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# **MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS**

## **COMPILATION**

**FEBRUARY 2020**

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21 January 2020

## 1. Polity & Governance

### SC refuses to grant interim stay on the electoral bond scheme

- An SC bench comprising Chief Justice S A Bobde and justices B R Gavai and Surya Kant asked the Centre and the Election Commission to file their responses within two weeks.
- 
- There has been allegations that the scheme is a means for channelising unaccounted black money in favour of the ruling party.
- 
- The electoral bond scheme is meant for funding political parties.

#### Quick facts:

Current CJI: S A Bobde

## 2. Economy

### Printing of Union Budget documents 2020-21 begins with Halwa ceremony

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presided over the ceremony in the presence of Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur.
- 
- After this ceremony, Finance Ministry officials will stay in the Budget printing press until the Budget is presented in Parliament.
- 
- The Union Budget will be presented in Parliament on February 1. The Economic Survey will be presented on 31st January.

#### Quick facts

Ministry of Finance is situated in the "North Block"

## 3. Science & Technology

### Coronavirus spreads to Beijing as China confirms 139 new cases

- New cases of deadly novel coronavirus have been detected in China as the virus spreads to Beijing and Shenzhen outside Wuhan city.
- 
- Confirmed cases of infection with the new coronavirus have also been found in Thailand and Japan, Hong Kong, Vietnam and Singapore also.
- 
- World Health Organization (WHO) has advised hospitals worldwide to be prepared for any emergency. People can reduce the risk of catching the coronavirus by avoiding "unprotected" contact with live animals, thoroughly cooking meat and eggs, and avoiding close contact with anyone with colds or flu-like symptoms.

#### Quick Facts:

Coronavirus caused Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS) & severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

22 Jan 2020

## 1. Economy

### **Zomato acquires Uber's India food delivery business, UberEats in an all-stock deal**

- The deal is applicable only in India and Uber Eats will continue to operate in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.
- 
- Uber will get a 9.9 per cent stake in Zomato as part of the deal whose size has not been disclosed. According to sources the deal value is around \$300- 350 million.
- 
- The move is part of Uber's strategy to be either number one or two in each of their businesses in every country they operate. In India, Uber Eats grew very quickly to take a 12 per cent share of the food delivery market but intense competition in India's food delivery market prevented India Uber Eats from taking either the first or second position, which are with Zomato and Swiggy.

**Quick Facts:** Dara Khosrowshahi: CEO of Uber.

## 5. Economy

### **Nearly half billion people currently unemployed or underemployed: UN**

- According to the UN, more than 470 million people worldwide are currently unemployed or underemployed and a lack of access to decent jobs was contributing to social unrest.
- 
- According to the UN's International Labour Organisation, the global unemployment rate ( which stood at 5.4 per cent last year) has remained relatively stable over much of the past decade, overall jobless numbers are likely to increase as slowing economies reduce the number of jobs available to a growing population.
- 
- The number of people registered as unemployed is expected to rise to 190.5 million up from 188 million in 2019, ILO said in its annual World Employment and Social Outlook report.

**Quick Facts:**

UN Headquarters: New York, United States

ILO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

## 6. Economy

### **50th Annual Meeting of World Economic Forum began in Davos, Switzerland**

- The WEF is a congregation of rich and powerful from across the world. Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal will lead the Indian delegation which includes over 100 CEOs, political leaders including Union Ministers and Chief Ministers.
- 
- On the occasion annual crystal awards were also presented and this year's recipients included celebrity film star Deepika Padukone. The awards are given to cultural leaders, who are improving the state of the world through their contributions to inclusive and sustainable change.
- 
- This year's programme focuses on achieving maximum impact on the Forum's platform for public-private cooperation across six core areas of activity: ecology, economy, society, industry, technology, and geopolitics.

**Quick Facts:**

WEF Headquarters: Cologny, Switzerland

**7. Miscellaneous****National Girl Child Day to be celebrated on January 24**

- National Girl Child Day will be celebrated on 24 January in Madhya Pradesh on the theme of "Aware girl child-able Madhya Pradesh" (Jagruk Balika-Samarth Madhya Pradesh) under the "Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao" scheme.
- 
- The aim of this celebration is to create awareness in society about the rights of daughters and to provide new opportunities to the daughters for their social and financial development.

**Quick Facts:**

Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was launched by the state of Haryana

**8. Polity & Governance****Meghalaya Celebrated 48th anniversary of statehood day**

- Meghalaya on Tuesday 21st Jan celebrated the 48th anniversary of statehood day with cultural fanfares immersed in remnants of the 'Hill State Movement' that led up to the declaration of Meghalaya as a separate state in the year 1972.
- 
- Meghalaya is also known as the state of clouds due to its unique geography and climate.

**Quick Facts:**

The place recording the highest rainfall on the Earth is Mawsynram, located in Meghalaya, India.

**9. Science & Technology****India in talks to be part of East Asian Observatories Consortium**

- India is in preliminary discussions to be a part of the East Asian Observatories Consortium of eight countries committed to building large telescopes.
- 
- If India joins the group, consisting of China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea as full members and Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Indonesia as 'observers', it could mean the establishment of new kinds of telescopes — one proposed being in Tibet — that could aid the observation of new black holes and throw light on cosmic phenomena like Black Holes.

**Quick Facts:**

The telescope that last year reported the first-ever image of a black hole is known as Event Horizon Telescope.

**23 January 2020**

**10. Economy****Man must give way to the elephant, says Supreme Court**

- Supreme Court upheld T.N. Government Order on the fragile Nilgiris Elephant Corridor
- Noting that "the elephant is a gentleman and man should give way for the elephant", the Supreme Court on Wednesday indicated that it will uphold the Tamil Nadu Government Order that notified the Elephant Corridor in 2010.

- "Elephants are big, powerful but fragile. We are dealing with a fragile eco-system," said CJI S A Bobde

**Quick Facts:**

Nilgiri Hills are also called as 'Blue Mountains' and are situated in the Western Ghats.

**11. Science & Technology****Vyom Mitra, will be the first Indian 'woman' to ride to space**

- ISRO unveiled its first 'woman' astronaut "Vyom Mitra", the half-humanoid robot which will simulate human functions before real astronauts take off.
- 
- The humanoid robot will ride to space in the first test flight of the Indian human space mission, Gaganyaan.
- 
- Gaganyaan is the Indian crewed orbital spacecraft intended to be the formative spacecraft of the Indian Human Spaceflight Programme. The spacecraft is being designed to carry three people, and a planned upgraded version will be equipped with rendezvous and docking capability.

**Quick Facts:**

ISRO Headquarters: Bengaluru

ISRO Chairman: K Sivan

**12. Sports****Australia to host Indoor Cricket World Cup**

- Australia is set to host the 11th edition of the Indoor Cricket World Cup from October 10 to 17.
- The tournament will be held at indoor cricket venues in Melbourne —Casey Stadium and CitiPower Centre, the World Indoor Cricket Federation announced.
- Last held in Dubai in 2017, Australia is the reigning men's and women's champion.
- 
- Australia are also hosting women's and men's T20 World Cups this year.

**Quick Facts:**

Indoor cricket is typically played as six- or eight-ball over matches.

**13. India & The World****India falls to 51st spot in EIU's Democracy Index, China at 153**

- India slipped 10 places according to The Economist Intelligence Unit, which cited "erosion of civil liberties" in the country as the primary cause for the downtrend.
- The Index provides a snapshot of the current state of democracy worldwide for 165 independent states and two territories.
- The index is based on five categories -- electoral process and pluralism; the functioning of government; political participation; political culture; and civil liberties.

**Quick Facts:**

India was included in the "flawed democracy" category.

**14. Economy****Cabinet Approves Rs 4371.90 Crore For Permanent Campuses Of New NITs**

- The Union Cabinet on Wednesday approved the revised cost estimates (RCE) for setting up permanent campuses of new National Institutes of Technology (NITs) at a cost of Rs 4371.90 crore for 2021- 2022. The funds will be used to create campuses with modern facilities.
- NITs were established in 2009 and started functioning from the academic year 2010-2011 in their respective temporary campuses with very limited space and infrastructure.
- NITs are institutions of national importance known to be among the best teaching institutions in the field of engineering and technology and have made a remarkable presence with their high-quality technical education.

**Quick Facts:**

The Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) decided to upgrade Regional Engineering Colleges (RECs) to "National Institutes of Technology" (NITs) in 2002.

**24 January 2020**

**15. World Affairs****ICJ orders Myanmar to take emergency measures to prevent genocide of Rohingyas**

- The Hague-based International Court of Justice has ordered Myanmar to take emergency measures to prevent the genocide of the Rohingyas.
- The court also ordered Myanmar to report to them in four months on the measures the country has taken to comply with the order.
- According to the ICJ, the court has the power to order provisional measures when irreparable prejudice could be caused to rights which are the subject of judicial proceedings.

**Quick Facts:**

The International Court of Justice, sometimes called the World Court, is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

**16. Sports****World Archery lifts suspension on India enabling Indian archers to represent country**

- The World Archery conditionally lifted the suspension on India, after the national federation held its elections.
- World Archery said the federation needs to comply with good governance and activity portions of the World Archery constitution and rules.
- The Indian archers, who had to compete as neutral athletes at the Asian Championships because of the suspension, can now represent the country under the Tricolour. The next international tournament is Indoor World Series in Las Vegas in three weeks' time.

**17. Polity****ECI to host 10th annual meeting of FEMBoSA in New Delhi**

- The Election Commission of India will host the 10th Annual Meeting of the Forum of the Election Management Bodies of South Asia, FEMBoSA at New Delhi tomorrow.
- On the occasion, the International Conference on the theme 'Strengthening Institutional Capacity' is also being organized.
- The International Conference is being organized with the purpose of sharing the experience of different Election Management Bodies, International Institutions and Experts.

**Quick Facts:**

National Voters' Day will be celebrated on the 25th of January.

## 18. World Affairs

### North Korea to attend Munich Security Conference for the first time

- North Korea will send a delegation to the Munich Security Conference for the first time in the 56-year history of the top diplomatic gathering.
- The announcement comes a month after Pyongyang declared it was abandoning moratoriums on nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests. The self-imposed ban on tests had been the centrepiece of two years of nuclear diplomacy between the US and North Korea.
- Founded in 1963, the Munich Security Conference hosts hundreds of high-ranking officials and dozens of world leaders each year to discuss security challenges.

#### Quick Facts:

Officially, there are no taxes in North Korea

## 19. World Affairs

### Brexit bill becomes law after receiving royal assent

- Britain's delayed and disputed Brexit bill has become law, removing the last U.K. obstacle to the country leaving the European Union in just over a week.
- The European Union's parliament also must approve the Brexit divorce deal before January 31 if Britain is to leave on time. Lawmakers in Brussels are due to vote on it next week.
- The U.K. is finally leaving the EU more than 3-1/2 years after voters narrowly opted for Brexit in a June 2016 referendum.

#### Quick Facts:

European Union Parliament is headquartered in Brussels, Belgium

**25 January 2020**

## 20. Polity

### 10th National Voters Day to be celebrated today

- The 10th National Voters' Day- NVD is being celebrated today. The Day is celebrated on 25th January every year since 2011. The theme for NVD-2020 is 'Electoral Literacy for Stronger Democracy'.
- The theme sets the tone for year-long activities with a focus on voter education and renewal of citizens' faith in the electoral process.
- It is celebrated to mark the Foundation day of Election Commission of India, which was established on 25th January 1950.

#### Quick Facts:

Election Commission is mentioned in Article 324 of the Constitution

## 21. Environment

### India's first e-waste clinic opens in Bhopal

- India's first e-waste clinic opened in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh on Friday. It would enable segregation, processing and disposal of waste from both household and commercial units.
- The e-waste clinic has been jointly set up by the Central Pollution Control Board-CPCB and Bhopal Municipal Corporation-BMC.
- Electronic waste will be collected door-to-door or could be deposited directly at the e-waste clinic.



**Quick Facts:**

Only 1.5% of the country's total e-waste gets recycled owing to poor infrastructure and legislation.

**22. India & The World****Republic Day chief guest Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro arrives in India**

- The Brazilian President will be the chief guest at the Republic Day Parade on Sunday. He will also meet President Ram Nath Kovind tomorrow who will host a banquet in his honour.
- The Brazilian President is accompanied by eight ministers, four members of the Brazilian Parliament, senior officials and a large business delegation.
- The Prime Minister said that President Bolsonaro's visit will add strength to India-Brazil relations.

**Quick Facts:**

Brazil's capital Rio de Janeiro hosts the world's largest carnival.

**23. Environment****India begins coral restoration in Gulf of Kachchh**

- The Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), with help from Gujarat's forest department, is attempting for the first time a process to restore coral reefs using biorock or mineral accretion technology.
- Biorock is the name given to the substance formed by electro accumulation of minerals dissolved in seawater on steel structures that are lowered onto the sea bed and are connected to a power source, in this case solar panels that float on the surface.
- The technology works by passing a small amount of electrical current through electrodes in the water. When a positively charged anode and negatively charged cathode are placed on the sea floor, with an electric current flowing between them, calcium ions combine with carbonate ions and adhere to the structure (cathode). This results in calcium carbonate formation. Coral larvae adhere to the CaCO<sub>3</sub> and grow quickly.

**Quick Facts:**

The Great Barrier Reef is the world's largest coral reef system located off the coast of Australia.

**24. Economy****In FY20, India faces first fall indirect taxes in at least two decades: Report**

- India's corporate and income tax collection for the current year is likely to fall for the first time in at least two decades, over half a dozen senior tax officials told Reuters, amid a sharp fall in economic growth and cut in corporate tax rates.
- A sharp decline in demand has hit businesses, forcing companies to cut investment and jobs, denting tax collections and prompting the government to forecast 5% growth for this fiscal year - the slowest in 11 years.

**Quick Facts:**

The top 1% of individual taxpayers contribute nearly one-third of India's taxes.

**26 January 2020**

**25. Polity****Madhya Pradesh makes the reading of Preamble of Constitution mandatory in schools**

- Madhya Pradesh state government has made the reading of Preamble of the Constitution mandatory in schools on every Saturday.



- The order issued by the School Education department said that the Preamble to the Constitution will be read out by the headmaster or teacher in all the schools after prayer on every Saturday. The same will be read out by the students later.

**Quick Facts:**

The Preamble is also called the soul of the constitution.

**26. Economy****Forex reserves rise to 462.16 bn in the week ended Jan 17**

- India's foreign exchange reserves rose 943 million US Dollars to touch a life-time high of 462.16 billion US Dollars in the week ended January 17.
- The rise in reserves was mainly on account of an increase in foreign currency assets, which rose by 867 million US Dollars to 428.45 billion US Dollars.
- In the reporting week, gold reserves increased 70 million US Dollars to 28.56 billion US Dollars. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were up by 3 million US Dollars to 1.45 billion US Dollars.

**Quick Facts:**

The Special Drawing Rights are also called as paper gold.

**27. India & The World****First-ever carnival of peace and harmony held in Shillong as part of Meghalaya Day Celebrations**

- Led by Chief Minister Conrad K Sangma, the carnival procession passed through the busy streets of Shillong city showcasing different ethnic communities of the State and neighbouring regions.
- The carnival was organised by the Department of Art and Culture, Government of Meghalaya in collaboration with the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

**Quick facts:**

The ICCR is an autonomous organisation of the GOI, involved in India's external cultural relations, through cultural exchange with other countries and their peoples.

**28. Miscellaneous****Bharat Parv 2020 to be held from 26-31 Jan**

- The programme will celebrate the spirit of India and will begin from today at Red fort.
- The objective of Bharat Parv is to encourage people to visit different tourism places of the country and to inculcate the spirit of 'Dekho Apna Desh'. Tourism Ministry has said that the theme of this year's Bharat Parv is Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat and Celebrating 150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi.
- Bharat Parv have many attractions for public including display of Tableaux of the Republic Day parade, performance by armed forces bands.

**Quick Facts:**

Bharat Parv is celebrated as part of Republic Day celebrations every year.

**27 January 2020**

**29. Persons In News****Government announces 141 Padma Awards for this year on the occasion of 71st Republic Day**

- The list comprises of 7 Padma Vibhushan, 16 Padma Bhushan and 118 Padma Shri awards.
- Former Union Ministers George Fernandes, Sushma Swaraj and Arun Jaitley will be awarded Padma Vibhushan posthumously. Former Prime Minister of Mauritius Anerood Jugnauth, Hindustani classical vocalist Chhannulal Mishra and Boxer MC Mary Kom will also get Padma Vibhushan.
- Former Chief Minister of Goa Manohar Parrikar and Legal luminary and educator NR Madhava Menon to be conferred Padma Bhushan posthumously. Eminent Writer Manoj Das, Shuttle PV Sindhu, industrialist Anand Mahindra will get Padma Bhushan.
- Footballer Oinam Bembem Devi, Film Director Karan Johar, Actress Kangna Ranaut will get Padma Shri.
- Several unsung heroes like Jagdish Lal Ahuja, Javed Ahmad Tak, Tulasi Gowda, Mohammed Sharif, Satyanayana Mundayoor, S Ramakrishna and Yogi Aeron have been selected for Padma Shri.

## 29. India & The World

### European Parliament to vote on Kashmir, Citizenship Amendment Act

- Close on the heels of a number of critical international statements and parliamentary resolutions, the government is bracing for six scathing resolutions on both Jammu and Kashmir and the Citizenship (Amendment) Act (CAA), 2019, that have been filed by an overwhelming majority of members in the European Parliament.
- These will be taken up for discussion and voting this week.
- Resolutions that urge an end to curbs could have a deep impact on ties between India and the European Union. The resolutions list more than a dozen different counts of actions by the government that are allegedly in violation of international norms and India's international commitments on Human Rights and at the UN Security Council, including actions in Jammu and Kashmir after the dilution of Article 370, police firing on protestors against the CAA in Uttar Pradesh etc.

## 30. Defence & Security

### Anti-satellite missile capability showcased in R-Day parade

- India showcased its Anti-Satellite (ASAT) missile capability to the world as the ASAT weapon, Mission Shakthi, developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) rolled out on the Rajpath during the 71st Republic Day parade.
- In addition, the IAF's newest inductions, Chinook heavy-lift helicopters and Apache attack helicopters, also made their debut during the flypast.
- A DRDO marching contingent displayed the ASAT missile along with a second equipment, the Air Defence Tactical Control Radar (ADTCR).

28 January 2020

## 31. Economy

### Government starts the process for the sale of 100 per cent stake in debt-laden Air India

- The government today announced the sale of 100 per cent stake in debt-laden Air India

- As part of the strategic disinvestment, Air India would also sell 100 per cent stake in low-cost airline Air India Express and 50 per cent shareholding in joint venture AISATS.
- Management control of the airline would also be transferred to the successful bidder.

**Quick Facts:**

Air India's mascot is the Maharajah (Emperor) and the logo consists of a flying swan with the wheel of Konark inside it.

**32. Polity****JPC on Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 invites suggestions**

- The Personal Data Protection Bill, 2019 as introduced in Lok Sabha has been referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee of both Houses headed by Lok Sabha Member Meenakshi Lekhi for examination and report.
- The committee has decided to seek views and suggestions on the bill from individuals and association or bodies concerned. The bill has been uploaded on the Lok Sabha website.
- Those desirous of submitting their views or suggestions to the committee can their suggestions either in English or Hindi to Director, Lok Sabha Secretariat.

**Quick Facts:**

Joint Parliamentary Committee is one type of ad hoc Parliamentary committee constituted by the Indian parliament.

**33. Sports****ATF unanimously nominates Anil Khanna as life President**

- Senior Sports Administrator Anil Khanna, who recently decided not to contest the President's post of the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF), was today nominated Life President of the continental body.
- The ATF held the meeting of its Board of Directors in Melbourne and unanimously nominated Mr Khanna as Life President. He was also appointed Chairman of the ATF Finance Committee.

**Quick Facts:**

The Asian Tennis Federation is continental body of national tennis associations of Asian countries

**34. Miscellaneous****PM Modi to inaugurate Third Global Potato Conclave at Gandhinagar**

- The four-day conclave will be a unique event to expose different stakeholders of the country to the frontiers of knowledge and innovations in potato research. Gujarat is one of the leading producers of Potato in the country.
- The Netherlands is the partner country of this conclave.
- This conclave is being organized by the Indian Potato Association (IPA) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, ICAR, Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla and International Potato Center, Lima, Peru.
- It will have 10 themes out of which eight themes are based on basic and applied research. The remaining two themes will have a special emphasis on potato trade, value-chain management and policy issues.

**Quick Facts:**

The potato is the most important non-cereal crop in the world. Also, Potato is not native to India & The Portuguese introduced potatoes, which they called 'Batata'.

## 35. Science & Technology

### **Union Health Secretary reviews preparedness of agencies and hospitals to deal with coronavirus**

- Coronavirus infection, largely restricted to China, has triggered a global scare with cases being reported as far as the US and Europe
- Wuhan, China has large number of Indians, mostly students studying medicine in different Chinese universities
- The new virus has caused alarm because of its similarity to SARS, which killed nearly 800 people in mainland China and Hong Kong in 2002-03.

#### **Quick Facts:**

Coronavirus outbreak began in the central Chinese city of Wuhan

## 36. Sports

### **Kobe Bryant – basketball superstar and global icon passes away in helicopter crash**

- Kobe was an 18-time NBA All Star, earned five NBA championships, was twice named the MVP of the NBA Finals, and earned the NBA's MVP award.

#### **Quick Facts:**

Kobe Bryant was also known as 'Black Mamba'

## 37. Polity

### **Government signs Bodo accord with National Democratic Front of Bodoland**

- Under this agreement, an area called BTAD will be renamed as Bodoland Territorial Region
- Additionally, the Centre would expedite 'hills tribe' status to Bodo people living in the hill districts of Assam.
- The Bodo language, with Devnagri script, will become associate official language for entire of Assam.
- Under the socio-cultural package, the government will set up a Central University in name of Upendranath and a national sports university. The funds would be used to set up industry and employment package and promote eco-tourism.

#### **Quick Facts:**

This region is one of the most underdeveloped and backward regions of India of which only 3 percent of the population live in urban areas.

**29 January 2020**

## 38. Persons In News

### **Qatar names Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani new PM**

- Qatar appointed a new Prime Minister today replacing Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al Thani.
- Quoting an Emiri order, the State News Agency reported that Sheikh Khalid bin Khalifa bin Abdelaziz Al Thani has been named as the new Prime Minister.
- According to reports, the earlier Prime Minister has submitted his resignation.

#### **Quick Facts:**

It is the richest country on the planet

Qatar's per capita GDP is \$130,475, according to the IMF.

## 39. Environment

### SC allows centre to introduce African cheetah to suitable habitat in India

- The Supreme Court has allowed the Centre to introduce the African cheetah to suitable habitat in India. The apex Court's decision followed a petition filed by National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) seeking permission for the introduction of the African cheetah from Namibia as rare Indian cheetah is almost extinct in the country.
- The Court also set up a three-member committee, comprising former Director Wildlife of India Ranjit Singh, Director General of Wildlife of India Dhananjay Mohan and Deputy Inspector General, Wildlife, Ministry of Environment and Forests to guide the NTCA in taking a decision on the issue.

#### Quick Facts:

The cheetah is the world's fastest land mammal. A cheetah can go from 0 to 60 miles an hour in only three seconds

## 40. Environment

### 37 Indian wetlands declared sites of international importance under Ramsar Convention

- The Ramsar Convention has declared 10 more wetlands in India as sites of international importance in a major recognition for the government's effort towards conservation and rejuvenation of its wetlands.
- With this, a total of 37 sites in the country have been recognised under the international treaty. Wetlands declared as Ramsar sites are protected under strict guidelines.
- One of the oldest inter-governmental accords, the Convention, signed in 1971 in the Iranian city of Ramsar, is one of the oldest inter-governmental accords for preserving the ecological character of wetlands.

#### Quick Facts:

Chilika Lake (Orissa) and Keoladeo Ghana National Park (Rajasthan) were the first two Ramsar Sites of India.

## 41. Persons In News

### Taranjit Sandhu appointed India's ambassador to US, Shringla foreign secretary

- Senior Indian Foreign Service officer (IFS) Taranjit Sandhu has been appointed as India's ambassador to the United States (US).
- Sandhu, currently India's high commissioner to Sri Lanka, will succeed Harsh Vardhan Shringla, who will take charge as the country's new foreign secretary.
- Sandhu's appointment comes at a time when New Delhi is looking to balance its strategic ties with the US amid tricky trade relations

## 42. Miscellaneous

### Assam's tableau adjudged best among states, UTs in Republic Day parade

- Among the six tableaux from different ministries and departments, Ministry of Jal Shakti and NDRF won the joint best award
- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday awarded Assam for the best tableau, which was based on the theme 'Land of Unique Craftsmanship and Culture'

## 43. Economy

### **Kolkata metro: India's first underwater metro nears completion, to start soon**

- Kolkata Metro Rail Corp. expects to complete its East-West project, which runs partly under the city's iconic Hooghly river.
- The new line is expected to carry about 900,000 people daily

#### **Quick Facts:**

Kolkata metro was the first metro project in India opened in 1984.

**30 January 2020**

## 44. Polity & Governance

### **Cabinet approves Medical Termination of Pregnancy Amendment Bill to raise upper limit for termination of pregnancy to 24 weeks**

- The bill will amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- According to the bill, for Medical termination of pregnancy, permission will be needed, from two doctors and one of them must be a government doctor. The limit of termination of pregnancy has been increased from 20 weeks to 24 weeks.
- The Bill is for expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds. The proposed amendments is a step towards safety and well-being of the women and many women will be benefitted by this.

## 45. Miscellaneous

### **Four-day long Republic Day celebrations conclude with Beating the Retreat ceremony**

- Indian tunes were the flavour of the ceremony this year. President Ram Nath Kovind, Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu, Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, MoS Defence Shripad Naik, Chief of Defence Staff and chief of three services were present at the ceremony.
- Bands from Army, Navy, Air Force and State Police and Central Armed Police Force (CAPF ) presented their captivating and foot-tapping music at Vijay Chowk.

#### **Quick Facts:**

Beating the Retreat marks a centuries-old military tradition when the troops ceased fighting, sheathed their arms and withdrew from the battlefield and returned to the camps at sunset at the sounding of the Retreat.

## 46. Miscellaneous

### **EAM S Jaishankar lays foundation stone of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre at Kevadia in Gujarat**

- External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar today laid the foundation stone of the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre for Empowerment and Livelihoods near the Statue of Unity at Kevadia in Gujarat.
- This will be a state-of-the-art skill Development centre in this tribal area. This Residential Centre will have all modern infrastructure including accommodation for about 100 youth at a time. It will run several free of charge skill courses aligned to the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) in the areas of Food and Beverage Steward, Room Attendant, Mechanized housekeeping, agro-processing especially the dragon-fruit processing, soap making etc.

**Quick Facts:**

At 182 metres, Statue of Unity is the tallest statue in the world.

**47. Science & Technology****Yellow rust incidences on the rise in wheat in Punjab, Haryana**

- The detection of yellow rust disease in the wheat crop in the sub-mountainous parts of Punjab and Haryana has raised anxiety among farmers about drop in the yield.
- Agriculture officials from both the States are in the fields advising farmers to adopt remedial measures to deal with the situation. In Punjab, yellow rust has been reported in a few villages of Ropar, Hoshiarpur and Pathankot districts. In Haryana, it has been detected in a few villages of Panchkula, Yamunanagar, Ambala districts.

**Quick Facts:**

Yellow rust is a fungal disease which turns the leaves into yellowish colour and affect the photosynthesis activity, which eventually could result in drop of yield.

**48. Economy****Oil Ministry wishes to include natural gas in GST**

- If brought under GST, natural gas will attract a uniform rate of tax at the consumption point anywhere in the country after doing away with current rates of excise duty and VAT.
- If brought under the ambit of GST it would promote the use of the environment-friendly fuel by reducing the multiplicity of taxes and improving the business climate.

**Quick Facts:**

Natural gas is a hydrocarbon gas mixture consisting primarily of methane and is the earth's cleanest-burning hydrocarbon.

**31 January 2020**

**49. Polity****Budget Session begins today with President's address to joint session of both the houses**

- The Budget Session of Parliament will commence from today. President Ram Nath Kovind will address a joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament on the first day of the session. The Economic Survey will also be tabled today, while the Union Budget will be presented on Saturday. The first phase of the session will conclude on the 11th of next month while the second part of the session will begin from 2nd March and will end on the 3rd of April.
- Ahead of the session, Government today held an all-party meeting to ensure smooth functioning of both houses of Parliament. 45 bills are likely to come up during the Budget Session.

**Quick Facts:**

The first Indian budget ever was presented by James Wilson, a Scottish economist and politician, as a 'Finance Member of the India Council'.

**50. Polity****Nine Judge Constitution Bench of SC to frame issues about discrimination against women in various religions**



- A 9-judge Constitution bench will on February 3 frame issues for deliberation in the matter relating to discrimination against women in various religions and at religious places including Kerala's Sabarimala Temple.
- The Constitution bench will also consider issues related to the entry of Muslim women into mosques, female genital mutilation in the Dawoodi Bohra Muslim community and barring of Parsi women, married to non-Parsi men, from the holy fireplace at Agiary.

**Quick Facts:**

The building of Supreme Court (SC) is designed and shaped in such a way that it represents the scales of the justice.

**51. India & The World****European Parliament defers vote on anti-CAA resolution**

- In a major diplomatic victory for India, the European Parliament decided not to conduct a vote on a resolution against India's new citizenship law.
- Sources said that friends of India prevailed over the friends of Pakistan in the European Parliament. India reached out to almost all countries of the powerful bloc, trying to persuade them against going ahead with the resolution against the CAA.
- European lawmakers agreed to delay the voting to get a direct perspective about the CAA from External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar who is scheduled to visit Brussels in mid-March.

**Quick Facts:**

The capital of the European Union is Brussels, Belgium. The European Union is run by five main bodies: European Parliament, Council of the Union, European Commission, Court of Justice, and the Court of Auditors.

**52. India & The World****India's launches Operation Vanilla in Madagascar**

- Madagascar has been hit by a cyclone called Cyclone Diane, displacing around 92000 people.
- The Indian Navy has launched Operation Vanilla to provide humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

**Quick Facts:**

Madagascar is an island located 400 kms off East coast of Africa

**53. Science & Technology****Google's new chatbot— Meena**

- Google has claimed that its new chatbot Meena is capable of mimicking how humans talk to each other.
- Meena was trained on 40 million words on public social media
- Google has claimed that Meena can talk to people better than any AI generator.

**1 Feb 2020**

**54. Science & Technology****World's first genetically engineered moths released in the wild**

- Diamondback moths are global pests which have high insecticide-resistance

- A self-limiting strain of male moths has been successfully created through gene editing technology and been introduced in the wild
- These genetically engineered male moths will suppress overpopulation of target pests and dilute insecticide-resistance genes in the population

## 55. Economy

### National Statistical Office revises growth down to 6.1% for 2018-19

- The government on January 31 revised the economic growth rate of India for 2018-19 to 6.1% from the provisional estimates of 6.8%
- The decrease in estimation has mainly been due to deceleration in mining, manufacturing and farm sectors

#### Quick Facts:

The National Statistical Office (NSO) is responsible for conducting large scale sample surveys in diverse fields on All India basis.

## 56. World Affairs

### Britain exits the European Union

- Britain finally exited from European Union on 31st January 2020
- With this move, Britain became the first country to leave the 28-member bloc
- British citizens will be able to work in and trade freely with EU nations until December 31, and vice versa, but the UK will no longer be represented in the bloc's institutions.

#### Quick Facts:

The European Union was formed through the Maastricht treaty, 1993

## 57. Persons In News

### RBI Executive Director Janak Raj appoints as MPC Member

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) appointed its Executive Director Janak Raj as member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC). He will replace M D Patra, who was recently elevated as Deputy Governor of the RBI.

#### Quick Facts:

MPC is headed by Governor of the Reserve Bank of India: Shaktikanta Das

## 58. Defence & Security

### SAMPRITI-IX: India-Bangladesh joint exercise to be held in Meghalaya

- The 9th edition of joint military training exercise between India-Bangladesh SAMPRITI-IX will be conducted at Umroi, Meghalaya from Feb 3.
- Exercise SAMPRITI is an important bilateral defence cooperation endeavour between India and Bangladesh
- The exercise is held to help both nations understand each other at the military tactical level. Greater cultural understanding is emphasized to strengthen military trust and cooperation.

**2 February 2020**

## 59. Economy

## **FM Nirmala Sitharaman presents Union Budget 2020-21**

- The Union Budget 2020-21 announced a new regime of personal income tax to provide significant relief to individual taxpayers and simplify the tax law.
- The focus of the budget is on Aspirational India, Inclusive Economic Development and a caring society.
- Budget announced a 16-point action plan to boost agriculture and farmers' welfare and doubling farmers' income by 2022

### **Quick Facts:**

The FM Nirmala Sitharaman broke the record for the longest budget speech.

## **60. Science & Technology**

### **NASA's Spitzer Space Telescope ends mission**

- The Spitzer Space Telescope was an infrared space telescope launched in 2003.
- It was studying the universe in infrared for the past 16 years
- It had discovered 7 earth-sized planets in the TRAPPIST-1 system. This is the largest number of terrestrial planets ever discovered orbiting a single star.

### **Quick Facts:**

The Spitzer Space Telescope was named in honor of astronomer Lyman Spitzer, who had promoted the concept of space telescopes in the 1940s

## **61. Defence & Security**

- DefExpo2020 to take place in Lucknow from Feb 5
- Defence Ministers of nearly 40 countries have confirmed their participation for the biennial defence exposition DefExpo2020.
- The Ministers include are from Czech Republic, Mexico, South Korea, United Arab Emirates and 14 African countries
- For the first time during DefExpo, India-Africa Defence Conclave will be held.

## **62. Sports**

### **Australian Open: American Sofia Kenin wins her first Grand Slam title**

- American Sofia Kenin won her first Grand Slam title with victory over Spain's Garbine Muguruza at the Australian Open.
- Kenin, who turned 21 in November, is the youngest Australian Open champion since Russian Maria Sharapova in 2008.

### **Quick Facts:**

Australian Open is played on GreenSet, a type of synthetic hardcourt surface.

## **63. Persons In News**

### **Punjabi novelist Jaswant Singh Kanwal passes away**

- He had won Sahitya Akademi Awards for his novel Taushali Di Hanso in 1997
- He was also known as the Writer of Movements
- Jaswant Singh Kanwal had written more than 100 books. His novels usually depicted the rural life of Punjab very vividly. His writings generally questioned firmly held social customs and beliefs.

3 February 2020

## 64. Miscellaneous

### IND-SAT To Be Conducted In Asia, Africa

- To bring foreign students to Indian campuses, the FM has proposed to start an IND-SAT exam under the 'Study in India' scheme in the budget.
- "Under the 'Study in India' programme, an IND-SAT is proposed to be held in Asian and African countries for benchmarking foreign candidates who receive scholarships for studying in Indian higher education centres,"

## 65. Economy

### Budget allocates Rs 99300 Cr For Education, proposes Degree Level Online Education

- The FM announced in the budget that degree level full-fledged online education programme will be started to provide quality education to students of deprived sections of the society as well as those who do not have access to higher education.
- "These (degree level full-fledged online education programme) shall be offered only by institutions who are ranked within top 100 in the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF)."

## 66. India & The World

### India, Maldives sign five MoUs for establishing Addu Tourism zone

- The five MoUs will establish Addu Tourism zone in five islands of Addu atoll at a cost of 2.49 million dollars.
- A 6th MoU to set up a bottled water plant in Hoarafushi was also signed. All six projects are grant projects falling under India's High Impact Community Development Scheme (HICDP). These projects are driven by the needs of communities on the islands.

### Quick Facts:

World's first underwater cabinet meeting was held here to raise awareness about rising ocean levels due to climate change.

## 67. World Affairs

### Bangladesh PM Sheikh Hasina inaugurates month long Ekushey Book Fair

- Ekushey Book Fair is the biggest and longest book fair of Bangladesh.
- It is organised every year in February commemorating the martyrs of the language movement during which eight people laid down their lives on February 21, 1952 for establishing Bangla as the official language of the then East Pakistan.

## 68. Sports

### Australian Open: Novak Djokovic wins Men's singles title

- Serbia's Novak Djokovic won his record 8th Men's singles title in the Australian Open at Rod Laver Arena in Melbourne today.
- He beat first-time Australian Open finalist Dominic Thiem of Austria 6-4, 4-6, 2-6, 6-3, 6-4.
- The men's doubles title was clinched by Joe Salisbury of UK and American Rajeev Ram who beat Australia's Luke Saville and Max Purcell today.

- American Sofia Kenin won her first Grand Slam women's singles title yesterday, with victory over Spain's Garbine Muguruza.

**Quick Facts:**

This was Djokovic's 17th Grand Slam title.

**4 February 2020**

**69. Economy****India's January Manufacturing Activity Hits Near Eight-Year High**

- India's manufacturing activity expanded at its quickest pace in nearly eight years in January with robust growth in new orders and output according to The Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index.
- If sustained, the improvement in business conditions could point to a gradual economic recovery in coming months.

**Quick Facts:**

Nikkei Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index, is compiled by IHS Markit.

**70. Sports****Indian boxers win six gold medals at Golden Girl Championship in Sweden**

- In Boxing, India's junior youth dominated the ring at the Golden Girl Championship in Boras, Sweden, claiming 14 medals, including six golds, the overall championship trophy and the 'Best Boxer' award.
- While the junior women's team clinched five golds, three silvers and one bronze medal, the youth team secured a single gold and four bronze medals.
- Haryana's Prachi Dhankar (50 kilogram), playing in the junior category, won the 'Best Boxer' award.

**71. Polity & Governance****SC directs states to issue notification for establishing 'Gram Nyayalayas' within four weeks**

- The apex court also asked the high courts to expedite the process of consultation with state governments on this issue.
- A bench headed by Justice N V Ramana also took into account the fact that several states have issued notifications for establishing Gram Nyayalayas but all of them were not functioning except in Kerala, Maharashtra and Rajasthan.
- The bench noted that states like Gujarat, Haryana, Telangana, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Chhattisgarh and Odisha have not yet filed their affidavits on this issue despite the apex court's last year direction.

**Quick Facts:**

Parliament passed the Gram Nyayalaya Act in 2008 provided for setting up of Gram Nyayalayas at the grassroots level for providing access to justice to citizens at the doorstep.

**72. World Affairs****New natural gas field containing 80 trillion cubic feet of gas discovered in UAE**

- The United Arab Emirates today announced the discovery of a new natural gas field containing 80 trillion standard cubic feet of gas in the cross-border area of the Emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai.
- The discovery of the Jebel Ali gas field will contribute to achieving gas self-sufficiency for the nation and support the next phase of its major development projects in line with the nation's strategic development plan for the coming 50 years.

**Key Takeaways:**

Prime Minister of UAE and Ruler of Dubai: Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum

Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi: Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

**73. Polity & Governance****Madhya Pradesh wins first position for implementation of PMMVY**

- Madhya Pradesh has won the first prize for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana in the state.
- Indore has been ranked at first place among the districts for better performance of the scheme.

**Quick Facts:**

Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a maternity benefit program run by Ministry of Women and Child Development of GOI. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years of age or above for the first live birth.

**Key Takeaways:**

Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh: Kamal Nath.

Governor of Madhya Pradesh: Lal Ji Tandon.

**74. Persons In News****Ajay Bisaria appointed India's next High Commissioner to Canada**

- India's High Commissioner to Pakistan Ajay Bisaria has now been appointed as India's High Commissioner to Canada.
- Bisaria is an IFS officer of the 1987 Batch.

**Key takeaways:**

Canada's PM: Justin Trudeau

**5 February 2020**

**75. Science & Technology****NavIC system now on smartphones**

- NavIC is India's own navigation system, similar to the U.S.' GPS.
- Smartphones with the latest Qualcomm chipsets can now latch on to NavIC.
- NavIC works based on the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS). There are currently eight IRNSS satellites in geosynchronous and geostationary orbits.
- NavIC will provide drivers and other users in India with visual and voice navigation. Its primary beneficiaries will be Indian mariners and fishermen, who are being provided with NavIC handsets.
- NavIC is designed for a position accuracy better than 20 metres in India, its primary coverage area. An area of 1,500 km from the Indian boundary will also be covered by this system.

**Quick Facts:**

The major navigation systems of the world are GPS (US), Beidou (China), Glonass (Russia), NAVIC (India) & Galileo (European Union).

**Key Takeaways:**

NAVIC will provide a Standard Positioning Service to all users and an encrypted Restricted Service to authorised users.

## 76. Science & Technology

### **One in 10 Indians will develop cancer during their lifetime: World Cancer Report**

- WHO and its specialized International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) have released two reports: one aimed at setting the global agenda on the disease; the other focused on research and prevention.
- WHO warned that global cancer rates could rise by 60% over the next 20 years unless cancer care is ramped up in low and middle-income countries.

**Quick Facts:**

World Cancer Report is published by WHO.

## 77. History, Art & Culture

### **Discovery of temples atop Kondaveedu Fort throws light on ancient civilisation**

- Remnants of Lakshmi Narasimha Swamy Temple atop the hill and some idols have been found along with a pond, a Shiva temple and a mandapam. Some temples have been built by Miriyala dynasty.
- This discovery gives credence to the history of the fort being a citadel of power since 11th century
- The remnants indicate that the kings had patronised cultural forms, literature and performed many rituals for the well being of their kingdoms.

**Quick Facts:**

The Kondaveedu fort is located in Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.

## 78. World Affairs

### **G-7 agrees to work with WHO, EU, China to tackle Coronavirus**

- The Group of Seven leading industrialized democracies, G-7 have agreed to work with the WHO, EU and China seeking a unified procedure to tackle the fast-spreading Novel Coronavirus.
- The countries agreed that isolated approaches were less likely to succeed against the global risks posed by the virus. Health Ministers of Germany, Britain and France are expected to meet today.
- They are likely to coordinate their approach on travel regulations and precautions as well as research into the virus.

**Key Takeaways:**

The G7 countries are: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States.

## 79. Miscellaneous

### **Prez Kovind inaugurates annual Udyanotsav at Rashtrapati Bhavan**

- President Ram Nath Kovind today opened the annual Udyanotsav of Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Mughal Gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan will be opened for the general public from today.



- The main attraction of this year's Udyanotsav, beside Tulips and Exotic flowers, are bulbous flowerings.

**Quick Facts:**

The British architect Sir Edwin Landseer Lutyens was the architect of both the Rashtrapati Bhawan & Mughal Gardens.

**80. World Affairs****Maldives rejoins Commonwealth as 54th member**

- Maldives has rejoined the Commonwealth of nations after its exit in 2016.
- The inclusion of Maldives into Commonwealth has become effective just after the exit of United Kingdom from the European union.

**Quick Facts:**

The Commonwealth of Nations, generally known simply as the Commonwealth, is a political association of 54 member states, mostly former territories of the British Empire.

**6 February 2020**

**81. World Affairs****Sri Lanka celebrated its 72nd Independence Day**

- Sri Lanka celebrated its 72nd Independence Day on 4th February 2020.
- On this day, Sri Lanka became an independent nation after getting independence from United Kingdom.

**Key Takeaways:**

Currency: Sri Lankan Rupee.

Prime minister: Mahinda Rajapaksa.

President: Gotabaya Rajapaksa.

**82. Persons In News****Gopal Baglay appointed India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka**

- Gopal Baglay is a 1992-batch officer of Indian Foreign Service and he succeeds Taranjit Singh Sandhu who was appointed as the ambassador to the United States.

**83. Persons In News****Deepa Malik Elected President of Paralympic Committee of India**

- India's lone woman Paralympic medallist Deepa Malik has been elected as president of Paralympic Committee of India (PCI).
- The Paralympic Committee of India (PCI) is the body responsible for selecting athletes to represent India at the Paralympic Games and other international athletic meets.

**Key Takeaways:**

Headquarters of PCI: Bengaluru

## 84. World Affairs

### After Pakistan Somalia declares national emergency over locust swarms

- Somalia is the first African country to declare national emergency on account of locust infestation.
- According to experts, the locust swarms due to extreme weather brought by climate change.
- Somalia is looking to raise funds to contain the locust attacks before harvests in April.

#### Quick Facts:

Somalia is located in the Horn of Africa alongwith Djibouti, Eritrea & Ethiopia.

## 85. Economy

### Union Cabinet approves amendments to bring co-operative banks under RBI

- It will ensure greater accountability and transparency in the functioning of Cooperative Banks.
- The cabinet also approved the IIIT Laws Amendment Bill 2020.
- Five IIITs in the PPP mode at Surat, Bhopal, Bhagalpur, Agartala and Raichur will be declared as Institutions of National importance.

## 86. Persons In News

### Albin Kurti appointed new Prime Minister of Kosovo

- He was appointed PM after his left-wing Vetevendosje party forged a coalition with the centre-right Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK).

7 February 2020

## 87. Economy

### DICGC increases the deposit insurance coverage to 5 lakh

- Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (DICGC) has increased the insurance coverage for depositors in all insured banks from Rs 1 lakh to 5 lakh with effect from February 4, 2020.
- The rate of premium payable by the insured banks will be raised from 10 paise per Rs 100 of assessable deposits to 12 paise per Rs100 of assessable deposits per annum.

#### Key Takeaways:

Chairman of DICGC: B.P.Kanungo (Deputy Governor, Reserve Bank of India.)

DICGC came into existence on July 15, 1978.

DICGC HQ: Mumbai.

## 88. Defence & Security

### HAL & Israel Aerospace Industries partner to make UCAVs

- Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has signed a partnership with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) at the DefExpo 2020 in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh.
- Under this pact both the companies will manufacture advanced Unmanned Combat Aerial Vehicles (UCAVs) in India.

#### Key Takeaways:

HAL was founded in 1940(As Hindustan Aircraft) &1 (Renamed Hindustan Aeronautics Limited in 1964)

HAL Headquarters: Bangalore, Karnataka.

Chairman and Managing Director of HAL: R Madhavan.

## 89. Economy

### Reserve Bank keeps repo rate unchanged at 5.15 %

- RBI in its fifth bi-monthly monetary policy review of the current financial year 2019-20 kept the policy repo rate under the liquidity adjustment facility (LAF) unchanged at 5.15%.
- As a result the reverse repo rate under the LAF remains unchanged at 4.90%.
- The marginal standing facility (MSF) rate and the Bank Rate are at 5.40%.

### Quick Facts:

Repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to the banks.

## 90. World Affairs

### International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) celebrated on 6th Feb

- It is a United Nations-sponsored annual awareness day celebrated on 6th February as part of the UN's efforts to eradicate female genital mutilation.
- 2020 Theme: 'Unleashing Youth Power'.
- Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the ritual cutting or removal of some or all of the external female genitalia.
- The practice is found in Africa, Asia and the Middle East, and within communities from countries in which FGM is common.

## 91. Miscellaneous

### PM Modi announces setting up of 'Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra'

- PM Narendra Modi has announced in the Parliament Cabinet's decision to set up Ram Mandir Trust named as 'Shri Ram Janmbhoomi Teerth Kshetra' which will take decisions related to the construction of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.
- There will be 15 trustees in Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra including one trustee from Dalit community.
- K. Parasaran has been appointed the chairman of the trust.

## 92. Science & Technology

### Paytm launches QR enabled all in one Point of Sale (POS) device

- The device will help merchants collect payments through various methods like Credit/Debit cards, QR codes and digital payments.

8 February 2020

## 93. Environment

### Most cities in India turning into "urban heat islands": IIT Kharagpur study

- A team of researchers from IIT Kharagpur has found that most cities in the country are turning into "urban heat islands" in all seasons during both day and night.

- The study showed that most big cities in the country with a population of more than one million recorded a rise in mercury level during daytime and showed an increasing trend in the night hours.
- The IIT Kharagpur study notes that the relatively warmer temperatures in urban areas have potential health hazards.

## 94. Science & Technology

### **NASA astronaut Christina Koch returns to Earth after record mission**

- The American astronaut set the record for the longest stay in space by a woman.
- Her record was of 328 days, while staying in the International Space Station to yield new insights into deep-space travel.
- Her mission will provide researchers valuable data on how weightlessness and space radiation affect the female body on long spaceflights.

#### **Quick Facts:**

Christina Koch also led the first all-female spacewalk in 2019

## 95. India & The World

### **Railway line between India and Bangladesh to be completed by 2021**

- The 15.6 km-long Agartala-Akhaura railway link connects Gangasagar in Bangladesh to Nischintapur in India and from Nischintapur to Agartala railway station.
- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is bearing the cost for laying the track on the 5.46km Indian side and the cost of laying the 10.6 km-long track on the Bangladesh side is being borne by the Ministry of External Affairs
- Indian Railway Construction Company Limited (IRCON) is the executing agency for construction of the project on both sides

## 96. Economy

### **Digital payments index to assess industry potential**

- Digital Payments Index (DPI) will be a 'composite' scoring system which will allow both consumers and stakeholders to better gauge local area developments in infrastructure, access, demographic and acceptance related growth with reference to broader domestic and global standards in digital payments.
- The Reserve Bank shall construct and periodically publish a composite DPI to capture the extent of digitisation of payments effectively
- The DPI would be based on multiple parameters and reflect the penetration and deepening of various digital payment modes.
- The banking regulator will make the index available in the public domain from July 2020.

## 97. Defence & Security

### **DRDO inks deal with a Russian company for missiles propulsion systems**

- DRDO's High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL) has signed a contract with Rosoboronexport for development of Advanced Pyrotechnic Ignition Systems.
- This agreement will enable advancement in the field of energetic materials and pyrotechnic technology leading to the development of advanced ignition systems

- The agreement will help India meet the futuristic requirements of high-performance propulsion systems. Propulsion systems are the power behind the rockets and missiles.

**Quick Facts:**

HEMRL is the DRDO laboratory working in the development of a spectrum of high energy materials required for missiles, rockets and guns.

**9 February 2020**

**98. India & The World****Jaipur the 'Pink City' becomes certified UNESCO World Heritage City**

- Jaipur has been certified by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as the World Heritage city.
- The certification was done during an event held in Jaipur, Rajasthan. As part of certification, the World Heritage City certificate was handed by UNESCO Director General to Minister of Urban Development of Rajasthan Shanti Dhariwal.

**Quick Facts:**

UNESCO Director General Audrey Azoulay  
UNESCO HQ: Paris, France

**99. Polity & Governance****Karnataka Government launches Janasevaka scheme**

- To ensure the home delivery of the government services, Karnataka Government has launched a scheme "Janasevaka".
- The scheme was initially launched in a few municipal corporation wards to ensure home delivery of various services.

**Key Takeaways:**

Karnataka CM: B.S. Yediyurappa  
Karnataka Governor: Vajubhai Vala

**100. India & The World****"Central Asia Business Council" launched in New Delhi**

- The event has been organized by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) and was addressed by India's External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar.
- The business chambers of all five Central Asian states i.e. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan, have been brought together
- The summit is supposed to push trade and investment partnership.

**101. Defence & Security****5th India-Russia Military Industrial Conference held in Lucknow**

- The fifth India-Russia Military Industrial Conference was held on the sidelines of the ongoing Def Expo 2020 in Lucknow.
- There was a presence of Over 100 Russian and over 200 Indian industry leaders.
- 14 MoUs were signed between Indian and Russian companies under the Make in India initiative.
- to produce different defence equipment like parts of T-72, T-90, ASW Rocket launchers, radar systems etc.

## 102. Economy

### India becomes second-largest steel producer of Crude Steel

- According to the World Steel Association data, India has surpassed Japan in terms of annual steel production, becoming the second-largest producer of crude steel in the world, after China.
- India produced 111.2 million tonnes of crude steel in 2019.
- In 2019, Japan (99.3), the United States (87.9) and Russia (71.6) ranked third, fourth and fifth respectively.

### Key Takeaways:

Steel sector is a deregulated sector and as a result govt does not set annual targets for it.

10 February 2020

## 103. Miscellaneous

### Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat campaign for celebrating unity in diversity to start from today

- The 18 day long Campaign being organised by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, will continue till February 28.
- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat promotes the spirit of national integration through a deep and structured engagement between all Indian states and union territories and can build bonds between the people of various states of the country.
- The central idea behind Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat is showcasing and highlighting the rich heritage and culture, cuisines, crafts, customs and traditions of 36 states and union territories.

## 104. Sports

### Bangladesh beat India to win maiden U19 Cricket World Cup title

- Bangladesh beat India by three wickets to win maiden ICC U-19 World Cup title in Potchefstroom, South Africa tonight by the Duckworth-Lewis method.
- First-time finalists Bangladesh emerged as the dark horse and beat South Africa and New Zealand in their journey to the finals. Bangladesh remained unbeaten in this tournament.

## 105. History, Art & Culture

### Guru Ravidas Jayanti celebrated across the country

- Ravidas Jayanti, the birth anniversary of Sant Ravidas, was celebrated across the country on Feb 9. Sant Ravidas was a 14th-century saint and founder of the Bhakti movement in North India.
- Lakhs of people converge at Shri Guru Ravidas Janam Asthan Mandir, Seer Goverdhanpur in Varanasi to celebrate his anniversary.

## 106. Government Schemes

### MP Governor Lalji Tandon inaugurates Hunar Haat in Indore

- Hunar Haat is being organised till 16th February.
- Hunar Haat is an exhibition of handicrafts and traditional products made by artisans from the Minority communities. It is organized by Ministry of Minority Affairs.
- The scheme aims to establish Hunar Hub in all the states where programs like Hunar Haat and other cultural events are to be organized.

**Quick Facts:**

Hunar Haat is organized under USTTAD-Upgrading the Skills and Training in Traditional Arts/Crafts for Development scheme.

**107. Sports****Haryana defeated SAI 6-0 to win 10th Hockey Senior Women National Championship**

- Haryana thrashed Sports Authority of India (SAI) 6-0 to win the 10th Hockey India Senior Women National Championship 2020 (A Division) title at Kollam on Sunday.
- Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh Hockey Academy beat Hockey Maharashtra 2-1 in the third-fourth place play-off match.

**108. Sports****Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre Red won first Khelo India Ice Hockey tournament**

- The Ladakh Scouts Regimental Centre (LSRC) Red won the first Men's section Khelo India Ice Hockey tournament 2020 by defeating Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP).

**11 February 2020**

**109. Miscellaneous****Ease of Living Index and Municipal Performance Index 2019 Launched**

- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has launched Ease of living index (EoLI) 2019 and Municipal Performance Index (MPI) 2019.
- The MPI will be used to assess the performance of municipalities based on 5 enablers namely Service, Finance, Planning, Technology and Governance, by the ministry.
- EoLI 2019 will help in the assessment of ease of living of citizens across three pillars:
- Quality of Life, Economic Ability and Sustainability.

**Quick Facts:**

MoHUA Minister of State (Independent Charge): Hardeep S Puri

**110. Persons In News****Rishabh Pant signed brand ambassador of JSW Steel**

- JSW Steel has signed Indian cricketer Rishabh Pant as its brand ambassador for three years.
- The company will launch an integrated marketing campaign featuring Pant by mid-February.

**111. Miscellaneous****South Korean film 'Parasite' makes history by winning Best Film Oscar**

- In the 92nd Oscar awards and for the first time in the history of awards, a non-english film 'Parasite' won four prizes including Best Picture.
- Bong Joon Ho's satire on class divides in South Korea took Hollywood's top prize along with awards for best director, best international film and best screenplay. Parasite defeated highly-fancied dramas including 1917, Once Upon a Time In Hollywood and The Irishman.
- In other categories, Joaquin Phoenix won the best actor for "Joker" and Renee Zellweger bagged the best actress for "Judy". For best supporting act Brad Pitt got the award for "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood" and Laura Dern for "Marriage Story".



**Quick Facts:**

The official name for Oscar Awards is "Academy Awards" given by Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences

**112. Economy****PFRDA increases minimum net worth for pension fund managers**

- In a welcome move The Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) has doubled the minimum net worth criterion for pension fund managers to ₹50 crores from the ₹25 crores.
- This will bring pension funds on par with mutual funds which have to meet a minimum net worth requirement of ₹50 crores, under rules stipulated by SEBI.

**Quick Facts:**

PFRDA Chairman: Yogesh Agarwal

PFRDA HQ: New Delhi

**113. Geography****Powerful storm Ciara batters parts of north-west Europe**

- Powerful storm Ciara is battering parts of north-west Europe with heavy rainfall and strong winds of up to 150 kilometers per hour.
- The storm is also known as Sabine in Germany and Switzerland and Elsa in Norway - has caused hundreds of flights to be grounded and rail services canceled in Germany, France, Belgium, the Netherlands and the UK.

**114. Economy****NPCI allows WhatsApp to expand UPI project to 10 million users**

- Instant messaging platform WhatsApp has received permission from the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to expand its pilot Unified Payment Interface (UPI) services to 10 million users.
- "WhatsApp Pay", a payment feature of WhatsApp which runs on
- Unified Payment Interface (UPI) enables users to do business transactions or to pay others directly through their bank accounts.

**12 February 2020**

**115. Miscellaneous****National Deworming Day observed across the country on 10th Feb**

- The National Deworming Day was observed across the country on 10th Feb.
- Children and adolescents in the age group of 1 to 19 years are being administered a
- single dose of a safe medicine Albendazole in all states and Union Territories on the occasion.
- The objective of the day is to deworm children and adolescents to reduce the
- prevalence of parasitic worms in the intestine.

**116. History, Art & Culture****Chennai's Kannagi Nagar to be transformed into an art district**

- St+art, in association with Asian Paints and the Greater Chennai Corporation, is having its first public art project in the city featuring an eclectic mix of 10 national and international artists, to create public art interventions including murals, workshops and tours.
- This is an attempt to engage with the community through art
- The first leg of the project will feature eight national and five international artists, who will help set up the country's fifth art district.

**Quick Facts:**

Lodhi Colony, Delhi was India's first art district

## 117. Science & Technology

### Four Indian pilots begin astronaut training in Russia

- The full programme includes basic or generic astronaut training followed by activities specific to the first Indian human space mission, Gaganyaan.
- All four candidates are Indian Air Force fighter pilots
- After training, one or two of them will be finally named for Gaganyaan project, India

**Quick Facts:**

The objective of the Gaganyaan project is to carry a three-member crew to low earth orbit and return them safely to a predefined destination on earth

## 118. Science & Technology

### Indian classical music improves cognitive functions in schizophrenia patients: Study

- Researchers from NIMHANS have found that listening to Indian classical music has beneficial effects in improving cognitive functions of patients with schizophrenia
- The study examined the effects of Indian classical music on 20 male patients between 18 and 45 years diagnosed with schizophrenia.

**Quick Facts:**

Schizophrenia is a disorder that affects a person's ability to think, feel and behave clearly.

## 119. National Affairs

### Aam Aadmi Party wins Delhi Elections

- Legislative Assembly elections were held in Delhi on 8 February 2020 to elect 70 members of the Delhi Legislative Assembly
- AAP won 62 out of 70 seats in Delhi
- A minimum of 36 seats were required to claim majority in the Legislative Assembly

**13 February 2020**

## 120. Miscellaneous

### World Unani Day celebrated on 11th Feb

- The World Unani Day is celebrated every year to mark the birth anniversary of the great
- Unani scholar and social reformer Hakim Ajmal Khan.
- Through the celebration of World Unani Day it is sought to spread awareness about health care

- delivery through Unani system of medicine through its preventive and curative philosophy.
- This system of medicine was introduced in India by the Arabs and Persians around the eleventh century and it forms a part of the AYUSH system of medicines.

## 121. Sports

### India's Hockey forward Lalremsiami named as 2019 FIH Women's Rising Star of Year

- India forward Lalremsiami has been named as the 2019 FIH Women's
- Rising Star of the Year by the International Hockey Federation.
- She was awarded this prize ahead of Argentina's Julieta Jankunas and Frederique Matla
- of the Netherlands.
- She was one of the stand-out players of the Hockey Women's World Cup in 2018.

## 122. Sports

### Pullela Gopichand honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award by International Olympic Committee

- India's Chief badminton coach P Gopichand has been awarded International Olympic Committee's Coaches Lifetime Award in the male category of the 2019.
- Gopichand has also founded the Gopichand Badminton Academy in 2008 where he grooms young Badminton players. He has coached Saina Nehwal, PV Sandhu among others.
- Mr. Gopichand has also received numerous accolades including Arjuna award (1999), Rajiv Gandhi
- Khel Ratna (2001), Padma Shri (2005), Dronacharya award (2009) and Padma Bhushan (2014).

## 123. India & The World

### The Vice-President of Vietnam coming for an official visit to India

- Vice President of Vietnam Dang Thai Ngoc Thinh is on an official visit to India (11th to 13th Feb 2020).
- During her visit delegation-level talks will be held with her counterpart Vice President M Venkaiah Naidu
- Direct flight between India and Vietnam is also likely to be announced during her visit.

#### Quick Facts:

Capital of Vietnam: Hanoi

Currency: Vietnamese Dong

## 124. Persons In News

### Kaamya Karthikeyan youngest girl to climb Mt Aconcagua

- India's Kaamya Karthikeyan became the youngest girl in the world to summit Mount Aconcagua (6962-meter) the highest peak in South America.
- Mt. Aconcagua located in Andes mountain range in Argentina is one of the so-called Seven Summits of the seven continents.

#### Quick Facts:

The Seven Summits are the highest mountains of each of the seven continents. The seven summits are: Everest, Aconcagua, Denali, Kilimanjaro, Vinson, Elbrus, Puncak Jaya (the Messner version)

14 February 2020

## 125. Science & Technology

### WHO officially names Coronavirus disease as “Covid-19”

- The World Health Organization (WHO) has officially named the disease caused by the new coronavirus as “Covid-2019” which is a combination of “corona”, “virus” and “disease”, with 2019 representing the year in which it emerged.
- The word coronavirus refers to the group of viruses it belongs to. The virus was also designated as SARS-CoV-2 by the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses.

#### Key Takeaways:

WHO Headquarters: Geneva, Switzerland

WHO Director general: Tedros Adhanom.

## 126. History, Art & Culture

### The 1st-ever “Hornbill Festival” celebrated in Tripura

- The 1st-ever Hornbill festival of Tripura was celebrated in Agartala.
- The aim of the festival is raise awareness to conserve the majestic forest bird “Hornbill” and to boost the livelihood of the people through tourism.

#### Quick Facts:

Hornbill festival is generally celebrated in Nagaland.

## 127. India & The World

### India removed from US’ developing nations list for trade benefits

- The US has removed India from its list of developing countries that are exempt from investigations into whether they harm American industry with unfairly subsidised exports.
- The United States Trade Representative (USTR) eliminated a host of countries including Brazil, Indonesia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Argentina.
- The reasons for India’s removal are it being a G-20 member and having a share of 0.5% or more of world trade.

#### Quick Facts:

India’s share in global exports was 1.67% in 2018. In global imports, it was 2.57%.

## 128. Environment

### Elephant and Indian Bustard to be included in India’s global conservation list

- India is going to include the Asian Elephant and the Great Indian Bustard in the list of species that merit heightened conservation measures.
- The list will be debated at the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), an environment treaty under the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

#### Key Takeaways:

Headquarters of United Nations Environment Programme: Nairobi, Kenya.

Director of UNEP: Inger Andersen.

## 129. Environment

### **'ClimFishCon 2020' a global meet on Climate Change being held in Kochi**

- the meet will deliberate on the impact of climate change on 'hydrological cycle, ecosystem, fisheries and food security'.
- Organized by the CUSAT School of Industrial Fisheries in collaboration with the Department of Fisheries, Kerala.
- Theme: Climate Change-Effective Adaptation for a Secure Future.

**15 February 2020**

## 130. Polity & Governance

### **National Workshop on e-office held in New Delhi**

- The workshop was inaugurated in New Delhi by Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr Jitendra Singh.
- During the Workshop, Centralized Public Grievance Redress And Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) reforms were also launched.

## 131. Persons In News

### **Atul Gupta elected as President of ICAI**

- Chartered Accountant Atul Kumar Gupta has been elected as the new President of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) for the 2020-21 term.
- For the same term Nihar Niranjan Jambusaria has been elected as the Vice President of the ICAI.

#### **Quick Facts:**

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) is the national professional accounting body of India, established on 1st July 1949.

## 132. Polity & Governance

### **Pesticide Management Bill 2020 approved by the Union Cabinet**

- The proposed legislation will promote organic pesticides in the country.
- Cabinet also approved changes in the Direct Tax Vivad se Vishwas Bill, 2020 which seeks to increase its scope to cover litigations pending in various debt recovery tribunals (DRTs).

#### **Quick Facts:**

The cabinet is the highest policymaking body under Indian political system.

## 133. Miscellaneous

### **World radio day celebrated on 13th February**

- World Radio Day is observed to celebrate radio as the medium for entertainment, information and the mode of communication.
- The theme of this year's World Radio Day is 'Radio and Diversity'.

## 134. Defence & Security

### **India-UK Joint Military Exercise AJEYA WARRIOR 2020 begins in UK**

- The fifth edition of the exercise has started at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom.

- The aim of this exercise is to conduct company level joint training with emphasis on counter terrorism operations in Urban and Semi Urban areas.
- The exercise is conducted alternatively in the United Kingdom and India.

**16 February 2020**

## **135. Government Schemes**

### **Haryana launches 'Reading Mission'**

- Haryana has launched an initiative called 'Reading Mission- Haryana' on the lines of the 'Reading Mission 2022', launched by the central government.
- The initiative was launched to encourage reading habit among the young students of the state.
- Under the state's initiative, monthly book review sessions and mass book reading are to be organised by students in educational institutions.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

Governor of Haryana: Satyadeo Narayan Arya

Chief Minister (CM) of Haryana: Manohar Lal Khattar

## **136. Environment**

### **Mumbai to host "Disaster Risk Financing, Insurance and Risk Transfer" Workshop**

- The workshop will be organised by National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in partnership with Insurance Institute of India.

## **137. Defence & Security**

### **DRDO developing Pranash ballistic missile with an new strike range**

- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has started developing a 200-km strike range tactical ballistic missile 'Pranash'.
- The missile is an advanced version of the 150-km strike range Prahar tactical missile which can travel at the speed of Mach 2.
- The surface-to-surface, solid-propellant ballistic missile will be of use for the Air Force and Army.

#### **Key Takeaways:**

DRDO Chairman: G Satheesh Reddy;

Established: 1958.

Headquarters: New Delhi.

## **138. Persons In News**

### **Rajiv Bansal appointed as Air India CMD**

- Senior IAS officer (Nagaland cadre) Rajiv Bansal has been appointed as the Chairman and managing director (CMD) of Air India.
- He will take over from Ashwani Lohan.

## **139. Persons In News**

### **Narayana Murthy's son-in-law Rishi Sunak appointed as UK's new Finance Minister**

- Three Indian origin Members of Parliament are now a part of Britain's cabinet led by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

- Infosys co-founder Narayana Murthy's son-in-law, Rishi Sunak has been appointed as Finance Minister.
- Priti Patel (47-years) has been appointed as the Home Minister.
- Alok Sharma (51-year) has been appointed as the Business Secretary in the British Cabinet.

**17 February 2020**

## **140. Sports**

### **National Winter Games to be hosted in Gulmarg from March 7**

- World-famous Ski destination Gulmarg is all set to host a five-day national winter games event from 7th March organised under Khelo India.
- There will be 30 events under major activities- snowboarding, snow skiing, cross country etc.

#### **Quick facts:**

Khelo India is an initiative of the Government of India to strengthen the sports ecosystem by encouraging mass participation and the promotion of excellence.

## **141. Persons In News**

### **Former India Allrounder Robin Singh appointed UAE's Director of Cricket**

- Former India all-rounder Robin Singh (56-years) has been appointed director of cricket of the United Arab Emirates (UAE).
- Singh had represented India in one Test and 136 ODIs between 1989 and 2001,
- After retirement he has become a famous coach and was associated with the Indian Premier League's Mumbai Indians franchise.

## **142. Sports**

### **IHF names Indian hockey captain Manpreet Singh Player of the Year 2019**

- The Indian men's hockey team captain Manpreet Singh was named Player of the Year for 2019 by the International Hockey Federation.
- Manpreet is the first Indian to win the award beating competition from Belgium's Arthur van Dorren and Lucas Villa of Argentina,
- who came second and third.

## **143. Miscellaneous**

### **UNICEF releases "State of the World's Children Report 2019"**

- As per the report Under 5 Mortality Rate in India is 37 per 1,000 live births against Global average of 39 per 1,000 live births in 2018.
- The reports states that Globalization, urbanization, inequities, humanitarian crises and climate shocks are driving unprecedented negative changes in the nutrition situation of children around the world.



## 144. Persons In News

### Former Teri chief RK Pachauri passes away

- Environmentalist & former TERI chief R K Pachauri (aged 79-years) passed away in New Delhi.
- The IPCC shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with former US Vice-President Al Gore.

18 February 2020

## 145. Polity & Governance

### Arvind Kejriwal takes oath as Chief Minister of Delhi

- Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal has been sworn in as Delhi chief minister for the third consecutive time.
- Delhi lieutenant governor Anil Baijal administered the oath of office to Arvind Kejriwal at Ramlila Maidan in New Delhi.
- Kejriwal's AAP won 62 seats in the Delhi Assembly elections.

## 146. Persons In News

### Indian Scholar Gita Sen wins Dan David Prize

- Feminist scholar and activist Gita Sen has won the prestigious Dan David Prize for her work in the fields of population policies, reproductive and sexual health, women's rights, poverty, labour markets and global governance.
- The Dan David Prize of USD 1 million each is awarded annually to 3 globally inspiring individuals and organisations.
- It is awarded by the Dan David Foundation headquartered at Tel Aviv University.

## 147. Miscellaneous

### Kerala CM Pinarayi Vijayan launched 'Yodhavu' mobile app to combat drug menace

- 'Yodhavu' (Warrior) app has been launched by Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan as part of efforts to curb the growing drug menace in the state..
- Through the app the public can inform police about drug abuse and its distribution.

## 148. Environment

### 9th World Pangolin day 2020 celebrated on 15th Feb

- World Pangolin Day is celebrated on the 3rd Saturday of February, to generate awareness about pangolin species and mobilizes various stakeholders to speed up conservation efforts.

### Quick Facts:

Two Pangolin species are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

## 149. Sports

### Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa win 77th Senior National Squash Championships

- Saurav Ghosal and Joshna Chinappa won the 77th Senior National squash championships in Man's and woman's category respectively in Chennai.
- The top-ranked Indian players bagged the men's and women's titles for a record 13th and 18th time respectively.

19 February 2020

## 149. Environment

### **"PM Modi inaugurated the 13th COP of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species**

- "PM Narendra Modi inaugurated the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals Gandhinagar through Video Conferencing.
- The theme of this year's Conference is "'Migratory species connect the planet and we welcome them home".
- The mascot "Gibi - The Great Indian Bustard" is a critically endangered species.

#### **Quick Facts:**

The Convention is also known as the Bonn Convention.

## 150. Sports

### **Haryana announces an award of Rs 6 Crores to Olympic Gold Winners**

- The state also announced an award of 3 crore rupees to gold medal winners at Asian Games and 1.5
- crore rupees to the winners at Commonwealth Games.
- An amount of 15 lakh rupees will also be given to each player participating in the Olympic Games.

## 151. Economy

### **"National Organic Food Festival" to be hosted in New Delhi**

- A "National Organic Food Festival" for women entrepreneurs will be organised at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in New Delhi (from February 21-23).
- The theme of this festival is "Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential".
- The aim of this program is to promote the Organic Food segment which is projected to expand nearly
- three-fold to Rs 75,000 crore in market size in the next five years.

## 152. Persons In News

### **GoAir appoints Vinay Dube as CEO**

- GoAir has appointed Vinay Dube as the airline's Chief Executive Ofcer.
- Earlier, Dube was serving as an advisor to GoAir.
- Dube would be responsible for the management of the airline and also for meeting the goals and long-term growth objectives of the company.

## 153. Government Schemes

### **Bihar Government launches 'Pyaar ka Paudha' campaign.**

- 'Pyaar ka Paudha' (a plant of love) campaign has been launched by the Bihar government's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna.
- The aim of the campaign is to promote the practice of planting trees in the state and to take care of them.

## 153. Sports

### Asian Wrestling Championship begins in New Delhi

- The championship will be held at the KD Jadhav Hall of Indira Gandhi Stadium till 23rd Feb.
- The event will have a total of 30 weight classes, 10 each in Freestyle Men, Women, and Greco Roman.

**20 February 2020**

## 154. Miscellaneous

### 'Kashi Ek Roop Anek' exhibition inaugurated by PM Modi in Varanasi

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated cultural arts and handicrafts exhibition named 'Kashi Ek Roop Anek' in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh.
- The exhibition will showcase products from over 10,000 artisans from all over Uttar Pradesh.
- The UP government also launched 'One District, One Product' (ODOP) scheme in which one craft per district has been identified.

#### Quick Facts:

The present Governor of UP is Anandiben Patel

## 155. India & The World

### India signs USD 450 million loan agreement with World Bank

- The loan agreement with the World Bank aims to support the national programme "Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY): National Groundwater Management Improvement Programme".
- Union Government hopes to curb the country's depleting groundwater levels along with a strengthening of the groundwater institutions using these funds.

#### Key Takeaways:

World Bank HQ: Washington, D.C., United States

President of World Bank: David Robert Malpass

## 156. Sports

### 20th Laureus Awards 2020 announced in Berlin

- This is the 20th anniversary of the prestigious Laureus Award which celebrates the best in the world of sport.
- British F1 ace Lewis Hamilton and Lionel Messi were declared the joint winners of the prestigious Laureus World Sportsman of the year award.
- Laureus Best Sporting Moment: 'Carried on the shoulders of a nation' – Sachin Tendulkar (During the world cup)

#### Quick Facts:

The award was established in 1999 by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation founding patrons Daimler and Richemont.

## 157. Defence & Security

### India to have 1st "Integrated Tri-services Command" by year 2020

- The plan for establishing the first Integrated Tri-Services Command has been announced by Chief of the Defence staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat.
- The Integrated Tri-Services Command will be responsible for handling the air defence of the entire country.
- The planned Integrated Tri-Services command will be headed by an Indian Air Force (IAF) officer.

## 158. Economy

### Moody's cuts India's 2020 GDP growth forecast to 5.4%

- Moody's has cut India's 2020 Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth forecast to 5.4% from 6.6% and the next financial year (2020-21) growth rate estimate to 5.8% from 6.7%.
- According to Moody's, worldwide growth will be affected due to the spread of novel coronavirus outbreak in China and hence India's economic growth recovery will be slow.

#### Quick Facts:

Moody's is a credit rating agency headquartered in New York, United States.

## 159. Summits & Conferences

### The convention "Difficult Dialogues 2020" has begun in Goa

- The 5th edition of Difficult Dialogues began in Panaji, Goa.
- Difficult Dialogues (DD) is an annual forum examining issues of contemporary relevance in South Asia.
- Difficult Dialogues 2020 is going to focus on the "State of Law".

21 February 2020

## 160. International Affairs

### Ashraf Ghani wins the Presidential elections of Afghanistan

- Ghani won the elections for the second time as declared by the Independent Election Commission of Afghanistan.
- He defeated his closest opponent Abdullah Abdullah after winning 50.64% of the total votes.

#### Key Takeaways:

Capital of Afghanistan: Kabul; Currency: Afghan Afghani.

## 161. International Affairs

### Bangladesh and Nepal to sign Free Trade Agreement (FTA)

- Bangladesh will sign Free Trade Agreement with Nepal to improve the trade between the two countries.
- Bangladesh has also allowed Nepal to use its Saidpur airport located in its northernmost district of Nilphamari close to Nepal.

#### Key Takeaways:

Prime Minister of Bangladesh: Sheikh Hasina;

Capital: Dhaka; Currency: Taka.

Prime minister of Nepal: KP Sharma Oli.

President of Nepal: Bidhya Devi Bhandari.

Capital of Nepal: Kathmandu; Currency of Nepal: Nepalese rupee.

## 162. Miscellaneous

### 19th February observed as Soil Health Card Day

- The Soil Health Card (SHC) Scheme was launched on the day in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at Suratgarh in Rajasthan.
- The scheme aims to issue soil health card to farmers every two years to provide a basis to address nutritional deficiencies in the soil.
- The scheme ensures additional income to farmers by the increase in yields and it also promotes sustainable farming.

## 163. Sports

### India to host FIFA U-17 Women's Football World Cup 2020

- Union Sports Minister Kiren Rijiju has unveiled the 5 host cities for the FIFA Under-17 Women's Football World Cup 2020 which are Ahmedabad, Bhubaneswar, Guwahati, Kolkata and Navi Mumbai.

#### Quick Facts:

All India Football Federation HQ: Dwarka, Delhi.

## 164. International Affairs

### UK announces new points-based visa system

- UK Home Secretary, Priti Patel has announced the launch of Britain's new points-based visa system which will come into force from January 1, 2021.
- It aims at attracting the "brightest and the best" from the world, including from India.
- The new system will cut down numbers of cheap, low-skilled migrating workers coming to the country.

#### Quick Facts:

UK PM: Boris Johnson

## 165. Sports

### Greatest woman golfer Mickey Wright passes away

- Greatest woman golfer Mickey Wright passed away at Florida in the United States at the age of 85.
- She won 13 major tournaments including four US Women's Open titles and four US Women's PGA Championships.
- Wright had won a total of 82 titles of Ladies Professional Golf Association.

**22 February 2020**

## 166. Science & Technology

### Deepfakes enter Indian election campaigns

- Advances in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) have enabled computer systems to create synthetic videos, a.k.a. deepfakes.
- A deepfake video can show a person saying or doing something that they never said or did.

- An AI algorithm is taught, using deep learning, to manipulate actual video and audio to mislead viewers.
- Deepfake videos have been circulated during the recent Delhi elections.

## 167. Polity & Governance

### **Cabinet's approves constitution of "22nd Law Commission of India"**

- The commission will function for a duration of 3 years from its date of inception.
- This Commission will be responsible for giving recommendations on different aspects of law which are entrusted to it.

## 168. Polity & Governance

### **Central Consumer Protection Authority to be set up by Government of India**

- The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA) would be set up by the Government of India by the first week of April 2020.
- The authority would be set up under the Consumer Protection Act 2019.
- It will address various issues related to consumer rights, unfair trade practices, misleading advertisements and imposing penalties for selling spurious and adulterated products.

## 169. National Affairs

### **Nritya Gopal Das elected as the president of Ram Mandir Trust**

- Mahant Nritya Gopal Das has been elected as the president of the Ram Janmabhoomi Teertha Kshetra Trust.
- Champat Rai would serve as the general secretary of the trust.
- The first meeting of the Ram Mandir Trust was held to oversee the construction of Ram temple in Ayodhya.

## 170. International Affairs

### **Pakistan retained on grey list of FATF**

- Pakistan is one of the 12 countries on the "grey list" or "other monitored jurisdictions" that are being reviewed for actions to stop terror financing and money laundering.
- This is due to Pakistan not conforming to FATF's 27 point terror finance action plan
- The "black list" refers to countries for who there has been a "call to action" or strict banking and international finance sanctions, a list which at present includes Iran and North Korea.

#### **Quick Facts:**

The Financial Action Task Force, is an intergovernmental organization founded in 1989 on the initiative of the G7 to develop policies to combat money laundering.

## 171. Science & Technology

### **Google ends its free WiFi service at several Indian stations**

- The service called 'Station' was started way back in 2015.
- It was first launched at Mumbai Central railway station.
- Currently, there are more than 400 railway stations equipped with this facility called RailWire. It is provided by RailTel which is partnered with Google.
- This decision has been taken due to technical and infrastructural problems

#### **Quick Facts:**

RailTel is the telecom wing of the Indian railways.

**23 February 2020**

## **172. Persons In News**

### **Sanjay Kothari appointed new Central Vigilance Commissioner**

- Retired IAS officer Sanjay Kothari has been appointed as the new Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) by a high-powered committee headed by PM Narendra Modi.
- Retired IAS officer Bimal Julka has also been appointed as the new Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) in the Central Information Commission.

#### **Quick Facts:**

The CVC is an autonomous anti-corruption watchdog.

The CIC is an independent and non-constitutional body to look after the complaints made to it.

## **173. Sports**

### **Divya Kakran wins gold at Asian Wrestling Championships**

- She became only the second Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Wrestling Championships.
- She won in the 68 kilogram category which was fought in the round-robin format.
- Navjot Kaur was the first Indian woman to win a gold medal at the Asian Championships in 2018 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in 65 kilograms category.

## **174. History, Art & Culture**

### **International Mother Language Day celebrated on 21st Feb**

- International Mother Language Day is observed every year on the 21st of February (since February 2000) to promote linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism.
- Theme: 'Languages without borders'.
- The day was proclaimed by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in November 1999.

#### **Quick Facts:**

UNESCO HQ: Paris, France

## **175. India & The World**

### **Bharat-Bangla Tourism festival begins in Agartala**

- The Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav-Tourism festival has begun in Agartala, Tripura.
- The aim of the festival is to promote tourism in Tripura and apprise the people of the state and neighbouring Bangladesh of the tourist destinations in this state.
- Seminars, discussions, cultural events, visit the important tourist spots, historical and archaeological sites are the main parts of the two-day friendship festival.

## **176. Science & Technology**

### **'5G Hackathon' launched by Department of Telecommunications**

- The Department of Telecommunications (DoT) has launched '5G Hackathon' in association with government, academia and industry stakeholders.
- The Hackathon is open to developers, students, start-ups, SMEs, academic institutions and registered companies in India and NRIs.
- Winners of the various phases will share a total prize pool of 2.5 crore rupees.

#### **Quick Facts:**

The 5G technology provides quantum leap over 4G in terms of speed, spectrum efficiency and connection density.

**24 February 2020**

#### **177. History, Art & Culture**

##### **Chitra Bharati Film Festival began at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad**

- Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani & Bollywood filmmaker Subhash Ghai jointly inaugurated the three-day Chitra Bharati Film Festival (CBFF) at Gujarat University in Ahmedabad.
- The aim of this festival is to establish a 'Bharatiya' narrative in Indian cinema.
- Around 140 films falling under four categories of short film, documentary, animation and campus films are to be screened at the festival.

#### **178. History, Art & Culture**

##### **National Museum hosts 'Historical Gastronomica: The Indus Dining Experience'**

- The National Museum in New Delhi is hosting an exhibition on India's ancient food history called Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience'.
- The event is based on archaeological research, museum artefacts and their characteristics. and demonstrates the evolution of food habits, food processing techniques and related architecture of the Harappans.

#### **179. Geography**

##### **GSI discovers gold deposits of over 3,000 tonnes (actual reserves of 160 Kg) in Sonbhadra district of UP**

- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) has discovered gold deposits to the tune of around 3,000 tonnes (5 times of India's reserves) in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh.
- According to District Mining Officer K.K. Rai, the gold deposits were found in Son Pahadi and Hardi areas.

#### **180. Sports**

##### **Drass Red wins 2020 Ladakh Winter Sports Carnival**

- In Ladakh, Drass Red won 2020 Ladakh Winter Sports Carnival, Junior (Under-18) Ice Hockey and Skating Championship by Defeating Drass Winter Games Association, by 4 -0.
- The Carnival was organized by Kargil Ice and Snow Sports Club in Collaboration with Letsleeh.com.



## 181. Summits & Conferences

### PM Modi inaugurates International Judicial Conference 2020

- The theme of the International Judicial Conference 2020 is "Judiciary and the changing world".
- Chief Justice Robert Reed of the Supreme Court of the United Kingdom will deliver a keynote address at the conference.
- The conference will see participation of numerous other international legal luminaries from across the world.

**25 February 2020**

## 182. Environment

### India to switch to world's cleanest petrol, diesel from 1st April

- India will switch to the world's cleanest petrol and diesel from 1st April as it leapfrogs straight to Euro-VI emission compliant fuels from Euro-IV grades now.
- This amazing feat has been achieved in just three years unlike any of the large economies around the globe.
- India will join the select league of nations using petrol and diesel containing just 10 ppm sulphur as it looks to cut vehicular emissions.

## 183. India & The World

### US President Donald Trump arrives on a Historic Maiden Visit to India

- US President Donald Trump arrived at Ahmedabad today on his maiden two-day visit to India accompanied by his daughter Ivanka, son-in-law Jared Kushner and top brass of his administration.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi personally welcomed him and US first lady Melania Trump at the airport.
- Both the leaders then proceeded to Motera stadium to participate in Namaste Trump event.
- One the sidelines of this visit India & US signed defence agreements worth USD 3 Bn.

## 184. International Affairs

### Riek Machar sworn in as first Vice President of South Sudan

- The rebel leader will serve for a period of 36 months in the transition government.
- President Salva Kiir announced the official ending of the war and said peace is now irreversible as the new unity government was formed after more than a year of delays.

### Quick Facts:

Republic of South Sudan is a landlocked country in East-Central Africa. It gained independence from the Republic of the Sudan in 2011, making it the most recent sovereign state with widespread recognition. Its capital and largest city is Juba.

## 185. Miscellaneous

## **Central Excise Day celebrated on 24 February**

- This Day is commemorated every year across India on 24th February to commemorate the Central Excise and Salt Act (enacted on 24 February 1944) by
- Central Board of Excise and Customs (CBEC)

### **Quick Facts:**

CBEC is the nodal national agency responsible for administering Customs, GST, Central Excise, Service Tax & Narcotics in India.

## **186. Sports**

### **Indian GM D Gukesh wins 34th Cannes Open**

- India's Grandmaster D Gukesh (13-years old) became the champion in the 34th Cannes Open in France.
- He defeated Harutyun Bargseghyan of France in the final round in 50 moves to end with 7.5 points.
- Earlier Gukesh had become the World's second youngest Grandmaster in 2019.

**26 February 2020**

## **187. Polity & Governance**

### **Polls for 55 Rajya Sabha seats to take place on March 26**

- The Election Commission of India (ECI) has announced the schedule of polling for 55 Rajya Sabha seats spread over 17 States set to be vacated in April.
- According to the schedule for the elections, the notification would be issued on March 6, the last date of filing of nominations would be March 13 and polling would be on March 26.

## **188. History, Art & Culture**

### **Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 announced**

- Dadasaheb Phalke International Film Festival Awards 2020 announced in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- Major Winners:
- Best Actor: Hrithik Roshan (For Super 30)
- Best Film: Super 30
- Best Television Series: Kumkum Bhagya
- Best Playback Singer Male: Armaan Malik
- Best Reality Show: Bigg Boss 13

## **189. Persons In News**

### **Adline Castelino crowned Miss Diva Universe 2020**

- Adline Castelino has been crowned as the winner of LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 competition at an event held in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- She hails from Mangalore and will be representing the country at Miss Universe later this year.
- Aavriti Choudhary (Jabalpur) was crowned as LIVA Miss Diva Supranational 2020.

## **190. Economy**

### **US becomes India's top trading partner, overtaking China**

- 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 same period, India's trade with China was at 87.1 billion dollars.
- 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.

## 191. Government Schemes

### Andhra Pradesh launches 'Jagananna Vasthi Deevena' scheme

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Y S Jagan Mohan Reddy has launched a scheme named 'Jagananna Vasthi Deevena' for students pursuing various Post-Intermediate courses to meet hostel and mess expenses.
- The scheme would provide financial assistance of Rs 2,300 crore for 1,87,904 students pursuing ITI, polytechnic, under-graduate and post-graduate education

**27 February 2020**

## 192. Defence & Security

### India and US sign Defence deals worth 3 billion dollars

- India and the United States have finalized Defence deals worth three billion dollars including three other agreements of health and oil sectors on 25 February 2020.
- The deals include procurement of twenty-four MH-60 Romeo helicopters by India from the US at a cost of \$2.6 billion and six AH-64E Apache helicopters for \$800 million from the US.

## 193. Science & Technology

### ISRO will launch Geo Imaging Satellite GISAT-1 on March 5

- ISRO is going to launch Geo Imaging Satellite (GISAT-1) from the Second Launch Pad of Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC), Sriharikota.
- The vehicle for this launch will be Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV-F10).
- GISAT-1 has a weight of 2,275 kg and is a state-of-the-art agile Earth observation satellite that will be placed in a 'geosynchronous transfer orbit'

## 194. Economy

### NPCI launches "UPI Chalega" campaign to generate awareness about UPI

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) has launched an awareness campaign named "UPI Chalega" to promote UPI as Easy, Safe, and Instant mode of payment, in association with the payment ecosystem players.
- The campaign is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and help create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life.

## 195. India & The World

### BIMSTEC working on 3,000 km power grid connecting Myanmar-Thailand to India

- Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is working on connecting about 3,000 km long power grid from Myanmar-Thailand to India.
- This was announced by Bangladesh PM's Energy Advisor Dr Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury during the energy conference of BIMSTEC in Dhaka.

## Quick Facts:

BIMSTEC is a regional grouping with seven countries from South and Southeast Asia including Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Myanmar.

## 196. National Affairs

### Madhya Pradesh launches First Unified Vehicle Registration Card

- Madhya Pradesh became the first state to launch Unified Vehicle Registration Card in India.
- These cards will have exhaustive information on both sides with a unique number, emergency contact number and QR code for data verification.
- Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) issued the guidelines regarding uniformity in driving licenses and vehicle registration cards across the country in March 2019.

## 197. History, Art & Culture

### Losar festival celebrated in Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh

- The festival is celebrated on the 1st day of the lunisolar Tibetan calendar also called Tibetan New Year.
- Losar is a festival in Tibetan Buddhism.
- Prayers were also offered at Dorje Drak Monastery in Shimla. Cultural events were held in different parts of the state as the Tibetan community celebrated the festival.

**28 February 2020**

## 198. Polity & Governance

### Union Cabinet approves the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2020

- This will allow any "willing" woman to become a surrogate mother while still prohibiting commercial surrogacy allowing altruistic ones.
- As per the new bill, the insurance cover for a surrogate mother has been increased to .36 months from 16 months earlier

## 199. Science & Technology

### CBSE launches Exam center locator app "CBSE ECL"

- The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has released Exam Centre Locator app-CBSE ECL which is an android based mobile app (available on google play store) that can be used by students to locate their examination centre.
- The app will also measure the distance between current location and examination centre.
- CBSE has also launched an Online Exam Center Management System-OECMS for the school Principals of the school to get real time information in a single click.

## 200. Sports

### Renowned Tennis Player Maria Sharapova announces her retirement

- Five-time Grand Slam winner Maria Sharapova has announced her retirement from tennis at the age of 32.

- This Russian tennis player won her first Grand Slam at Wimbledon in 2004 aged 17.
- She became world number one in 2005 and won the US Open in 2006.

## **201. Defence & Security**

### **5th Edition of Exercise Indradhanush held**

- Indian Air Force (IAF) and Royal Air Force (RAF) of United Kingdom jointly participated in the 5th edition of Exercise Indradhanush 2020.
- The exercise focused on “Base Defence and Force Protection” and was held in Air Force Station Hindan, India.
- Airfield Seizure, Base Defence and anti-terror operations were important part of the exercise.

## **202. Science & Technology**

### **Government of India to host ‘RAISE 2020’ Summit**

- The Indian Government announced to host RAISE 2020- ‘Responsible AI for Social Empowerment 2020’ summit in New Delhi between April 11 and April 12.
- The 2020 summit will be adjoined by a “Startup Pitchfest.”
- The aim of the summit is to exchange ideas on the use of Artificial Intelligence for “social empowerment, inclusion and transformation” in industries such as education, smart mobility, agriculture, and healthcare among others.

## **203. Miscellaneous**

### **World NGO Day Celebrated on 27 February**

- World NGO (Non-Governmental Organisation) Day is commemorated every year across the world on 27 February to celebrate the NGO’s vital activities and contribution to the society.
- The World NGO Day also provides an opportunity to honour and remember NGO founders, employees, volunteers, members and supporters.

**29 February 2020**

## **204. Miscellaneous**

### **National Science Day observed on 28th February**

- India celebrates National Science Day on 28th February of every year to commemorate the discovery of the Raman effect (in 1928) by Indian physicist Sir C.V. Raman.
- The objective of the day is to spread the message of the importance of science and its application among the people.
- Theme 2020: “Women in Science.”
- The government had designated 28 February as National Science Day in 1986.

## **205. Defence & Security**

### **Indian Coast Guard's Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Varad commissioned**

- ICGS Varad (98-meter-long), has been commissioned for the surveillance of India's Exclusive Economic Zone and to safeguard the maritime interests of the country.
- ICGS Varad will be based at Paradip, Odisha.
- The vessel has state of the art onboard features like Integrated Bridge System, Platform Management System, Automated Power Management System and High-Power External Fire-Fighting system with capacity to carry twin engine helicopter and four high speed boats.

## **206. Polity & Governance**

### **24th Meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council to be held in Bhubaneswar**

- The Meeting of the Eastern Zonal Council will be chaired by the Union Minister for Home Affairs, Shri Amit Shah.
- Naveen Patnaik, the Chief Minister of Odisha will be the Vice-Chairman and host of the meeting.

#### **Quick Facts:**

The union Home Minister is ex-officio chairman of the Zonal councils.

## **207. Science & Technology**

### **Xiaomi to bring ISRO's NavIC technology to smartphones in 2020**

- Chinese tech major Xiaomi will bring ISRO's Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System, NavIC technology to its smartphones.
- The capability has been currently enabled by Qualcomm Technologies Inc on several of their Qualcomm Snapdragon Mobile Platforms and will be made available across multiple Xiaomi smartphones in India in 2020.

## **208. Miscellaneous**

### **India's first 'Protein Day' observed on 27 February**

- Right to Protein, a national-level public health initiative has celebrated India's first 'Protein Day' on 27th February.
- The aim of the day is to draw public attention, raise awareness, and educate India on the health benefits of protein.
- The theme of India Protein Day 2020 is set to act as a reminder for all Indians to daily ask themselves and others "ProteinMeinKyaHai".