

₹40

Vetrii's

English

# TNPSC GATEWAY

MONTHLY MAGAZINE FOR TNPSC EXAMS

FEBRUARY-2020



## BUDGET 2020



- 11<sup>TH</sup> DEFENCE EXPO 2020
- PRADHAN MANTRI KISAN SAMMAN NIDHI
- HORNBILL FESTIVAL
- DIGITAL POOMPUHAR
- PAKKE TIGER RESERVE
- PRANASH MISILE
- FINANCIAL LITERACY WEEK 2020
- BEST PERFORMING SMART CITY - VARANASI



# VETRI IAS STUDY CIRCLE

TNPSC

CURRENT AFFAIRS

**FEBRUARY - 2020**



An ISO 9001 : 2015 Institution | Providing Excellence Since 2011

## Head Office

Old No.52, New No.1, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, F Block, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Main Road,  
(Near Istha siddhi Vinayakar Temple), Anna Nagar East - 600102.

**Phone: 044-2626 5326 | 98844 72636 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666**

## Branches

### SALEM

No.189/1, Meyanoor Road, Near ARRS Multiplex, (Near Salem New bus Stand), Opp. Venkateshwara Complex, Salem - 636004.

**0427-2330307 | 95001 22022**

### KOVAI

No.347, D.S.Complex (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), Nehru Street, Near Gandhipuram Central Bus Stand, Ramnagar, Kovai - 9

**75021 65390**

## Educareerr Location

**Vivekanandha Educational Institutions for Women,**

Elayampalayam, Tiruchengode - TK Namakkal District - 637 205.

**04288 - 234670 | 91 94437 34670**

**Patrician College of Arts and Science,**

3, Canal Bank Rd, Gandhi Nagar, Opposite to Kotturpuram Railway Station, Adyar, Chennai - 600020.

**044 - 24401362 | 044 - 24426913**

**Sree Saraswathi Thyagaraja College**

Palani Road, Thippampatti, Pollachi - 642 107

**73737 66550 | 94432 66008 | 90951 66009**

[www.vetriias.com](http://www.vetriias.com)



**My Dear Aspirants,**

Greetings to all of you! “What we think we become” Gautama Buddha. We all have dreams. To make dreams come into reality it takes a lot of determination, dedication, self discipline and continuous effort.

We at **VETRII IAS** Study Circle are committed to provide the right guidance, quality coaching and help every aspirants to achieve his or her life's cherished goal of becoming a civil servant.

The class room coaching at VETRII IAS Study Circle is meticulously planned to equip the aspirants with all the relevant facts and fundamentals of the subjects. Further the VETRII IAS Study Circle Study materials aim to support the candidate by providing the most relevant study material in a comprehensive manner.

**Wishing You All The Very Best !!**

**DIRECTOR**

**(M.Shunmugam)**

**Vetrii IAS Study Circle.**

---

*Published by*

**VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE**

F Block New No. 1, 9<sup>th</sup> Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue main Road, Chinthamani, Anna Nagar (E), Chennai – 102.

Phone: 044 – 26265326 / 9600124042 / 9840097666

[www.vetriias.com](http://www.vetriias.com)

E-Mail: [vetriias@gmail.com](mailto:vetriias@gmail.com) / [vetriias2011@gmail.com](mailto:vetriias2011@gmail.com) / [vetriias2018@gmail.com](mailto:vetriias2018@gmail.com)

Feedback: [vetriiasmaterials@gmail.com](mailto:vetriiasmaterials@gmail.com)

© All rights reserved with the publisher. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without the written permission of the publisher, will be responsible for the loss and may be punished for compensation under copyright act.

# INDEX

## 01 - 29 HISTORY

- Important Days ▪ Defence National Security and Terrorism ▪ World Organisations – Pacts and Summits
- Eminent Persons ▪ Sports and Games ▪ Books & Authors
- Awards & Honours ▪ Cultural Panorama ▪ India & its Neighbours ▪ Appointments – Who is who?



## 30 - 37 POLITICAL SCIENCE

- India's Foreign Policy ▪ Latest Court Verdicts ▪ Govt – Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility



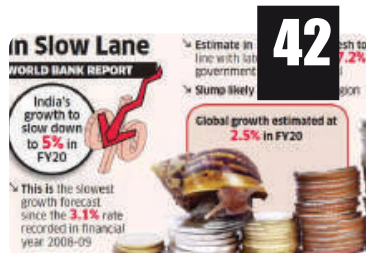
## 38 - 41 GEOGRAPHY

- Policy on Environment and Ecology ▪ Natural Disasters – Safeguard Measures



## 42 - 48 ECONOMICS

- New Economic Policy & Govt. Sector ▪ Current Socio - Economic Problems



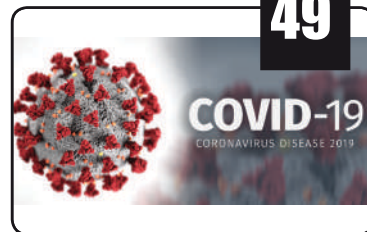


**49 - 55**

## **SCIENCE**

- Latest Inventions in Science & Technology
- Latest Discoveries on Health Science
- Mass Media & Communication

**49**



**56**

## **NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENTS**

**56**



**77**

## **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**77**



**80**

## **TAMIL NADU AFFAIRS**

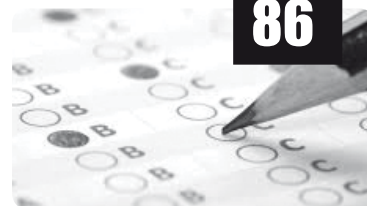
**80**



**86**

## **PRACTICE QUESTIONS**

**86**



# History



## 1.1 Important Days

Date	Day	Theme / Remark
<b>26 to 31 January</b>	<b>Bharat Parv 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Bharat Parv, 2020, the programme to celebrate the Spirit of India, started at Red Fort in New Delhi and will be continued till 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020.</li> <li>■ Theme: "Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat" &amp; "Celebrating 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi".</li> </ul>
<b>26-01-2020</b>	<b>International Customs Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The theme of International Customs Day 2020, "Customs fostering Sustainability for People, Prosperity and the Planet".</li> </ul>
<b>27-01-2020</b>	<b>International Holocaust Remembrance Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Theme: "75 years after Auschwitz-Holocaust Education &amp; Remembrance for Global Justice".</li> </ul>
<b>30-01-2020</b>	<b>World Leprosy Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Theme: "Leprosy isn't what you think"</li> </ul>
<b>02-02-2020</b>	<b>World Wetlands Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The theme for 2020 WWD is 'Wetlands and Biodiversity.'</li> </ul>
<b>04-02-2020</b>	<b>World Cancer Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Theme – I'am and I will</li> </ul>
<b>06-02-2020</b>	<b>International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Theme: "Unleashing Youth Power: One decade of accelerating actions for zero female genital mutilation".</li> </ul>
<b>February 10 to 14 2020.</b>	<b>Financial Literacy Week</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) will conduct the "Financial Literacy Week 2020" from February 10 to February 14, 2020. The theme of the Financial Literacy Week 2020 is "Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs)".</li> </ul>

10-02-2020	<b>National Deworming Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To deworm children and adolescents to reduce the prevalence of parasitic worms in the intestine.</li> </ul>
10-02-2020	<b>World Pulses Day 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ To recognize the importance of pulses (dry beans, lentils, dry peas, chickpeas, lupins) as global food.</li> </ul>
11-02-2020	<b>International Day of Women and Girls</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ International Day of Women and Girls in Science was observed</li> </ul>
11-02-2020	<b>World Unani Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The day marks the birthday of great Unani scholar and social reformer "Hakim Ajmal Khan".</li> </ul>
12-02-2020	<b>National Productivity Day</b>	
13-02-2020	<b>World Radio Day (WRD)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Theme "Radio and Diversity"</li> </ul>
13-02-2020	<b>National Women's day</b>	
19-02-2020	<b>Soil Health Card Day 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ India observed the Soil Health Card Day 2020 on February 19, 2020 to celebrate the launch of Soil Health Card Scheme, which was launched in 2015.</li> <li>■ To mark the event, the central government organized various awareness programs to make the farmers aware of the use of natural fertilizers.</li> </ul>
20-02-2020	<b>World Day of Social Justice</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ This year's theme is - Closing the Inequalities Gap to Achieve Social Justice.</li> </ul>
21-02-2020	<b>International Mother Language Day</b>	
22-02-2020	<b>World Thinking Day</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ The theme of World Thinking Day 2020 is "Diversity, Equity and Inclusion".</li> </ul>
24-02-2020	<b>Girl Child Protection Day'</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ February 24, which marks the birth anniversary of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa, will be observed as the 'State Girl Child Protection Day.</li> </ul>

## 1.2 Defence, National Security and Terrorism

### India showcases it's A-SAT missile prowess

- Among the Army's marching contingents, marching for the first time on the Republic Day was a contingent from the Corps of Army air Defence.
- The Army's Signal corps contingent was led by Capt. Tanya shergill, a fourth generation officer.
- The Army showcased its recent induction, the 155-mm Dhanush towed howitzer and K9-Vajra self-propelled artillery gun. Both, however, were part of the parade in the past.

### RSS Army School to begin session in April

- Rajju Bhaiya Sainik Vidya Mandir (RBSVM), the first of-its-kind RSS school, is set to begin its first session in April.
- In July, ET had reported that RSS was setting up its first Army school in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh which would be named after former RSS chief Rajendra Singh, alias Rajju Bhaiya.

### Navy launches Op Vanilla to help Madagascar

- The Navy launched 'Operation Vanilla' in support of the national disaster in flood-hit Madagascar and diverted a large amphibious ship to provide assistance.
- INS Airavat, which was mission deployed has been diverted for the same, the Indian Navy said in a statement.

### ICG commissioned high-speed interceptor boat C-448 in Mangaluru

- The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has commissioned a high speed interceptor boat C-448 in Mangaluru, Karnataka. The boat will be operational under the administrative control of Commander of the Coast Guard Region (West) Inspector General AP Badola.

### Assam Rifles builds war memorial in Nagaland for 357 martyrs

- Assam Rifles (military unit) has constructed a war memorial "Veer Samriti" in Nagaland, Kohima for 357 Army & Assam Rifles, died while fighting against insurgency against north-eastern state.

#### About "Veer Samriti" war memorial:

- The memorial has been built at Mokokchung, Nagaland (one of the cultural & intellectual center), which was planned & executed by Inspector General Assam Rifles (North), will be inaugurated soon.

### SAMPRITI-IX: India-Bangladesh Joint Military Exercise to be held in Meghalaya

- A Joint Military Exercise between India and Bangladesh is to be held at Umroi, Meghalaya between 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 2020 and 16th February, 2020. The exercise is called "SAMPRITI"



## **IIT Madras to showcase NextGen technologies at DefExpo 2020**

- Indian Institute of Technology Madras will showcase next-generation technologies, during DefExpo 2020, the biennial defence exhibition at Lucknow.
- The DefExpo 2020 will be held from February 5 to 9, 2020, in Lucknow. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate India's five-day biennial mega defence exhibition.
- IIT Madras is the 'Knowledge Partner' of Tamil Nadu Defence Corridor and will form part of the TIDCO (Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation) Pavilion in the Expo.

## **PM targets \$5 billion defence exports over the next five years**

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi set a target of \$5 billion in defence exports in next five years for India as he invited private businesses to invest in the country, which he said would realize the twin objectives of handsome returns on investment and making Asia's third largest economy self-reliant in defence manufacturing.
- In 2014, the export of defence equipment from India was about ₹2,000 crore. In the last two years, it has gone up to ₹17,000 crore. In the next five years, our target is export of \$5 billion, which is about ₹35,000 crore.

## **India to host East Asia Summit in Chennai**

- The Ministry of External Affairs, in partnership with the govts of Australia and Indonesia, will organise the East Asia

Summit Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation in Chennai.

## **Indian Navy to get delivery of Scorpene-class 'Karanj' submarine**

- The stage is getting set for the Indian Navy to take the delivery of the third 'Scorpene' submarine 'Karanj' by the end of this year, and all the six will be delivered by 2022.
- Karanj was launched into water in January 2018 and is currently in advanced stages of sea trials. The first Scorpene, Kulvari, was commissioned in 2018 and it would go for a normal refit after six years in 2023, during which time the AIP would be installed. Second Scorpene Khandari was inducted in 2019.

## **Upgrade 155mm artillery gun handed over to Army**

- The Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) handed over Sharang, the first 130mm M-46 artillery gun upgraded to 155mm to the Indian Army.
- The gun's range has now gone from 27km to over 36km with the upgrade. It also has more explosive capability and hence and more damage potential, the official stated. In all, OFB will upgrade 300 130mm guns to 155mm and the contract will be completed in four years.
- The Army inducted its first modern artillery guns system in November 2018. These include M-777 Ultra Light Howitzers (ULH) from the U.S. and K9 Vajra-T.

### **Green light for HAL copter**

- The indigenous Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) being developed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) crossed a milestone as it received the initial operational clearance (IOC) at the ongoing Defexpo.
- The choppers will replace the aging Cheetah and Chetak helicopters along with the Russian Ka-226T helicopters.
- This edition of Defexpo had witnessed signing of about 200 Memoranda of Understanding, technology transfer agreements and product.
- The LUH is a 3-ton class helicopter with glass cockpit for reconnaissance and surveillance roles.

### **Indian Army Major Anoop mishra develops world's 1<sup>st</sup> bulletproof helmet that can stop AK-47 firing**

- In a vital development, a Major in the Indian Army, Anoop Mishra has developed the world's 1<sup>st</sup> bulletproof helmet which can stop an AK-47 bullet round from a distance of as less as 10 meters. The helmet is developed under the Indian Army's "Abhedya" project.

### **Army open to giving pension for women officer litigants**

- The Army is open to giving pension to women officers who have finished the pensionable service limit, defence sources announced. The limit for officers is 20 years and for Junior Commissioned Officers and Other Ranks 15 years.

### **Indian Army & Private firm developed the World's Cheapest Gun Shot Locator "Parth"**

- The Indian Army's College of Military Engineering (CME), Pune, Maharashtra, jointly with a private firm developed gunshot locators named as "Parth". The device is much cheaper than the imported ones. Major Anoop Mishra displayed the Parth gunshot locator at DefExpo 2020 held in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh (UP).

### **India-UK joint Military EX: Ajeya Warrior to be conducted in Salisbury plains, UK**

- Fifth Edition of Joint Military Exercise between Indian Army and United Kingdom (UK) Arm AJEYA WARRIOR -2020 will be conducted at Salisbury Plains, United Kingdom(UK) from February (13 to 26) 2020.
- 120 Army Individuals each from Indian and United Kingdom Armies will participate in this Exercise and the Next Edition will be conducted in India, vice-versa.

### **DRDO developing a new ballistic missile Pranash with striking range of 200km**

- The Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) is developing Pranash, a new 200Km strike range ballistic missile which will be the advanced version of Prahaar, with the strike range of 150Km. Pranash is a single stage solid propellant surface-to-surface missile.

### **Bhabha Kavach: New bullet proof jacket developed by BARC-to be used by CISF**

- The Bhabha Atomic Research Centre developed a new bullet proof jacket called Bhabha Kavach. The jackets are to be used by the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF).

### **President's Colours Awards to INS Shivaji on its 75 years of Service**

- President Ram Nath Kovind presented the President's Colours Awards to INS Shivaji. The Indian Naval Station Shivaji has completed 75 years of service. Last year, the award was given to Indian Naval Academy.

### **Anti-Hijack mock drill conducted at Visakhapatnam Airport**

- The Anti-hijack exercise was conducted by created a mock situation using a naval Dornier aircraft by INS Dega, (a naval air station of the Indian navy) at Visakhapatnam Airport, Andhra Pradesh and the main objective of the exercise was to test the plans and procedures handled by various agencies during hijack threats.

### **Army establishments to come under one roof at "Thal Sena Bhawan"**

- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone of Thal Sena Bhawan in Delhi Cantt on 21 February. The new Army headquarters will be set up near the Manekshaw Centre, Delhi.

### **First Integrated Tri-Service Command to be set up in June by the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)**

- The Chief of Defence Staff Bipin Rawat aims to set up an integrated tri-service command for the first time by June 2020. This command will be headed by an Air Marshal.



### **Thal Sena Bhawan:**

- The Thal Sena Bhawan is spread over 39 acres. The multi-storeyed building can accommodate over 6000 personnel and will have all the offices of the Army in the complex.
- The army headquarters will be constructed in five years.

### **Pakistan successfully tests nuclear-capable air launched cruise missile Ra'ad-II**

- Pakistan conducted a successful flight test of the air-launched nuclear-capable cruise missile Ra'ad-II with a range of 600 km, significantly boosting the military's "deterrence capability" on land and at sea.
- The Ra'ad-II weapon system is equipped with state-of-the-art guidance and navigation systems ensuring engagement of targets with high precision, according to a press release issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).
- The cruise missile with a range of 600 km significantly enhances air delivered strategic standoff capability on land and at sea.

## 1.3 World Organisations – Pacts and Summits

### Government allocates ₹ 100 crore to host G-20 Presidency in 2022

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced that India will host the G-20 Presidency in 2022 and that ₹ 100 crore has been allocated for this purpose.
- The Group of 20 nations (G20) is an international grouping consisting of Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, the European Union, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the UK and the US.

### WHO report: Cancer Cases to increase by 81% in 2040

- While the world marked World Cancer Day on February 4, 2020, the World Health Organization released its report on Cancer.

#### Highlights

- According to the report, the cancer cases will increase by 81% by 2040. This is mainly due to lack of investment. The report says that it is essential to invest 25 billion USD in the next decade to save millions of lives.
- The treatment for cancer in developed countries has brought down the mortality rate due to cancer by 20%. However, in poorer countries the reduction was merely 5%. The report also says that 25% of cancer deaths were due to tobacco consumption.

### Rajasthan CM to dedicate UNESCO certificate for Jaipur

- Rajasthan world heritage site certificate, UNESCO, Walled City of Jaipur will dedicate the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation world heritage site certificate for Jaipur to the people at a function to organize at historical Albert Hall.
- UNESCO declared the Walled City of Jaipur world heritage site which is famous for its grid plan-based architecture and buildings constructed with the pink façade.

### India ranked 35th in Worldwide Education for The Future Index (WEFFI) 2019, Finland tops

- The Worldwide Education for the Future Index (WEFFI) 2019 ranked India in 35th position, whereas in 2018 it was ranked 40th position. The WEFFI report is created by The Economist Intelligence unit and commissioned by Yidan Prize foundation. The index is topped by Finland, followed by Sweden in second place and New Zealand in third place.

#### Overall Ranking

Rank	Economy
35	India
1	Finland
2	Sweden
3	New Zealand

## India ranks 77<sup>th</sup> in terms of sustainability & 131<sup>st</sup> in flourishing index: UN report



- According to the report, “A future for the world’s children? A WHO–UNICEF–Lancet Commission” commissioned by the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and The Lancet medical journal, India ranks 77<sup>th</sup> in terms of Sustainability Index and 131<sup>st</sup> in the Flourishing Index of Children’s Survival, health, education and Well-being.

## India slips to 40<sup>th</sup> rank on GIPC’s 8<sup>th</sup> International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020, US tops

- The U.S.(United States) Chamber of Commerce’s Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC) has released the 8th edition of International Intellectual Property (IP) Index for 2020 namely ‘Art of the possible’ which was authored by Meir Pugatch and David Torstensson.
- This report was conducted by Pugatch Consilium, a consultancy that provides evidence-based research, analysis, and intelligence on the fastest growing sectors of the economy. The 2020 index mapped the IP ecosystem in 53 global economies which included three new economies- Greece, Dominican Republic, and Kuwait, on the basis of 50 unique indicators.

## 1.4 Places in News

### Scientists to digitally recreate Tamil Nadu port city

- The Chola Dynasty port city in Tamil Nadu that vanished from maritime history around 1,000 years ago will be digitally reconstructed by a consortium led by the Department of Science and Technology.
- There are exhaustive narrations in works of Sangam Tamil literature to infer that the city, located 30 km from the existing Poompuhar town in southern TN, was submerged due to “kadalkol” or rising sea levels.
- The reconstruction of Poompuhar is part of DST’s Indian Digital Heritage project – an exhibition of its first project ‘Digital Hampi’ is currently on display at the National Museum.

### Salem gets a new international standard cricket stadium

- A new cricket stadium of international standards was inaugurated in Salem by Tamil Nadu Chief Minister K Palaniswami.
- Former BCCI president N Srinivasan, former India captain Rahul Dravid and TNCA president Rupa Gurunath were present on the occasion.



## 1.5 Eminent Persons

### January 28: Lala Lajpat Rai Birth Anniversary Celebrated

- The India celebrated the legend Lala Lajpat Rai's 155th birth anniversary. He is one of the most celebrated freedom fighters in the country. His patriotism earned him titles such as "Punjab Kesari" and "Lion of Punjab".

### Bhakta Ramadasu Statue to be unveiled

- An 11-foot imposing bronze statue of Bhakta Ramadasu, the renowned saint composer of the 17th century, is all set to be unveiled at his birthplace, Nelakondapalli, on the occasion of his 387th birth anniversary on January 29.

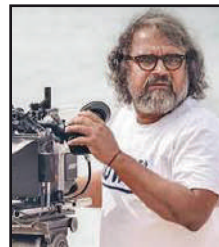
### Abhijit Banerjee conferred D Litt by alma mater Calcutta University

- Nobel Prize winner in economics Abhijit Vinayak Bannerjee conferred with the honorary D Litt (Doctor of Literature) by his alma mater Calcutta University in Kolkata, West Bengal.
- Abhijit was awarded Nobel Prize in 2019 for "Experimental approach to alleviating global poverty".



### A first-person take on Gandhi's assassination

- Film-maker Bharatbala, who has embarked on a 1,000 short film challenge that involves untold stories about India, has released an eight-and-a-half minute film, The Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, on the occasion of his 72nd death anniversary.



### NASA astronaut Christina Koch returns to Earth after record-setting stay in space

- Christina Koch made the return trip from the International Space Station (ISS), along with ESA astronaut Luca Parmitano and Russian cosmonaut Alexander Skvortsov.
- Koch's trip was significant because it set a record, officially making her the U.S. astronaut with the second-longest stay in space with 328 consecutive days at the Station. She's second only to Scott Kelley, who spent 340 days in space, and she's officially the woman with the longest stay in space worldwide, passing fellow U.S. astronaut Peggy Whitson's record of 289 days.



### Arignar Anna's 51<sup>st</sup> Memorial Day

- Anna founded the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) in 1949, after breaking away from the Dravida Kazagam (DK).
- The 51<sup>st</sup> commemoration of Arignar Anna was held in various parts of Tamil Nadu by political party members who paid tribute.

### Raju Bharatan passes away

- Veteran film historian and cricket journalist Raju Bharatan passed away following a prolonged illness. He was 86.
- Bharatan was associated with the Illustrated Weekly of India for more than four decades, working along with the likes of stalwarts like Khushwant Singh, M.V. Kamath, Pritish Nandy and Anil Dharker.



### Books he authored

- The first of six books - Rivals in the Sun, revolved around the historic series. The other five titles he authored are Indian Cricket - The Vital Phase (1977), Lata Mangeshkar - A Biography (1995), A Journey Down Melody Lane (2009), Naushadnama: The Life and Music of Naushad (2013) and Asha Bhosle- A Musical Biography (2016).

### APJ Abdul Kalam's life to be turned into film

- Former President of India and scientist APJ Abdul Kalam's life story is nothing short of inspiring. Telugu producer Anil Sunkara and Abhishek Agarwal will be making a film based on it.

- The first poster of the film was launched by the chairman of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), which marks the second death anniversary of Abdul Kalam. The event took place in Rameshwaram, which is his birth place.

### Veteran RSS pracharak P Parameswaran passes away

- Parameswaran, who had worked with leaders like Deendayal Upadhyaya, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and L K Advani during the Jana Sangh days, was honoured with Padma Vibhushan, the country's second-highest civilian award in 2018 and Padma Shri in 2004.



### J.R.D. Tata gets a digital flying licence

- In was on February 10, 1929 that India got its first pilot in Jehangir R.D. Tata, who qualified with number 1 on his flying license, giving birth to Indian aviation.
- India has come a long way since then, with digitisation process of flying licences underway, being the latest among initiatives to be undertaken by Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA).
- In what might be a befitting tribute to the legend, the digitisation process, which kicked off in December 2019 is being undertaken by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS).



## NIFM Faridabad to be renamed as Arun Jaitley Institute of Financial Management

- The government has decided to rename National Institute of Financial Management (NIFM), Faridabad as Arun Jaitley National Institute of Financial Management (AJNIFM).
- NIFM, Faridabad, was set up in 1993 as a registered society under Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, Government of India with the mandate to train officers of various Finance and Accounts Services recruited by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) through the Civil Services Examination as also officers of Indian Cost Accounts Service (ICoAS). The Union Finance Minister is the President of the NIFM Society.

## Kaamya Karthikeyan: Mumbai Girl becomes the youngest to climb Mt Aconcagua

- Kaamya Karthikeyan became the youngest girl to climb the highest peak in South America, Mt Aconcagua.

## Former TERI Chief R.K.Pachauri dead

- Rajinder K Pachauri, former Chairman of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, died. He was 79.
- Dr. Pachauri was the founder and chief executive of The Energy Resources Institute (TERI).



## Azhvar idol traced to London museum

- The Idol Wing CID has traced a bronze idol of Thirumangai Azhvar, which went missing from a temple in Kumbakonam 60 years ago, to a museum in London.
- Abhay Kumar Singh, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Idol Wing CID, told The Hindu, "The idol has been missing from the Soundararaja Perumal temple in Sundaraperumal kovil village near Kumbakonam since the 1960s."



## IDSA to be named after Manohar Parrikar



- The Union government has decided to rename the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA), a think tank, the Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.
- Parrikar was the Defence Minister from November 9, 2014, to March 14, 2017 and initiated several reforms in the Ministry.
- The IDSA, an autonomous body under the Ministry of Defence, was established in New Delhi in 1965.
- It is dedicated to objective research and policy relevant studies on all aspects of defence and security.

## Government renames two Famous Institute after Sushma Swaraj

- The Ministry of External Affairs, announced that two Institutions, The Pravasi Bharatiya Kendra and The Foreign Service Institute have been named after former Indian Diplomat Sushma Swaraj for her Invaluable contribution in Public Service. The announcement is being made on her 68th Birth Anniversary falling on February 14, 2020.

### Key points:

- Sushma was the 1<sup>st</sup> youngest cabinet minister in the Haryana Government and she also the 1<sup>st</sup> woman Chief Minister of New Delhi as well as the 1<sup>st</sup> woman spokesperson for a National political party in India.

## Newly discovered species of snail named after teen climate change activist Greta Thunberg

- A newly discovered species of snail has been named after teen climate change activist Greta Thunberg, scientists announced in a new study published.
- The critter, which was discovered in Brunei on the island of Borneo, now has the scientific name *Craspedotropis gretathunbergae*.
- Time names teen climate change activist its 2019 Person of the Year



## US First Lady Melania Trump to attend 'Happiness Class'

- US First Lady Melania Trump, who is on a two-day visit to India along with President Donald Trump, will be attending the 'Happiness Class' at a Delhi Government School.



- This class is a part of Arvind Kejriwal Government's Happiness Curriculum which has been acknowledged by various world leaders. Kejriwal-led AAP government launched the Happiness Curriculum to transform school education in Delhi.

## Ambala city bus stand renamed after late Sushma Swaraj by Haryana Govt

- The Haryana Transport Minister Mool Chand Sharma announced that the Chief Minister Manohar Lal Khattar has approved a proposal by Aseem Goel BJP MLA (Member of Legislative Assembly) from the Ambala City Constituency requested to change the name of the newly constructed Ambala city Bus stand as Sushma Swaraj (former Union Minister and BJP veteran) bus stand.

## DMart's Founder Radhakishan Damani becomes India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani

- Supermarket chain DMart's Founder Radhakishan Damani becomes India's 2nd richest person after Mukesh Ambani, Chairman of Reliance Industries Limited.

## Former Trinamool Congress MP Krishna Bose passes away

- Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's nephew Sisir Kumar Bose's wife and two-term former TMC MP Krishna Bose passed away morning in a private hospital in Kolkata, following a brain stroke few days ago. She was 89.



## 1.6 Sports and Games

### Award for Rani Rampal

- The Indian women's team captain Rani Rampal became the first-ever hockey player to win the prestigious World Games Athlete of the Year Award.
- "Indian hockey superstar Rani is The World Games Athlete of the Year 2019"

### Bala Devi becomes first Indian woman footballer to bag contract with a foreign club

- A 29-year-old footballer Bala Devi from Manipur has become the first Indian footballer to associate with a foreign football club.
- She has been associated with the famous European club Rangers for 18 months. Bala Devi has also been the captain of the Indian women's football team.
- She is the highest international goal-scorer in South Asia. In 2015 and 2016 she was awarded AIFF Woman Player of the Year title.



## Nethra Kumanan becomes first Indian woman sailor to win World Cup medal

- Chennai's Nethra Kumanan clinched a bronze medal in the Sailing World Cup to become the first woman from the country to achieve the feat. Participating in the Hempel World Series in Miami, United States of America, Nethra won bronze in round two of the tournament to create history.
- Erika Reineke of the USA and Vasilieia Karachaliou of Greece claimed the gold and silver respectively in the laser radial event.



## Goa 2020 National Games unveils 'Rubigula' as official mascot

- 'Rubigula', Flame-Throated Bulbul, has been unveiled as the official mascot for the Goa 2020 National Games in Panaji, Goa. The Flame-Throated Bulbul is the state bird of Goa. Goa will be hosting the 36<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Games from 20<sup>th</sup> October to 4<sup>th</sup> November 2020.

## Ayonika Paul won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event

- Olympian Ayonika Paul won the women's 10m Air Rifle T1 event Vijayveer Sidhu won the men's 25m Pistol T2 event in the National Shooting trials at Thiruvananthapuram.





- She came to a quality eight-woman field, which had the likes of Tokyo 2020 quota holders Apurvi Chandela and Anjum Moudgil among competitors.

### **Indian boxers bag 14 medals, including six gold, at Golden Girl Championship in Sweden**

- India's junior and youth boxers dominated the ring at the Golden Girl Championship in Boras, Sweden, claiming 14 medals, including six gold, the overall championship trophy and the Best Boxer award.
- Haryana's Prachi Dhankar (50kg), fighting in the junior category, won the Best Boxer award. Besides Dhankar, Ethoibi Chanu Wangjam (54kg), Lashu Yadav (66kg) and Mahi Raghav (80kg) also won gold medals.
- The three silver medals in the junior category were won by Janhavi Churi (46kg) Rudy Lalhmingmuani (66kg) and Tanishka Patil (80kg) while Diya Negi brought home a bronze in the 60kg slot. A total of 75 teams participated in the championship.

### **Sindhu, Mary Kom among nominees**

- Shutter P. V. Sindhu and boxer Mary Kom are among the five nominees for the inaugural BBC Indian Sportswoman of the Year award to be presented.
- The other three are, Vinesh Phogat (wrestling), Dutee Chand (athletics) and Manasi Joshi (para-badminton).



### **Rakhi Halder wins gold medal at the womens National Weightlifting Championship**

- Rakhi Halder of West Bengal won Senior Weightlifting Championship. She bagged gold medal in the 64 kg category at the 35th National Weightlifting Championship held in Kolkata.

### **SAI, Hockey India launch high performance centres**

- Sports Authority of India (SAI) and Hockey India announced the establishment of the High Performance Centres in seven places across the country to provide state-of-the-art facilities to junior and sub-Junior players.
- The move was aimed at grooming young talent in view of 2024 and 2028 Olympic Games.

### **Mirabai Chanu Breaks National Record, Lifts 203kg To Win Gold**

- The 25-year-old Manipur girl lifted 87 kg in snatch in her second attempt and 115 kg in clean and jerk for a total of 203 kg. She competes in the women's 49 kg category.



- Mirabai's previous best of 201 kg had come at the World Championship in Thailand in September 2019, where she had finished fourth.

## Aurangabad therapist makes Ironman triathlon history

- Niket Dalal, a 38-year-old from Aurangabad, created history by becoming the first completely visually-challenged athlete to finish an Ironman triathlon.
- Associated with Adventures Beyond Barriers Foundation (ABBF), Mr. Dalal completed the gruelling Ironman 70.3 - consisting of a 1.9 km swim, a 90 km bicycle ride and a 21.1 km run - with assistance from his sighted companion, Arham Shaikh.



## Vivek is FIH Rising Star of the year

- The Indian men's team midfielder Vivek Sagar Prasad was named as the 2019 Rising Star of the year by the International Hockey Federation (FIH).
- The 19-year-old Vivek won the accolade ahead of Argentina's Maico Casella and Blake Govers of Australia, who finished second and third.



## National Winter Games to be held in Gulmarg

- The National Winter Games is to be held in Gulmarg from March 7, 2020. The games are to be held for five days in Gulmarg, the world-famous Ski destination. It is being held under Khelo India.

## Sophie Devine becomes 1<sup>st</sup> cricketer to hit 5 successive 50-plus scores in T20 International

- New Zealand captain Sophie Devine has become the first international cricketer to score five consecutive 50-plus scores in T20I cricket, surpassed Mithali Raj, Brendon McCullum and Chris Gayle who all had four straight fifty-plus scores to their name in the shortest format of International Cricket.



## Bangladesh stun defending champions India to clinch maiden U19 World Cup title

- Bangladesh U19 cricket team won their maiden U19 World Cup title after stunning defending champions India.
- This is Bangladesh's first major title at the world level in senior and junior cricket

## 54<sup>th</sup> All India Bombay Gold cup hockey championship 2020 in Mumbai

- Indian Navy, Mumbai (Maharashtra) has defeated South Central Railway (SCR), Secunderabad (Telangana) to win the 54<sup>th</sup> All India Bombay Gold Cup Hockey Tournament title for the 1<sup>st</sup> time with 4-1 scores in the final played at Mahindra Hockey Stadium, Churchgate, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

## FIH award for Manpreet Singh

- National men's captain Manpreet Singh became the first Indian to win the International Hockey Federation's (FIH) Player of the Year award.

## Karnataka Kambala jockey searing bolt with buffaloes



- Mr. Gowda, competing in a kambala event — a traditional race in which the jockey runs along with the buffaloes he is shepherding — covered 142.5 m in 13.62 seconds at the Aikala-Bava kambala near Moodbidri.
- Converting this into 100m sprint, sports buffs said the kambala runner had clocked 9.55 seconds, just a wee bit ahead of Jamaican Usain Bolt's world record of 9.58 seconds!

## Hamilton, Messi clinch World Sportsman of the Year honours

- Formula One driver Lewis Hamilton and footballer Lionel Messi were declared joint winners of the prestigious Laureus World Sportsman of the Year Award at a glittering ceremony.
- The Laureus Sporting Moment Award (2000-2020) public fan vote was won by Sachin Tendulkar.



## "United by Emotion" to be 2020 Tokyo Olympics Motto



- The Tokyo Organizing Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic games revealed the official motto, "United By Emotion", which reflects the "universal values" and "unifying power of sport", for the upcoming 2020 Olympics to be held in Tokyo, Japan from July 24, 2020 to August 9, 2020.
- Ashu, Aditya Kundu and Hardeep won a bronze medal each in their respective weight categories as Indian wrestlers bagged five medals in Greco-Roman events of the Asian Wrestling Championships in New Delhi.

## India's Koneru Humpy wins Cairns Cup chess tournament

- Grandmaster Koneru Humpy has won the Cairns Cup Chess tournament held at St. Louis, US (United States). She won the title after finishing 6 points off 9 rounds and a cash prize of \$45,000. This was the second edition of the Cairns Cup.

### About Cairns Cup Chess tournament:

- Saint Louis Chess club will host the Cairns Cup, an elite level tournament for the top female players around the world & the total prize fund is \$180,000.

### Smriti No.4 in rankings

- India star Smriti Mandhana rose three rungs to fourth but Jemimah Rodrigues dropped to seventh in the latest ICC women's T20 International rankings for batters.
- Harmanpreet Kaur has remained static at ninth in the same list.
- Among the bowlers, Poonam Yadav dropped six places to fall out of the top 10 and take the 12<sup>th</sup> position.

### Mazumdar-Shaw is EY Entrepreneur of the Year

- Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw CMD, Biocon, has been named the EY Entrepreneur of the Year 2019
- She will now represent India at the EY World Entrepreneur of the Year Award (WEOY) in Monte carlo scheduled between June 4 and 6.

### Football — India to host 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup

- The Women's Committee of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) informed that India has been recognized as the first South Asian to host the 2020 AFC Women's Asian Cup, in the meeting held at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

### Indian women pin three golds in senior Asian Championship

- The senior Asian Championships and India was the biggest beneficiary, winning three gold medals and a silver.
- Asian Games bronze medalist Divya Kakran was the first to ensure a gold in the 68kg.

- Pinki (55kg) and Sarita (59kg) added to the gold.
- Indian women pin three golds in freestyle
- The senior Asian Championships and India was the biggest beneficiary, winning three gold medals and a silver.
- Asian Games bronze medalist Divya Kakran was the first to ensure a gold in the 68kg.
- Pinki (55kg) and Sarita (59kg) added to the gold.

### First Khelo India University Games to be held in Bhuwaneshwar

- The first Khelo India University Games is to be held in Bhuwaneshwar, Odisha. The game is to be launched by PM Modi through video conferencing.

### Asian Wrestling Championships: Sakshi Malik loses gold medal bout, Vinesh wins bronze

- Sakshi Malik had to settle for a silver at Asian Wrestling Championships.
- Sakshi lost against Japan's Naomi Rukie in 65kg freestyle final
- Vinesh Phogat and Anshu Malik secured a bronze medal each Indian woman wrestler Sakshi Malik had to settle for a silver medal after the Olympic medallist lost her final bout against Japan's Naomi Rukie in 65kg freestyle final at the Asian Wrestling Championships
- Vinesh Phogat and Anshu Malik secured a bronze medal each. While Vinesh defeated Thi Ly Kieu of Vietnam 10-0 in the 53kg bronze medal bout, Anshu got the better of Sevara Eshmuratova of Uzbekistan to finish on the podium.

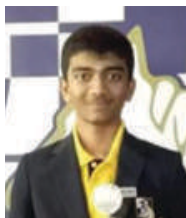
## Asian Wrestling Championships: Ravi Dahiya wins gold

- Ravi Dahiya impressed with a gold-winning effort at the Asian Wrestling Championship but India's biggest Olympic medal hope Bajrang Punia looked good until he ran into Japanese Takuto Otoguro in his final.



## Indian GM Gukesh wins title at Cannes Open chess

- India's 13-year old Grandmaster D. Gukesh emerged champion in the 34th Cannes Open in Cannes, France, beating Harutyun Bargseghyan of the host nation in the final round to end with 7.5 points.



## Birmingham 2022 shooting and archery to take place six months early in India

- A move to stage the 2022 Commonwealth Games archery and shooting competitions in India, six months before Birmingham hosts the rest of the Games, has been approved.
- The Commonwealth Games Federation announced that the competitions would take place in Chandigarh in January of that year.
- Birmingham 2022 will begin on 27 July 2022, five months after the Commonwealth championships in Chandigarh, and with a packed programme of 19 sports.

## Joshna Chinappa, Saurav Ghosal advance to semis

- Saurav Ghosal will play Abhay Singh in the semifinals of the 77th Senior National squash championships, while Joshna Chinappa will face Sanya Vats.

## 1.7 Books & Authors

### 'Relentless' Autobiography by Former finance minister Yashwant Sinha released by Pranab Mukherjee

- Former president of India, Shri Pranab Mukherjee released the autobiography of former Finance Minister Shri Yashwant Sinha titled "Relentless" at the India International Centre in New Delhi. The book describes Sinha's journey from a normal life to a high political powered life. The book is published by Bloomsbury Publishing India Pvt Ltd.

### Gandhiji's killing: 'The Hindu' releases book

- Veteran scientist Dr. M.S. Swaminathan released a special publication on the Mahatma Gandhi assassination trial titled The Assassination of Mahatma Gandhi – Trial & Verdict 1948-49 published by The Hindu, as part of the History Series.

### "Calcutta Nights" translation of 'Raater Kolkata' done by Rajat Chaudhuri.

- Rajat Chaudhuri, translated the book "Calcutta nights" (originally 'Raater Kolkata') into English and was published by Niyogi Books.



### **Pop singer Lord J launches his Autobiography Book "Lord J: Lord of Anonymity"**

- 1<sup>st</sup> and only Anonymous singer in the world. Lord J was born in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh, Lord J is a Self-Taught singer and Lyric writer in an Anonymous way, and he is a world famous celebrity without revealing his identity to the world. The Name Lord J was given to him by an LA (Los-Angeles)-based fan.

### **Padma Shri awardee Manoj Das to receive Mystic Kalinga Literary Award**

- Famous Odia and English writer Manoj Das, 85 years old, will receive Mystic Kalinga Literary award- Indian and Global languages, during the 4th edition of the 2 day Mystic Kalinga Festival (MSF).
- Mystic Literary award has been instituted to recognize and celebrate inspiring writers, poets and performers.
- Cash Prize: The Mystic Kalinga Literary Award will carry a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, khadi shawl and a certificate.

### **'A Child of Destiny' an Autobiography by prof K. Ramakrishna Rao**

- The Vice President of India and Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu released a Book titled 'A Child of Destiny' Autobiography penned by Professor Koneru Ramakrishna Rao at GITAM (Gandhi Institute of Technology and Management) University Vishakatapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India.

### **Dharmendra Rai, Mind Map & Brain Literacy trainer launched his book "The Thin Mind Map"**

- Dharmendra Rai, Mind Map & Brain Literacy trainer launched his book "The Thin Mind Map".

### **A book "Messages from Messengers" by Priti K Shroff launched**

- "Messages from Messengers" book written by Priti K Shroff was launched in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The book deals with Indian culture and tradition and is suitable for everyone in all stages of life, as a tool for self-guidance.

### **Haryana CM released book titled "A Commentary and Digest on The Air Act 1981"**

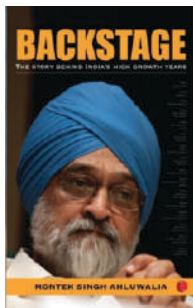
- Haryana Chief Minister (CM), Manohar Lal Khattar, released a book titled "A Commentary & Digest on The Air, Act 1981" at Chandigarh, Haryana. The book was written by Dr K K Khandelwal (Chairman, Haryana Real Estate Regulatory Authority, HRERA) and Apoorva Kumar Singh, (Principal Secretary, Town & Country Planning & Urban Estates Department) and was published by The Bright Law House.

### **"Samir Chaudhary": Ex Mumbai top cop makes stunning revelations in his book**

- Former Mumbai Commissioner of Police Rakesh Maria in his tell-all book 'Let Me Say It Now' has revealed that 26/11 Mumbai terror attack terrorist Ajmal Kasab had an ID with Hindu name on it.

## Backstage – The Story Behind India's High Growth Years

- Montek Singh Ahluwalia, a former Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission and whose document prepared in 1990 largely influenced the economic reforms unveiled the next year, in his book "Backstage – The Story Behind India's High Growth Years".

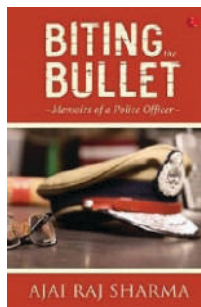


## Union Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar unveils an annual reference book India/Bharat 2020

- The Union cabinet Minister for the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri. Prakash Javadekar has released the 64th Edition of the book "The Reference Annual- India/ Bharat-2020" in both English and Hindi and also released the e-version of the book.

## Biting the Bullet: Memoris of a police officer

- The then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Home Minister L.K. Advani were unhappy over registration of cricket match-fixing case in 2000 against then South African team captain Hansie Cronje and others but



it was Cronje's confession that pacified them, former Delhi Police Commissioner Ajay Raj Sharma has revealed.

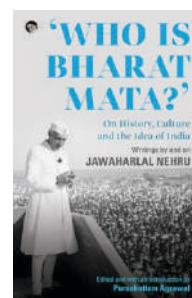
- In his book "Biting the Bullet - Memories of a Police Officer", Sharma highlighted how the confession of Cronje before journalist was a big relief to him. He said that when the registration of FIR was done, "the Home Minister at the time was out of Delhi and so was the Prime Minister".

## Book of lectures on south Indian heritage released

- After 18 years, the South India Heritage Program(SIHP) officially came to a close.
- Madras Music Academy president N. Murali, who released the book The Magnificent Heritage of South India, comprising details of 350 lectures and other events conducted as part of the SIHP.

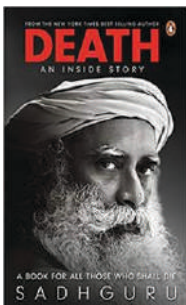
## Manmohan singh released the books "who is bharatmata"

- The Former Prime Minister of India Mr. Manmohan Singh has released the books "who is bharatmata" and the English version of the book is penned by professor Purushottam Agarwal, and the Kannada version the book is translated by Professor K E Radhakrishna and titled as "Yaaru Bharat Maate" Published by the Swapna Book House, Bengaluru in association with Delhi Karnataka Sangha.



## Vice President Venkaiah naidu released Sadhguru's book 'Death-An Inside Story'

- Vice-President President Muppavarapu Venkaiah Naidu, who was the chief guest at the 26th MahaSivaratri celebrations at Isha Yoga Centre in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN), has launched a book titled "Death; An Inside Story:



A book for all those who shall die" penned by Jaggi Vasudev, (generally referred to as Sadhguru), an Indian yogi, author & founder of Isha Foundation.

## 1.8 India and its Neighbours

### Bhutan introduces 'Sustainable Development Fee' for regional tourists

- Bhutan has recently introduced a new system for regional tourists called 'Sustainable Development Fee'. The lower house of 'Tshogdu' or Bhutan's Parliament passed legislation that tourists from India, Maldives, and Bangladesh have to pay a certain amount for their stay in the country.
- As per the new policy, regional tourists have to pay 1200 Bhutanese Ngultrum (USD 16.85) as a sustainable development fee per day from July 2020. According to the reports, tourists have to pay this fee because tourists disturb Bhutan's ecology during their trip.

## INS Jamuna deployed on Hydrographic Survey off coast Sri Lanka

- The Indian Naval Ship (INS) Jamuna has been deployed In the shores of Sri Lanka to carry out a joint Hydrographic survey. The survey is to be conducted for 2 months time period.

## Financial closure of Arun-III hydropower project inked b/w India and Nepal

- The Arun-3 hydropower project, the largest Indian-backed project in Nepal, secured NPR (Nepaleses rupee) 100 Billion for the 900 MW (mega watt) hydropower project being built on the Arun River in Nepal's Sankhuwasabha District.
- India's Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam (SJVN) Arun-III Power Development Company, the developer of the Arun-III hydropower project has signed the financial closure of the project with 7 banks in Kathmandu, Nepal.

## Sri Lanka ranks first in Breast Feeding support Policies and Programs

- Sri Lanka has been ranked first in a new survey conducted by the World Breastfeeding Trends Initiative (WBTi) on Breast Feeding support Policies and Programs. Sri Lanka scored 91 points out of 100 and got the green color code and hence become the first country to achieve the "Green" nation status in supporting breastfeeding women.

## 1.9 Latest Terminology

### 'Samvidhaan' named as Oxford Hindi Word of the Year for 2019

- The Oxford University Press(OUP) has named 'Samvidhaan'(constitution) as the Oxford Hindi Word of the Year (HWOTY) for 2019. This name received widespread attention in August 2019 with the abrogation of Article 370 and article 35(A) of the Indian Constitution on August 05, 2019. The articles removed special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir.

### Baahubali's Kiliki language evolves online

- The language of the kalakeya tribe in Rajamouli's Baahubali
- Marking International Mother Language Day on February 21, the filmmaker and Madhan Karky, the man behind the language, launched a website to help anyone learn the "World's easiest language"
- The website ([www.kiliki.in](http://www.kiliki.in)) has a 3,000-word English-Kiliki-English dictionary.

## 1.9 Awards & Honours

### Tamil Nadu governor Banwarilal Purohit hosts 'at home' reception

- The Police Department received the first prize, Department of Agriculture and Horticulture received second prize followed by Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj.
- Governor Banwarilal Purohit hosted the Republic Day reception 'at home' in the Raj Bhavan.

### Good Samaritans awarded Anna Medal for Gallantry

- Five men, whose daring act saved a woman from being abducted in Tiruvalluvar district last December, were among those who were awarded the Anna Medal for Gallantry, 2020, on the occasion of Republic Day in Chennai.
- The award includes a cheque for ₹1 lakh, a medal worth ₹5,000 and a certificate.

### Sena Medal

- Captain A. Ranjith Kumar, a native of Tamil Nadu who has been selected for the Army's Sena Medal (Gallantry) this year for his key role in an operation in the Kashmir Valley.

### Michelle Obama is now a Grammy winner

- Obama was nominated in the Best Spoken Word Album category for the audio recording of her bestselling memoir, "Becoming," and she beat out the competition, which included director John Waters and Beastie Boys' icons Adam "Ad-Rock" Horovitz and Michael "Mike D" Diamond.



## Billie Eilish sweeps Grammys with 5 awards

- The 62<sup>nd</sup> annual Grammy Awards anointed a new star in Billie Eilish.
- Ms. Eilish, an 18-year-old auteur with a moody and idiosyncratic aesthetic, won five awards, including the four most prestigious and competitive prizes – album, record and song of the year, and best new artist. She was the first artist to sweep the top awards since Christopher Cross in 1981.



## Assam and Jal Shakti Mission wins the best tableaux awards for the Republic Day Parade 2020



- Defence Minister Rajnath Singh distributed the awards for best tableaux which was conducted on January 26, 2020 in Republic Day event.
- There were a total of 22 tableaux including 16 from various states and union territories and remaining 6 from various ministries and departments.

## Election Commission of India (ECI) award for The Hindu Tamil

- Election Commission of India (ECI) awarded National Media Award for print to “The Hindu Tamil” as part of the poll panel’s national awards for voter awareness and education campaign in 2019 on the occasion of the 10th National Voters Day held at New Delhi.

### Best Tableaux Awards (Ministry)

- National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) won best tableaux for Ministry for showcasing the cutting-edge technology and instruments used by the force to carry out daring rescue operations in flood-hit and disaster hit areas.

### Best Tableaux Awards (Departments)

- Jal Shakti Mission won best tableaux among departments for government’s new initiative, ‘Jal Jeevan Mission’, which aims at providing functional tap connection to every rural household by 2024.
- Central Public Works Department won the second place for the theme “Kashmir se Kanyakumari”.

## Sanjna Kapoor gets French honour ‘Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters’

- Sanjna Kapoor (52), an Indian theatre personality and former British film actress of Indian and British descent, was awarded the French honor prestigious French honour of ‘Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Knight of the Order of Arts and Letters) for her outstanding contribution to the field of theater.



- Senior journalist Yusuf Jameel from Jammu & Kashmir (J&K) won the 2019-20 PEN Gauri Lankesh Award for Democratic Idealism for his outstanding contribution in journalism.

### **Cancer Institute alumnus feted for Padma award**

- V.Shanta, chairman, Cancer Institute, has congratulated Ravi Kannan, an alumnus of Cancer Institute, who has been awarded the Padma Shri.

### **Best Tableaux Awards (States and Union territories):**

- Assam's tableaux displayed with the theme 'Land of Unique Craftsmanship and Culture', had showcased the Xattriya tradition in the form of Bhortal Nritya was chosen as the best tableaux.
- The second position was tied between Odisha which depicted Lord Lingaraja's Rukuna Rath Yatra, and Uttar Pradesh which showcased the culture of Sarva Dharma Samabhav.

### **Veteran Hindi Writer Vinod Shukla Bags First Mathrubhumi Book of the Year 2020 Award**

- Noted Hindi poet-novelist and Sahitya Akademi honouree Vinod Kumar Shukla has bagged the inaugural Mathrubhumi Book of the Year 2020 award for his translated book "Blue Is Like Blue", which deal with common people and their daily struggles.

- The stories in "Blue Is Like Blue" has been translated into English by Arvind Krishna Mehrotra and Sara Rai.

### **President confers International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy**

- The International Gandhi Awards for Leprosy was presented by President Ram Nath Kovind to Dr. NS Dharmashaktu in the individual category and the Leprosy Mission Trust under the institutional category on. The award aims to recognize the work of individuals and institutions in fighting leprosy and erasing prejudices attached to the disease.

### **South Korea's Parasite makes Oscar history with Best Picture**

- Motion Picture Arts and Sciences look beyond the home turf, and English language, to write history. Mr. Bong's searing look at class divides Parasite became the first non-English feature film to win the Best Film Oscar at the 92nd Academy awards.
- Joaquin Phoenix won Best Actor for playing a failing clown who finds fame through violence in the dark comic-book tale Joker.
- Renee Zellweger was named Best Actress for her performance as an ageing Judy Garland in the musical biopic Judy.
- American Factory, a documentary produced by Barack and Michelle Obama for Netflix about a manufacturing plant in the U.S. Midwest reopened by a Chinese billionaire, won the Oscar for best documentary.

## Economic empowerment of women will boost growth

- Women are emerging as the drivers of the nation's economic growth and their economic empowerment is essential to boost national development, Telangana Governor.
- The women's cooperative from the Chennai branch was chosen for the overall Championship Award, women's cooperatives in the Adirampattinam branch in Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad branch in Telangana, Bellary branch in Karnataka and Bhimavaram branch in Andhra Pradesh bagged regional awards.

## BioAsia 2020 announces Genome Valley Excellence Award

- American immunologist and oncologist Dr. Carl H June and Novartis CEO Dr. Vasant Narsimhan will be presented the Genome Valley Excellence Award of BioAsia 2020.
- The function will be organized by the Telangana government annual global biotechnology & life sciences forum on February (17 to 19, 2020).

## NLCIL won WIPS "Best Enterprise Award"

- NLCIL has been presented with second 'Best Enterprise Award' in the Navratna category for the year 2019, instituted by the Forum of Women in Public Sector (WIPS) in recognition of its commendable work done for the empowerment of women employees in the organization and for the welfare of women & children in the villages around Neyveli.

- The award, instituted by the Central APEX Forum of WIPS, functioning under the aegis of SCOPE is being presented annually to select PSUs in recognition of the commendable efforts made to harness the growth and development of women in PSUs.

## Mangalore's Adline Castelino won LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 title

- Adline Castelino from Mangalore, Karnataka has won LIVA Miss Diva Universe 2020 title and was crowned by Vartika Singh, the winner of previous edition, at an event held in YRF (Yash Raj Films) Studios, Mumbai, Maharashtra.



## India's Lalremsiami Bags "2019 Women's FIH Rising Star of The Year" Award

- Indian women's hockey team striker Lalremsiami has been adjudged the FIH Rising Star of the Year 2019. Lalremsiami, who made her international debut in 2018, was part of the team's success at the Hockey Series Finals Hiroshima 2019.
- She also played a key role in the team's performance at the Olympic Qualifiers in November last year where they edged out USA to earn their ticket to 2020 Tokyo Olympics. She was also part of the team that won the Olympic Test Event in Tokyo.

## 1.10 India and its neighbours

### 13<sup>th</sup> edition of International Children's Film Festival inaugurated at Dhaka, Bangladesh

- The 13<sup>th</sup> edition of International Children's Film Festival was inaugurated in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The theme of International Children's Film Festival 2020 is 'Under The World'. The week long festival will be concluded on January 31, 2020.

#### Key Points:

- It is organized by the Children's Film Society, Bangladesh. It is the biggest film festival of Southeast Asian country and only international festival celebrated since 2008.

### Nepal is the 1<sup>st</sup> South Asian Nation to offer to mediate between India and Pakistan

- Nepal became the first South Asian nation, which has offered to "mediate" between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and cross-border terrorism as the 2020 SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) Summit to be held in Islamabad, has been Postponed since 2016.

## 1.11 Appointments – Who is who?

### Anil Khanna nominated as Life President of Asian Tennis Federation (ATF)

- Senior Sports Administrator Anil Khanna was unanimously appointed as Life President of Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) during the meeting of its Board of Directors in Melbourne, Australia. He is also named as the Chairman of the ATF Finance Committee.



### Gita Sabharwal of India appointed UN Resident Coordinator in Thailand

- Gita Sabharwal of India was appointed as the UN (United Nations) Resident Coordinator (RC) of Thailand by United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.



#### About UN Resident Coordinator:

- The UN Resident Coordinator is the highest ranking representative of the UN development system at country level and representatives of UN Secretary-General.
- 2030 Agenda: UN Resident Coordinator has the responsibility to guide UN country teams and coordinate the support from other countries for smooth implementation of 2030 Agenda.

## Jayachandran is acting chairperson of SHRC

- Retired district judge D.Jayachandran, one of the two members of State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) took over as the Commission's acting chairperson.
- The functioning of the Commission was being hampered by the delay in appointing a chairperson after Justice T.Meenakumari left the post.

## Rishi Sunak appointed Britains' Finance Minister

- British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has appointed Rishi Sunak as his new Finance Minister.
- Mr. Sunak, 39, who previously served as Chief Secretary to the Treasury, the second in command to the Finance Minister, succeeds Pakistan-born Sajid Javid, who has resigned.

## Bhaskar Khulbe & Amarjeet Sinha have been appointed as Advisers to PM

- Retired Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officers Amarjeet Sinha and Bhaskar Khulbe have been appointed as the Advisers to Prime Minister Narendra Modi by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The appointment of the retired administrative officers as the Advisers to Prime Minister will be on contractual basis.

## 1.12 Cultural Panorama

### Toda festival Modhweth celebrated

- The Todas' most important festival of the year, known as Modhweth, was celebrated at the MuthanaduMund, near Thalaikundah, in the Nilgiris.
- The Moonpo temple is unique in that it is one of the last of the Toda temples with a similar design left in the Nilgiris.

### Nagoba Jatra festival celebrated in Telangana

- Nagoba Jatra tribal festival was celebrated in the state of Telangana. The festival is prominently celebrated in Keslapur village, Indervelly Mandal, Adilabad district of Telangana. It is also the 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest tribal carnival and is celebrated by Mesaram clan of Gond tribes for nearly a month.

#### Key Points:

- The event concluded with a ceremony called 'bheting', which new brides entered into a family were incorporated into the clan.

### Mumbai's Iconic 'Kala Ghoda Arts Festival' Begins from 1<sup>st</sup> Feb

- The 21<sup>st</sup> edition of the 9-day Kala Ghoda Arts Festival (KGAF) 2020, one of the biggest open street arts and cultural festival of India, has begun in Mumbai from 1<sup>st</sup> February 2020.
- The theme for 2020 KGAF is "PAST FORWARD."

### Vasant Pachami 2020

- Vasant Panchami is celebrated in Bihar.
- According to scholars, this year, the coincidence of Sarvartha Siddhi has been made on Vasant Panchami, after 175 years.

### World Peace Music Festival 2020

- The 10<sup>th</sup> edition of our World Peace Music Festival Sur Jahan will be held at Mohar Kunj, Kolkata on 31 Jan to 2 Feb, 2020.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Hornbill festival was celebrated in Tripura on Feb 8, 2020

- The Hornbill festival was celebrated in Tripura, Agartala. Chief Minister (CM) Biplab Kumar Dev inaugurated the 2 day hornbill festival at Baramura hill (in western tripura).
- The festival was celebrated for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in Tripura.
- Aim: The aim of the festival is to raise awareness among people for bird conservation & to boost tourism.

### Government of India hosts National Organic Food Festival in New Delhi

- The Government of India (GOI) is to host the National Organic Food festival from February (21 to 23, 2020) at Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi, India.
- Theme: Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential.

### Sevalal Jayanti on Celebration

- The birth anniversary celebrations of the spiritual leader of the Banjaras, Sant. Sevalal Maharaj were held on a grand scale at the parade grounds in the town.

- Sevalal Maharaj (15 February 1739 - 4 December 1806) is an Indian, tribal socio-religious reformer and fighter for political right of Banjara/Lambadi community, a great leader and a great guru for the Community. Banjara people consider him to be a super natural person and spiritual guru.

### Adivasi Mahotsav 2020

- The Vice President, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu called for active participation from all sections of society for preservation and promotion of tribal culture.
- Addressing the 'Adivasi Mahotsav -2020' at Ramnagar, in Madhya Pradesh the Vice President said that tribal communities represent the ancient most culture and values of India.
- Shri Naidu expressed his deep concern over the fact that around 250 languages have disappeared in last 50 years and most of these extinct languages belonged to tribal communities.

### Seed sowing festival 'Lui-Ngai-Ni' celebrated at Ukhrul

- The Naga tribes of Manipur celebrated seed sowing festival 'Lui-Ngai-Ni' at Tangkhul Naga Long (TNL) ground in Ukhrul, Manipur. The 2 day festival was inaugurated by N. Kayisii, Manipur's Minister of Tribal Development and Awangbou Newmai and Tamei MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly), Manipur as Guest of Honour.
- Theme: "Oneness through Culture".



## Ganga Kayak Festival celebrated in Uttarakhand

- 8th edition of the "Ganga Kayak festival" was inaugurated by MLA (Member of the Legislative Assembly) Vinod Kandari in Devprayag, Uttarakhand.

## Neolithic ash-mound found in Tamil Nadu for first time



- In a first of its kind, students attached to the Madras University's Ancient History and Archaeology department have excavated a Neolithic ash-mound during their field training at Sendor Malai near Gudiyatham. Though Neolithic ash-mounds have earlier been discovered in other parts of south India, including at Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, this is the first time such mounds excavated in Tamil Nadu.
- In addition, they also unearthed potsherds and stone tools dating back to Neolithic, iron age and early historic periods.

## 1<sup>st</sup> edition of Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav commenced in Agartala

- The 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the Bharat-Bangla Paryatan Utsav-Tourism festival has commenced in Agartala, Tripura to promote tourism in Tripura. The festival has been organized in memories of the contribution of Tripura in 1971 Bangladesh liberation war as well as to boost the tourism sector of Tripura.

## 1.12 Latest Historical Events

### A princess' Christmas gift, now a collector's item

- Antiquarian finds brass box Mary sent to sailors in 1914.
- The brass box sent by Princess Mary in 1914 with the words 'Imperium Britannicum' inscribed at the top along with a sword and a scabbard on either side.
- The box was sent out with a packet of tobacco and cigarettes, a portrait photograph of Princess Mary and Christmas cards from Princess Mary and King George and Queen Mary.

### Stone inscription found near Madurai confirms co-rule by Pandiya brothers

- A stone inscription discovered in a village on the Madurai - Virudhunagar border confirms the theory that the Pandiya dynasty was once ruled simultaneously by two brothers, Jatavarman Kulasekara Pandiya and Maravarman Sundarapandiya Santhalingam.
- The Tamil script found on the stone says, "Sri Anna mennu nadai", similar to the verse found in a stone inscription at Ponamaravathi in Pudukottai district, dating to Maravarman Sundarapandiyan 1 (1216-1238).



## 2.1 Latest Court Verdicts

### African Cheetahs to prowl Indian forests

- The Supreme Court lifted its seven-year stay on a proposal to introduce African cheetahs from Namibia into the Indian habitat on an experimental basis.
- The plan was to revive the Indian cheetah population.
- In May 2012, the top court had stalled the plan to initiate the foreign cheetahs into the Palpur Kuno sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh fearing they may come into conflict with a parallel and a much-delayed project to reintroduce lions into the same sanctuary.
- A Bench led by Chief Justice Sharad A. Bobde was nudged by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) to take the plunge and go ahead with its plans to bring the African cat to India.

### Supreme Court directs states to set up Gram Nyayalayas

- The Supreme Court of India directed the states to establish "Gram Nyayalayas" within four weeks' time span. The apex court has directed the corresponding state high courts to expedite the process of consultation with the state governments.

#### Highlights

- The Gram Nyayalayas act, 2008 was passed to provide establishment of Gram Nyayalayas at the grass root level. The main objective of the judicial body is to provide inexpensive justice in rural areas.
- The current scenario of the states with respect to the Gram Nyayalayas were submitted by the SC Advocate Prashant Bhushan.

### Cases of sexual harassment at workplace: SC rejects plea

- The Supreme Court has refused to entertain an appeal seeking protection for complainants and witnesses in sexual harassment-at-workplace cases from victimisation or retaliation by accused persons or organisations involved.
- A Bench of Justices R. Banumathi and A.S. Bopanna disposed of the special leave petition filed by Sunita Thawani highlighting the issue that the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act of 2013 does not have any provision mandating protection for victims and witnesses in workplace sexual abuse cases.

## 28 special courts to clear POCSO cases in Kerala

- Exclusive courts for clearing the pendency of cases booked under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act in two years will start functioning in Kerala before March.
- As many as 28 such courts will be made operational across the State before the end of the fiscal. It is estimated that nearly 7,000 POCSO cases are pending.
- Thiruvananthapuram will have four courts, the maximum number among all districts. It has been decided to set up one court for every 165 pending cases. All courts will be headed by District and Sessions Judges. It is estimated that each court would require ₹75 lakh. While the Centre will meet 60% of the expenses, the State will have to chip in 40%.

## Reservation in promotion is not a fundamental right, rules Supreme Court

- Under Article 16, the state can make reservations in matters of appointment and promotion in favor of the SCs and STs if they are not adequately represented in the services of the state.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that reservation in promotion is not a fundamental right and the states cannot be compelled to make laws in this regard for Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST).
- In an order passed, justice L Nageswara Rao said that Article 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) do not confer fundamental right to claim reservations in promotion.
- Article 16 (4) and 16 (4-A) are in the nature of enabling provisions, vesting a discretion on the State Government to consider providing reservations, if the circumstances so warrant.
- The judgement says that it is settled law that the state cannot be directed to give reservations for appointment in public posts. The order further adds that the state is not bound to make a reservation for SCs and STs in matters of promotions. However, if the state wishes to exercise its discretion and make such provision, it has to collect quantifiable data showing 'inadequacy of representation of that class in public services.
- The decision of the state government to provide reservations in promotion is challenged then the state concerned will have to place before the court the quantifiable data that reservations became necessary on account of inadequacy of representation of SCs and STs without affecting general efficiency of administration as mandated by Article 335.
- Under Article 16, the state can make reservations in matters of appointment and promotion in favour of the SCs and STs if they are not adequately represented in the services of the state. However, it is for the states to decide whether reservations are required in the matter of appointment and promotions to public posts.

## Supreme court upholds changes to SC/ST atrocities law

- The Supreme Court upheld a 2018 amendment which barred persons accused of committing atrocities against those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes from getting anticipatory bail.
- The Bench, Justices Arun Mishra and Vineet Saran, held in their joint opinion that a High Court would also have an “inherent power” to grant anticipatory bail in cases in which prima facie an offence under the anti-atrocities law is not made out.

### Strengthening the law

- The SC, in Dr. Subhash Kashinath Mahajan vs State of Maharashtra, held on March 20, 2018: No absolute bar against grant of anticipatory bail under the anti-atrocities law if no prima facie case is made out or if judicial scrutiny reveals the complaint to be prima facie mala fide.
- Parliament introduces an amendment in 2018. Inserts Section 18A in the original scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act of 1989. Section 18A re-affirms the original legislative intention that Section 438 CrPC (pre-arrest bail) is not applicable to accused booked under the atrocities law.
- February 10, 2020 Judgement in Prathvi Raj Chouhan case: Justices Arun Mishra and Vineet Saran uphold Section 18A. However, the judges add that the High Courts will have an “inherent power” to grant anticipatory bail in cases in which prima facie an offence under the 1989 law is not made out.

## Supreme Court permits Permanent Commissioning of Women Officers in Defence

- The Supreme Court of India upheld the judgement of Delhi High Court over the issue of commissioning of women officers in Indian Army.

### Highlights

- The Supreme Court has granted permission to commission women officers in the Indian Army.
- Earlier, permanent service commission for women were not allowed, especially in combat units. They were pertained to combat support units such as law, education and logistics. Also, women were not appointed at the level of officers in the combat units. The Judgement was pronounced by Justice D Y Chandrachud.

## Magistrates, civil judges not eligible for district judges post through direct recruitment: SC

- The Supreme Court held that members of lower judiciary like magistrates and civil judges are not eligible for direct recruitment to posts of district judges, a route meant exclusively for advocates having seven years continued practice.
- A bench of justices Arun Mishra, Vineet Saran and S Ravindra Bhat unanimously interpreted Article 233 of the Constitution which deals with the appointment of district judges.
- Article 233 sub clause 2 states that a person who is already in the service of the Union or of the State shall not be eligible to be appointed as a district judge.

- Advocates should be in practice in the immediate past for seven years and must be in practice while applying on the cut-off date fixed under the rules and should be in practice as an advocate on the date of appointment. The purpose is recruitment from bar of a practising advocate having minimum seven years' experience.
- The top court overruled a Patna High Court verdict of 2016 which allowed the in-service judicial officers to compete with the lawyers for post of district judge saying the law was not laid down correctly.

## 2.2 Political parties and Political system in India

### First Trial of Facial Tech in polls in Telangana

- A Pilot to test the use of facial recognition software in elections for the first time in India has met with roughly 65 to 86 per cent success rate. The Telangana government had tested the software during municipal elections held.

### Dual citizenship not permitted under Constitution, says Centre

- The Central government made it clear in Parliament that dual citizenship "is not permitted" under the Constitution and the Citizenship Act, 1955.
- This assumes relevance in the context of the request made by Governor of Tamilnadu, in his address to the Assembly, for the granting of dual citizenship to Sri Lankan refugees living in Tamil Nadu.
- The Tamilnadu government also informed that under the 1964 Sirimavo-Shastri Agreement and the 1974 Sirimavo-Indira Gandhi Agreement, 6 lakh Indian Origin Tamils (IOT) along with natural increase would be given Indian citizenship, while Sri Lanka would absorb 3.75 lakh persons.

### Election Commission, IIT-M join hands to develop new technology for voting

- The Election Commission has collaborated with IIT Madras to work on a new technology which will allow electors to vote from far away cities without going to the designated polling station of their respective constituencies.

### Centre to form new law panel

- The Union Cabinet gave its approval to set up the 22nd Law Commission.
- The Law Commission advises the government on complex legal issues. The term of the previous law panel ended last August.
- The Law Ministry will now notify the new panel, which will have a three-year term.
- The Law and Legislative Secretaries in the Law Ministry will be ex-officio members of the commission.
- "It will also have not more than five part-time members," an official statement said.



- A retired Supreme Court judge or Chief Justice of a High Court will head the commission.
- Originally formed in 1955, the commission is reconstituted every three years and so far, 277 reports have been submitted to the government.

### Labour Court

- Minister CV Shanmugam announced that the government has taken steps to set up an integrated labor court in Krishnagiri.

## 2.3 Govt – Welfare oriented Govt schemes, their utility

### New Policy to Revive Power Discoms

- The new scheme would include elements of the current UDAY scheme and would provide assistance for reduction of discoms' losses.
- The scheme for revival of stressed power discoms was launched in November 2015. The Ujwal Discom Assurance Yojana's (UDAY) prime objectives were financial turnaround and operational improvement of the discoms along with the reduction of cost of generation of power development of renewable energy efficiency and conservation.
- The scheme may come up as a revised version of UDAY -- UDAY 2.0 -- which would provide another lease of life to ailing power discoms by extending financial support in the form of loans and grants

### Cabinet nod for raising gestation period for abortion to 24 weeks

- The Union Cabinet approved the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020, to amend the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.
- The proposed amendment seeks to

enhance the upper gestation limit from 20 to 24 weeks for special categories of women that will be defined in the amendments to the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Rules and will include 'vulnerable women including survivors of rape, victims of incest and other vulnerable women (like differently-abled women, minors).

- The Medical Termination of Pregnancy (Amendment) Bill, 2020 is for expanding access of women to safe and legal abortion services on therapeutic, eugenic, humanitarian or social grounds.

### Under PMAY-G, Centre aims to achieve objective of housing for all by 2022

- The Central Government has aimed to achieve objective of Housing for all by 2022 (which coincides with 75 years of Indian independence) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Grameen (PMAY-G) scheme.



**Key Points:**

- For the past 5 years, more than one crore 50 lakh rural houses have been sanctioned & completed by the government.
- Under the 2nd phase of the scheme, the eligible people will get one crore 95 lakh houses. Government has set a target of 60 lakh houses for the current financial year- FY 20.

**Pradhan Mantri Matritva Vandana Yojana**

- Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana is a maternity benefit program run by the government of India. It was introduced in 2016. It is a conditional cash transfer scheme for pregnant and lactating women of 19 years.

**100 airports to be developed by 2025 for UDAN Scheme**

- Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman announced 100 more airports will be developed by 2025 to support the UDAN Scheme, aimed at better regional connectivity.
- Ms. Sitharaman announced ₹1.7 lakh crore had been provided for transport infrastructure in 2020-21.
- 150 trains would run under the public private partnership (PPP) mode. Four stations would be redeveloped with the help of the private sector.

**7 in 100 anganwadi beneficiaries in cities**

- For every 100 anganwadi beneficiaries in the country, only seven are in urban areas, according to the government's response to a Right to Information (RTI).

- This is primarily because of a severe lack of anganwadis in cities, leading to poor coverage of the government's flagship programme in early childhood development.
- Anganwadis or day-care centres are set up under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) by the Women and Child Development Ministry to provide a package of six services. The services include supplementary nutrition; pre-school non-formal education; immunisation, nutrition and health education; as well as referral services. The aim of the scheme is to reduce infant mortality and child malnutrition. Beneficiaries include children in the age group of six months to six years, and pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- As per Census 2011, 32% of India's 1.2 billion population live in cities.
- With these facts before it, the NITI Aayog has prepared a draft working paper to strengthen the ICDS programme in urban areas.

**Madhya Pradesh bags first position for implementation of PMMVY**

- Madhya Pradesh bags the first position for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana. Union Minister of Women and Child Development Smriti Irani will present this award to Madhya Pradesh at a function in New Delhi. Indore district bagged the first place for better performance of the scheme.

## **MSME implemented new scheme SFURTI to set up traditional industries clusters**

- The Ministry of Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) implemented a new scheme named "Scheme of Fund for Regeneration of Traditional Industries"(SFURTI). Under this scheme, financial support will be given to set up traditional industries clusters viz. Khadi, Coir & Village industries clusters.

### **SFRUTI objectives:**

- Traditional industries to be set up in India in a period of 5 years and make the industries more profitable.
- Launch year: The scheme was first launched in 2005 to boost cluster development by MSME.
- Objective: The main objective of SFURTI is to make sustainable development, employment and strengthen governance systems for traditional rural industries. service.

## **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana: 4<sup>th</sup> National Conference held in Udaipur**

- The fourth National Conference of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima yojana was held in Udaipur, Rajasthan. The Conference was organized by Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

### **Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana**

- The scheme was launched in 2016. It replaced the Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme and National Agricultural Insurance Scheme.

- Under the scheme the farmers are paid a premium of 2% for Kharif crops and 1.5% for Rabi crops in case of crop damages. The scheme is in line with One Nation-One Scheme theme.

## **February 24: PM-Kisan Scheme completes one year**

- The Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana completed one year of its implementation. The scheme was launched to increase the income of farmers. It aims to help farmers by providing them income support of Rs.6,000 per year.
- The scheme was launched by PM Modi on February 24, 2019 at Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh. It is being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare.

### **PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana**

- In order to gain the benefits from the scheme, the farmers have to produce citizenship certificate, Aadhaar card, land holding papers and bank account details. The amount are to be deposited directly in to the farmers' accounts under the scheme.

## **Swachh Bharat Mission second phase gets nod**

- The Centre will begin implementing the second phase of its Swachh Bharat mission in rural areas from April, focusing on solid and liquid waste management and the sustainability of the abolition of open defecation.
- The Union Budget for 2020-21 had allocated ₹ 9,994 crore for the first year of the mission's Phase-II.

- The scheme will be implemented by the States, with a fund sharing pattern of 60:40 between the Centre and the States.
- In the northeastern and Himalayan states, the Central share will be 90%.

### **Centre to promote formation of 10,000 new FPOs, brings hope for small and marginal farmers**

- To bring more and more small and marginal farmers on big platform as a joint entity, the Centre approved a scheme for formation and promotion of 10,000 new farmer producer organizations (FPOs) in the country with budgetary support of Rs 4,496 crore by 2024.

### **Odisha beats national average in rural employment**

- A lead performer in many developmental interventions, the State is now ahead of national average in several indicators of MGNREGS.
- Residents of 20 vulnerable blocks in four Odisha districts will be allowed employment for 200 days in a year under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), as part of a special Rs 500 crore package announced by Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik.
- Odisha is ahead of national average in indicators like project completion, geo-tagging, timely payment of wages, individual beneficiary-based projects, e-payment and employment generation.

### **Jiyo parsi scheme**

- According to the Union Minister of Minority Affairs, Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, the population of Parsis (Zoroastrians), a notified minority community under National Commission of Minorities Act 1992, increased by 233 since the year 2013, when the government launched the Jiyo Parsi scheme.
- So far the central Government has spent Rs 14 crore in 7 years for this scheme.

### **About Jiyo Parsi scheme:**

- It is run by the Ministry of Minorities affairs with the aim to increase the population of the Parsi community.
- It has two components: Medical Assistance and Advocacy (Counselling).



# 3. GEOGRAPHY



## 3.1 Policy on Environment and Ecology

### 10 more wetlands in India declared as Ramsar sites

- India has added 10 more wetlands to sites protected by the Ramsar Convention, Union Environment Minister Prakash Javadekar announced.
- The 10 new ones are Nandur Madhameshwar, a first for Maharashtra; Keshopur-Miani, Beas Conservation Reserve and Nangal in Punjab; and Nawabganj, Parvati Agra, Saman, Samaspur, Sandi and Sarsai Nawar in Uttar Pradesh.
- The other Ramsar sites are in Rajasthan, Kerala, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, Andhra Pradesh, Manipur, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Tripura.
- 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.

### Matla Abhiyan: Coastal Security Exercise conducted by Indian Navy

- The Indian Navy recently launched a unique coastal security exercise in Kolkata. The exercise was conducted to create awareness about the coastal security to the local community.

### Most cities in India turning into "urban heat islands": Study

- Team of researchers from IIT Kharagpur has found that most cities in the country are turning into "urban heat islands" in all seasons during day and night.
- Researchers from Centre for Oceans, Rivers, Atmosphere and Land Sciences (CORAL) of IIT-KGP and its Architecture and Regional Planning department showed that most big cities in the country with population more than one million have recorded rise in mercury level during daytime while showing an increasing trend in the night hours.



### Disaster Management Exercise of BIMSTEC NDRF begins in Bhubaneswar

- The National Disaster Response Force of Government of India is to host the second BIMSTEC Disaster Management Exercise-2020 (BIMSTEC DMEx-2020). The exercise is to be held in Bhubaneswar, Odisha between February 11, 2020 and February 13, 2020.



- The main objective of the exercise is to test the existing emergency procedures, disaster problems, during flood, earthquake and storms.
- Theme: A Cultural Heritage Site that suffers severe damage in the Earthquake and Flooding or Storm.

### Keeping count of the avian population

- For four days in February every year, birdwatchers from across the world participate in The Great Backyard Bird Count. This year, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) will be held from February 14 to 17 in India, and will be coordinated by the Bird Count India collective.
- India has been participating in this global bird count since 2013 and this annual exercise helps study how birds are distributed across the country, how they are affected by changes in habitat and weather and if there have been changes in population and distribution.

### Antarctica recorded the hottest temperature of 20.75 degrees Celsius



- The World Meteorological Organization announced that for the first time in record Antarctica has recorded its hottest temperature ever, 20.75 Degree Celsius. So far, the highest was 18.3 Degrees Celsius that was recorded in January 1982.

### Scientists radio-tag Indian pangolin

- For the first time, scientists have radio-tagged the Indian pangolin, an endangered animal that is rarely sighted in forests. The Indian pangolin, which dons a thick scaly skin, is hunted for meat and used in traditional Chinese medicine.
- Radio-tagging involves attaching a transmitter to an animal to monitor its movement. Pangolins are among the most trafficked wildlife species in the world. The projected population declines range from 50% to 80% across the genus.
- Out of the eight species of pangolin, the Indian and the Chinese pangolins are found in India. Both these species are listed under Schedule I Part I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.



### Climate change to drive 33% of earth's flora, fauna to extinction by 2070

- Climate change may cause one in three species of plants and animals worldwide to become extinct in the next 50 years, according to a study. The researchers from the University of Arizona in the US compiled detailed estimates of global extinction from climate change by 2070.
- The researchers examined local extinctions that have already happened, based on studies of repeated surveys of plants and animals over time. They analysed data from 538 species and 581 sites around the world.

## New species of cockroach found in Western Ghats during survey

- The *Allacta Kalakkadensis* species of cockroach found in Kalakkad-Mudanthurai region.
- A new cockroach species has been discovered by scientists of the Southern Regional Centre, Zoological Survey of India, at the Western Ghats, a region with high species richness, and high percent endemism.
- India is home to 182

## Highway threatens tiger territory in Arunachal Pradesh

- Since 2013 to lay a two-lane, 156 km road through the Namdapha National Park, India's easternmost tiger reserve, a new highway project has been cleared through yet another big cat reserve in Arunachal Pradesh.
- State plans to build a 692.7 km highway through the 862 sq km Pakke Tiger Reserve (PTR) in East Kameng district.
- The administrative office of the PTR is in Seijosa, a sub-divisional headquarters situated by the Pakhui or Pakke River.
- Named the East-West Industrial Corridor, the highway aims to connect Bhairabhunda in West Kameng district and Manmao in Changlang district along Arunachal Pradesh's border with Assam.

## Asiatic lion population set to double in India

- The world's only abode for Asiatic Lion, Gir National Park in Gujarat, has seen almost 100 per cent increase in the numbers of the big cat in last five years.

- The world's only abode for Asiatic Lion, Gir National Park in Gujarat, has seen almost 100 per cent increase in the numbers of the big cat in last five years. The lion census, set to be released in May by the Gujarat government, reflects that their numbers are likely to cross 1,000, said a senior state government official, who is part of the exercise. Lion census is done every five years.

## UN body on Migratory Species



- The Thirteenth Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Migratory Species kicked off in Gandhinagar.
- India marks the beginning of super year of Biodiversity with the hosting of the 13th Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), an environmental treaty under the aegis of United Nations Environment Program, from 17th to 22nd February 2020 at Gandhinagar in Gujarat.

## Monsoon in Sunderbans likely to get longer, warn climate experts

- The monsoon in Sunderbans is likely to last longer and get more intense, according to a fact sheet titled The Sunderbans and Climate Change, which was made public during the ongoing Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals.

- Climate specialists have predicted that as climate change progresses, monsoon seasons in the Sundarbans will become longer and more intense.

### **American pests spreading in horticultural crops**

- White rat attack of 'Rugosspirilling' has increased in horticultural crops in Tamil Nadu. This results in an economic loss of \$ 100 billion annually worldwide.
- Viral pests infect foreign food with imported food products. In the US, the 'Rukos spiraling' white fly virus pests currently attack crops such as coconut, jackfruit, guava, banana, papaya, jackfruit, pomegranate and pomegranate. The most affected is the coconut. Farmers are disturbed that they are unable to control these pests.



### **M.M.Hills sanctuary to be a tiger reserve**

- The Decks have been cleared to notify the Malai Mahadeshwara Wildlife Sanctuary in Karnataka's Chamarajanagar district as a tiger reserve.



# 4. ECONOMICS

## 4.1 New Economic Policy & Govt. Sector

### ICICI Bank launches first-of-its-kind 24×7 self-service delivery facility, 'iBox'

- ICICI (Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India) Bank, an Indian financial institution, has launched first-of-its-kind 24×7 self-service delivery tool for customers called "iBox" at one of its branches in Mumbai, Maharashtra. The bank has started it in over 50 branches in 17 cities.

### Coronavirus declared as a global health emergency by WHO

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared novel Coronavirus (nCoV) as a global health emergency. This announcement was made as the outbreak which was more prominent in China has now continued to spread to other countries too.

### States' tax share to stay at 42%

- The Fifteenth Finance Commission, in its interim report tabled in Parliament has recommended maintaining States' share in the divisible pool of tax collections at virtually the same level of 42% set by its predecessor, for 2020-21.

- To factor in the changed status of the erstwhile State of Jammu and Kashmir, the rate at which funds may be shared with the States has been reset to 41%.

### Nirmala Sitharaman quoted Thiruvalluvar and Avvaiyar in Budget 2020

- The Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman flexed her literary muscle in abundance - particularly when she quoted the legendary Tamil poets Thiruvalluvar and Avvaiyar. While she recited the Thirukkural to explain the '5 Jewels of a good country' to justify how India possesses it all, she quoted a line from the Aathichoodi while presenting her action plan for Indian farmers.
- "I fall back on the wise words of Thiruvalluvar. We've heard of several words of wisdom from the legendary poet. He has spoken about what a good country is and what makes up for the jewels of a good country.
- "There are five jewels for a good country. A good country must be free from epidemics, it must be wealthy, it should grow crops, people there must be happy and security and safety of the country must be a top priority,".

- Sitharaman quoted the line, “Bhoomi thiruthi un,” which literally translates to “Cultivate the land and feed.” In Tamil Nadu, there was a very wise old woman saint-poet who lived more than 3,000 years ago.

### New Income Tax Slabs

Total Income (Rs.)	Simplified, optional tax rate
Up to Rs. 2.5 Lakh	Nil
Rs. 2,50,001 to 5,00,000	5%
Rs. 5,00,001 to 7,50,000	10%
Rs. 7,50,001 to 10,00,000	15%
Rs. 10,00,001 to 12,50,000	20%
Rs. 12,50,001 to 15,00,000	25%
Above Rs. 15,00,000	30%

### Nirmala Sitharaman delivers longest Budget speech.h

- A Kashmiri verse, quotes from Tamil poets and references to Saraswati-Sindhu civilisation dotted Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 160-minute long marathon Budget speech.
- The longest Union Budget speech ever, some of her remarks, including regarding 'Beti Bachao, Beti Pado' program, were met with protests from the Opposition benches.
- Her first Budget speech, in July 2019, went on for around 137 minutes.

### Agriculture Highlights:

- Kisan Rail and Krishi Udan: The initiatives have been launched to facilitate smooth and fast transport of perishable goods to assist the farmers.

- Solar Pumps: The Government will also help 20 lakh farmers to set up standalone solar pumps.

### Education Highlights:

- Funds: The Government has announced allocation of Rs. 99,000 crores for the education sector.
- New Universities: The government will be setting up National Police University and National Forensic University.
- IND-SAT test: The government has also proposed to set up IND-SAT test for foreign students wishing to pursue higher education in India.

### Tourism Highlights:

- Five archaeological sites will be developed as iconic sites with on-site museums in 5 different states.
- The sites include – Rakhigarhi in Haryana, Hastinapur in UP, Shivsagar in Assam, Dholavira in Gujarat and Adichanallur in Tamil Nadu.

### MSME & Corporate Sector

- The budget proposes a new scheme for MSMEs in the context of subordinate debt.
- The debt recast window of MSME is extended by one year to March 31, 2021.
- Certain categories of government securities will now be opened for Non-Resident Investors.
- The FPI Limit in Corporate bond has increased to 15%

### Indian Railways

- Electrification of around 27000 km of railway lines achieved within 100 days of Modi Government formation in 2019.



- A large solar power capacity proposed for the Indian Railways. It will be built along the rail track on the Railways owned lands.
- Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project proposed; budget allocates Rs 18,600 crore for this project.
- By 2024, the Government would monetize 12 lots of national highways.
- With the help of UDAN scheme, 100 airports will be built by 2024.
- The fleet of Aircraft will be increased to 1200 planes by 2024.
- Rs 1.7 lakh crore allocated for transport infrastructure.

### Energy Sector

- Prepaid Smart Meters: States will have to replace existing energy meters with the prepaid smart meters.
- Budget allocates Rs 22,000 crore for the Power and Renewable Energy Sector.
- The national gas grid will be expanded from 16200 km to 27000 km.
- A new policy will be launched for the construction of data centre parks by the private sector.
- Bharat Net to link 1 lakh gram panchayats through Fibre to Home connections.
- Budget allocates Rs 6000 crore for the Bharat Net programme.
- It provides Rs.8,000 crore in the next 5 years for "National Mission on Quantum Technology and Applications".

### Women Empowerment

- 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao': Enrollment of girls in schools is higher than the boys.
- Rs. 35,600 crores will be provided for nutrition-related programmes.

- Task Force will be constituted to look into the issue of girls of low age entering motherhood.
- It allocates Rs. 85,000 crores for development of SCs and OBCs.
- It allocates Rs. 53,700 crores for STs development.
- It allocates Rs. 9,000 crores for Senior citizens and persons with disabilities.

### Art & Culture

- The government will constitute "Indian Institute of Heritage and Conservation" as a deemed university.
- 5 archaeological sites to be developed as top-notch sites; these sites are: Rakhigarhi - Haryana, Hastinapur - Uttar Pradesh, Sivasagar - Assam, Dholavira - Gujarat, Adichanallur - Tamil Nadu.
- The government will build a Tribal Museum in Ranchi.
- The budget allocates Rs. 3150 crores for the Ministry of Culture.

### Climate

- The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure will be implemented from January 2021.
- It allocates Rs. 4,400 crores to promote clean air in cities with a population of over 1 million people.

### Money earned in India by NRIs will be taxed

- Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman provisions introduced in the Budget would bring Indian workers' income in zero tax jurisdictions, like the UAE, into the Indian tax net.

- The Finance Bill has proposed three major changes to prevent tax abuse by citizens that don't pay taxes anywhere in the world reducing the number of days that an Indian citizen can be granted non-resident status for tax purposes from 182 to 120; citizens who don't pay taxes anywhere will be deemed to be a resident; and the definition of 'not ordinarily resident' has been tightened.
- "The new provision is being interpreted to create an impression that those Indians who are bonafide workers in other countries, including in Middle East, and who are not liable to tax in these countries, will be taxed in India on the income that they have earned there.
- The scheme offers waivers off penalty and interest if the disputed amount is paid before March 31, 2020. The scheme aims to benefit those whose tax demands are locked in dispute in multiple forums.
- CBDT has already started building a database for the said announcement.

### **Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project: Govt allots ₹5,600 crore**

- The Union government has allotted ₹5,600 crore for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad bullet train project for fiscal 2020-21. Prime Minister Narendra Modi wants to complete the 'dream project' by 2022, to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence.

### **I-T dept launches e-calculator to compare due tax under new, old regime**

- The Income-Tax Department has launched an e-calculator for individuals to estimate their tax liability if they opt for the new tax slabs, without claiming deductions and exemptions, for ITR filing as announced in the recent Budget.
- The calculator, with a comparative table to compare taxes in the old and the new tax regime, for resident individuals (financial year 2020-21) has been hosted on the official e-filing website of the department.

### **'Vivad se Vishwas' scheme offers to reduce tax litigations**

- FM Nirmala Sitharaman announced a new scheme, "Vivad se Vishwas" (no dispute but trust) to resolve 4.83 lakh direct tax disputes pending in various tribunals.

### **Ministry of Corporate Affairs to launch Spice plus form**

- The Ministry of Corporate Affairs is set to launch the new company incorporation form "Spice+". This is a part of a comprehensive package to make life easier for someone starting a business. It will be launched on 15 February 2020.

#### **Spice+ form:**

- The form has at least five new formalities including Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) and professional tax registration, the opening of bank account and GST registration.

### **SBI Green Marathon Chennai**

- SBI Green Marathon Chennai is part of the Eventjini Chennai Running Festival powered by Asics. On registration, stand a chance to win an exclusive running kit from Asics. There are in total 10 running kits to be won.

- SBI Green Marathon in Chennai is set to be the biggest single branded marathon property in India. It is about celebrating the passion for environmental sustainability and better living for our future generations.

### **Govt plans to sell 5% stake in SAIL via offer for sale, may rake in ₹1,000 crore**

- The government is planning to sell 5% stake in Steel Authority of India Ltd (SAIL) through an offer for sale, which could fetch about ₹1,000 crore to the exchequer. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) and steel ministry are planning roadshows in Singapore and Hong Kong for SAIL stake sale.

### **CRR exemption for retail MSME loans for 5 years**

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has exempted banks from maintaining cash reserve ratio (CRR) for loans to retail and micro, small and medium enterprises for five years, if these loans are extended between January 31 and July 31, 2020.

### **Union Ministry of Finance has notified 'Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020'**

- The Union Ministry of Finance has notified 'Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020' which will feature bilingual signature of Shri Atanu Chakraborty, Secretary, Ministry of Finance.
- Features of One Rupee Note as per 'Printing of One Rupee Currency Notes Rules, 2020'

- It shall be rectangular 9.7 x 6.3 cms, with its paper made of 100% (cotton) rag content.
- The note will be 110 microns thick, weighing 90 GSM (Grams per Square Meter).
- The pink green colour note will have a design of grains, which depicts the "agricultural dominance of the country".
- The design surrounding will be of the Sagar Samrat, which is an oil exploration rig.

#### **Facts about Rs 1 note**

- The one-rupee note was introduced by the British on November 30, 1917 when currency notes in India were introduced in 1861.
- In 1949, Government of India brought out the new design Re 1 note. The King's portrait of the note was replaced by the Lion Capital at Sarnath.

### **RBI Syncs Financial Year with the Fiscal Year**

- The board of Reserve Bank of India (RBI) decided to sync the Financial year of the bank with the Fiscal Year. The Fiscal Year begins in April and ends in March and the Financial year is between July and June

#### **Highlights**

- The Central Board of Directors of RBI at the 582'd meeting recommended aligning of Fiscal and financial years. The alignment would change 8-decade practice of RBI.

#### **Jalan Committee**

- The alignment was recommended by an expert committee led by Bimal Jalan.

## 47th India International Knit Fair

- The 47th INDIA INTERNATIONAL KNIT FAIR (IIKF) at Tirupur, Knitwear Capital of India. This Fair is scheduled to be held from 17-19 February, 2020 in the fully Air-Conditioned sprawling exclusive hall of IKFA Complex, at Tirupur, India.
- To build contacts, develop Business prospects, work on major tie-ups and partnerships.



## BS-VI Fuel: India To Switch To World's Cleanest Petrol, Diesel From April 1

- India will switch to the world's cleanest petrol and diesel from April 1, when it moves to Bharat Stage VI-compliant fuel from BS-IV grades.
- India will join the select league of nations using petrol and diesel containing just 10 parts per million of sulphur and emission standards are as good as CNG.

## Piaggio opens first Ape' electric experience centre showroom in India

- Piaggio Vehicles (PVPL), the subsidiary of the Piaggio Group and a leading manufacturer of small commercial vehicles in India, launched its new electric three-wheeler, the Ape' E-City for the Vijayawada market in Andhra Pradesh.

## India becomes 2019's 5th largest economy

- In terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), India's GDP is \$10.51 trillion, exceeding that of Japan and Germany. Due to India's high population, India's GDP per capita is \$2,170.

Rank	Country	GDP
1	United States (US)	\$21.44 trillion
2	China	\$14.14 trillion
3	Japan	\$5.15 trillion
4	Germany	\$4 trillion
5	India	\$2.94 trillion

## Sweden's Riksbank begun testing world's 1<sup>st</sup> digital version of currency, e-krona

- Sveriges Riksbank (or simply the Riksbank), the central bank of Sweden, had begun testing its digital version of currency, e-krona. If this year-long pilot project successful, this would lead to the creation of world's 1<sup>st</sup> central bank digital currency (CBDC).



## 4.1 Current Socio-Economic Problems

### Unemployment rate in India was 6.1% in 2017-18 as per new PLFS

- As per the new Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) being conducted by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MosPI), the labour force participation is 36.9 % and the rate of unemployment for 2017-18 is 6.1%. The government is conducting a new PLFS with new parameters and bigger sample size, and its results cannot be compared with previous surveys. It's an attempt to provide authentic data.

### 15th Finance commission constitutes 8-member panel headed by ITC chairman Sanjiv Puri to boost agri exports



- The 15th Finance Commission has set up a 8-member group led by ITC chairman and managing director (MD) Sanjiv Puri to recommend measurable performance incentives for the states, so as to promote exports & also to encourage the concerned crops to ensure replacement of more imports.

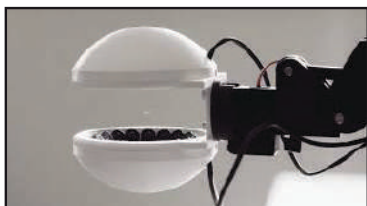


# 5. SCIENCE



## 5.1 Latest Inventions on Science & Technology

### 'Ultrasonic gripper' robots move things without touching them



- Scientists have designed a robotic gripper that uses sound waves to move small and fragile objects, without touching them.
- The prototype robot developed by the researchers from ETH Zurich in Switzerland comprises of two semi-spheres, and resembles a pair of headphones.
- The spheres are connected to a circuit board carrying microchips. A small sphere hovers between the two semi-spheres, held up by ultrasound waves.
- "This phenomenon is known as acoustic levitation."

### Reliance launches new road project to counter pushback against plastics

- Reliance Industries, India's largest petchem player, is launching a project to use plastics in road construction, amid growing concerns over pollution in the country of 1.3 billion whose major cities are often plagued with smog and litter.

- India, which uses about 14 million tonnes of plastic annually, lacks an organized system for management of plastic waste, leading to widespread littering.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is urging India to end consumption of single-use plastics by 2022.

### New mission launched by NASA & ESA to take first pics of Sun's poles

- NASA (National Aeronautics & Space Administration) and ESA (European Space Agency) jointly will launch a new spacecraft- "The Solar Orbiter Spacecraft" to take first pictures of Sun's north and south poles. The spacecraft will be launched from Cape Canaveral, United States on Feb 7, 2020 on a United Launch Alliance (ULA) Atlas V Rocket.

#### Mission

- The solar orbiter mission has 7 year lifetime and reach 24 degrees above the sun's equator increasing to 33 degrees with additional 3 years extended mission operations. The spacecraft will pass within 26 million miles (42 million kilometers) of the sun which is the nearest approach.

## ISRO Technology Park

- Aim to provide thrust to space science across the country, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a list of new projects including an incubation centre in Trichy, Tamil Nadu and a space research facility in Kanyakumari.
- It features sophisticated telescopes, from India's first launched satellite, to rocket to existing satellites.
- Currently, Kolkata has such a sophisticated facility.
- Steps have been taken to make this center of Kanyakumari an important regional center.

## In a first IAF'S AN-32 aircraft landed at Leh with indigenous bio-jet fuel

- Indian Air Force's (IAF) successfully operated AN-32 aircraft powered with 10% blend of Indian bio-jet fuel. This is the 1<sup>st</sup> time both engines of the aircraft were powered by bio-jet indigenous fuel where the aircraft took-off from Kushok Bakula Rimpochee Airport, Leh. Before undertaking operational flight to Leh, the flight was tested along with performance validation at Chandigarh Air Base.

## NASA decommissioned its Spitzer Space Telescope after 16 years

- The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has decommissioned its Spitzer Space Telescope. The telescope which was used to study the universe by detecting cosmic infrared radiation for more than 16 years was first launched in 2003.

## Key points:

- Spitzer was planned to be decommissioned in 2018 in anticipation of the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST), but as JWST launch mission was postponed spitzer was given 5th and final extension till 2020.

## IHME Report: 14% of India's under-five aged deaths were due to pneumonia

- According to a recent report by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation (IHME), 14% of under 5 years of age deaths in India occurred mainly due to pneumonia. This accounted for approximately 1,27,000 deaths annually where the figure was around 1,78,000 in 2013.

## Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation(IHME) report:

- The report has been released prior to the 1<sup>st</sup>-ever global forum on childhood pneumonia in Barcelona from January 29 to 31.
- 50% of the under-5 deaths caused by pneumonia were from the northern belt of India.
- Pneumonia mortality rate: The current pneumonia mortality rate is 5 per 1,000 live births. The target has been set to reduce the mortality rate to less than 3 by 2025.
- Death rate in general: 9 million children are estimated to die in a decade if proper action is not taken to combat pneumonia.

## India's biggest rural technical festival Antahpragnya 2020

- M Prashanthi, District Collector of Nirmal, inaugurated National Level India's Biggest Rural Technical Festival titled 'Antahpragnya 2020' in the state of Telangana at Rajiv Gandhi University of Knowledge Technologies-Basar (RGUKT-Basar), the temple city, 180 km from Hyderabad, the state capital of Telangana.
- The three-day technical fest from January 31 to February 2 with the theme 'Spot and encourage rural tech innovators' will have over 200 events viz.

## IIT-H finds molecule to cure rare ALS neurodegenerative disease

- Researchers from IIT-H, Telangana (Indian Institute of Technology-Hyderabad) had found a molecule called "AIM-4" that can help in the treatment of rare neurodegenerative disease called "Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis" (ALS) known as "Lou Gehrig's disease".

### Key Points:

- About ALS: ALS is a neurodegenerative disorder that severely affects voluntary movement of muscles & leads to paralysis and death. ALS occurs due to changes in specific genes & caused by factors such as smoking, exposure to toxins, metals and pesticides.
- About AIM-4: AIM-4 prevents liquid-liquid phase separation of proteins & also deposition of protein on neurons.

## Astronomers discover monster galaxy XMM-2599 from early universe

- The International team of astronomers led by scientists at the University of California, United States (US) have discovered a monster galaxy dubbed as XMM-2599.
- This galaxy existed around 12 billion years ago just 1.8 billion years after the formation of the universe. The details of this discovery has been published in the Astrophysical Journal.

## Four Indian pilots begin astronaut training in Russia

- The four Indian pilots chosen as candidate-astronauts began their 12-month training at the Gagarin Research and Test Cosmonaut Training Centre (GCTC) in Moscow, Russian space business company Glavkosmos has announced.
- The full programme includes basic or generic astronaut training followed by activities specific to the first Indian human space mission, Gaganyaan.

## Coronavirus poses 'very grave' threat to the world, says WHO

- The coronavirus outbreak in China may be over by April, but deaths surpassed 1,000 and the World Health Organization (WHO) warned of a global threat potentially worse than terrorism.

## Renamed COVID-19

- With 99% of cases in China, this remains very much an emergency for that country, but one that holds a very grave threat for the rest of the world he said.

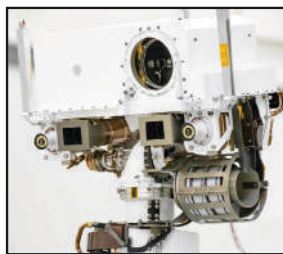
- “co” stands for “corona”, “vi” for “virus” and “d” for “disease”, while “19” was for the year, as the outbreak was first identified on December 31, 2019.

### WHO to decide on emergency status of Ebola in DR Congo

- UN health agency experts to decide whether the Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo should still be considered a global health emergency, following a sharp decline in reported cases.
- The World Health Organization last July declared it a “public health emergency of international concern” a designation that gives the WHO greater powers to restrict travel and boost funding.
- The outbreak was first identified in August 2018 and has since killed more than 2,300 people in eastern DR Congo.

### NASA's 'SuperCam' to study mineralogy of Mars during Mars 2020 rover mission

- NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) is all set to send a new laser-toting robot named 'SuperCam' to Mars for studying mineralogy and chemistry from up to about 20 feet (7 meters) away, to help scientists in finding the signs of fossilized microbial life on the Red Planet i.e. Mars.



- SuperCam, a rock-vaporizing instrument is a part of seven instruments aboard the Mars 2020 rover.

### About Mars 2020 rover mission:

- It is part of NASA's Mars Exploration Program which will be launched between July 17 - Aug. 5, 2020 from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida.

### ISRO launch 10 EO satellites in 2020-21

- The country will send up an unusually large number of 10 earth observation (EO) satellites during 2020-21, according to the latest annual report of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) for 2019-20.



- The plan includes new categories, such as the first Geo Imaging Satellite, GISAT-1.
- In comparison, only three communication satellites and two navigation satellites are planned for the coming financial year starting April. The plan mentions 36 missions, which include both satellites and their launchers.
- ISRO was recently given a budget of nearly ₹13,480 crore for the next fiscal.
- The upcoming EO satellites include radar imaging satellites RISAT-2BR2, RISAT-1A and 2A, Oceansat-3 and Resourcesat-3/3S.

## Kerala CM launched "Yodhavu" mobile app to combat drug menace

- Kerala Chief Minister (CM) Pinarayi Vijayan launched "Yodhavu" (Warrior) mobile app (application) at Kochi, Kerala, through which the public can inform police about drug abuse & its distribution.

### Key Points:

- The application was introduced by the Kochi city police and the informer's identity could be kept secret.

## NASA's Juno Update Jupiter Water Mystery

- NASA's Juno mission has provided its first science results on the amount of water in Jupiter's atmosphere. Published recently in the journal Nature Astronomy, the Juno results estimate that at the equator, water makes up about 0.25% of the molecules in Jupiter's atmosphere - almost three times that of the Sun.
- These are also the first findings on the gas giant's abundance of water since the agency's 1995 Galileo mission suggested Jupiter might be extremely dry compared to the Sun (the comparison is based not on liquid water but on the presence of its components, oxygen and hydrogen, present in the Sun).

## Sheikh Hamdan unveils new Dubai Jetman stunt

- The stunt took place on February 14, when Vince Reffet took off over Jumeirah Beach Residence. Reffet travelled over 100-metres in the first 8-seconds of the flight, reaching a height of 1,800-metres.

## 5.2 Latest Discoveries in Health Science

### First case confirmed in India

- The first case of Coronavirus has also been confirmed in India. A student returned to Kerala from Wuhan found infected with the Coronavirus. According to the statement released by the health ministry on January 30, 2020, the first positive case of Novel Coronavirus has been confirmed in Kerala.

### What is Coronavirus?

- Novel Coronavirus (COV) belongs to a family of viruses whose infection can cause problems ranging from cough to breathlessness. This virus has never been seen before. The virus infection started in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. According to WHO, fever, cough, shortness of breath is its common symptoms. There is no vaccine has been made to stop the virus so far.

## World's First Transcatheter Mitral Valve Approved in Europe

- The Abbott Tendyne Transcatheter Mitral Valve Implantation (TMVI) system received the European CE mark. It is the first transcatheter mitral valve replacement (TMVR) technology in the world.

### Aim:

- The main aim is to make critical need to eliminate mitral regurgitation when surgery or mitral repair is not an option in high-risk surgical patients.



**Abbott:**

- Abbott is developing a transcatheter mitral valve to open-heart surgery. Building upon its success with the Mitra Clip device and many years of mitral valve experience and clinical evidence.

### **First ever long Endurance solar-powered unmanned aircraft PHASA-35 flies successfully**

- High Altitude Long Endurance vehicle (HALE), Persistent High Altitude Solar Aircraft (PHASA)- 35 has the potential to remain airborne for a year is the First ever long endurance solar-powered unmanned aircraft which has successfully completed its maiden test flight and it developed by BAE systems in collaboration with Prismatic Ltd.

**About Phasa-35:**

- PHASA-35 is an alternative to satellite having all the qualities of an aircraft, and it remains airborne within the stratosphere but above the weather and conventional air traffic level.

### **West Bengal growing arsenic-resistant rice**

- Researchers have developed and commercialized a rice variety that is resistant to arsenic. Several studies have shown that arsenic from groundwater and the soil can enter the food chain through paddy.
- West Bengal is among the States with the highest concentration of arsenic in groundwater, with as many as 83 blocks across seven districts having higher arsenic levels than permissible limits.

- The new rice variety, Mukdoshri — also called IET 21845 —, was developed jointly by the Rice Research Station at Chinsurah coming under West Bengal's Agriculture Department and the National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow, over several years.
- According to the World Health Organization, long-term exposure to arsenic, mainly through drinking water and food, can lead to poisoning. Skin lesions and skin cancer are the most characteristic effects.

## **5.2 Mass Media & Communication**

### **Mobile app to deal with traffic violations**

- Tenkasi district police to introduce new cell phone processor for first time in Tamil Nadu to take action against traffic violators.
- Tenkasi district traffic police has been created for the first time in the state of Tamil Nadu for Tenkasi district traffic police. The processor has a photo, 10 seconds video capture and GPRS feature. Violators can prove with video or video evidence of where, at what time, and at what time.

### **Dr Jitendra Singh launched ISRO's Bhuvan Panchayat V 3.0 Web portal**

- Dr. Jitendra Singh, Ministry of Atomic Energy and Space launched the Bhuvan Panchayat Version V 3.0 web portal in Antariksh Bhavan Bengaluru, Karnataka to support Gram Panchayat Development planning in the country.

- The Minister released the technical documents related to SISDP (Space Based Information Support for Decentralised Planning Update) - Update Project.

#### **About Bhuvan Panchayat V 3.0 web portal:**

- The web portal has been developed by National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), Hyderabad, Telangana.

#### **Abroad, Google Maps shows J & K as 'disputed'**

- Google Maps has redrawn the world's borders by making them look different depending on the location of the viewer. The popular search engine now shows Kashmir's outlines as a dotted line signaling "disputed" when it is seen from outside India.

#### **Indian Railways launched HRMS Mobile app for its employees**



- Shri Vinod Kumar Yadav, Chairman, Railway Board, launched HRMS (Human Resource Management System) Mobile application (app) through which all employees of Indian Railways can view and access data related to their services. The app was designed and developed by CRIS (Centre for Railway Information System).

#### **Himmat Plus app**

- Delhi Police along with Uber launched "Himmat Plus app", at the Indira Gandhi International (IGI) airport, New Delhi, to ensure safety and security of the people travelling in cabs.

#### **Observation Mobile App**

- It is easy to monitor the progress of the learning outcomes of each student from Grade 1 to 8 through the Tamil Nadu Classroom Mission.
- Observing Mobile App - A Pilot Study is being implemented in Chennai and Thiruvannamalai Districts to enable all Inspection Officers in the School Education Department to make use of Classroom Events.



# 6. NATIONAL – DIARY OF EVENT



## Indian Railway's first Waste to Energy Plant uses "Poly Crack" Technology

- The East Coast Railways commissioned the first waste-to-energy plant of Railways sector of India. It is the fourth such plant in the country. The plant has been set up at a cost of Rs 1.79 crores with Polycrack technology.

### Poly Crack Technology

- In Polycrack Technology, waste is processed and reformed in 24 hours. The only drawback is that it requires larger area.
- The major benefit of the method is that it does not require pre-segregation.

## India's first Super Fab Lab inaugurated in Kerala

- India's first Super Fab Lab was inaugurated in Kerala. The laboratory is to function in collaboration with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA. It is the only laboratory that is being installed outside US.

### Vigyan Ashram

- Vigyan Ashram was the first Fab Lab to be opened in India. It was established in 2002. Also, it was the first fab lab to be opened outside USA (MIT).

### Fab Fi Fab

- Fi is the wireless network that is currently being operated in Afghanistan, US and Kenya. It provides high speed internet from a central provider.

## Shiv Sena-led Maharashtra govt launched 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme

- The Shiv Sena party led Maharashtra Government (govt) launched 'Shiv Bhojan' scheme, with the aim of providing meal to the poor for Rs.10 on the occasion of the 71<sup>st</sup> Republic Day. The district guardian Minister Aslam Shaikh inaugurated the "Shiv Bhojan Thali" canteen at the civic-run Nair Hospital, Mumbai, Maharashtra.

### Goal of the scheme:

- To provide affordable & quality food to all, irrespective of caste, creed, religion and financial status.

### Key Points:

- The State Govt. is expected to incur an expense of Rs.6.4 crore for the pilot 'Shiv Bhojan' thali project that will run for 3 months & will expand the number of such canteen based on feedback.

## **GoI new Target: Indian Railways to run 100% on electricity by 2024**

- The Union Minister Piyush Goyal announced that Indian Railways will run 100% on electricity by 2024. In such case, Indian Railways will be the first Railways to run 100% on electricity.
- Also, the Indian Railways has planned to make the network zero-emission network by 2030.

## **GoI signs “Historic Accord”, Bodo Agreement**

- The Government of India signed the historic agreement with the nine factions of the National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB). According to the agreement, the Bodoland Territorial Area District will hold special rights for the locals. However, the outsiders will have to obtain “permit” to work in the territory.

## **Bodo Accord- Bodoland Territorial Area District**

- The accord signed is the third agreement signed in 27 years. The first was signed with All Bodo Students Union in 1993 and the second was signed with the Bodo Liberation Tigers in 2003. The third agreement led to the formation of Bodoland Territorial Council under the sixth Schedule of the Constitution. The BTC now administrates 4 districts in Assam namely Chirang, Kokrajhar, Baska and Udalguri. These areas are called the Bodoland Territorial Area Districts.

## **India’s first underwater Metro: To begin in March 2022 in Kolkata**

- The first underwater Metro is being constructed in Hooghly river. The project is awaiting clearance of 2.8 million USD from the Indian Railways.

### **Highlights**

- The Hooghly Metro is one of the oldest Metro in the country. It was started in 1984. The new under water tunnel will carry 20% of city’s population and will cross the river in less than a minute. Currently it takes 20 minutes in the ferry to cross the river and an hour to cross the Howrah bridge.

## **Government of India has decided to sell 100 per cent stake of Air India**

- Civil Aviation Minister of India and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs in India Hardeep Singh Puri has expressed the Indian Government’s decision to sell its 100 per cent stake of Air India (AI). It includes its 100 per cent stake in low-cost airline Air India Express and 50 per cent shareholding in joint venture AISATS Airport Services Private Limited.

## **West Bengal becomes fourth state to scrap CAA resolution**

- West Bengal became the fourth state to pass a resolution against the contentious Citizenship Amendment Act(CAA), prior to three states have scrapped controversial CAA law which are Kerala, Rajasthan and Punjab.

## World's largest meditation centre opened in Hyderabad, Telangana

- The World's largest meditation centre was inaugurated at Kanha Shanti Vanam in Hyderabad, Telangana to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of Shri Ram Chandra Mission (SRCM) and Heartfulness Institute. It can accommodate 1 lakh practitioners at a time.

### Key Points:

- The meditation center is built in 30 acres with a central hall and eight peripheral halls.
- To celebrate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, special sessions will be addressed by President Ram Nath Kovind on February 2, 2020 and social activist Anna Hazare on February 8, 2020.

## Government to release the report of 100 Smarts Cities in June 2020

- The Government of India (GoI) is to release the report card of 100 selected smart cities in June, 2020 as the Smart Cities Mission completes its five year. This report will be released in three categories, namely ease of living index, municipal performance index and climatic index.

### Key Points:

- Prime Minister has launched the Smart Cities Mission with the mission to develop 100 Smart Cities across the country.
- Ease of Living index: Under this index 35 percent weightage will be given "to quality of life", 20 percent to "sustainability", 20 percent to "economic viability" and 30 percent to "citizen participation".

- Municipal Performance index: Under this index 30 percent weightage will be given for "services", 20 percent for "finance", 15 percent for "technology", 15 percent for "planning", 20 percent for "governance".
- Climatic index: Under this index cities will be ranked for promoting environment related issues.

## Indian Red Cross Society celebrates centenary year

- To commemorate the centenary year of IRCS, the Governor released a special postal cover in the presence of M. Sampath, chief post-master general, Tamil Nadu circle, while Indian Oil Corporation Ltd donated two ambulances to be used in Tambaram and Thiruparankundram in Madurai.

## Andhra Pradesh Assembly passes resolution to abolish Legislative Council

- The Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly unanimously passed a resolution on January 27, 2020 to abolish the state legislative council. The state cabinet had approved the resolution earlier in the day. The proposal will now be sent to the centre for further action.
- The one-line resolution to abolish the state council was passed in the assembly by Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Nara Chandrababu Naidu. The resolution was passed with 133 members voting in favour of it. This was announced by assembly speaker Tammineni Seetharam.



## Country's 1<sup>st</sup> and biggest 'walk-through' aviary inaugurated

- Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray inaugurated the country's first and biggest 'walk-through' aviary in Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Udyan and Zoo also known as Byculla Zoo in Mumbai, Maharashtra.
- The aviary is spread over in 18,234 sq ft, is 44 feet tall and consists of 100 species of Indian and exotic birds.

## States have abolished the legislative council

- After Assam, West Bengal had abolished its legislative council in 1969 and Punjab abolished it in 1970. The state legislative council of Andhra Pradesh was also abolished previously in 1985 and was revived again in 2006.

## Article

- Notwithstanding anything in article 168, Parliament may by law provide for the abolition of the Legislative Council of a State having such a Council or for the creation of such a Council in a State having no such Council, if the Legislative Assembly of the State passes a resolution to that effect by a majority of the total membership of the Assembly and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members of the Assembly present and voting.

## 6 more routes identified for high-speed corridors

- India's bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, the country's first high-speed corridor, will be completed by December 2023.

- Trains can run at a maximum speed of over 300 km/hr on a high-speed corridor, while on a semi-high speed corridor, the maximum speed can go beyond 160km/hr.
- In a briefing ahead of the Union Budget, Yadav said the six corridors include the Delhi-Noida-Agra-Lucknow-Varanasi (865 km) and the Delhi-Jaipur-Udaipur-Ahmedabad (886km) sections.
- Other corridors are: Mumbai-Nashik-Nagpur (753 km), Mumbai-Pune-Hyderabad (711 km), Chennai-Bangalore-Mysore (435 km) and the Delhi-Chandigarh-Ludhiana-Jalandhar-Amritsar (459 km) sections.
- India's bullet train project between Mumbai and Ahmedabad, the country's first high-speed corridor, will be completed by December 2023.

## NITI Aayog's Aspirational district ranking : Chandauli of UP tops in December 2019

- NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India), a policy think tank of the Government of India (GoI), released the ranking of Aspirational Districts of the country for the month of December 2019.
- The ranking is based on the progress made in 5 development areas in 112 aspirational districts across India in December 2019. The rankings focus on progress in Health and nutrition, education, agriculture and water resources, financial inclusion & skill development and Basic infrastructure.

### Top 3 states in Aspirational Districts ranking:

State	District	Score (December-2019)
Uttar Pradesh	Chandauli	57.6
Odisha	Balangir	53.9
Andhra Pradesh	Y.S.R.	65.2

### Delhi airport gets a new women-only cab service

- 'Women with Wheels' cab service was started at Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA), New Delhi. The service was initiated by 'Sakha cabs' for the safety of women.

### World Sustainable Development Summit organized by TERI first time in New Delhi

- The World Sustainable Summit is an annual event organized by The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI). It is being organized since 2001.

#### Highlights

- The event is to be held between January 29, 2020 and January 31, 2020. This year, the event is being held at New Delhi. The theme of the event is Theme: 'Towards 2030: Making the Decade Count'.

### Bengaluru Has World's Worst Traffic, 4 Indian Cities In Top 10

- India has topped the TomTom Traffic Index 2019 with 4 of its cities amongst the 10 most congested cities globally.

- Bengaluru (71%), Mumbai (65%), Pune (59%) and New Delhi (56%) ranks 1<sup>st</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> respectively.
- The other global cities featured amongst the top 10 include Manila from the Philippines, Bogota from Colombia, Moscow from Russia; Lima from Peru, Istanbul from Turkey, and Jakarta from Indonesia.
- New Delhi takes the 8<sup>th</sup> spot this year with 56% congestion level (extra travel time stuck in traffic). On an average, Delhiites driving during peak hours spend an extra 190 hours, i.e., 7 days, 22 hours in traffic each year.
- The city's heaviest congestion (81%) was recorded on October 23, 2019, while its lowest congestion (6%) was recorded on March 21, 2019.
- The TomTom Traffic Index 2019 indicates that the congestion level in Delhi has reduced by 2% compared to TomTom Traffic Index 2018.

### 12<sup>th</sup> South Asia Conference held in New Delhi

- Defence Minister Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the 12<sup>th</sup> edition of the South Asia Conference at the Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA) in New Delhi.
- The conference deals with issues related to economic cooperation for development, changing political context in India's neighborhood etc.
- The theme of the conference was India's "Neighborhood First" Policy: Regional Perceptions.

## A.P. flags off country's first 'fruit train'

- A 'fruit train', said to be the first of its kind in the country, was flagged off from Tadipatri Railway Station in Anantapur district carrying a load of 980 metric tonnes of locally grown bananas to the Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Mumbai, from where the consignment will be exported to Iran.
- This is the first time in India that an entire train is being sent to the gateway port (JNPT) for export.
- The bananas are being exported under the brand name 'Happy Bananas'. Farmers from Putlur region in Anantapur and Pulivendula in Kadapa district are exporting 'Green Cavendish' bananas to many international markets.

## Video contest for farmer's stories opens

- Tractors and Farm Equipment Ltd. (TAFE) has launched "100 Farmers. 100 Stories" – a nationwide "Photo and Video Story Contest", dedicated to farmers as part of its "Be a #FarmDost" initiative.
- The contest is open till February 29 and allows participants to register and post their entries directly on the FarmDost website: farmdost.com.

## World of Leather Comes to Chennai with Goddies & Opportunities

- As leather and leather goods producer, India has a strong presence on the global arena. It accounts for 13% of world production of leather.

- In footwear sector, India is second largest producer after China, with annual production in 2018 of 2.58 billion pairs. On consumption side also, India is the second largest with a use up of 2.60 billion pairs.
- In leather garment sector, India is second largest exporter, next only to Italy, with a global market share of about 17% accounting for 8.23% share of country's total export in 2018-19. India is fifth largest exporter in leather goods & accessories sector.
- The export of footwear, leather and leather products from India reached a value of US\$ 5.69 billion during 2018-19.

## Honk More, Wait More

- Mumbai Traffic Police has quietly come up with a unique initiative to discipline the city's perpetual honkers, who love to blare the horns of their vehicles even when the traffic signal is red.
- Honking is not only a bad habit, but also an act of traffic indiscipline besides being a major health and pollution hazard. In Mumbai, 149 and 460 honkers were booked in 2018 and 2019 respectively for honking offences.

## Hubballi-Dharwad BRTS inauguration

- The Hubballi-Dharwad Bus Rapid Corridor System (HD-BRTS) will be formally inaugurated by Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu.
- The dedicated bus corridor, which is already ferrying close to 1 lakh commuters daily, was conceptualised and sanctioned in 2012.

- The World Bank has released 33% [ ₹324.32 crore] of the total project cost of ₹ 970.87 crore, the remaining was funded by the State government.
- At present 100 air-conditioned 'Chigari' buses are plying on the BRTS and the procurement of an additional 55 electric buses is under way.

### **DST launches SATHI initiative to address need for building strong science & technology infrastructure**

- DST (Department of Science and Technology) that works under the Ministry of Science and Technology, has launched a special scheme called "Sophisticated Analytical & Technical Help Institutes (SATHI)" with the aim to create shared, professionally managed and strong Science and Technology infrastructure in India.

#### **Key Points:**

- The SATHI scheme will enable academia, start-ups, manufacturing, industry and R&D labs to offer high-end analytical testing. This will help to avoid duplication, reduce the dependency on foreign sources & also foster a strong culture of collaboration between institutions.
- In addition to SATHI, the government also provides Rs. 500 crores to 100 top-performing departments in universities and IITs, etc for their research facilities in the field of manufacturing, waste processing, clean energy and water, and Start-up India, etc.

### **Most missing women from Maharashtra, M.P.**

- The highest number of women and children who go missing in the country are from Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh respectively, according to a study by the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB).
- The two States recorded the highest number of cases of missing children and women among all other States in the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.
- The NCRB study was based on the annual Crime in India Report compiled by the agency for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

### **Odisha launches virtual police station**

- Odisha government has recently launched a virtual police station to provide more ease to its citizens. People can lodge complaints about vehicle theft without visiting a Police Station.
- This virtual police station (e-police station) will operate under the State Crime Records Bureau in Bhubaneswar, the capital of Odisha.

### **ALL is world's third-largest busmaker**

- Ashok Leyland Ltd., the flagship of the Hinduja Group, has been ranked as the number three globally in the medium and heavy commercial vehicle (M&HCV) busmaker segment for the calendar year 2019.
- The ranking is based on reports released by SIAM (Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers), OICA (Organisation Internationale des Constructeurs d'Automobiles) and IHS Markit, it added.

## Country's biggest horticultural fair begins



- The four-day mega event 'National Horticultural Fair 2020' at ICAR-Indian Institute of Horticultural Research kick-started in Bengaluru.
- As 'Making farming an enterprise' is the theme of this year's fair, special focus has been given to showcasing technologies, crop varieties and management practices that can turn farming into a sustainable as well as a profitable venture.

## Karnataka launches Janasevaka scheme

- Janasevaka scheme will bring important government services closer to the citizens by enabling doorstep delivery of key documents including ration card, marriage registration certificate and health card. The scheme will employ volunteers as Jan Sevaks who will deliver the services to the doorstep of the beneficiaries.

## Udyanotsav inaugurated by the President at Rashtrapati Bhavan

- President Ram Nath Kovind inaugurated Udyanotsav at Rashtrapati Bhavan. The Mughal Gardens will be opened to the public between February 5, 2020 and March 8, 2020.

## Highlights

- The main highlights of the Udyanotsav of 2020 are Exotic flowers, tulips and bulbous flowers. Online booking to visit the gardens has been availed for the citizens in the website of Rashtrapati Bhavan.

## PM Modi announced 15-member trust named 'Sri Ram Janma Bhoomi Tirtha Kshetra trust' for Ayodhya temple

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced in Parliament about the formation of a trust to oversee the construction of a Ram Temple in Ayodhya, Uttar Pradesh. In this regard, 67.703 acres of land near the temple area has been allocated to the trust.

## Key Points:

- This 15 member's trust will also include a Dalit representative who would be in-charge of the entire land.

## 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Gastroesophageal cancer congress

- The 8<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Gastroesophageal Cancer Congress got under way with 24 procedures being performed by experts from across the globe.
- The three day event is being hosted for the first time in India. EsoIndia Congress 2020 and the APGCC 2020 are being held jointly at the Sri Ramachandra Institute for Higher Education and Research.
- A total of 14 experts from other countries are participating in the event while one of them could not make it due to the quarantining of persons from China due to Coronavirus infection.



### **AP Govt made history with 'Intivadhakey Pension' scheme by covering 94 % within few days**

- The Andhra Pradesh (AP) state Government led by its Chief Minister(CM) Yeduguri Sandinti Jaganmohan Reddy, has created a record with its 'Intivadhakey Pension' (Pension to your Doorstep) Scheme by covering 94 % of about 60 lakh pensioners at their doorstep within a few days. The scheme was launched in 13 districts on February 1, 2020.
- AP is the 1<sup>st</sup> state in India to take up such an initiative of Door delivery of pension

### **Uttarakhand's iconic Lakshman Jhula to be replaced by India's first Glass floor bridge**

- Uttarakhand government has cleared the design of a glass floor suspension bridge, the first of its kind in the country, to be built across Ganga River in Rishikesh, Uttarakhand as a replacement to iconic Lakshman Jhula which was closed in 2019 due to safety reasons. It has been in place for 94 years. The glass floor suspension bridge design is prepared by Public Works Department (PWD).

### **Jammu & Kashmir admin renames PHE & IFC department as 'Jal Shakti Dept'**

- The Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) administration renamed Public Health Engineering and Irrigation and Flood Control Department (PHE & IFC) as the 'Jal Shakti Department'.

- The Administrative Council meeting was met under the Chairmanship of Girish Chandra Murmu, Lieutenant Governor of J&K, sanctioned the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to achieve 100% coverage of piped water supply by December 2021.

### **22<sup>nd</sup> edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS) 2020 commenced in Kochi, Kerala**

- A 3-day long 22<sup>nd</sup> edition of India International Seafood Show (IISS), 2020 based on the theme "Blue Revolution-Beyond Production to Value Addition" has commenced at Hotel Grand Hyatt in Kochi, Kerala. The show is being organized jointly by the Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) under Ministry of Commerce and Industry & the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI).

### **National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme**

- The 12<sup>th</sup> National Tribal Youth Exchange Programme was inaugurated in Puducherry under which tribal youths will be visiting many places to know about the language, customs, culture, arts, dressing patterns, food pattern and other aspects of Puducherry.

### **Yediyurappa inaugurates Bidar airport**

- Karnataka Chief Minister B.S. Yediyurappa gave wings to the long-standing dream of the people of Bidar by dedicating the airport to the nation at a programme

- Arriving in a special 72-seater aircraft from Bengaluru along with Lok Sabha member for Bidar Bhagwant Khuba and other people's representatives.

### **IIM Bengaluru ranks third in Global MOOC performance among Business schools**

- Indian Institute of Management Bengaluru (IIMB), Karnataka, secured third rank in Global MOOC (Massive Open Online Course) performance among Top Business schools in 2020. MOOC Labs published ranking for the business schools globally who are providing MOOC courses.
- IIMB online courses are also available on SWAYAM (Study Webs of Active Learning for Young Aspiring Minds) is an Indian platform created by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

### **Hyderabad Metro Rail becomes Country's 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Operational Metro Project**

- Chief Minister of Telangana State Mr. K.Chandrashekhar Rao flagged off new Metro line from Jubilee Bus Station (JBS) to Mahatma Gandhi Bus Station (MGBS) connecting twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad, and the stretch covering of 11-kms (Kilometers) becomes India's 2nd largest Metro Rail Network of total operational distance of 69.2kms, only next to Delhi Metro Rail Network having an operational distance of 231kms.

### **For the first time in MP, drones are used for mapping villages**

- The Madhya Pradesh (MP) government, for the first time, will use drones for mapping villages. This will replace the land survey work, done either manually or with the help of satellite images. In this regard, state revenue department inked an agreement with Survey of India, the country's national mapping agency under the Ministry of Science and Technology.
- 55 thousand villages of the state have been selected for mapping.

### **Haryana Launches Rs.1500 crores Mukyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana**

- Chief Minister Mr.Manohar Lal Khattar and Deputy Chief Minister Mr.Dushyant Chautala of Haryana jointly launched Mukyamantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana scheme on the mark of successful 100 days of the present state government. The scheme is about providing financial assistance of Rs.6000 to the families below the poverty line. The amount will be transferred through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) to Bank accounts.

### **Prime Minister attends celebrations on signing of Bodo Peace Accord at Kokrajhar in Assam**



- Prime Minister Narendra Modi has attended the rally at Kokrajhar in Assam to celebrate the signing of the Tripartite Bodo Agreement, which was signed between the Centre, Assam Government and the banned Assam-based insurgent group National Democratic Front of Bodoland (NDFB) and is aimed at bringing political and economic benefits to the Bodo tribe, which is one of the largest tribes of Assam.

#### **Make communities more sustainable**

- Minister of Tamil Language, Culture and Archaeology K.Pandiarajan was inaugurating Rotary District Conference 2020 “Nakshatras’.
- Actor Vivekh was awarded ‘Pasumai Nayagan Virudhu’ for planting 3.2lakh trees in schools and colleges so far.

#### **Govt Proposes 50 Lakh Penalty, 5 Year Prison for Promoting, Endorsing Fairness Creams**

- India has a problem with colourism, where we are constantly tormented by fairness ads and products that promise to make us more ‘attractive’ (read whiter) with absolutely no medical or scientific backing. After years of obsessing over ‘fair’ skin, it looks like India is finally ready to forgo the stereotypes and take a step in the positive direction.
- In order to ban advertisements that promote such false claims, the government has proposed to amend the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954. This amendment will ban all fairness and weight loss promoting ads.

- The draft of the Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) (Amendment) Bill, 2020 also proposes a fine of up to Rs 10 lakh and up to two years’ imprisonment in the case of first offence. And in the case of a subsequent conviction, imprisonment may extend to five years and the fine, up to Rs 50 lakh.

#### **National Conference on E-Governance held in Mumbai; National E-Governance Awards presented**

- The 23<sup>rd</sup> National Conference on E-Governance was held in Mumbai to transform governance using digital technologies. The conference adopted Mumbai Declaration.

#### **Highlights**

- The Conference also assessed the national e-governance services being delivered by all the states and Union Territories. Delhi, Chandigarh and Daman and Diu emerged as the leaders in delivering e-governance services among Union Territories. Among the states, Haryana and Rajasthan emerged as leaders.

#### **Uttarakhand: UDAN heli services to connect Dehradun with Badrinath, Gangotri**

- Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) operationalized the first-ever helicopter services from Dehradun’s Sahastradhara helipad to Gauchar and Chinyalisaur under the Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN) of Government of India.

- MoCA awarded the Sahastradhara-Gauchar-Chinyalisaur route to Heritage Aviation under the UDAN 2 bidding process. Heritage Aviation will operate helicopter services from Sahastradhara to Gauchar and Chinyalisaur twice daily.

### **Best Performing Smart Cities paired up with least performing to work as SISTER CITIES**

- The Union Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has paired up 20 best performing smart cities with least performing cities. They will work as “sister cities”.

#### **Highlights**

- The best performing cities include Tiruppur, Nagpur, Bhopal, Ranchi, Kanpur, Surat, Indore, Vellore, Vishakhapatnam, Varanasi, Vellore, Nashik, Vadodara, Pune, Kota, Davangere, Dehradun, Udaipur, Amaravati and Agra.
- The programme to join a least performing city with the best performing city has been named 20-20 formula. The sister cities under the programme will sign MoUs. For instance, Ranchi has been paired with Pune, and Shimla with Dharmasala and so on.
- The pairing has been done based on culture and region.

### **First Disha Police Station inaugurated in Andhra Pradesh to work on violence against women**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy inaugurated the first Disha Police Station. The police stations are first of their kind in the state and will deal with crimes against women.

#### **Disha Act**

- The Andhra Pradesh Government passed the Disha Bill, 2019. The bill aims to complete investigation of cases related to crimes against women within 7 to 14 days. It also prescribes death penalty under Section 376 of IPC (Indian Penal Code).
- Also, the act punishes crimes against children with 10 to 14 years of imprisonment.

### **Shri Dharmendra Pradhan launched ‘Saksham’**

- ‘Saksham’, an annual one-month long, people-centric fuel conservation mega campaign of Petroleum Conservation Research Association (PCRA) under the aegis of Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas launched on 16<sup>th</sup> January by Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas and Steel Shri Dharmendra Pradhan in a function to be held in Delhi.

### **India-Central Asia Business Council launched in New Delhi**

- The Ministry of External Affairs along with FICCI (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry) recently launched the India-Central Asia Business Council.
- They were joined by 5 countries namely Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyz Republic. The Council will act as a common platform for the businesses of Central Asia and India.

## India-Bangladesh rail link to be ready by 2021: Jitendra Singh

- The landmark railway line, connecting the northeastern region with Bangladesh, will be ready by the end of 2021, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said.
- Singh said when the construction of the railway line, between Agartala in Tripura and Akhaura in Bangladesh, will be completed, it will pave the way for running the first train from the northeast to Bangladesh on the eve of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of India's independence in 2022.

## PM Modi's constituency Varanasi among 20 best performing 'smart cities'



- With some of the 100 selected Smart Cities lagging behind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's parliamentary constituency Varanasi will guide Amritsar and Ahmedabad will help Chandigarh in implementing projects under the mission.
- Ahmedabad (1<sup>st</sup> rank), Nagpur, Tiruppur, Ranchi, Bhopal, Surat, Kanpur, Indore, Visakhapatnam, Vellore, Vadodara, Nashik, Agra, Varanasi, Davanagere, Kota, Pune, Udaipur, Dehradun and Amravati are the 20 best performing cities, according to internal rankings.

## Haryana Government launched 'Reading Mission'

- Kanwar Pal, Haryana education minister, launched 'Reading Mission- Haryana' to inculcate reading habits among students.

### Key Points:

- The mission has been launched based on the Central Government's "Reading Mission -2022" & aims to address the lost glory of reading books.
- About Reading Mission: Book review sessions will be organized by students once a month in educational institutions & 45 minute mass- reading programme will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> saturday of every month.

## 'India's position on Global Hunger Index alarming'

- Despite high food production, it is alarming that India ranks 102<sup>nd</sup> on the Global Hunger Index, announced Vice President Venkaiah Naidu, at the convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.
- Nutritional Security requires measures to improve protein and vitamin deficiencies.

## 'Ramayana-themed train on the cards, says Railways'

- The Railways plans to run a new train, Ramayana Express, with Ramayana-themed interiors and religious songs playing on board to give the passengers a feeling of 'traveling in a temple.'
- The train is likely to be launched after March 10, said Railway Board Chairman V.K. Yadav, adding that the train schedule will be released in the coming week.



- The train will originate from different locations, north, south, east and west, so that people from across the country can avail its services.

### **Gaurela-Pendra-Marwahi forms 28<sup>th</sup> District of Chattisgarh**

- Bhupesh Baghel, Chief Minister (CM) of Chhattisgarh, inaugurated Gaurela-Pendra-Maewahi as the 28<sup>th</sup> district state of the state. The new district, carved out of Bilaspur, has 3 tehsils (taluk) & 3 development blocks namely Gaurela, Pendra and Marwahi.

#### **Key Points:**

- The new district comprises 166 gram panchayats, 222 villages and two nagar panchayats with an area of 1,68,225 hectares.
- Bhupesh Baghel, CM also inaugurated offices of the collector and superintendent of police in the new district & approved Rs 18 crore for development works.
- State Assembly Speaker Charandas Mahant, Dharamlal Kaushik (Leader of Opposition), former CM Ajit Jogi were present on the occasion.

### **Lok Sabha passes bill to include more tribes in ST category in Karnataka**

- Parliament passed a bill to include certain tribal communities in Karnataka in the Scheduled Tribe category.
- It seeks to include Parivara and Talawara tribal communities in the ST category to ensure they get reservation and other benefits provided by the government.

- Siddi tribes of Belagavi, Dharwad would also be included in the ST category apart from those living in Uttar Kannada districts.
- The amendments have been made in the list of STs in Karnataka.

### **MP CM Inaugurates National Water Conference at Bhopal**

- The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shri Kamal Nath has inaugurated the National water conference at Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh. The conference is being held to finalize the guidelines of “Right to Water Act” or “Water Rights Act” and also discussed the water crisis in the state and also making the state a water-rich state.

### **South Central Railways zone becomes India's 1<sup>st</sup> to have energy-neutral stations**

- The Indian Southern Central Railways (SCR) zone becomes India's first to have 13 energy-neutral stations. The number is highest amongst all the zones across the Indian Railways network.

#### **About energy-neutral railway stations:**

- These are capable of meeting 100% energy requirements through solar photovoltaic panels which have been commissioned at the station buildings.
- The total capacity of all the solar panels installed at the 13 energy neutral stations is 99 kWp at a cost of Rs 50 lakh.

## India to host 13<sup>th</sup> COP of UN's Conservation of Migratory Species; PM Modi to inaugurate

- The 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of Parties (COP) of the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals is to be held in India between February 17, 2020 and February 22, 2020. The Conference is called the CMS-COP-13 in short. The Conference is to be hosted by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on behalf of India.

### Highlights

- India has been designated as the President of the Conference for the next three years. The representatives from 130 countries are to participate in the conference. The theme of the conference is as follows.
- Theme: Migratory species Connect the Planet and we welcome them.
- The mascot designated for the CMS COP-13 is Indian Bustard.

## Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Campaign launched to build a cultural connect between different regions

- Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat Campaign organised by the Information and Broadcasting Ministry across the country. It will continue until the 28<sup>th</sup> of this month. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had mooted the idea of a cultural connection between different regions during the Rashtriya Ekta Divas held in 2015.

## 20<sup>th</sup> 'Hunar Haat' 2020 to be held in New Delhi from Feb 13

- The 20<sup>th</sup> 'Hunar Haat', an initiative of the Minority Affairs Ministry, showcases handmade indigenous products of master artisans and craftsmen are made available to the people, will be held from February 13-23, 2020 based on the theme of "Kaushal Ko Kaam" at India Gate Lawns, Rajpath, New Delhi.

## Kerala to hosts International conference on Climate change & Ocean health "CLIMFISHCON-2020"

- The "CLIMFISHCON" is a Four-day International Conference on changes in Hydrological cycle, Ocean ecosystem, Fisheries and Food security due to Global climate change. And the conference is going to be held at the Le Meridian Convention center in Kochi, Kerala from February 11 to February 14, 2020.

### Key points:

- The conference is jointly organized by the Department of Fisheries, Kerala and the CUSAT (Cochin University of Science and Technology) School of Industries Fisheries, and 'Climate Change-Effective Adaptation for a Secure Future' is theme for the conference.

## Mumbai to get India's largest air quality monitoring network

- The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) will develop an air quality monitoring network access across 90 locations in Mumbai, Maharashtra. It will be the largest network in India.

## **“Global Investor Summit” for the first time in Jammu and Kashmir; Road Shows to attract investments**

- The Government of India is making preparation in full swing for the Global Investors Summit to be held in Jammu and Kashmir in April 2020.

### **Highlights**

- In order to increase the number of investments roadshows are to be conducted from February 17, 2020. The road shows are to be held in Kolkata, Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Ahmedabad and Hyderabad.
- The Union Territory is to send 54 senior officials to preside over the roadshows. Jammu and Kashmir will also hold International Roadshows.

## **Over 8 Lakh under-5 age Children died in India: UNICEF's Report**

- The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) recently released its annual State of the World's Children Report 2019. The report stated that India's under-5 age children mortality rate is 37 per 1000 live births. In 2019, around 8 lakh children of under 5 years of age lost their lives.

## **Nitin Gadkari inaugurated first inter-city electric bus service in Maharashtra**

- Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Road Transport and Highways, inaugurated the first inter-city electric bus service, between Mumbai (Maharashtra) and Pune (Maharashtra).

## **Tribal language**

- The Asur language figures in the list of UNESCO Interactive Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger.
- The first transmission of a half-an-hour programme was organised near Netarhat on January 19. Since then, the prerecorded radio program have been aired on 16 different occasions
- As per the 2011 census, the tribe has a population of around 23,000 in Latehar and Gumla districts.

## **Bihar govt launches 'Pyaar ka Paudha' campaign to promote the practice of planting trees**

- The state Government of Bihar's Department of Environment and Forest in Patna has launched 'Pyaar ka Paudha' (a plant of love) drive under the Jal Jeevan Hariyali campaign with an aim to promote the practice of planting trees in the state.

## **Jagan to launch scheme to revamp govt. hospitals**

- Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister will launch the first phase of the 'Nadu-Nedu' program to revamp the health sector by laying the foundation stone for a sub centre at Kurnool.
- Under the project, the government plans to take up construction and renovation works at the hospitals at a cost of ₹11,737 crore in a span of three years.
- As part of the first phase, ₹1,129 crore has been allocated for the health and wellness centres. Around 530 life-saving drugs are being provided in health care institutions.

## Madhya Pradesh grapples with spiralling neonatal deaths

- Madhya Pradesh has recorded the highest percentage of newborn deaths of 11.5% against the total admissions to government-run sick newborn care units (SNCUs) in the past three years across the country, a rate ominously spiraling since 2017, according to the National Health Mission (NHM). The country's average is 7%.

## Bio Asia Summit 2020 to be held in Hyderabad



- The Government of Telangana is hosting Bio-Asia Summit 2020 in Hyderabad between February 17, 2020 and February 19, 2020.
- The main objective of the summit is to explore the capabilities of Life Science Companies and their investments.
- The theme of the Summit is Theme: Today for Tomorrow

## Delhi-based IGIA becomes 1<sup>st</sup> single-use plastic-free airport of India

- According to the GMR Group-led Delhi International Airport Ltd (DIAL), Delhi-based Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA) has become the 1<sup>st</sup> airport in India to be completely free of single-use plastic usage.

## 'Ramayana Yatra' to begin from March 5

- The Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC), as part of Bharat Darshan, will be operating 'Ramayana Yatra', a special train covering important temple towns in the country.

## Kashi-Mahakal Express flagged off

- Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, recently flagged off Kashi-Mahakal Express from Varanasi. This train will connect Kashi and Ujjain through a religiously important route. Kashi Mahakal Express will connect three Jyotirlingas - Omkareshwar near Indore, Mahakaleshwar of Ujjain and Kashi Vishwanath of Varanasi.
- The first commercial journey of this train is scheduled to begin on February 2020.

## IISc ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in Times Higher Education Ranking

- The Times Higher Education Ranking was released in London. The ranking was titled -The Emerging Economies University Ranking 2020".
- Around 11 Indian Universities were included in the top 100. However, China had more Universities than India in the ranking. Around 30 Universities of China were in the top 100.

## PM Modi visits Hunar Haat at Rajpath in Delhi

- The Hunar Haat being organised by the Ministry of Minority Affairs at India Gate in Delhi.

## President to inaugurate The Huddle on February 22

- The fourth edition of The Huddle, The Hindu's annual thought conclave, will be held at the ITC Gardenia in Bengaluru on February 22 and 23.
- President Ram Nath Kovind will address the audience as the Chief Guest and inaugurate the conclave on February 22.



## Hindi is 3<sup>rd</sup> most spoken language in world

- As per the 22nd edition of Ethnologue, Hindi language is the third most spoken one in the world with a total of 615 million speakers. English language has the most number of speakers - 1132 million speakers.

## National Payments Corporation of India launches 'UPI Chalega' campaign

- National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) launches 'UPI Chalega' campaign, which is aimed to guide users towards the right usage of UPI (Unified Payments Interface) and help to create a habitual change, use of UPI in their daily life.
- UPIChalega.com has also been setup where users can access information about live banks and third-party apps on the interface as well as social feeds.

## Govt. plans research on 'indigenous' cows

- The government has unveiled a program to research on 'indigenous' cows. To be funded by multiple scientific ministries, the initiative, SUTRA PIC, is led by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).
- SUTRA PIC or Scientific Utilization Through Research Augmentation-Prime Products from Indigenous Cows.

## India's tallest pier bridge built by Northeast Frontier Railway in Manipur



- India's tallest railway pier bridge which is 100 m tall has been constructed by the Northeast Frontier Railway Construction Organisation. The bridge has been built across Makru river in the Tamenglong district of Manipur. The bridge has been constructed at the cost of Rs 283.5-crore.

## Madhya Pradesh breaks its record in thermal power generation

- Madhya Pradesh has surpassed its earlier record of thermal power generation by producing 1099.7 lakh units in one day.
- The Madhya Pradesh Power Generating Company has created a new record by producing 1099.7 lakh units of thermal power.



- This is the maximum thermal power generated in Madhya Pradesh in one day so far.
- In this record production, Amarkantak Thermal Power Station in Chachai generated 50.6 lakh units, while Sanjay Gandhi Thermal Power Station in Birsinghpur produced 289.6 lakh units.

#### 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission observed



- The 4<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission (SPMRM) was observed.
- It was launched on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2016 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transform the Rurban clusters by stimulating local economic development, enhancing basic services and creating well planned Rurban clusters.

#### National Organic Food Festival

- The Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI) with the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MoWCD) will host the first National Organic Food Festival in New Delhi between February 21 to February 23, 2020.
- It aims to strengthen the organic market and empower women entrepreneurs in the area of production and processing of organic products.

#### Theme: Unleashing India's Organic Market Potential.

- India has the 9<sup>th</sup> largest World's Organic Agricultural Land and the largest number of producers.
- Sikkim is the first organic state in the world. All of its farmland is certified organic.

#### 3,500-tonne goldmine found in Uttar Pradesh

- Uttar Pradesh government, geologists have discovered massive gold deposits in Sonbhadra district of eastern Uttar Pradesh. The discovery comes after two decades of search by the Geological Survey of India and the Uttar Pradesh Directorate of Geology and Mining. As per estimates, there are two goldmines with around 3,500 tonnes of gold ore in the Naxal-affected Sonbhadra district. This is around five times the current gold reserves of the country which stands at around 626 tonne.
- But the geological survey of India recently notified that it's not factually correct.

#### Squats for free platform tickets at railway station in Delhi



■

- The Railways initiative to give free platform tickets to anyone doing 30 squats in 3 minutes. The 25-second video clip posted on the social media became all the rage.
- In the clip posted by Railway Minister Piyush Goyal, a young man can be seen doing squats to avail a free platform ticket at the Anand Vihar rail terminus.

### **'Historical Gastronomica-The Indus Dining Experience' held at National Museum**

- The 'Historical Gastronomica - The Indus Dining Experience' exhibition was held at the National Museum in New Delhi which was jointly organized by the National Museum along with One Station Million Stories (OSMS). This is a unique exhibition based on India's ancient food history that goes back to over 5000 years ago.

### **International Judicial Conference held in New Delhi**

- The International Judicial Conference was held in New Delhi recently. The Conference was addressed by PM Modi.
- Theme: Gender Just World

### **Cherish our biodiversity, says PM**

- India's biodiversity was a "unique treasure" for the entire humankind, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Sunday in his monthly Mann ki Baat radio address. He referred to Tamil poetess Avvaiyar to underscore his point.
- Similar was the case with the biodiversity of this country, Mr. Modi said pointing

out the recent discovery of new species of fish in the caves of Meghalaya.

- The fish, believed to be the largest among aquatic species found under the surface of caves, is blind and lives in deep dark underground caves.

### **No-Bag Day on Saturdays for students of Govt school: Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot**

- Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot on February 20, 2020, announced a 'No-Bag Day' on Saturdays for students of government schools across the state.

### **Mumbai airport gets world's largest 'Export Cold Zone' to Store Agro, Pharma Products**

- Mumbai International Airport Limited (MIAL), a joint venture (JV) between the GVK led consortium and Airports Authority of India (AAI), has unveiled the world's largest airport-based temperature-controlled facility.
- The 'Export Cold Zone' for processing and storage of agro and pharma products, for which Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport will be the largest export gateway.

### **State of India's Birds 2020 Report**

- It is India's first of its kind report that highlights observations by birdwatchers form the basis of the analyses. The final report was released on February 17, 2020, at 13<sup>th</sup> COP to the convention on migratory species held in Gujarat.



### Key Highlights of Report

- The report suggests that about 867 birds were assessed which made it clear that almost all the species are declining.
- The report categorises 101 species as of High Conservation Concern, 59 based on their range size and abundance trends, and an additional 42 based on their IUCN Red List status.
- According to the report, India has witnessed a big decline in migratory shorebirds, raptors, Indian Vulture, Large-billed Leucaea Warbler, Curlew Sandpiper, Richard's Pipit and White-rumped Vulture.
- The report also highlights that some species have increased in numbers such as Glossy Ibis, Rosy Starling, Ashy Prinia, and Feral Pigeon.

### NITI Aayog organizes North East Sustainable Development Goal Conclave 2020 in Assam

- NITI Aayog is to organize North East Sustainable Development Goal Conclave 2020 in Assam between February 24, 2020 and February 26, 2020. The Conclave is to be held in the state capital Guwahati.

- Chief Ministers of all the north eastern states namely Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Assam, Tripura and Sikkim are to participate in the conclave.

### Gol to launch "TILHAN Mission" to make India Self Reliant in oil seed Production

- The Agricultural Minister Narendra Singh Tomar announced that Government of India is to launch "TILHAN MISSION" to boost the oil seed production. The announcement was made at an occasion of Soil Health Card Day. Soil Health Card Day was celebrated all over India on February 19, 2020.

### Health Minister launches vaccination drive

- "No child should have to suffer or die due to vaccine preventable diseases," said Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan inaugurating a special campaign on Intensified Mission INDRADHANUSH (IMI 2.0). The campaign aims to immunize children under two years of age and pregnant women against vaccine preventable diseases.



# 7. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS



## Ganga-Volga Dialogue held with Russia to enhance Connectivity

- The Ganga-Volga Dialogue was held between India and Russia in New Delhi. The dialogue focused in providing interface between the civilizations of the countries.

### Highlights

- The dialogue prioritized people-to-people contact. According to Russia, the dialogue acted as a good platform for its policy of "Greater Eurasia".
- Theme: Connectivity

## India, France to partner on museums

- India and France will work together in the field of museums, cultural spaces and research, and a joint working group will be established for this purpose, the Ministry of Culture.

## China is the world's 2<sup>nd</sup> -biggest weapons producer

- As per the report by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has suggested that China is the world's second largest producer of munitions behind the United States and ahead of Russia. The data which covered the period from 2015 to 2017.

## TN CM unveils Direct CTO scheme for green category industries

- Tamil Nadu government announced a new initiative, 'Direct CTO', to enable companies operating under 'green category industries' receive faster clearances from government to commence operations.
- The move would largely benefit micro, small and medium enterprises planning to set up operations in the state, to mark 125 years of trade body Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).
- The pollution index of any industrial sector is a number from 0 to 100 and the increasing value of PI refers to the degree of pollution load from the industries.
- 'Red' category industries are those which have a pollution index score of 60 and above, 'orange' category is with 41 to 59, 'green' category industrial sectors are of 21 to 40 and 'white' category industries are from 0 to 20.

## UK leaves the European Union

- Britain left the European Union on Friday after 47 years of membership, taking a leap into the unknown in a historic blow to the bloc.
- Britons who cherished their membership in the bloc - and the freedom it bought to live anywhere across of 28 countries.

- Since the 2016 vote, the U.K. has held fractious negotiations with the EU that finally, late last year, secured a deal on divorce terms. But Britain is leaving the bloc arguably as divided as it was on referendum day.

### **Maldives readmitted and becomes 54<sup>th</sup> member of Common wealth family**

- Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, President of the Maldives announced that Maldives has once again become a member of the Commonwealth family after the meeting between Abdullah Shahid, Foreign Minister of Maldives & Patricia Scotland, Secretary General of the Common wealth.
- The Maldives became the 54th family member of the Commonwealth family.
- Commonwealth meeting : Maldives will be part of the "Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM)" in Kigali, Rwanda (East Africa), between June 22 to 28,2020.

### **India signs 1<sup>st</sup> ever term contract with Russia for Importing Russian Crude Oil**

- The union cabinet Minister for the Ministry of Petroleum and natural Gas Shri Dharmendra Pradhan signed the 1<sup>st</sup> ever term contract with Mr. Igor Sechin, Chief Executive Officer (C.E.O) and Chairman of Rosneft (Russia's largest oil producing Company). The term contract is between State-Owned Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) and Rosneft for Importing 2 Million Metric Tonnes of Urals grade crude oil to India for the year 2020.

### **Aadhar cards of dead residents of Srivilliputtur taluk to be collated**

- For the first time in the country, Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) will collate the Aadhar details of the dead residents of Srivilliputtur Taluk of Virudhunagar district in order to prevent misuse of those Aadhar numbers.
- Srivilliputtur Tahsildar will be the nodal officer for the exercise and would be assisted by the District Adi Dravida Welfare Officer.

### **Haldia Petrochemicals set to invest ₹50,000 crore**

- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) signed with the Tamil Nadu government earlier, representatives from Haldia Petrochemicals called on Tamil Nadu Chief Minister to discuss investments to the tune of ₹50,000 crore in Cuddalore district.
- The outlay is estimated at ₹50,000 crore for converting the facility in Cuddalore into a petrochemical complex.

### **Cauvery delta to be declared a protected agriculture zone**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister announced that the Cauvery delta region would be declared a Protected Special Agriculture Zone as a step towards ensuring food security of the State.
- To ensure that agriculture is not affected, the Cauvery delta regions in Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Pudukottai, Cuddalore, Ariyalur, Karur and Tiruchirapalli will be converted into a Protected Special Agriculture Zone.



### 43<sup>rd</sup> Governing council meet of IFAD 2020 held in Rome, Italy

- A 2-day long 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the annual Governing Council meeting of the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) 2020 based on the theme "Investing in sustainable food systems to end hunger by 2030" was held at FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) headquarters in Rome, Italy.

### 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety held in Stockholm

- The 3<sup>rd</sup> High Level Global Ministerial Conference on Road Safety has been recently hosted in Stockholm, the capital city of Sweden.
- The theme of the conference is 'Achieving Global Goals 2030'. The Global Conference is co-sponsored by the World Health Organization (WHO).

### Task Force Meet: India and Norway to strengthen their BLUE ECONOMY PARTNERSHIP

- India and Norway jointly inaugurated a Task Force of Blue Economy for Sustainable Development.
- They also launched a new collaboration of Integrated Ocean Management and Research at the meet.



### First-ever 'Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival' to be held soon

- The first-ever 'Jerusalem-Mumbai Festival' will be held on February 15, 2020 in Mumbai to showcase special links between Mumbai & Jerusalem.
- The festival will not only promote cultural ties between India and Israel, but it will also demonstrate the unique cultural traditions of both the cities. The festival will be organised by Jerusalem Municipality in collaboration with the Federation of India-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Consulate General of Israel in Mumbai.

### President Trump to attend 'Howdy, Modi!'-like event in Ahmedabad

- US President Donald Trump, during his India visit, is scheduled to participate in a grand road show in Ahmedabad, tour the Sabarmati Ashram and inaugurate a newly-built cricket stadium with Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Trump and Modi inaugurate the newly-constructed Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Stadium in Motera area and address a gathering, likely to be attended by over 1 lakh people.
- Citizens have dubbed the upcoming visit of the US President at the Sardar Patel Stadium as "Kem Chho, Trump!" (Hello Trump) event.
- The stadium at Motera has a seating capacity of 1.10 lakh.

# 8. TAMILNADU AFFAIRS



## State a top destination for tourists

- Tamil Nadu is one among the top three States in attracting domestic and foreign tourists, according to the Economic Survey 2019-20.
- The Survey, quoting the 2018 figures, mentioned Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra as the other two which were in the top league.
- The three States along with Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh accounted for nearly 65% of the total domestic tourists while they together with Delhi and Rajasthan recorded around 67% of the total foreign tourist visits

## 21<sup>st</sup> annual conference of the Indian society of neuroanaesthesiology held

- The 21<sup>st</sup> annual conference of the Indian Society of Neuroanaesthesiology and Critical Care was held in Chennai.
- Over 20 international faculty, delegates and 300 national delegates participated in the meet. Its aim was to share knowledge in practices in neuroanaesthesiology and neurocritical care.

## South India's Biggest International Education Fair

- 17<sup>th</sup> edition of The Hindu Education Plus International Education Fair 2020 held in

Chennai.

- Students and parents thronged the fair and had the opportunity to attend sessions on higher education opportunities in France and study options in the Netherlands, Australia, New Zealand and the U.S.

## SRIOR announces novel measures to combat cancer

- SRIOR will be providing Awareness Umbrellas to the interested NGOs and public. These umbrellas will have colored ribbons that are associated with its respective cancer types. (For instance, if it is breast cancer, it will have the pink colored ribbon and a QR Code near it) Once scanned with a QR Code Scanner, it will provide details about the disease, symptoms, warning signs and all other forms of awareness. The website 'www.helpcancers.com' was launched at the event.

## L&T MBDA Missile Systems sets up missile integration facility in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu

- Engineering & Construction Company L&T (Larsen & Toubro Limited) and European defence major MBDA Missile Systems have set up a missile integration facility in Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu (TN).

- L&T MBDA Missile Systems (LTMMMSL) has set up the assembly, 'inert' integration (without explosives) and testing the Missile Subsystems & Weapon launch systems.

### **Fords technology and innovation centre opens**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated the Ford Technology and Innovation Centre at the Electronics Corporation of Tamil Nadu (ELCOT) Special Economics Zone (SEZ) at Sholinganallur in Chennai.

### **Programme to promote women entrepreneurs**

- The churn out more women entrepreneurs across the state, The Indus entrepreneurs (TiE) Chennai has introduced a new initiative called TiE women.
- This is an initiative that was launched by TiE Global and we have introduced in Chennai for educating, mentoring, networking opportunities, industry and investor connects for women entrepreneurs.

### **'130 out of 136 urban local bodies declared open defecation-free'**

- The State government informed the Madras High Court that out of 15 municipal corporations and 121 municipalities in the State, six were yet to be declared open defecation-free places. Of the 136 urban local bodies, only 130 had so far been declared open defecation-free cities and towns.
- The submission was made in a counter affidavit filed before the First Division

Bench of Chief Justice Amreshwar Pratap Sahi and Justice Subramonium Prasad, who were seized of a batch of cases aimed at effective implementation of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act of 2013

### **MIOT International Programme**

- To discuss various health issues related to women and to send across the message that their well-being should be prioritised, MIOT International organised a programme Women at the centre of our universe.
- About 100 delegates from across the world took part in the program.

### **Chennai Corporation launches framework for city's streets**

- Under the project that envisages developing 426 sq km of roads in Chennai, there will be no road cutting for the next 30 years, announced by the Minister S. P. Velumani.
- The Greater Chennai Corporation should significantly add to its urban planning capacity and come out with a vision and area development plans.

### **Nilgiris Corporation makes natural Fertilisers**

- The Nilgiris Corporation has produced natural vermin-compost fertilisers and successfully sold 17 tonnes.
- There is popular demand for natural fertilisers in the Nilgiris, a massive exercise was undertaken by the Nilgiris sanitary department to produce vermi-compost at Ketti township near Coonoor.

- Ketti has 18 wards and 68 villages. Sanitary workers did door-to-door collection of segregated waste, separating degradable and non-degradable stuff. Personal collection was done in 15 wards while the other three wards put them in public garbage bins.

### CM inaugurates Ceat tyre plant

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister inaugurated Ceat's tyre plant in Sriperumbudur near Chennai. The plant is expected to generate 1,000 jobs, with a proposed investment of ₹4,000 crore.
- The Chennai plant would be the sixth in the country for Ceat, the flagship company of the RPG Group.

### Ponneri Terminal Development Project on 21,966 acres

- Under the Chennai-Bangalore Business Route Program, the Ponneri Entrepreneurship Development Scheme will be implemented in Thiruvallur District with an area of 21,966 acres.
- The project has been approved by the state government agreement and the shareholders' agreement. As part of the East Coast Economic Highway Project, the Chennai-Kanyakumari industrial route project will be implemented with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank.
- The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Institute will undertake the establishment of Career Innovation Centers at Sriperumbudur and Hosur.
- The Business Facilitation Center is being developed at Kesari. The Tamil Nadu

Industrial Development Corporation (TDC) will set up a 6 crore liter water treatment plant at a cost of Rs 634 crore per day to cater to the needs of entrepreneurs located in Tuticorin and its surrounding areas.

- East Coast Highway: As part of the East Coast Economic Highway Project, the Chennai-Kanyakumari industrial route project will be implemented with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank. It has stated that Rs 2,500 crore has been allocated for the industry in the financial year 2020-21.

## Tamil Nadu Budget 2020

- Deputy Chief Minister and State Finance Minister presented the State Budget in the Assembly for the 10<sup>th</sup> time on February 14. Tamil Nadu's economic growth for 2019-20 is projected to be 7.27%, a fall from 8.17% in 2018-19 due to global and national economic headwinds.

### Highlights of Tamil Nadu Budget 2020 – 21

- Food parks proposed to be established in Dharmapuri, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Karur, Nagapattinam, Ramanathapuram, Tenkasi districts at a cost of Rs 70 crore.
- The government has decided to form a 'not-for-profit' Special Purpose Vehicle to finance and manage the Amma Unavagam programme.
- Eco-restoration of the Buckingham Canal, its drains and all the drains of the Cooum and Adyar at a total cost of Rs.5,439.76 crore to be taken up

- Rs38,181.73 crore allocated for School Education Department, Rs5,052.84 crore for Higher Education.
- Stamp duty tax has been reduced to 0.25 per cent from the earlier 1 per cent.
- Fisheries department - To improve communication for fishermen more mechanised boats to be fitted with transponders.

### Tamil Nadu Budget 2020 - 21

Sector	Allocated Amount
Higher Education	5,052.84 Crore
Electricity Department	20,115.58 Crore
For Establishing 11 New Medical Colleges	1,200 Crore
Health Sector	15,863 Crore
Department Of Tamil Development	74.08 Crore
Archeology Department	31.93 Crore
Department Of Transport	2716.26 Crore
Disaster Management	1360 Crore
Department Of Prison	392 Crore
Department Of Energy	20,115.58 Crore
Department Of Highways	15,850 Crore

For Rural Local Bodies	5306.95 Crore
For Crop Insurance	11,000 Crore
Department Of Agriculture	11,894 Crore
For Amruth Project	1450 Crore
Department Of Municipal Administration And Water Supply	18,540
Nirbhaya Project	71 Crore
For Food Subsidy	6,500 Crore

### New centralised Kitchen soon for school breakfast scheme

- The Kalai Unavu Thittam scheme was inaugurated last year, and nearly 5,000 children from Corporation schools are currently being provided free breakfast, prepared at the first centralised kitchen in Thiruvannamiyur.
- Under the scheme, Akshaya Patra Foundation and the Greater Chennai Corporation have joined hands to provide free, nutritious breakfast for students of Corporation schools.

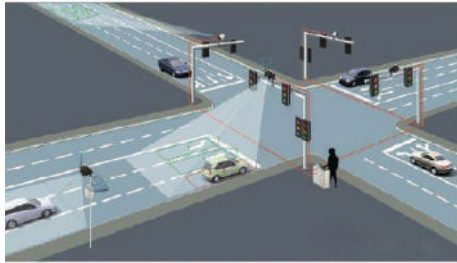
### T.N. achieves drop in maternal mortality

- Tamil Nadu's Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has dipped to 57 per one lakh live births in 2019 according to the State Health Management Information System (HMIS) data.



- The State's MMR stood at 60 per one lakh live births in 2018. The latest Sample Registration System (SRS) data on MMR for the period 2015-2017 placed TN's MMR at 63 per one lakh live births.

### **Integrated Automatic Signal in Chennai**



- The 'Integrated Automatic Signal (iNtegratddd Automatikk Sign al) is to be introduced soon on 7 roads, including Anna Road, to curb Chennai traffic.
- Chennai has the largest number of vehicles next to New Delhi.
- Integrated Signal: Integrated Automatic Signal Scheme is implemented in countries including the UK, UK and France.

### **IIT-Madras extends training labs to 20 rural schools**

- "1 Lab - 1 School", a rural mentorship program from the Indian Institute of Technology Madras (IIT-M), does by letting high school students dismantle and reassemble the appliances on their own.
- The program connects top graduate laboratories of premier institutes to high schools in rural areas, and aims to empower rural communities by addressing barriers to digital inclusion.

- Q&A sessions, demonstration-based lectures, etc. are some of the other learning activities in the training. Expansion to 15 more schools is aimed for next year.

### **CM lays foundation stone for T.N. Polymer Park**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Tamil nadu Polymer Park, a project of TIDCO and SIPCOT on 257 acres of land in Puzhuthivakkam in Tiruvallur District.
- The Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) and the National Industrial Corridor Development and Implementation Trust (NICDIT) joined hands to develop the Ponneri Node of the Chennai-bengaluru Industrial Corridor
- The Chief Minister released a handbook on "Doing Business in Tamil Nadu" for investors.

### **TN assembly adopts Bill declaring Cauvery delta as protected agricultural zone**

- Tamil Nadu Chief Minister introduced a bill in the state legislative assembly to declare the Cauvery Delta region in the state as a Protected Special Agriculture Zone.
- The bill excludes Tiruchirappalli, Ariyalur and Karur districts and parts of Cuddalore and Pudukottai regions from its ambit. Also, the bill does not address the issues concerned with the existing industrial or oil extraction projects in the Delta region.

- According to the bill, a 30-member committee with the chief minister as its head will be set up to advise the government to protect and improve the farming activities in the region. The committee, which will be headquartered in Chennai, will also advise on increasing the farm production in the region.
- The bill is proposed to protect agriculture and prohibit certain activities in this region as non-farming activities are adversely affecting agriculture and threatening state's food security.
- The proposed agriculture zone, as per the bill, includes Thanjavur, Thirvarur, Nagapattinam and five blocks in Cuddalore and Pudukottai. The bill fails to include Tiruchirappalli, Ariyalur and Karur which are geographically included in the Cauvery Delta.

### **Nabard launches e-Shakti for digitisation of SHGs**

- The National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development (Nabard) launched 'e-Shakti' for digitization of all Self-help Groups (SHGs) of the district.
- NABARD had taken up two districts Dhule in Maharashtra and Ramgarh in Jharkhand for digitisation of SHG data last year. Jagatsinghpur is the first district of the State to be covered by 'e-Shakti' programme under Digital India scheme of the Centre.
- In Tamil Nadu, It will be implemented



at Tiruvannamalai, Virudhunagar, nammakal and Nagapatnam.

### **Pure Tamil Project in Business Established in Chennai**

- A new project titled 'Pure Tamil Project in Businesses' was launched in Chennai in the context of the World Mother Tongue at the Safil of the Tamil Etymology Directorate of Tamil Nadu. According to the plan, employees, niwakis and employees of any company, such as restaurants, textile and grocery stores, must speak to their customers on the 21<sup>st</sup> of the month in pure Tamil.

### **Jayalalithaa's 72nd birth anniversary celebrated**

- The distribution of solatium of ₹ 2 lakh each to the legal heirs of 14 deceased members of the AIADMK, the disbursal of assistance of ₹ 1 lakh each to 109 indigent worker-members of the Anna Thozhir Sangam and the inauguration of a three-day health camp marked the 72nd birth anniversary celebrations of former Chief Minister Jayalalithaa.
- The government is to observe the Girl Child Protection Day on the occasion of Jayalalithaa's birth anniversary.

### **India's First Floating Jetty & Immigration office in Goa**

- Union Minister of State for shipping Mansukh Mandaviya, inaugurated the India's first floating jetty on the banks of Mandovi river, Goa and also an immigration facility office at a cruise terminal in Vasco, Goa.

## 9. Practice Questions

1. What is the theme of the World Cancer Day 2020?  
(A) We can (B) We will (C) I'am and I will (D) We can & We will
2. When is World Day of Social Justice observed?  
(A) 11<sup>th</sup> February (B) 19<sup>th</sup> February (C) 20<sup>th</sup> February (D) 21<sup>th</sup> February
3. Who released "Delivering Road Safety in India" report?  
(A) RBI (B) World Bank (C) IMF (D) UMCEF
4. Which of the following Submarine is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Submarine in the country?  
(A) Karanji (B) Kantheri (C) Kalvari (D) Vela
5. Which country inaugurated the Mahatma Gandhi's bust?  
(A) Russia (B) USA (C) New Delhi (D) UK
6. When is World Pulses Day observed?  
(A) 10<sup>th</sup> February (B) 9<sup>th</sup> February (C) 8<sup>th</sup> February (D) 11<sup>th</sup> February
7. Indian Navy launched "Operation Vanilla" for Disaster Relief of which Island?  
(A) Fiji (B) Andaman (C) Madagascar (D) Maldives
8. Which organization developed Bhabha Kavach?  
(A) BARC (B) DRDO (C) Indian Army (D) Indian Navy
9. Which Indian Advocate recently appointed as the Queen's Council?  
(A) Fali S Nariman (B) K.K Venugopal (C) Soli Sorabjee (D) Harish Salve
10. After how many days did NASA's Christina Koch return to Earth from Space?  
(A) 231 (B) 270 (C) 317 (D) 328
11. Foreign Service Institute has been renamed after which of the following Personality?  
(A) Arun Jaitley (B) Digvijay Singh  
(C) Sushma Swaraj (D) Atal Bihari Vajpayee
12. Who established Azad Hind Fauj?  
(A) Vallabhbhai Patel (B) Subhash Chandra Bose  
(C) Bhagat Singh (D) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
13. Which rulers are most associated with Poompuhar?  
(A) Chola (B) Chera (C) Pallavas (D) Pandya
14. Which Indian Thrower got qualified for Tokyo Olympics from India?  
(A) Neeraj Chopra (B) Tharinder Singh (C) Kashinath Naik (D) Vipin Kasna
15. Who won the Best Boxer Award in Golden Girl Championship Trophy?  
(A) LaSu Dav (B) Mahi Ragav (C) Thanshika Patel (D) Prachi Dhamkar
16. Where is the Chief Minister launched the Cricket Stadium near Salem?  
(A) Vazhapadi (B) Thalaivasal (C) Omalore (D) Aathur
17. Who is the author of the book titled "Calcutta Nights"?  
(A) Yusuf Jameel (B) Bansal Dev (C) Rajat Chaudhri (D) Rajiv Kumar
18. Which Football Player awarded the world sportsman of the year award 2020?  
(A) Chirstiano Ronaldo (B) Lionel Messi (C) Paul Pogba (D) Harry Kane
19. Where is the buffalo race called "Kambala" organized annually?  
(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Andhra Pradesh (C) Karnataka (D) Odisha

20. Which state celebrated Vasant Panchami?  
 (A) Meghalaya (B) Bihar (C) Odisha (D) Jharkhand
21. Which state celebrated Antahpragnya 2020?  
 (A) Hyderabad (B) Bengaluru (C) Panaji (D) Gawhati
22. Where is Sant Sevalal Jayanti celebrated?  
 (A) Odisha (B) Jharkhand (C) Madhya Pradesh (D) Karnataka
23. Which two districts of Tamil nadu is to get benefit under "One Nation, One Ration Card" Scheme?  
 (A) Madurai, Ramanadapuram (B) Tuticorin, Tirunelveli  
 (C) Karur, Vizhupuram (D) Namakkal, Erode
24. Which state launched "Yodhav" mobile app?  
 (A) Tamil Nadu (B) Karnataka (C) Kerala (D) Andhra Pradesh
25. Which Indian is appointed as the UN Resident Co-ordinator in Thailand?  
 (A) Manoj Gupta (B) Gita Sabharwal (C) Rani Mukharjee (D) Nesting Bills
26. Who was honoured with National Media Award by Kerala Media Academy?  
 (A) N. Ram (B) Ramalinga Raji (C) N. Kumar (D) Madan Kumar
27. Who won the maximum awards at the 62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Grammy Awards?  
 (A) Billi Eilish (B) Lizzo (C) Lady Gaga (D) Lil ras x
28. Choose the correct answer about Krishnammal  
 1. She was awarded with Padma Bhushan. 2. She belongs to Dindugal Districts.  
 3. She started LAFTI Movement.  
 (A) 1 and 2 (B) 2 and 3 (C) 1, 2 and 3 (D) None of these
29. Who became the first Indian to receive IOC's "Honourable Mention"?  
 (A) Rahul Dravid (B) Anil Kumble (C) Pallela Gopichand (D) Ravi Shastri
30. Who won the Ayurveda Ratana Award?  
 (A) Pratap Chuhan (B) Sudha Asokan (C) Jyoti Arora (D) Sudhir Bhola
31. Who is the author of the book titled "Biting the Bullet-Memories of a Police Officer"?  
 (A) Ajay Raj Sharma (B) Vijay Kumar (C) Vinoth Soubai (D) Sanlena
32. What is Matla Abhiyan?  
 (A) Public Welfare Scheme (B) Army Exercise  
 (C) Coastal Security Exercise (D) Food Security Scheme
33. When was the Gram Nyayalayas Act Enacted?  
 (A) 2003 (B) 2008 (C) 2009 (D) 2010
34. Which mint recently minted the World's smallest gold coin?  
 (A) United States Mint (B) Monnaie de Paris-II Conti  
 (C) Royal Canadian Mint (D) Swiss Mint
35. Which of the following Book contains the lines of "Bhoomi Thiruthi Unn"?  
 (A) Aganaanooru (B) Moodurai (C) Nannool (D) Aathichoodi
36. What is the full form of CBDT?  
 (A) Central Board of Direct Tax (B) Central Board of Direct Taxation  
 (C) Central Bureau of Direct Tax (D) Central Bureau of Direct Taxation
37. Which state was launched Mukhya Mantri Parivar Samridhi Yojana?  
 (A) Punjab (B) Haryana (C) Gujarat (D) Andhra Pradesh

38. Which country proclaimed National Emergency to tackle the attack of locust swarms?  
(A) India (B) Pakistan (C) Iran (D) Afghanistan
39. What is the name of the storm which devastated the UK?  
(A) Habine (B) Dennis (C) Kyar (D) Ciara
40. Which organization released a list of countries affected by climate change?  
(A) World Bank (B) World Health Organization  
(C) World Food Organization (D) World Meteorological Organisation
41. Where does Microsoft company set up its new Engineering & Innovation center?  
(A) Ahmadabad (B) Varanasi (C) Noida (D) Leh
42. Which country associated with India in Arun-III Hydro Power Project?  
(A) Srilanka (B) Bangladesh (C) Nepal (D) Bhulari
43. Which organization released e-calculator to compare due tax?  
(A) Income Tax Department (B) Finance Commission  
(C) Union Direct Tax Commission (D) House of Parliament
44. Which country recently introduced "Sustainable Development Tax" for Regional Tourism?  
(A) Bhutan (B) Myanmar (C) Nepal (D) Tibet
45. What is the rank of India on Global Hanger Index - 2019?  
(A) 103 (B) 101 (C) 100 (D) 102
46. Which state is to create separate identity card for the transgender community?  
(A) Kerala (B) Maharashtra (C) Rajasthan (D) Uttrakhand
47. Where is 19<sup>th</sup> Hunar Haat Inaugurated?  
(A) Lucknow (B) Indore (C) Bhopal (D) Meerut
48. Which state government was recently launched the "Reading Mission" initiative for students?  
(A) Odisha (B) Kerala (C) Haryana (D) West Bengal
49. Where was the National Conference on e-Governance held?  
(A) New Delhi (B) Lucknow (C) Mumbai (D) Goa
50. Which among the following cities the country's First Bullet Train first launched?  
(A) Mumbai-Ahmadabad (B) Indore-Varanasi  
(C) Delhi - Lucknow (D) Ahmedabad - Kanpur
51. Where was the Sanatkada Festival held?  
(A) Mumbai (B) Manipur (C) Lucknow (D) Odisha
52. Which of the following organization was started a awarness campaign called "Saksham"?  
(A) Indian Oil Company (B) National Thermal Power Corporation  
(C) Bharat Cooking Coal Limited (D) Hindustan Paper
53. Vines Raffet is known as "Jetman" belongs to which country?  
(A) Switzerland (B) New zealand (C) France (D) Chille
54. Which organization was declared Corona Virus as a Global Health Emergency?  
(A) World Health Assembly (B) World Health Organization  
(C) National Institute of Health (D) World Food Organization
55. What is the new name of Corona Virus?  
(A) CORONAVD-19 (B) AVID-18 (C) COVID-18 (D) COVID-19
56. Where is the ISRO's Technology Park planned to be opened?  
(A) Kanyakumari (B) Tuticorin (C) Nagapatnam (D) Tirunelveli



57. Which nuclear missile was recently test fired by Pakistan?  
 (A) Shahan-3 (B) Ghaznavi (C) Ababed (D) Harbah
58. Which state launched India's First Fruit Train?  
 (A) Karnataka (B) Mathya Pradesh (C) Andra Pradesh (D) Uttar Pradesh
59. When was the EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat launched?  
 (A) 2016 (B) 2015 (C) 2017 (D) 2019
60. What is the name of the cyber crime prevention unit launched in Gandhinagar?  
 (A) Gyaan (B) Bachav (C) Raksha (D) Aashrast
61. Which ministry is set to launch the new platform for starting new business "Spice +"?  
 (A) Ministry of Finance (B) Ministry of Law  
 (C) Ministry of Corporate Affairs (D) Minsitry of MSME
62. Which state government will deploy drones to map villages?  
 (A) Kerala (B) Madhya Pradesh (C) Karnataka (D) Tamil Nadu
63. Where is India's First Mega Science Exhibition "Vigyan Samagams" held?  
 (A) New Delhi (B) Bopal (C) Jaipur (D) Visakhapatnam
64. Which of the following organisation normally issues Blue Corner notice?  
 (A) Special Intelligence Unit (B) Pentagon  
 (C) Interpol (D) International Court of Justice
65. Which film won the best film award at BAFTA-2020?  
 (A) Joker (B) Judy (C) 1917 (D) 1927
66. Choose the correct answer related to Pavagada Solar Park  
 1. Pavagada solar park is located in Tumkur district, Karnataka.  
 2. It is known as the World's Largest Photovoltaic Power Station.  
 3. The park is integrated with the central government's plan to produce 100 GW solar power within the 2022  
 (A) 1 and 2 (B) 2 and 3 (C) 1 and 3 (D) All of the above
67. Where did the first ever Innovation Festival takes place?  
 (A) Assam (B) Arunachal Pradesh (C) Odisha (D) Madhya Pradesh
68. Where is 13<sup>th</sup> International Children's Film Festival inaugurated?  
 (A) Nepal (B) Bangladesh (C) Srilanka (D) India
69. Which language is become mandatory in schools by Maharastra government?  
 (A) Hindi (B) Marathi (C) English (D) Sanskrit
70. Where is India's first RSS Army school established?  
 (A) Uttarakhand (B) Himachal Pradesh (C) Uttar Pradesh (D) Haryana
71. Where was India's first e-waste clinic launched?  
 (A) Pune (B) Bhopal (C) Chennai (D) Indore
72. Where was the International Summit on Women in STEM held?  
 (A) Srinagar (B) New Delhi (C) Bengaluru (D) Kolkata
73. According to JHME Report, what is the percentage of India's under five aged deaths due to pneumonia?  
 (A) 15% (B) 14% (C) 12% (D) 11%
74. What is the rank of India in Intelletual Property Right Index-2019?  
 (A) 50 (B) 36 (C) 35 (D) 24

75. Where is India's First Mega Science Exhibition "Vigyan Samagams" held?  
(A) New Delhi (B) Bopal (C) Jaipur (D) Visakhapatnam
76. Which state secured first in the SKOCH state of Governance - 2019?  
(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Gujarat (C) Maharashtra (D) Uttar Pradesh
77. Where was India's first Integrated Steel Plant established?  
(A) Bhilai (B) Durgapur (C) Bokaro (D) Rourkela
78. The landmark railway line between Agartala and Akhaura will be completed before 2021, announced by the union minister Jitendra Singh, which will be launched on  
(A) Republic day in 2022 (B) Independence day in 2022  
(C) Gandhi Jayanti in 2022 (D) Vajpayee Birth Anniversary in 2022
79. Where is the World's Largest Meditation Center inaugurated?  
(A) Hyderabad (B) Bengaluru (C) Bhubaneswar (D) Bhopal
80. Where is Titabor located?  
(A) Jharkhand (B) Assam (C) Bihar (D) Punjab
81. According to New Budget which income slab have got tax exemption?  
(A) 5 lakhs (B) 5 - 7.5 lakhs (C) 7.5 - 10 lakhs (D) 10 - 12.5 lakhs
82. Where is India's first Private Gold Mine set up?  
(A) Tamil Nadu (B) Karnataka (C) Kerala (D) Andhra Pradesh
83. Where is the Student Parliament of India held?  
(A) New Delhi (B) Lucknow (C) Ahmedabad (D) Bhopal
84. Which of the following sector will have a separate unit, announced in Tamil Nadu Budget-2020-21?  
(A) Education (B) Agriculture (C) Road Safety (D) Industries
85. Where will be the National Maritime Heritage Complex Constructed?  
(A) Kerala (B) Odisha (C) Gujarat (D) Karnataka
86. Where is India's tallest pier bridge being constructed?  
(A) West Bengal (B) Karnataka (C) Manipur (D) Tripura
87. How many districts in Tamil Nadu Budget named as Agriculture Processing Zones?  
(A) 5 (B) 6 (C) 7 (D) 8
88. Where was the 11<sup>th</sup> DefExpo 2020 held?  
(A) Lucknow (B) Chennai (C) Bhubaneswar (D) Haryana
89. Where is the Student Parliament of India held?  
(A) New Delhi (B) Lucknow (C) Ahmedabad (D) Bhopal
90. Where is International Tech Park located?  
(A) Taramani (B) Avadi (C) Perungolathur (D) Chengalpattu
91. Where is India International Leather Fair-2020 held?  
(A) Bhopal (B) Cuttack (C) Chennai (D) Kochi
92. Where is Tamil Nadu government requested the Central Government to set up 4,000 MW capacity Power Station  
(A) Seiyur (B) Maiyanur (C) Karaikudi (D) Senni
93. Where was the South India's Largest Education Exhibition held?  
(A) Bengaluru (B) Bhopal (C) Chennai (D) Kochin
94. Which of the following products imported by India for the 1<sup>st</sup> time in last 18 years?  
(A) Aluminium (B) Bauxite (C) Copper (D) Mica

95. When is Tamil Nadu Day first celebrated?  
 (A) January 5, 1950 (B) May 25, 1955 (C) August 4, 1969 (D) November 1, 1956
96. When is the Geological Survey of India established?  
 (A) 1851 (B) 1861 (C) 1888 (D) 1901
97. Which country was announced new Visa rules aimed to Restrict Birth Tourism?  
 (A) USA (B) UK (C) Russia (D) India
98. What is the first district in India to have the first Aadhar Census of the Dead?  
 (A) Virudhunagar (B) Karur (C) Thoothukudi (D) Selam
99. Where is International Tech Park located?  
 (A) Taramani (B) Avadi (C) Perungolathur (D) Chengalpattu
100. Where is Anand Vihar Terminal Station located?  
 (A) Kolkata (B) New Delhi (C) Rajasthan (D) Gujarat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
C	C	B	A	D	A	C	A	A	D
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
C	B	A	A	D	A	C	B	C	B
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
A	D	B	C	B	A	A	C	C	A
31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40
A	C	B	D	D	A	B	B	B	A
41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50
C	C	A	A	D	C	B	C	C	C
51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
C	A	A	B	D	A	B	C	B	D
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
C	B	A	C	C	D	B	B	B	C
71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80
B	B	B	B	A	B	D	B	A	B
81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90
A	D	A	C	C	C	D	A	A	A
91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
C	A	C	C	D	A	A	A	A	B

# SUBSCRIPTION FORM

Subscription No: .....

Period	Total Issues	Price
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 01 Year	12	970/-
<input type="checkbox"/> 01 ½ Year	18	1450/-
<input type="checkbox"/> 02 Year	24	1900/-

(Fill the required details and send with subscription amount to the below address mentioned)

Name : .....

Address : .....

.....  
.....  
.....

Age : .....

Educational : .....

Qualification : .....

IOB : .....

Telephone (E-mail) : .....

Please Enclose DD / Mo No .....

Dated ..... in favour of  
“Vetrii IAS Study Circle”. Payable at Chennai.

Date : .....

Sign : .....

Contact Address:

**VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE**

F Block New No. 1, 9th Street, 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue Main  
Road, Chinthamani, Anna Nagar (E), Chennai - 102.  
Ph : 044-26265356 / 9790874927

## MODE OF PAYMENT

☐ Cheque ☐ D/D ☐ Online  
transfer

Cheque / D.D. No. :

Amount :

Date :

Bank : .....

## OUR BANK DETAILS

A/C Name : **VETRII IAS STUDY CIRCLE**

BANK : **HDFC BANK**

ACCOUNT NO : **50200000435399**

IFSC CODE : **HDFC 0000017**

AMOUNT

DEPOSITED : .....

DATE : .....

# TNPSC

## CURRENT AFFAIRS

**100%  
SUCCESS**

More than 90% of the Questions appeared in 2018 & 2019  
TNPSC Examinations are from  
Vetrii's Current Affairs Magazine

**A Year of Books Subscription Package**  
(Including Courier Charges)  
**One Year Package Rs. 970/- Only**

**NEW BATCH STARTS FOR  
TNPSC GROUP I**

**NEW TEST BATCH STARTS FOR  
TNPSC GROUP II & IIA**

**Admissions Contact**



## Vetrii IAS Study Circle

*The Best Academy for IAS & TNPSC Exams*

An ISO 9001 : 2015 Institution | Providing Excellence Since 2011

**044 - 2626 5326 | 98844 72636 | 98844 21666 | 98844 32666**

F Block, New No. 1, 9th Street, 1st Avenue Main Road, Annanagar (E), Chennai - 600 102

Email : [vetriias2011@gmail.com](mailto:vetriias2011@gmail.com) | Web : [www.vetriias.com](http://www.vetriias.com)

◆CHENNAI

◆SALEM

◆KOVAI

◆TIRUCHENGODE (Vivekanandha Educational Institutions)