anniversary of Gauri Lankesh.

10. As per the recent Economic Outlook Survey released by FICCI, what is the estimated median GDP growth forecast for 2019–20?

[A] 5.0% [B] 5.1%

[C] 5.2% [D] 5.3%

- ✓ The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) recently released its latest round of Economic Outlook Survey.
- ✓ As per the survey, the annual median GDP growth forecast for 2019–20 is estimated at 5.0%. The survey also revealed that the GDP growth is likely to improve to 5.5% in 2020–21.
- ✓ The median growth forecast for Agriculture and allied activities and the industry are predicted at 2.6% and 3.5% respectively for 2019–20. The services sector is expected to grow at 7.2% during the current year.
-

1. What is the GDP growth rate of India, in 2018–19, as per the recent statement from the National Statistical Office (NSO), on January 31, 2020?

- [A] 6.8% [B] 6.4% [C] 6.2% [D] 6.1%

✓ The National Statistical Office released revised estimates for economic growth of India for the last three years, on Jan.31, 2020. As per the report, it fixed the actual GDP growth 2018–19 at 6.1%, against its previous estimate of 6.8%, estimated in May 2019.

✓ The National Statistical Office also stated that the main reason for the downward revision in the GDP growth rate is deceleration in farming and mining activities in primary sector and manufacturing activities in secondary sector. It also marked the growth rate in 2017 – 18 as 7%. Recently, NSO estimated the growth rate in 2019–20 to be 5%.

2. Which global tech firm has launched a short-video making application called 'Tangi', which focusses on creativity?

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| [A] Microsoft | [B] Facebook |
| [C] Google <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [D] Adobe |

✓ Technological major Google has recently launched a short-video making application called 'Tangi', which is similar to the popular application TikTok.

✓ The application has been launched initially on the web and iOS platforms. The application for 60-second-videos has been designed by the incubator of Google called 'Area 120'.

✓ The name of the application is inspired by 'Teach and Give' & 'Tangible' things. Communities centered around similar hobbies can also be formed.

3. According to the recent Economic Survey 2019–20, which state has the cheapest Vegetarian Thali (food plate)?

- | | |
|------------|---|
| [A] Kerala | [B] Jharkhand <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] Bihar | [D] Tripura |

✓ The Economic Survey 2019–20 was recently presented by the Chief Economic Adviser Krishnamurthy Subramaniam on Jan.31.

✓ The term called 'Thalinomics' was used, which means the affordability of buying a Thali (Food Plate). It states that, Jharkhand has the cheapest Vegetarian Thali (meals plate), less than Rs.50.

✓ The survey also revealed that the affordability for a vegetarian plate has improved by 29% in the last 13 years while the cost has increased in the year 2019. The affordability of the meals has saved nearly Rs.10000 on an average per year to an average household.

4. As per the recent Economic Survey 2019–20, what is the rank of India globally in number of new firms created?

- [A] 3 [B] 4 [C] 5 [D] 6

✓ The Economic Survey 2019–20 presented on January 31, stated that India is ranked third globally in number of new firms created. It also revealed that as many as 1, 24,000 new firms have been created in India in the year 2018 alone.

✓ The survey quoted this data on firm creation from the World Bank's data on entrepreneurship. The number of new firms created from 2014 to 2018 grew at a rate of 12.2 percent.

✓ It also stated that more new firms were created in services sector in the country when compared to the agriculture and manufacturing sectors.

5. Which Indian-American has been appointed as the new Chairman of the tech company— International Business Machines Corporation (IBM)?

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| [A] Arvind Krishna <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [B] Abidali Neemuchwala |
| [C] Sundar Pichai | [D] Shantanu Narayen |

✓ International Business Machines Corporation (IBM) has appointed Indian-American Arvind Krishna as its new Chairman.

✓ The 57-year-old leader is currently serving as the head of the 'Cloud and Cognitive software unit' of IBM. He is

known for playing an instrumental role in the acquisition of Red Hat by IBM, undertaken last year.

- ✓ He has also led the development of several advanced technologies by IBM including cloud and quantum computing. He replaces the long-time female CEO of IBM, Virginia Rometty, who will continue to serve as the company's executive Chairman.

6. When is the Anti-leprosy day for the year 2020, observed across the world?

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| [A] January 26 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [B] January 27 |
| [C] January 28 | [D] January 29 |

- ✓ The 'Anti-leprosy day' is observed annually on the last Sunday of January, across the world. This year, the day is observed on Jan.26, 2020, the month's last Sunday.
- ✓ The World Health Organisation has adopted a theme of 'Leprosy isn't you think' to create awareness to fight the prejudice and discrimination associated with the disease.
- ✓ In India, the Confederation of Indian Industry signed a MoU with the charitable organization – Sasakawa India Leprosy Foundation (S-ILF) to eradicate leprosy in the country.

7. The European Union has how many countries in its bloc, after the exit of the United Kingdom?

- | | | | |
|--------|--|--------|--------|
| [A] 26 | [B] 27 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [C] 28 | [D] 29 |
|--------|--|--------|--------|

- ✓ After nearly four years of the referendum voted by the British people for Brexit, the United Kingdom officially left the European Union, at 11.00 p.m on January 31, 2020. After Britain left the bloc, the European Union has 27 more countries.
- ✓ The process by which the member state leaves the Union has expired and UK has entered the transition period, which will remain till December 31, 2020.
- ✓ The UK will continue to obey the EU laws and courts during the transition period. A new 50-pence coin was launched recently to mark the occasion.

8. The India International Leather Fair (IILF), 2020 is being held in which city?

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| [A] Coimbatore | [B] Madurai |
| [C] Chennai <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [D] Vellore |

- ✓ The 35th edition of India International Leather Fair (IILF), 2020 is being held in the capital city of Tamil Nadu, Chennai. The fair is being held from February 1 to 3, 2020 at the Chennai Trade Centre.
- ✓ The fair is organized by India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), which functions under aegis of Ministry of Commerce and Industry for promoting country's external trade.

- ✓ A large variety of products related to leather industry are being displayed in the 3-day-long international fair. Latest trends and designs of the global fashion are also showcased in the event.

9. Abidali Neemuchwala, who resigned recently, was the Chief Executive Officer of which popular Indian IT firm?

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------|
| [A] Infosys | [B] Tata Consultancy Services |
| [C] Wipro <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [D] HCL |

- ✓ Abidali Neemuchwala recently submitted his resignation from the Chief Executive Officer post at the leading Indian Information Technology firm Wipro.
- ✓ He has served as the CEO and the Group President of the company for four years and Managing Director since July 2019. Abidali has sought resignation citing family commitments.
- ✓ He will continue to serve in the post until a proper successor is appointed by the company's board of directors. Rishad Premji has recently taken over as the Executive Chairman of Wipro, replacing his father Azim Premji.

10. The 250th flight operation under the RCS – UDAN scheme was recently commenced between Bhubaneswar and which Indian city?

[A] Lucknow [B] Varanasi

[C] Patna [D] Prayagraj

- ✓ The wholly-owned subsidiary of Air India, Alliance Air recently commenced the direct flight operations from Bhubaneswar to Varanasi. The daily flight operation is started under the RCS-UDAN (Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik).
 - ✓ This route also marks the 250th route which has been made operational under the RCS – UDAN. This is also the 58th route commenced by Alliance Air, under RCS.
 - ✓ Recently, the airline started daily flight operations on the Kolkata–Jharsuguda route. The flight is scheduled to depart Bhubaneswar at 12.15 pm and reach Varanasi at 2.05 pm while the flight from Varanasi will leave at 2.30 pm and reach Bhubaneswar at 4.20 pm.
-

1. According to the recent Union Budget 2020–21, what is the disinvestment target of the Indian Government for 2020–21?

- [A] ₹ 1.0 Lakh Crores
- [B] ₹ 1.1 Lakh Crores
- [C] ₹ 1.2 Lakh Crores
- [D] ₹ 1.3 Lakh Crores

✓ In the Union Budget 2020–21, the Government has set its disinvestment target at ₹ 1.2 Lakh Crores for the fiscal year 2020–21. The government also expects ₹90,000 crore revenue from disinvestment of government stake in public sector banks and financial institutions, including the LIC and IDBI bank.

✓ This is in addition to the 1.2 Lakh Crore target and hence a total of ₹ 2.1 Lakh Crores worth disinvestment is scheduled. This year, the government has missed the disinvestment target of ₹1.05 lakh crore. So far, ₹18,000 crore has been generated via disinvestment. The revised estimates set ₹65,000 crore as disinvestment target for this fiscal.

2. As per the recent Union budget, what is the estimated fiscal deficit target for 2020–21, expressed in per cent of GDP?

- [A] 3.3%
- [B] 3.4%
- [C] 3.5%
- [D] 3.6%

✓ In the recent Union Budget 2020–21, the government has estimated the fiscal deficit target for 2020–21 at 3.5% of GDP (Budget Estimate). The fiscal deficit target for 2019–20 was estimated at 3.3% earlier, which has also been revised to 3.8% of GDP, citing revenue shortage as the reason.

✓ Under the Fiscal Responsibility & Budget Management (FRBM) Act, the Section 4 (2) permits the govt. to relax its fiscal deficit target during time of unanticipated stress. This section has been used to increase the previous target to 3.8% in the revised estimates.

3. What is the maximum insurance provided for bank deposits, as per the latest Union budget 2020–21?

- [A] ₹ 1 Lakh
- [B] ₹ 2 Lakh
- [C] ₹ 2.5 Lakh
- [D] ₹ 5 Lakh

✓ The Union Finance Minister hiked the maximum insurance provided for bank deposits to ₹ 5 Lakh, per depositor, in her recent Union Budget 2020–21.

✓ As per the existing guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India, deposits of the customers with all commercial banks and cooperative banks are insured under the Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation.

✓ Each depositor is insured up to a maximum of ₹1 lakh on deposits in all types of accounts (current, savings, fixed) in a particular bank. This 1 lakh limit is now increased to 5 lakhs, per depositor.

4. What is the name of the new scheme proposed in the budget, which is to be implemented by the Aviation Ministry, for transporting agricultural products?

- [A] Udan 5.0 scheme
- [B] Kisan Udan Scheme
- [C] Krishi Udan Scheme
- [D] PM Kisan Udan Scheme

✓ A new scheme was proposed in the budget, which is to be implemented by the Aviation Ministry, for transporting agricultural products of farmers. The scheme was named as 'Krishi Udan Scheme'.

✓ The scheme will assist the farmers with more focus on north-east and tribal districts. The UDAN scheme was launched in 2016, to boost regional connectivity at affordable air-fares.

5. Who clinched the men's singles title in the recently held Australian Open tournament, 2020?

- [A] Roger Federer
- [B] Rafael Nadal
- [C] Novak Djokovic
- [D] Dominic Thiem

✓ The Serb Tennis star Novak Djokovic clinched his eighth Australian Open title, second in a row, by defeating Dominic Thiem of Austria 6–4, 4–6, 2–6, 6–3, 6–4, in the Australian open finals.

✓ This is the 17th Grand Slam trophy of Djokovic, in his entire tennis career, and he is only behind the other two stars Roger Federer (20) and Rafael Nadal (19). He had already won 5 Wimbledon, 3 U.S Open and 1 French Open titles.

6. Pramod Agrawal was recently appointed as the new Chairman and Managing Director of which Public Sector Enterprise?

- | | |
|----------|---|
| [A] SAIL | [B] BHEL |
| [C] IOCL | [D] CIL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

✓ Pramod Agrawal assumed charge as the new Chairman and Managing Director of Coal India Ltd, a Maharatna Public Sector Enterprise.

✓ Prior to this appointment, he was serving as the Principal Secretary for urban development and housing department in Madhya Pradesh. He replaced A K Jha, who retired as the chairman of Coal India Ltd on January 31, 2020.

7. The 3rd private train of the IRCTC is set to run between Varanasi and which Indian city?

- | | |
|--|------------|
| [A] Indore <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [B] Bhopal |
| [C] Nagpur | [D] Jaipur |

✓ As per the recent announcement of the Chairman of the Railway Board Vinod Kumar Yadav, the third private train of the IRCTC is set to run between Varanasi and Indore.

✓ The train, which is to be operated overnight, is expected to have the same rakes as in the Humsafar Express. The train is set to run three days a week between the cities – among them two days will be operated via Lucknow and one day via Allahabad.

✓ The first two private trains are operated on two routes namely Delhi–Lucknow and Ahmedabad–Mumbai.

8. Which Indian diplomat was recently appointed as India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka?

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| [A] Ajay Bisaria | [B] Gopal Baglay <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] Vinay Mohan Kwatra | [D] Taranjit Singh Sandhu |

✓ Veteran Indian diplomat Gopal Baglay was recently appointed as the India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka. Gopal Baglay, who is currently serving at the

Prime Minister's Office, is expected to assume charge in a short time.

✓ He has succeeded Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who has recently been appointed as the Indian Ambassador to the United States. Gopal Baglay has held several important positions during his career. He has served as the Deputy High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and Spokesperson of the External Affairs Ministry.

9. Which country has national emergency to tackle the attack of locust swarms?

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| [A] India | [B] Pakistan <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] Iran | [D] Afghanistan |

✓ Pakistan has recently witnessed its worst locust attack ever in decades and has declared national emergency for tackling their attack. The insects are reported to have destroyed crops on a large scale in Punjab, the main agricultural region of the country.

✓ The decision to declare national emergency was taken at a meeting convened by Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan. A National Action Plan (NAP) was also approved, which requires a sum of ₹7.3 billion to tackle the crisis. Somalia has also declared national emergency for the same reason, recently.

10. In which Indian city, the Indian navy conducted its coastal security exercise, 'Matla Abhiyaan'?

- | | |
|------------|---|
| [A] Cochin | [B] Kolkata <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] Mumbai | [D] Vishakhapatnam |

✓ The Indian Navy has conducted a 5 day-long coastal security exercise called 'Matla Abhiyaan' at Kolkata, which started on Jan.29. The exercise is named after the Matla River, which flows around the Sundarbans.

✓ During the exercise, the naval personnel interacted with the coastal police stations. The naval team also visited local schools to spread awareness on coastal security. This exercise is expected to help the naval crew in understand the navigational complexities in the Sundarbans.

1. "Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)" is an initiative of which Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
- [B] Ministry of Science and Technology
- [C] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- [D] Ministry of Human Resource Development

- ✓ The Department of Science & Technology (DST), under the Ministry of Science and Technology has launched a scheme called "Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)".
- ✓ It owns high-end analytical testing instruments and reduce the dependency on foreign sources. DST announced that it has planned to set up five SATHI Centres every year for the next four years.
- ✓ There are already three such institutes in the country at IIT Kharagpur, IIT Delhi and BHU, at a total cost of Rs.375 Cr. The SATHI Centre will run 24x7 throughout the year and external users from other academic institutes and start-ups will be given more time to use the instruments.

2. The Scientists at Indian Veterinary Research Institute have recently developed a low-cost vaccine for which disease?

- [A] Bird Flu
- [B] Swine Fever
- [C] Foot and Mouth Disease
- [D] Monkey pox

- ✓ The Scientists at Indian Veterinary Research Institute (ICAR-IVRI), an institute of Indian Council of Agricultural Research, have recently developed a low - cost vaccine for the classical swine fever.
- ✓ Swine fever is a disease associated with high mortality and illness in pigs. Until now, the swine fever vaccines have been imported for domestic usage and moreover the imported vaccines are to be administered once in every six months.
- ✓ But a single shot of the new indigenous vaccine would be sufficient for the animal's life time. This would be an

affordable option for the farmers and also assist in pork production and export.

3. "Babenco: Tell Me When I Die", which won the 'Golden Conch Award for Best Documentary Film' at the Mumbai International Film Festival 2020, is a film of which country?

- | | |
|------------|--|
| [A] Canada | [B] Brazil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] France | [D] South Korea |
- ✓ "Babenco: Tell Me When I Die" won the 'Golden Conch Award for Best Documentary Film' at the Mumbai International Film Festival 2020.
 - ✓ It is a Brazilian documentary film, directed by the filmmaker Barbara Paz. The award was presented at the 16th edition of the film festival, which was graced by the Maharashtra governor Bhagat Singh Koshyari.
 - ✓ Nagraj Manjule's "Paavascha Nibandh" received the Silver Conch award for Best Short Fiction Film. The Silver Conch Award for the Best Animation Film has been shared by the German film "Portrait of Suzanne" and the Indian film "Panangaatu Nari" by Divakar SK.

4. L&T MBDA Missile Systems (LTMMMSL) has recently set up a missile integration facility at which state?

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| [A] Tamil Nadu <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [B] Karnataka |
| [C] Maharashtra | [D] Kerala |

- ✓ L&T MBDA Missile Systems (LTMMMSL) has recently set up a missile integration facility at Coimbatore city in the state of Tamil Nadu. LTMMMSL is a joint venture between the engineering and construction firm Larsen & Toubro and the European defence company MBDA.
- ✓ The integration facility is set up in a Special Economic Zone and will manufacture weapon systems to domestic and global markets.
- ✓ It also has finer equipment for testing the Missile Subsystems and weapon launch systems. This project is a part of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor.

5. Which state bagged the award for 'Best performance in Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana', recently presented by the Union Minister of Women & Child Development?

[A] Madhya Pradesh [B] Andhra Pradesh

[C] Karnataka [D] Gujarat

✓ Union Minister of Women & Child Development Smriti Irani recently presented the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana awards to the best performing States, Union Territories and Districts.

✓ Madhya Pradesh bagged the first place in the category of best performance States/ UTs with more than 1 crore population. The state is followed by Andhra Pradesh and Haryana. In the category of states with less than 1 Crore population, Dadra & Nagar Haveli is at the first place, followed by Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh.

6. Which Indian state has recently declared the disease caused by the novel coronavirus as a "state calamity"?

[A] Tamil Nadu [B] Kerala

[C] Karnataka [D] Telangana

✓ The state Government of Kerala declared the disease caused by the novel coronavirus as a "state calamity". This declaration comes at the backdrop of three people of the state being tested positive for coronavirus.

✓ Kerala reported the first infection from the virus in India and the person is being treated in isolation wards. Later two other patients, who are the students of a medical college in Wuhan, China are also diagnosed with the virus infection.

✓ The novel coronavirus was first reported in China's Wuhan city and has spread to nearly 25 other countries.

7. The Hubbali to Dharwad Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) project was recently inaugurated in which state?

[A] Karnataka [B] Maharashtra

[C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Telangana

✓ The Vice President M Venkaiah recently inaugurated the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRTS) project between the twin cities of Karnataka, Hubbali to Dharwad.

✓ The project cost of Rs 970 crore is jointly funded by the state and central governments and the World Bank. The BRTS established between the cities on a trial basis already serves more than 1 lakh passengers per day.

✓ It has now become fully operational and is expected to be a major boost in the state's public transport.

8. Which banker of India has been named as the Central Banker of the Year (Asia-Pacific 2020), by the Banker magazine?

[A] Raghuram Rajan [B] Shaktikanta Das

[C] Urjit Patel [D] Viral Acharya

✓ The Banker magazine has named the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Governor Shaktikanta Das as the Central Banker of the Year- Asia-Pacific 2020. 'Global Central Banker of the Year' award was presented to Jorgovanka Tabakovi, National Bank of Serbia.

✓ The award is given to central bankers who have significantly managed to stimulate growth and stabilise the economy of their country.

✓ Shaktikanta Das was nominated as he successfully managed various economic crises of the country including the Non-Banking Financial companies (NBFC) crisis and Non-performing assets of Indian banks.

9. The famous arts festival called 'Kala Ghoda Arts Festival' is celebrated annually in which Indian city?

[A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai

[C] Kolkata [D] Bengaluru

✓ The famous arts festival called 'Kala Ghoda Arts Festival' is celebrated annually in the city of Mumbai.

✓ The 21st edition of the street festival has recently commenced. This year, the nine-day-long festival has a variety of events in 12 sections, related to arts, music, cinema, literature, theatre and heritage walks.

- ✓ This year's edition of KGAF has been organised entirely through crowd – funding using the platform named 'Ketto', without the conventional sponsorship. The annual festival has been organised by the Kala Ghoda Association since 1999.

10. The third Defence Attaches conference, 2020 was recently held in which city?

[A] Ahmedabad [B] New Delhi

[C] Kanpur [D] Lucknow

- ✓ Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the third Defence Attaches conference at New Delhi. He also announced that India is set to have 10 more Defence Attaches in 10 different countries.
 - ✓ This creation of additional 10 defence wings will strengthen the defence diplomacy of the country and help in increasing exports in defence sector.
 - ✓ Under the central government scheme of promoting defence exports, funds are allocated for export through Defence attaches to 34 countries.
-

1. Which state government recently launched a scheme called 'Janasevaka' to home-deliver various government services to citizens?

- [A] Telangana [B] Karnataka
- [C] Madhya Pradesh [D] Gujarat

- ✓ The state government of Karnataka has recently launched a scheme called 'Janasevaka' to home-deliver various government services to citizens. The scheme ensures the delivery of ration cards, senior citizen identity and health cards at the door steps of citizens.
- ✓ The newly launched scheme is a part of the 'Sakala' scheme of the state and will cover as many as 53 services of 11 state departments. The scheme was first implemented in Dasarahalli area on a pilot basis and will be extended to other regions.
- ✓ Subsequently, the scheme would be made operational in Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru and Hubli-Dharwad.

2. The Union Cabinet of India recently approved amendments to bring which category of banks under the regulation of Reserve Bank of India?

- [A] Multi-state cooperative banks
- [B] Land Development Banks
- [C] Primary agricultural societies
- [D] Nidhi companies

- ✓ The Union Cabinet of India recently approved amendments to the Banking Regulation Act, which will bring multi-state cooperative banks under the regulation of the Reserve Bank of India.
- ✓ This amendment in regulation is expected to prevent malpractices in the co-operative banks and ensure better regulation. The administrative role of the banks will be managed by the cooperative registrars.
- ✓ This decision is taken at the backdrop of the collapse of Punjab and Maharashtra Co-operative (PMC) Bank last year. The banks would also be audited according to the norms stipulated by RBI.

3. Which country's delegation of educational institutions recently visited India and signed agreements in the fields of higher education and research?

- [A] Canada [B] Norway
- [C] Germany [D] Japan

- ✓ Authorities from the Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research have recently signed agreements with India in the fields of higher education and research, in New Delhi.
- ✓ This agreement is a part of the visit of delegation of important educational institutions of Norway to India.
- ✓ Among the several agreements signed, the significant pact was between the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi and The Arctic University of Norway (UiT), for co-operation in the fields of bio-photonics, health and diagnostic tools, nanotechnology.

4. Which Indian actor was recently presented with the 'Kishore Kumar Samman' Award for 2018, by the Madhya Pradesh government?

- [A] Waheeda Rehman [B] Asha Parekh
- [C] Vyjayanthimala [D] Hema Malini

- ✓ Veteran Indian actor Waheeda Rehman was recently conferred with the prestigious Kishore Kumar Samman Award for the year 2018. The award was instituted by the Madhya Pradesh government.
- ✓ Famous director Priyadarshan was conferred with the Kishore Kumar Samman for the year 2019, on the death anniversary of the legendary actor Kishore Kumar, October 13, 2019.
- ✓ As Waheeda Rehman could not receive the award during the ceremony, she was presented the award now, by the Madhya Pradesh culture minister Dr Vijaylaxmi Sadho.

5. Pranab Kumar Gogoi, who recently passed away, was a famous personality in which field?

- [A] Sports [B] Literature

[C] Arts

[D] Politics

- ✓ The MLA of Sivasagar constituency in the state of Assam, Pranab Kumar Gogoi recently passed away.
- ✓ He had also served as the Speaker of the Assam state assembly. He was known for introducing the definition of the term "Assamese".

6. Which Indian city is set to play host to the 15th East Asia Summit conference, 2020?

[A] Chennai

[B] Hyderabad

[C] New Delhi

[D] Ahmedabad

- ✓ The 15th East Asia Summit conference of the year 2020 is set to be organised by India, in the southern city of Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- ✓ The conference will mainly focus on co-operation in maritime security and challenges in maritime domain.
- ✓ During the 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) in Bangkok in November 2019, the Indian Prime Minister announced that the Indian Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) would organise the next EAS conference, in partnership with the governments of Australia and Indonesia.
- ✓ As announced, the EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation would be held in Chennai from 2020 Feb 6 & 7. This is the 4th EAS conference organised by India.

7. The flagship biennial Defence exhibition of India 'DefExpo' is organised in which Indian city?

[A] New Delhi

[B] Lucknow

[C] Bengaluru

[D] Hyderabad

- ✓ The biennial Defence exhibition of India, 'DefExpo' was recently inaugurated at Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh by the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- ✓ The Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister also attended the inaugural programme. A live demonstration of naval systems, aerial systems and land systems was performed during the ceremony.

- ✓ The main theme of the DefExpo 2020 is 'India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub' and the focus will be on 'Digital Transformation of Defence'.
- ✓ The 5 day exhibition is to be attended by delegates and military manufacturers from more than 70 countries. The 5th India–Russia Military Industry Conference is also to be held on the side-lines of the event.

8. Which Asian country recently introduced a "sustainable development fee" for regional tourists including Indian visitors?

[A] Thailand

[B] Bhutan

[C] Cambodia

[D] Sri Lanka

- ✓ Bhutan recently introduced a "sustainable development fee" for regional tourists, as there is a sharp rise in Indian visitors to the country. The lower house of Bhutan Parliament passed the legislation in this regard.
- ✓ The regional tourists, who were previously exempted from the fee were the tourists from India, Bangladesh, and the Maldives. Now for entering Bhutan, they have to pay a fee of 1,200 ngultrums (\$16.85) per day.
- ✓ The fee, which will be charged from July 2020, will assist the government in tackling the traffic control due to sharp rise in tourist count.

9. What is the GDP growth rate of India in the 2020–21 fiscal, as estimated by the Moody's Investors Service?

[A] 6.5% [B] 6.0% [C] 5.5% [D] 5.0%

- ✓ Moody's Investors Service recently released its estimates for India's GDP growth in the upcoming fiscals. It lowered the real GDP growth projection for the next 2020–21 fiscal to 5.5%, from its previous estimate of 6.3%. The government's Economic survey has projected a growth rate of 6–6.5% for the next fiscal.
- ✓ It also stated that the GDP growth for the current fiscal ending March 31 would be 4.9%, which is slightly lower than the estimate of the government. For the fiscal 2021–22, it predicted a growth rate of 6%, down from 6.7% which was projected earlier.

10. Former world champion Mirabai Chanu, who recently set a new national record in the National Weightlifting Championships, belongs to which state?

[A] Haryana [B] Uttar Pradesh

[C] Manipur [D] Rajasthan

- ✓ Ace Indian weight-lifter, Mirabai Chanu set a new national record in the National Weightlifting Championships in Kolkata, by improving her previous record. The former world champion and common wealth gold medallist belongs to the state of Manipur.
 - ✓ Mirabai lifted a total of 203kg to win the 49kg gold, which was better than her previous best– 201 kg, which she had achieved at the World Championships at Thailand, in September last year.
 - ✓ The 25-year-old weight-lifter was placed fourth in the world rankings. Jeremy Lalrinnunga, another top weight-lifter from India won the men's 67kg title in the Championship.
-

1. Which Indian celebrity is at the top spot in the latest brand valuation study by Duff & Phelps?

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| [A] Akshay Kumar | [B] Virat Kohli <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] P V Sindhu | [D] Deepika Padukone |

- ✓ Indian Cricket star Virat Kohli retains his top rank in the latest brand valuation study by Duff & Phelps. He is placed at the first spot third year in a row. The report revealed that Virat Kohli has increased his brand value by 40 per cent to \$237.5 million in 2019.
- ✓ The 2nd place was bagged by Bollywood actor Akshay Kumar, who pushed the last year's second rank holder Deepika Padukone to 3rd. The 3rd spot is shared by actor Ranveer Singh. Former Indian captain M S Dhoni is placed at 9th place in the list.

2. Which social-media platform recently announced that it will label the fake news and remove harmful data shared on its platform?

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| [A] Whatsapp | [B] Twitter <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] Instagram | [D] Youtube |

- ✓ US-based social networking and microblogging service, Twitter recently announced that it would label the fake media shared on its platform.
- ✓ From next month, Twitter will start labelling the photo or video, so that its users can identify that the media has been manipulated. It also announced that, the firm may remove some media, which are harmful to public safety.

3. India's 13th major port is set to be established in which state, as per the recent Cabinet approval?

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| [A] Tamil Nadu | [B] Kerala |
| [C] Maharashtra <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [D] Gujarat |

- ✓ The Union Cabinet of India recently approved to set up 13th major port of India, at Vadhavan in Maharashtra. The project is to entail a total cost of Rs 65,544 crore.
- ✓ All related business activities would be done under Private Public Partnership (PPP) mode. A special

purpose vehicle is proposed to be formed, which would develop the infrastructure of the new port.

4. Which Indian city was recently certified formally as a World Heritage site by UNESCO?

- | | |
|--|---------------|
| [A] Varanasi | [B] Ahmedabad |
| [C] Jaipur <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [D] Nagpur |

- ✓ The Pink City of India, Jaipur was formally certified as a World Heritage site by the Director General of UNESCO, Audrey Azoulay.
- ✓ The World Heritage City certificate was presented at a ceremony held at the historic Albert Hall of Jaipur. It was also announced that UNESCO would collaborate with the Tourism department of Rajasthan Government to promote tourism sector in Western Rajasthan.

- ✓ The walled city of Jaipur was named as a UNESCO World Heritage site in July 2019, at the 43rd Session of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in the city of Baku, Azerbaijan.

5. The Union Cabinet recently approved to confer the status of Institution of National Importance (INI) to how many Indian Institutes of Information Technology?

- | | | | |
|-------|-------|-------|---|
| [A] 2 | [B] 3 | [C] 4 | [D] 5 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-------|-------|-------|---|

- ✓ The Union Cabinet recently approved the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs) Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2020, to confer the status of Institution of National Importance (INI) to five Indian Institutes of Information Technology (IIITs).
- ✓ The 5 IIITs in Public-Private-Partnership mode at Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala and Raichur are conferred with the INI status.
- ✓ After the status has been granted, the institutions would be able to award degrees and to use the nomenclature of Bachelor of Technology (BTech) or Master of Technology or PhD degree. The existing 15 IIITs had already been provided with the INI status.

6. Israel's Elbit Systems recently signed a MoU with which Indian company for developing an unmanned aerial vehicle?

[A] HAL [B] DRDO [C] BHEL [D] ISRO

✓ During the on-going exhibition DefExpo-2020, a MoU was signed between Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Israel's Elbit Systems, for joint development of an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV).

✓ The agreement aims at analysing the feasibility of developing an UAV, which performs vertical take-off and landing, for maritime and land-based military operations.

✓ The proposed UAV will cut down the huge costs associated with maintenance of manned helicopters. The vehicles with greater potential, will also be more efficient in military operations.

7. What is the rank of India in the recently released International intellectual property index 2020?

[A] 36 [B] 40 [C] 42 [D] 44

✓ The US Chamber of Commerce Global Innovation Policy Centre (GIPC) recently released the latest edition of International intellectual property index.

✓ In the list, India is ranked 40, with a score of 38.46%, higher than the last year's score. India was placed at 36th rank in the last year's list, which ranked 50 countries across the world. This year the Centre included 53 economies.

✓ The United States, the United Kingdom, Sweden, France and Germany retained their positions and were placed at the top 5 spots in the intellectual property index list.

8. Union Cabinet of India approved Alliance Air to start flight operations between India and which country, by waiving 20-aircraft rule?

[A] Sri Lanka [B] Mauritius
[C] Thailand [D] Singapore

✓ The Union Cabinet has granted approval to Alliance Air to fly between India and Sri Lanka, by waiving the rule that an airline needs to own minimum 20 aircrafts to operate internationally.

✓ Alliance Air, which is a 100 per cent subsidiary of Air India, has five years of experience but does not have 20 aircrafts. A special exemption is allowed for the interim period, until the airline deploys the higher among- a minimum of 20 aircraft or 20 per cent of total capacity.

✓ There was no commercial operation scheduled from Palaly and Batticaloa airports of Sri Lanka, before this approval.

9. Britain's Prince Charles has launched a new Children's protection fund for which Asian country?

[A] Sri Lanka [B] India [C] Bhutan [D] Nepal

✓ The Prince of Britain, Charles has recently unveiled a new children's protection fund for India. This fund is a part of the charity founded by him in 2007, the British Asian Trust.

✓ The trust was founded to fight poverty in South Asia. Noted American singer Katy Perry was named as the ambassador of the new fund. The Protection fund will focus on reducing the exploitation of children by 50% in India over 10 years.

10. Which country recently launched the 'International Religious Freedom Alliance' for protecting religious freedom across the world?

[A] Russia [B] USA [C] Japan [D] India

✓ The United States recently launched the International Religious Freedom Alliance, which is aimed at protecting and preserving religious freedom across the world. The U S Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the formal launch of the alliance.

✓ As many as 27 countries have joined the alliance and the prominent countries among them are Australia, Brazil, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands & Greece. He also announced that the next ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom will be hosted by Poland in Warsaw.

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 1st 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 4th 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 3rd 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 5th India–Russia Military Industrial Conference was recently organised in which city?

[A] Moscow [B] New Delhi

[C] Lucknow [D] St. Petersburg

✓ The 5th 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 22nd 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 22nd 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 6th 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 8th 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 14th 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 23rd National Conference on e-Governance held in Mumbai.

✓ Under the RTPMS 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 13th UN Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) (COP 13), 2020?

- [A] Mumbai [B] Madrid
 [C] Gandhinagar [D] Tokyo

✓ The 13th 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 owllet [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 5th 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 2nd BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise, 2020 has been conducted in which city?

[A] Thimphu [B] Bhubaneswar

[C] Colombo [D] Kathmandu

✓ The 2nd 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 11th 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 43rd 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 Keïta 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 4th 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 1st by the International Olympic Committee's (IOC) Boxing Task Force ahead of next month's Olympic Qualifiers.

- ✓ With this, Amit became the 1st Indian boxer to be ranked 1st, 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.

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 morethan 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. Morethan 500 international leaders, including 35 heads of state and morethan 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [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. As per the recent 'Military Balance' report, the defence modernisation of which country led to higher military spending by the US?

- | | |
|------------|---|
| [A] Russia | [B] China <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [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 Kadmat [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 Kadmat and INS Kiltan. Kavaratii 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

- ✓ 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [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 'Ivalentha 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.

1. The 'Pandemic Bonds' are issued by which multilateral development bank?

[A] World Bank

[B] AIIB

[C] European Investment Bank [D] ADB

✓ Pandemic Bonds were launched by World Bank under its Pandemic Emergency Financing umbrella in 2017 in response to the 2013 to 2016 Ebola outbreak in Sierra Leone, Guinea and Liberia.

✓ The bonds issued by the World Bank's International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), offer investors high coupons in return for the risk of having to forgo some or all their money in the event of pandemic outbreaks of a number of infectious diseases.

2. The Shanidar Cave, a hotspot for Neanderthal remains, is located in which country?

[A] Syria

[B] Iraq

[C] Tajikistan

[D] Egypt

✓ Shanidar Cave is located in the Kurdistan Region in Iraq in Zagros Mountains. Shanidar Cave was excavated in the 1950s, when archaeologist Ralph Solecki uncovered partial remains of ten Neanderthal men, women and children. Some were clustered together, with clumps of ancient pollen surrounding one of the skeletons.

✓ Solecki claimed this showed Neanderthals buried their dead and conducted funerary rites with flowers.

3. Which country is supplier of majority of mined Cobalt, which is used in cathodes for lithium-ion batteries used in cell phones and Electric vehicles?

[A] China

[B] Kazhakiistan

[C] Sudan

[D] Democratic Republic of Congo

✓ Cobalt is a critical element for not only cell phones but also electric vehicles that might be good for the environment. Roughly 60% of mined cobalt is sourced from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its continued availability is becoming an issue due to political environment of DRC.

4. What is the current (2020) number of telecom companies in India?

[A] 10

[B] 8

[C] 6

[D] 4

✓ Telecom companies in India have reduced from nine in 2016 to four in 2020, including Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited, the government-owned telecom company.

✓ This has happened even as consumption of mobile services rose 88% from 366 minutes per user per month to 691 while data consumption grew from less than 0.5 gigabytes (GB) to nearly 11 GB between 2016 and 2019, according to data from the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI).

5. Which country is world's biggest palm oil importer?

[A] India

[B] China

[C] Russia

[D] Saudi Arabia

✓ As of 2020, India is largest importer of Palm Oil. India imported 9.4 million tonnes of palm oil in the marketing year that ended on October 31, including 2.72 million tonnes of refined palm oil.

✓ Palm oil makes up nearly two-thirds of India's total imports of edible oil. It buys palm oil mainly from Indonesia and Malaysia, which are the world's top and second biggest producer of the commodity respectively.

6. Currently, which Economic Census is underway in India?

[A] 5th

[B] 6th

[C] 7th

[D] 8th

✓ 7th Economic Census is being brought out by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation's Central Statistics Office (Economic Statistics Division).

✓ A nationwide Business Register as per international practices adopted by developing countries and in line with UNSD recommendations.

✓ It will provide detailed information on economic variables, activity wise, of all the non agricultural establishments of the country including its distribution at all India, State, District, Village levels for

comprehensive analysis of the structure of the economy.

7. As per the National Population Register, a person is “usual resident” who has resided in a local area for past how many months / years?

[A] 6 months [B] 1 year

[C] 18 months [D] 2 years

- ✓ National Population Register (NPR) is a list of “usual residents” of the country, defined as a person who has resided in a local area for the past six months or more or a person who intends to reside in that area for the next six months or more.
- ✓ It is a register having both biometric and demographic details of every resident in India from village to district to state to the national level.

8. Who heads the 12 member “Technology Group” to advice ministries, departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) on technology implementation?

[A] Dr. R Chidamabaram [B] Rishikesh

[C] Dr K Vijay Raghavan [D] Bhaskar Saha

- ✓ The Union Cabinet, chaired by PM Narendra Modi, recently gave its nod for the constitution of a 12 member “Technology Group” to advice ministries, departments and public sector undertakings (PSUs) on technology implementation.
- ✓ The committee will be headed by Dr K Vijay Raghavan, principal scientific advisor to PM Modi.

9. Which country has highest rate of hepatitis C in the world and is expected to eradicate the disease in 2020?

[A] Saudi Arabia [B] China

[C] India [D] Egypt

- ✓ Egypt has 15–20% prevalence of HCV. The country is expected to eradicate the disease by 2020 after an ambitious nationwide campaign against the disease.

10. The cabinet of which state in India has cleared a bill to enact the “Time-Bound Clearance Act” which shall ensure time-bound clearance of industrial licenses for investment projects?

[A] Rajasthan

[B] Haryana

[C] Madhya Pradesh

[D] Gujarat

- ✓ Madhya Pradesh Cabinet has cleared a draft bill to enact Madhya Pradesh Time-Bound Clearance Act. This act will ensure time-bound clearance of industrial licenses for investment projects.
- ✓ It envisages that around 40 clearances and permissions pertaining to almost 10 state departments will have to be delivered within a fixed timeframe.

1. What is the rank of India in the 'Global Flourishing index' released by WHO Commission and UNICEF?

- [A] 101 [B] 111 [C] 121 [D] 131

✓ A report titled 'A Future for the World's Children' was recently released by a World Health Organization (WHO) Commission, UNICEF and the Lancet journal.

✓ The report included a new 'Global Flourishing index', which compares the countries in measures of child survival and wellbeing. Out of the total of 180 countries assessed, India is placed at 131st rank in flourishing index and 77th rank in sustainability index.

2. Project Tej, which was in news recently, was launched by which Indian state?

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| [A] Andhra Pradesh | [B] Odisha |
| [C] Telangana <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | [D] Uttar Pradesh |

✓ The Government of Telangana have launched Project Tej, in association with a platform MedTechConnect, during the BioAsia 2020 – Biotech & Life Sciences forum of the state.

✓ This Project aims at creating a platform to help entrepreneurs test their ideas in medical technology field. The state's Research and Innovation Circle of Hyderabad (RICH) and MedTechConnect signed a MoU in this regard.

✓ MedTechConnect platform was established by the engineering and Tech Company Cyient and Xynteo's business alliance called 'India2022 Coalition'.

3. As per the annual 'Nature Ranking Index–2020', which Indian institution is ranked in the first place in the country?

- [A] IISc [B] CSIR [C] TIFR [D] HBNI

✓ As per the 'Nature Ranking Index–2020', which is based on total research output of institutions, the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) has been ranked in the first place in the country.

✓ Based on the researches carried out from December 2018 to November 2019, the ranks are devised. Indian

Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore, has been ranked second in the index, followed by Tata Institute of Fundamental Research (TIFR–Mumbai).

4. In which year, Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh were granted Indian statehood?

- [A] 1972 [B] 1977 [C] 1982 [D] 1987

✓ The two north-eastern states Mizoram and Arunachal Pradesh on Wednesday observed their Statehood Day on February 20. On the same day in the year 1987, the two states were granted Indian statehood.

✓ Mizoram was a part of the state Assam until 1972, the year in which it was made a separate Union Territory. Subsequently, it became the 23rd state of India on February 20, 1987.

✓ The North East Frontier Agency was named Arunachal Pradesh and made a union territory in 1972, and then made a state in 1987.

5. What does CCPA stand for, in the context of Consumer Protection Act 2019?

- | |
|---|
| [A] Common Consumer Protection Agency |
| [B] Central Consumer Protection Authority <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| [C] Company Consumer Protection Authority |
| [D] Centralised Consumer Protection Affairs |

✓ Food and Consumer Affairs Minister Ram Vilas Paswan has recently announced that the Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) will be created to implement the Consumer Protection Act 2019.

✓ The Authority will be established by the first week of April this year. The Minister also announced that an investigative wing will be formed, which will function under the authority to carry out inquiries related to unfair trade practices and deceptive advertisements.

✓ The Parliament approved 'The Consumer Protection Bill 2019', which replaced the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, last year.

6. Who was named as the Ernst and Young (EY) Entrepreneur of the Year 2019?

[A] Adi Godrej [B] Uday Kotak

[C] Kiran Mazumdar Shaw [D] Sridhar Vembu

✓ The 21st edition of the Ernst and Young (EY) awards for the year 2019 was presented recently.

✓ The Founder and CMD of India's leading Bio - Pharmaceutical firm – Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar Shaw was named as the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2019. She is set to represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award in Monte Carlo, to be held in June.

✓ Godrej Group Chairman Adi Godrej was conferred the Lifetime Achievement Award while Tuhin Parikh of Blackstone India, was the first recipient of the 'Transformational Impact Person of the Year' award.

7. Which city was host to the 'Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts'?

[A] Varanasi [B] Lucknow

[C] New Delhi [D] Hyderabad

✓ The Symposium on Emerging Opportunities for Indian Textiles and Crafts was recently organised in New Delhi. The symposium was inaugurated by Union Minister of Textiles and Women and Child Development, Smriti Zubin Irani.

✓ The national symposium was attended by officials from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry and Ministry of Textiles & representatives of Export Promotion Council.

8. Which Indian sportsperson won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award for the third consecutive year?

[A] Mary Kom [B] P V Sindhu

[C] Saina Nehwal [D] Sania Mirza

✓ India's ace shuttler and World champion P V Sindhu won the ESPN's Female Sportsperson of the Year award for a third consecutive time.

✓ Sindhu's World Championship victory has also been selected as the Moment of the Year. Chief National Badminton Coach Pullela Gopichand was selected as the Coach of the Year.

✓ Top-rated shooter Saurabh Chaudhary bagged the ESPN's Male Sportsperson of the Year award while Manu Bhaker-Saurabh Chaudhary duo grabbed the Team of the Year honour.

9. Which portal of Indian Railways has won the Silver in National e-Governance Award for excellence in providing citizen-centric delivery?

[A] Where is my train [B] Rail Suvidha

[C] Rail Madad [D] Rail Saarthi

✓ RailMadad, the grievance redressal portal of Indian Railways, has won the National e-Governance Award for excellence in providing citizen-centric delivery.

✓ The new unified portal of Indian Railways, used for grievance, inquiry, and assistance, was awarded Silver under Category II of National e-Governance Awards.

✓ The National e-Governance Awards are presented by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) annually, to promote e-Governance initiatives.

10. Which city was host to NITI Aayog's 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Conclave 2020'?

[A] New Delhi [B] Guwahati

[C] Kolkata [D] Shillong

✓ NITI Aayog recently organised 'Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Conclave 2020: Partnerships, Cooperation and Development of North Eastern States' in Guwahati, Assam.

✓ The conclave was organised in association with the North Eastern Council, Government of Assam, Tata Trust, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS). The 3 day event commenced from February 24th in Guwahati.

1. *Vellbergia bartholomaei*, which was seen in news recently, belongs to which species?

[A] Frog [B] Lizard

[C] Spider [D] Snake

✓ According to the recent research done by the researchers of Harvard University, a new prehistoric reptile species was discovered, which was claimed to be an ancestor to modern day lizards and snakes.

✓ The ancient lizard is called as '*Vellbergia bartholomaei*' and this discovery is expected to reveal several details about the evolution of 4 legged creatures.

2. Leo Varadkar, who recently tendered his resignation, was the Prime Minister of which country?

[A] France [B] Ireland

[C] The Netherlands [D] Greece

✓ The Prime Minister of Ireland Leo Varadkar recently tendered his resignation as Taoiseach, which means Prime minister in the country.

✓ Though he submitted his resignation to the Irish President Michael Higgins, he continued to stay on as interim leader. As per the country's constitution, the Taoiseach and the government will continue to carry on their duties until successors are appointed.

3. Which state Government has ordered destruction of breeding centres of Thai Mangur fish?

[A] Odisha [B] West Bengal

[C] Assam [D] Maharashtra

✓ The Thai Mangur fish, which has a similar appearance like fresh water Mangur, is cultivated in highly unhygienic conditions in the state and it causes sickness to people on consumption.

✓ Hence, the Maharashtra government has launched a special drive to destroy the cultivation centres of the exotic Thai Mangur fish. The Head of the state fisheries department has ordered a ban on sale of the fish.

✓ The National Green Tribunal had earlier banned the sale of the fish species in 2000.

4. Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens' scheme is associated with which state?

[A] Uttar Pradesh [B] Haryana

[C] Uttarakhand [D] Madhya Pradesh

✓ The Governor of Haryana, during the budget session of the State Assembly, announced that the Haryana government will open Atal Kisan – Majdoor canteens in all markets and sugar mills across the state.

✓ The canteens are to be set up to provide affordable meals to farmers and labourers at 10 rupees per plate. Nearly 25 such canteens are to be established across the state.

5. Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission is implemented by which Union Ministry?

[A] Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

[B] Ministry of Rural Development

[C] Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs

[D] Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions

✓ The fourth Anniversary of the launch of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPRM) was observed on 21st February.

✓ In 2016, Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the Mission under the Ministry of Rural Development, on the same date.

✓ Under the mission, well planned Rurban clusters are created to stimulate local economic development and thereby creating an inclusive rural development.

6. 'Viewpoints', which was recently in news, is an application of which major technological company?

[A] Google [B] Amazon

[C] Facebook [D] Apple

- ✓ 'Viewpoints' is a market research application of the Facebook. It asks user to participate in surveys, tasks and product-testing and reward them for the same.
- ✓ It was in news recently as the company announced that it would financially reward the select group of users, who agree to record their voice to improvise the firm's speech-recognition technology.
- ✓ The users will have to record the audio using a new programme called 'Pronunciations' in the application.

7. Which State / UT was host to the 'National Organic Food Festival', held recently?

[A] Lakshadweep [B] Assam

[C] Maharashtra [D] New Delhi

- ✓ The National Organic Food Festival was recently inaugurated in New Delhi by the Union Food Processing Industries Minister Harsimrat Kaur Badal and Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani.
- ✓ 'Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential' is the theme of the festival. 100s of woman entrepreneurs and different self – help groups from across the nation exhibit their organic products in the 3 day festival.

8. India is set to provide grant to which country for upgradation of plantation schools, for Indian-origin estate workers?

[A] Bangladesh [B] Sri Lanka

[C] Nepal [D] Laos

- ✓ India & Sri Lanka have recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for upgradation of infrastructure in plantation schools for estate workers of Indian origin.
- ✓ The MoU was signed in Colombo, under which infrastructure of 9 plantation schools are to be upgraded with the assistance of 30 Cr rupees from India. Construction and renovation of several school buildings is also being carried out with Indian grant.

9. 'Thal Sena Bhawan', which was seen in news recently, is to be built in which state/ UT?

[A] Ladakh [B] Jammu and Kashmir

[C] Chandigarh [D] New Delhi

- ✓ India's new Army Headquarters is christened as 'Thal Sena Bhawan'. Recently, the Defence Minister laid foundation stone of the new Headquarters at Delhi Cantonment.
- ✓ The new Army headquarters is to be constructed spanning around an area of 39 acres. The newly created Chief of Defence Staff office will also be set up in the building.

- ✓ The multistoreyed building is scheduled to be constructed in five years and will have all the offices of Army in the complex.

10. India's first floating jetty has been inaugurated in which State / UT?

[A] Andhra Pradesh [B] Goa

[C] Mumbai [D] Gujarat

- ✓ India's first floating jetty has been inaugurated in Panaji, Goa on the banks of Mandovi River. The jetty is located in the premises of the state port department.
- ✓ The jetty, which is made of cement concrete, can be built in a short time. Union Minister of State for Shipping Mansukh Mandaviya inaugurated the jetty as well as the immigration facility at a cruise terminal in Mormugao Port.

1. As of February, 2020, which country is India's top trade partner?

- [A] China [B] USA [C] Japan [D] Russia

- ✓ United States has surpassed China to become India's top trading partner. According to the Commerce Ministry data, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at nearly 88 billion dollars in 2018–19 fiscal.
- ✓ During the period, India's trade with China was at 87.1 billion dollars. Similarly, during April–December 2019–20, the bilateral trade between the US and India stood at 68 billion dollars against a nearly 65 billion dollars trade with China in the same period.
- ✓ America is one of the few countries with which India has a trade surplus. On the other hand, India has a huge trade deficit with China.
- ✓ In 2018–19, India has a trade surplus of 16.9 billion dollars with America, while it has a deficit of 53.6 billion dollars with the neighboring country. The data showed that China was India's top trading partner since 2013–14 till 2017–18.

2. What was overall rank of India in the Asian Wrestling Championships, 2020 held in New Delhi?

- [A] 2nd [B] 3rd [C] 4th [D] 5th

- ✓ The Asian Wrestling Championships, 2020 was held at the KD Jadhav Indoor Stadium, Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi from February 18 to February 23.
- ✓ China was barred from entering into the competition due to the 2019–20 coronavirus outbreak. The top 4 countries in the series were Japan, Iran, India and Kazakhstan. Japan won 8 Gold and total 16 medals. India won 5 Gold medals while total medal tally was 20.

3. Which city has recently hosted International Judicial Conference?

- [A] New Delhi [B] Bhopal

- [C] Mumbai [D] Chandigarh

- ✓ The two-day International Judicial Conference, 2020 was held at Supreme Court auditorium, New Delhi. The

theme of the conference was 'Judiciary and the Changing World.'

4. Which state has recently ordered the destruction of 'Thai Mangur' fish breeding centers?

- [A] Tamil Nadu [B] Goa
[C] Gujarat [D] Maharashtra

- ✓ The Thai Mangur fish, which has a similar appearance like fresh water Mangur, is cultivated in highly unhygienic conditions in the state and it causes sickness to people on consumption.
- ✓ Hence, the Maharashtra government has launched a special drive to destroy the cultivation centres of the exotic Thai Mangur fish. The Head of the state fisheries department has ordered a ban on sale of the fish.
- ✓ The National Green Tribunal had earlier banned the sale of the fish species in 2000.

5. What is the upper land-holding limit to become eligible for financial support under PM-KISAN scheme?

- [A] 1 Hectare [B] 2 Hectare
[C] 3 Hectare [D] No limit

- ✓ PM-KISAN scheme launched on 24th February 2019. The schemes provides income support to all landholding farmers' families across the country and enable them to meet expenses related to agriculture as well as domestic needs.
- ✓ Under the Scheme, Rs.6000 per year is transferred in installments directly into the bank accounts of the farmers. The scheme initially provided income support to all small and marginal farmers' families across the country, holding cultivable land up to two hectares.
- ✓ However, its ambit was later expanded to cover all farmer families in the country irrespective of the size of their landholdings.

6. The recently set up Sanjiv Puri Expert Group is looking into which domain?

- [A] Unorganized Sector [B] Farm Exports

[C] Manufacturing Industries [D] Service Sector

- ✓ The 15th Finance Commission has established a high level expert group for looking into agricultural exports. The committee is to be headed by ITC Chairman and is to submit its report in 3 months.
- ✓ The Sanjiv Puri Expert Group was set up to look into ways of improving agriculture exports.

7. The recently discovered *C. gretathunbergae* is a species of__?

[A] Fish	[B] Snake
[C] Snail <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[D] Frog

- ✓ Scientists in Netherlands have named a new species of land snail discovered in Brunei after Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.
- ✓ *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae* is a newly discovered species of land snail. It was named in honour of the Swedish climate activist Greta Thunberg.
- ✓ The snail is noted for being sensitive to droughts, forest degradation and temperature extremes. It belongs to a group of snails called Caenogastropods.

8. NRI Sabha is an NGO controlled by which state government?

[A] Rajasthan	[B] Haryana
[C] Punjab <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	[D] Uttar Pradesh

- ✓ After a lag of 5 years, the elections to the post of president of NRI Sabha Punjab is to be held. Only members of the NRI Sabha can vote in the election of the president. The NRI Sabha is an NGO controlled by the Punjab government.
- ✓ Any NRI can become its member by paying a fee of 10,500 INR. The body has about 23,000 members across the world. Only the members of the NRI Sabha have a right to contest in the elections. Participation in the voting is also reserved for the members.
- ✓ The NRI Sabha was registered under the Societies Act in 1998. The president of the NRI Sabha does not have any

legal authority. The office bearers of the Sabha also do not have legal authority.

- ✓ Their function is to take up issues concerning NRIs with ambassadors of different countries. They can also push for speeding up government works concerning NRIs.

9. The term "JavaScript sniffers" is associated with__?

[A] Authorization Software	[B] Malware <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[C] Encryption Software	[D] Firewall

- ✓ A Singapore based cybersecurity firm reported that 98% of credit card data being sold on the dark web are of Indian customers and highlighted the use of JS sniffers.
- ✓ JS sniffers or JavaScript sniffers are specialized malwares that are used by cybercriminals for stealing sensitive credit card information. A recent report by Singapore based Group IB highlighted the growing use of these softwares by cybercriminals. The stolen information is then being sold on the dark web.

10. What is Ethnologue?

[A] Database of Languages <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
[B] Database of Heritage Buildings
[C] Database of local customs
[D] Database of Tribes

- ✓ The 23rd edition of the Ethnologue— the world's largest language database was released in light of the International Mother Language Day, celebrated on February 21st.
- ✓ 'Ethnologue: Languages of the World' is an annual publication that serves as the largest database on the languages of the world. It is mainly used by linguists for research and also by students. Ethnologue is published by a non-profit organization, SIL International which is based in the USA. It is being published since 1951. The main objective of the publication is to document the world languages and promote literacy.

1. The Consumer Protection Act 2019, which is to come into force from April, 2020, makes provisions related to "class action suits". This suit can be invoked to __?

- [A] Sue many producers of same product
 - [B] Recall an entire batch of faulty products
 - [C] Sue entire management team of the producers of faulty products
 - [D] Claim damages for an entire group of consumers of faulty product
- ✓ In April, 2020, consumers in India will be able to initiate class-action lawsuits and also opt for mediation under the new Consumer Protection Act 2019, which gives legal teeth to claims for damages over defective products or poor services.

- ✓ A class action suit is a legal tool that enables an individual complaint of a faulty product / service to be treated as an 'interest group' of other people in similar circumstances. The suit can be invoked to recall an entire batch of faulty products based on one complaint.
- ✓ If one lot of an item has a common defect, a single complaint can trigger its recall through 'class action'.

2. After initially dropping shooting and archery from Commonwealth Games, 2022, it has been recently decided that these two sports will be included and will be organized and funded in India as a part of Birmingham Commonwealth Games, 2022. What is the venue of these two sports in India?

- [A] New Delhi
 - [B] Chandigarh
 - [C] Bengaluru
 - [D] Hyderabad
- ✓ India had threatened to boycott the Games after shooting and archery were initially dropped.
- ✓ However, final approval was recently given by the Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF) to include these sports. The Commonwealth archery and shooting championships will be held in Chandigarh in Jan, 2022.
- ✓ Medals won will be added to the final tally of participating nations at the Birmingham

Commonwealth Games to be held from July 27 to August 7 that year.

3. In which city, India's Central Vista project, that was recently in news, is coming up?

- [A] New Delhi
 - [B] Mumbai
 - [C] Hyderabad
 - [D] Bengaluru
- ✓ Central Vista is an ambitious plan that includes setting up of a new Parliament building, bringing all central ministries closer, and redeveloping the existing heritage structures in and around the central vista.

- ✓ Under the project, eight new government office buildings, a new Parliament House and a residential complex near the South Block that could house the homes of the Prime Minister and the Vice President are among the projects that may come.

4. Which of the following African countries has been recently listed in the FATF's grey list?

- [A] Gabon
 - [B] Algeria
 - [C] Kenya
 - [D] Mauritius
- ✓ Mauritius, long considered a tax haven, has been listed in the FATF's grey list. This has raised questions about the fate of FPI from Mauritius in India.

5. Who heads the IRDAI committee looking into issue of indemnity based health insurance products for life insurance companies?

- [A] D Rajkumar
 - [B] Pravin Kumar Purwar
 - [C] Pradosh Kumar Rath
 - [D] MR Kumar
- ✓ The insurance regulator IRDAI has set up a committee to examine whether life insurers can offer indemnity based health policies.
- ✓ IRDAI has now set up a nine member committee led by MR Kumar, Chairman, Life Insurance Corporation of India to look into the issue.

6. For the 1st time, which of the following supranational banks has listed Masala Bonds in the Global Securities Market?

[A] World Bank

[B] Asian Development Bank

[C] Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank

[D] African Development Bank

- ✓ In a first, supranational institution Asian Development Bank, has listed its 10 year ₹850 crore Masala bond on the Global Securities Market of the India International Exchange at GIFT City.
- ✓ Asian Development Bank's Masala bonds are dual listed at both Luxembourg and India INX.

7. What is the current number of members in the BIMSTEC grouping?

[A] 5

[B] 6

[C] 7

[D] 8

- ✓ BIMSTEC is a regional grouping with seven countries from South and Southeast Asia including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka & Myanmar. It aims to promote regional cooperation for rapid economic development.

8. In which year, the MoU to establish the 'BIMSTEC grid interconnection' was signed between the members of BIMSTEC countries?

[A] 2016

[B] 2017

[C] 2018

[D] 2019

- ✓ Recently, BIMSTEC and South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy Integration jointly organized the conference titled 'Increase Cooperation in the Energy Sector in BIMSTEC Region.' The BIMSTEC members are planning for a 3000 km BIMSTEC power grid called BIMSTEC grid interconnection. The MoU was signed in 2018.

9. The proposed 'Santusht' app is for the beneficiaries of which scheme?

[A] National Saving Certificates Scheme

[B] Employees State Insurance (ESI) scheme

[C] PMKISAN

[D] None of the above

- ✓ Labour Ministry will soon launch a mobile app 'Santusht' with an aim to address issues of beneficiaries of Employees State Insurance (ESI) scheme.
- ✓ The minister informed about bringing 'Santusht' mobile app for the benefit of ESI beneficiaries very soon at Employees State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) foundation day celebration function in the capital, a labour ministry statement said.

10. Antihydrogen is composed of ____?

[A] Positron & Proton

[B] Nuetron & Proton

[C] Positron & Antiproton

[D] Neutrino & Neutron

- ✓ Antihydrogen is the antimatter counterpart of hydrogen. Whereas the common hydrogen atom is composed of an electron and proton, the antihydrogen atom is made up of a positron and antiproton.

1. As of 2020, the largest cricket stadium of the world is located in which country?

[A] Australia [B] India

[C] South Africa [D] New Zealand

✓ Sardar Patel Stadium located in Ahmedabad (Gujarat) also called as the Motera Stadium is the largest cricket stadium of the world and the 2nd largest stadium in the World, after the Rungrado May Day Stadium of North Korea.

✓ The reconstruction work of the Sardar Patel Stadium started in the year 2016. US President Donald Trump jointly addressed the 'Namaste Trump' event with PM Narendra Modi at the newly renovated Stadium

2. Which country organised a training course on 'Vessel Search Technique' for Indian Coast Guard and Customs personnel at Chennai?

[A] Japan [B] Australia

[C] Oman [D] Qatar

✓ The Mobile Training Team of the Australian Border Force conducted the training course on 'Vessel Search Technique' for the personnel of Indian Coast Guard, Customs and Coastal Security Group members of the Tamil Nadu Police.

✓ Indian Coast Guard organised this training course at the capital of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, along with the Border Force of Australia.

3. Which city hosted the 4 day 'International Conference on Banana' organised by ICAR?

[A] Gandhi Nagar [B] Tiruchirappalli

[C] Cochin [D] Thiruvananthapuram

✓ A four day 'International Conference on Banana' was recently organised by the National Research Centre for Banana (NRCB), an institution under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), in association with Bioversity International, during 22–25 February, 2020.

✓ ICAR's National Research Centre for Banana is based at Tiruchirappalli. The Conference is organised at Trichy on the theme of 'Innovations in sustainable production and value chain management in banana'.

4. Which Indian PSU is set to acquire the government's entire stake in THDC India and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO)?

[A] NTPC Limited

[B] Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

[C] Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

[D] NHPC Limited

✓ The Competition Commission of India (CCI) recently permitted the Maharatna PSU NTPC Limited to acquire the government's entire stake in THDC India and North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Ltd (NEEPCO).

✓ NTPC will acquire 100% of the issued and paid-up share capital of the NEEPCO and 74.5% in THDC India, the rest of which is held by Uttar Pradesh state government.

5. '5G Hackathon' was recently launched by which Union Ministry/ organisation?

[A] NITI Aayog

[B] Ministry of Science and Technology

[C] Ministry of Communication

[D] Ministry of Human Resource and Development

✓ The Dept of Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communication has recently launched '5G Hackathon' in association with govt & industry stakeholders.

✓ The Hackathon aims to convert new ideas into feasible 5G products and solutions in the country. All students, startups, SMEs, academic institutions and registered companies in India and even NRIs can participate in the event.

6. Which is the only Indian company to feature in the Fortune's 'Top 20 Big Companies to Work For' list in 2020?

[A] Infosys [B] Tata Consultancy Services

[C] Zoho [D] Zomato

- ✓ Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) has been selected as one of the Fortune's Best Big Companies to Work For in the year 2020.
- ✓ It is also the only Indian firm to feature in the Top 20 list. Great Place to Work, an international workplace culture expert conducted the survey from 33,000 employees at the certified organisations across the US.

7. The two species of birds 'Red Throated Thrush and Plumbeous Water Redstart' were recently found in which State / UT?

[A] Arunachal Pradesh [B] Uttarakhand

[C] Ladakh [D] Lakshadweep

- ✓ The Great Backyard Bird count exercise was recently carried out by the Wildlife Conservation and Birds Club of Ladakh.
- ✓ During the exercise, two new bird species namely 'Red Throated Thrush and Plumbeous Water Redstart' have been found for the first time in Ladakh Region. Bird and wildlife experts have counted and recorded a total of 87 different species of birds in Ladakh.

8. Which city was the venue of "Microsoft Future Decoded – CEO Summit"?

[A] New Delhi [B] Mumbai

[C] Chennai [D] Gurugram

- ✓ Microsoft hosted its "Microsoft Future Decoded – CEO Summit" in Mumbai on February 24. The summit was attended by leaders of different fields. The gathering was addressed by Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella.
- ✓ Nadella also attended the 'Microsoft Future Decoded – Tech Summit' held at Bengaluru on February 25.

9. Abhay Kumar Singh has been appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of which Indian PSU?

[A] NTPC Limited

[B] Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

[C] NHPC Limited

[D] Power Grid Corporation of India Limited

- ✓ Abhay Kumar Singh has been recently appointed as the Chairman & Managing Director of the Indian PSU, NHPC Limited. He has assumed the charge of Chairman and Managing Director of the company on February 24, 2020 and will serve till the date of his superannuation.
- ✓ Abhay Kumar Singh has replaced Ratish Kumar who held additional charge of the post of Chairman and MD.

10. The 1st anniversary of the launch of which welfare scheme was observed on February 24?

[A] PM Kisan Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-KMY)

[B] PM Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

[C] PM Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan (PM-SYM)

[D] PM Laghu Vyapari Maan-Dhan Yojana

- ✓ The 1st anniversary of the launch of Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) scheme was recently observed on February 24, 2020.
- ✓ PM-KISAN is a Central Sector scheme with 100% funding from Government of India. Under the Scheme an annual income support of Rs.6000 is provided to all farmer families across the country in 3 equal instalments of Rs.2000.

1. Which aircraft carrier launched freighter services to assist shrimp farmers?

[A] Alliance Air

[B] IndiGo

[C] SpiceJet

[D] Vistara

✓ Leading Indian aircraft carrier SpiceJet launched freighter services from Chennai and Vishakhapatnam to Surat and Kolkata, to assist the transportation of shrimp seeds.

✓ The air cargo arm of SpiceJet called SpiceXpress, will use the Boeing 737 freighter with a 21 tonne carrying capacity will be used in this transportation. This is the 1st such effort in the proposed routes. In the recent budget, a similar service called 'Krishi Udaan' was proposed.

2. Bob Iger, who recently tendered his resignation, was the CEO of which global firm for 15 years?

[A] Walt Disney Company

[B] Netflix

[C] Warner Bros

[D] Pixar

✓ The Chief Executive Officer of the Walt Disney Company commonly called as Disney, Bob Iger recently tendered his resignation. He has served as the CEO of the US based multinational mass media company from 2005.

✓ Under his leadership, the company successfully purchased Star Wars, Marvel and Fox's entertainment businesses. Bob Chapek is to replace Iger as the next CEO. Iger will be the executive chairman till 2021 Dec.31.

3. As of 2020, what is the Foreign Direct investment (FDI) limit, allowed in insurance intermediaries?

[A] 0%

[B] 26%

[C] 49%

[D] 100%

✓ The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) recently notified that 100% FDI is allowed in insurance intermediaries under automatic approval route. The FDI policy, earlier allowed 49% foreign investment in the insurance sector, including insurance intermediaries.

✓ Intermediary services comprise of insurance brokers, re-insurance brokers, insurance consultants, 3rd party administrators, loss assessors etc.

4. What is the name of the new satellite, scheduled to be launched by the ISRO on March 5, 2020?

[A] GISAT-1

[B] GISAT-3

[C] GISAT-7

[D] GISAT-11

✓ The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) announced that geo imaging satellite, GISAT 1 will be launched on March 5. The Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F10) will launch the satellite from Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota.

✓ The 2275 kg world class earth observation satellite will be placed in the geosynchronous transfer orbit.

5. Hosni Mubarak, who recently passed away, was the former President of which country?

[A] Greece

[B] Egypt

[C] France

[D] Libya

✓ The former of Egypt President Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, passed away recently at the age of 91. He was the President of the country for nearly 30 years. Mubarak was a former Chief of the country's Air Force.

✓ After he became the Vice President of Egypt in 1981, he assumed power as the President after his predecessor Anwar Sadat was assassinated. After huge protests, Mubarak was forced to step down in 2011.

6. As per the new agreement signed by the Container Corporation of India (Concor) and RZD Logistics JSC (Russian Railways), cargos are to be transported through which country?

[A] Pakistan

[B] Afghanistan

[C] Iran

[D] Uzbekistan

✓ Container Corporation of India (Concor) and RZD Logistics JSC (Russian Railways) recently signed a service agreement for transporting cargo between India and Russia using a single invoice.

- ✓ The containers will move between the two countries by using the International North South Transport Corridor (INSTC), which passes through Iran. The corridor also passes through Azerbaijan.

7. Suella Braverman, an Indian origin minister recently sworn in as the Attorney General of which country?

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

- ✓ Indian origin minister Suella Braverman recently sworn in as the Attorney General of the United Kingdom. She was appointed by the new British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, after he reshuffled his cabinet.

- ✓ Suella is only the second female to be appointed in the crucial role & she is also the 1st female Attorney General to be appointed by a Conservative Party government.

8. Which country is the 1st to develop an antibody test to identify the novel coronavirus (COVID-19)?

- [A] China [B] United States
- [C] Singapore [D] South Korea

- ✓ The Singapore Ministry of Health announced that an antibody test has been developed by the country's medical school and it has successfully identified two people, who were infected by the novel coronavirus (COVID-19).

- ✓ The currently used molecular test detects the viral genetic material in oral swab samples whereas the newly developed test detects antibodies developed by the immune system when infected with the virus.

9. As per the recent 'Hurun Global Rich List 2020', which country has the highest number of billionaires?

- [A] United States [B] China
- [C] Russia [D] India

- ✓ As per the recently released 'Hurun Global Rich List 2020', China is home to the highest number of billionaires of the world.

- ✓ The report placed Amazon founder and CEO Jeff Bezos in the top rank, who possesses wealth amounting to \$140 bn. Microsoft Founder Bill Gates is in the 3rd spot, while Mukesh Ambani was placed in the 9th place with \$67 bn. He is the only Indian to feature in the Top 10 list and he is the richest in Asia.

10. 'Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for Administrator' is a programme launched of Union Ministry?

- [A] Ministry of Corporate Affairs
- [B] Ministry of Human Resource Development
- [C] Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- [D] Ministry of MSME

- ✓ The Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank recently launched a programme called 'Higher Education Leadership Development Programme for Administrator'.

- ✓ It is a joint initiative of University Grants Commission (UGC) and British Council under the support of UK India Education and Research Initiative (UKIERI). The main objective of the programme is to train the senior and middle level administrators in Indian Universities.